
Analysis of Slang Words Used by Main Character in “Senior Year” Movie

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the type of slang and social factors that influence the slang spoken by the main character in the movie Senior Year. The data were analyzed using qualitative and quantitative methods using theories from Allan and Burridge (2006) to identify the types of slang found and Holmes (2013) used in analyzing the social factors that influence the slang used. The data were collected through observation method. The results showed that there are 8 or 36,4% for fresh and creative, 4 or 18,3% for clipping, 4 or 18,2% for imitative, 3 or 13,6% for flippant, and 3 or 13,6% for acronym. It is shown that the highest percentage of types of slang is fresh and creative, which is 36,4%. In analyzing the data, the researcher found that the social factors influenced the slang utterances. Participants influence the slang spoken to another people, function influence the goal of the slang, setting influence the place and situation of the slang used, and topic influence the main point of the conversation.

Keywords: Main Character; Movie; Senior Year; Slang.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a collection of arbitrary vocal symbols used by humans to communicate (Wardhaugh, 2015: 3). Language allows people to express their thoughts, experiences, ideas, and feelings. Language can be written, spoken, or gestured, but the meaning is contained inside the language. Language can express both explicit and implicit emotions (Aman, 2022). English language has an important influence in economic, political, and educational aspects. Language cannot be separated from linguistics, namely the scientific study of language. One of the branches of linguistics is sociolinguistics which discusses the use of language in the social sphere, be it culture or how language is used in everyday situations.

Sociolinguistics links the social environment to the general function of language, i.e., as a medium of communication (Wiartati, 2022). In this era of globalization, many aspects have developed, one of which is language. The development of language causing a language variation. One of the non-standard language variations that has grown in popularity in society or in a community is slang (Suparyana, 2022). English has slang used by young people in the

scope of school and social environment. According to Yule (2010:260) slang is an aspect of social life that depends on fashion, especially among teenagers. Used by certain groups to express ideas and attitudes that are used to differentiate them from others.

In this study, the author analyzes the types of slang spoken by the main character in senior year movie and social factors that influenced the slang found. Author used the theory of Allan & Burridge (2006) to identify the types of slang and theory proposed by Holmes (2013) to analyze social factors slang spoken by the main character in senior year movie. According to Allan & Burridge (2006) there are five types of slang namely, fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym and clipping. Holmes (2013) mentions there are four social factors that influence people to use certain slang words and phrase namely, participants, setting, topic and function.

This article analyzes slang found in senior year movie especially that spoken by the main character. Alex Hardcastle, in his feature movie directorial debut, helms the American comedy Senior Year, which was written by Andrew Knauer, Arthur Pielli, and Brandon Scott Jones. Rebel Wilson, who also produced the movie, plays Stephanie Conway, the protagonist. This movie tells the story of Stephanie Conway, a cheerleader captain who has an accident and falls into a coma, is the subject of this movie. Then, after 20 years in a coma, Stephanie wakes up as a 37-year-old woman. She attempts to assume her position as the school's star when she returns to her high school. This movie uses a lot of slang because it is set in the present period, when slang is frequently used to connect with others informally.

There are three previous studies to support this research. The first is from an article entitled "Analysis of Slang in the Lyrics of the Song "Damn I Love You" by Agnes Monica" by Siringoringo & Marpaung (2022). The purpose of this research is to know the meaning of slang and to know the type of slang. The second article by Cristiana et al. (2021) with an article entitled "Slang Words in Bird of Prey Movie". The purpose of this research is to find out the type of slang and the social background and meaning of the slang. And the last article by Lumendang et al. (2020) with an article entitled "An analysis of Slang Geek Charming Movie". The purpose of the study was to identify slang and describe the types of slang.

The aims of the study are to find types of slang spoken by the main character in Senior Year movie and the social factors that influence the slang spoken by main character in Senior Year Movie. Senior Year movie was chosen as the data source in this study because the characters in this movie express a lot of slang, especially the main character. Research on slang is interesting to do because slang is limitless, slang can arise from new words or existing words that have new meanings.

