

AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG WORDS USED BY INDONESIAN YOUNG PEOPLE

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Abstract

The aims of the study are: 1) to know whether there is a certain meaning of slang words used by young people. 2) to figure out the advantages will be gained from the analysis of the slang words used by Indonesian Young People by using the theory of dialectology and sociolinguistics. The objects or the data used in the study are slang words used by Indonesian Young People from some sources. This study was finished in State Polytechnic of Madiun. The method that is used in this research is qualitative descriptive. The data used in this research is slang words used by Indonesia People from some sources. The result of the research shown that some of slang words used by Indonesian Young People can be used to express a secret language, a friendly language, an informal language, and for sexual language. The young people as the user of it face the new experience with word creation, unconsciously they enrich the language. This research has so many list of datas related to slang words as the new vocabularies in their speech. It can be used to develop the method and the concept used in learning language, culture, and social life.

Keywords: Slang Words, Young People, Theoris of Dialectology, Sociolinguistics

1. INTRODUCTION

By using language, humans can express their ideas. They also can express their feelings and thoughts. Here, the language has a role as a transmitter of information. The truth of the information submitted will be affected by speaking truth. Language does not belong to an individual that can only be used and understood by speakers and hearer understand each other by well meaning, without having limited by age limit.

There are some categories of language. Standard college comprises those words and expressions used, understand and accepted by majority of citizens under any circumstances or formality. Such words are well defined and accepted spelling and pronunciation are given in standard dictionaries and standard speech.

It is known that linguistics has various branches, ranging from phonetics as the highest branch to discourse analysis as the largest linguistic unit and various applications of linguistics in other fields. One of the branches is sociolinguistics. According to Trudgill (1978 : 32-33) in

Amrullah (2018 : 1), Sociolinguistics is part of linguistics that pays attention to language as a social and cultural phenomenon.

Dialects are the words, idioms, pronunciations, and speech habits peculiar to specific geographical location. In popular usage, a language is written in addition to being spoken, while a dialect is just spoken. But in scientific sense, the world is buzzing with a cacophony of qualitatively equal ‘dialects’, often shading into one another like colors, all demonstrating how magnificently complicated human speech can be. If either of the terms ‘language’ or ‘dialect’ has any objective use, the best anyone can do is to say that there is no such thing as a ‘language’ : Dialects are all there is,” (McWhorter, 2016)

Slang is a part of personal life: it mirrors social history: it is an indicator of social force: it tells something of culture: by its critical attitude, punning and word creation it is related to the literary arts (Kottler and Light, 1987:189). The best slang is not in genius and amusing: it also embodies a kind of social criticism.

The problems of the research were formulated by the researcher to discuss the reason why the young people in Indonesia prefer to use slang words in their utterances, what are the factors that support the young people to choose slang as the alternative language although slang is only a language that is born from social solidarity of the people who live in the groups.

This research limits the scope of the problem to the words that are used by young people in Indonesia especially slang words. They are very popular among the groups of young people and why they can accept the slang words as a means of communication among them. Most of Indonesian young people use slang words in their daily conversation groups. Among them, slang as a unique language is more popular than formal language or the standard language that is usually used in the textbooks, newspapers, televisions, or other formal situations.

Indonesian language has a much longer history than the republic itself. Indonesian language has been declared as a national language since 1928 in Putry (2014) long before Indonesia being independence. It was declared as the Indonesian national language and used as an adhesive Indonesian nation. In the trade and the spread of any Indonesian has an important position.

Indonesia language today is the use of language both in everyday life began to shift replaced with the language usage of the younger generation known as slang. Interference slang sometimes arise in the use of Indonesian in a formal situation that resulted in the use of language is not good and not true.

Non-linguist ordinarily use the word ‘dialect’ only in referring to these, and frequently imply that they are inferior to, as well as different from the standard language. American dialects have never differed nearly as much as those in many countries, and during the past fifty years their differences have decreased in both number and degree. This is due partly to such influences as moving pictures, radio, TV, social medias, and more nearly universal education. Nevertheless, many regional variations remain. They are naturally more marked among people of limited education than among those who have had more experience, through reading, schooling, and association, with standard language but to some extent they are found in all levels of speech.

Dialectologist, on the other hand, concentrated on the speech of rural informants, and in particular on that of elderly people of little education or travel experience, in small isolated villages (Trudgill, 1983:370). It is easier to find out the pure or the real dialect in small villages because the dialect is not influenced by the standard variety yet, so it will give the investigators some real information about the dialect that he is investigating.

