

WORD FORMATION PROCESS OF SLANG IN *PITCH PERFECT* MOVIE

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Abstract

This research aims to find the types of slangs and the word formation of slangs found in *Pitch Perfect* and *Pitch Perfect 2* movies. The movies portray a group of a cappella musicians in fictional college, Barden University that use slangs in their conversation. The researchers employs the theory of types of slang by Chapman and word formation classification by Yule as the basis of analysis. The researchers applied qualitative method to analyze the data. The data are in form of dialogues transcription taken from *Pitch Perfect* and *Pitch Perfect 2* movies. Relating to types of slang, the researchers finds that there are four primary slangs and fifteen secondary slangs. As for word formation process, the researchers found that there are six words formations used to create the slangs. They are compounding which exist in five words, the initializations word formation is one word, the blending word formation is two words, the clipping word formation is two words, the prefix word formation is nine words, and the infix word formation is one word.

Key words: Language Variation, Slang, Word Formation.

INTRODUCTION

Language is associated with cultural and social system of certain community who speak the language (Wahyudin, 2015), (Aminatun & Oktaviani, 2019), (Qodriani, n.d.), (Sari, 2018), (Gulö, n.d.). This case may allow the differentiation of language among communities. Furthermore, the complex of community, the different geographical area, social statuses, education background, and other types of social interaction will create the variation of language, one of those variation is slang. So, slang is the variation of language where the use of informal words and expressions that does not belong to the standard of a particular language (Rido, 2011), (Kuswoyo, n.d.), (Ayu & Pratiwi, 2021), (Muliyah, Aminatun, et al., 2020), (Lestari & Wahyudin, 2020), but it is acceptable in certain social settings. They use slang in the conversation to make their language to be vivid, humorous and different from others, which lead them to get close to one another. There are always certain groups of people who have their own particular language, it makes them different from others. This characteristic is only understood by people within the groups (Handayani & Aminatun, 2020), (Pustika, 2021), (Yulianti & Sulistyawati, n.d.), (Sari, n.d.), (Yulianti & Sulistyawati, 2021).

Based on the phenomena, the researchers is interested in analyzing word formation process of slang words found in the movie *Pitch Perfect and Pitch Perfect 2*. The movie portrays about a group of youngster in an a cappella musician communities in Barden University, a fictional college in the movie (Simamora & Oktaviani, 2020). A cappella is popular among high school and amateurs in western countries. It also gained attention in recent years, with many a cappella groups forming at universities by students seeking an alternative singing pursuit, just like portrayed in the movie. The characters put slangs in their conversation (Yulianti & Sulistiyawati, 2020), (Mertania & Amelia, 2020), (Gulö, 2014), (Rido & Sari, 2018), (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), the slang which only used among a cappella groups in the movie, The Barden Bellas, Treblemakers, and Das Sound Machine. They tend to prefixing a bunch of words with "aca", which is the most used infectious joke in the movie. For example the word "Aca-Believe". The word were derived from an expression "I can't believe", the character added the suffix "aca" to create *Pitch Perfect's* warm aura. These slang words make the movie is interesting to the audience, the words become popular and many people used the new slangs obtained from the movie.

Slang is used widely in our daily life, for instance in the books, magazines, television, and movies. Nowadays, movies has turned into entertainment enjoyed by everyone. There are so many movies that portray teenagers or youngsters life. This is why language phenomena also happens in movies, especially the slang which very is interesting to study. Movie producers put these terms in the movie to make their movies attractive and to become closer to the audiences. A lot of people create new words and modify standard words for internal using. Most of the slang words created are from words that already exist. In this case, the process of word formation is one of the important rules in creating an interesting slang words, so other people will be interested to use the words in daily communication and it will be accepted in the social setting. Slang words are used all around the world, every language has their own slang, every group or communities have their own slang as well. Sometimes we do not realize that we have been using different kinds of slangs while communicating with different circle of friends, groups or communities. Based on the explanation above, the researchers is interested to conduct this research to make the reader aware that slang language phenomena is happening in our daily life, even the a cappella groups that portrayed in the movie has their own slang language, also to know the process of how those words of the language were formed.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Word Formation

Borrowing

Foreign words are always being borrowed from other languages (Wahyudin, 2015), (Chavez, 2000), (Ayu, 2020b), especially to accompany new ideas, inventions, products and so on. For example, the word *yogurt* derived from Turkish, *croissant* derived from French. In other cases, word that is borrowed may change in its writing or pronunciation, as seen in the word *democracy*, which derives from Greek, *democratos*.

