

## An Analysis of Slang Words Used for Comments on Instagram

Zaenul Wafa<sup>1)</sup>, Dwiki Amalia Putri<sup>2)</sup>

### ABSTRACT

*The research entitled “An Analysis of Slang Words Used for Comments on Instagram” aims to find slang words on Instagram and find out the meaning of these words. The researcher used descriptive qualitative method. Of the 25 slang words studied in this study, the researcher found slang forms which included 11 words in abbreviation, 1 word in shortened form and 13 words in interjection. Based on the results of the research, it shows that slang was thought of as vulgar and street language because it is only used by criminals and the lowest class of society. However, now slang is used by teenagers and certain social classes.*

**Keywords;** *slang words, comments, instagram*

#### Correspondent Authors;

- 1) Lecturer of Universitas An Nuur, [zaenulwafa@unan.ac.id](mailto:zaenulwafa@unan.ac.id)
- 2) Students of Universitas An Nuur, [dwikeliii@gmail.com](mailto:dwikeliii@gmail.com)

### INTRODUCTION

Language is widely judged as a means of communication to send information. Haspo and

Rosa (2018) stated that language is a symbol used for communication, symbols can be pronounced or written. Language is an aspect of human behaviour. English is divided into two: standard language and non-standard language. Standard language is commonly used in formal situations such as schools, offices, and others. Whereas, non-standard languages are mainly used in informal situations and are mostly used by young people.

According to Janosik (2005), slang is the use of informal words that are considered non-standard in the speaker's language. Most

people often use slang at certain times. According to Janosik (2005), slang is the use of informal words that are considered non-standard in the speaker's language. Slang words are usually found because of habits in society. Slang used in society is usually a trend, most people choose to use it. Slang is most widely used by adolescents to communicate with their peers. Sun (2019) said that slang is a means of conveying expressions in human language, allowing us to express many ideas outside of the habit of expression. This is important since according to Widawski (2015), slang is not easy to clarify because it is very informal and not the same as formal language. Slang also adds to the richness of language style, often becoming the identity of certain social groups.

In this modern era, where technology rules the world, people's language develops the following technology. For example, it is the internet. On the internet, people are free to communicate with other people with different styles and accents of language. In this online communication, especially social media, people usually use many styles or slang words to communicate with each other.

Today, people cannot be separated from social media. Social media such as facebook, twitter, Instagram, etc are several kinds of social media that are popular now. Instagram is a social media that allows someone to post a photo or video. There are many accounts on Instagram that supply a source of news or information and a source of entertainment.

Instagram is an application that allows users to upload photos or videos to the service. Users can follow, like, and comment on other users to add their content to a feed. And also users can add some caption and location when users post a photo or video. A caption is a short phrase or sentence which usually explains the posting. Users may write whatever they want for the captions. Because of this, the rule of language is not obeyed and may cause a style of language.

The purpose of this study is to find slang words on Instagram and find out the meaning of these words.

### *Sociolinguistics*

Sociolinguistics is a study of language and society. Sociolinguistics is a field of study which deals mostly with language use, particularly spoken language, but not the grammatical or phonetic structure of a language. According to Chaika (1982), sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal being a better understanding of the structure of the language and of how languages function in communication. The equivalent goal in the sociology of language is trying to discover how social structure can be better understood through the study of the language. As Hudson (1980:1) said that "sociolinguistics is a study of language in relation with society". It means that sociolinguistics review language that is used in society daily. The language is fragmented by its group as a result of language that is used in society being different. The value of sociolinguistics is the light which it throws on the nature of language in general, or on characteristics of some particular language.

### *Discourse Community*

James Porter defined the discourse community as: "a local and temporary constraining system, defined by a body of texts (or more generally, practices) that are unified by a common focus. A discourse community is a textual system with stated and unstated conventions, a vital history, mechanisms for wielding power, institutional hierarchies, vested interests, and so on." Porter held the

belief that all new ideas added to a discourse community had an impact on the group, changing it forever.

Argumentation theorists Chaim Perelman and Lucie Olbrechts-Tyceta offer the following statement on the conditioned nature of all discourse, which has applicability to the concept of discourse community: "All language is the language of community, be this a community bound by biological ties, or by the practice of a common discipline or technique. The terms used, their meaning, their definition, can only be understood in the context of the habits, ways of thought, methods, external circumstances, and tradition known to the users of those terms. A deviation from usage requires justification ...".

