

English Slang in The Lighthouse Movie: An Alternate Source of Lexical Study

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Abstract

This research investigates the use of English slang in the movie "The Lighthouse" as an alternative source of lexical study, employing a descriptive qualitative method. The study is grounded in the theoretical framework provided by Allan and Burridge (2006), focusing on the types and functions of slang. The analysis identifies and categorizes slang expressions into five types: fresh and creative (3 examples), imitative (25 examples), clipping (16 examples), flippant (5 examples), and acronyms (not present). Additionally, the study examines the functions of slang within the dialogue, revealing their use to address (4 examples), humiliate (4 examples), initiate relaxed conversation (19 examples), form an intimate atmosphere (3 examples), express impression (9 examples), reveal anger (9 examples), and show intimacy (1 example). The findings contribute to a deeper understanding of language use in both historical and everyday discourse contexts, highlighting the richness and diversity of slang in cinematic narratives. This study underscores the significance of slang as a dynamic element of language that reflects social interactions and cultural influences.

Keywords: slang words, movie, lexical study

Introduction

Human being use language as part of communication. Through language, individuals navigate the complexities of social interactions, forging connections and building relationships with others within and across diverse cultural contexts. According to Yule (2010:260), the expression of ideas, feelings, and intentions both within and between distinct societies is made possible by language, which is a fundamental tool for human communication. Language not only enables individuals to convey information and negotiate meaning but also plays a crucial role in shaping social identities and cultural practices within society (Wardhaugh, 2006). This means that language is constantly evolving, as sociolinguistic studies demonstrate, illustrating how social factors including age, gender, social class, ethnicity, and location affect language use. In varied cultures, language facilitates social interaction, identity building, and group cohesion.

Many countries have applied to use English as a standard language, which means people in that country should be able to learn, understand and speak in English as their daily conversation. It has been divided into two parts, Standard English and Non-Standard English. Standard English is that variety of English which is usually used in print, and which is normally taught in schools and to non-native speakers learning the language (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015). Both formal and slang forms of Standard English exist, and Standard English speakers use profanity just like everyone else. In today communication, people are often using slang in their everyday conversation whether it's in direct conversation or social media.

According to Adams (2009:57), slang defines social spaces, attitudes toward slang aid in identification, and speakers utilize it to establish social dynamics with the people they are speaking to. Slang therefore gets used because it is a widely accepted and understood language, particularly among teenagers. Slang is mainly in spoken form, which is used in social milieus and popular media, and to certain extents, it is used in the movie script (Partridge in Hafiza, 2020). In the present day. Slang is used in music, magazines, social media, and movies—particularly Hollywood productions—more often than not. Teens and young adults frequently find enjoyment in movies. It helps the global slang famine. Watching movies can teach students a lot of slang terminology since they often mimic the actions of their favourite actors and practice it in their daily conversations.

The researcher chose *The Lighthouse* as the subject of analysis. Set in 19th-century New England, the film, directed by Robert Eggers and co-written with Max Eggers, is a unique horror movie that defies traditional categorization, blending elements of psychological thriller and character study. Unlike typical horror films, it omits ghostly elements and instead features dialogue styled in period language, with slang frequently appearing in conversations. Inspired by this linguistic phenomenon, the researcher examines the slang in the movie, focusing on its word formation processes and functional roles as part of the study, *English Slang in The Lighthouse Movie, An Alternate Source of Lexical Study*.

Literature Review

The researcher uses another research with the same subject but different object related to *The Lighthouse* (2019), which also use different methods. This research used references from research articles and journals as a comparison method. The first research previous study is the research article entitled “*The Lighthouse Movie: Domination, Subjugation, and Exploitation*” by Mulyadi Hoar and Christy Tisnawijaya (2023) which uses Michel Foucault’s theories to analyze the power dynamics in Robert Eggers’ film *The Lighthouse*. It explores how Thomas Wake (the supervisor) exercises dominative power over Ephraim Winslow (the assistant) through verbal commands, physical threats, and constant surveillance. *The Lighthouse* symbolizes institutional power, creating an oppressive environment where Winslow’s identity and autonomy are systematically undermined. Cinematic techniques, such as medium shots and dim lighting, further emphasize the themes of domination, exploitation, and subjugation. The study concludes that the film effectively portrays complex power relations, reflecting broader social issues of authority and submission.

