THE STUDY OF SLANG WORDS IN MEGAN THEE STALLION'S LYRICS

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ABSTRACT

Slang words are a form of linguistic variant that people adopt as a new vocabulary to use in everyday situations. When the slang words are analyzed into social functions, the detail of the language becomes clear. This research aimed to discover the social functions of slang words in Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics in an album Good News through theory Zhou & Fan (2013). This research aimed to (a) investigate the social functions of slang words that are used, (b) elucidate how the social functions of slang words are used and (c) explain the reason of using the slang words. The qualitative descriptive method was used for this research. This research obtained 35 slang words as data used in Megan Thee Stallion. The part of emotive feeling is the highest percentage than the other parts which is more frequently expressing her feeling use slang words than other parts with 24 data reached 54%, pursuit of self-identity with 19 data reached 40%, and achieving politeness with 2 data reached 6%. Therefore, the usage of slang words is not used randomly, but it has the social functions of slang words which are pursuit of self-identity, emotive feeling of the slang users, and achieving politeness.

Keywords:
Social functions of slang words; Pursuit of self-identity, Emotive feeling of the slang users, Achieving politeness

INTRODUCTION

Sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to social contexts. It connects the function of language as a tool of general communication to society. As well, sociolinguistics is studying the link between language and society, attempting to explain why individuals talk differently in different social situations, as well as characterizing the social roles of language and how it is used to communicate social meaning (Holmes, 2013). Examining how individuals use language in different social contexts gives a lot of information about how language works, social relationships within a group, and how people interact and establish parts of their social identity through their own words. The goal is to explain how language changes across geographical boundaries and how individuals from one

community in an environment converse with those from another. It means that the use of language for community involvement has existed for a long time. Such a language's usage is still evolving to this day. The existence of society, conventions, rules, and laws that debate language are all examples of sociolinguistics work. It means that it is influenced by factors such as the speaker's and listener's social backgrounds, the relationship in the context, and the manner of interaction, so it is critical to understand the structure and function of the language used in each situation. One of the sociolinguistics phenomena that exists in society is slang. It is an informal language that is used in society.

Zhou & Fan (2013) defined that the complexity of slang is immediately apparent when we examine its function. There are three parts of social functions in slang words: Pursuit of Self-identity, Emotive Feeling of the Slang Users, and Achieving Politeness. Slang is inappropriate for professional situations yet ideal for casual situations. In formal contexts, most individuals talk carefully, yet in many informal interactions, a more easygoing manner of speaking gives a better impression. It expresses that slang is the secret language of the English or something that everybody can recognize but nobody can define. The uniqueness of slang changes like fashion when it is trend, everyone will use it. Slang is considered a product of society since it is generated by individuals who live in society. It is one of the language variants that can reflect a society's social tendencies now as well as how its people perceive the world. However, there are so many places where people can find slang language phenomenon because slang is informal language, many people often use it, and every slang is not just about a word but there is any slang more than one word. Slang is used not only in the community, but also in media entertainment such as social media, movies, song lyrics, and so on. Slang is now employed not just in conversation but has also inspired music lyrics. There are many singers who write songs using slang words in their lyrics and slang words are frequently used by singers as a genuine expression.

One of the most singers that used slang words is Megan Thee Stallion. Megan Thee Stallion is a woman rapper from America and has get awards Grammy Award for Best Rap Song (2021), Grammy Award for Best New Artist (2021), Grammy Award for Best Rap Performance (2021) and many more. Many slang words can be found in the lyrics of Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics. The object of this research is Megan Thee Stallion's slang words in an album *Good News* consisting of 17 songs lyrics. Then, to find out the meaning of the slang

words in her lyrics, this research used *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English* and to find out types of social functions of the slang words this research used theory Zhou & Fan (2013).

METHOD

The type of this research is a textual analysis related to the language used by other people in the song, the research method used in this study is descriptive qualitative method. Kothari (2004) states the purpose of descriptive research is to describe and report on all occurrences and phenomena that are related to what is being observed and occurred. And the qualitative technique is a type of social action that emphasizes how people interpret and make sense of their experiences to comprehend individuals' social realities. It employs interviews, diaries, notebooks, classroom observations and immersions, and open-ended surveys to collect, analyze, and interpret data from visual and textual materials, as well as oral history (Mohajan, 2018). Then, the result from data collection will be analyzed by using the theory of social functions in slang words proposed by Zhou & Fan (2013) with three parts social functions in the slang words: Pursuit of Self-identity (PSI), Emotive Feeling of the Slang Users (EF), Achieving Politeness (AP).

RESULTS

This chapter explains the data that was collected, and way analyzed applying Zhou and Fan's (2013) theory with the objectives to solve these research problems. There are three findings in this research, they are the social functions of slang words used, the slang words realized into social functions and the reasons slang words used.

1. The Social Functions of Slang Words Used

After collecting the slang words in Megan Thee Stallion lyrics in an album *Good News* the researcher found that there were 35 slang words that contains 3 types of social functions based theory Zhou & Fan (2013) namely pursuit of self-identity (PSI), Emotive Feeling of the Slang Users (EF), and Achieving politeness (AP) in those slang words.

