

Slang Words in Jason Mraz's Song Lyrics from the Album "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things."

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Abstract—This study entitled "Slang Words in Jason Mraz's Song Lyrics from the Album We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things." aims to identify the types of slang words and analyze the word formation process used in Jason Mraz's song lyrics. The data used in this study was taken from all song lyrics on Jason Mraz's album entitled "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things.". The data was collected by using the documentation method. This study used a qualitative method to analyze the data in the form of description using words. There were two theories applied in this study which are the theory proposed by Chapman (2007) to analyze types of slang words and Yule's theory (2010) to analyze the word formation process. The results of this study indicate there were two types of slang words found in this album, namely primary slang and secondary slang. Primary slang was the most dominant type of slang word because it is commonly used in daily conversation. From the word formation analysis, there were six processes of forming slang found in this album. They are etymology, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, and derivation. The most frequent process was blending.

Keywords— *Slang Words, Song Lyrics, Types, Word Formation*

Abstrak—Studi ini berjudul "Slang Words in Jason Mraz's Song Lyrics from the Album We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things." bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis kata slang dan menganalisis proses pembentukan kata slang yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Jason Mraz. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini diambil dari seluruh lirik lagu dalam album Jason Mraz berjudul "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things.". Pengumpulan data dilakukan menggunakan metode dokumentasi. Studi ini menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis data berbentuk deskripsi menggunakan kata-kata. Ada dua teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini yaitu teori yang dikemukakan oleh Chapman (2007) untuk menganalisis jenis kata slang dan teori Yule (2010) untuk menganalisis proses pembentukan kata. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat dua jenis kata slang yang ditemukan dalam album ini, yaitu *primary slang* dan *secondary slang*. *Primary slang* merupakan jenis kata slang yang paling dominan karena sering digunakan dalam percakapan sehari-hari. Dari analisis pembentukan kata, terdapat enam proses pembentukan kata slang yang ditemukan dalam album ini. Enam proses tersebut adalah *etymology*, *borrowing*, *compounding*, *blending*, *clipping*, dan *derivation*. Proses yang paling sering digunakan adalah *blending*.

Kata Kunci—*Kata slang, Lirik lagu, Jenis slang, Pembentukan kata*

1. Introduction

Communication has an important role for human beings to socialize with other people. It can be done if there is a tool that can be used to convey opinions, ideas, or thoughts. Language is used as a means of communication from one human to another in a region, country, or even the world. Interaction between people with different backgrounds, such as culture, region, age, and social status leads to language variations. Language variation refers to how language is used by speakers of other languages. The variation appears at other levels of linguistics in pronunciation, grammar, or word choice (Holmes, 2013). There are several language variations, but this study only focuses on language variations that are categorized as slang words.

Slang words are the non-formal language used in a particular group in society. People often encounter slang words in everyday life. Fromkin and Rodman in Yulia (2020) stated that slang words result from the rapid development of new words that people use as a creative expression to make these words more efficient, simple, and easy to pronounce. Slangs are informal communication that has become very popular in this modern era because there are a lot of new words that might be categorized as slang. However, many people wonder if some words are included in slang or not. Slang words sometimes have different meanings in a region, which makes people confused in interpreting the exact meaning of slang words. Everyone can recognize slang, but no one can exactly define it (Akmajian et al., 2001). Many slang vocabularies are not listed in the dictionary. The development of slang now includes universal slang words in the dictionary because they are considered in the English lexicon. The words were originally known as the original word but over time turned into slang words, resulting in many people remembering slang more than the original word. Knowing many slang words expression can enrich new vocabulary from various cultures, and it will

give a better understanding of what someone is saying, which is also a form of creative expression.

This study focused on the use of slang words in song lyrics. A song lyric is one of the literary works that contain a lot of slang words because they are easy to remember and are usually used to express feelings creatively. It makes a song unique. Most people express their feeling by writing or listening to songs. Cooke (1959) stated that music is described as the language of emotion. Songwriters usually use slang words to express what they want to be conveyed. According to Hidayah and Aniuranti (2022), song lyrics use language to convey message from the singer to the listener. The word choice or slang words in song lyrics has an important role in making a song sound more impressive at every rhythm, making it smoother and easier for listeners to remember the song. It has become more popular. A song that can be said to be successful is when the listeners can feel the story behind the song's story and feel as if they are part of the story. The songs in Jason Mraz's album have been very popular among young people from a few years ago until now. One of the very popular songs and the first single of this album is entitled *I'm Yours*. It became the first song to the top of Mainstream Top 40. This song is successful in the market and has become increasingly popular since many people have covered these songs. Old popular songs that were once popular have been heard widely again since the existence of TikTok.