The second previous study is from Madison Coleman (2022) who conducted a study entitled “*Men to Villains: Competitive Masculinity in The Lighthouse*.” This research delves into the theme of competitive masculinity portrayed in Robert Egger’s film, *The Lighthouse*. Employing gender theory, Coleman analyzes three pivotal scenes in the movie illustrating the protagonists’ quest for dominance, symbolized by their desire to control the lighthouse lamp. Drawing from various disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, and history, Coleman explores the recurrent crises of masculinity revolving around a dominant masculine ideal, leading to rivalry among men to attain this hegemonic status. The dynamics between Robert Pattinson and Willem Dafoe’s characters exemplify this enduring phenomenon, culminating in their destructive relationship and eventual downfall. While the film does not offer a direct solution, Coleman contends that it serves as a stark reminder of the detrimental effects of misogyny and toxic masculinity on men and their interpersonal connections.

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The third previous study was conducted by Muhammad Fikri (2022) entitled “Inner Conflicts Caused Depression in The Lighthouse Movie Script.” This study seeks to examine the internal turmoil experienced by Ephraim Winslow through both intrinsic and extrinsic lenses. Intrinsic analysis involves evaluating elements such as characterization, plot, and setting, while the extrinsic perspective focuses on the concept of inner conflict itself. Employing a qualitative approach to data collection, this research centers on analyzing the screenplay of *The Lighthouse* authored by Robert Eggers. The findings highlight the correlation between characterization and inner conflict, plot and inner conflict, as well as setting and inner conflict. The screenplay follows Ephraim Winslow (Young), who takes on a contract job as a "wickie" (lighthouse keeper) on a remote island, supervised by the island's longstanding keeper, Thomas Wake (Old). Strange occurrences unfold during Winslow's tenure as the new lighthouse keeper, with Wake mentioning that his previous partner had succumbed to madness. The research concludes that Winslow's inner conflict stems from his conflicting desires and anxieties regarding the lighthouse, exacerbated by the peculiar events on the island, ultimately leading to a loss of sanity.

The varied data sources utilized in the three types of investigations described above indicate that all of the researchers have the same subject: analyzing film *The Lighthouse* (2019). However, the variation is in the object of the analysis and the theory.

Method

This research uses the descriptive qualitative research method. The researcher applies this method in this paper because it is appropriate to describe the research results. According to Yin (2011), qualitative research can address the contextual richness of these real-world environments; your study will enable you to explore the everyday experiences and ideas of a diverse group of people in various contexts. Qualitative descriptive technique may be the best option for a straightforward account of a phenomenon because it is a highly valuable strategy for academics who want to know who was involved, what was involved, and where things happened. (Lambert & Lambert, 2013, p. 255). The researcher uses a document analysis design to pinpoint the slang word in each line of the film's dialogues to gather information about the kinds, meaning and their functions. To analyze the kinds of slang words and its functions in the film *The Lighthouse* (2019), the researcher used Allan and Burrige's (2006) theory in their book *Forbidden Words: Taboo and the Censoring of Language*. Slang words have been divided into five categories by Allan and Burrige (2006): fresh and creative, imitative, clipping, flippant and acronym. And divided into seven categories of functions: to address, to humiliate, to initiate relax conversation, to form intimate atmosphere, to express impression, to reveal anger, and to show intimacy.

To conduct this research, the researcher used the following data collection steps: first, the researcher starts to watching *The Lighthouse* movie. Second, the researcher read the text subtitle of *The Lighthouse* movie. Third, the researcher starts to scanning for possible slang words in *The Lighthouse* subtitle and marking the possible. Fourth, the researcher collects all information about the slang words in the Movie. Fifth, the researcher takes tentative notes all of the possible slang words found from *The Lighthouse* movie. Sixth, the researcher starts to stating the reasons

why slang words can be useful for additional references to lexical learning based on real and logical contexts.

