



SLANG WORDS IN NIKI'S BUZZ ALBUM SONG LYRICS

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Abstract

Language evolves with society, creating different language variations, including slang words. This study aims to find out the types of slang words and analyze their word formation processes in Niki's Buzz album song lyrics, applying Allan and Burridge's (2006) classification of slang theory and Yule's (2010) word formation theory. Using a descriptive qualitative and library research approach, the data were collected from the song lyrics in the Buzz album. The analysis identified 45 slang words, categorized into four types: fresh and creative (14), flippant (12), imitative (4), and clipping (15). Furthermore, six word formation processes contribute to the word formation of slang words, namely borrowing (2), compounding (4), blending (4), clipping (15), derivation (4), and multiple processes (2).

Keywords: *Slang Words, Types of Slang, Word Formation Process, Niki's Buzz Album.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a way to communicate, serving as the primary way to express ideas and thoughts, while reflecting the complexity and nuances of human society. Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that explores the relations between language and society (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015). Sociolinguistics studies how language interacts with society, including examining language variation and change. Language is a constantly changing and adaptable form of human expression, influenced by cultural, social, and technological factors. There are language forms from people, so there are many language variations, including slang words.

According to Fromkin et al (2017), slang is a form of informal language that arises from the rapid creation of new words, serves as a creative way for people to simplify and make the language more efficient, and allows for quicker and easier communication. Eckert (2000) noted that language can be identified by its ongoing development, which reflects shifting social and cultural trends. According to Partridge (2015), slang is a spoken language that is used in song lyrics and publications. Using slang in song lyrics is an informal way for the artist to communicate with their listeners. Additionally, it allows the artists to establish a personal yet contemporary connection with their audience, creating an engaging and relatable listening experience. Slang expresses strong emotions and deeper meanings that can't always be expressed with formal language. Many people often find themselves confused by the slang used in song lyrics, as these terms sometimes cannot be found in standard dictionaries, which makes it difficult to understand the exact meaning of the words, especially for those who are unfamiliar with the social context that influenced the slang.

Observing the phenomenon of slang in society, this study was undertaken to analyze slang words in Niki's *Buzz* album song lyrics. Niki, also known as Nicole Zefanya, has gained international recognition for her innovative music and powerful storytelling. Her music is widely appreciated around the world. Niki's music mainly resonates with young audiences who often incorporate slang into their daily speech. Her lyrics often include various slang forms, which reflect contemporary language trends and societal changes. Analyzing her album provides insight into how slang is used in music and the creation of new expressions or modifying existing words to connect with listeners.

METHODS

Nazir (2014) defined library research as a data collection technique involving the study of books, literature, notes, and various reports related to the problem being addressed. This technique is related to the substance of the literature applied as a source of data collection. Literature studies are not restricted to books; they could also appear in journals. It seeks to establish a variety of theories, opinions, and beliefs. In this case, the author gathers data through a literature review.

The design of this study was descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative research provided a detailed and comprehensive description of a phenomenon (Elliot & Timulak, 2021). This method seeks the phenomena of sociolinguistics, how language varies and changes. Qualitative research is a type of analytical study that utilizes data expressed in words. The findings are presented in descriptive or written form, characteristic of qualitative research (Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña, 2014).

The source of data for this study is the song lyrics in Niki's *Buzz* album and collected from the lyrics video *Buzz* album on YouTube. The song in the album consists of 13 songs. The writer collected data from the song lyrics that contain slang words, then analyzed using multiple steps of data analysis: data condensation, data display, and conclusions drawing/verification (Miles et al., 2014). The writer chose and categorized relevant data from the lyrics and identified words that fit slang categories based on Allan and Burridge's classifications. The data was refined by eliminating unnecessary words, ensuring that only relevant slang terms were considered in the analysis. Then, the data was displayed by creating a table and chart to show slang words found explained their meanings. The data is analyzed repeatedly until the data is complex to draw a final conclusion. This involves reflecting on which types of slang are most frequently found in the album and examining the patterns of word formation processes utilized.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The writer identified the types of slang words used according to Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory and found 45 data of slang words in Partridge. There are five types of slang words, and the writer found four types in Niki's *Buzz* album song lyrics. The writer also used George Yule's (2010) theory to analyze word formation processes. There are ten word formation processes, and the writer identified six word formation processes used in the album song lyrics, explaining the word formation process.

