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An Analysis of Slang Words Used in Song Lyrics by Twenty One Pilots on Album *Blurryface*

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Abstract.

This study is based on the study which attempted to analyze the slang words used in song lyrics by Twenty One Pilots band. The main purposes of this study were (1) to analyze the types of slang words found in song lyrics, (2) the dominant slang words found in song lyrics, and (3) the meaning of the slang words found in song lyrics. This study used a descriptive qualitative design. The data of the research were collected by document analysis. The result of the study was there were 56 data of slang words found in the song lyrics. Those slang words were classified into 5 types of slang words. The types were cockney slang, public house slang, workmen's slang, public school and university, and society slang. Public house slang was identified as the dominant types of slang words used in the song lyrics.

Keywords: slang words, song, lyrics

Introduction

In this day, every country must have its own slang. Today's slang is used to show expressions of teenagers. Words that were originally standard were changed to words that were easy to convey. Slang certainly develops a lot among young people. Today's slang can make you both amused and amazed at its meaning. Slang usually means vulgar or abusive. Therefore, slang is only used with people who have very close relationship with us such as friends and community members. Slang is usually only seasonal, meaning it is not standardized and is not used all the time. Likewise, there will always be new slang language popping up.

Slang is one of the forms of language variation. Slang is used by people who share situations or interests, and it is often used in informal situations. Munro, (2007) defines that slang is words and usages not forming part of the standard language, only use very informally. Slang language is not an official or informal language although it is widely used

for oral communication for many purposes, as many words quickly become outdated or obsolete because of trends.

There is no formal classification in slang language, except there is a subclass of the language. (Akmajian et al., 2010) states that slang is something that everyone can recognize but no one can define, meaning that slang is informal language that is used in an informal situations.

In this study, the researcher analyzed slang words, which is the types of slang words, the researcher will classify the types of slang words, next is the dominant types of slang words, the researcher will identify the the dominant types of slang words, and the last is the meaning of slang words, the researcher will identify the meaning of slang word that used in song lyrics by Twenty One Pilots band. There are 14 songs in the album, but the researcher only analyzes 7 of them. The album song is called *Blurryface*. There was some *rapping* song. Usually, a *rapping* song has many slang words in it.

Related Literature

Slang is a seasonal variety of language spoken by certain social groups in informal situations. Slang is usually used to communicate internally within a group or two to build self-identity. Slang is about direct verbal communication between speakers, both of whom are familiar with the vocabulary used (Munro, 2007).

The origin of the word *slang* is unknown. Its resemblance in sound and figurative meaning to the noun and verb *sling* and the occurrence of apparently the same root in Scandinavian expressions referring to language suggest that the term *slang* is the development of a Germanic root from which the current English *sling* is derived (Partridge, 1984).

Based on Partridge's, (1993) book *Slang: Today and Yesterday*, there are some types of Slang on the following table:

Table 1: Types of slang

Type	Example	Meaning
Cockney Slang	<i>Back double</i>	Means a back street
Public House Slang	<i>Booze-shunter</i>	A beer drinker
Workmen's Slang	<i>Jumping Jinny</i>	A mechanical stamper used in road repairs
Tradesmen Slang	For tailors: <i>house of parliament</i>	Means a meeting of a tailor's assistant and apprentices in the shop, especially for a

		serious purpose, a person of considerable importance.
	For butcher: <i>Turkey buyer</i>	Means money.
	For Chemist: <i>tamarinds</i>	This word closely reflects the nature of the chemist trade.
Slang in Art	<i>Drawing</i>	A picture in water colour
Slang in Publicity	<i>Worth a guinea a box</i>	A small, cheap, yet good or useful article.
Slang in Theatre	<i>Acting lady</i>	An capable actress.
Slang in Public	Slang in Public	A lie
School and University	School: <i>Bung</i> . Slang in University: <i>Black and tame</i>	An Oxford undergraduate
Society Slang	<i>Silver pheasant</i>	A beautiful society woman.
Slang in Medicine	<i>Lord have mercy (up) on me</i>	The 'iliac passion', a 'colic' of the small guts.