According to The Marriam-Webster Dictionary, slang has the meaning as an informal nonstandard vocabulary composed typically of coinage, arbitrarily changed words and extravagant figure of speech” (1973 : 647).

Webster’s Dictionary of synonym states the meaning to be youth, adolescent, puberty pubescence are sometimes used interchangeably to denote the period in life when one passes from childhood to majurity, youth is the most general of these terms being applied sometimes to whole early part of life from the childhood or infancy to maturity.

G. Stanley Hall was the first to draw a vivid and striking picture of this stage of life, with all its specific characteristics, gradations, and peculiarities. His conception of adolescence as a period has been described by various students of adolescent psychology in a vivid and often times exaggerated manner (Garrison, 1956 : 3).

There are many minor reason why people use slang, and each of these reason accounts for one group of slang words. One such motive is the love of euphemism, the desire to gloos over unpleasant things, such as death and drunkenness. Shakespeare uses euphemism quite often when he refers to death; Machbeth’s taking off has its parallel in the slang ‘bumping of’ (Brook, 1973 : 127).

Researcher made some targets in this research such as showing the the relationships between slang words with the situation of the environment where they live. The researcher uses the concept of the context of situation to figure out the advantages be gained from the analysis of the slang words.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the qualitative design. According to Cresswell (2009:4) qualitative design is “a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem.” It involves data collection procedures which are mainly in non-numerical data (Dornyei, 2007:24). Therefore, this research attempts to describe the theories of dialectology of some slang words of Indonesian young people.

The characteristic of the qualitative study is that the qualitative study is inductive in nature (Cresswell, 2009:175). It requires the researcher to generate the general theme from the findings; therefore, the qualitative study does not need any hypothesis (Dornyei, 2007:37).

When using qualitative research methods, social and behavior scientist collect information about people and then analyze the data for emergent trends and themes.

The approach used Sociological Approach that is applied in Sociolinguistic investigations. It is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society, how far society’s understand of language and its structure, and how language functions in communication (Wardugh, 1986: 12). Wardaugh also says that language that speakers use reflects some factors such as their social life, regional, ethnic origin, or even their sex. The particular ways of speaking, chice of words and rules for conversing are also determined by certain social requirement (1986:10).

This research was conducted in Language Center Laboratory of Madiun State Polytechnic. It is located on Serayu street No.84 Madiun. The researcher requires a total time around for eight months, from March to October 2021. Data collection is an important step in a scientific research. The data of the research in this study are from theories of Dialectology and some other relevant sources. Some of them are listed :

- a. The World of Words, written by Barnet Kottler and Martin Light (1967)
- b. Penggunaan Bahasa Alay, by anonim (on line)
- c. Kamus Bahasa Gaul (Debby Sahertian, Edisi ke 3)
- d. Kamus Slang & Idiom Bahasa Inggris, written by Michael W. Smith – Anna B. Hadiwinata

This research uses descriptive analysis. It does not only collect and arrange the data but also analyze and interpret the data (Surakhmad, 1990: 139). In collecting data, the researcher uses library research. What the researcher does is to get data by quoting some words, the phrases from relevant sources and also to find some examples which support this ideas. After that the data or information on the particular subject are collected and written.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Finding

Since language becomes the means of communication for the whole people in the world, new words are always created to enrich its vocabulary. The new words which are created by one generation are influenced by the social phenomena where the characteristic of the generation's language expresses the society of the generation itself.

So there is a relationship between language and society that cannot be refused and this happens naturally. This phenomenon are also found in Indonesian Young Generation especially for the dialect of a certain group of the people. The dialect of a certain group of the people is the variety of language that belongs to that group of people.

In our republic, Indonesian language is the most important language. We have to uphold the national language as affirmed in youth oath on October 28, 1928 by using Indonesian language well and correctly.

Slang is a variety of language that is used by young people almost all over the world as the way of speech or to gain the air communication in their groups, so that we can find the characteristic of Indonesian young people easily from what they say or write.

There are some reasons and factors why the young people in Indonesia prefer to use slang words as their utterances and choose slang as the alternative language although slang is only a language that is born from social solidarity of the people who live in the groups.

This study discusses more detail about the reasons and the factors according to the following categories :

- Slang Words As A Secret Language
- Slang Words As Informal Language
- Slang Words As A Friendly Language
- Slang Words For Sexual Acts

Discussion

Slang is chiefly concerned with the vocabulary and it is more at home in the spoken than the written language (Brook, 1973:122). The rest of the definition is open to the objection that says what slang is not rather than what it is. At least two other varieties of speech are generally considered to be outside the standard language namely dialect and vulgarisms, and it is necessary to find a definition of slang that will distinguish it from these.

