

## **AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG WORDS USAGE IN HIGHER EDUCATION BY USING WHATSAPP APPLICATION**

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### ***Abstract***

*Slang words is the one term from language that unfamiliar by learner of english. Slang words often used in common for teenagers, social group in all ages which teenagers also used slang words among their peers. Slang words could created new words and new meaning which are same in form of existing words and meaning. Slang words are rarely heard which also called as taboo language. Slang words could classified into positive and negative thoughts that depends to users of slang words in communication and using. So this research study involved higher students who using slang words in their typed message on Whatsapp application. This research study focus to determine students' knowledge about kinds of slang words and the words that include into slang words which also their reasons in using slang words on their Whatsapp application. Researcher in this research study used qualitative method which utilized phenomenological and case study method where researcher combined interview to gathered participants' thoughts and observation on their Whatsapp application into this research study. The results of this research study directed into the students understanding about kinds of slang words and the reasons for using slang words in their Whatsapp application which are on typed message or posted story. Hopefully, this research can be useful for higher students and next researcher which they can use this research study as they source, for reading material to enrichig knowledge.*

Keywords: Slang Words, Whatsapp, Higher Students

### **INTRODUCTION**

Holmes (2001:60) argued that slang belong to vocabulary part. Slang is the part of informal language or casual spoken english that produced and used by people in a certain community. As the common issues and instruction, slang does not used in the formal language which in spoken or written, because slang words

known as rude words, and humorous. Which slang often used among teenager interaction which they used with their friends, peers, and closemate.

Slang words, the term of language that often used by teenagers which using among their peers. Although slang is common for teenagers, slang often used by the social group in all ages. Slang words could be created the new meaning which is the form of existing words. The meaning from slang words generally deviates significantly from the standard meaning. Khabib (2021:10) stated “the types of language which consisting to the words and phrases that are considered very informal in the dialect or language of the speaker is Slang Words.” “The interpreting of slang words often refers to the things that are considered to foreign language which rarely heard or we called as taboo language,” (Khabib, 2021:11).

Mazer and Hunt (2008:44-53) stated that “Slang words could be separated into positive and negative thoughts that depends to the users of slang words in interaction encounters.” The positive thoughts or positive slang often using to informal language that the speaker would using to giving the signal of identification on something to the listeners. Almost of positive slang refers to the effective form of communication and interaction in classroom. The negative slang has becoming the impact to the students on learning process. Because, slang negative refers to the informal language such the commonly language used in verbal as the word of obscenities which the listeners might perceive as ridiculation. The students of Midwestern University which has a teachers that implementation of slang words into the teaching and learning process. The research from this particular term stated that the teachers should consider in using positive slang words as the effective term during the classroom communication which has affect to the students reaction of speech style. The teachers should describing the differences between slang to the professional speech in term of the appropriate speech style. The students of New York University who the senior classic major gave an example of slang which “The use of nowadays to mean currently although it’s never meant that”, “Obviously, there’s decent english and slang is everything else,” observed in 1973 to another student of New York University. The students who majoring to the language related fields such as

English, English Education, Spanish, and German refer that slang involved of a few language that nonstandard items which not following the grammar and structure in English.

Swahili, known as the the native name of Kiswahili means the language that used by Swahili people as their native language, this is one of the two official languages that used by the East African Community (EAC) countries, namely Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Democratic Republic of the Congo. Tanzania as the research country and young people as the participants of the research that discussed about the collected data of swahili in slang. "Swahili slang often used from SMS or message texting platform that often used by the teenagers or young people in Tanzania. So, young people in Tanzania used slang words for proving the bounded between Swahili and slang words in appropriate," stated by (Masua & Masasi, 2020:5).

