A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF SLANG TERMS IN SCARFACE MOVIE

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Abstract

The present research analyses the use of slang terms in Scarface movie. The present research aims to examine types of slang, word formation as well as the meaning of slang words used in the movie. The present research uses a descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyze the slang utterances based on Yule’s theory of word formation. The results show that the movie contains forty seven slang words such as ain’t, shit, and gotta. Secondly, the results show following word formations: eight borrowing, five blending, four clipping, one multiple process, six compounding and one back formation. Lastly, the results describe the literal and figurative meanings of the slang words according to NTC’s Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial.

Keywords: Descriptive analysis, Scarface movie, Slang terms

INTRODUCTION

In communication, most people use slang or shortened language in a daily conversation. People also often use slang in their social media. Slang has become common thing to use by people. Slang is a word or phrase that is often used in an informal or casual spoken which create and used by people in a particular comunity. Yule (2006, p. 211) defines slang, or “colloquial speech”, as words of phrases that are used instead of more
everyday terms among younger speakers and other groups with special interests. Slang words are mostly used by teenager, but there are older speakers use it in their communication. Nuryadi (2010) says language is used differently in different social contexts, as well as in different social relationships in a community.

Using slang can make speech more casual and playful, and it may not always be suitable for formal situation. In addition to interesting, it makes the user of slang words do not feel bored using slang language for daily life because it is fun and can be the characteristic of a particular group or community.

In this modern era, the use of slang can also be found in social media, magazine, songs and western movies especially Hollywood movies. It means that slang is important and can be a great influence on the development of language including for student or college student. In the modern era many people go faster to respond a new trend in language that appears in their environment. It is more enjoyable to use slang.

Movie is a popular source of entertainment for young adults or teenagers. It helps spreading of slang worldwide. Students can learn a lot of slang words by watching movie because students tend to imitate their favorite actor or actress on the movies. Most students imitate the slang words or phrases spoken by the actors in a movie. Sometimes, they imitate the slang words from the movie without knowing the meaning and how it can be formed. They just think that these words are very cool. However, it is very hard to find the meaning of slang in the speech or dialog because they are unfamiliar. It needs to be learned more deeply because it is difficult to understand the movie if the students do not know the meaning of slang that used in the movie. Based on the statement above, the researcher wants to analyze the use of slang in a movie, and chose “Scarface” movie as research material.

Scarface is a 1983 American crime film. It tells the story of a Cuban refugee named Tony Montana
(Al Pacino) who arrived in 1980s Miami with nothing and rises to become a powerful drug kingpin. The cast also features Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Steven Bauer, and Michelle Pfeiffer. Scarface was released on December 9, 1983 and was a box office success, grossing $44 million. Initial critical reception was negative, with criticism towards its excessive violence and profanity and graphic drug usage. Some Cuban expatriates in Miami also objected to the film's portrayal of Cubans as criminals and drug traffickers.

The researchers believe that by doing this research, it would give a positive contribution for the learners. The students can will know how to find the slang words which spoken by the actor and it can increase their vocabulary. The students can find the meaning of slang that used in the movie, the morphology or word formation of slang words to understand it more deeply. So that way, the students can get the entertainment and knowledge through the movie. But this movie, can only be watched by people who are aged 17 years and over, because in this film there are scenes of vulgarity, and also violence. Based on the explanation above, the title of this research is “A Descriptive Analysis of Slang Term in Scarface Movie.” and it is intended to answer the following questions: (1) What slang are used in Scarface movie?; (2) What is the words formation in every slang expression in Scarface movie? and (3) What are the meanings of slang words found in Scarface movie?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK
The Notion of Slang

Slang is an informal word or phrase that is usually used by a young speaker in a casual conversation. Slang is not proper to be used in a formal conversation. Several experts attempt to define the meaning of slang.

Most people recognize the existence of slang. People know it is a slang word but does not now the meaning. According to Akmajian et al (2001, p. 303), Slang is something that everyone can recognize but no one can define. Speaker show
enormous creativity in their use of slang (it is, indeed, one of the most creative areas of Language use), and it is often the source of a good deal of humor.

Slang is a secret language held by some community groups that are not owned by other groups. According to Chaer (2004, p. 87), slang is a social variation which has special and secret nature. In this sense, this variation has limited use may not be known by an outside group.

Slang is more suitable to use among friends in informal situations. Hornby (2005, p. 1433) states that slangs are very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language especially used a particular group of people, for example, children, criminals, soldiers, etc.

