
The Analysis of Slang Words in Romantic Comedy Movie

Kadek Ayu Teja Murthi¹, I Made Suastra², Ni Luh Putu Krisnawati³

^{1,2,3}English Department, Udayana University

Email: ayutejaal1@gmail.com, madesuastra@yahoo.co.id, putu_krisnawati@unud.ac.id

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Abstract: *The title of this study is The Analysis of Slang Words in Romantic Comedy Movie entitled 500 Days of Summer. This study aims at categorizing the types and functions of slang used by the characters in the 500 Days of Summer. In this study, the method of collecting data were the documentation and observation method, then the data were analyzed using the content analysis method using the theory proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006). According to Allan and Burrige (2006), there are five types of slang namely fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Furthermore, there are seven functions of slang namely to address, to initiate relax conversation, to humiliate, to form intimate atmosphere, to express impression, to reveal anger, and to show intimacy. The result of this study reveals that all the types of slang proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006) were used by the characters in the movie entitled 500 Days of Summer. Moreover, six out of seven functions of slang proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006) were employed by the characters in the 500 Days of Summer movie script, only to form intimate atmosphere did not employ by the characters in the movie script.*

INTRODUCTION

Language always changes as a result variations emerge. Language variation indicates that human does not speak the same way every time. Variations in a language are divided into three levels, namely pronunciation, lexicon, and grammar (Holmes, 2013). For example, slang, argot, jargon, register, and idiom are part of variety at the lexicon level. Slang is one of the most commonly used forms of language variation.

Slang is an ungrammatical, informal language that can consist of words or phrases and is thought to be more informal than standard informal (Allan and Burrige, 2006). Slang develops as a result of habit in social interaction within a group; young people often employ informal types of words in regular speech with their friends without recognizing, they occasionally invent new words to make their communication more effective. This phenomenon can occur if a new thing emerges that is challenging to describe and a community or group lacks the phrases or words to describe it, as a result, new words must be produced to let them communicate more easily, which leads to the emergence of new slang (Siregar, 2013).

Slang is rapidly spreading due to the existence of various media such as television, the internet, and social media; Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, etc. Flexing, vibe, LOL (laughing out loud), OMG (oh my God), and BRB (be right back) are examples of slang that is frequently used.

Slang is an interesting topic to be discussed because its existence is always up to date thus many new variations will always emerge. Even though slang is frequently used by society, unfortunately, in formal education when learning a foreign language, slang is not included in the curriculum and is often not taught by the teacher. In fact, slang is the challenging part of learning English as a second language. As students who are just learning a foreign language, they are often confused because frequently slang cannot be interpreted literally. Therefore, as a foreign language learner, it is also very important to know a lot of slang words to facilitate communication.

This study focuses on the types and functions found in the 500 Days of Summer movie script. Learning more about slang such as the types and functions of slang leads to knowing where the origin of the word came from and what is behind why people choose to use slang.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The main theory of this study is sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics refers to the study of the relation between language and society (Holmes 2013). Sociolinguistics is concerned with how language is utilized in society and how it conveys social meaning. Sociolinguistics gives people guidelines on what kind of language variations are appropriate to use when talking to certain people, in what kind of setting, and for what purpose. Slang is part of sociolinguistics. A lot of theories have been proposed by experts in classifying types and functions in slang. This part explains the theories that are used in this study. The types and functions of slang proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) were used to answer research questions.

Types of Slang Fresh and Creative

The fresh and creative type is when slang is a totally new vocabulary that comes from the clever imagination of humans as language users. For example, buddy. Buddy is a totally new word, not the result of a combination of several words, imitation, abbreviations, or clipping.

Flippant

Slang belongs to the flippant type when it is built from two or more words that do not have any correlation with the denotative meaning. For instance, kick the bucket means to die. Other flippant expressions are push up the daisies, pop off, peg out, and conk out (Allan and Burridge 2006).