Slang is distinguished from dialect in its characteristics. Slang is usually novel whereas dialect is usually deep-rooted in the past and it is used deliberately by speakers who could express their ideas more simply, but who avoid the obvious, straightforward word for the sake of novelty or vividness.

The reason why the man uses vulgarism because he does not know any better: he uses slang as a way to make his speaking understood by the circumstances where he is speaking.

The definition of slang is also given by Concise Oxford Dictionary (COD) is words and phrases either entirely peculiar to or used in social senses by some class or profession (Brooke, 1973:122). This kind of slang sometimes called Cant, and it can best be regarded as an occupational dialect. The two terms ‘slang and cant’ are often considered together because many words belong to both groups. One thing that they have in common is that they tend to be regarded as substandard.

Another reason why some people use slang is that it is capable of becoming a secret language. It is often useful to have some means of conveying information without allowing other people to understand what you are saying. Such secret language flourishes among many groups of people to day (Brooke, 1973:127).

There are other reasons for using slang which appeal to more sophisticated a deliberate desire to enrich the language or to lend an air of solidity or reality to an abstract discussion. If enrichment of the language is not as rule a motive for the use of slang, it is sometimes a result (Brooke, 1973:127).

According to The Merriam-Webster Dictionary (accessed 30 may 2021 “Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/slang>), slang has the meaning as informal nonstandard vocabulary composed typically of coinage, arbitrarily changed words and extravagant figure of speech (1973:647)

Slang Words as A Secret Language

According to Brooke’s investigation one of the reasons why young people use slang is that it is capable of becoming a secret language. It is often to have some means of conveying information without allowing other people to understand what you are saying. Such secret language flourishes among many groups of people to day (1973 : 127). So we find many types of secret language.

The secret language in Indonesia can be found on acronym by putting a certain syllable with irregular modification, but it still has a beautiful sound.

Listed below are some examples of slang words as a secret language.

Words	Meaning
Bosque	The acronym of “Bos Ku”, used for jokes
Macama	The acronym of “sama-sama”, the answer / reply / respond of someone saying thanks
Jupen	The acronym of “Justru penting”
Jamet	The acronym of “Jajal Menta;”. It means as a person who wants to have cute style wearing metal atribut.

Jones	The acronym of “jomblo ngenes”
Aspal	The acronym of “Asli apa palsu”
Sibar	The acronym of “Siswa Baru”
Ababil	The acronym of “Anak baru gede labil”
Dempa	The acronym of “Demi apa”
Cuanet	The acronym of “Lucu banget”
Sobat	The caronym of “Soto Babat”
Soleh	The acronym of “Sopo-sopo oleh” , it is in Javanese, means everybody are permitted
Kudet	The acronym of “kurang update”
Pembinor	The acronym of “Perebut bini orang”, it means a man as the third person between the couple.

There are also English slangy words that are not commonly used to in polite society for example: Slangy words that describe pregnancy :

- To be in pig
- To be in the pudding club
- To be preggers
- To be up the pole
- To have a bun in the oven

Slang Words As Informal Language

Many students said that they used slang for the sake of coniseness and emphasis. One reason why people use slang is that they want to add liveliness to what they are saying; they don not want to seem stilted or formal (Brooke, 1973 : 126). He also said an essential characteristic of slang is its informality. Second, less essential, characteristic of slang is that it is often highly idiomatic, and it is consequently dangerous to try use slang when we speaking a foreign language. Talking slang is walking downstairs; if it comes naturally, nothing could be easier, but if the speaker has to think what he is doing and to watch every step, he is likely to meet with a “mishap” The proper use of slang calls considerable linguistic tact (Brooke, 1973: 123).

Mulyana (2008) said that this second function to common the meaning or sense when used by people of a particular subculture. In addition to these opinions for the tird function, Sarwono (2004) said that slang is a typical language of the younger generation, can be understood by almost all of the youger generation in the country taht were covered by the mass media, whereas term that develop, change and grwo almost daily. Both definition were complementary. In the first definition merely stating that slang is a language that has a unique term, while the latter definition clarified that the use of such language is the language of younger generation and will continue to grow.