1. Types of Slang Words

A. Fresh and creative

Fresh and creative refers to inventive and frequently playful language. This type introduces new terms or reinterprets existing words, assigning them fresh meanings that resonate within informal contexts and are used in casual conversation, artistic expression, or cultural trends.

Tabel 1 Fresh and Creative Type

No	Slang Words	Meaning
1.	Bee's knees	An excellent person or thing
2.	Bull's eye	Hit the nail on the head
3.	Petty	Having little or no importance or significance
4.	Propeller	Drives or pushes forward
5.	Tipsy	Mildly drunk
6.	Stellar	Excellent; great
7.	Cliché	An overly familiar and trite phrase
8.	Sloppy	Messy in behavior
9.	Serpentine	Snake
10.	Baby	Cherished woman or cherished man
11.	Lousy	Bad; nasty
12.	Babe	A term of endearment for a woman or a man
13.	Big Boy	An adult male
14.	Sweetie	A sweetheart

B. Flippant

Flippant refers to a communication style that lacks seriousness. Flippant is used to describe joking, irreverent, humorous, or dismissive.

Tabel 2 Flippant Type

No	Slang Words	Meaning
1.	Hot shit	Someone or something very remarkable and attractive, irresistible, etc
2.	Fucking	Extremely; wretched; accursed
3.	Jinx	A cause of bad luck
4.	Shit	An exclamation of disbelief, disgust, disappointment, or emphasis
5.	Jack of none	Master of none
6.	Clown	To behave frivolously; persist in inappropriate levity
7.	Suck	Unpleasant
8.	Fuck	To curse and vilify; revile extremely
9.	Bitch	A woman one dislikes
10.	Goddamn	Accursed; wretched
11.	Deadbeat dad	A father who avoids his responsibilities, especially financial/parental duties
12.	God-forsaken	Remote; desolate

C. Imitative

Imitative imitates another word or a combination of two words, both of which have different meanings. This word is formed because the new word loses some parts of the combination, even though the writing is almost identical.

Tabel 3 Imitative Type

No	Slang Words	Meaning
1.	Wanna	Want to
2.	Gonna	Going to
3.	Brunch	Breakfast and lunch
4.	Woulدا	Would have

D. Clipping

Clipping simplifies words, making communication in both speech and writing faster and more efficient without losing the significance term.

Tabel 4 Clipping Type

No	Slang Words	Meaning
1.	Amps	Amplifiers
2.	'Round	Around
3.	Bro	Brother
4.	'Cause	Because
5.	Lookin'	Looking
6.	Seein'	Seeing
7.	Nothin'	Nothing
8.	'Bout	About
9.	Gazin'	Gazing
10.	Watchin'	Watching
11.	Dad	Daddy
12.	Mom	Mommy
13.	Grandma	Grandmother
14.	'Til	Until
15.	Workin'	Working

2. The Word Formation of Slang

A. Borrowing

Borrowing is a word formation process where a language takes words from another language and incorporates them into its vocabulary.

- a). Cliché: The word *cliché* comes from French, referring to a printer's block that was used to make the same image repeatedly. Over time, its meaning changed in English, and now it describes an overused phrase or idea that feels unoriginal because it has been repeated too much.
- b). Petty: The word *petty* comes from the old French "petit", which means small, and adapted it into English as "petty". It refers to behavior that is trivial, small-minded, or spiteful.

B. Compounding

Compounding is the process of combining two or more individual words to form a new word with a new meaning.