Imitative

Imitative type slang is derived from Standard English (SE). Standard English words are used with different meanings or combined two Standard English words. For instance, gonna is slang derived from SE, which stands for going to.

Acronym

Slang is categorized into acronym type when it is built from the initial letter of several words to form an acronym. LOL is one of the acronym slang, which stands for 'laughing out loud'. Other examples of acronym slang expressions are j/k (just kidding) and f2f (face to face).

Clipping

Clipping is the type of slang word created by deleting some parts of a longer word in order to form a shorter form. Even though some parts are omitted, the word still has the same meaning. For example, the slang bro, bro comes from the word brother.

Functions of Slang

To Address

People prefer to use slang words to address someone to show that there is no distance in their relationship and to show solidarity. They used address forms such as babe, daddy, darling, and buddy to address their family, friends, or beloved.

To Initiate Relax Conversation

People prefer to use slang to initiate the conversation between the two parties more relaxed so that the conversation does not seem stiff. Usually, the speakers and listeners who already have close relationships use certain vocabulary so that they can feel comfortable conversing.

To Humiliate

Slang is also used by people to berate or express dislike or hatred for something or someone by mocking them. For instance, “B to A: You asshole, you’re a fucking tight-assed cunt. Get fucked.” (Allan and Burrige, 2006: 79). Asshole and fucking are slang that can be used for mocking, these are impolite expressions.

To Form Intimate Atmosphere

Usually, conversations between new people are a bit stiff because there is a distance between their relationships, so to reduce the distance, some people choose to use slang. Slang can be used as an alternative way to make conversations more intimate so that speakers and listeners feel comfortable.

To Express Impression

Some slang is chosen to express someone's impression of something. The impression can be good or bad to give the interlocutor an idea of what the speaker actually feels.

To Reveal Anger

People have different ways in expressing anger, one of which is using slang. Some people choose to use slang to describe their anger, vexation, or dislike of something or someone. Typically, the slang expression is like shit! and fuck! used by someone to express their anger.

To Show Intimacy

People who already have a close relationship choose to use slang words rather than standard vocabulary to show their intimacy with one another. Non-standard vocabularies are often used by people who already have a close relationship because it believes by some people slang is an effective way to show the intimacy between the participant.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study is qualitative research because this research focuses on slang as a language phenomenon. Creswell (2012) stated that qualitative research explores a problem of a central phenomenon.

The 500 Days of Summer movie script is the primary data in this research because the data were obtained from the 500 Days of Summer character’s conversation. 500 Days of Summer is a romantic comedy genre. The main characters are Tom and Summer. In short, it tells the life and failure of Tom in a relationship with Summer. The 500 Days of Summer movie script was written by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber in 2006. Furthermore, the secondary data of this research is books from experts including dictionaries and theory books, journal articles,

previous undergraduate thesis, and sources from the internet that are facilitating this research about slang in the 500 Days of Summer.

The documentation and observation methods were the method of collecting data in this research. It is obtained from the conversation of the characters in the movie script. In the data collection, there are some techniques conducted; first, downloaded the movie script in the IMSDB. Second, observing directly the characters' utterances in the movie script and the story of 500 Days of Summer by using a checklist as the instrument. Last, record the data found in the 500 Days of Summer movie script by filling in the checklist by note-taking all the slang found in the 500 Days of Summer movie script.

Document or content analysis was chosen as the method of analyzing the data. According to Ary, et, al (2010:457), "content analysis is a research method applied to written or visual materials for the purpose of identifying specified characteristics of the material." Some techniques were applied in analyzing the data in this study, first, selecting the data by reducing unnecessary data and focusing on important aspects of the data needed to answer research problems. Second, showing the dialogue of characters in 500 Days of Summer that contain slang. Third, finding out the information about the slang that is found in 500 Days of Summer on the internet or dictionary of slang. Fourth, describing the types and functions of slang words based on the theory proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) so that the first and second research questions can be answered.