2. The Slang Words Realized into Social Functions

The use of slang words in song lyrics affects the identity and feelings of its users by conveying it through song lyrics. In accordance with the meaning of the context of the lyrics conveyed by Megan Thee Stallion, these slang words have meanings that can be conveyed

by using the singer's terms to the listeners. By realizing it into social functions, these slang words deepen the identifications of a slang word used in the lyrics. For example:

"*And my new **boo** got me feelin' real pretty*"

The title of song: Don't Rock Me Too Sleep

After the shooting event with her ex-boyfriend, she already has a new lover who helps her feel more comfortable and confident while dealing with the public. Example of slang word that have been collected and realized into social functions Zhou & Fan (2013) theory is **boo**. The context meaning of the lyrics is her lover makes her to be loved. Based on *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English,* the meaning slang word **boo** is lover. It is realized into social functions because its users are part of a young generation and a young group and the slang words may develop new meanings or emphases over time, reflecting changes in societal norms, technology, or popular culture. Like, the slang word **boo** originally meant mock however, young generations used it to indicate "lover" or "dear." Slang word development may be considered as a reflection of the changing social and cultural context.

3. The Reasons Slang Words Used

Slang words in her lyrics serve a range of functions. For one thing, it may give the songs more authenticity, making them feel more relevant to the listener. The slang words used in this song lyrics for the reason of to be creative and imaginative with language, creating unusual and memorable songs by combining unexpected word combinations and frequently associated with certain cultural trends and movements, making them an effective tool for communicating with audiences who are familiar with these connections. For example:

"***Damn**, he probably wanna wear my hoodie (Ah)*"

The title of song: Cry Baby

Megan Thee Stallion has close friend who make happy and comfortable so she wants to use her hoodie to remember her and she did not like it. Based on *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English,* the meaning slang word **damn** is no worthy. Many musicians employ slang words to provide their fans with a more real and accessible experience. Because slang is commonly used in regular discussions, integrating it into song lyrics may make the songs sound more authentic and placed in ordinary language. Then, some slang words can become timeless, popular throughout generations and can help make the music more accessible and relevant to listeners of different

generations. Those used to express feelings or attitudes, such as defiance or independence. Finally, employing slang words in lyrics may help musicians in conforming to the traditions of specific musical genres, such as hip-hop, where the usage of slang and non-standard English is a distinctive feature. While there are risks to utilizing slang phrases in lyrics, such as excluding specific listeners or employing language that rapidly becomes old, slang words may be a great tool for crafting interesting and culturally relevant music when utilized carefully and intelligently.

DISCUSSIONS

Slang is commonly used as a form of communication among a group of youths during a particular period. Song lyrics are another source where slang words may be found. Singers frequently use slang words to express themselves in an indirect way with the aim of expressing thoughts or events that have occurred to the singers. As this research discussed, this study focuses on the use of slang words in an album *Good News* in Megan Thee Stallion's songs. Following data analysis, the researcher discusses the findings with the goal of answering the study questions. It conducts this research using Zhou & Fan (2013) theory. The slang words used are classified into part of social functions which are pursuit of self-identity, emotive feeling of the slang users, achieving politeness. Based on the findings, the researcher obtained 35 slang words as data used in Megan Thee Stallion, that are: nigga, slick, goofy, ho, fuck, pimpin', shut up, crazy-ass, clown, damn, casper, outstanding, nasty, bougie, the shit, lame, groupie, vibe, bang, bitch, chill, crybaby, chain, pic, circle, hype, ice, gang, coochie, bumper, dawg, boo, cahoots, what's up, what's popping.. The part emotive Feeling reached 54% indicates that the singer more frequently expressing her feeling using slang words than other parts. Next, pursuit of self-identity reached 40%, it indicates that Megan Thee Stallion used slang words that telling about she is identified with certain subcultures or groups. Lastly, achieving politeness reached 6% indicates she used the slang words to develop of a nice and relaxed tone that can lead to positive and respectful social interaction. The researcher categorizes the slang words as social functions because those are informal words that are frequently used in daily conversation and develop new words. It signifies that slang words are frequently spoken in society, even though they have a negative connotation, and they are still tolerated and common.

CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the slang words in Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics in an album *Good News* as the data on the previous chapter, the researcher found a conclusion to the data. There were three parts of social functions used in Megan Thee Stallion' lyrics in an album *Good News* namely, pursuit of self-identity, emotive feeling, and achieving politeness. There are 35 slang words found, 19 of them have social function emotive feeling, 14 of them have social function pursuit of self-identity, and 2 of them have social function achieving politeness. From all by understanding the social functions of slang words, the researchers conclude that the emotive feeling of the slang users is one of the biggest social functions because the singer dominantly use slang words in her lyrics to express the singer feeling.

The use of slang words in the lyrics has a meaning according to what the singer wants to convey to the listeners, that by using slang words the listener can better emphasize the feelings that have already happened. Slang words help the user to describe themselves, some words could not support them to express their emotions.

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