Additionally Holmes (2013, p. 176) argues that slang belongs to vocabulary area and reflects on a person’s age. Slang also becomes the privilege of the youth and considered uncommon by an older person in general. In addition, slang belongs to identity of a particular group.

History of slang

Slang has been used since a long time ago. Allan and Burridge (2006, p. 69) states that the first appearance of slang words was around the eighteenth century. Slang word originally referred to the pattern of criminals. They suggest a connection with the verb sling, as in the expression sling off at someone, meaning give cheek, or abuse; engage in a slanging match. This source seems appropriate because slang is originally referred to the sub-language of the underworld. Nowadays, slang is used not only in criminal world but also used by ordinary people. Many ordinary people used it because it is more simple and easier to convey desire. The other hand, Slang is part of spoken language that has been used in daily life.

Word Formation of Slang

Word formation is a process of creating a new word. The process might be from the old words to the new uses without changing the meaning or it may create completely new words. Slang has some
processes in forming a word. As stated by Yule (2006, p. 52-59), word formation can be conducted by Coinage, Compounding, Clipping, Blending, Borrowing, Back formation, Acronyms, Multiple processes, Affixes (Prefix, Infix, Suffix).

a. Borrowing

Borrowing is one of the word formation processes to create new words by taking from other language. English has adopted a huge number of loan words from other languages. Following are some examples of borrowings from foreign languages:

Arabic: alcohol, arsenal, almanac.
Latin: strata, data, focus.
France: machine, technique, attaché.
Italy: pizza, spaghetti, corridor.
Russian: rouble, tundra, sputnik.
Persian: coffee, tulip, caravan

b. Blending

Blending is another way of combining two words in order to generate a new word. It is typically accomplished by taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of the word. e.g.:

Brunch: breakfast + lunch
Motel: motor + hotel
Smog: smoke + fog
Infotainment: information + entertainment
Gasohol: gasoline + alcohol

c. Clipping

Clipping refers to the shortening of the polysyllabic word into a shorter form which usually consists of one syllable only. For examples:

Exam: examination
Math: mathematic
Lab: laboratory
Gym: gymnasium
Varsity: university

d. Multiple Process

Multiple processes happen when some new words made through more than one word formation process. For example, it can be seen in the word “snowball” in the sentence “problem with the project have snowballed”. The word “snowballed” can be noted as “compounding” whereby “snow” (N) and “ball’ (N) have been combined to form “snowballed”. The use of “have” (present perfect tense) can identify it.
Affixes
Affixation is the process where free morphemes or roots are combined by the affixes to create new words. There are three kinds of affixes which can be attached to the word:

1) The affixes, which are put in front of the word, are called prefixes. For example: un-, mis-, pre-, which appear in the words like unhappy, misrepresent, prejudge.

2) The affixes, which are put in the end of the word, are called suffixes. For example: -ness, -ful, -less, ism,-ish which appear in the words like sadness, joyful, careless, terrorism, and boyish.

3) The affixes which are put inside the word are called infixes. For example: hallebloodylujah!

Coinage
Coinage is the invention of totally new words, which are usually, invented in the names of company’s product. In this case, the typical process of coinage usually adopts the brand names as common words. The examples are:

- Aspirin: headache medicine
- Kleenex: tissue
- Nylon: cloth
- Honda: motorcycle

Compounding
Compounding is the process of combining two or more words together to form a new complex word. For example:

1) noun + noun
a) Couch potato: ‘lazy person’
Man, you are such a couch potato!

b) Bird class: ‘easy class’
My classes are so hard this semester, except for literature – what a bird class that is!

c) Jungle juice: ‘juice mixed with alcohol’
Don’t drink that jungle juice, you’ll be sick!

2) noun + noun derived from verb by suffix ‘er’
a) Mountain climber: a person high induced by drugs.

b) Tree hugger: an environmentalist.

3) verb + noun
a) Breakneck: ‘rapid, dangerous’
It was such a breakneck situation that I was so frightened!
b) Take sides: ´to feel strongly about one side of the argument and act on that feeling´ (I don´t want to take sides in this argument, you have to work it out yourselves!)