Studies on slang words in song lyrics have been carried out in previous studies. All of those were used to see the gaps between this study and the previous study. There are several previous studies that are relevant to this study. The first study is an article by Dewi and Widiastuti (2020) entitled "An Analysis of Slang Words in Song Lyrics Used in the Songs 'That's What I Like', 'Smoke on The Water', and 'Ch-Check It Out'". This study aims to find out the types of slang words, analyzed the meanings of them, and

identified the dominant types in the three song lyrics. Documentation methods were used in this study to collect the data and qualitative methods to describe the data. This study found 37 slang words that consist of six different types of slang words from the song lyrics. The dominant type of slang word was society slang, and the most frequent meaning of slang words was collocative meaning. The difference lies in the second research problem and the theory applied. This study focused on the types of slang words and meanings of slang words using Patridge's theory (2004) and Leech's theory (1974), while the current study focused on the types of slang words based on Chapman's theory (2007) and word formation process based on Yule's theory (2010).

The second study is an article by Putri and Zakrimal (2019) entitled "An Analysis of Slang Word in R & B's Song Lyrics: A Sociolinguistics Approach." This study aims to find out the types and the most frequent of slang words used in this song lyrics. Qualitative and observation method using a technique of *simak bebas libat cakap* were used to collect the data in this study. The orthographic identity method with a technique of dividing key-factors was used in analyzing the data. This study found 11 types of slang words in the Mariah Carey's song lyrics based on Yule's theory (2010), and the most often types of slang word used was clipping. The difference lies in the research problem, this study focused on the types of slang words, while the current study focused not only on the types of slang words but also the word formation.

The third study is an article by Putrawan, et al (2020) entitled "Slang Words Used in Movie Script 'Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle'". This study aims to identify the types and meanings of slang words in the movie script. Documentation methods were used in this study to collect the data, and qualitative methods to describe the data. This study found four types of slang words in the movie script based on Allan and Burridge's theory (2006).

The most dominant type of slang word used was flippant. There were six types of meaning found in the movie script based on Leech's theory (1974), and the most often type of meaning was affective meaning. The difference lies in the research problem and the theories applied. This study focused on the types and meaning of slang words using Allan and Burridge's theory (2006) and Leech's theory (1974), while the current study focused on the types of slang words based on Chapman's theory (2007) and word formation process based on Yule's theory (2010).

Based on the explanation above, this study was conducted to identify the types of slang words and analyze the word formation process found in Jason Mraz's song lyrics from the album "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things."

2. Research Method

The data of this study was derived from Jason Mraz's song lyrics in the album "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things.". This album was released on May 12, 2008. It is the third album by Jason Mraz which has 12 songs and contain many slang words. From this album, it was possible finding out what types of slang words are contained in them and the formation of the words. This study used all the song lyrics because each song lyric has a different type of slang word, so it can be seen clearly the difference of each slang word in different contexts.

Methods of data collection in this study used documentation methods because the data were derived from the internet in the form of written documents. There were four steps in the technique of collecting data. First, browsing the song lyrics and reading them carefully. Second, marked the words that were indicated as slang words. Third, checked all the marked words in the online dictionaries of slang words to ensure if it slangs words or not. Last, collected slang words which were then analyzed based on their types and word formation process.

This study used a descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the data. This method used in this study because the data are in the form of words and there is no numerical data. The data were described descriptively. There were some steps to be done to analyze the data. The first step was to classify the slang words that have been checked in the online dictionaries into the types of slang words using Chapman's (2007) theory. The second step was to classify those slang words into word formation using Yule's (2010) theory. Last, analyzing them based on the types and its word formation.

3. Result and Discussion

This section consists the result and discussion of this study to answer the two research problems formulated.

Types of Slang Words

Based on the data of slang words used on the album "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things." by Jason Mraz, there were two types of slang words used in this album such as primary slang and secondary slang.

Primary Slang

The first types of slang words based on Chapman (2007) is primary slang. The analysis of primary slang found in this study is as follows.