METHOD

Data The data of this study was taken from Senior Year movie and the movie script of Senior Year. Adapted from a script by Andrew Knauer, Arthur Pielli, and Brandon Scott Jones, the 2022 American comedy Senior Year is directed by Alex Hardcastle. This movie chosen as the data source for this study because the characters use a lot of new slang phrases and words. The data obtained were collected by the observation method, by watching movie, taking notes, and reading the movie script.

The technique is carried out in several steps. First, by searching for the movie title on Netflix, second, by downloading the movie. Third, watch movie that have been downloaded several times by activating closed captions to find out more fully what is being discussed. After watching the movie several times and taking notes from the video, then read the script transcription from *Sublikescript*, the writer found some slang. Next, identify the slang spoken in the video and compare it with slang obtained from the internet and dictionary. Then, classify

the types of slang using Allan & Burridge theory, and analyze the social factors using Holmes theory.

The data analyzed using descriptive qualitative method and quantitative method. Descriptive qualitative method used to analyze the type of slang and social factors that influence slang by identifying and classifying the data. The quantitative method used to calculate the total number of slangs found and the dominant slang type in the Senior Year movie. The first problem analyzed using the theory of types of slang by Allan & Burridge (2006). The second problem analyzed using the theory of social factor by Holmes (2013). This research used formal and informal method in presenting the findings.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are two theories used in this research. The first is the theory by Allan & Burridge (2006) which is used to identify the types of slang and the second theory by Holmes (2013) which is used to analyze the social factors that influence the slang spoken by the main characters in Senior Year. After knowing the difference between the five types of slang based on Allan and Burridge theory, the results obtained are in the following table:

Table 1. Types of Slang

No	Types of Slang	Number	Percentage
1	Fresh and Creative	8	36,4%
2	Clipping	4	18,2%
3	Imitative	4	18,2%
4	Flippant	3	13,6%
5	Acronym	3	13,6%
	Total	22	100%

Based on the result above, the writer found there are 22 slang that used by the main character in the Senior Year movie. There are 8 or 36,4% for fresh and creative, 4 or 18,2% for clipping, 4 or 18,2% for imitative, 3 or 13,6% for flippant, and 3 or 13,6% for acronym. From the table above, it is shown that the highest percentage of types of slang are fresh and creative, which is 36,4%. And the lowest percentage of types of slang is acronym and flippant for just 13,6%. In the discussion, the writer presents only eighth examples of the type of slang.

Allan and Burridge (2006) divided the slang into five categories: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronymic, and clipped. Holmes (2013) divided social factors into participants, setting, topic and function. This section focused on the analysis of the types and social factors influence slang spoken by the main character in Senior Year movie. The main character in this movie is Stephanie Conway played by Rebel Wilson.

1. Fresh and Creative

A slang term is considered to be fresh and creative if it contains a brand-new vocabulary, witty creativity, informal variation, and can be either a current word or an older one that few people are familiar with (Allan and Burridge, 2006). Slang languages have novel vocabulary, ingenuity, informal variety, and imagination, and their terms can be updated (Ardianta, 2022). Several of the words are presumably already recognizable, possibly slang words, but we don't notice it. The specific reason for the circumstance is that slang phrases originated a long time ago, as Allan and Burridge stated, since slang words first appeared in the 18th century.

Data 1

Stephanie narration:

"When I moved to the US, I knew fitting in was gonna be hard. I just didn't know how bloody hard it was going to be. And all I wanted was to get invited to the coolest club in town, Rock 'N' Bowl. But I never was."

The slang term "bloody," used by the main character in the movie *Senior Year*, is one of the most often used slang terms, notably among British and Australian individuals, according to the data above. The slang word "bloody" falls under the category of being fresh and creative since it implies that the speaker is using new vocabulary and creating new pictures when using the word. The slang word "bloody" is more frequently used in England than the adjectives "very" or "really" to express rapid shock or fury and to accentuate words. The main character uses the word "bloody" to convey his annoyance at how difficult it is to get along.

The participant in the Stephanie's narrative above is simply Stephanie because it is a narrative explaining how Stephanie's life would transition from Australia to America. Since Stephanie is an Australian, her social environment has an impact on the slang language she uses. She uses the slang word "bloody" to describe how difficult the situation is when she wants to emphasize something, which in this context she wants to express with a difficult word. The term "bloody" is used because Stephanie wants to underline how challenging it is to fit in in a new setting that is different from her former school because that is the theme of the phrase.