FINDING & DISCUSSION

The Analysis of Types and Functions of Slang in 500 Days of Summer Movie Script

This part explains the analysis of slang found in the movie entitled 500 Days of Summer. The analysis of types and functions of slang applied in 500 Days of Summer are described as follows:

Fresh and Creative

There are five slang that is classified into the fresh and creative namely dude, bucks, guys, jerk, and gee. Here is the example of analysis of fresh and creative slang found in the 500 Days of Summer movie script.

McKenzie: What the hell is wrong with you?!

Paul: **Dude**, you got problems. (**Dialogue 14, page 22**)

Tom: She's not interested in me. There's nothing I can do.

McKenzie, Paul, and Tom spent their time in Local Dive Bar. Tom always believed Paul and McKenzie, and without any doubt, he shares all his problems with them. At that moment, Tom felt there was something wrong with Summer. He loved Summer but Summer did not. In the middle of their conversation, McKenzie asked Tom what's wrong happened with him, Paul also asking the same question in different expression by using the word **dude** refers to Tom.

The word **dude** belongs to American slang used to address a male friend (Dictionary of American Slang). The word **dude** is categorized as a fresh and creative type because that is a new word created through the imaginary human as a language user. The word **dude** is believed the contraction of Doodle on Yankee Doodle Dandy, the term from the 18th century.

In the context of the conversation above, the word **dude** is used by Paul to address Tom as well as to show intimacy between them. Paul used the word **dude** refer to Tom, his guy friend. The usage of the word dude indicates there is no distance in their relationship. By using the word **dude** Paul conveys his solidarity with Tom because at that time Tom got a problem with Summer.

Flippant

There are eight slang expressions belonging to the flippant type employed by the characters in 500 Days of Summer namely, superskank, goddamn, hang out, ass kicked, asshole, holy shit, damn it, and buzzkill. Here is the analysis of flippant type in the 500 Days Summer script:

Summer: I can't believe you.

Tom: What?

Summer: You were so completely uncool in there.

Tom: You're mad at me? I just got my **ass kicked** for you. (**Dialogue 32, page 58**)

Summer: Oh, that was for me? You were, what, protecting me? Next time Tommy, don't. I fight my own battles.

The participants in conversation above are Tom and Summer in a bar. They argued in a bar since Tom fought with Douche, Summer's friend. Tom did not think his act was wrong because Douche humiliated him and Summer, he just trying to protect themselves. However, Summer otherwise, she thought Tom was uncool because he was solving problems roughly. Tom did not accept Summer's statement then said that he just got his **ass kicked** for Summer.

The phrase **ass kicked** is a slang word that belongs to flippant types because it comes from the combination of two words ass (noun) and kicked (adjective) and it does not have any correlation with the denotative meaning. According to Merriam Webster, the meaning is not literally an ass got kicked but it means attacked by someone thus causing several injuries.

The phrase **ass kicked** is considered an impolite expression, it is usually used informally. The conversation above shows Tom used the phrase ass kicked in an informal situation and in a casual place to show anger toward Summer. Tom thought Summer did not appreciate the effort that he had been made to protect herself from Douche.

Imitative

There are fifteen slang identified as imitative types: gonna, bitch, crap, dunno, nuts, cool, screw, gotta, fucking, kinda, pussy, what's up, shit, wanna, and sucks in 500 Days of Summer. Here is the example of imitative type found in the 500 Days of Summer script:

Tom: I studied to be an architect actually.

Summer: That's so **cool!** What happened? (**Dialogue 10, page 15**)

Tom: Eh, you know. Same old story. Moved to the city to work for a company. Company went under. Needed a job. My friend worked here. Got me this.

The conversation above happened between Summer and Tom in the office lobby when they have not known each other well. They shared stories about their backgrounds. Summer asked Tom, is he really wanted to work at the greeting card company, Tom answered, he told her he was studying architecture because for some reason he had to work which is not in line with his field. When Summer knew he was studying architecture she was amazed by saying "That's so **cool!**".