Data 1: I'm **gonna** make it mine (Make It Mine)

Gonna is a slang word included in primary slang because this word is commonly used by many people, especially young generations in informal context. It has the same meaning as **going to** in the formal form. It shows the speaker's intention to do something or expect something to happen in the future. As in the lyrics above, the slang **gonna** denotes one's thoughts about something that might occur in the future, namely making someone own. This slang is a usual term that is not indicated to any specific group because many people are familiar with this word.

Data 2: I wanna lay in your place **till** dawn (Coyotes)

Till is a common slang word used by many people in informal situations. This word has the same meaning as **until** in the formal form. It shows a specific time of something will end. As in the lyrics above, the slang **till** indicates that someone or singer wants to lay down until a specific time, that is dawn or time before the sun rises. This slang is a common term that is not indicated to any specific group because many people are familiar with this word. They use it because it is simple in pronunciation and more elegant. It is very natural and people usually use it in their daily conversation, so it is called primary slang.

Secondary Slang

The second types of slang words based on Chapman (2007) is secondary slang. The analysis of secondary found in this study is as follows.

Data 3: And when the **coyotes** escape to new york (Coyotes)

Coyotes is a slang word included in secondary slang because only a few people understand the meaning of this word. It is a unique slang expression used by people in informal contexts. It means someone who illegally smuggles people into America. As in the lyrics above, **coyotes** indicate someone who is escaping to New York. Some people use this slang to express someone's attitude in secret. This slang is used as a stylistic choice rather than actual identification. It also depends on the situation occurring. This is familiar in America because this term refers to a certain person who describes a person's attitude.

Data 4: **Doll**, I need to see you pull your knee socks up (Butterfly)

Doll is a slang word that is categorized as secondary slang because not many people understand the meaning of this word. It is a unique slang expression used by people in informal contexts. It has the same meaning as a child's toy in the form of a small human in formal ways.

Certain people in a specific group use this slang to express someone's attitude in secret. This slang means a beautiful and attractive young woman. As in the lyrics above, the slang **doll** indicates someone's who is attractive woman that he likes. This slang is used as a stylistic choice rather than actual identification. It also depends on the situation occurring.

Word Formation Process of Slang Words

Based on the data of slang words found on the Jason Mraz's album "We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things.", there were six processes of forming slang words used in this album such as etymology, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, and derivation.

Etymology

The first word formation process found in this study based on Yule's theory (2010) is etymology. Further explanation regarding etymology process analysis can be seen as follows:

Data 5: It's **okay** to be easily ignored (Love For A Child)

Okay is a slang word included in the etymology process. It is one of the slang words found in Jason Mraz's song lyrics. Etymology is the process of changing a word that has a history in the past and used until now. The slang word **okay** originated from the abbreviation **oll correct** which is a misspelling **all correct**. There is a process of changing a word that has a history behind it and became English slang terms developed in this modern era.

Borrowing

The second word formation process found in this study based on Yule's theory (2010) is borrowing. Further explanation regarding borrowing process analysis can be seen as follows:

Data 6: **Damn** right you landed on my ear and then you crawled inside (Butterfly)

Damn is a slang word that is categorized in the borrowing process. The word **damn** was

adapted from the Old French *dam(p)ner*. This term also was borrowed from the classical Latin *damnare*, which means condemn. There is a process of borrowing words that originally came from Old French, and classical Latin became English slang terms and developed in the modern era.

Data 7: **Yeah**, this life is but a dream (Live High)

Yeah is a slang word that belongs to the borrowing process. It is one of the slang words found in Jason Mraz's song lyrics. Borrowing is a process of adopting words from other languages. The word *yeah* was adapted from Proto-West Germanic *ja-*, which means yes. There is a process of borrowing words that originally came from Proto-West Germanic became English slang terms and developed in the modern era. This term is now used informally by many people in informal situations.

Compounding

The third word formation process found in this study based on Yule's theory (2010) is compounding. Further explanation regarding compounding process analysis can be seen as follows:

Data 8: **Hang on**. Help is on the way (Details in the Fabric)

Hang on is a slang word included in the compounding process. This slang is a phrasal verb that consists of two words, each of which has a different meaning, namely **hang** (verb) means suspending something from above but no support from below and **on** can be a preposition that something is physically in contact with a surface. When combined into a single term, they have different meanings. It means to stop doing something for a short time. There is a combining process of two words into a single term, so this slang can be categorized as a compounding process.

