

AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG LANGUAGE USED IN TEENAGER INTERACTION

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Abstract

The slang is one of the language variations recently used mostly in teenager interaction. The teenagers use this language variation in various types and reasons. This paper reports the results of a qualitative study which is aimed at finding and exploring the types of the slang language and the reasons of using slang in teenager interaction. It is used as the method to describe the result of a process based on the category that has been determined. The data are collected from document analyses and close-ended questionnaires and are analyzed by using the interactive model of data analysis: data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusion/verification. The study finds that the types of the slang language used in teenager interaction show various results in each type. The first highest result is the acronym (33 words or 37.93%). The second is clipping (25 words or 28.75%). The third is fresh and creative coining (16 words or 18.39%). The fourth is compounding (eight words or 9.19%). The lowest is imitation (five words or 5.74%). In relation to the reasons for the language slang use, seven reasons are found. The first reason is to enrich the language by inventing new words (Freq=15; 17.85%). The second reason is to induce friendliness (Freq=14; 16.70%). The third and fourth reasons are to be different and easing social intercourse (Freq=13; 15.47%). The fifth reason is to reduce seriousness of conversation (Freq=11; 13.09%). The sixth reason is to have fun (Freq=10; 11.90%). The last reason is to have delights in virtuosity (Freq=eight; 9.52%).

Keywords: communication, slang types, reason of using slang, teenager

ANALISIS PENGGUNAAN BAHASA SLANG DALAM INTERAKSI REMAJA

Abstrak

Variasi bahasa, bahasa gaul, adalah salah satu bahasa yang baru-baru ini digunakan dalam sebagian besar interaksi remaja. Mereka menggunakan variasi bahasa ini karena memiliki berbagai jenis dan alasan. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian dengan metode kualitatif yang bertujuan untuk menemukan dan mengeksplorasi jenis-jenis bahasa gaul yang digunakan dan alasan penggunaan bahasa gaul dalam interaksi remaja. Metode kualitatif digunakan sebagai metode untuk mendeskripsikan hasil dari suatu proses berdasarkan kategori yang telah ditentukan. Data diperoleh dari analisis dokumen dan angket tertutup yang dianalisis menggunakan analisis data model interaktif: reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan / verifikasi. Hasil penelitian menemukan

bahwa jenis-jenis bahasa gaul yang digunakan dalam interaksi remaja menunjukkan hasil yang beragam di setiap jenisnya. Hasil tertinggi pertama adalah akronim dengan jumlah 33 kata atau 37,93%. Kemudian yang kedua yaitu klipng dengan total 25 kata atau 28,75%. Berikutnya, yang ketiga yaitu kata baru dan kreatif dengan total 16 kata atau 18,39%. Setelah itu, kata majemuk dengan total delapan kata atau 9,19%, dan yang terendah yaitu kata peniruan dengan total lima kata atau 5,74%. Sejalan dengan hasil penggunaan jenis bahasa gaul, hasil alasan remaja dalam menggunakan bahasa gaul di interaksinya juga menunjukkan hasil yang mengesankan. Ada tujuh alasan mengapa para remaja tersebut menggunakan bahasa gaul dalam interaksi mereka. Alasan yang pertama adalah untuk memperkaya bahasa dengan menemukan kata-kata baru sebanyak 15 frekuensi atau 17,85%. Kemudian alasan yang kedua untuk menginduksi keramahan dengan total 14 frekuensi atau 16,70%. Selanjutnya, alasan yang ketiga agar berbeda dan untuk memudahkan pergaulan dengan total 13 frekuensi atau 15,47%. Sejalan dengan hasil penggunaan jenis bahasa gaul, hasil alasan remaja dalam menggunakan bahasa gaul di interaksinya juga menunjukkan hasil yang mengesankan. Alasan untuk menjadi berbeda dan untuk memudahkan pergaulan memiliki frekuensi dan persentase yang sama pada hasil ini. Setelah itu, alasan berikutnya untuk mengurangi keseriusan percakapan dengan total 11 frekuensi atau 13,09%. Selanjutnya, hanya untuk berse-nang-senang dengan total 10 frekuensi atau 11,90%, dan yang terakhir adalah kesenang-an dalam virtuositas dengan total delapan frekuensi atau 9,52%.