Coinage

Coinage is words may also be created without using any of the methods described above and without employing any other word or word parts already in existence. 'Coinage' or 'manufacture' is a new word created from names. It is common in cases where industry needs a name for a product. Older examples are *aspirin*, *nylon*, *Vaseline* and *zipper*; more recent examples are *kleenex*, *teflon*, *Tylenol* and *xerox*.

Compounding

Compounding is the process of putting words together to build a new one that does not denote two things, but one and that is pronounced as one unit, it is written separately and some are written as one word. Common English compounds are *bookcase*, *doorknob*, *fingerprint*, *sunburn*, *textbook* (Ayu & Indrawati, 2019), (Qodriani & Kardiansyah, 2018), (Ayu, 2020a), *wallpaper*, *wastebasket* and *waterbed*. All these examples are nouns, but we can also create compound adjectives (*good-looking*, *low-paid*) and compounds of adjective (*fast*) plus noun (*food*) as in *a fast-food restaurant* or *a full-time job*.

Slang

Slang is a kind of jargon marked by its rejection of formal rules, its comparative freshness, its common ephemerality, and its marked use to claim solidarity. It is often used as a way to appear friendly to someone or to show that you belong with a certain group of people or that you understand popular culture. It shows that you are part of the "in crowd" and that the slang you share is part of your secret language. So, slang is the continual and ever-

changing use and definition of words in informal conversation, often used within certain groups or communities to get close to one another. There are two types of slang:

Primary Slang

Primary slang is the pristine speech of subculture members; so very natural to its speakers that it seems they might be mute without it. The teenage talk, the speech of urban streets gangs would be the example of primary slang. The example of primary slang in a data that the researchers found is the word “ASAP”, as the slang is mostly used by most English speakers.

Secondary Slang

Secondary slang is chosen not so much to fix one group as to express one’s attitudes and resourcefulness (Muliyah, Rekha, et al., 2020), (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021), (Sinaga & Pustaka, 2021), (WING, n.d.). It is also a matter of stylistic choice rather than true identification. The example of secondary slang in a data that the researchers found is the word “aca-scuse me”. The prefix aca is for a cappella, only used by a cappella groups in this movie.

METHOD

In this research, the researchers uses a descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative method is a research procedure to gather objectively with emphasis on personal experience in described situations to improve how things work in order to build individual knowledge through analyzing, accumulating, and concluding the results. Descriptive method is the procedure of research that the data gathered can be in the forms of words and picture, but it cannot be number or the statistic pattern. Data are the object of the research in the form of the authentic fact information taken from the source (data source), which can be in a form of documents, films, or video tapes. The data source of this research is taken from transcription of two American comedy movies entitled *Pitch Perfect* produced in 2012 and *Pitch Perfect 2* produced in 2015. Both movies were produced by Paul Brooks, Max Handelman, and Elizabeth Banks. The data taken are in forms of words, or utterance that contains slang in *Pitch Perfect* and *Pitch Perfect 2* movie.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researchers presents the analysis of types of slang and describes word formation of slang used by a cappella musicians in *Pitch Perfect* and *Pitch Perfect 2* movie.

The researchers classifies types of slang and word formation of slang used by the a cappella musicians in *Pitch Perfect* and *Pitch Perfect 2* movie. The complete classification of the findings can be seen in the following tables:

Table 1
Type of Slang

TYPES OF SLANG	TOTAL
Primary Slang	4
Secondary Slang	15

From the table above, secondary slang is dominantly used in this movie. The characters rarely use the slang that already existing and known by most people, instead, they mostly use the words that they created.

Table 2
Word Formation

WORD FORMATION	TOTAL
Borrowing	0
Coinage	0
Compounding	5
Initializations and Acronyms	1
Blending	2
Clipping	2
Backformation	0
Conversion	0
Prefixes and Suffixes	9
Infixes	1

As the researchers stated before, the characters mostly use the slang that they created. The a cappella groups in this movie tend to add the affix “aca” in the slang they created, therefore, the prefixes, suffixes and infixes word formations happen a lot in the slang that they use, it becomes the point of slang in this movie. This “aca” affix can be put in verb, noun, and even adjective.

Compounding

“Tone deaf”

Sequence time: 00:22:34

Audition day. In the hallway outside the auditorium, a longline of CO-ED’S warm up their voices. TOMMY MARTIN and hissidekick JUSTIN, a cappella super-fans address the group.