"Producing text within a discourse community," according to Patricia Bizzell, "cannot take place unless the writer can define her goals in terms of the community's interpretive conventions." In other words, one cannot simply produce any text—it must fit the standards of the discourse community to which it is appealing. If one wants to become a member of a certain discourse community, it requires more than learning the lingo. It requires understanding concepts and expectations set up within that community.

The language used by discourse communities can be described as a register or diatype, and members generally join a

discourse community through training or personal persuasion. This is in contrast to the speech community (or the 'native discourse community,' to use Bizzell's term), who speak a language or dialect inherited by birth or adoption. Ideas from speech communities and interpretive communities were what led to the emergence of the notion of discourse communities.

### *Slang*

Slang is words or phrases that are informal language, and it is typically seen used in speech more often than in writing. It can be specific to a particular group of people or context; therefore, the meaning of the words may not be apparent to all people. According to Adams (2009:57). The speaker uses slang to achieve social dynamics with the people to whom he/she is speaking and slang outlines social spaces, and attitudes towards slang help identify. It means that when people use slang, people expose their ideas, feelings, and attitudes as to how people want to perceive the people that talk to us and how people want those people to perceive us, to infer what people mean.

In this study the authors use the theory of Patridge (2004) and Bloomfield (1933). The author uses these 2 concepts because the author has compared and also studied about these concepts and found some slang on Instagram related to the two theories. According to Patridge (2004), there are eleven types of slang, namely cockney slang (natives), home

slang, worker slang, merchant slang, arts slang, publicity slang, theater slang, public school and university slang, community slang, industrial slang. Medicine, army slang. But in this study the authors found only 2 types of slang, namely the type of community slang and the type of home slang, can be explained as follows:

a. Home Slang

The slang definition of community house is considered as a group of household words or phrases that form a vocabulary rift that is recorded according to the nature subject. This type is considered a friendly, cheerful, materialistic form, but not dirty and not cynical. Examples of common house slang:

- 1) Grand's, means grandmother.
- 2) Pals, means friend.

b. Community Slang

Community slang denotes excitement or joy over the object and practice of calling the slang user himself. Examples of community slang:

- 1) Come the Rothschild, means pretending to be rich.
- 2) Repulsive, means unpleasant or dull.

In addition, according to Bloomfield (1933) there are four forms of slang, namely abbreviated forms, funny misspelled forms, shortened forms and interjections. The following are examples and explanations:

a. Abbreviation

Abbreviations are shortened forms of words or phrases. For example:

- 1) BTW meaning By the way.
  - 2) FYI meaning For Your Informastion.
- b. Funny wrong words

Funny misspellings are odd pitch modifications and questions that are used as funny rant or express distrust of something. The expression does not have a form that matches the linguistic characteristics. For example :

- 1) Is that sho ? Spoken For sure ?
- 2) Is zat so ? Spoken Fo sho ?

c. Shortened Form

This abbreviated form is available in various languages. As an example:

- 1) Just wanna be with U = Just want to be with you.
- 2) U2 = You two.

d. Interjection

Interjection is a form that cannot be affixed and does not have syntactic support in other forms, and is used to express feelings. For example (expression of pleasure or pride) "hot damn", "that's my boy", "you're the man", "fuck yeah", and (expression of liking for food or drink) "yum-yum", "yummy".

***Feature of Slang***

Slang is one of the most interesting and at the same time difficult phenomena of language. Many researchers usually carry a slang to social dialects. The dialect in this context is the territorial, temporary or social kind of language. In the English lexicography

the term “slang” was widely adopted approximately at the beginning of the last century. The etymology of the word “slang” also is disputable. Slang the complex, difficult and inevitable language phenomenon. Its emergence is always caused by historical, social and cultural tendencies of life of this or that language community.

Yanchun and Yanhong (2013:2209-2210) states slang is quite different from language in general. This language contrasts with grammatical structure because slang contains words that have additional meaning in a new style. There are the features that makes slang different with formal language, that are:

a. Humor

Slang is considered as “comedy” by users because of its humorous effect. The humor of slang first represented in terms of its phonetic humor. It takes advantage of the euphony to get the aim of being easily understood and remembered and to get the purpose of being readable and vivid. Rhyme is a common phonetic method in American slang to get its humorous effect. For example : bilu (baby I love you), bestie (best friend), ASAP (as soon as possible) and so on. The usage of rhyme in slang can make people feel a sense of rhythm in sounds.