The use of slang can be found in song lyrics and movies. Especially, movie and song that bring out the social and cultural side of someone's identity. Meanwhile, there are some various kinds of music, one of them is *rap*. *Rap* is kind of music that come from America. *Rap* is the music of necessity of finding poetry in colloquial, beauty in anger, and lyricism oven in violence. Slang in song lyrics is also used in communication.

The song is a composition of tone or sound art in sequences, combinations, and temporal relationships to produce musical compositions that have unity and continuity. And a variety of tones or a rhythmic sound is also called a song. Lyrics are the words that make up a song, usually consisting of a verse and a chorus. The writer of lyrics is called a lyricist.

Method

The study designed as a descriptive-qualitative. The researcher chose descriptive-qualitative to point out about finding, analyzing, and discussing the slang words found in Twenty One Pilots song and classified the types of slang words. According to Creswell, (2014) qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning of individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem.

The researcher analyzed the slang word in song lyrics by Twenty One Pilots on the album *Blurryface* used as the research instrument to gather the data. The researcher will listen and read the song lyrics by Twenty One Pilots on the album *Blurryface*. The data consists of seven songs. The songs are *Heavydirtysoul*, *Stressed out*, *Ride*, *The Judge*, *Fairly Local*, *Lane boy*, and *Polarize*. To collect the data, the researcher would listen and read the song lyrics by Twenty One Pilots on the album *Blurryface* intensively and carefully to comprehend the slang words in the song lyrics thoroughly. After collecting the data, the researcher classified the types of slang words and identify the dominant types and the meaning of slang words in the song.

Findings and Discussion

A. Classification of The Types of The Slang Words in The Song lyrics

Classification of the types of the slang words in the song lyrics on album *Blurryface* by Twenty One Pilots band based on Eric Partridge's book *Slang: Today and Yesterday*.

Table 2: Analysis data of the types of slang word in *Heavydirtysoul* song

No	Song Title	Number of Slang Words	Type of Slang Words
1	<i>Heavydirtysoul</i>	8	Society Slang, and Public House Slang
2	<i>Stressed Out</i>	11	Society Slang, Public House Slang, Workmen's Slang, and Public School and University
3	<i>Ride</i>	7	Public House Slang, Cockney Slang, and Society Slang
4	<i>The Judge</i>	11	Public House Slang, Society Slang, Workmen's slang, and Public School and University
5	<i>Fairly Local</i>	9	Society Slang, and Public House Slang
6	<i>Lane Boy</i>	7	Public School and University, Public House Slang, and Society Slang
7	<i>Polarize</i>	3	Public House Slang

B. Identification of The Dominant Types of Slang Words

Table 3: Tabulation of the types of slang words found in the song lyrics

Types of Slang Words	Number of Data	Total of Slang Words	Percentage
Cockney Slang	1	56	1.7%
Public House Slang	29	56	51.7%
Workmen' Slang	2	56	3.5%
Tradesmen's Slang	0	56	0%
Slang in Art	0	56	0%
Slang in Publicity	0	56	0%
Slang in Theatre	0	56	0%
Slang in Public School and University	3	56	5.3%
Society Slang	21	56	37.5%
Slang in Medicine	0	56	0%
Total	56	-	100%

From the tabulation of the data above, the dominant types of slang words found in the song lyrics were Public House Slang with 29 data (51.7%), then followed by Society Slang with 21 data (37.5%), Slang in Public School and University with 3 data (5.3%), Workmen's Slang with 2 data (3.5%), Cockney Slang with 1 data (1.7%), Tradesmen's Slang with 0 data (0%), Slang in Publicity with 0 data (0%), Slang in Art with 0 data (0%), Slang in Theatre with 0 data (0%), Slang in Medicine with 0 data (0%).