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzes the data with procedure such as:

1. The researcher watches the movie *The Lighthouse* while carefully reading the conversation or lines spoken by the characters from the subtitles to cut down on errors.
2. The researcher notes which terms in each line and dialogue point to the use of slang.
3. The researcher highlights or marks terms that are slang and uses Allan and Burrige's (2006) theory to classify the words into different types and functions of slang.
4. The researcher then categorizes the many slang terms and their functions in the table and provides an explanation for each piece of information.

Finding and Discussion

According to Allan and Burrige (2006). As cited in *Forbidden Words: Taboo and the Censoring of Language*, slang has five types: fresh and creative, imitative, clipping, acronym and flippant. In this chapter, the researcher wants to answer the problems in this research. The researcher also discusses the functions of each slang according to Allan and Burrige's theory, such as: to address, to humiliate, to initiate relax conversation, to form intimate atmosphere, to express impression, to reveal anger and to show intimacy.

1. Types of Slang Words Used in *The Lighthouse* Movie

Table 1. Type of Slang in The Lighthouse

O	SLANG	TYPES
1	Spiffy	Fresh and creative
2	Trig	Fresh and creative
3	Chirk	Fresh and creative
4	Ain't	Imitative
5	Head	Imitative
6	Aye	Imitative
7	Pecker	Imitative
8	Yank out	Imitative
9	Brung	Imitative
0	Scuppered	Imitative
1	Snort	Imitative
2	Joshing	Imitative
3	Copper	Imitative
4	Lad	Imitative
5	Lass	Imitative
6	Dog	Imitative
7	Drifter	Imitative
8	Shine to	Imitative
9	Ragging	Imitative

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0	Blasted	Imitative
1	Sauce	Imitative
2	Beddin' down	Imitative
3	Darn	Imitative
4	Gum	Imitative
5	Golly	Imitative
6	Git	Imitative
7	Wickie	Imitative
8	Gonners	Imitative
9	Y'found	Clipping
0	Y'best	Clipping
1	Y'aint	Clipping
2	I'spect	Clipping
3	Tomorry	Clipping
4	Figgerd	Clipping
5	Sparrin'	Clipping
6	Them's	Clipping
7	Fine-un	Clipping
8	Good-un	Clipping
9	Gab	Clipping
0	Jism	Clipping
1	Wanna	Clipping
2	Kinda	Clipping
3	Gonna	Clipping
4	Outta	Clipping
5	Son of a bitch	Flippant
6	Doggin' it	Flippant
7	Rag box	Flippant
8	Horseshit	Flippant
9	Goddamn	Flippant

1. Fresh and creative

In this research, the researcher found three slang words such as spiffy, trig, and chirk. These words contained vocabulary that did not exist previously and was created by imagination, inventiveness, and informal forms. It is related to Allan and Burridge' theory which explains that fresh and creative slang refers to wholly new vocabulary, informal diversity, slang linguistic intelligence, and originality.

2. Imitative

In this research, the researcher found 25 slang words such as ain't, head, aye, pecker, yank out, brung, scuppered, snort, joshing, copper, lad, lass, dog, drifter, shine to, ragging, blasted, sauce, beddin' down, darn, gum, golly, git, wickie, and gonners. All of these words are related to Allan

and Burridge' theory which explains that imitative slang is either a combination of two distinct words or an imitation word by using standard English words in different context.

3. Clipping

In this research, the researcher found 16 slang words such as y'found (you + found), y'best (you + best), y'aint (you + ain't), I'spect (I + expect), tomorry (tomorrow), figgerd (figured), sparrin' (sparring), them's (them + is), fine-un (fine one), good-un (good one), gab (gabble), jism (jissom), wanna (want + to), kinda (kind + of), gonna (going + to), and outta (out + to). All of these words are related to Allan and Burridge' theory which explains that clipping slang is created in the same context by deleting some parts of a longer word to create a shorter form.

