SLANG WORDS IN MADISON BEER"S SELECTED SONG LYRICS

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Abstract

Slang is a type of language that is characterized by it"s informal, unconventional, and often creative use of words and expression. The aim of this study is to find out the types of slang words and types of meaning of slang words in Madison Beer"s selected song lyrics. There are two statement problem. (1) What types of slang words are found in Madison Beer"s selected song lyrics. (2) What are the meaning of slang words used in Madison Beer"s selected song lyrics. The writer used theories from Yule (2006:52-59) and Leech (1981:9). The writer used descriptive qualitative research. The data were found by analyze and identifying the songs. There are three types of slang in Madison Beer"s selected song lyrics namely: blending (15 data), clipping (10 data) and coinage (2 data). The writer also found six types of meaning in Madison Beer"s selected song lyrics, namely: conceptual meaning (7 data), connotative meaning (6 data), social meaning (2 data), affective meaning (2 data), reflected meaning (2 data) and collocative meaning (1 data).

Keywords: *Slang; Types of Slang; Kinds of Meaning,; Madison Beer*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a system communication that allows individuals or communities to convey and interpret meaning through a structured set of symbols, sounds, and gestures. Language can be defined as a complex and organized communication system used by humans. This system consists of a set of vocal and graphic symbols (sounds that can be pronounced and letters used for writing), as well as rules that govern how these symbols are organized, used, and interpreted (Yule,1988:3). This means that language plays an important role as a communication tool in human interaction. Humans can use language to convey intentions, desires, feelings to others.

Language is used to communicate and must be understood, but people often use several different languages to communicate. For example, in some certain situations and informal situations, they will use informal language. Informal language that is usually used by many people or certain groups is slang. In general definition of slang, slang is an informal language used for communication by teenagers and members of specific groups (Prayogi 2009).

Slang is often found in various communications, for example in song lyrics. According to Partridge (1950:69) in Seprina and Anwar (2018:4), slang language is mainly spoken form, which is used in social milieus and popular media, and to certain extern, it is used in song lyrics and publication. In the midst of emergence the development of modern technology and the increasing reach of the music industry and in this modern era, the use of slang words have become a very popular phenomenon from song lyrics in various song genres. The use of slang words in song lyrics is the use of considered informal language become an expression of the sacredization of performance that is identical to the genre of the song itself. However, the use of slang words in song lyrics remains a topic that can cause misunderstandings in the study language and popular culture.

Slang is expression that do not belong to standard English (Menchen, 1936:481). For example "gimme now" is an example of term for accepting something from people. According to Yule (2006: 52-59), slang is classified based on how new words are formed. There are borrowing, blending, clipping, multiple processes, affixes, coinage, compounding, back formation, acronyms. In addition, slang has a meaning because it serves as a form of communication inside a specific group or culture. According to Leech (1981), the meaning of a word or phrase is not fixed in its inherent properties; rather, it emerges from its usage context and the speaker's intentions. Meaning can be understood from several different types, namely: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning (Leech 1981:9).

The writer interested in analyzing the slang and new words used in Madison Beer's selected song lyrics. Slang words in lyrics can sometimes lead to confusion or misunderstandings as they often carry unique meanings specific to certain groups or subcultures. Additionally, slang words can have different connotations and meanings depending on the context and usage, further contributing to potential confusion or misinterpretation. The writer's research will primarily focus on identifying the types of slang words present in Madison Beer's song lyrics and determining their respective meanings based on their type.

Slang Words

Slang is a type of language that is characterized by its informal, unconventional, and often creative use of words and expression. According to Fromkin (2003:264), slang is an informal type of language that arises with the times as a result of the use of new, non-rigid words as a form of creative expression to make words more effective and easier to pronounce. It can be concluded that slang word is mostly spoken and employed in social context, popular media, and to certain extern, it is used in song lyrics and the other publication.

Yule (2006:211) defines slang as words or expressions frequently used by young people and other groups with special interests. It means that slang originates from social groups, and it is a special term, phrase or expression that is frequently used in conversation. People often use slang in both formal and informal situations, especially when speaking casually, as it draws attention in communication.

Meanwhile, Knight (1950:2) defines slang as a very colloquial language that is considered below standard language and consists of new words or existing terms used in specific contexts. Knight adds that slang is an informal language composed of new phrases used occasionally.

Types of Slang

According to Yule (2006: 52-59), slang is classified based on how new words are formed. There are borrowing, blending, clipping, multiple processes, affixes, coinage, compounding, back formation, acronyms.

Semantics

Semantics is the branch of linguistics that delves into the study of meaning in language. It seeks to understand how words, phrases, sentences, and entire discourses convey meaning and how this meaning is interpreted by both speakers and listeners.

