

SLANG WORDS FOUND IN 1999 SONG ALBUM BY RICH BRIAN'S

Dewa Ayu Made Ratna Dwiyaniti¹, I Made Iwan Indrawan Jendra², I Komang Sulatra³

¹English Study Program, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati Denpasar University, Jalan Kamboja No.11A, Denpasar, Indonesia

E-mail: ratnadwiyaniti08@gmail.com

^{2,3}English Study Program, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati Denpasar University, Jalan Kamboja No.11A, Denpasar, Indonesia

E-mail: ²iwanindrawanjendra73@yahoo.com, ³soelatra01@yahoo.com

Abstract— There are many English songs use slang words, especially in rap songs. Because, it can make interesting lyrics in the songs. Such English slang words can be classified into different types and the formations are interesting to study. Therefore, the study is about the slang words found in 1999 song album by Rich Brian's. It aimed to identify the types of the slang words and the process of creating the words. The data obtained through listening to the songs, reading and understanding the lyrics, marking the words in the lyrics, before identifying the types, and analyzing the formations. In collecting the data, this study used the observation method. For such goals it used the theory by Kipfer and Chapman (2007) and Mattiello (2008) and analyzed by using a descriptive qualitative method. In analysis, for the types of slang, the study found only secondary slang. And for the process of creating the words, there were only 3 kinds of formation that were found, namely clipping, blending, and variation.

Keywords— Song's lyric, Slang Word, Types, and Process

1. 1. Introduction

Slang is a very informal language which consist of a word or phrases, and more common in speech than in writing. According to the Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary (2011), slang is very informal words and expressions used in conversation, especially by a particular group of people. The words are typically used by members of social groups in conversations in informal situations. Slang is one of the languages that created in aim to enhance the communications within the society and something that everybody can recognize but nobody can define. Nowadays, many people in the world often use slang word in their daily communication. Slang word also often used in song, especially in rap song. Rappers prefer to use slang terms in their songs to produce interesting lyrics. Mostly, the words used in rap song lyrics are slang words that can express what people feel about sex, emotional relationship, conflict, drugs, and work. In slang, there are two types of slang by Kipfer and Chapman (2007), they are primary slang and secondary slang. And there are fifteen process of creating slang by Mattiello (2008), they are compounding, prefixation, suffixation, final combining forms, infixation, conversion, back-formation, reduplicatives, acronyms and initialisms, blending, clipping, elliptic rhyming slang, reversed forms, variation, and word manufacture and fanciful formations.

This study analyzed English slang words in 1999 song album by Rich Brian's. There are many slang words that found to analyzed. On his 1999 album, there are seven songs, namely Sometimes, Don't Care, Long Run, When You Come Home, DOA, Love in My Pocket, and Sins. And for this study will analyze all of these Rich Brian songs in this album. Such English slang words can be classified into different types and the formations are interesting to study.

This study focuses on the slang word found in 1999 song album by Rich Brian's. And this research tried to identify the types of slang words and to analyze the processes of creating slang words. The use of slang words in song lyrics is a subject that deserves to be researched. Because many slang words that are found in these song lyrics. With the result that, this study uses Rich Brian's song as research.

2. Literature Review

The first literature reviewed was a thesis written by Wahyuningsih (2019) entitled “An Analysis of Slang Words in Song Lyric by Bruno Mars on 24K Magic Album”. The study found two types of slang, namely the primary and secondary slang. Regarding the process of creating the slang words, the researcher found three formations: blending, clipping, and acronym. Wahyuningsih also found two effects of slang uses: expressing informality and identifying group members.

The second was a thesis written by Putra (2020) entitled “An Analysis of Slang Used in Beastie Boys Song Lyrics”. The study identified the same types of slang: primary and secondary slang but five processes of creating the words, namely blending, acronym, clipping, compounding, and borrowing.