C. Identification of The Meaning of Slang Words

1. *Heavydirtysoul* song

Table 4: Analysis data of the meaning of slang words in Heavydirtysoul

No	Slang Words	The Meaning of Slang Words
1	<i>Choke on smoke</i>	To smoke a cigarette
2	<i>Rap</i>	The genre of music
3	<i>Hip-hop</i>	The genre of music
4	<i>Rapping</i>	Talking with fast tempo
5	<i>Gangster</i>	A group of criminal people
6	<i>Nah</i>	No
7	<i>Twist</i>	Mixed

8	<i>Shout</i>	Scream
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2. *Stressed out* song

Table 5: Analysis data of the meaning of slang words in *Stressed out* song

No	Slang Word	The Meaning of Slang Word
1	<i>Shrink</i>	To decrease in size, to treat someone to psychotherapy
2	<i>Blurryface</i>	The alter-ego of someone
3	<i>Good old days</i>	A period of time in the past that a person thinks better than the present time
4	<i>Momma</i>	A term to address a mother
5	<i>Stressed out</i>	Anxious
6	<i>Creek</i>	A small river
7	<i>Roam</i>	Hanging around
8	<i>Latter</i>	The last
9	<i>Make money</i>	Get some money
10	<i>Yeah</i>	Come on
11	<i>Money</i>	A close friend

3. *Ride* song

Table 6: Analysis data of the meaning of slang words in *Ride* song

No	Slang Word	The Meaning of Slang Word
1	<i>Wanna</i>	Want to
2	<i>The sun</i>	Daylight
3	<i>The sun's peace of mind</i>	Someone who wish the daylight shining on him

4	<i>Taking my time on my ride</i>	Do something as slow as you like
5	<i>Bullet</i>	A bag of heroine
6	<i>The man</i>	Someone authority in a position of power
7	<i>Literally</i>	Emphatically, Figuratively

4. *The Judge* song

Table 7: Analysis data of the meaning of slang words in *The judge* song

No	Slang Word	The Meaning of The Slang Word
1	<i>Soaked</i>	Wet
2	<i>The echo</i>	The sound, to repeat what just said
3	<i>Cranked out</i>	Excited, intensified
4	<i>Dismal</i>	Low Spirit
5	<i>Walls</i>	To lean against the wall at a party or other social gathering
6	<i>Declared</i>	To agree to discuss a truce
7	<i>Insane</i>	Crazy, willing to do anything fun
8	<i>The judge</i>	An expert
9	<i>Hell's hot</i>	Used for intensifying
10	<i>A pro</i>	A profesional
11	<i>The devil</i>	An evil, a spirit

5. *Fairly Local* song

Table 8: Analysis data of the meaning of slang words in *Fairly Local* song

No	Slang Word	The Meaning of The Slang Word
1	<i>Fairly Local</i>	A resident of location
2	<i>Evil</i>	Being mean
3	<i>Core</i>	The point, bottom line
4	<i>Wanna</i>	Want to
5	<i>A beat</i>	A tempo
6	<i>Dance</i>	To fight
7	<i>Yo</i>	Come on

8	<i>Clique</i>	A small group of people
9	<i>Pick</i>	To choose, to select

6. *Lane Boy* song

Table 9: Analysis data of the meaning of slang words in *Lane boy* song

No	Slang Word	The Meaning of the Slang Word
1	<i>Lane</i>	A sucker, a gullible victims
2	<i>Boy</i>	A male child
3	<i>The hood</i>	Involve in crime
4	<i>Flawless</i>	Flawed
5	<i>Poppin'</i>	Popping
6	<i>Rap</i>	A genre of music, talking with fast tempo
7	<i>Gonna</i>	Going to

7. *Polarize* song

Table 10: Analysis data of the meaning of slang words in *Polarize* song

No	Slang Word	The Meaning of The Slang Word
1	<i>Hidin'</i>	Hiding
2	<i>The evil</i>	Mean, bad thing
3	<i>'em</i>	Them

Discussion

The discussion in this study explained about the analysis of the research objects were the seven songs from the album *Blurryface* by Twenty One Pilots band. The researcher limited only seven songs among fourteen songs because the researcher thought that analyzed only seven songs was enough for this research. And based on the table of data on the research finding, the researcher found 56 slang words in 7 songs of Twenty One Pilots. The researcher was able to classify the types and identified the meaning of those 56 data of slang words. From the tabulation of data in the research finding, public house slang was identified as the dominant types of slang words found in 7 songs of Twenty One Pilots.

