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## SLANG IN AEROSMITH SONG LYRICS

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### Abstract

The aim of this study is to find the slang words and the types of slang words in Aerosmith song lyrics. There are two statement problems. (1) What slang words are used in Aerosmith song lyrics? (2) What types of slang words are used in Aerosmith song lyrics? Slang is the nonstandard use of words in a language of a particular social group. Slang terms are often particular to a certain subculture, such as musicians, skateboarders, and drug users. The writer used Descriptive qualitative research. The slang words found in Aerosmith song lyrics: Ain't, whisky dick, son of a bitch, screamin, wanna, you're, gotta, gonna, 'cause, lightin' cryin', dancin', sleepin', packin', talkin' tryin', makin', darlin', sayin', countin', eatin'.

**Keywords: Aerosmith, Language Variety, Slang.**

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### INTRODUCTION

Language is the ability to acquire and use complex systems of communication, and Language is the most important aspect in the Lives of all beings. According to Meyer (2009: 21), language is one of many systems of communication, a system unique to human beings and distinct from, for instance, the systems of communication that animals employ. Language exists in three modes: Speech, Writing, and signs (used by people who are deaf). Although all languages (with the exception of sign language) exist in spoken form, only some have a written form. To Study language, linguistic focus on two levels of description: Pragmatics, the study of how context (both social and linguistic) affects language use, and Grammar. Grammar is the description of how humans form linguistic structures, from the level of sound up to the sentence, and of how sounds are produced by the organs of speech.

Language is related to the culture and social system of the community that uses it. This case may allow the differentiation of diction between some areas with another. The different Areas, social statuses, levels of education, and types of social interactions will produce variations in language. Slang, a non-standard

language variety, is seasonal, used by young people or a particular social group, and is used in internal communications that members of the group do not understand. While the idiom is a series of words whose meaning is not the same as the combined meanings of its constituent words. On this page, slang is often used. Usually, young people state that slang is the linguistic prerogative of young people and generally sounds odd in the mouth of older people Holmes, 2001: 167).

Sociolinguistics is the study of the effects of various aspects of society, including cultural. Norms and contexts of the language are used by Husdon(1980). People belong to the same social group if they have the same trade. Profession, hobby, age, or social position tends to place people at the same social level. This behavior influences not only the clothes they wear. But also the language they use. The language of a social group, particularly its slang. It is one of the several forms of behavior that keep the ground distinct from other groups. Language is a system of sounds used by a group to communicate and carry on their normal activities.

Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society, Holmes (1992:1), while Hymes (1974: 7) stated that sociolinguistics could be taken to refer to the use of linguistic data and analysis in other disciplines concerned with social life, and conversely, to the use of social data analysis in linguistics. Slang is not an official language, nor is it informal language, although it is widely used in oral communication for many purposes, as many words become outdated and obsolete due to trends. There is no formal classification in slang language, except perhaps that it is a subclass of the language.

The uniqueness of slang lies in its creative processes of word formation. As Yule (2006) suggests, slang is often constructed through various linguistic mechanisms such as blending, clipping, acronyms, and coinage. These processes allow slang to remain dynamic and expressive, distinguishing it from standard language (Abadi, 1983). Because slang is often 'short-lived' and shifts with trends, music lyrics become a significant medium for observing these linguistic phenomena."

There are many slang words used in song lyrics. Especially song lyrics by Aerosmith. Aerosmith is an American rock band, sometimes referred to as "the Bad Boys from Boston and "America's Greatest Rock and Roll Band". Their style, rooted in blues-based hard rock, has also incorporated elements of pop, heavy metal, and rhythm and blues, inspiring many subsequent rock artists. They were formed in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1970.

Aerosmith is the best-selling American hard rock band of all time, having sold more than 150 million records worldwide, including over 70 million records in the United States alone. With 25 gold albums, 18 platinum albums, and 12 multi-platinum albums, they hold the record for the most total certifications by an American band and are tied for the most multi-platinum albums by an American band. In this study the writer will explain about slang language, the source of data of this analysis is some lyrics Aerosmith.

## METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method to analyze the use of slang in music lyrics. Qualitative research is chosen as it allows for an in-depth investigation into linguistic phenomena within their social context. The data for this research consist of slang words and phrases identified within ten selected song lyrics by the American rock band, Aerosmith. The selected songs include: "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing," "What It Takes," "Angel," "Crazy," "Blind Man," "Walk on Water," "Amazing," "Pandora's Box," "My Fist Your Face," and "Young Lust."

The data were collected through a document review. First, the researcher selected and downloaded the lyrics of the eleven songs from reliable internet sources. The lyrics were then printed and read repeatedly to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the context and meaning of each line.

## Data analysis

Slang words in Aerosmith song lyrics are nonstandard use of words in the language of a particular social group. Slang terms are often particular to a certain subculture, such as musicians, skateboarders, and drug users. Another theory of slang by Mencken (1936) is that slang is a set of expressions that do not belong to Standard English. For example, "what's up" is a term for asking about people or getting a person. The writer found some slang words in the lyrics. The slang words are shown in the tables below.

Table 1: The data of slang words used in Aerosmith song lyrics.