4) adjective + noun

a. Big time: ´to a superlative degree´, bloody paper ´red marked paper´ (I got my test from teacher, it was completely bloody!),

b. Big mouth: ´person who talks too much´ (My friend is such a big mouth! I told him my secret and he told everyone he knows.)

c. Low-key: ´quiet night of friend´ (I spent a lowkey night with my friend. We played the cards.)

d. Old school: ´retro´ (He wears an old school jacket.)

h. Back Formation

Back formation is the process of forming a word in the different part of speech. Typically, a word of one type (usually a noun) is reduced to form another word of a different type (usually a verb). Back formation is the process by which new words are formed by the deletion of a supposed affix from already existing word for instance:

Edit: editor

Donate: donation
Emote: emotion
Babysit: babysitter
Enthuse: enthusiasm

i. Acronym

Acronym are formed by taking the initial sounds (or letters) of the words of phrase and uniting them into a combination. Some examples of taking the initial sounds are:

1) ASAP (As Soon As Possible)
2) PIN (Personal Identification Number)

Meanwhile, some examples of taking initial letters are:

1) NBA (National Basketball Association)
2) ATM (Automatic Teller Machine)

Literal And Figurative Meaning

Literal meaning is the real meaning as what is written. Holman and Harmon (1980, p. 246) state that literal meaning of a word is the exact meaning of the original word without embellishment. It can be said that expression or utterances which have literal meaning may be easily interpreted because they have the real meaning, precise and limited
meaning without making association with something else or symbolic meaning.

Figurative meaning is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from literal interpretation. According to Abrams (2009, p. 118), figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. Figurative language makes writing concrete and colorful. It can also beautify the work itself. Same idea of a writing can be expressed in different ways using the figurative language.

METHODOLOGY

Based on the purpose of the research, the present research aims to get detail understanding about what slang that used in “Scarface” movie, describes the meaning of the slang, and describes the word formation of the slang. The appropriate research design for the present research is descriptive qualitative method, since the source of the data in this analysis is in the form of the script movie “Scarface” which consists the utterances of the actor. Ary (2010, p. 29) states that the purposes of qualitative research is a depth of understanding rather than a numeric analysis of data. Therefore in this case, the data were the slang on the text of the utterances.

Data Sources

Ludico (2006, p. 66) states that data are any type of information collected for the use in educational research or assessment. There are two types of data sources in this research, primary and secondary sources.

The primary source is “Scarface” (1983) movie and script written by Oliver Stone while the secondary source is the supporting data to make the primary data to be more clearly, detailed, reliable and authentic. Supporting data are taken from educational books, scientific journals, and relevant theories.

Data Collecting Technique

The primary data in this research collected by using documentation. The documentation
is intended to obtain data directly from research, including script, book, or other documents. It is supported by Ary (2010, p. 442) who claimed that document analysis can be of written or text-based artifacts (textbooks, novels, journals, meeting minutes, logs, announcements, policy statements, newspapers, transcripts, birth certificates, marriage records, budgets, letters, e-mail messages, etc). Data are collected from movie script entitle “Scarface” (1983). In the present research, data are obtained from analyzing the utterances in the “Scarface” movie script and selecting the utterances that contained slang.

There are four steps used to collect the data for the present research. Firstly, we watched the movie comprehensively. Secondly, we read the script carefully in order to find the slang used. Thirdly, we made checking mark on the words in dialogues suspected as a slang and checking those words or phrases from four different slang dictionaries. They are NTC’s Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expression, The Urban Dictionary, The Merriam Webster Dictionary and Oxford Dictionary. Lastly, we noted down the data from the selected dialogues.

**Data Analysis Technique**

To analyze the data, descriptive qualitative method is used in the present research. Each datum is presented and explained based on the theoretical framework in accordance with the scope of discussion. The qualitative method is used in accordance with the theory and also checking the existence on some sources such as book, dictionary and websites.

Following are the processes of data analysis. Firstly, collected data are identified and classified into slang word and slang phrase. Secondly, the researchers classified the slang based on their types of word formation from Yule’s theory. Lastly, the researchers analyzed the collected data to find the meaning of each phrase or word by using NTC’s Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expression, Urban Dictionary, Merriam Webster Online
Dictionary and Oxford Dictionary. Furthermore, the meanings are described not only meaning based on the dictionaries but also on the context of situation and the participants when that slang word used by the characters in this movie.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The results suggest forty seven utterances from the movie’s script. Those utterances are analyzed into types of slang, word formation, and the meaning. There are two types of slang: slang word and slang phrase. The researchers found forty two slang words such as *asshole, cause, bullshit, prick*, and so on. The researchers also found five slang phrases in the movie such as *son of a bitch, what the fuck*, etc.