Data 2

Stephanie narration:

"Anyone who was anyone was rolling with their homies on a Saturday night. It was like basically a VMAs after-party. So, when I turned 14, uh, yeah, that's where I had my birthday."

Since "homies" is a modern term that young people use to refer to buddies, it falls under the category of fresh and creative. Young individuals in a friend group frequently refer to one another as "homies" to indicate how close they are. According to the Urban Dictionary, "homie" is an abbreviated variant of the term "homeboy," which refers to a close buddy. One can see how the term "homie," which was used in the past, has changed into the word that people use today since it has a definition that is quite similar to that of "best friend."

Social factors that influenced the word "homies" in the sentence above, the first one is participants. In her narration Stephanie mentions that she will not be invited to a party where cool people gather instead, she is only in her room hanging out with her friends. The second one is topic. The topic in the narration spoken by Stephanie influences the slang spoken because the topic talks about Stephanie just hanging out with her friends on Saturday night instead of partying. The third is the setting, Stephanie tells the narrative when she is at the bowling alley with her friend while celebrating her birthday. Lastly, the function of the word is referential where she explains what ordinary people do differently from popular people.

2. Clipping

According to Allan and Burridge (2006) Clipping type is a slang term used when a word has been partially or completely removed but has the same meaning as the original. This indicates that slang words are created by cutting out a portion of longer words to create a shorter form with the same meaning. The deletion of some portions of words in slang expressions is a type of employing imagination and attempts to accomplish a specific point in communication, creativity, and this effort only applies to specific people or places.

Data 3

- Stephanie: Sup, Blaine. Hey, Tiffany. I'm having a birthday party, if you guys wanna join.
Tiffany: Ooh, ooh. Cute that in Australia you call it a party, 'cause in America, we call that a freak show.
Stephanie: Well, um, it's actually not a freak show 'cause we have cake, so...

Sup is a term used by teenagers. It can be used to greet someone. People use "sup" when they don't want to say "what's up" since it is too long. Also, people say "sup" because they get into the habit of saying it, so they just say it all the time. It can be used by either a girl or a boy. The slang word "sup" is categorized as clipping since it has one or more eliminated words but still has the same meaning as the original. One illustration is the slang term "sup," which was created from the phrase "what's up" and still has the same meaning.

Based on social factors in the Senior Year movie, social factors that influence the word "sup" first is participants. Participants influence the slang words spoken by the main character is because in that context Stephanie was greeting her friends, Blaine and Tiffany that is why she used the word "sup". The second is function, the function of the slang word influences is phatic, because the word "sup" is used to greet or address someone in an informal situation, such as Stephanie calling her boyfriend Blaine. The topic of the slang is to greet someone. The setting of the conversation is in the bowling alley, the place where Stephanie held her birthday party. She said this with feelings of envy at other cool kids.

Data 4

- Tiffany: Ooh, ooh. Cute that in Australia you call it a party, 'cause in America, we call that a freak show.
Stephanie: Well, um, it's actually not a freak show 'cause we have cake, so...
Tiffany: Let's go.
Stephanie: God, I just wanted to be like them so bad.

Teenagers use the word "cause" in casual speech, particularly with those they are close to. Slang "'cause" is an abbreviated form of "because" that can also be further condensed to "cuz" or "cz" and is mostly used in text conversations. This slang is classified as clipping since it is characterized by a removed word in one or more portions but retains the same meaning as the uncut one. One example is the word "cause," which is a slang term derived from the word "because" and has the same meaning as the original word.

Social factors that influence the use of the slang word "'cause", namely, the first is the participants where the people that involved in that conversation is Stephanie and her high school friends, therefore the word "'cause" was used. The second is setting, the conversation took place in the hallway of the school and in the informal situation, that is why the word "'cause" was used instead "because" because she wants to make it short. Third is function, in the context of the conversation Stephanie want to explain why her birthday is not a freak show, therefore the word "'cause" is used. The setting of the conversation is in the bowling alley, the place where Stephanie held her birthday party.

