

## WORD FORMATION PECULIARITIES IN SLANG IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRANSPORT UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC LYCEUM

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**Annotation.** Language is a vital aspect of communication. In reality, humans use kinds of language as a tool of communication used by society.

There are several reviews of related studies of this current study. The first is the research of Aprilia Lestari (2016) from State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Her research is about analyzing slang word in song lyrics employed by Bruno Mars. Based on 58 data taken from 15 songs of Bruno Mars, she found 5 word formation processes, those are: clipping, blending, coinage, borrowing, acronym. But originally there are 10 word formation processes. In this current article, I categorized slang words based on word formation theory of George Yule. O'Grady states that to make new word people usually use word formation. O'Grady and Yule they stated that the word formation process consist of coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, back formation, conversion, acronym, derivation (prefixes, suffixes, infixes) and multiple process.

### **Theoretical explanation of word formation of slang words in English**

According to Lestari (2016) in sociolinguistics, language has varieties. Language variety can occur within communication depending on the speaker aspect. As cited by Lestari about a statement of Fishman in Muhammad Ismail (2014) says that from the aspect of speaker, language variety is divided in five parts: dialect, register, jargon, style, and slang. But in this research, the researcher only focused on Slang as the major topic. Slang is highly informal and is often used in colloquial or casual speech. It is a part of a language that is usually outside of conventional or standard usage and that may consist of both newly coined words and phrases and of new or extended meanings attached to established terms. Slang is a kind of informal language usually used by young people in certain group. According to Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (2008:415), Slang is very informal words and expressions used in spoken conversation by a particular group of people. According to Richard (1985) slang is used for informal speech variety which often serves as an "in group" language such as teenagers. We can found slang easily on song, especially rap song, movies such as "Akeelah and The Bee", television program that consist of teenagers such as music, etc.

**a. Gender.** Language, like other form of social activity, has to be appropriate to the speakers using it. This is why, in many communities, men and women's speech is

different. In the use of American slang, men and women differ from each other. Besides gender, occupation also becomes a factor of using slang.

**b. Occupation.** There is an inverse relationship between the occupation variable and acceptance of slang. People with lower grade in their job more often or accept slang words. and then the last factor is age.

**c. Age.** Age factor also influences the use of American slang. Zhou (2013) stated that American youths, especially the teenagers and college students, are the main consumers and makers of American slang. The American teenagers and college students are the fashion makers. According to Mattiello (2008:32), there are 4 approaches to define slang. These are sociological, stylistic, linguistics, and lexicography approach.

**Sociological approach.** Within sociological approach, slang is ascribed the two opposite purposes of keeping insiders together and outsiders out. On the other hand, Eble (1996:11) in Elisa's book stresses the social and interpersonal aspects of slang and its function "to establish or reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large." Accordingly, sharing the same slang vocabulary aids both to gain acceptance in a group and to preserve group solidarity (Munro ed. 1997). On the other hand, slang is said to serve antisocial purposes such as marking social differences.

**Stylistic approach.** Within stylistic approach, slang is neutrally and rather vaguely defined as a level of usage. Stylistically, slang defined as creativity in language. Slang also can rather view as short disuse ephemeral vocabulary that is expecting either to pass into disuse or to have more standard status, such as gay language. **Linguistics approach.** From linguistics point of view, slang is regarded as the use of ordinary word in extraordinary sense or extraordinary word in ordinary sense. Jespersen at Elisa's book stated that slang "finds amusement in the creation and propagation of new words and in attaching new meaning to old words". Or we can say that slang is about a creativity to create new words with new meaning or find out new meaning of old word. Slang is essentially an experimental language.

**Lexicographical approach.** Slang acquired as informal vocabulary which is outside of standard usage. And which belongs rather to familiar conversation than in written language. Slang creates new words with new meaning. So slang word gives new vocabulary in language. All of the approaches to define slang are appropriate with this research.

