

## SLANG WORDS IN *GROWN UPS 2* MOVIE

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### ABSTRACT

This research aimed to identify the types of slang used by the characters and explain the function of slang uttered by the characters in *Grown Ups 2* movie. This research employed a qualitative descriptive approach. The data source of this research was the script of *Grown Ups 2* movie. The data were taken from the utterances, words, and conversation which contained slang words or phrases uttered by the four main characters. Through the findings of the analysis, there were 30 utterances containing the types of slang words. From four types of slangs that were fresh and creative, compounding, imitative, acronym and clipping, the four characters within the movie used only four types of slang, namely fresh and creative, compounding, imitative, and clipping. In types of slang, it was found that the characters had purposes when using those slangs word. It was revealed that there were three functions of slang, pursuit of self-identity, emotive feeling of slang users, and achieving politeness.

**Keywords:** sociolinguistics, language variety, slang word

### ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis bahasa slang yang digunakan oleh para karakter dan menjelaskan fungsi bahasa slang yang diucapkan oleh para karakter dalam film *Grown Ups 2*. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data penelitian ini adalah naskah film *Grown Ups 2*. Data diambil dari ujaran, kata, dan percakapan yang mengandung kata atau frasa slang yang diucapkan oleh empat tokoh utama. Melalui temuan analisis, terdapat 30 ujaran yang mengandung jenis kata slang. Dari empat jenis slang yang *fresh and creative*, *compounding*, *imitative*, *acronym* dan *clipping*, namun didalam film tersebut peneliti mendapatkan bahwa keempat karakter hanya menggunakan empat jenis slang, yaitu *fresh and creative*, *compounding*, *imitative*, dan *clipping*. Pada jenis slang, ditemukan bahwa karakter memiliki tujuan ketika*

menggunakan kata slang tersebut. Terungkap bahwa ada tiga fungsi slang, *pursuit of self identity, emotive feeling of slang users, dan achieving politeness.*

**Kata kunci:** *sociolinguistik, variasi bahasa, kata-kata slang*

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

The ability to acquire and use complex systems of communication called as language is really significant for human. It connects human to interact to each other. Language is a means in which people use to verbalize their thoughts and exchange meanings. Language is a symbol to differentiate one from another. In addition, it is also a repository to identify people especially in society. It can be concluded that language plays a role in society as identification in establishing social identity shown in case of slang (Spolsky, 1998).

Many kinds of language are produced every day, therefore language has variety which is produced by human itself. Globally, many people produced it, from young ages to adults, high class or lower class, and high education or lower education. Also, the development of technology and the influences of culture have changed life of teenagers. It can be seen from how they get dressed and how they do daily communication. Hence, they find many new words and this situation influences their language variety.

Slang is one of language varieties in sociolinguistics. It means slang used by society to interact with each other. Slang is also considered to be a variation of language which is mostly used by teenager. Holmes (1992) states that this language variation is a pattern of youth speech, people can find slang words in teenager's conversation from all around the world. It aims to make sentences shorter and easier to say though it has more negative meaning, than the positive one. Battistella (2005) states that this variety language can practice people creativity and imagination to create new words and meanings from old words in a new way.

Slang, cannot only be found in the daily live conversation but also in the literary works, for example in a movie. In this research, the researcher was explored further on the use of slang in *Grown Ups 2* movie. the researcher chooses *Grown Ups 2* than *Grown Ups 1* movie as the object of this research, because *Grown Ups 2* has interesting story than the previous one. The researcher analyzed four main characters in the movie. In this movie the four main characters have many interactions with some teenager characters. Not only that, this movie has funny, hilarious, and a lot of dialogues between the characters that influence the four main characters to express a lot of slang words.

The objectives of this research were to identify the types of slang that used and to explain the functions of slang uttered by the characters of *Grown Ups 2* movie. It was expected that this research can inspire another researcher to analyze stuttering

in linguistics point of view. Hopefully this research can be a reference for future researcher.