3. Imitative

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), the term "imitative" refers to slang phrases that are developed from or imitate Standard English words by employing such words to convey a different meaning or combination. Imitative is a slang term that imitates another word or a mixture of two words with different meanings. Some of the slang terms discovered in this study are classified as imitative, such as crush. This sentence can occasionally be heard in millennial

conversations, such as during a group video conference or in person. The word *crush* is of the imitative kind since it is used with other words to create a new meaning in slang. People use the term *crush* to describe a close relationship.

Data 5

Stephanie narration:

"When I moved to the US, I knew fitting in was gonna be hard. I just didn't know how bloody hard it was going to be. And all I wanted was to get invited to the coolest club in town, Rock 'N' Bowl. But I never was."

Based on the utterance above, the slang word "*gonna*" used by the main character in the movie *Senior Year* is one of the slangs people frequently use. The slang word "*gonna*" is of the imitative type because it is formed from the word "*going to*." It is a synonym for the original word that conveys the same idea. Additionally, "*gonna*" is frequently used in casual contexts to denote "*will do something*."

Social factors that influence the use of the slang word "*gonna*", namely, the first is the setting of the situation where in that situation Stephanie said that she knew that if he moved to the US adjusting to it would be a little difficult, therefore the word "*gonna*" was used. The second is function, the function of the word "*gonna*" is referential, it used because in this context the word "*gonna*" is used to explain that Stephanie is going through difficulties to adjust, more precisely the word "*gonna*" is used to replace the word *will* or *going to* in the utterances. The topic of the narration is to explain the situation she will face. The setting of the utterance is when she was in the bowling arena with her friends.

Data 6

Stephanie: Sup, Blaine. Hey, Tiffany. I'm having a birthday party, if you guys wanna join.
Tiffany: Ooh, ooh. Cute that in Australia you call it a party, 'cause in America, we call that a freak show.
Stephanie: Well, um, it's actually not a freak show 'cause we have cake, so...

Based on the discussion above, it can be determined that the slang word "*wanna*" stated by the main character in the movie *Senior Year* is one of the most commonly used slangs. *Wanna*, a slang word, is of the imitative kind because it is formed from the verb "*want to*." It is an imitation of the original word with the same meaning as the original word. Furthermore, "*wanna*" is commonly used in informal settings as a synonym for "*will do something*."

Social factors that influence the use of the slang word "*wanna*", namely, the first is the setting of the situation where in that situation Stephanie said that she wants to invite her boyfriend and friends to her birthday party in the informal setting, therefore the word "*wanna*" was used. The second is function, the function of the word "*wanna*" is directive, it is use because in this context the word "*wanna*" is used to explain that Stephanie is inviting her friends, more precisely the word "*wanna*" is used to replace the word *want to* in the conversation. The participants in this conversation are Stephanie and Tiffany her rival. The topic of the conversation is Stephanie that asked Tiffany to join her birthday party.

4. Flippant

When slang terms have more than two words and are unconnected to their denotative meaning, that is when they are classified as flippant. This suggests that slang words are made

up of two or more words and do not correlate to their denotative meaning, according to Allan and Burridge (2006). Flippant is also linked to figurative language. A figure of speech, defined by Rusadi (2022), is any unconventional way of saying something, and some rhetoricians have listed as many as 250 different figures. For instance, "break a leg" is defined as "good luck." Wishing for good fortune is a theatrical superstition that tempts fate.

Data 7

- Stephanie: You know, Dad, um, I saw at the mall in that empty store next to Wet Seal that they were holding, like, groups for widows and widowers. Looked pretty jumping.
- Seth: You're a catch, Mr. Conway. A sad woman would totally go out with you.
- Mr. Conway: I'll tell you what, I'll ask somebody out when you do, Seth.

In that conversation, "pretty jumping" refers to exciting, engaging and something vulgar such as to engage in an act of sexual intercourse with. The slang term "pretty jumping" is classified as flippant because each of the two words has a different meaning, but when combined into one phrase, the connotation differs from the original word. The slang phrase "pretty jumping" referred to a situation or level of condition of something. In its literal meaning, pretty has two meanings, namely, as an adverb meaning enough and an adjective meaning beautiful. While the word jumping itself is a verb that means jump or leap.