Kata kunci: komunikasi, tipe-tipe bahasa gaul, alasan penggunaan bahasa gaul, dan remaja.

INTRODUCTION

Language is the people's device to interact to other people. People use language to express their feeling, ideas, and opinion. Icbay (2008) argued that through interaction, the participants share what they know, how they do what they know, what they feel, what they think and what they plan to do. The interaction is supported by language variant. It is used to make communication more effective, interesting and enable students enjoy the conversation. In language variant, Fasold (1996) explained that the speakers may choose two languages involving code switching, code mixing, and use set of variant within the same language. Languages vary from one place to another

place, from one social group to another social group, and from one situation to another situation are different.

The cases happen when somebody agrees with the language variant correlated to language selection because she or he wants more exertion to figure out the meaning. Variation indicates that not every speaker speaks same system all the period. According Akmajian et al. (1998) there are some examples of language variations that are of interest to linguist such as lingua francs, pidgins, creoles, jargon, slang and taboo languages. This research focuses only on slang as a language variation.

Holmes (2001) argues that slang belong to vocabulary part. Slang is informal

or casual spoken English that produced and used by people in a certain community. As the common instruction, slang does not use in the formal spoken language or writing because it is rude, humorous or shocking. However, we can face one condition which may happen is that the use of slang in communication especially in teenager interaction.

Generally, every country has their own slang in their language. In Indonesia, slang could be found in daily conversation and most of teenagers or young people use it, such as *cupu* (old-fashioned), *nyokap* (mother), *bokap* (father), *keren* (cool), etc. In this modern area, slang can be found in the conversation of the teenagers and young people. They give the great contribution of the forming of slang. In other words, with such a variety of language, it creates more fluent in conversation, more intimate, and it agrees with an informal situation. Maitland (2010) defined that slang is the language, which though unrecognized in dictionaries, is in common daily use not only among the vulgar but in every branch of life. It means that slang is the secret language of the English or something that everybody can recognize but nobody can define. The uniqueness of slang, it changes like fashion, when it is trend, everyone will use it.

One particular type of slang is the teenage slang, a language style used by adolescents or in other words a generation specific use of language. An important function of this type of slang is to create an identity which is distinct from the general adult world. Chambers (1995) stated that adolescents usually make themselves distinct from children and

adults by using a style of language which demonstrates their belonging to their distinction from other age group. Teenagers usually do not use such expressions in their interactions with other generations whom they generally claim to be outsiders and do not approve of their use. Teenage slang changes rapidly because people are teenagers for a limited period of time, when adults, they become outsiders and gradually forget the group words and the developments happening in the course of time to the old expressions and meanings.

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), there are five different slang types. 1). Fresh and Creative mean that slang language has totally new vocabulary, informal variety, cleverness, imagination, and it also can be an up to date words. Some words which are already familiar out of mind possibly will be slang as people do not realize it. The reasons why those slang become familiar in our mind because those slang appear in long time ago since slang are already appeared. The example is the slang word *awesome*. *Awesome* (adj) used that we think something is wonderful or amazing. 2). Compounding means that slang language made by two words or more in which the words composed not correlated with denotative meaning. The example is *big gun*. It means a powerful person. 3). Imitative means that the slang word imitating or derived from the Standard English Word, using the Standard English words in different meaning or combining two different words. The example is *gonna*. This is the slang word that derived from the phrase words "going to". The slang word "gonna" is commonly used by almost all

of the people in the world. 4). Acronym is the type of slang constructed by the result of words from the first letters of each word in a phrase or this type is made by the initials from a group of words or syllables. The example is LOL. It is used as internet shorthand to mean “laughing out loud”, found in US around 1991. 5). Clipping is one of variety of slang made by deleting of some parts of longer word become a shorter form in the same meaning. In addition, clipping form is not appropriate to use in formal conversation. The example is the use of word *exam* to mean *examination*.