## **B. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND**

### **1. Language Variety**

Wardough (1986) states that sociolinguistics investigates the relation between language and society with purpose of well understanding from language structural function. It means that in sociolinguistics, people will learn about how social structure affects people to speak and how language variety and pattern are used and connected with socials character like; social class and gender. Trudgill (1972) said that language variety not only according to social characteristic from speaker (social class, ethnic group, age, and gender). Language variety can happen in communication, depending from speaker aspect, as being said by Fishman (2004) that from speaker aspect, language variety is divided into 5 parts they are: *dialect, register, jargon, style, and slang*.

#### **1) Dialect**

Dialect is one of language varieties. It is defined as differences between kinds of language in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation (Trudgill, 1972).

#### **2) Register**

Register is language variety which is used for particular needed in formal setting. Register is usually spoken more in formal language, for example using verb-ing ; speaker would say that “walking” not “walkin”, “father” not “dad”, “child” not “kid”, etc (Wardough, 2002)

#### **3) Jargon**

Spolsky (2004: 33) states that jargon is a variation concerning the special variety especially marked by a special set of vocabulary (technical terminology) associated with profession or occupation or other defined social group and forming part in a group variety.

#### **4) Style**

Wardough (1974: 48) states that the terms style refers to language variety that is divided based on speech or speaking situation into formal and informal styles. We can speak formally or very informally; our choice of the styles is governed by circumstances.

#### **5) Slang**

slang is expressions that do not belong to Standard English. So slang is nonstandard words that usually appear in particular groups (Menchen,1936). For example word “ssup?” this non-standard word might appear when someone asking about other person conditions (greetings).

### **2. Characteristic of slang**

Anderson and Trudgill (1990) published their book *Bad Language*, they argued that an expression should be considered “true slang”. In their book there are : a) Slang is language the neutral stylistic level, b) slang is typical for informal situations, c) slang is typical for spoken language, d) slang found in word, not grammar, e) slang is not dialect, f) slang is not swearing, g) slang is not register, Slang is creative, i) slang is often short lived, k) slang is group related, l) Slang is ancient.

### 3. Type of Slang

According to Allan and Burridge (2006) confirm that there are 5 types of slang:

#### 1) Fresh and Creative

It means that slang language has totally new vocabulary, informal variety, cleverness, imagination, and it also can be an up to date words. Few words which are already familiar possibly will be slang as we do not realize it. The reasons why those slang become familiar in our mind because those slang appeared in long time ago since slang are already appeared. For example; my friend Mariah is an *awesome* single lady. You guys would be perfect each other. The slang word *awesome* (adj) used that we think something is wonderful or amazing.

#### 2) Compounding

Compounding is a common morphological mechanism which obtains new words consisting of “two element, the first of which is either a word or phrase, the second of which is either a word”. For example; The president brought two *big guns* to meeting. Words *big gun* means powerful person.

#### 3) Imitative

Slang word imitating or derived from Standard English Word, in different meaning or combining two different words. For example; I’m *gonna* call you tomorrow. This slang words derived from the phrase “going to”. Word “*gonna*” mostly used by people.

#### 4) Acronym

Acronym is word composed of the result of the initials of several words. Usually these components are individual letters or parts of words or names. The use of acronym in slang often use by young generations in their communication especially in web communication. Web communication has become a part of teenagers’ everyday life. Its role is to communicate rapidly, briefly, usually with a lot of slang words. The examples of acronym are: “LOL”(Laughing Out Loud), “KIT” (Keep in Touch), “BTW”(By The Way).

#### 5) Clipping

Clipping is a process which abbreviates a word to one of its parts. The most common pattern is back-clipping, in which the beginning of a base lexeme is retained (e.g. *lab* <- *laboratory*). Other possible pattern include fore-clipping,

in which the final part of the word is retained (*phone* <- *telephone*), clipping in which the middle of the word is retained (e.g. *flu* <- *influenza*). As many present-day English colloquialisms show, clipping is a frequent process in familiar language (e.g. *auto* <- *automobile*, *bus* <- *omnibus*, *prof* <- *professor*). It is also common in slang. In particular, it develops slang terms of special private groups, in which an allusion is sufficient to indicate the whole. In addition, clipping form is not appropriate in formal conversation.