Words, phrases, and sentences all have meanings. But actions also might be meaningful. Semantics is a systematic study of meaning and in linguistics semantics is a study of how language organize and express the meanings (Kreidler, 1998:3). The term "meaning" has many different applications, some of which fall under the umbrella of semantics and others of which go beyond it. Meaning is always what anything means.

Kinds of Meaning

According to Leech (1981:9) kinds of meaning are divided into seven type, namely: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning.

Song Lyrics

Lyrics are a series of words that form a song, which means one part of the song itself. Lyrics are poems or poems that should be sung accompanied by musical instruments that intensely express personal feelings in the form of songs. In other words, lyrics is a word of a song which is to express the writer"s emotion and feelings (Noor 2004:24). Lyric can also provide an atmosphere about the song, so that it can express the feelings or emotions from the writer. Lyrics serve as a means of artistic expression, storytelling, and communication in music. Song lyrics refers to the deeper interpretation or significance that can be derived from the lyrics, themes and overall composition of a song.

METHOD (LEVEL 1)

Participants / subject / population and sample

This research was kind of qualitative method to analyze the indicated data. Qualitative research is research that produces descriptive data, speech or speech and behavior that can be observed by the subject itself. Descriptive research aims to provide an accurate and detailed description of a phenomenon through its features (Creswell, 1977:15).

Based on the theory above, this research analyzed the types and meanings of slang words in Madison Beer"s selected song lyrics. The writer investigated eleven selected songs of Madison Beer from her two albums (Life Support and As She Pleases) and from her four singles. The first is *Life Support* album, there are 6 from 17 songs that the writer chose to analyzed, namely: *stay numb and carry on, emotional bruises, stained glass, sour time, blue, selfish*. The second is *As She Pleases*, there are 2 from 7 songs that the writer chose to analyzed, namely: *home with you, say it to my face.* The writer also analyzed 4 songs from the single only of Madison Beer"s songs.

FINDINGS
a.) Types of Slang Words Used in Madison Beer‟s Selected Song Lyrics
1. Blending
Blending is a word formation process in which two or more words are combined to create a new word with a meaning that combines elements of the original words. It involves taking parts of multiple words, typically their beginnings or endings, and merging them together to form a new word.

Data 1
„Cause **I‟ve** been in the night
(In song Say It To My Face line 6)
I've is a contraction of **"I have"**, where the words **"I"** and **"have"** are blended together to form a new word. In this case, the beginning of the word **"I"** is joined to the end of the word **"have"** to form the new word **"I've"**.

Data 2
Just **tryna** be honest
(In song Say It To My Face line 7)
Tryna is a blend of the words **"trying to"**. In this case, the beginning of the word **"trying"** is joined to the end of the word **"to"** to form the new word **"tryna"**. This is an example of part-word blending, where the beginning of one word is joined to the end of another word to form a new word.

2. Clipping
Clipping refers to the process of shortening word by removing one or more syllables or sounds. Clipping is often used in informal language settings and can result in words that are easier to say or write.

Data 1
I‟ve been **rackin‟** on my brain (In song Say It To My Face line 2)
Rackin' is a clipped form of the word **"racking"**, which is the verb form of **"rack"**. In this case, the clipping process involves removing the initial syllable **"rack-"** from the original word **"racking"**, leaving just the remaining "in" sound.

Data 2
„Cause I‟ve been up in the night
(In song Say It To My Face line 6)
'Cause is a clipped form of the word **"because"**, which is a subordinating conjunction that introduces a dependent clause. In this case, the clipping process involves removing the initial syllable **"be-"** from the original word **"because"**, leaving just the remaining **"cause"** sound.

3. Coinage
Coinage in the context of slang words refers to the process of creating new words that are not bound by strict language rules. According to Yule's theory, coinage is one of the six processes of forming slang words, where new words are invented by language users to describe new concepts or situations that previously did not have specific terms.

Data 1
I wanted you to change **yeah**
(In song Selfish line 15)
"Yeah" is a word that was coined through informal language use. It started as a casual way to say **"yes"** and has become a common word in everyday conversation. It's often used to express agreement, acknowledgment, or emphasis in a friendly and relaxed tone.