- a). Hot shit: The word *hot shit* is formed through compounding, combining the adjectival “hot,” which typically means intensity or desirability with the noun “shit,” a noun that refers to a thing or expresses an intense emotion. It can refer to someone or something remarkable or exceptionally talented, and often exudes confidence.
- b). Goddamn: The word *goddamn* is formed through compounding process, “God” and “damn” are combined to create a single term. The word “God” refers to the divine in a religious sense and “damn” is an expression of condemnation or cursing. It amplifies the intensity of the expression, emphasizing the emotion conveyed.
- c). Deadbeat dad: The word *deadbeat dad* is formed through compounding, made up of three separate words: *dead + beat + dad*. The word “dead” means lifeless or inactive, and “beat” means tired or defeated. Both words describe an irresponsible or lazy person. It is compounded with “dad” to form “deadbeat dad,” a phrase describing a father who avoids financial or parental responsibility; an irresponsible father.
- d). God-forsaken: The word *god-forsaken* is created by compounding two words to form a new meaning. The word “God” refers to a deity or the divine, and the word “forsaken” implies being abandoned or desolate. The combined word conveys an overwhelming sense of loneliness and hardship, frequently used to describe forsaken or undesirable locations.

C. Blending

Blending involves combining two or more words to create a new term, often merging the meanings of the original words.

- a). Wanna: The word *wanna* is derived from ‘want’ and ‘to’, forming a single, simplified term. When spoken quickly, “want to” naturally loses its distinct sounds. The “t” sound in “want” connects seamlessly with “to”, causing the syllables to fuse. This transformation removes the clear separation between the two words, making pronunciation faster and easier to say.
- b). Gonna: The word *gonna* is a blend of the verb ‘going’ and the preposition ‘to’. The ending of “going” blends smoothly with “to”, removing the pause between the words. The “g” sound in “going” transitions effortlessly into “to”, forming a fluid transition.
- c). Brunch: The word *brunch* is a blend of the words ‘breakfast’ and ‘lunch’. The initial part of “breakfast” (“br-”) is merged with the final part of “lunch” (“-unch”). “Brunch” refers to a meal that combines elements of breakfast and lunch.
- d). Woulda: The word "woulda" is a combination of ‘would’ and ‘have’, blending the full form of "would" with the shortened spoken form of "have", which is "a". “Woulda” retains the meaning of ‘would have’ but expresses it in a more relaxed, compressed way.

D. Clipping

Clipping is a process where parts of a word are removed to create a shorter version without changing its original meaning. Clipping refers to the morphological shortening of a longer word.

- a). Amps: The word *amps* is formed from the word ‘amplifiers’. The latter part of the word “-lifiers” is removed, keeping the first part “amp” and adding an “s” to indicate plurality.
- b). ‘Round: The word *‘round* is formed from the word ‘around’, where part of the original word is removed while keeping its meaning intact. The omission of the initial “a” makes speech more efficient. The apostrophe at the beginning indicates the missing portion, a common feature in contractions and shortened words.

- c). Bro: The word *bro* is formed from the word ‘brother’, where the second syllable “-ther” is omitted while maintaining the original meaning.
- d). Babe: The word *babe* is a clipped form of ‘baby’, formed by removing the final syllable “-y” and leaving “bab”. Rather than keeping the form *bab*, an “e” was added at the end, resulting in “babe”. This addition makes the word easier to read and pronounce. The final “e” also gives it a softer, more fluid sound, making it feel more emotionally expressive in usage.
- e). ‘Cause: The word *‘cause* is a clipped form of ‘because’, where the first syllable “be-” is omitted while preserving the word’s meaning. The apostrophe signifies the letters that have been removed.
- f). Lookin’: The word *lookin’* is a clipped form of ‘looking’, where the final “-g” is omitted while keeping the word’s meaning intact. The apostrophe at the end indicates the removed portion.
- g). Seein’: The word *seein’* is a clipped form of ‘seeing’, where the “-g” at the end is removed while preserving the meaning.
- h). Nothin’: The word *nothin’* is a clipped form of ‘nothing’, where the final “-g” is omitted while preserving the meaning. The apostrophe at the end highlights the removed portion, marking the shift in pronunciation.
- i). ‘Bout: The word *‘bout* is a clipped form of ‘about’, where the initial “a” is removed while preserving the word’s meaning. The apostrophe at the beginning indicates the omitted portion.
- j). Gazin’: The word *gazin’* is a clipped form of ‘gazing’, where the final “-g” is omitted while preserving the original meaning. The apostrophe at the end marks the omitted portion.
- k). Watchin’: The word *watchin’* is a clipped form of ‘watching’, where the final “-g” is removed without changing the grammatical function and maintaining the word’s meaning. The apostrophe at the end indicates the omitted portion.
- l). Dad: The word *dad* refers to the ‘daddy’ word, where the final “-dy” syllable is removed while preserving the original meaning.
- m). Mom: The word *mom* refers to the ‘mommy’ word, created through clipping by removing the “-my” syllable to form a simpler word.
- n). ‘Til: The word *‘til* is a clipped form of ‘until’, seen as a morphological reduction. It was created by removing the first syllable “un“ and leaving the “til” without changing the word’s meaning. The apostrophe at the beginning marks the omitted portion.
- o). Workin’: The word *workin’* is a clipped form of ‘working’, where the final “-g” is omitted to create a more fluid and informal pronunciation. The apostrophe at the end marks the removed portion.