Lutviana & Mafulah (2021:455) stated that "Slang often indeed not a currently language utilized by public, mean slang referred to language that used in certain community which that community could understand of the language meaning, in depth mean that the people who not included in certain community or outside the groups cannot understand the words that used in conversation in meaning." Slang word often used in music, and songs' lyric. Song is the one of particular term of literature which conveyed to the message and meanings, it is like diary. Most of the songs' lyrics written on it the slang words, and the written words also not accordance to the grammar structure in English. Slang words often found in Rap songs, especially of Eminem songs. The researcher in this research found Eminem songs has more Flippant. "Flippant mean the most of type that often used which have a irrelevant word to the term words," (Evadewi & Padang, 2018:143-150). Beside that, slang words often used in every movies that we watched unconsciously. (Pangestu & Kartina, 2019:58-59) argued that "the main character's reasons using slang words when they played role, it is because through the slang words, people could be more easier to transfer and declare emotions and feelings seems like love, dissappoint, anger, shock and happy."

Over two years, Indonesia has been through the teaching and learning process by online learning. During online learning, mostly students used slang words to simplify their communication. Recently, the case of online learning that supported to the use of internet, social media and slang words which growth in fast. The research conducted in Whatsapp Group during 6 months which involved the students who were exposed the slang words into types of origin from English, Indonesia, Javanese, Sundanese, and Social Media. “It formed when students typing the words in non-standard Indonesia spelling such as baeg, mantap.” (Lutviana & Mafulah, 2021:56-57). The perception from the students in this research about slang words is varied accordance to their opinion. On 71% of students disagree to used slang words to their teachers and prefer to use slang words when chatting to their friends rather than with teachers.

Slang words referred to the easier words for communicating but it is forbidden of using during the formal communication, but most of the users in using slang words coming from the teenagers in 12-24 ages. So, the purpose of this research study that researcher establish this research study into some common issues of slang words, which the language often used in period of time by teenagers. Slang words known as informal language, so teenagers need a guidance, illustration and explanation concerning of using slang words in their daily conversation especially on their Whatsapp application.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **History of Slang Words**

Green (2016:65) stated that “Slang have been used before 20<sup>th</sup> century, in this term slang becomes familiar and enhancing on 19<sup>th</sup> century which have produce a new words in synonyms but stands in the same path for the meaning. Slang more become increasingly with marked an enhancing vocabulary in recent time.” Slang is the term word that used by a particular subgroups in social life, and the words that comes from slang is the renew in a shape of word but had a same path in meaning.” (Mattiello, 2010:31).

Coleman (2012:2) stated that “Slang word define as the language of vulgar, sloppy, ugly and trivial which the users are uneducated individuals or the educated one which known of knowledge.” Slang, the kind of vocabulary informal which mostly used in the speech even by texting text by people as peers or knowing each other in well. Coleman (2012:6) said that “Slang word included into the English Modern Literature which begun on late of 19<sup>th</sup> and early of 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, in Europe and North America. Slang often described to the ideas and thoughts of social class than to another english-speaking world, in Britain.” Slang has been long existed in generations, nation and social classes which now bounded to ethnicity from particular nations. The Oxford English Dictionary has been listed the six different words spelt in slang : four are nouns, one as verb and other one as adjective which also used as adverb.

In 1919 which were published from Oxford English Dictionary that describe five definitions of slang as language used and another six, don't. Coleman (2012:12) stated that “on 1756, the vocabulary used by a person of a low in social class character that language slang as vulgar type; (1801) the vocabulary to the some of profession or calling in particular class or period is cant and jargon; (1818) the high language type, that realized as the standard educated speech, consisting to the new words of particular words in some taste; (1805) its for abuse and impertinence; (1762) its just nonsense or humbug.

Sari et al., (2021:45) stated that “In Indonesia slang words known as the same name is slang, mean the language that used in informal situation which has not standardized by certain group.” Slang words often indeed not a currently language used by public, because slang referred to language community which certain community could understand the language meaning, in depth mean that people who not included in certain community or outside the groups cannot understand the words that used in conversation in meaning. Slang mainly used in limited time or seasons, thus the slang words has not the standardized for using the language and it's not accordance to the grammar structure of english which used all the time. Similiarly, “new slang languages will emerge on a timely manner” (Sari et al., 2021:45).