4. Flippant

In this research, the researcher found five slang words such as son of a bitch, doggin' it, rag box, horseshit, and goddamn. These words are related to Allan and Burridge' theory which explains that flippant slang is the part of slang that consists of two or more words that don't match the denotative definition.

This study found 49 slangs from the movie *The Lighthouse* that are often used in discourse. These slang terms were divided into five categories: flippant slang, imitative slang, acronym slang, and fresh and creative slang. The research turned up three fresh and creative slang terms, 25 imitative slang terms, five flippant slang terms, and 16 clipping slang terms—all of which were lacking acronym slang. Studying such categories could give us an idea about how languages have been developed, along with what language has worked where in the slots of films. This classification isolates the specific slang terms employed, and thereby allows to investigate its roles — such as conversational or impressionistic. By providing this dual analysis, we enable a deepening of our language comprehension within the movie and it in turn contributes to lexical studies.

2. The Functions of Slang Words in *The Lighthouse* Movie.

Table 2. Type of Slang in The Lighthouse

NO	SLANG	FUNCTIONS
1	Copper	To address
2	Lass	To address
3	drifter	To address
4	Wickie	To address
5	Dog	To humiliate
6	Ragging	To humiliate
7	Gonners	To humiliate
8	Jism	To humiliate
9	Ain't	To initiate relax conversation
10	Brung	To initiate relax conversation
11	Snort	To initiate relax conversation
12	Joshing	To initiate relax conversation
13	Y'found	To initiate relax conversation
14	Y'best	To initiate relax conversation

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15	Y'aint	To initiate relax conversation
16	I'spect	To initiate relax conversation
17	Tomorry	To initiate relax conversation
18	Figgerd	To initiate relax conversation
19	Sparrin'	To initiate relax conversation
20	Them's	To initiate relax conversation
21	Gab	To initiate relax conversation
22	Chirk	To initiate relax conversation
23	Wanna	To initiate relax conversation
24	Kinda	To initiate relax conversation
25	Gonna	To initiate relax conversation
26	Outta	To initiate relax conversation
27	Shine to	To initiate relax conversation
28	Aye	To form intimate atmosphere
29	Head	To form intimate atmosphere
30	Beddin' down	To form intimate atmosphere
31	Spiffy	To express impression
32	Trig	To express impression
33	Pecker	To express impression
34	Yank out	To express impression
35	Scuppered	To express impression
36	Sauce	To express impression
37	Fine-un	To express impression
38	Good-un	To express impression
39	Doggin' it	To express impression
40	Blasted	To reveal anger
41	Darn	To reveal anger
42	Gum	To reveal anger
43	Golly	To reveal anger
44	Git	To reveal anger
45	Son of a bitch	To reveal anger
46	Goddamn	To reveal anger
47	Rag box	To reveal anger
48	Horseshit	To reveal anger
49	Lad	To show intimacy

1. To address

In this research, the researcher found four slang words which is to address such as copper, lass, drifter, and wickie. In the context of the film, these slang words are used by the characters to address someone. This is related to Allan and Burrige' theory, which explains that speaker uses certain slang to address another speaker in order to preserve a close relationship.

2. To humiliate

In this research, the researcher found four slang words which is to humiliate such dog, ragging, gonners, and jism. These slang terms are all used to mocking someone in the movie. This is connected to the theory put forth by Allan and Burrige, which states mocking someone is a necessary way for a speaker to express unpleasant or disliked feelings.

3. To initiate relax conversation

In this research, the researcher found 19 slang words which function is to initiate relax conversation such as ain't, brung, snort, joshing, y'found, y'best, y'ain't, I'spect, tomorry, figgerd, sparrin', them's, gab, chirk, wanna, kinda, gonna, outta, and shine to. These slang terms are employed by the characters in the film to have casual conversations with one another while they are in close proximity. This relates to the theory put forth by Allan and Burrige, which states that in informal settings, speakers tend to start conversations informally and with slang rather than formal vocabulary.