E. Derivation

Derivation is a word formation process in which prefixes or suffixes are added to a base or root word, resulting in a new word with a different meaning.

- a). Fucking: The word *fucking* is formed from the vulgar root word “fuck” that serves as an intensifier and adds the suffix “-ing”, creating its present participle or gerund form “fucking”. While “fuck” means “to have sexual”, “fucking” is commonly used as an intensifier or expletive, expressing strong emotion or emphasis.
- b). Tipsy: The word *tipsy* is formed from the root word of the verb “tip,” which refers to an unstable position, frequently linked to the effects of alcohol consumption. And adding the suffix “-sy”, which may indicate unsteadiness or tilting. The suffix “-y” is often used to form adjectives that describe states or conditions. While the meaning of “tip” does not

directly align with the definition of "tipsy," the combination of the root and suffix alters its meaning to signify mild intoxication.

- c). Sloppy: The word *sloppy* is formed from the root word "slop," which refers to spilled liquid or mess, and adds the suffix "-y". By adding the suffix "-y", it transforms into the adjective "sloppy", which conveys the idea of being messy, disorderly, or done without care.
- d). Sweetie: The word is formed through derivation from the root word "sweet," which is an adjective that describes a pleasant taste or personality. An affix "-ie" is added to a base word to create a new term with an altered meaning. The addition of the suffix "-ie" to "sweet" turns the adjective into a noun, expressing affection or endearment. While "sweet" originally describes taste or character, "sweetie" shifts into a noun that refers to a cherished person, often warmly or playfully.

F. Multiple Processes

Multiple processes in word formation occur when different types of word formation methods are combined to create a single word.

- a). Stellar: The word *stellar* formed through two-word formation processes: borrowing and derivation. *Stellar* originates from the Latin word "stella", which means star. This word was borrowed into English. Additionally, the formation of "stellar" involves derivation, as the suffix "-ar" is added to the root "stell-" to form an adjective. It is used to characterize exceptionally good things.
- b). Grandma: The word *grandma* refers to the "grandmother" word. It is formed through two-word formation processes: blending and clipping. It combines the terms "grand" and "mother". The word "grandmother" is reduced, keeping the first syllable of "grand" and modifying "mother" into "ma.". The syllable "-ther" is omitted, resulting in a shorter form that retains the original meaning.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data that was discussed in the previous chapter, the writer has reached several conclusions that are derived from the analysis conducted. It can be concluded that from Niki's *Buzz* album song lyrics, there are 45 slang words, and four types of slang words have been identified, namely fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, and clipping. Furthermore, from the slang words data, six word formation processes used to form slang words, namely borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, derivation, and multiple processes. Based on the research, clipping is the most frequently used type of slang and the most used word formation process in Niki's *Buzz* album song lyrics.

Slang encourages people to be more creative in their communication, making it simpler yet more engaging and expressive, both in everyday life, on social media, and in entertainment, such as music, movies, and other forms. Additionally, slang allows a language to evolve and grow over time. This research also shows that clipping is a frequently used word formation process in slang, particularly in song lyrics and youth media. This reflects broader linguistic trends where informal, efficient, and expressive forms of language are preferred in modern communication.

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