An Analysis of Slang Language Used In English Students' Interaction

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Abstract

The slang is one of the language variations recently used mostly in the English students' daily interaction. The students use this language variation in various types and reasons. This paper reports the results of a qualitative study which is aimed at finding and exploring the types of the slang language and the reasons of using slang in students interaction. It is used as the method to describe the result of a process based on the category that has been determined. The data are collected from document analyses and close-ended questionnaires and are analyzed by using the interactive model of data analysis: data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusion/verification. The study finds that the types of the slang language used in the students' interaction show various results in each type. The first highest result is the acronym (33 words or 39.75%). The second is clipping 23 words or 27.71%). The third is fresh and creative coining (16 words or 18.39%). The fourth is compounding (eight words or 9.19%). The lowest is imitation (five words or 5.74%). In relation to the reasons for the language slang use, seven reasons are found. The first reason is to enrich the language by inventing new words (Freq=15; 17.85%). The second reason is to induce friendliness (Freq=14; 16.70%). The third and fourth reasons are to be different and easing social intercourse (Freq=13; 15.47%). The fifth reason is to reduce seriousness of conversation (Freq=11; 13.09%. The sixth reason is to have fun (Freq=10; 11.90%. The last reason is to have delights in virtuosity (Freq=eight; 9.52%).

Keywords: interaction, slang types, reason of using slang, students

Introduction

Language is the people' device to interact one to another people. People use language to express their feeling, ideas, and opinion Icbay (2008) argued that through interaction, the participants share what they know, how they do, and what they know, what they feel, what they think and what they plan to do. The interaction is supported by language variant The interaction is supported by language variant. It is used to make communication more effective, interesting and enable students enjoy the conversation. In language variant Fasold (1996) [1] explained that the speakers may choose two languages involving code mixing, code switching, and use set of variant within the same language. Language vary from one to another place, from one social group to another, and from one situation to another situation are different. The cases happen when somebody agree the language variant correlated to language selection because she/ he wants more exertion to figure out the meaning.

The cases happen when somebody agrees with the language variant correlated to language selection because she or he wants more exertion to figure out the meaning. Variation indicates that not every speaker speaks same system all the period. According Akmajian et al. (1998) there are some examples of language variations that are of interest

to linguist such as lingua francs, pidgins, creoles, jargon, slang and taboo languages. This research focuses only on slang as a language variation. Holmes (2001) argues that slang belong to vocabulary part. Slang is informal or casual spoken English that produced and used by people in a certain community. As the common instruction, slang does not use in the formal spoken language or writing because it is rude, humorous or shocking. However, we can face one condition which may happen is that the use of slang in communication especially in the students' interaction. Generally, every country has their own slang in their language. In Indonesia, slang could be found in daily conversation and most of studentsuse it, such as cupu (old-fashioned), nyokap (mother), bokap (father), keren (cool), bestie (panggilan kepada teman akrab) means called name to the best guys. etc. In this modern area, slang can be found in the conversation of the teenagers, condolessen, and adult people. They give the great contribution of the forming of slang.

In other words, with such a variety of language, it creates more fluent in conversation, more intimate, and it agrees with an informal situation. Maitland (2010) defined that slang is the language, which though unrecognized in dictionaries, is in common daily use not only among the vulgar but in every branch of life. It means that slang is the secret language of the English or something that everybody can recognize but nobody can define. The uniqueness of slang, it changes like fashion, when it is trend, everyone will use it. One particular type of slang is the teenage slang, a language style used by adolescents or in other words a generation specific use of language. An important function of this type of slang is to create an identity which is distinct from the general adult world. Chambers (1995) stated that adolescents usually make themselves distinct from children and adults by using a style of language which demonstrates their belonging to their distinction from other age group.

