

SLANG LANGUAGE

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Abstract

This article is describe an explanation about Sociolinguistics slang is part of linguistics study, the definitions of slang, history of slang, types of slang, characteristic of slang , and kinds of slang.

Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is the study or analysis of language in relation to society. Downes (1998) said that sociolinguistic is the branch of linguistics which studies just those properties of languages and languages which require reference to social, including contextual, factors in their explanation. From Downes explanation, the simple meaning of Sociolinguistic is a study of relationship between language and society, it examines the way people use language in different social context and people signal aspects of their social identity. Holmes (2000) added that the way people talk is influenced by the social context in which they are talking. It matters who can hear us and where we are talking, as well as how we

are feeling. The same message maybe expressed very differently to different people. We use different styles in different context in which it is used, solidarity between speaker and hearer, and people's relative social status.

Language Variation

Language is a tool of communication used to interact and communicative with each other. Language cannot develop in empty space and there is no society alive without language. Because language and society are related each other and it cannot be understood without each other. Saragih (2010) says language is fulfills human beings needs in that language functions for them to exchange,

to represent and to organize their experience as members of the society. So, by using the language, people can also express the feeling and show the characteristics, even the personal identity.

There are many ways to use language, and the way to use language is a variety. This variation is showed by linguistics differences in terms of sounds and structure. There are differences between the speech of men and women, different social classes, and differences between age groups.

Kinds of Language

Nichol (2013) says, a variety of terms distinguish the kinds of language and vocabularies that exist outside the mainstream of standard, formal language. The following are words and phrases that denote specific ideas of language usage :

1. Argot

An Argot is a language primarily developed to disguise conversation, originally because of criminal enterprise, though the term is also used loosely to refer to informal jargon. Example sentence including argot, IN the argot of wall street “breaking glass” means a bank going broke.

2. Cant

Cant is somewhat synonymous with argot and jargon and refers to the vocabulary of in group that uses it to deceive or exclude nonusers. Example Beurla Reagaird, a Gaelic-based cant used by Highland Travelers community in Scotland.

3. Colloquial language

Colloquial language is anything not employed in formal writing or conversation, including terms that might fall under one or more of most of the other categories in the list is a colloquialism. Some

examples of colloquial language can include words such as “y’ll” or “gonna”, phrases such as “old as the hills” and “graveyard dead”, or even an entire aphorism “there’s more than one way to skin a cat”

4. Creole

A creole is a more sophisticated development of a pidgin, derived from two or more parent languages and used by people all ages as a native language. Examples from Africa include Sango, a creole based on the Ngbandi language and spoken in the central African Republik, Kinubi, based on the Arabic language and spoken in Uganda ; and kikongo-kituba and lingala, which are based on kikongo-kimayanga and Bobangi, respectively, and are spoken in both the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo

5. Dialect

A dialect is a way of speaking based on geographical or social factors. Example of dialect :

Jim : “We’s safe, Huck, we’s safe! Jump up and crack yo’ heels. Dat’s de good ole Cairo at las’, I jis knows it”.

Huck : “I’ll take the canoe and go see, Jim. It mightn’t be, you know”.

6. Jargon

Jargaon is a body of words and phrases that apply to specific activity or profession, such as a particular art form or athletic or recreational endeavor, or a medical or a scientific subject.

7. Lingo

This term vaguely refers to the speech of a particular community or group and is therefore loosely synonymous with many of the other words in this list. The example of Lingo : Hospital lingo,

“banana bag” : an intravenous solution containing a liquid multivitamin that colors then fluid a bright yellow, used in undernourished or alcoholic patients.

8. Lingua Franca

A lingua franca is a language often adopted as a common tongue to enable communication between speakers of separate languages. In certain countries the lingua franca is also used as the national language ; eg. Urdu is the lingua franca of Pakistan, as well as the national language.

9. Patois

Patois refers loosely to a nonstandard language such as a creole, a dialect, or a pidgin, with a connotation of the speakers’ social inferiority to those who speak the standard language. For example l’Aveugle “river, stream” which is a syncopated variant of the standard

French phrase la riviere “the river” but has been identified by folk etymology with l’Aveugle.