a. *Heavydirtysoul* song

The researcher searched the data from some slang dictionaries, then the researcher compared the slang term in the song lyrics and the slang dictionaries the researcher found that there were 8 slang words in *heavydirtysoul* song. They were *choke on smoke*, *rap*, *hip-hop*, *rapping*, *gangster*, *nah*, *twist*, and *shout*. The words *choke on smoke*, *rap*, *hip-hop*, *gangster*, *twist*, and *shout* were classified into the types Society Slang, because the utilized word was closely related to the society, it was told about the life of society. The words *rapping* and *nah* were classified into the types Public House Slang, because this word suitability with characteristic and the meaning of public house slang. The word *choke on smoke* means to smoke a cigarette, *Rap* means the genre of music, *Hip-hop* means the genre of music, *Rapping* means talking with fast tempo, *Gangster* means a group of criminal people, *Nah* means no, *Twist* means mixed, and *Shout* means scream.

b. *Stressed Out* song

The researcher searched the data from some slang dictionaries, then the researcher compared the slang term in the song lyrics and the slang dictionaries the researcher found that there were 11 slang words in *stressed out* song. They were *shrink*, *blurryface*, *good old days*, *momma*, *stressed out*, *creek*, *roam*, *latter*, *make money*, *yeah*, and *money*. The words *shrink*, *blurryface*, *good old days*, and *roam* were classified into the types Society Slang, because the utilized word was closely related to the society, it was told about the life of society. The words *momma*, *stressed out*, *creek*, *latter*, and *yeah* were classified into the types Public House Slang, because this word suitability with characteristic and the meaning of public house slang. The word *make money* were classified into Workmen's Slang, because this word used by people's activity related with money that belong to the characteristic of workmen's slang. The word *money* categorized into the public school and university slang because this word used by people's activity related with friend of the same age that belong to the characteristic of public school and university. The word *shrink* means to decrease in size or to treat someone to psychoterapy, *Blurryface* means the alter ego of someone, *Good old days* means a period time in the past that a person thinks better than the present time, *Momma* means a term to addres a mother, *Stressed out* means anxious, *Creek* means a small river, *Roam* means hanging around, *Latter* means the last, *Make money* means get some money *Yeah* means come on, *Money* means a close friend.

c. *Ride* song

The researcher searched the data from some slang dictionaries, then the researcher compared the slang term in the song lyrics and the slang dictionaries the researcher found that there were 7 slang words in *ride* song. They were *wanna*, *the sun*, *the sun's peace of mind*, *taking my time on my ride*, *bullet*, *the man*, and *literally*. The words *The sun's peace of mind*, *Taking my time on my ride*, and *Literally* were classified into the types Society Slang, because the utilized word was closely related to the society, it was told about the life of society. The words *wanna*, *the sun*, and *the man* were classified into the types Public House Slang, because this word suitability with characteristic and the meaning of public house slang. The word *bullet* were classified into the types Cockney Slang, because this word is suitability with the characteristic of cockney slang. The word *wanna* means

want to, *the sun* means daylight, *The sun's peace of mind* means someone who wish the daylight shining on him, *Taking my time on my ride* means do something as slow as you like, *Bullet* means a bag of heroine, *The man* means someone authority position of power, *Literally* means empathically or figuratively