Moreover, there are some reason why people use slang in communicating, such as slang can represent the certain sub social group’s identity, because it is cool, it seems like a fashion when everybody likes it, and it will be often used by people. The slang usually accepted by young peoples’ heart in years which purpose just for fun of thing. According to the Partidge (1945), the reasons why people use slang language are just for fun of the thing in playfulness, for delights in virtuosity, to be different, to be picturesque (this could be found from songs or poems), to be unmistakably arresting, even startling, to escape from clichés, or to be brief and concise, to enrich the language by inventing new words, to lend an air of solidity, concreteness, to the abstracts of earthiness to the idealistic, of immediacy and oppositeness to the remote, to reduce seriousness of a conversation, to amuse superior public (this can be seen by the slang that children use towards their parents), for ease of social intercourse, to induce either friendliness, to shows that one belongs to a certain group, to show

or prove that someone does not belong to a certain group, to be secret, not understood by those around one (children, students, lovers, member of political, are the chief exponents).

METHOD

In this research, the researcher used qualitative research method in case study design. Qualitative research is the collection, analysis, and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual data in order to gain insight into a particular phenomenon of interest. It was supported by Hancock, et.al (2009:6) who stated that qualitative research focused on description and interpretation of social phenomena. It might lead to development of new concepts or theory.

The subject of this research was teenage students with aged between 13-15 years old who are still in ninth grade students of junior high school. The sample of this research consisted of 33 teenage students; 19 males and 14 females.

Furthermore, there were two different kinds of data collection technique used by the researcher, those are document analysis and students’ close ended questionnaire. The using of document analysis was to find out and to explore the types of slang language used in the teenager interaction, and while the other instruments, students’ close ended questionnaire, was to get the information about the reason of using slang in the teenager interaction. The questionnaire was given in Bahasa Indonesia to make the subject of the research easier to understand.

In formulating data analysis technique, the researcher applied discourse

analysis to collect, identify, analyze and interpret the data. The data collected from document analysis and questionnaire are analyzed by using interactive model of data analysis Miles and Huberman (1994), interactive model of data analysis consists of three concurrent flows of activity: data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusion / verification.

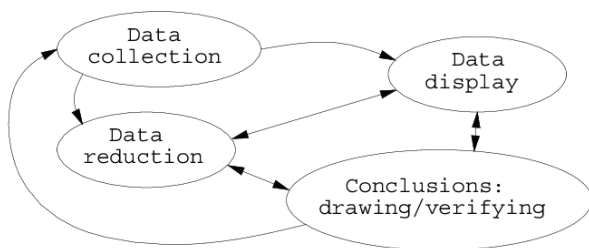


Figure 1. Interactive Model Process of Data Analysis by Huberman (1994)

The data collected from document analysis and interview are sorted, and classified into particular group. Having sorted and classified the data, unwanted and irrelevant data will be reduced, and discarded. Then, the data are coded and classified again.

Then, the coded and classified data are displayed on the text. To draw conclusions from the mass of data, Miles and Huberman (1994) also suggested that a good display of data, in the form of tables, charts, networks and other graphical formats is essential. This is a continual process, rather than just one to be carried out at the end of the data collection.

The last step is taking conclusion from the displayed data based on research questions. Conclusion drawing will involve stepping back to consider what the

analyzed data mean and to assess their implications for the questions at hand.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The Result of Types of Slang Language Used

Based on the explanation in the previous discussion, the researcher identified the types of slang language used in the teenager interaction stated by Allan and Burrige (2006). The types of slang divided into five types, they are fresh and creative, compounding, imitative, acronym, and clipping.

The result of types of slang language used in the teenager interaction obtained through document analysis which was showed as follow.

Table 1: Types of Slang Language Used Frequency

No	Types of Slang	Frequency of Slang Used	Percentage of Slang Used
1.	Fresh and creative	16	18.39%
2.	Compounding	8	9.19%
3.	Imitative	5	5.74%
4.	Acronym	33	37.93%
5.	Clipping	25	28.75%
TOTAL:		87	100%