10. Pidgin

A simplified language arising from the efforts of people speaking different languages to communicate is a pidgin. Example : Melanesian pidgin bagerap (destry, ruin) from vulgar English bugger up.

11. Slang

A vocabulary of terms employed in a specific subculture is slang. The example of slang is the word fuck, shit and damn.

12. Vernacular

A vernacular is a native language or dialect, as opposed to another tongue also in use, such as Spanish, French, or Italian and their dialects as compared on their mother language, Latin. New England Vernacular : bubbler (Drinking

fountain), packie (liquor store),
wicked (really, as in wocked cool).

Slang Language

Slang is something that everybody can recognize but nobody can define. The literal meaning of slang is a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particularly popular among teenagers and college students in general. Akamajian (1998) also added that slang has some salient features, first slang is part of casual informal styles of language use, second slang is like fashions in clothing and popular music, changes quite rapidly, third specific areas of slang are often associated with a particular social group, and hence one can speak of teenage slang, underworld (criminal) slang, the slang of the drug culture and so on.

The speaker uses slang in order to achieve social dynamics with the people to whom he/she is speaking and slang outlines social spaces, and attitudes towards slang helps identify (Adams, 2009 ; 57). It means that when you use slang, you expose your ideas, your feeling, your attitude as how you want to perceive the people that talk to you and how you want those people to perceive you, to infer what you mean. Adams believe that slang can just as well be playful and a joking way of rebelling against standard language to mark the difference between eg. Parents and children (in-crowd versus out crowd), but the children do not necessarily have wickends intentions with the use of slang. He also mentions that slang is not slang until someone recognizes it to be slang (Adams, 2009:62). It means that the addressee must be able to recognize the speaker's intent and to determine what they are hearing is slang. Slang is usually labelled as an "exercise in wit" and used "to be different", "to enrich the

language” and “to show that one belongs to certain school” (Crystal, 2003: 182).

History of Slang Language

Early slang collections firstly used by the English criminal which was developed in the 16th century. Therefore it was created a new kind of speech used by criminals and cheats, meaning it developed mostly in saloons and gambling houses (Partridge, 1950:148). The English criminal was at first believed to be foreign, meaning scholars thought that it had either originated in Romania or had relationship to French. The English of criminal was slow developing. In fact, out of the four million people who spoke English, only about ten thousand spoke the English criminal. By the end of the 16th century, this new style of speaking was considered to be a language ‘without reason or order’. Partridge (1950) divided the history of slang into five decades, which can be seen as the following era :

a. Sixteenth Century

Slang for the first time in the society and became the strange language, also only particular group was using it. For instance, thieves, beggar, criminals, etc.

b. Seventeenth Century

In this century, slang was rich of metaphors or figurative language and related to immoral action. Moreover, slang began into present in popular plays event and put the slang language on the stage for the first time, such as in Richard Brome’s comedy *A faviat Crew* and in one of William shakespeare’s poem in the word hick.

c. Eighteenth Century

The rhetoricians had established for the first time among the pupils and schoolmates alike, a key element in social conceptualization of slang. Furthermore, slang recognized as a part of English vocabulary.

d. Nineteenth Century

Slang was growing, it could be seen that the intellectual produced the first slang dictionary (1899). The World war I and II also influenced in slang language, such as G.I, Pissed off, brass, etc.

e. Twentieth Century

Slang become a part of spoken language and not only used by thieves or criminals but also used by ordinary people, and slang was used in daily conversation because simpler and easier to speak it.

The type of Slang

Anderson and Trudgill (1983) Bad Language the typical of slang ;

1. Slang is typical of informal situation

The formality of language is tied to the situation : in formal situation people expect formal language. Slang will be the last choice for anyone attempting to use language

for formal, persuasive or business purposes since they will be considered as a rude people. More slang words will be found in the conversation between friends if compared with the conversation between employer and employee.

2. Slang is typical of spoken language

Since the situation in which we write are more formal than the situations in which we talk, as stated above that slang is typical of formal situation, automatically slang belong to typical of spoken language. The example is like when go and watch soccer, they will hear a lot of slang from the crowd but the next morning when people read about the match in the newspaper, there will be far less slang in the paper's coverage of the game.