Listed below are some examples of Indonesian slang words as Informal language:

Indonesian Standard	Informal Language
I (Aku, saya)	Gue, gua (written with gw, Z), Aq
You (Kamu)	Lu, lo (written with loe)

Want to know everything (Ingin tahu berlebihan)	Kepo
Plebeian (Kampungan)	Kamseupai, katro
Slow to respond (Lambat merespon)	Telmi, tulalit, lalod
Over (Berlebihan)	Lebay
No Money (Tidak ada uang)	Kere, boke
Gaya berlebihan untuk pamer diri	Cabe-cabean
Is it true? (Benarkah?)	Emangnya bener?
Joke (Bercanda)	Juki (just kidding)
On the way (Dalam perjalanan)	Otw (otewe)
Doesn't matter (Tidak peduli)	Emang gue pikirin (EGP)
Happy birthday honey (Selamat ulang tahun sayangku)	HBD yayang Q
By the way (Ngomong-ngomong)	BTW (betewe)

Examples were presented above are some of the terminology used by the younger generation and has started to spread slowly to the age above that actively use the services of communication smart phone / android and the like.

Indonesian young people some times are difficult to find the meaning of the lyric of the songs, it is caused by the lyrics are used on the songs are slangy words.

PARADISE CITY

'Rags to riches, or so they say
 Ya gotta keep pushin' for the fortune and
 Fame it's all a gamble when it's just a game
 Ya treat it like a capital crime
 Everybody's doing their time.'
 (Guns and Rose : 1989)

Robert L. Chapman said in his American Slang Dictionary that the slangy word 'ragz' means clothing' and Guns and Roses used the shortening form 'ya gotta' in their song's lyric.. they used black speaker's vocabulary in their song's lyric like what we can see in the notion above, 'ya gotta' is the shortened form 'you are going to'. They used the shortened form for love or sake of conciseness.

Slang Words As A Friendly Language

Another motive is the desire for a greater sense of intimacy in the use of language; that is why slang is especially common among friends. Slang can be used to bring an air of friendly informality to a situation (Brooke, 1973 : 126). Almost all the slangy words which show the friendly language have greater sense of intimacy and familiarity. Especially pen pals or beloved girls or boys use the intimate style, even though the talk to their rival or people who opposed them.

Listed below are some examples of Indonesian slang words as a friendly language :

Standard language	Slang word as a friendly language
Tidak ada makanan	Ga da ma right (right =kanan)
I Love You	Ily
If you know waht I mean	IYKWIM
Maaf Baru Balas	MBB
Aku	Akika (Akika ga jadi ke rumah loe)
Serius	Cius
Banget	Bingits (Wah, pemandangannya keren bingits)
Gila	Alig (Ihhh, alig parah itu orang)
Banyak cerita	Bacrit (jadi orang jadi bacrit dechhh)

Those are some chats from a boy or a girl to his / her friend, it is an intimate syle. We can see the characteristic of intimate stele in the use of “ily” stands for I Love You. There is also cryptic abbrevations like “IYKWIM” standing for either If you know what I mean. The motive is the desire for a grater sense of intimacy that is why slang is especially common among friends (Brook, 1973 : 126).

In this millenial era, there are several slang words used by Indonesian young people, both in Indonesia, English, or other language. It is usually from some certain people then become viral and common used by many people. The more people use the slang words, the more people know about the updatest words.

‘This chick is my sister’
 (Robert, 1958 : 258)

The slangy words “chick” has been used by some speaker mostly young people, and it has the meaning of ‘girl or young woman”, according to Robert L. Chapman American Slang Dictionary.

“You really **slay** me kid”
 (Robert, 1958: 261)

The slangy word “slay” according to Paul robert investigation in addition to its ordinary mwaning of “kill”.

A MOVEABLE FEAST

‘Look, ‘Scott. “I said,”you’re perfectly O.K. if you want to do the best thing to keep from catching cold just stay in bed.’
 (Hemingway, 1964 : 165)

According to Robert L.Chapman’s American Slang Dictionary the slangy word “O.K” has the meaning of “acceptable but not excellent; satisfactory “. This one is kind of euphemism. He uses the slangy word “O.K.” to avoid unpleasanththing. However, now the slangy word “O.K.” is commonly used as a formal language. Slang is a language which cannot live long but not all. O.K is the example of old language that becomes a formal language.

Slang Words For Sexual Acts

Slang Words for sexual attraction and for a variety of sexual acts, position, and relationship are more common than standard words. Standard non-taboo words referring to sex are so scarce or remote and scientific that slang is often used in referring to the most romantic, the most obscene, and the most humorous sexual situations. Slang is so universally used in sexual communication that when “a man meets a maid” it is best for all concerned that they know slang.