b. Conciseness

Conciseness as a primary characteristic of slang. This is obtainable from the form of words that are shortened or

combined to describe longer words. The examples are the following: fav (favorite), bro (brother), classy (fashionable) and so on. Those words are brief and easy to speak.

c. Originality

Slang is the diction created by youth who love to play with words in a way, renaming things and actions, inventing new words or detonating the old words for pleasure of fashion. For example, think-machine (brain), sparkler (diamond), pickers (hands), and so on. Slang words are invented by a few people for the pleasure of novelty and imitated by others who like to be in fashion.

d. Instability

Slang can change rapidly. A new vocabulary will be making the old slang forgotten by users. Old slang becomes worn and lost its eccentricity, as a result old slang has been accepted to become a standard language. For example, in 1930s the word “gay” in the sense homosexual has not included in slang word, but has been accepted becomes a standard language at the present. This unstable slang is only used for more than a few research.

### RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the researcher used a qualitative research method in case study design. Qualitative research is the collection, analysis, and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual data in order to gain insight into a particular phenomenon of interest. It was supported by Hancock, et.al (2009:6) who stated that qualitative research focused on


description and interpretation of social phenomena. It might lead to development of new concepts or theories.

In the sampling technique, the researcher used purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is a sampling technique of data sources with certain considerations, for example, the person is considered to know best about what we expect. The reason for using this purposive sampling technique is because the purposive sampling technique is one of the best sampling techniques in qualitative research. The subject of the study was obtained through comments on Instagram, totaling 24 accounts.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Findings


Some examples of slang that I found in Instagram comments, such as:

- 


1. (BAE) It usually refers to a person's romantic partner, especially a boyfriend or girlfriend, but has also been used as a general term of affection for things, including inanimate objects. The word can be used in a gender-neutral sense. The term originated as an abbreviation of the word "baby" or "babe".

- 

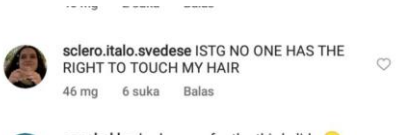
2. (SM) Abbreviation. Online, SM, or sm, can stand for so much (e.g, I love you sm). It's hard to track down the first instances of these types of acronyms, but SM likely took off in the 1990s and 2000s with the rise of texting, chatrooms, forums, and social media.

- 

3. (PERIODTHH) Periodt comes from period, used as an interjection to show a statement is final, that there is nothing else to be said or debated. Conversation over. No more discussion. For example: Cheating is wrong, period.

- 

4. (SLAYING) Interjection. If something or someone "slays" it means that they are doing a great job or that they are really cool. It is similar to "killed it".

- 

5. (ISTG) Abbreviation. ISTG is an acronym that means I swear to God. It can be used to convey extreme seriousness, exasperation, or surprise, and is usually used outside of a serious religious context.



6.

(LMAO) Abbreviation. Lmao stands for laughing my ass off. Typically people use it in written conversations to show that they think something is funny.



7.

(AIN'T) Shortened form. The definition of ain't is slang for the phrases am not, is not, are not and have not. If someone accuses you of being stupid and you want to protest the accusation, this is an example of when you might say "I ain't stupid."



8.

(STFU) Abbreviation. The phrase is probably a shortened form of "shut up your mouth" or "shut your mouth up". Its use is generally considered rude and impolite, and may also be considered a form of profanity by some.



9.

(FR) Abbreviation. FR stands for "for

real." This term can be used in a variety of ways First, it can be used as a form of agreement.



10.

(YASS) Yas /jɑ:s/ is a playful or non-serious slang term equivalent to the excited or celebratory use of the interjection "yes!", though with LGBT or queer cultural associations. Yas was added to Oxford Dictionaries in 2017, and defined as a form of exclamation "expressing great pleasure or excitement".



11.


(TBH) Abbreviation. While "tbh" still means "to be honest" or sometimes "to be heard," it's no longer associated with an insult ("I'm just being honest!"), but with compliments.



12.

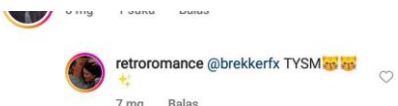
(BC) BC stands for "because." Unlike other internet slang terms we've covered, "BC" isn't an acronym. Instead, it's an abbreviation that shortens the word but completely retains its meaning.

13.