Teenagers usually do not use such expressions in their interactions with other generations whom they generally claim to be outsiders and do not approve of their use. Teenage slang changes rapidly because people are teenagers for a limited period of time, when adults, they become outsiders and gradually forget the group words and the developments happening in the course of time to the old expressions and meanings. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), there are five different slang types. 1). Fresh and Creative mean that slang language has totally new vocabulary, informal variety, cleverness, imagination, and it also can be an up to date words. Some words which are already familiar out of mind possibly will be slang as people do not realize it. The reasons why those slang become familiar in our mind because those slang appear in long time ago since slang are already appeared. The example is the slang word awesome. Awesome (adj) used that we think something is wonderful or amazing. 2). Compounding means that slang language made by two words or more in which the words composed not correlated with denotative meaning. The example is big gun. It means a powerful person. 3). Imitative means that the slang word imitating or derived from the Standard English Word, using the Standard English words in different meaning or combining two different words. The example is gonna.

This is the slang word that derived from the phrase words "going to". The slang word "gonna" is commonly used by almost all of the people in the world. 4). Acronym is the type of slang constructed by the result of words from the first letters of each word in a phrase or this type is made by the initials from a group of words or syllables. The example is LOL. It is used as internet shorthand to mean "laughing out loud", found in US around 1991. 5). Clipping is one of variety of slang made by deleting of some parts of

longer word become a shorter form in the same meaning. In addition, clipping form is not appropriate to use in formal conversation. The example is the use of word exam to mean examination. Moreover, there are some reason why people use slang in communicating, such as slang can represent the certain sub social group's identity, because it is cool, it seems like a fashion when everybody likes it, and it will be often used by people. The slang usually accepted by young peoples' heart in years which purpose just for fun of thing.

According to the Partidge (1945), the reasons why people use slang language are just for fun of the thing in playfulness, for delights in virtuosity, to be different, to be picturesque (this could be found from songs or poems), to be unmistakably arresting, even startling, to escape from clichés, or to be brief and concise, to enrich the language by inventing new words, to lend an air of solidity, concreteness, to the abstracts of earthiness to the idealistic, of immediacy and oppositeness to the remote, to reduce seriousness of a conversation, to amuse superior public (this can be seen by the slang that children use towards their parents), for ease of social intercourse, to induce either friendliness, to shows that one belongs to a certain group, to show or prove that someone does not belong to a certain group, to be secret, not understand by those around one (children, students, lovers, member of political, are the chief exponents).

Method

In this research, the researcher used qualitative research method in case study design. Qualitative research is the collection, analysis, and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual data in order to gain insight into a particular phenomenon of interest. It was supported by Hancock, et.al (2009:6) who stated that qualitative research focused on description and interpretation of social phenomena. It might lead to development of new concepts or theory. The subject of this research was the students of English study program, Faculty of Teacher Training, Christian University Indonesia Toraja academic 2021/2022. The sample of this research consisted of 83 instrument used by the researcher were documentation and close ended questionnaire. The using of document analysis was to find out and to explore the types of slang language used in the students' interaction, and while the other instruments, students' close ended questionnaire, was to get the information about the reason of using slang in the teenager interaction. The questionnaire was given in Bahasa Indonesia to make the subject of the research easier to understand. In formulating data analysis technique, the researcher applied discourse analysis to collect, identify, analyze and interpret the data.

The data collected from document analysis and questionnaire are analyzed by using interactive model of data analysis Miles and Huberman (1994), interactive model of data analysis consists of three concurrent flows of activity: data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusion / verification.

Figure 1. Interactive Model Process of Data Analysis by Huberman (1994) The data collected from document analysis and interview are sorted, and classified into particular group. Having sorted and classified the data, unwanted and irrelevant data will be reduced, and discarded. Then, the data are coded and classified again. Then, the coded and classified data are displayed on the text. To draw conclusions from the mass of data, Miles and Huberman (1994) also suggested that a good display of data, in the form of tables, charts, networks and other graphical formats is essential. This is a continual process, rather than just one to be carried out at the end of the data collection. The last step is

taking conclusion from the displayed data based on research questions. Conclusion drawing will involve stepping back to consider what the analyzed data mean and to assess their implications for the questions at hand.