**Reason of Using Slang:** After knowing the definition of slang, the researcher thinks that the reader should know the common reason of using slang. According to Shovan Sarkar in his article about "Slang: 5 Reasons You Should Use it" there are 5 reasons of using slang. These are:

**1. To Be Unique.** Most of people are individuals and desire for uniqueness. It means that most of people are commonly want to be different and unique. Using something out of the box stuff like slang will make you noticed among your friends. Or we can say that people commonly use slang to get acceptance from their group.

**2. To Be Social.** We know that slang is commonly used in a group. Slang was once considered as the lowest sort of communication. But now some people considered slang to be intelligent and insightful variation to the blandness of the quality language. Sometimes, people used slang to soften a tragedy. They tried to find another word to describe something. So, using slang will add to your positive attitude to suit you in a group.

**3. To Be Colorful.** Slang substitutes colorful images for the standard or formal word. It communicates nuances of meaning or emotion more creatively than formal language. Slang really helps you to remove clichés and make your language to be cool and unique. It is often fun to unite imagination and use slang with friends. Such as: Knowing your onions (to be aware or knowledgeable), dog's dinner (a person who is dressed nicely).

#### **Analysis of Slang Word**

1. That **ain't** even true, mamma. I get paid --

#### **Slang: ain't**

The slang word **ain't** is commonly used by many speakers in oral and informal settings which means 'is not, are not, am not', especially in certain regions and dialects. Its usage is often highly stigmatized, and it can be used by the general public as a marker of low socio-economic or regional status or education level.

2. You little Crab ass niggas could've got this whole bus shot the fuck up! We saw that **bullshit** you was throwing up out the window! Hit me up now!

**Slang: bullshit.** The slang word **bullshit** is mostly a slang term and profanity which means 'nonsense', especially as a rebuke in response to communication or actions viewed as deceptive, misleading, disingenuous, unfair, or false. As with many expletives, the term can be used as an interjection, or as other parts of speech and can carry a wide variety of meanings.

3. **Nah**, I already know how to gangbang. I'm just tryin' to learn how to make some of this white people money.

**Slang: Nah.** The slang word **Nah** is an informal version of the word 'no'. It is often used in text messages and casual online writing. The first written use of Nah can be dated back to 1920 when it likely came about as a part of an eye dialect or a nonstandard way of spelling words to represent the pronunciation it has in different dialects.

#### **Slang: lemme**

**Lemme** is a slang form of 'let me'. It is often used by entitled people who view others as tools for their own sake. It is not discovered by the people, but it is actually

renowned 'everywhere'. When some people say 'let me', it comes out as lemme instead. Although it is used mostly in a text, this vocal verbatim is a key component of the language of modern youths.

### **Peculiarities in the Analysis of Word Formation of Slang word**

#### **1. Coinage**

Yeah **nigga**, I'm looking for my girl Felicia. Heard she was up here in one of these rooms.

**Slang: nigga**

**Word formation: coinage**

In this dialogue of movie script, one of the actors in this movie said the slang word **nigga** to mention greeting for someone that is mostly used in African Americans. So this slang belongs to coinage because the word nigga is another way or a variation to greet a friend with a new word created either deliberately or accidentally. This word includes a slang word because the word nigga is listed in Urban Dictionary that has a meaning used to describe a friend.

Hell **naw**, that's Kurtismothafuckin Blow. Only rapper with a Jheri curl.

**Slang: naw**

**Word formation: coinage**

The slang word **naw** is the word that people use to say "no" in order to sound better. So the researcher put this slang into a coinage type. This word includes a slang word because the word naw is another variation to say "no" with a new word created either deliberately or accidentally. The word is listed in Internet Slang and also in Urban Dictionary.

**Nah**, I already know how to gangbang. I'm just tryin' to learn how to make some of this white people money.

**Slang: Nah**

**Word formation: coinage**

In this dialogue, the slang word **Nah** is a word commonly used as an informal situation for "no" and it is often used in text messages and casual writing. So this word belongs to coinage because the word Nah is another variation to say "no" with a new word created either deliberately or accidentally. This word includes a slang word because the word Nah is listed in Internet Slang and also in Urban Dictionary that has a meaning used to describe "no".

#### **2. Blending**

What's the use to having this dumbass knock if I **gotta** tell you my name anyway?