Data 2

You could be as sweet as **honey**, but I knew the darkness in your mind
(In song Blue line 18)

"Honey" can be considered a coinage because it is a colloquial or informal term that has replaced the more formal term **"dear"** in many contexts. While **"honey"** has been used as a term of endearment for centuries, it has become more widely accepted and commonly used as a casual way to address someone, especially in informal settings.

b.) Meaning of Slang Words Used in Madison Beer"s Selected Song Lyrics
1. Conceptual Meaning

In Geoffrey Leech's 1981 book "Semantics: The Study of Meaning," he defines conceptual meaning as the fundamental and central meaning of a word or expression. It represents the basic idea or notion conveyed in a specific context, closely related to the word's literal sense or denotation, rather than its connotations or associated meanings.

Data 1
You could be as sweet as **honey,** but I knew the darkness in your mind
(In song Blue line 18)

The conceptual meaning of **"honey"** in this context refers to a term of endearment or affectionate address. It's used metaphorically to describe a relationship or an emotional state, often associated with sweetness, tenderness, or familiarity. In the lyrics, the **"honey"** conveys this sense of closeness and intimacy. In addition to its conceptual meaning, **"honey"** can also be considered slang in this song. The word **"honey"** is used in a colloquial and informal manner, contributing to the song's lyrical style and emotional tone.

Data 2
How you **gonna** fix this?
(In song Selfish line 3)

The word **"gonna"** can be categorized as conceptual meaning. It is a colloquial contraction of **"going to"**, which expresses a future action or intention. In this context, *"How you gonna fix this"* is a question that the speaker is directing towards the person who is accused of being selfish and causing harm. It"s a way of saying that the speaker is not interested in fixing the problem or helping the other person to change, but rather is acknowledging that the relationship is beyond repair.

Data 3
I ain"t even **gotta** try to find the G-O-O-D in goodbye
(In song Good in Goodbye line 18)

"Gotta" is a colloquial contraction of **"got to"** or **"have got to"** and it expresses the idea of necessity or obligation. It's commonly used in informal speech to indicate that someone has a requirement or need to do something. The particular lyrics convey the notion that the speaker doesn't even need to put in effort to find the positive aspects of saying goodbye.

2. Connotative Meaning

In Geoffrey Leech's theory of semantics, connotative meaning denotes the additional emotions and associations a word can evoke beyond its literal definition. These connections are influenced by cultural, social, and individual elements, and they frequently influence the overall tone or atmosphere of a communication. Connotative meanings are not static and may fluctuate based on the context and the experiences of the individuals engaged in the communication.

Data 1

I just might **break**

(In song Stained Glass line 16)

In slang, **"break"** can carry a connotative meaning of emotional collapse or reaching a point of extreme vulnerability. It suggests that the speaker's emotional state is fragile and susceptible to further distress.

In this song, the term **"break"** takes on a connotative meaning that goes beyond its literal definition. While it could refer to a physical action of breaking something, its context suggests a metaphorical interpretation. The repeated mention of **"break"** throughout the song implies a sense of emotional vulnerability and fragility. The word **"break"** here signifies a potential emotional breakdown, highlighting the speaker's susceptibility to the negative effects of their experiences. This conveys a deep-seated feeling of being on the edge and struggling to maintain emotional stability.

Data 2

And if you throw another **stone**

(In song Stained Glass line 13)

In the song, the term **"stone"** takes on a metaphorical connotative meaning that aligns with the idea of causing emotional harm or distress. The phrase *"throw another stone"* suggests hurtful actions or words directed at the speaker, contributing to their emotional pain. It implies that others are inflicting wounds or burdens on the speaker. The choice of **"stone"** serves to amplify the weight of these negative interactions, emphasizing the emotional toll they take on the speaker's well-being. **3. Social Meaning**

According to Geoffrey Leech's 1981, social meaning involves the implied messages and inferences that go beyond the immediate speaker and listener. It considers the impact of societal, cultural, and contextual factors on language usage, including social norms, values, and power dynamics.

Data 1

Baby, who you tryna run from

(In song Selfish line 22)

This phrase has social meaning beyond its literal meaning. The phrase can be seen as a way to establish a sense of intimacy and connection with the person being addressed. The use of **"baby"** as a term of endearment creates a sense of closeness and familiarity, which is essential for building trust and connection. In this sense, the phrase *"Baby, who you tryna run from?"* is not just a form of slang, but it also has social meaning that reflects the speaker's desire to connect with others on a deeper level, while also encouraging them to take responsibility for their actions and emotions.

Data 2

Oh, **honey**

(In song Blue line 8)

Here, **"honey"** is being used informally and affectionately. It's addressing someone in a casual and endearing manner, contributing to the personal and intimate tone of the lyrics. This usage of **"honey"** exemplifies its function as a slang term that also carries social meaning, indicating a certain level of closeness or familiarity between the speaker and the listener. **4. Affective Meaning**

Affective meaning refers to the emotional or subjective associations that a word or utterance carries. It goes beyond the literal definition and involves the feelings, attitudes, and emotional connotations that are evoked by language. Affective meaning is influenced by the speaker's and listener's emotions, cultural

background, and personal experiences, and it plays a significant role in shaping the overall tone and impact of a communication.