No	Slang Words	Sentences
1.	Ain't	Tell me you ain't dyin' when you're cryin' for me
2.	Whisky dick	She was a tall whisky dick
3.	Son of a bitch	Son of a bitch put out the light
4.	Screamin	You're dyin' and you're screamin' inside
5.	Wanna	Cause I don't wanna burn in paradise
6.	You're	Say you're leavin
7.	Gotta	I gotta get this off my chest
8.	Gonna	I'm gonna make you come with me
9.	'Cause	Cause I'd miss you baby
10.	Lightin'	Don't make no sense lightin' candle
11.	Cryin'	When you're cryin' for me
12.	Dancin'	And they're dancing in the yacht club
13.	Sleepin'	Sleepin in this bed alone
14.	Packin'	You're packin up your stuff
15.	Talkin'	And talkin like it's tough
16.	Tryin'	And tryin to tell me
17.	Makin'	When it comes to makin love I ain't no hype
18.	Darlin'	Hey little darlin

19.	Sayin'	And I'm sayin a prayer for the desperate hearts tonight
20.	Countin'	Countin up the days
21.	Eatin'	
22.	Screamin'	You're screamin inside

The writer analyzed

the song lyrics based on the theory of George Yule, there are twelve types slang word formation, where each part of it has its own definition. From twelve types of George yule the writer just found four types of slang words in the lyrics of Aerosmith they are blending, clipping, coinage, compounding.

### Blending

#### 1. Ain't

Hey little darlin'

Love's four letters

Your love is legendary

Ain't in my dictionary

The word Ain't " is called blending because this word is a combination of 'is' and 'not', becoming a new word 'ain't'.

Ain't is a slang contraction of is not, are not, am not, do not, or does not.

#### 2. Wanna

Tell me who's to blame for thinkin' twice.

No no no no.

'Cause I don't wanna burn in paradise

The word wanna is called a blend because it combines the words want + to, producing a new single term. The word wanna is short for " want to and there is no word wanna in the English dictionary.

#### 3. You're

Say you're leavin' on a seven thirty train

And that you're headin' out to Hollywood

Girl, you been givin' me that line so many times

It kinda gets like feelin' bad looks good, yeah

The general meaning of " you're " has a short meaning: you + are. You're called blending because you're have the combination between you + are.

#### 4. You'll

It's amazing

With the blink of an eye, you finally see the light

It's amazing

When the moment arrives that you know you'll be alright

Oh, it's amazing

And I'm sayin' a prayer for the desperate hearts tonight

The general meaning you'll have a short meaning you + all. You'll call it blending because you'll have the combination of you + all.

5. Gotta

Eat the rich

Take one bite now - come back for more

There's only one thing that they are good for

Eat the rich

Eat the rich

I gotta get this off my chest

Eat the rich

The general meaning of " gotta is ha, " the short meaning of " got + to. Gotta is called a blending because it combines got and to.

6. Gonna

A blind man

And if I can

Who could change night into day

I'm gonna make you come with me

Because here comes the sun and we'll be chasing all the clouds away

Gonna called blending because this word combination between going to,

### Clipping

1. Cause

Don't want to close my eyes

'Cause I'd miss you baby

I don't want to fall asleep

And I don't want to miss a thing

'Cause even when I dream of you

The general meaning cause is has a short meaning because, cause called clipping because shortening from originally word because. Cause is slang for because.

2. Lightin'

The way bees chase honey

And if that doesn't do it, yeah, I know the reason why

And drink all the flowers dry

Don't make no sense lightin' candles

We'll be saving us a little money

Lightin' is called clipping because it is shortening from the original word lighting.

3. Cryin'

Tell me that you're happy, that you're  
on your own.

Yeah, yeah, yeah

Tell me that it's better when you're all  
alone.

Cryin' called clipping because shortening from originally word crying.

It call clipping because shortening the word.

#### 4. Sleepin'

Don't know what I'm gonna do about  
this feeling inside

Yes it's true, loneliness took me for a  
ride

Without your love I'm nothing but a  
beggar

The word sleepin' is a shortening of sleeping, and if the word is formed, it is called clipping.

#### 5. Packin'

You're packin' up your stuff

And talkin' like it's tough

And tryin' to tell me that it's time to go,  
yeah!

Packin called clipping because it is the reduction the word packing.

Packin is slang; it refers to holding or having.

#### 6. Talkin'

You're packin up your stuff

And talkin' like it's tough

And tryin' to tell me that it's time to go,  
yeah!

Tell me that your body doesn't miss  
my touch.

Tell me that my lovin' didn't mean that  
much.

Tell me you ain't dyin' when you're  
cryin' for me

Without your love a dog without a  
bone

What can I do? I'm sleepin' in this bed  
alone

But, I know you ain't wearin' nothin'  
underneath that overcoat

And it's all a show, yeah.

But, I know you ain't wearin' nothin'  
underneath that over coat

And it's all a show, yeah.

The word talkin shortening from talking and it call clipping.

7. Tryin'

You're packin' up your stuff

And talkin like it's tough

And tryin' to tell me that it's time to go,  
yeah!