d. *The Judge* song

The researcher searched the data from some slang dictionaries, then the researcher compared the slang term in the song lyrics and the slang dictionaries the researcher found that there were 11 slang words in *The Judge* song. They were *soaked*, *the echo*, *cranked out*, *dismal*, *walls*, *declared*, *insane*, *the judge*, *hell's hot*, *a pro*, and *the devil*. The words *dismal*, *walls*, and *hell's hot* were classified into the types Society Slang, because the utilized word was closely related to the society, it was told about the life of society. The words *soaked*, *the echo*, *cranked out*, *declared*, *the judge*, and *the devil* were classified into the types Public House Slang, because this word suitability with characteristic and the meaning of public house slang. The word *a pro* were classified into Workmen's Slang, because this word used by people's activity related with money that belong to the characteristic of workmen's slang. The word *insane* categorized into the public school and university slang because this word used by people's activity related with friend of the same age that belong to the characteristic of public school and university. The word *soaked* means wet, *The echo* means the sound or to repeat what just said, *Cranked out* means excited or intensified, *Dismal* means low spirit, *Walls* means to lean against a wall at a party or other social gathering, *Declared* means to agree to discuss a truce, *Insane* means crazy or willing to do anything for fun, *The judge* means an expert, *Hell's hot* means used for intensifying, *A pro* means a professional, *The devil* means an evil, or a spirit.

e. *Fairly Local* song

The researcher searched the data from some slang dictionaries, then the researcher compared the slang term in the song lyrics and the slang dictionaries the researcher found that there were 9 slang words in *fairly local* song. They were *fairly local*, *evil*, *core*, *wanna*, *a beat*, *dance*, *yo*, *clique*, and *pick*. The words *fairly local*, *dance*, and *clique* were classified into the types Society Slang, because the utilized word was closely related to the society, it was told about the life of society. The words *evil*, *core*, *wanna*, *a beat*, *yo*, and *pick* were classified into the types Public House Slang, because this word suitability with characteristic and the meaning of public house slang. The word *Fairly local* means a resident of location, *Evil* means being mean, *Core* means the point, *Wanna* means want to, *A beat* means a tempo, *Dance* means to fight, *Yo* means come on, *Clique* means a small group of people, *Pick* means to choose.

f. *Lane Boy* song

The researcher searched the data from some slang dictionaries, then the researcher compared the slang term in the song lyrics and the slang dictionaries the researcher found that there were 7 slang words in *lane boy* song. They were *lane*, *boy*, *the hood*, *flawless*,

poppin', rap, and gonna. The words *the hood* and *rap* were classified into the types Society Slang, because the utilized word was closely related to the society, it was told about the life of society. The words *boy, flawless, poppin'* and *gonna* were classified into the types Public House Slang, because this word suitability with characteristic and the meaning of public house slang. The word *lane* were classified into the types Public School and University Slang, this word used by people's activity related with friend of the same age that belong to the characteristic of public school and university. The word *Lane* means a sucker or a gullible victims, *Boy* means a male child, *The hood* means Involve in crime, *Flawless* means flawed, *Poppin'* means popping, *Rap* means talking with fast tempo, *Gonna* means going to.

g. *Polarize* song

The researcher searched the data from some slang dictionaries, then the researcher compared the slang term in the song lyrics and the slang dictionaries the researcher found that there were 3 slang words in *polarize* song. They were *Hiddin'*, *The evil*, and *'em*. The three of them were classified into the types Public House Slang, because those word suitability with characteristic and the meaning of public house slang. The Word *Hidin'* means hiding, *The evil* means mean or bad thing, *'em* means them.

Conclusion

After analyzing the song lyrics of Twenty One Pilots, the researcher concluded the slang words in the song lyrics on the album *Blurryface*. The song lyrics were *Heavydirtysoul, Stressed Out, Ride, The Judge, Fairly Local, Lane Boy, and Polarize*. The analysis was to find the slang words that were used in the song lyrics. The researcher found the types and the meaning of the slang words. The researcher found 56 slang words, and those slang words were classified into five types of slang words. The types were cockney slang, public house slang, workmen's slang, public school and university, and society slang. The researcher also identified the dominant types of slang words used in the song lyrics was public house slang with 29 data.

From the study above, the song lyrics on the album *Blurryface* have slang words in almost each of the songs. Many musicians made songs using slang words because even for the first time, slang words were known as impolite and rude language. After all, it is used by criminals and other lowest class of society. But, along with the growth of language, using slang words is one of the ways to enrich the study of language. Actually, slang words were no longer had impolite language but it makes people more creative to convey something simply.

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