Blending

The fourth word formation process found in this study based on Yule's theory (2010) is blending. Further explanation regarding blending process analysis can be seen as follows:

Data 9: **Gimme gimme** that high five (The Dynamo of Volition)

Gimme is a slang word that is categorized in the blending process. This slang is often found in Jason Mraz's song lyrics. Blending is a merging process that is usually formed from the beginning of a word combined with the end of another word to form a new word or term. This slang is formed by a combination of words **give** and **me**. The word **give** only uses the constituent '**gi**', combined with **me** is a complete word, so it becomes **gimme** to say **give me** in informal situations. There is a blending or merging process between the two words, which becomes a new term. It is usually pronounced informally when people say it quickly in daily communication.

Data 10: The natural laws **ain't** got no constitution (Only Human)

Ain't is a slang word included in the blending process. It is one of the slang words found in Jason Mraz's song lyrics. Blending is a merging process that is usually formed from the beginning of a word combined with the end of another word to form a new word or term. This slang is a contraction for **am not, are not, has or have not**. There is a blending or merging process between the two words (auxiliary verb and not), which becomes a new term. This slang is usually used to indicate a negative form of an auxiliary verb. It is usually pronounced informally.

Data 11: **I'll** put a flower in your hair (Lucky)

I'll is a slang word that belongs to the blending process. This slang is often found in Jason Mraz's song lyrics. Blending is a merging process that is usually formed from the beginning of a word combined with the end of another word to form a new word or term. This slang is formed by a combination of the words **I** and **will**. The word **I** is a complete word, combined with **will** that

only uses the constituent '**ll**', so it becomes **I'll** to say **I will** in informal situations. There is a blending or merging process between the two words, which becomes a new term. It is usually pronounced informally when people say it quickly in daily communication.

Clipping

The fifth word formation process found in this study based on Yule's theory (2010) is clipping. Further explanation regarding clipping process analysis can be seen as follows:

Data 12: '**Cause** our time is short (A Beautiful Mess)

'**cause** is a slang word included in the clipping process. The slang word '**cause** refers to the word **because**. The word **because** is the original word, then becomes '**cause** by cutting the beginning of the word. This slang occurs in the process of clipping because there is a syllable removed from the original word. In this process, there is a shortening of form but without a change in meaning.

Data 13: Was it **mom** who put my dad out on his ass or the other way around? (Love for A Child)

Mom is a slang word that is categorized in the clipping process. It is one of the slang words used in Jason Mraz's song lyrics. Clipping is a removal process or cutting short a word with one or more syllables. The slang word **mom** refers to the word **mommy** or **mother**. The word **mommy** is the original word, then becomes **mom** by cutting the ending of the word. This slang occurs in the process of clipping because there is a syllable removed from the original word. In this process, there is a shortening of form but without a change in meaning.

Derivation

The last word formation process found in this study based on Yule's theory (2010) is derivation. Further explanation regarding derivation process analysis can be seen as follows:

Data 14: I'll be giving it my **bestest** (I'm Yours)

Bestest is a slang word that is categorized in the derivation process. The slang word **bestest** comes from the word **best**. It is formed from the word **best** is the original word, then becomes **bestest** by adding a suffix (**est**). **Best** is a superlative form of good combined with the suffix (**est**) and becomes the very best. This slang is usually used by young people in informal contexts to express the best of the best.

Data 15: **Baby** there's a lot that I miss (If It Kills Me)

Baby is a slang word that can belong to the derivation process. It is often found in Jason Mraz's song lyrics. Derivation is a process of adding an affix to a word. The slang word **baby** comes from the word **babe**. It undergoes a diminutive suffix process with the suffix **-y**. There is an adding process of the suffix **-y** at the end of this word, so it can be categorized as a derivation process. This term is used by many people in informal situations, especially by people who have special relationships with other people.

4. Conclusion

Based on the previous discussion of the types of slang words and word formation process found in Jason Mraz's album, it can be concluded that there were two types of slang words found in this album based on Chapman's (2007) theory. The most frequent type was primary slang because this type is familiar in daily life. It is easier for the listener to know the meaning of the lyrics of the song. Meanwhile, secondary slang was rarely used in the lyrics of Jason Mraz's song because it is unique slang and prioritizes stylistic choices over actual identification. Only a few people in a particular group understand the meaning of slang words. From the word formation analysis, there were six processes of forming slang words found in this album based on Yule's (2010) theory. They are etymology, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, and derivation. The most frequent process was blending.

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