**Slang: gotta**

**Word formation: blending**

The word "gotta" consists of two separate forms to produce a single new term. They are 'got' and 'to' that can be classified as free morphemes because it can stand

alone as a word. The word formation that happens here is blending. The word "gotta" is created by changing each part of the word. To combine it into a new word, they change the last part of the word to into "ta". So the beginning of the word got and then added it with the word "ta", and it became "gotta". The word is listed in Urban Dictionary that has meaning have to.

So you just **gonna** disrespect my house like that, Cuz?

**Slang:gonna**

**Word formation: blending**

The word "**gonna**" consists of two separate forms to produce a single new term. They are going and to that can be classified as free morphemes because it can stand alone as a word. The word formation that happens here is blending. The word "gonna" is created by clipping each part of the word. To combine it into a new word, they are omitted and changed the last part of the word 'going', 'ing', and changed into 'gon'. Then, the second word 'to' are changed into 'na'. So the word "gon" and "na" are combined to produce a single new term "gonna". The word is listed in Urban Dictionary that has meant going to.

That **ain't** even true, momma. I get paid –

**Slang:ain't**

**Word formation: blending**

The term "**ain't**" consists of two root words. They are 'am' and 'not', 'is' and 'not', or 'are' and 'not'. The first word 'am', 'is' and 'are' can be considered as a free morpheme and the second word 'not' that can stand on its own and have their meaning. The word formation that occurs here is blending. The word "ain't" is created by changing each part of the word.

### 3. Clipping

We got cards on all of **'em** already.

**Slang: 'em**

**Word formation: clipping**

The word **'em** is a shorter form of the word 'them'. The word 'them' is considered as a free morpheme that can stand alone. 'Them' is a free morpheme that can be used in a sentence. Then 'em is classified as clipping word. The word 'em is omitted from the first part of the word from them. You ain't gotta talk to my moms like that, man!

**Slang: mom**

**Word formation: clipping**

In this movie script, the word **mom** is a new vocabulary to describe 'mother' in an informal situation. So the word mom belongs to clipping because the word mom is omitted from the last part of the word from 'mother'. This word is listed in Urban Dictionary that has meaning someone who gave birth to you.

### 4. Compounding

**Dumbass**, this a dope house! It's already disrespected

**Slang: Dumbass**

**Word formation: compounding**

The word **dumbass** is considered to have more than one morpheme. The first is 'dumb', which is a free morpheme. Second is 'ass' which is also a free morpheme. This word formation happens when the free morpheme 'dumb', it is always stated as a word, merge with the word 'ass' and form a new word dumbass. It can be concluded this word is having a compounding process of forming a new word. There is no special change in omitting or adding any letters to create the word dumbass. You little Crab ass niggas could've got this whole bus shot the fuck up! We saw that **bullshit** you was throwing up out the window! Hit me up now!

**Slang: bullshit**

**Word formation: compounding**

**Bullshit** consists of two free morphemes, bull and shit. They can stand independently as a word. This word is having a compounding process, where the word 'bull' merging into the word 'shit' and makes the new lexical item that has a different meaning from original words. Bullshit is listed in Collins Dictionary and also in Urban Dictionary that has meaning to someone talk nonsense or complete lies. What you little muthafuckas need to do is start **gangbang** them got damn books!

**Slang: gangbang**

**Word formation: compounding**

The word **gangbang** has two free morphemes; they are 'gang' and 'bang'. The word 'gang' is a free morpheme that when it stands alone it has a meaning and can be used in another sentence without combining it first with other morphemes, so does the word 'bang'. The process of word formation is when there are two words which merge into one, and then generate a new word, the process is called compounding process.

**Conclusion.** In this research article, I found all of word formation process. There are 10 word formation processes according to George Yule (2010:53), those are coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, back formation, conversion, acronym, derivation, and multiple process. Besides finding word formation process, I also found the most frequent word formation process. After analyzing the data, I could conclude that the most frequent word formation was clipping such as: urself, lil, ex, etc. which containing most of data. Slang helps people to achieve an air of informality and relaxation.

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