Data 1

Oh **baby** I don‟t think we really got a choice

(In song Melodies line 33)

"Baby" is both a form of slang and carries affective meaning. As a form of slang, **"baby**" is used informally to address someone with a sense of endearment or affection. This term is closely related to affective meaning because it conveys emotional attachment, intimacy and a personal connection between the speaker and the person they are addressing. So, in this case, "baby" functions as both a slang term and a vehicle for affective meaning.

Data 2

Oh, **honey**

(In song Blue line 8)

"Honey" is often used as slang with affective or emotional meaning because it is a term of endearment or affection. In slang, **"honey"** can also take on different nuances and connotations depending on the context and tone of the conversation. It might be used playfully, sarcastically, or ironically to add layers of meaning to the communication. The affective meaning of **"honey"** comes from its association with positive feelings and emotional connections between individuals.

5. Reflected Meaning

Reflected meaning refers to the aspects of meaning that reflect the speaker's or writer's attitude or evaluation towards the content of their utterance. It involves expressing personal opinions, beliefs, judgments, or emotions through language. Reflected meaning is subjective and can be influenced by the speaker's individuality, emotions, and cultural background.

Data 1

Oh **baby** I don‟t think we really got a choice

(In song Melodies line 33)

In this context, **"baby"** is used as a term of endearment, emphasizing the speaker's emotional connection with the person they're addressing. The phrase *"I don't think we really got a choice"* can be seen as a reflection of the speaker's feelings, implying that they're resigned to the fact that their love is inevitable or that they're powerless against their emotions.

Data 2

Oh, **honey**

(In song Blue line 8)

"Honey" can be used informally as a slang term of address, especially in certain cultures or contexts. It might be used to refer to someone in a casual or friendly manner. In the word from some lyric, **"honey"** is used as a term of endearment to express affection and emotional closeness. This reflected meaning contributes to the overall tone of the song and helps convey the speaker's emotions.

6. Collocative Meaning

Collocative meaning emerges from the regular pairing of words or expressions in a given linguistic context. When certain words frequently occur together, they form collocations, which develop additional meanings beyond their individual definitions. Collocative meaning is shaped by language usage patterns and adds subtle connotations and implications to communication.

Data 1

„Cause you‟re **toxic**, boy

(In song Good in Goodbye line 12)

In the song lyrics, the word **"toxic"** is used as a slang term to describe a person who is harmful or damaging to their partner or loved one. The collocative meaning of **"toxic"** in this context is closely tied to the slang expression "toxic relationship" or "toxic person", which refers to a relationship that is abusive, controlling, or emotionally draining. The use of **"toxic"** in this context is colloquial and informal, and it is often used in social media, online communities, and popular culture to describe situations that are perceived as unhealthy or damaging.

II. Findings

The writer examined slang in a total of eleven selected songs of Madison Beer from her two albums and her two singles. The first album is Life Support, which consists 7 selected songs: *sour times, stay numb and carry on, emotional bruises, blue, stained glass, selfish* and *good in goodbye.* The second album is As She Pleases which consists of 2 selected songs: *say it to my face* and *home with you.* The two singles are *dear society* and *melodies.* The writer found 3 types of slang and 6 kinds of meaning.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, the writer draws conclusion based on the previous chapter into several points as below :

1. Slang has multiple meanings and sometimes lacks a specific meaning, therefore to analyze slang worlds in the song lyrics, the writer needs to classify the words based on their type and the context.

2. From 9 types of slang word by Yule (2006:52-59), the writer found 3 types from Madison Beer's selected song lyrics, they are: blending, clipping and coinage. The most widely type of slang words found is Blending with 15 data.

3. From 7 types of meaning by Leech (1981:9), the writer found 6 types from Madison Beer's selected song lyrics, they are: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning and collocative meaning. The most widely type of meaning found is Conceptual Meaning with 7 data.

The writer hopes that this research would be useful for the readers, especially for next researcher. The writer would also like to give some suggestions. There are many object and aspect that can be analyzed. The writer suggest to next researcher to do research in other song, literary work, such as poem, novel, etc and also the other media such as, podcast, films, etc.

Next researchers can explore how the usage of slang words in song lyrics varies among different generations. This will provide an understanding of the slang language trends that emerge in different time periods and how the use of slang reflects cultural changes. Slang is often found in conversation between teenager and some certain community, so this means paying attention to when and with whom slang is used.

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