4. To form intimate atmosphere

In this research, the researcher found three slang words which has function to form intimate atmosphere such as aye, head, and beddin' down. In the context of the film, these slang words are used by the characters to create comfortable conversation between stranger or to create an intimate conversation between each other. This is related to Allan and Burrige' theory, which explains that speaker uses certain slang rather than official words to express personal relationships.

5. To express impression

In this research, the researcher found nine slang words which has function to express impression such as spiffy, trig, pecker, yank out, scuppered, sauce, fine-un, good-un, and doggin' it. In the context of the film, all of these slang words are used by the characters to show their impression about their interlocutor. This is connected to the theory of Allan and Burrige, which states that speakers use specific slang instead of formal words to leave an impression on the listener and help them remember and be impressed with their conversation. This helps to project a clear picture of what the speaker wants to show, whether it is positive or negative.

6. To reveal anger

In this research, the researcher found nine slang words which has function to reveal anger such as blasted, darn, gum, golly, git, son of a bitch, goddamn, rag box, and horseshit. The slang terms used by the characters in the film are all connected to Allan and Burrige's theory, which explains that people use slang to express their hate or bad emotions toward someone or something by cursing them.

7. To show intimacy

In this research, the researcher found only one slang word which has function to show intimacy, namely lad. In the context of the movie, this slang word is used by the characters to make their own discourse sound like the listener. This is related to Allan and Burrige's theory, which states that a speaker uses slang to demonstrate the intimacy or unity of their social ties.

This study identified seven functions of slang in the film “The Lighthouse,” including: to address, to humiliate, to initiate relaxed conversation, to form an intimate atmosphere, to express impressions, to reveal anger, and to show intimacy. The findings include four slang words used “to address,” 19 words “to initiate relaxed conversation,” four words “to humiliate,” three words “to form an intimate atmosphere,” nine words “to express impressions,” nine words “to reveal anger,” and only one word that has function “to show intimacy.”

3. The Contribution of analysis of Slang in The Lighthouse movie to Lexical study.

In the modern educational framework, teaching English vocabulary through multimedia, particularly films, is increasingly recognized as an effective method for engaging students. Language acquisition, especially when it comes to mastering slang, is vital as it not only enhances communication skills but also provides deeper cultural insights, helping students navigate the nuances of real-world interactions. To make the learning process more dynamic and relevant, educators should diversify their materials, incorporating films that resonate with students' interests alongside traditional resources like textbooks and online content.

The inclusion of films like *The Lighthouse* (2019) offers tangible examples of English slang in action, presenting students with authentic and engaging material. This approach aids students in understanding and appreciating the richness of informal language. Slang terms found in the film, such as *spiffy*, *tomorry*, *joshing*, and *doggin' it*, not only enhance students' vocabulary but also deepen their understanding of the social and cultural contexts in which these expressions are used. Students can analyze these terms within the film's dialogue, creating a more interactive and enjoyable learning experience. This research underscores the value of using *The Lighthouse* as a resource for lexical study, demonstrating how it helps students refine their analytical skills and cultural literacy.

Conclusion

The analysis of *The Lighthouse* (2019) identified 49 slang expressions, categorized into four types: imitative, clipping, fresh and creative, and flippant. Imitative slang, which mirrors standard expressions, was the most prevalent, followed by clipping slang, where longer words are shortened for casual speech. Fresh and creative slang showcased inventive language use, while flippant slang combined unrelated words for humorous or ironic effect. The dominance of imitative and clipping slang reflects the film's emphasis on period-specific authenticity, contributing to its distinctive and engaging dialogue.

Additionally, the study examined the functions of these slang expressions, revealing their role in initiating relaxed conversations, revealing emotions, and expressing impressions. Slang was also used to address others, humiliate, create an intimate atmosphere, and, in rare cases, show intimacy. These findings demonstrate how slang not only adds depth to character interactions but also serves as a dynamic element of language. This research underscores the importance of *The Lighthouse* as a resource for exploring informal English, offering valuable insights into the evolution and versatility of slang while enriching language learning and analysis.

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