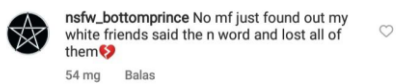
(AF) AF. informal offensive (also af) written abbreviation for as fuck: used, for example on social media and in text messages, for emphasizing something: He can be dumb AF sometimes.

14.



(TYSM) Interjection. tism. (Internet slang, text messaging) Initialism of thank you so much.

15.



(MF) Abbreviation. MF can stand in for all your MF needs (e.g., a motherfucker or the modifier motherfucking). MF'er, for motherfucker, is a variant, as is MF'ing. In the digital age, you'll likely see MF online for people either trying to save a little time in their swearing or avoid the outright force of motherfucker.

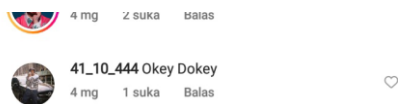
16.



(GLAD) Interjection. The definition

of glad is happy, pleased, delighted, contented, cheerful, gratified, joyful, overjoyed, chuffed (slang), gleeful.

17.




(OKEY DOKEY) Interjection. Okey dokey is used in the same way as 'OK' to show that you agree to something, or that you want to start talking about something else or doing something else. [informal, spoken] Okey dokey.

18.




(CLASSY) Interjection. If you describe someone or something as classy, you mean they are stylish and sophisticated.

19.




(ILY) Abbreviation. ILY stands for I love you.

20.



(NO WAY) Interjection. Used to tell someone that something is impossible.

21.





(CRUSH) Interjection. A crush usually refers to romantic feelings for someone that go unexpressed.



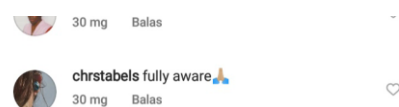
22.

(WHAT IS GOING ON) Interjection. Can also mean "What's happening?"



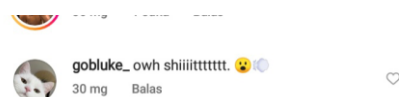
23.

(SIGH) Interjection. We often associate sighs with feelings such as relief, sadness, or exhaustion. While sighing can play a role in communication and emotions, it's also physiologically important for maintaining healthy lung function.



24.

(FULLY) Interjection. It is like adding more expression to what you are saying.



25.

(SHIT) Interjection. This expression is commonly used to say that a person is always telling lies and exaggerating stories. We are describing the person with this expression, not the content

of what they are saying, like a crock of shit (above).

No.	Types of Slang Word	Data
1.	Abbreviation	Data no. 1,2,5,6,8, 9,11,12, 13,15,19.
2.	Funny wrong words	-
3.	Shortened Form	Data no. 7
4.	Interjection	Data no. 3, 4,10,14,16,17,18, 20,21,22,23,24,25

**CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION**

Of the 25 slang words studied in this study, the researcher found slang forms which included 11 words in abbreviation, 1 word in shortened form and 13 words in interjection.

Based on the results of the research, it shows that slang was thought of as vulgar and street language because it is only used by criminals and the lowest class of society. However, now slang is used by teenagers and certain social classes.

**REFERENCES**

Hancock, E., Kate W, and Elizabeth O. (2009). An Introduction to Qualitative Research. The NIHR RDS EM / YH.

Janosik, S. M. (2005). An Analysis of Slang Words in Song Lyrics Used by "Bruno

- Mars." *NASPA Journal*, 42(4), 1.
- Sun, Z., Zemel, R., & Xu, Y. (2019). Slang Generation as Categorization. *CogSci*, 2898–2904.
- Widawski, M. (2015). *African American Slang*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Haspo, Charlino, F. & Rosa, R. (2018). An Analysis of Slang Words in Song Lyrics Eminem on Album *Kamikaze*. *English Language and Literature Online Journal*, 7(4), 523-529.
- Chaika, Elaine. (1982). *Language the Social Mirror*. Massachusetts: Newbury House Publishers Inc.
- Adams, Michael. 2009. *Slang*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Porter, James E. "Intertextuality and the Discourse Community." *Rhetoric Review*, vol. 5, no. 1, 1986, pp. 34-47.
- Yanchun, Zhou, and Yanhong Fan. (2013). "A Sociolinguistic Study of American Slang." Changchun: Changchun University of Science and Technology.
- Hudson, R.A. 1996. *Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bizzell, Patricia (1992). *Academic Discourse and Critical Consciousness*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Bloomfield, L. (1933). *Language*. New York: Reinhart & Winstor, Inc.
- Patridge, E. (2004). "Slang: Today and Yesterday". London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, Ltd.