3. Slang is found in words not in grammar

Every language contains vocabulary and grammar. Since there is not grammar of slang, it cannot be considered as language. That is way, when people talk about slang it is referred to words not grammar or pronunciation.

4. Slang is not swearing

Swearing is type of language use in which the expression refers to something that taboo in cultural and usually express strong emotions and attitudes. That is definitely with slang. Even though slang terms may contain some taboo words, but it is used for fun and the important thing is that slang words use without emotion.

5. Slang is not register

Register is specialized vocabulary owned by specific occupation and activity. Registers are different with slang, but may contain slang, as long as the specialized vocabulary is informal. In the

medicine terms, for example, when a patient leaves a tissue sample of examination, the doctor may say that they are sending some meat to the laboratory. These words are learned and used in practice and none of those words are written in the books of medicine. Most of register associated with unofficial, or illegal activities may consist a lot of slang. Like the narcotic business, industries that involved very many people and lies on the fringes find its way out of this register and into general slang vocabulary.

6. Slang is not cant, argot or jargon

For the first time, the term slang was used by British criminal to refer to their own special language. Cant a private language of the underworld (criminal) which still used as term for language criminal. Thus, slang has moved an on way from its origin. Argot is a name for

the language criminals which origin is French and has been used for several centuries with this meaning. Jargon refers to special or technical words used by particular group of people.

7. Slang is creative

Creativity took an important part in the invention of many slang words. The point of slang words is often to be straling, amusing or shocking. Slang expressions for example, square heads (in Indonesian means otak udang (stupid person), for the first time they are used truly creative. Those words attract other people's attention but when it used over and over again, its freshness is lost and it turns into rather ordinary lexical items.

8. Slang changes naturally all the time. This change indicate connected with the creativity of slang, even for one person,

generation or situation may not be slang for another.

Characteristics of Slang

Some of slang expressions are acceptable and the others are rude and impolite. The words may be considered as slang if they fulfill one or more these characteristics

<http://linguasphereus.blogspot.co.id/2011/06/characteristics-of-slang-language.html>

1. Creative

Slang language is creative means that it has imagination, productivity and innovative from the creator or user. For example teenagers creativity is creating slang terms from the existing words. Some slang terms is constructed from the kinds of numbers, colors, foods, animals, fruit and vegetables, name of human, things, etc.

Example of Slang

Slang terms	Slang words	Meaning
Constructed from the kind of numbers	One-in-a-million Ten	Exceptional First-rate
Constructed from the kind of colors	Blue Green-eyed monster	Sad, Depressed Envy
Constructed from the kind of foods	Big cheese Bun in the oven	Boss Pregnant
Constructed from the kind of animals	Butterfly Bug	Nervous Virus, cold
Constructed from the kind of	Big apple	New York Money

Constructed from the kind of fruit and vegetables	Cabbage	
Constructed from the kind of name of human	Bob Adam	Absolutely Unfamiliar with someone

2. Flippant

Slang language has irrelevant word of the context. That make this term considered as a rude. For example : hollyshit, motherfucker, etc

3. Fresh

Fresh means that slang language has different word and up to date word. Example ; moola means money.

4. Onomatopoeic

Slang language has imitaion words or producing by imitating certain sounds. Example : Buzz likes wind, yucky..expression of disgust.

Kinds of Slang

Slang mostly used in speech rather than in writing. Slang used in different place, situation and every culture and region has its own slang. There are some several kinds of slang usually used in America based on

<http://www.busuu.com/t/3836234> ;

1. Country Slang

Country slang is used by people that are in the rural parts of country. Example : Gonna for going to, Howdy for hi or hello

2. Urban Slang

Urban slang is spoken by those from the city or by African-American. Example : For so for sure, off da chain for Outstanding or great.

3. Common Slang

Common slang used by almost people, country, teenagers and adults. Example: bummin (feeling

depressed or if something bad happens to someone) “I don’t feel like out tonight, I’m bummin”.

4. How American Talk

“That sure was a pretty girl !”
American say: “Man, that bitch was smokin hot!.

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