## **Kinds of Slang Words**

“Slang terms could arise from variation of abbreviation in standard English terms, and sometime the words of slang that existed an abbreviation can combined to blends”(Coleman, 2012:37). “Slang often comes from the adapted from the use in existing words, but also slang could creates the new words” (Coleman, 2014:45). In the other hand, in-group slang means the slang that have a particular group in specialized at a particular time. This kind of slang word is the kind that used mostly by the people for keep their conversation which mean the words that they used is just known by their people or their group of socialization. Slang have been existed on 18<sup>th</sup> century for the first used in England, which slang utilized by various people among doctors, police, and gangsters. Partridge on his book “Slang:Today and Yesterday” (2004) was classified slang into eleven types, namely :

- 1) Cockney Slang, the one of slang’s kind that derived in the Eastern End of England which used in England by the working class. It very popular of slang in England, which have a clearly accent.  
Example : “Airy-fairies” meaning of large (feet).
- 2) Public House Slang, a group of words or phrases that used in a public house to replace a tiny quantity of recorded language related to the subject’s nature.  
Example : “Round the corner” meaning having had something strong to drink.
- 3) Workmen’s Slang, this part has the same definition with public house slang, but the differences that the users’ of workmen’s slang did not mention the original and called another name which already used and understood between them.  
Example : “Jumping Jinny” meaning a mechanical stamper used in road-repairs.

- 4) Trademen's Slang, used in the typical of users such as tailors; butchers; chemists; and builders.  
Example : "Butchers" meaning of the person of considerable importance.
- 5) Slang in Art, kind of slang word that absorb the words from the community which words and phrases comes from public. This slang are difficult slang to guess in the present day.  
Example : "Drawing" meaning a picture in water-color.
- 6) Slang in Publicity, the words and phrases often used from the start of conversations which much depends to public currently issues.  
Example : "Kelper" meaning a Falkland Islander.
- 7) Slang in Theatre, is related to the slang in art, because theatre is the one of art kind. The first used of slang theatre in the sixteenth century, but the slang has been develop between nineteenth century which influence to the spoken and informal language.  
Example : "Paper House" meaning a performance in theatre that given to the audience with a free ticket.
- 8) Slang in Public School and University, the main character and source from this particular slang is students in school and university which they ignored the old slang to creates the new to crash the slang of school and university.  
Example : "What's the mat ?" meaning is What is the matter ?
- 9) Slang in Medicine, this slang often used by the doctors or nurses that worked in the hospital environment.  
Example : "Sciatic" meaning of a sciatic nerve.
- 10) Slang in Society, obtained from conversation or speech that have been used in community. Which the kind of slang word could be understand by the community of group or several kind of association.  
Example : "Come the Rothschild" meaning to pretend to be rich.
- 11) Soldier's Slang, appeared also used by the army community which currently used by the soldiers which involved in this slang are

abbreviation or acronyms that combines of some aspects of military concepts and terms.

Example : “FIGMO” stands for a person, especially one who has a short remaining time on station, which is a lax attitude toward their work.

### **Function of Slang Words**

Users of slang words may used slang as humorous effect, and to arrange social communication in a group which used for particular words that referred to particular purposes and meaning such as they are greeting to others. Stated that some possible reasons for using slang word being the following :

- a. Enriching english vocabulary.
- b. Using slang word just for fun, humour and playfulness.
- c. To be creative of matching some vocabulary of slang in english.
- d. To reduce the seriousness of conversation.
- e. Slang words could make the identity and solidarity of group.

### **Characteristics of Slang Words**

Slang words also used by the songs’ writers, the creators’ movie and drama.

The characteristics of slang words are :

#### 1) Register Characteristics

- a) It could be Taboo language.
- b) Informal language.
- c) Typically oral, rather than written.
- d) Not included to the part of standard language.