Result and Discussion

Result The Result of Types of Slang Language Used Based on the explanation in the previous discussion, the researcher identified the types of slang language used in the students' interaction stated by Allan and Burridge (2006). The types of slang divided into five types, they are fresh and creative, compounding, imitative, acronym, and clipping. The result of types of slang language used in the students' interaction obtained through document analysis which was showed as follow. Table 1: Types of Slang Language Used Frequency No Types of Slang Frequency of Slang Used Percentage of Slang Used

No.	Types of slang	Fresh and creative	Compounding	Imitative	Acronym	Clipping
1	Frequency	16	8	5	33	23
2	Percentage	19.28	9.64	6.02	39.76	27.71

According to the table 1. above, it could be inferred that the types of slang language used in students interaction showed various result in each types. The first highest position was acronym with the total 33 words or 39.76%. Then, the second position was clipping with the total 23 words or 27.71%. Next, the third position was fresh and creative with the total 16 words or 19.28%. After that, the fourth position was compounding with the total eight words or 9.64%, and the lowest position was imitative with the total five words or 6.02%. The Result of The Reason of Using Slang In this section, the researcher answered the research questions number two which asked about the reason of using slang in the students' interaction. The researcher used Partridge (1954) theory which stated there are 15 reasons why people use slang language. The result of it would be explained as follow: Table 2: The Reason of Using Slang Frequency. As displayed in the following table.

Table 2. Reasons for Using Slang Language

No	Reasons for Using Slang	Frequency	Percentage
1	Just for fun of the thing	14	16.88
2	For delights in virtuosity.	3	3.61
3	To be different.	3	3.61
4	To be pictures	5	6.02
5	To be unmistakably arresting, even startling	2	2.41
6	To escape from clichés, or to be brief and concise	0	0
7	No Reason of Using Slang	7	8.43
8	To be secret	8	9.64
9	To lend an air of solidity and concreteness	5	4.15
10	To reduce seriousness of a conversation	3	3.61
11	To amuse superior public.	5	4.15
12	To enrich the language by inventing new words.	12	14.46

13	To lend an air of solidity and concreteness.	7	8.43
14	To induce either friendliness.	7	8.43
15	To shows that one belongs to a certain group.	6	7.23
	Total	83	100

Paying attention to table 2 above . It is shown that the reasons why the students used slang language is the first reason is *just for fun of the thing*, it consists of 14 respondents or 16.88%. The second reason is *to enrich the language by inventing new words,* where consists of 12 respondents or 14.46%. 8 or 9.84% respondents *chose to be secret*. 7 or 8.43% *respondents chose To Induce Either Friendliness, To Lend An Air of Solidity And Concreteness and No Reason of Using Slang place the third reason. Followed by To shows that one belongs to a certain group,* consists of 6 or 7.23% respondents, *To amuse superior public and To lend an air of solidity and concreteness and To be pictures* that each consists of 5 or 4.15% as the fourth reasons. The reasons such as *To reduce seriousness, To be different and To be different falls into 3 or* 3.61% respondents. 2 or 2.41% posed the fifth. The participants chose *To be unmistakably arresting, even startling.* Finally no participant chose *To escape from clichés* as the reason why they use slang language in the students' daily interaction*.*

Discussion

Having discussion as explained in the result of the data above, the highest frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was acronym with 33 words or 37.93%. This type constructed by the result of words from the first letters of each word in a phrase or was made by the initials from a group of words or syllables. The examples of this type would be showed in the following Slang Words Indonesian Basic Words Meaning 1. *GC (Gerak Cepat)* means "Do something in fast" 2. *UWU (Tidak bahagia tanpa kamu)* means " Unhappy Without You" 3. *BT (Bete)* means "Bored" 4. OTW (Di jalan) means "On The Way" 5. *BM (Banyak Mau)* means "Having many willingness"6. BTW (by the way) omong-omong means another case. The second frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was clipping with the total 25 words or 28.75%. This type is made by deleting of some parts of longer word become a shorter form in the same meaning. In addition, clipping form is not appropriate to use in formal conversation. The examples of this type would be Slang Words Indonesian Basic Words Meaning 1. *Gan (Juragan Bos)* means the seller / the buyer) 2. *Cin (Cinta)* means Love 3. *Muna (Munafik) means* Hypocrite / liar 4. *Bro (Brother) means* Best friend. The third frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was fresh and creative with the total 16 words or 18.39%. This type has totally new vocabulary, informal variety, cleverness, imagination, and it also can be an up to date words. Some words which are already familiar out of mind possibly will be slang as people do not realize it.