#### 4. The Factors Influencing the Use of Slang

Holmes (1992) stated that people in a society might speak some varieties of language in accordance to different social climates they meet. It is true that people should know whether they are in informal and formal situation. When people speak, they should understand well about situation around. It is important in choosing appropriate language that will be used, formal style or non- formal one. The use of slang language can be affected by some social factors such as age, gender, status, etc. Slang is another area of vocabulary, which reflects a person's age (Holmes: 2001).

#### 5. Function of Slang

Slang usually used in social terms; to identifying from particular member of group, to oppose authority that exist, to exchange discourse level to informality directions. Share and maintain slang vocabulary that keep changing corresponding with fashion and serve as the purpose. According to Yanchun and Yanhong (2013), there are three functions of slang, those are:

##### 1) Pursuit of Self-identity

Since different social and professional groups have different slang, it is considered as the symbol for dividing the professional groups in society. If somebody uses the words to expression within a certain social group, he was blend with the group member from mentality. The American scholar P. Roberts cited from Yancung and Yanhong (2013) once pointed out that the reason people constantly use slang because they want to show that they are one of the qualified members among certain distinct groups.

##### 2) Emotive Feeling of the Slang Users

The emotive function reveals the speaker's attitude towards his subject. The emotive function is one of the most powerful uses if language because it is so crucial and important to changing the emotional status of an audience for or against someone of something, the emotive function help us to get rid of our nervous when we are under stress. Psychologically, As Allen suggest, cited from Yanchun and Yanhong (2013), "Slang is a class of language, among other social and psychological uses, to deny allegiance to genteel, elite, and proper society and to its standard linguistics forms". So that is why many people use slang in their conversation, from common people to intellectual groups, such as doctors, lawyers, and politicians.

### 3) Achieving Politeness

Yanchun (2013) state that the use of slang is restrained by the three factors as well. Either the use of slang in improper occasions or the use of slang not to the right addressee, or the improper content in one's speech may ruin the friendship and good relationship with your interlocutors. Therefore, the proper use of slang facilitates setting up a certain atmosphere or maintaining social contacts. Slang is often used in informal occasions and is of importance in playing the phatic function. The use of slang can maintain the friendship and the harmony between our friends.

## C. RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the method used is qualitative research. Creswell (2009) states that descriptive qualitative method is kind of research method using technique of searching, collecting, classifying, analyzing the data, interpreting them and finally drawing conclusion. Furthermore, Fraenkel and Wallen (2009) said that qualitative research has purpose to understand the richness and complexity of social experience by attending closely to the actions, interactions, and social context of everyday life. It involves systematically seeing people in their territory or speaking with them in depth about their thoughts and feeling.

The data source in this research is a movie script from *Grown Ups 2*. The data that would be analyzed are utterances, words and conversation which contain slang words or phrases uttered by the four main characters.

There are some processes in analyzing the data in this research based on Miles and Huberman (1994) as follow:

- 1) Data reduction becomes the first step in analyzing the data. Data reduction is a process where the researcher organizes the data that already collected. After collecting the data, the researcher would categorize those data into several part following the research questions. The data that found were separated into two categories, the types of slang and the function of the slang words. The data analysis starts by coding each incident into as many categories as possible and as the research continues the data is then placed in existing categories or existing categories are modified if not, and new categories emerge (Marshall and Rossman, 2016). The researcher created a code to categorize the data that are found. The following are the tables of coding that are used in this research.