#### 2) Group Characteristics

- a) Most of users by teenagers.
- b) Typically used by group as their style.
- c) Often conventionalized only in group.

#### 3) Semantic Characteristics

- a) Often found in taboo semantic.
- b) Often vividly methaphorical.



- c) Often involve exaggeration.
  - d) Often a novel creation. Novelty highly prized; hence slang word rather transient.
  - e) Can be regional (e.g. Cockney Rhyming Slang) but more often dispersed geographically and associated with a subculture.
- 4) Formal Characteristics
- a) As a language game formation.
  - b) Often as reduplication.
  - c) Involve of creative respellings.
  - d) Often short words or punchy words (e.g. smack, dope).
  - e) As language specificaly.

## **WhatsApp**

Montag et al., (2015:3), claimed about “Whatsapp mean application that facilitated to exchanging of instant messages, videos, pictures, voice notes and voice calls via the connection of internet, which the application has been existed or installed into the smartphone that achieved over a half of billion times in the world.” “Whatsapp has been represented an important tools of alternative communication to classic of short message services, which often offering the costs.” (Church and Oliveira, 2013:352-361). Whatsapp application is the easy application to send and reply the message without costs. The easy way to get our friends’ Whatsapp it just save their number and directly the number save to the phone and can chatting each other in flash of time. “Whatsapp similiar to SMS which have ability to send the text message by mobile device, but Whatsapp support of sending the unlimited messages, videos and pictures by using Internet connection without credits as SMS.” (Sultan, 2014:58).

Through pandemic covid-19, Whatsapp as the one of social media that widely used as the tools of teaching and learning section, beside that YouTube, Telegram, Zoom, and Instagram. However, Whatsapp often used through teaching and learning process because provided to various features on Whatsapp application that needed by teachers and students. Urien & Erro-garces (2019:14)

stated that “Whatsapp usefulness has played a two role which as a attitude sharing that helps people to build the team processes in relationship of positive communication. The others, as the tools of assignment collected.”

## **METHOD**

This research study utilize qualitative method which in practice need the reflecting thoughts of using methods that attempt to provide an understanding from the research participants’ sight of thoughts and action in the term of their lives overall. This research study utilize to the two research design of qualitative research are phenomenological study and case study. Phenomenological study has a similiar method of collecting data which conducted into the theory or phenomena and need the interviews. “Phenomenological study underlies by the qualitative research that refers to the philosophy which mean it comes to the phenomenology that focussed to human experiences and the way of experience something is conducted to the awereness that could be implementating” (Merriam & Tisdell, 2016:26).

Researcher combined phenomenological study into case study. Case study is also one of term in research design of quantitative research. Case study in qualitative research design version, the researcher must attracted into the meaning of subjects’ experiences themselves, it is not focussing on the generalization of results. “Case study clarified to the examination in depth way from the one or more individuals in program, event or the activities that conducted by the researcher” (Cresswell, 2018:15). Case study could be gathered from partisipants’ interviews and observations, notation records or archival documents, materials of audio-visual and the physical artifacts.

Participants as sample units in qualitative method which are chosen in reason of the characteristics and features of detailed exploration and understanding on themes that discussed by researcher as research study. Cresswell, (2014:192) stated that in qualitative research method, the participants that could been involved is usually among 5-10 participants. Researcher need participants who

involve to research study who often using slang words and classified into 5 higher students which using slang words in their Whatsapp's story and chat. Researcher will collecting participants' experience that combine to theory or definition that have written on references' books in term of slang words.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

### Kinds of Slang Words that higher students know

Slang words is informal language that often used by teenager that they more easier to expressed, and transferred their feeling. Researcher gave question of "What kind of Slang word that you know ?" and higher students had a different thoughts about kinds of slang words as description in below :

sNumb	Participants	Answers
1	P1	Taboo, Society Slang
2	P2	Society Slang, Slang in Public School and University, Workmen's Slang
3	P3	Society Slang, Internet Slang, Slang in Public School and University
4	P4	American Slang, British Slang, Internet Slang
5	P5	Taboo, Vulgar, Offensive

Higher students thoughts about kinds of Slang Words that they knew in differences answers. P2 and P3 had same answers in mentioned of society slang and *slang in public school and university*. P1 and P5 mentioned that kinds of slang words like *Taboo*. P3 answered that Slang words could devided into *American slang, British Slang, and Internet Slang*.