The word **cool** belongs to the imitative type of slang because it is actually Standard English word but in slang it is used in different meanings. In Standard English, the word **cool** means moderately cold (Dictionary.com), meanwhile starting around the 1930s the word cool began appearing in American English used to describe something that is intensely good (Skinner,

2014).

In the conversation between Tom and Summer above, Summer used the word cool to express her impression of admiration for Tom's major because it was a hard field. Saying cool can give a clear description to Tom about Summer's feelings to his statement.

Acronym

There is only one slang categorize into acronym type uttered by the characters in 500 Days of Summer, namely PDA. The analysis is as follows:

Summer: I can't believe them. I have like zero patience for **PDA**. (**Dialogue 23, page 38**)

Tom: I hear ya. If I want to watch people make out, I have big windows and binoculars at home.

Summer: Yeah?

Tom: (beat) No. That would be wrong.

Tom and Summer hang out to go to a restaurant to have dinner together. They had a great time together, laughing, chit chat, they felt so happy. While having dinner, they observe a couple surrounding them just for having fun. They saw those loving birds show their romantic moment in the public area. However, Summer felt disgusted, then she said "I have like zero patience for **PDA**".

The acronym **PDA** belongs to slang that is classified into the acronym type. The acronym **PDA** stands for public display of affection. According to Cambridge Dictionary, **PDA** is used to describe any physical interactions that couple of young people do in public such as kissing, hugging, or holding hands. However, the acronym PDA does not include having sex in public.

Summer used the acronym **PDA** to show her intimacy with Tom. At that moment, their relationship in the process becomes more serious. The usage of the word **PDA** indicates that Summer and Tom come from the same social group because Tom instantly understands the meaning of the acronym **PDA**. Slang is in group vocabulary only people come from the same group understand a particular vocabulary (Matiello, 2008).

Clipping

There are three slang words that belong to the clipping type in the 500 Days of Summer; no prob, g'night, and ya. Here is the analysis:

Summer: I'm going to the supply room. Anyone need anything?

McKenzie: No thanks.

Tom: I think you know what I need.

Tom: Toner.

Summer: Oh ok, sure, **no prob**. (**Dialogue 15, page 23**)

The conversation above happened between Summer, McKenzie, and Tom in their office. Summer approached Tom and McKenzie's cubicle; she offered help to Tom and McKenzie because she was going to the supply room. Tom accepted Summer's offer; he asked Summer to take the toner to the supply room then Summer answered "**no prob**".

Summer shows the usage of the phrase **no prob** which is categorized as clipping. The phrase **no prob** belongs to slang which is categorized into clipping type because one syllable is omitted. The word problem is divided into two syllables prob and lem. Even though one syllable is omitted the meaning still remains the same. People often omitted some parts of the word to

make the conversation more effective.

The phrase **no prob** in the conversation above shows that Summer wants to show intimacy with Tom and McKenzie in informal situation. Some people choose to use clipping type of slang because it considers the effective way to show their intimacy among the participants.

CONCLUSION

The result of the analysis of slang in the 500 Days of Summer movie script concludes that all the types of slang proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006) namely fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping are used by the characters in the movie entitled 500 Days of Summer. In this romantic-comedy genre movie script, the imitative type is the most commonly used by the characters in 500 Days of Summer. However, the acronym type is used least often.

In terms of functions of slang, six out of seven functions of slang proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006) are used in the 500 Days of Summer movie, those are to address, to initiate relax conversation, to humiliate, to express impression, to reveal anger, and to show intimacy. Only to form intimate atmosphere is not used by the characters. To show intimacy is the most commonly used function of slang used by the characters in the 500 Days of Summer movie because people tend to use slang when they have a close relationship to show their solidarity, the same case with the characters in 500 Days of Summer.

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