**Table 1. Types of Slang**

Type of Slang	Code
Fresh and Creative	FaC
Compounding	CP
Imitative	I
Acronym	A
Clipping	C

Table 2. The function of Slang

Function	Code
Pursuit of Self-Identity	PoSI
Emotive Feeling of Slang Users	EFoS U
Achieving Politeness	AP

- 2) Miles and Huberman (1994) stated: *"data display is organized, compressed, assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing and action"*. In this step, the researcher uses the theory of Allan and Burridge to analyze the types of slang and meaning of slang and use the theory of Yanchun and Yanhong to analyze the functions of slang.
- 3) Miles and Huberman (1994) assert that *"from the start of data collection, the qualitative analyst is beginning to decide what things mean is nothing regularities, patterns, explanations, possible configuration casual flows, and prepositions"*. In this step, after the data have been reduced, the researcher can draw conclusions from the entire data described in the previous discussion based on research questions.

## D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Type of slangs used by four main characters and the functions of slang words

Lenny : He is back at it again.

Kurt : Why isn't he at work?

Lenny : He's just... This woman has a grip on him. It's *ridiculous*. It's gonna ruin his marriage.

D11/FnC/EFoSU/00:17:25-00:17:34

The conversation above happened in the school bus. Lenny and Kurt drive a school bus to shift Nick because the bus driver is not feeling well. After taking all the students to school, Lenny deliberately took the school bus around and accidentally saw his friend Eric Lamonsoff at his mother's house. Lenny and Kurt who saw Eric's pampered stated that if his wife caught Eric's spoiled nature for his mother, his marriage life would be ruined.

In the conversation above, Lenny says *ridiculous* to say something embarrassing or unbelievable bad. Ridiculous is one of fresh and creative. Fresh and creative is a type of slang that has a few words which are already familiar possibly will be slang as we do not realize it. Ridiculous is absurdly or unbelievable good or bad, crazy, this word is often spoken by many people in daily life but usually some groups such as teenagers or young people usually use the word to express something they saw. Ridiculous here was said by Lenny because he could not believe what he saw. Lenny used that word because he wants to express emotion. In this conversation, Lenny showed the emotion of embarrassment and was surprised by what he saw. He also said, "*It's gonna ruin his marriage*" which shows the emotion of fear if Eric's wife knows what he is doing at his mother's house.

Robideaux : Remember ninth grade when Tommy Cavanaugh moves here from Texas? He nonstop abuse you and you did nothing about it.

Lenny : Tommy Cavanaugh was a *roid freak*.

D15/CP/PoSI/00:24:26-00:24:34

This conversation took place at K Mart when Lenny meets his little friend Robideaux. They talk about the past when they were in elementary school and also Lenny tells about his son who was always bullied by his classmates. Then Robideaux reminds Lenny about his childhood who was always bullied by Tommy Cavanaugh, Lenny who heard him tried to defend himself by making fun of Tommy that he was a roid freak. Roid freak is one of slang word that combine with two words roid and freak.

The conversation above contains slang word which is the word "Roid freak". Roid freak itself combined with two word roid and freak which mean someone who takes anabolic steroids to build up muscle.



Commonly, this word is used in the social life especially some people to mocked someone who has a big muscle in a short time. In the movie, Lenny used the word because he wanted to show that his identity was not the cowardly person his friends thought he was when he was little.

Kurt : I'm *gonna* abuse this get-out-of-jail-free card, I'm telling you right now. I mean maybe I'll walk on the good rug without taking off my boots.

Lenny : Oh!

D30/I/EFoSU/ 00:13:05-00:13:15

The conversation above happened at bus school when Lenny and Kurt drive the students to go to school to replace Nick who is sick. Kurt tells about his wife forgetting their 20th anniversary either because his wife is forgetful or he doesn't know about it. Because of this, Kurt felt happy and he felt like he was released from prison. In the conversation above contain slang word which is the word *gonna*. It originates from going to, which mean I will. It has similar meaning. That word is kind of informal language which is produced in daily life for all ages. The word of *gonna* is to express the going to form of the future used with first second and third person singular and plural. According to researcher, when speaker used standard language it will be noticed to the audience. It will make communication easily delivered. Everything need a function, moreover in this conversation Kurt was so happy with what happened that day that he wanted to walk the rug with his favorite boots and he also wanted to drink a full pitcher of soda just for himself so because of that he was used that type of slang to express his feeling.