### Kinds of Slang Words that Higher Students used through their typing chat and story on Whatsapp

Table 4.2 Kinds of Slang Words that Higher Students used through their typing chat and story on Whatsapp

Numb	Participants	Answers
1	P1	Yup, Bestie, Peeps, Hyped.
2	P2	Dude, Dope, Lit, Bestie, Hit me up.
3	P3	Hang out, Dude, Bestie, Gotcha.
4	P4	Nutshell, 24/7, Yup. Shitty.
5	P5	Bullshit, Spill, Skip, Lowkey.

Table above collected by interview to all participants in middle of observation on Whatsapp chat and story which mean researcher got data from interview during researcher look up to their Whatsapp chat and story that took one month to get accurate data about slang words that they have been used. The question is “Which kind of slang words that you often used?”, after interview five participants, they were mentioned among 4 until 6 kinds of slang words each of them. One to another participants had mentioned slang words in same words and different words which researcher got data from participants’ answers, they mentioned word “Bestie” in scale mentioned by 3 participants, “Dude” and “Yup” which twice mentioned by 2 participants, on the other hands they were mentioned another slang words as words “Peeps, Hyped, Dope, Lit, Hit me up, Hang out, Gotcha, Nutshell, 24/7, Shitty, Bullshit, Spill, Skip, and Lowkey”.

#### **Higher students’ reasons for using slang words on their Whatsapp’s chat and story**

Table 4.3 Higher Students’ reasons for Using Slang Words on their Whatsapp’s Chat and Story

Numb	Participants	Answers
1	P1	Slang words are very influential on education where slang words will change students’ language styles from formal to informal and can express emotional and feelings
2	P2	Slang words is a part of speaking english, even in written text message right now. I’m sure it can effect

		education field because with using slang words, students can increase their knowledge in english and can make them speak and type like native speaker
3	P3	Slang words is a word that having a unique meaning and when i'm using it, it make me look like generation Z
4	P4	Slang words can not effect into education field but in social life, learning slang in language allows you to remain current in your speaking ability, and makes it possibly to hold fluent conversations with people of all generations.
5	P5	Using slang words can enriching vocabulary that is not known or learned in class

Based on collected data that have been explained above, researcher found data consist to problem of study which mention below :

1. Researcher found that participants knew kinds of slang words in differences answers which they mentioned *society slang; slang in public school and university, workmen's slang; internet slang; taboo; american slang; british slang; vulgar and offensive*. In this term researcher used Partridge book to find out kinds of slang words which appropriate to this research study and Partridge book.
2. This research study found data about kinds of slang words that higher students used through their chat and story on Whatsapp. Based on data above that kinds of slang words that have been used by higher students through their Whatsapp chat and story are *Yup; Bestie; Peeps; Hyped; Dude; Dope; Lit; Hit me up; Hang out; Gotcha; Nutshell; 24/7; Shitty; Bullshit; Spill; Skip and Lowkey*.

3. Five participants mentioned their reasons in different way such as *using slang words could increase and enrich their knowledge in english and made them more like native speaker; using slang words could expressed their emotional and feelings in easy way; using slang words could made them more unique in speaking skill's style which looked like generation Z*. Researcher could make conclusion that using slang words made them to be more easier to expressed their feelings and emotional immediately and also to enriched and increased in vocabulary terms in english skills.

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