But, I know you ain't wearin' nothin'  
underneath that over coat

And it's all a show, yeah.

The word tryin' is shortening from trying, and it is called clipping.

8. Makin'

When it comes to makin' love I ain't no hype...ha ha

'Cause I practice on a peach most every night

The word makin' shortening from making. The shortening formed called clipping.

9. Darlin'

Hey little darlin'

Your love is legendary

You got the boo yah

It's almost fictitious

'Scuse my position

Darlin' is called clipping because it is the reduction of the word 'darling'.

10. Sayin'

It's amazing

With the blink of an eye, you finally see the light

It's amazing

When the moment arrives that you know you'll be alright

It's amazing

And I'm sayin' a prayer for the desperate hearts tonight

The general meaning sayin is what are you doing or what are you up to. It shortening from saying.

11. Countin'

Makin' warp speed out the door

He the only one who stayed

Julio Afrokeluchie

Countin' up the days

The word countin shortening from counting and it called clipping.

12. Callin'

About all those things you said

And how they make you sick

About ordinary people

And if callin' names kicks back on you

The word callin' is shortening from calling.

13. Dancin'

And they're dancin' in the yacht club

With muff and Uncle Biff

But there's one good thing that happend

Dancing called clipping because shortening from originally word dancing.

14. Eatin'

From eatin' humble pie

So take your gray poupon, my friend

I believe in rags to riches

And shove it up your as

Your inheritance won't last

Eatin called clipping because it is the reducation the word eating, the general meaning eatin' is getting money, especially by husting.

15. Screamin'

Young lust

Oh, you're guilty way before you been tried

You're dyin', and you're screamin' inside

It's crazy, but you're diggin' it.

The word screamin " is a shortening of " screaming.

**Coinage**

I took some stuff they said would cool ya

But nothing seemed to light my fuse

But it's all in the past

Like a check that's in the mail

She was a tall whiskey dick

Whiskey dick. when you had too much to drink) and have a girl back home and cent get it up to perform the deed.

**Compounding**

You play hooky instead of schoolin'

Son of a bitch put out the light.

Son of a bitch used as a general term of contempt or abuse.

**FINDINGS**

The writer analyzed slang words in Aerosmith song lyrics. There are eleven selected songs of Aerosmith, they are I don't want to miss a thing, what it takes, angel, crazy, Blind Man, walk on the water, Amazing, Pandora box, My fist your face, Eat the rich, young lust. The data of this study are the lyrics of Aerosmith's selected songs which contain slang words and the data could be seen in the Appendix.

There are many ways to express the feelings; one of them can be expressed through music. In Aerosmith's selected song lyrics, there are many slang words that are used and have characteristics of slang words, which led the writer to analyze the data collected from collecting some song lyrics of Aerosmith on the internet.

After analyzing the data, the writer found many slang words used in Aerosmith's song lyrics, such as "gonna," "gotta," and "dancin'." Below are the results of slang word analysis in Aerosmith's selected songs.

Table 2: Table of word formation of slang

Blending	Clipping	Coinage	Compounding
Ain't	'cause	Whiskey dick	Son of a bitch
Wanna	Lightin'		
You're	Cryin'		
You'll	Sleepin'		
Gotta	Packin'		
Gonna	Talkin'		
	Tryin'		

	Makin'		
	Darlin'		
	Sayin'		
	Countin'		
	Callin'		
	Eatin'		
	Screamin'		

## DISCUSSION

The discussion focuses on how these slang terms are constructed and their contextual meaning within the rock music genre.

### 1. Clipping

Clipping is the most dominant process found in Aerosmith's lyrics. This process involves shortening a polysyllabic word without changing its meaning. Most of the data shows "back-clipping," particularly the omission of the final nasal consonant /-g/ in present participle forms (e.g., *cryin'*, *dancin'*, *eatin'*). This reflects a relaxed, colloquial speech style common in American Rock and Roll, aiming to maintain the song's rhythm and rhyme. For instance, the word '*Cause* (clipped from *Because*) is used frequently to simplify the meter of the lyrics.

### 2. Blending

Blending in these lyrics often appears as informal contractions. The study found terms like *wanna* (want + to), *gonna* (going + to), and *gotta* (got + to). A unique finding is the word *ain't*, which serves as a versatile blending of "am not," "is not," or "are not." These blends are markers of informal social interaction, creating a sense of intimacy and rebellion, which aligns with Aerosmith's "Bad Boys from Boston" persona.

### 3. Coinage and Compounding

While less frequent, coinage and compounding in the lyrics provide the "raw" and "edgy" characteristics of rock music. The term *Whiskey dick* is an example of Coinage, referring to a specific physiological condition caused by excessive alcohol consumption—a term originating from the rock subculture. Meanwhile, Compounding is seen in the phrase *Son of a bitch*. This term combines existing words to create a new, derogatory meaning used for emotional emphasis within the song's narrative.

The heavy use of Clipping and Blending indicates that Aerosmith's lyrical style prioritizes the flow of oral communication over standard grammatical rules. This linguistic choice reinforces their identity as rock musicians who communicate

through a "street-level" or non-standard variety of English that resonates with their audience.

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