The examples of this type would be showed in the following are Slang Words Indonesian Basic Words Meaning 1. *Guys* (Kalian) Fellow or friends 2. Ok Okay Accepted / agreed 3. *Wow (Ungkapan terkejut)* is indicated to the feeling of surprise The fourth frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was compounding with the total eight words or 9.19%. This type of slang made by two words or more in which the words composed not correlated with denotative meaning. The examples of this type would be showed as Slang Words Indonesian Basic Words Meaning 1. *Cab out (Kabur)*

means Run away 2. Hang out (Jalan-jalan_) means To gather in a casual manner 3. *Big thanks* (bersyukur) means Pleased or grateful 4. *Drop out (Dikeluarkan)* means Someone who has dropped The last frequency of slang language used types found by the researcher was imitative with the total five words or 5.74%. This type of slang word is imitating or combining two different words.

The examples of this type would be as Slang Words Indonesian Basic Words Meaning 1. *Gonna (*Akan) means Going to 2. *Wassup*?) (Ada apa?) Means What is up? 3. *Bucin* (Budak cinta) means Crazy of love. 4. *Bucan (ibu cantik*) means beautiful mother, Jomblo (tidak punya pacar) means have no lover. The second finding of this research was the reasons of why the students were using slang language in their interaction. As the result of the data, the researcher found there were seven reasons of using slang in the students" interaction. The first reason was to enrich the language by inventing new words with the total 15 frequencies or 17.85%. This reason was chosen because it looked good and impressed update. The respondents could find some new vocabularies of slang language. The second reason was to induce either friendliness with the total 14 frequencies or 16.70%. This reason had positive impact for social interaction.

It makes people are easy to interact with others in order to make the conversation runs more relax and more comfortable. The third reason was to be different and for easing of social intercourse with the total 13 frequencies or 15.47%. As same as the second reason, to be different and easy in social intercourse were making the other's comfort in communicating. The fourth reason was to reduce seriousness of a conversation with the total 11 frequencies or 13.09%. This reason was chosen because can be one alternative way to initiate relax conversation in purpose of having smooth conversation and improve the other's relationship. The fifth reason was just for fun of the thing with the total 10 frequencies or 11.90%, and the last reason was for delights in virtuosity with the total eight frequencies or 9.52%. These reasons were chosen because slang language had been familiar with others, therefore people speak slang language even it has rough meaning.

Conclusion

Every language is the people's device to interact to other people. The interaction is supported by language variant, one is slang. In the document analysis and questionnaire result, the researcher found that the students used language variations especially slang in their interaction with various types, such as fresh and creative, compounding, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Moreover, students also had various reasons of why they used slang in their interaction. According to the data analysis result, it could be inferred that the types of slang language used by the students of English interaction showed various result in each types, such as acronym with the total 33 words or 37.93%, clipping with the total 25 words or 28.75%, fresh and creative with the total 16 words or 18.39%, compounding with the total eight words or 9.19%, and the last was imitative with the total five words or 5.74%. On the other hands, there were also seven reasons of why teenagers used slang in their interaction. The first reason was to enrich the language by inventing new words with the total 15 frequencies or 17.85%. This reason was chosen because it looked good and impressed update. The respondents could find some new vocabularies of slang language. The second reason was to induce either friendliness with the total 14 frequencies or 16.70%. This reason had positive impact for social interaction. It makes people are easy to interact with others in order to make the conversation runs more relax and more comfortable. The third reason was to be different and for easing of social

intercourse with the total 13 frequencies or 15.47%. As same as the second reason, to be different and for easing of social intercourse were making the other's comfort in communicating. The fourth reason was to reduce seriousness of a conversation with the total 11 frequencies or 13.09%. This reason was chosen because can be one alternative way to initiate relax conversation in purpose of having smooth conversation and improve the other's relationship. The fifth reason was just for fun of the thing with the total 10 frequencies or 11.90%, and the last reason was for delights in virtuosity with the total eight frequencies or 9.52%. These reasons were chosen because slang language had been familiar with others, therefore people speak slang even it has rough meaning.

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