The social factors that influence the slang spoken are the first topics, The topic of the conversation is Stephanie recommending a good place for her father to find a new partner, that is why "pretty jumping" used to describe the place. The second is function, the function of the word is expressive, the phrase is used to express how pleasant the place is, that is why the word "pretty jumping" is used. The participants in the conversation are Stephanie and her best friend Seth and her dad. The setting of the place was in Stephanie house specifically in her kitchen.

Data 8

- Stephanie: For the last time, Tiffany, I won cheer captain fair and square, and you and Blaine were broken up when we got together. I don't cheat. So why do you continue to be the butt-roids on my... butt?
- Tiffany: I don't know what you're talking about.
- Stephanie: First, you changed the prom king and queen song. Now you're throwing an after-prom party when you know I've been planning mine for months.

This definition of "broken up" means that a boyfriend and a girlfriend have ended their relationship. The slang term "broken up" is categorized as flippant because each of the two words is distinct and when they are combined, the meaning of the original word is altered. "Broken up" was slang for a situation or state of something. According to Merriam Webster (n.d.), "broken up" in this other sense is "to cease to exist as a unified whole".

The social factors that influence the slang spoken are the first topics, the topic in the conversation is about Stephanie who try to explain to Tiffany that she is didn't cheat with Blain because she and Blaine date after Tiffany and Blaine broke up. The second is function, the function of the word is referential, to explain a situation of the people at that time. The third is participants, the participants of the conversation are Stephanie, Blaine current girlfriend who try to explain the situation and Tiffany, Blaine ex-girlfriend that is why the phrase "broken up" was used. The participants in the conversation are Stephanie Blain current girlfriend and Tiffany Blaine ex-girlfriend. The setting of the place was in the school toilet, where Stephanie asked tiffany to come.

5. Acronym

According to Allan and Burridge (2006), an acronym is a slang term that is formed by using the first letter of each words in a phrase. The acronym is read like a word, which distinguishes it from other acronyms. This investigation discovered a slang term of “LOL” classified as an acronym. The slang term LOL is an example of this type, while the name itself retains its original meaning. According to the urban dictionary, the term LOL is an acronym for Laughing out loud.

Data 9

Stephanie narration:

“And all I wanted was to get invited to the coolest club in town, Rock 'N' Bowl. But I never was. Anyone who was anyone was rolling with their homies on a Saturday night. It was like basically a VMAs after-party.”

The acronym denotes a contraction of a slang term using the initial letter of each word in the phrase. The slang word "VMA" can be categorized as an acronym slang word based on the comment above. It is categorized as acronym slang because the slang word "VMA" is made up of the initials of a number of words or syllables, or it is created as a result of combining the first letters of each word in a phrase. The abbreviation "VMA" stands for "Video Music Awards" in slang.

The first social factor that influences the use of the word "VMA" is the topic. The topic of the conversation was to talk about a big party attended by amazing people like the prestigious music award "VMA". The second is function as referential, the function of using the word is to describe what the situation is like at a party attended by the cool people from Stephanie's school. The word is used as a simile in the context of the conversation. The participant in the Stephanie's narrative above is simply Stephanie because it is a narrative explaining how she did not go to the coolest club in town. The setting of the time was after Stephanie left to United State, and she felt disappointed with herself because she was not invited.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data and discussion from the previous discussion, it can be inferred that the main character in Senior Year uses five different varieties of slang. Clipping, flippant, acronym, imitative, and fresh and creative are the five varieties of slang. As a result, the biggest percentage of slang types is fresh and creative, which is 36,4%. The lowest percentage of slang varieties are acronym and flippant, which accounts for only 13,6%. Slang in the movie Senior Year is influenced by social aspects such as participants, setting, function, and topic.

There are various recommendations from the study that the next researcher might use to update their research on slang. It is envisaged that the following researcher will be able to examine slang using various theories, approaches, or issue formulations and utilize various data. Hopefully, this study can help advance slang research in teaching.

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