The third was an article written by Saputra and Marlina (2019) entitled “An Analysis of Slang Words Used by Instagram Account by Plesbol”. The study found 498 data of slangs with fifteen formation types: acronym, blending, clipping, compounding, prefixation, reduplicative, reversed, variation, and word manufacture and fanciful formation. Among the forms compounding was the dominant. This study used Mattiello (2008) to analyzed the types of the slang word formation.

3. Methods

The data source of this study was the 1999 song album by Rich Brian’s. The lyrics that were analyzed were taken from <https://genius.com>. The songs are namely Sometimes, Don’t Care, Long Run, When You Come Home, DOA, Love in My Pocket, and Sins.

In collecting the data, this study used several techniques: listening to the songs, reading the lyrics, comprehending the lyrics, and marking the slang words in the lyrics before identifying the types and analyzing the formations. The data were analyzed and described in several steps, namely identifying the collected words into the types of slang according to Kipfer and Chapman (2007), categorizing further according to the formation as theorized by (Mattiello 2008).

4. Results and Analysis

The finding is presented in the table below in which the number and the examples of the words found are given.

TABEL 1
 TYPES OF SLANG WORDS

No	Types of Slang	The Number of Data	Example of the Data
1.	Primary	0	-
2.	Secondary	5	Wanna Tellin’ ‘Round Mama Gon’

As seen on the table, there is no primary slang found but only the other type, namely the secondary slang, with 5 data. This suggests that the slang words found in the songs are those that are often used too in daily conversation. In other words, the meaning of the slang words are familiar.

TABEL 2
 THE PROCESS OF CREATING SLANG WORD FORMATION

No	Types of Slang	The Number of Data	Example of the Data
1.	Clipping	3	Tellin’ ‘Round Gon’
2.	Blending	2	Gon’ Wanna
3.	Variation	1	Mama

Based on the second table above, there are two formations, namely clipping and blending that were identified in this study. The total of the data found were 5, with 4 data of clipping and 1 data of blending. Thus, clipping slang has been found more than blending.

A. Types of Slang

According to Kipfer and Chapman (2007), there are two types of slang: primary slang and secondary slang. Based on the collected data, only secondary slang words were found.

1. Secondary Slang

According to Kipfer and Chapman (2007), in borrowing the verbiage of such a group, secondary slang is chosen not so much to demonstrate one's part in a group as to convey one's attitudes toward (agreement or disagreement) and resourcefulness. Instead of true identification, secondary slang is chosen for a matter of stylistic preference. Some examples of secondary slang: Y'all from word 'you all' and Fix'ya from word 'fix you'.

Data 1

"I just wanna stay home and make beats"

(In song *Sometimes*, line 4)

The word "wanna" is the slang variety for the standard word 'wanting to'. This word can be identified as a secondary slang because it is a very widely used word every day. The meaning of the word is also known very well even among non-English native users.

Data 2

"If you can't tell, I'm done with tellin' lies"

(In song *Sometimes*, line 29)

The word "tellin'" is the slang one for the word 'telling'. This word can be identified as secondary slang. It is not usually used in a formal situation but often found in messages and social media. Nowadays, many English non-native speakers have also been familiar with this kind of "verb-with suffix-ing-form" because such a form is widely used in song lyrics, especially in rap songs.

Data 3

"Lookin' 'round her now, see a hand over her"

(In song *Love in My Pocket*, line 43)

The word "round" is short for the word 'around'. This word can be identified as secondary slang too. Native people use the slang, usually the young people in their social groups and in their instant messaging and social media communication. The word form round is often found in the lyrics of rap songs.

Data 4

"Mama, I'm a grown-ass man already"

(In song *Sins*, line 36)

The word "mama" means 'mother' and usually used by many children. Mama is a very common word even among non native users of English. Therefore, this word is identified as a secondary slang word.

Data 5

"Like you always said, it's always gon' be for the best"

(In song *Sins*, line 44)

The word "gon" is the short form for the word 'gone'. The form is pretty often too found in song lyrics although it is not as often as the other slang words discussed above.