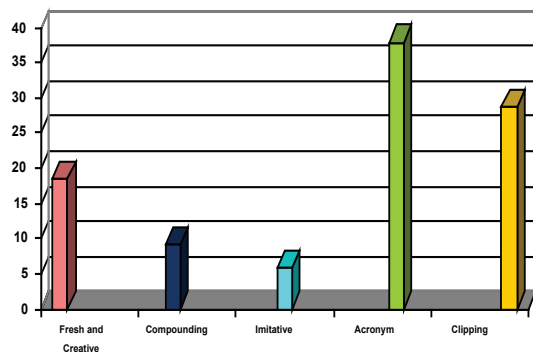


Figure 2: Types of Slang Language Used Frequency in Bar Chart

According to the table and bar chart above, it could be inferred that the types of slang language used in teenager interaction showed various result in each types. The first highest position was acronym with the total 33 words or 37.93%. Then, the second position was clipping with the total 25 words or 28.75%. Next, the third position was fresh and creative with the total 16 words or 18.39%. After that, the fourth position was compounding with the total eight words or 9.19%, and the lowest position was imitative with the total five words or 5.74%.

The Result of The Reason of Using Slang

In this section, the researcher answered the research questions number two which asked about the reason of using slang in teenager interaction. The researcher used Partridge (1954) theory which stated there are 15 reasons why people use slang language. The result of it would be explained as follow:

Table 2: The Reason of Using Slang Frequency

No	Reason of Using Slang	Frequency of Using Slang Reason	Percentage of Using Slang Reason
1.	Just for fun of the thing.	10	11.90%
2.	For delights in virtuosity.	8	9.52%
3.	To be different.	13	15.47%
4.	To be picturesque.	-	-
5.	To be unmistakably arresting, even startling.	-	-
6.	To escape from clichés, or to be brief and concise.	-	-

No	Reason of Using Slang	Frequency of Using Slang Reason	Percentage of Using Slang Reason
7.	To enrich the language by inventing new words.	15	17.85%
8.	To lend an air of solidity and concreteness.	-	-
9.	To reduce seriousness of a conversation.	11	13.09%
10.	To amuse superior public.	-	-
11.	For ease of social intercourse.	13	15.47%
12.	To induce either friendliness.	14	16.70%
13.	To shows that one belongs to a certain group.	-	-
14.	To show or prove that someone does not belong to a certain group.	-	-
15.	To be secret.	-	-
TOTAL:		84	100%

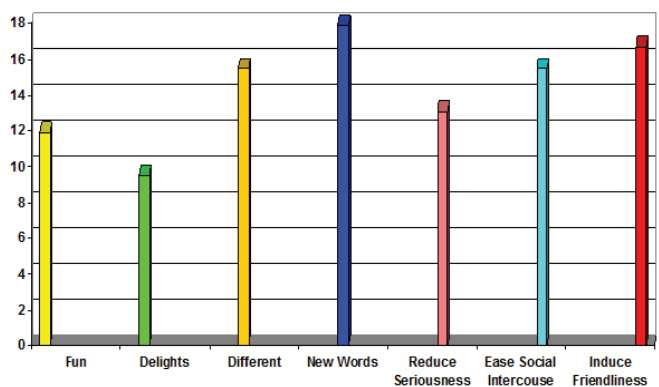


Figure 3: The Reason of Using Slang in Bar Chart

According to the table and bar chart above, it could be inferred that there were seven reasons of why the respondents were using slang language in their interaction. The first highest position was the reason of to enrich the language by inventing new words with the total 15 frequencies or 17.85%. Then, the second position was the reason of to induce either friendliness with the total 14 frequencies or 16.70%. Next, the third position were the reason of to be different and for easing of social intercourse with the total 13 frequencies or 15.47%. The reason of to be different and for easing of social intercourse had the same frequencies and percentage in this result. After that, the fourth position was the reason of to reduce seriousness of a conversation with the total 11 frequencies or 13.09%. Next, the fifth position was the reason of just for fun of the thing with the total 10 frequencies or 11.90%, and the lowest position was the reason of for delights in virtuosity with the total eight frequencies or 9.52%.