The results show that slang words of the movie influenced by some of the Yule’s theory (2006) of word formation. There are nine types of word formation: borrowing, blending, clipping, multiple process, affixes, coinage, compounding, back formation, and acronym. There are 8 borrowing slang words, 5 blending slang words, 4 clipping slang, 1 multiple process slang words, 6 compounding slang words, 1 back formation slang word and but no affixes, coinage, acronym slang found in the movie.

The results show that slang words in the 47 utterances in the movie has both literal and figurative meanings. The literal meaning can be easily found in the English dictionary while the figurative meanings of the slang can be found in a slang dictionary or in the internet. Following are some findings of present research:

**Chivato**

**TONY:** You wanna work 8, 10 fucking hours? You own nothing, you got nothing! Do you want a chivato on every corner, watching everything you do? Everything you say, man? You know I eat octopus three times a day? I got fucking octopus coming out of my ears. I got fucking Russian shoes, my feet's coming through. How'd you like that? You want me to stay there and do nothing? I'm no fucking criminal, man. I'm no puta or thief. I'm Tony Montana, a political prisoner from Cuba. I want my fucking human rights, now! Like
President Jimmy Carter says.
Okay?”
OFFICER 1: “Carter should see this human right. He’s really good. What do you say?”

a. Word formation
The word “Chivato” is defined as borrowing because it is taken from Spanish language.

b. Meaning
1) Literal meaning: The word “Chivato” means sneak or to go somewhere secretly, trying to avoid being seen
2) Figurative meaning: The word “Chivato” means a police informer.

Gotta
ELVIRA: “Don't call me "baby"! I'm not your baby.”
TONY: “Not yet, but you gotta give me some time.”

a. Word formation
The word “gotta” called blending because it is the combination of two words, there are the word got + to and it generate into a new word.

b. Meaning
1) Literal Meaning: There is no word “Gotta” in the English dictionary.
2) Figurative Meaning: Short for got to, means have to.

Coke
MANNY: “Well, he's very handsome, for one thing, you know? I mean, look at the way he dresses. Come on. That's style, flash, pizzazz. And a little coke money doesn't hurt nobody.”
TONY: “Look at this. Fucking onions. They ought to be picking gold from the street. Oh, God, I can feel it.”

a. Word formation
The word “Coke” is classified as clipping because it is the reduction of the word “Cocaine” which has more than one syllable into a shorter form and has only one syllable word formation.

b. Meaning
1) Literal meaning: The word “Coke” means a solid fuel made by heating coal in the absence of air so that the volatile
2) Figurative meaning: The word “Coke” means a short term for Cocaine.

Asshole
MANNY: “It's nothing. It went right through me. It hit the wall. I ran out of bullets, like an asshole. When I changed the clip, a guy who I thought
I killed wasn't dead and shot me. The guy was behind me. I killed him.”
FRANK: “How many bullets you catch?”

TONY: ‘He put that prick Bernstein on me.”

a. Word formation
The word “asshole” called a multiple process because it uses more than one word formation process. The word ass is a process of “borrowing” from the American spelling of the British arse, followed by “compounding” the word ass (N) + hole (N) to form a new complex word.
b. Meaning
1) Literal meaning: The word “ass” is the American spelling of the British arse means buttocks and the word “hole” means hollow space gap in something solid or in the surface of something.
2) Figurative meaning: The word “asshole” means a very stupid person, an idiot, someone who is pathetically or offensively foolish.

Cocksucker
MANNY: “What happened?”

Dopers
TONY: “You check it out. Then we're gonna blow that fucking truck back to Colombia!”
MANNY: “Come on. We're not the only dopers living on the block. Okay? Remember that. That truck could be anybody and anything. It could be a cable company…”

a. Word formation
The word “Dopers” called a Back formation because its a new form of word “Dope”(N) become “Dopers” (V)
b. Meaning

1) Literal meaning: The word “Dope” means a harmful drug.
2) Figurative meaning: The word “Dopers” means a drug dealer.

CONCLUSION

Following is the conclusion of present research:

1. There are forty seven utterances containing slang from “Scarface” movie such as asshole, cause, bullshit, prick, and so on. In addition, five slang phrases found in the movie are son of a bitch, what the fuck, etc.
2. The word formation which influenced the formation of slang in “Scarface” movie are borrowing slang (chivato, puta, yeyo, etc.), blending slang (gotta, wanna, outta, gonna, etc.), clipping slang (coke, commie, mil, etc.), multiple process slang (asshole), compounding slang (sweetheart, greaseball, bullshit, etc.)
3. The slang language on the movie has literal and figurative meanings.

REFERENCES