Slang words for sex carry little emotional connotation, they express naked desire or mechanical acts, devices, and positions. They often are blunt, cynical and tough (Kottler and Light, 1973: 201).

Listed below are some examples of slang for sexual acts :

AIN'T FUN

‘Fun such fun so fun

Such fun fun such

Ain't it fun when you tell her she's just a cunt

Ain't it fun when she splits and leaves you on the bomb

Ain't fun when you've broken up (everything that) you've ever be gun

Ain't it fun when you know that you're gonna die young.’

(Guns n' Roses, 1992)

The slangy “cunt and bomb” have the meaning of “a woman and a conspicuous and total failure; fail” according to Robert L. Chapman's American Slang Dictionary. The song writer tries to express a man who has failed to hold his love affair with a woman. It is an unsuccessful sexual communication between a man and a woman. We also find the clipped word ‘gonna’ it is the shortened form of “going to”.

The slangy words that are usually used by young people express sexual acts :

Fast : morally lax ; libertine

‘On long island with the fast younger married.’

(F. Scott Fitzgerald)

John: prostitutes

‘Ever for girls turning their first tricks, pulling their first real John.’

(Claude Brown)

Sex pot: a woman who is especially attractive and provocative sexually.

‘Who cannot command the smile of a sex pot.’

(Frederic Morton)

Shack Job: a woman one lives with adulterously ; common-law wife-mistress

‘This was an early shack-job, not the girl mentioned above.’

(New Yorker)

Wolf : an aggressive male homosexual.

‘The sodomist the degenerate the homosexual wolf.’

(New Public)

All of which accept unsanctioned sexual intercourse as a matter of fact. These words are often used in a complimentary way and in admiration or envy. They always show acceptance of the person as a ‘Regular guy’. They are never used to express a moral judgement.

Descriptive Words for virgin :

Bag : a condom; a woman’s breast

Bat : prostitute

Ex : a former wife or husband, girlfriend or boyfriend

Gold digger : a woman who uses her charms and favor to get money.

Jerk : a tedious and ineffectual person
money mad : money carried by a woman with which to pay her way home if her escort becomes offensive.

n.g.. : no good

old lady : one’s wife : a wife

All of them are slangy words that express sexual situation according to Robert L.

4. CONCLUSION

The vocabulary of some languages is large, complex, highly diversified in origin and changing time after time. Now there is no dictionary, however larger, can contain it all, but such a dictionary should be prepared. It would be out of date by the time it was printed, since new meaning, new borrowing, new creation words are being added day by day. Any group of people has its own experience in language, so also has its own words creation according to its daily life experiences. It would reflect the worlds which are used.

The Indonesian young people, perhaps most of them, always try to create a new word to make up their performance. So they will look lively through what they are saying. Whenever they meet their friends or families or neighbors, they can speak more easily, quickly, and accurately. Slang words are the way out for them.

Slang is the unique language. It can express personal life; it mirrors social history; it can be an indicator of social force; it can tell something of culture; by its critical attitude, punning and word creation. This is what they want and suitable for their quotidian life. Slang can be used to express a secret language: a friendly language: an informal language; and for sexual act. Slang is the language which is suitable and acceptable for the young people in the world, all countries according to the situation of the social.

Time after time and day after day slang language grows and widespread, the young people as the users of it face the new experience with word creation, unconsciously they enrich the language. They found and created the new vocabularies in their speech. This is one of the advantages for the young Indonesian people because it can emerge as the standard vocabularies.

In teaching-language, discourse analysis is very important, beside that the concept / theory of the sociological is very needed when we learn about language, social, and culture. This research also intends to provide an in-depth description and explanation of the existence of slang among young Indonesian, either in the real world or in cyberspace. The existence of slang is constantly being researched, considering that slang is always changing along with the development of culture and technology, especially in communication that changes rapidly.

From the conclusion and the implication stated above, the researcher would like to give some suggestions dealing with the development about slang words used by young Indonesian people.

Lecturers can give more attention in teaching language, social, and culture to the students since strong concept of these theories will automatically create a better understanding in language, social, and culture. Many variations in teaching can be used. A student centered in learning is better applied because it has proven to make better concept and conclusion in the understanding of language, social, and culture. It also expected that the lecturer will try the concept as the technique used to improve the students' and readers' understanding.

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