Discussion

As explained in the result of the data above, the highest frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was acronym with 33 words or 37.93%. This type constructed by the result of words from the first letters of each word in a phrase or was made by the initials from a group of words or syllables. The examples of this type would be showed in the following table below:

No.	Slang Words	Indonesian Basic Words	Meaning
1.	GC	Gerak Cepat	Do something in fast
2.	UWU	Tidak bahagia tanpa kamu	Unhappy Without You
3.	BT	Bete	Bored
4.	OTW	Di jalan	On The Way
5.	BM	Banyak Mau	Having many willingness

The second frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was clipping with the total 25 words or 28.75%. This type is made by deleting of some parts of longer word become a shorter form in the same meaning. In addition, clipping form is not appropriate to use in formal conversation. The examples of this type would be showed in the following table below:

No.	Slang Words	Indonesian Basic Words	Meaning
1.	Gan	Juragan	Boss (the seller / the buyer)
2.	Cin	Cinta	Lovely
3.	Muna	Munafik	Hypocrite / liar
4.	Bro	Brother	Best friend

The third frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was fresh and creative with the total 16 words or 18.39%. This type has totally new vocabulary, informal variety, cleverness, imagination, and it also can be an up to date words. Some words which are already familiar out of mind possibly will be slang as people do not realize it. The examples of this type would be showed in the following table below:

No.	Slang Words	Indonesian Basic Words	Meaning
1.	Guys	Kalian	Fellow or friends
2.	Ok	Okay	Accepted / agreed
3.	Wow	Ungkapan terkejut	Indication of surprise

The fourth frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was compounding with the total eight words or 9.19%. This type of slang made by two words or more in which the words composed not correlated with denotative meaning. The examples of this type would be showed in the following table below:

No.	Slang Words	Indonesian Basic Words	Meaning
1.	Cab out	Kabur	Run away
2.	Hang out	Jalan-jalan	To gather in a casual manner
3.	Big thanks	Bersyukur	Pleased or grateful
4.	Drop out	Dikeluarkan	Someone who has dropped

The last frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was imitative with the total five words or 5.74%. This type of slang word is imitating or combining two different words. The examples of this type would be showed in the following table below:

No.	Slang Words	Indonesian Basic Words	Meaning
1.	Gonna	Akan	Going to
2.	Wassup?	Ada apa?	What is up?
3.	Bucin	Budak cinta	Crazy of love

The second finding of this research was the reasons of why the teenagers were using slang language in their interaction. As the result of the data, the researcher found there were seven reasons of using slang in the teenager interaction.

The first reason was to enrich the language by inventing new words with the total 15 frequencies or 17.85%. This reason was chosen because it looked good and impressed update. The respondents could find some new vocabularies of slang language. The second reason was to induce either friendliness with the total 14 frequencies or 16.70%. This reason had positive impact for social interaction. It makes people are easy to interact with others in order to make the conversation runs more relax and more comfortable. The third reason was to be different and for easing of social intercourse with the total 13 frequencies or 15.47%. As same as the second reason, to be different and for easing of social intercourse were making the other's comfort in communicating. The fourth reason was to reduce seriousness of a conversation with the total 11 frequencies or 13.09%. This reason was chosen because can be one alternative way to initiate relax conversation in purpose of having smooth conversation and improve the other's relationship. The fifth reason was just for fun of the thing with the total 10 frequencies or 11.90%, and the last reason was for delights in virtuosity with the total eight frequencies or 9.52%. These reasons were chosen because slang language had been familiar with others, therefore people speak slang even it has rough meaning.

CONCLUSION

Language is the people's device to interact to other people. The interaction is supported by language variant. There are some examples of language variations, one of them is slang. In the document analysis and questionnaire result, the researcher found that the teenager used language variations especially slang in their interaction with various types, such as fresh and creative, compounding, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Moreover, the teenager also had various reasons of why they used slang in their interaction.

According to the data analysis result, it could be inferred that the types of slang language used in teenager interaction showed various result in each types, such as acronym with the total 33 words or 37.93%, clipping with the total 25 words or 28.75%, fresh and creative with the total 16 words or 18.39%, compounding with the total eight words or 9.19%, and the last was imitative with the total five words or 5.74%.

On the other hands, there were also seven reasons of why teenagers used slang in their interaction. The first reason was to enrich the language by inventing new words with the total 15 frequencies or 17.85%. This reason was chosen because it looked good and impressed update. The respondents could find some new vocabularies of slang language. The second reason was to induce either friendliness with the total 14 frequencies or 16.70%. This reason had positive impact for social interaction. It makes people are easy to interact with others in order to make the conversation runs more relax and more comfortable. The third reason was to be different and for easing of so-

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