TOMMY : ... Sixteen bars of Kelly Clarkson's "Since U Been Gone." If a group likes you, they'll contact you directly. My tone deaf sidekick Justin will collect your info.

JUSTIN : If I could carry a tune in any possible human way, I would. But I can't. I resent myself dearly.

Tommy and Justin were huge fans of a cappella, they were helping out few a cappella groups to conduct an audition to find new recruits to be part of one of the a cappella groups. Tommy used this expression to refer Justin as a "tone deaf" because he cannot sing, which explain why they are not part of an a cappella group but still helping the groups to conduct an audition merely because they are a huge fan of a cappella. The slang in the dialogue above, "tone deaf" belongs to primary slang. It is a musical term that mostly known by most people, even Tommy and Justin who were not a singer know this slang.

The slang in the dialogue above, "tone deaf" is formed by compounding. It is compounded from two different words, noun "tone" and adjective "deaf". Tone deaf has nothing to do about being deaf and cannot hear tones, it means (a person) unable to perceive differences of musical pitch accurately, simply it refers to person who cannot sing.

Initializations and Acronyms

"ASAP"

Sequence time: 00:33:20

BECA : Well it's tough to sing when we don't have the arrangements and that's on me so thanks for reminding me.

CHLOE : Yeah Bec, we're going to need those ASAP so we can start nailing down our choreography.

The Bellas were on their daily practice. Emily, the new recruits of the group was unfamiliar with their practice routines and asked Beca why they did not perform with song. Beca was in charge for arranging the song had not make her time to do her job, when Chloe overheard their conversation, she interrupted and said that she need the arrangement soon so they can match it with the choreography. The slang above, "ASAP" belongs to primary slang, which stands for "As Soon As Possible". Most English speakers were

familiar with this slang and it is often used. The slang “ASAP” is formed by initialization. It stands for “As Soon As Possible”. The slang often used to implies sense of urgency.

Blending

“Toner”

Sequence time: 00:38:44

AUBREY : I can see your toner through those jeans.

BECA : That’s my dick.

In the dialogue above, when Aubrey said “I can see your toner through your jeans.” and Beca replied with “that’s my dick” that does not mean Beca actually have that. Aubrey used this expression to accuse Beca for being interested in someone from another a cappella group, as Barden Bellas does not allow their members to be involved in a romantic relationship with anyone from another a cappella group. The slang in the dialogue above, “toner” belongs to secondary slang as it is only understood among the community. Aubrey used this slang so she does not sound blatant when mentioning about something sexual and only understood by her and Beca.

The slang above, “toner” is formed by blending. Toner is derived from the word tone and boner. Tone refers to quality of a person’s voice in singing. While boner is a sign of sexual arousal. So, toner here means being sexually attracted to a person because of their musical talent.

Prefixes, Suffixes, and Infixes

“Aca-scuse”

Sequence time: 00:14:04

CHLOE : (hopeful)So are you interested?

BECA : I don’t know. Seems pretty lame.

Hearing this, Aubrey steps up to Beca.

AUBREY : Aca-scuse me? Synchronized ladydancing to a “Mariah Carey” chart topper is not lame.

Chloe and Aubrey were finding recruits to be part of their a cappella group, and Chloe offers Beca to join when she passed by. Beca rejected the offer and offended Aubrey for saying that being an a cappella singer is lame. Being the leader of an a cappella group in the campus, Aubrey is really passionate about it. Thus, she uses this expression to show Beca her identity as an a cappella singer and she is proud being part of the group. So, the slang in the dialogue above, “aca-scuse” me belongs to secondary type of slang.

The slang in the dialogue above, “aca-scuse” formed by prefix. It is derived from the prefix “aca” of a cappella and the word “excuse”. The original expression is “excuse me”. In the dialogue, Aubrey who was offended when Beca insulted her profession as an a cappella singer, stepped up to Beca and used this expression to say that she disagree with Beca’s opinion about a cappella being lame.

CONCLUSION

From the previous discussion, it can be concluded that there are two types of slang in the movie, Primary which is a type of slang that usually is known and used by most English speakers and Secondary slang which is slang that to keep the degree of secrecy between certain group that is used just for stylistic choice. The slangs which are categorized as primary slang in the *Pitch Perfect* and *Pitch Perfect 2* movie script is four slangs, the secondary types are fifteen slangs. The word formations used to create slangs found in this movie script are six words formations. The first word formation is compounding which exists in five words, the initialization word formation is one word, the blending word formation is two words, the clipping is two words, the prefixes is nine words, and the infix is one word.

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