B. The Types of the Formation for the Slang Words

Based on Mattiello (2008), there are fifteen types of slang word formations: compounding, prefixation, suffixation, final combining forms, infixation, conversion, back-formation, reduplicatives, acronyms and initialisms, blending, clipping, elliptic rhyming slang, reversed forms, variation and word manufacture and fanciful formations. However, in the data source, this study only found two of them, namely clipping and blending.

1. Clipping

According to Mattiello (2008), clipping is a process of cutting one of the word components. In back-clipping the beginning of a base lexeme is preserved. It is the most common pattern (e.g., lab < laboratory). Other formations are foreclipping that preserves the final part of the word (e.g., phone < telephone), clipping that preserves the middle of the word (e.g., flu < influenza), and clipping compounds (e.g., cablegram < cable telegram).

Data 1

“If you can’t tell, I’m done with **tellin’** lies”

(In song *Sometimes*, line 29)

Based on the process of creating the words, the word “tellin” can be identified as clipping. The word comes from the word ‘telling’ and is abbreviated by omitting the last phoneme or letter. The meaning of the standard word does not change at all.

Data 2

“Lookin’ **round** her now, see a hand over her”

(In song *Love in My Pocket*, line 43)

The word “round” can be identified as clipping too. The word comes from ‘around’ with the omission of the first phoneme or letter. This word is often found in song lyrics especially in the rap songs as the singer should be saying the words of the lyrics more casually, often like talking pretty fast in daily talks.

2. Blending

According to Mattiello (2008), in English, blending is a typical process of derivation. Blends, also referred to as pollution or “portmanteau words” (after Carroll), One of the classics examples in English is the word smog, which is originally from smoke and fog. Blends are preferentially formed by taking the beginning (head) of a word and the end (tail) of another one (as in smog above). The less typical blends exist, which are formed by combining two hands (as in modem < modulator + demodulator), or a word with a tail (as in guesstimate < guess + estimate, fanzine < fan + magazine).

Data 1

“Like you always said, it’s always **gon’** be for the best”

(In song *Sins*, line 44)

The formation for the word “gon” can be identified as blending and clipping. It first comes from a blend of two words, namely the word going and to, where going is first shortened into gon and to changes to na to become gonna. Then, secondly, the form gonna is shortened further into gon”.

Data 2

“I just **wanna** stay home and make beats”

(In song *Sometimes*, line 4)

The word “wanna” can be classified as blending. The word is a combination of two words, namely want and to, which are put together to become “wanna”. The word is common in spoken language instead

of the “standard two words want to” perhaps because it is articulated more easily and more comfortably. Like others, the morphological process here does not change the meaning of the origin.

3. Variation

Variation is the slang formation mechanism which modifies a word base by varying (part of) its spelling. Variation covers a range of processes that are not merely morphological, but also pertain to the phonological system of English. For example, letter pronunciation is based on the pronunciation of word letters, which are reproduced at the written level, as in Beeb (< B.B.C.). And another examples, basket < bastard and nope < no. Mattiello (2008).

Data 1

“Mama, I’m a grown-ass man already”

(In song *Sins*, line 36)

The word “mama” is an example of a variation slang. The word is a modified form of its standard “mother” with the reduplication of the first syllable “mo” to be “mo-mo” before it receives its different spelling.

5. Conclusion

From the analysis, it can be concluded that, the study found one type of slang word, that is secondary slang. There are 5 data which can be identified as secondary slang: wanna, tellin’, ‘round, mama, and gon’. The slang words that used in 1999 song album by Rich Brian’s is often used by people in daily conversation. They also already know the meaning of the original words. The lyrics of the songs only used secondary slang because it can make all people become familiar with the songs.

In the process of creating slang words, there are three kinds of formations that are found in the data source, that are clipping, blending, and variation. There were 3 data of clippings such as tellin’, ‘round, and gon’, 1 data of blendings, that is wanna, 1 data of variation, that is mama. Clipping is found to be the most rather than blending and variation because Rich Brian’s is a rapper singer. In rap song they often need to say the words quickly. And also, in singing a song, the singer should be more comfortable in singing.

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