Bean : Hey, dad!

Eric : Hey, Bean, working on the *math*, huh?

Bean : Yup! Mommy said if I get all my math question right, I get to ride my bike to school with Becky Feeder.

D05/C/EFoSU/00:04:47-00:04:57

The conversation above happened at Eric's house when Eric sees Bean, his son study mathematic with his wife. Bean was so excited and confidences to learn to count with his mother although the answers are all wrong. Eric saw his son tried to encourage him to continue learning. In the dialogue above, Eric used slang word *math* which it is shortening word by the original word of mathematics but it word was still has the same meaning. So the word *math* belong to clipping because the word *math* is omitted from "mathematics", this word is listed in urban dictionary that has meaning an addictive subject, where succeeding at solving one of its

problems, increases your desire to solve more and more.

In this conversation Eric was tried to be support system of his son although he knows that his son not good at mathematic. He just wanted to be a good father to his kids.

## **2. Discussion**

The findings show that in *the Grown Ups 2* movie, all the types of slang that found by four main characters within the movie. There are 30 in total indicate as the utterances of the characters contain 4 types of slang words. Lenny is one of the main characters in the movie, who interestingly uses more slang words than the other characters. By the finding, the type of slang word that is frequently found in the movie is fresh and creative. In the movie, it is found that there are about 16 utterances from the conversation in the movie that contains fresh and creative. Under the fresh and creative is compounding. There are about 11 data from conversation indicate compounding in the movie. Compounding is a joining of two separate words to produce a single form. Usually consist of two or more words that the words composed not correlated with denotative meaning. The last is imitative, and clipping which imitative found 2 data and clipping found 1 data. This means imitative is a type of slang whose data is at least pronounced by the four main characters in the movie. The type of slang that data not found in this movie is acronym. The reason why this type not found is because of the limited characters analyzed so that the data obtained from each type of slang is not much.

From the finding, it is also found the function of the slang words those four main characters in the movie. From three of the function that is the emotive feeling of slang users, achieving politeness and pursuit of self-identity, it is the emotive feeling of slang users that frequently used by the four main characters in the movie. The characters tend to use slang words since they want to create friendly communication. The purpose of using this kind of function is to make a close relationship. On the other hand, the fewest function that uses by the four main characters in pursuit of self-identity. Correlating with the story this movie mainly explores Lenny, Marcus, Eric, and Kurt and their family that move to their hometown to start new family life. The conversation found in the movie rarely shows the group that makes the characters use slang that wants to show their identity, therefore this movie shows Lenny and his friends use slang that often uses by people. In the movie, the research found that the emotive feeling of slang users is a frequent function to be used by the four main characters in using slang words. There are 30 data findings show the function in using slang words performed by four main characters within the *Grown Ups 2* movie. The remaining 30 data of the function of slang, which is divided into 5 data for the pursuit of self-identity, 23 data for emotive feeling of slang users and 2 data for achieving

politeness that found in the *Grown Ups 2* movie.

## **E. CONCLUSION**

Fistly, in *Grown Ups 2* movie, the four main characters; Lenny Feder, Kurt McKenzie, Eric Lamonssoff, and Marcus Higgins used four type of slang, where fresh and creative are the most type of slang that used and clipping was the least of types of slang that found in the movie. Second, the types of slang used by the characters Lenny, Eric, Kurt, and Higgins within the movie were followed by several functions. There are three functions within the characters when used slang words by the characters in the movie, which are pursuit of self-identity, emotive feeling of slang users, and achieving politeness. By those functions, it was found that the characters within the movie used all of the function, where emotive feeling of slang users was frequently used by the characters within pursuit of self-identity and achieving politeness.

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