

THE FUNCTION OF SLANG WORDS FOUND IN *THE AFTER PARTY* MOVIE DIRECTED BY IAN EDELMAN

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Abstract: This research aims to identify the function of slang words found in *The After Party* movie directed by Ian Edelman. This research focuses on classifying the function of slang words found in the movie by using the theory of function of slang words proposed by Zhou & Fan (2013). Descriptive qualitative approach was utilized in this research and the data was collected from the movie and the subtitles. The researcher collected the data through watching the movie, reading its subtitles, determining slang words, making notes, and classifying the data. In analyzing data, the researcher implemented interactive model analysis which consisted of four stages of analyzing data; data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. The researcher found 85 slang terms uttered by characters from the movie. The characters utilized 12 slang terms to pursue self-identity as part of particular groups, 52 slang terms to show emotive feelings of the users, and 21 slang terms to achieve politeness in maintaining relationship with others.

Keywords: Slang, Function, The After Party Movie

Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi fungsi kata-kata gaul yang terdapat dalam film *The After Party* yang disutradarai oleh Ian Edelman. Penelitian ini berfokus pada pengklasifikasian fungsi kata-kata gaul yang ditemukan dalam film tersebut dengan menggunakan teori fungsi kata-kata gaul yang dikemukakan oleh Zhou & Fan (2013). Pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif digunakan dalam penelitian ini dan data dikumpulkan dari film dan teks film. Peneliti mengumpulkan data dengan cara menyaksikan film, membaca teks film, menentukan kata-kata gaul, membuat catatan, dan mengklasifikasikan data. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menerapkan analisis model interaktif yang terdiri dari empat tahap dalam menganalisis data, yaitu pengumpulan data, reduksi data, penyajian data, dan kesimpulan. Peneliti menemukan 85 istilah gaul yang diucapkan oleh karakter dalam film. Para karakter menggunakan 12 istilah gaul untuk mengejar identitas diri sebagai bagian dari kelompok tertentu, 52 istilah gaul untuk menunjukkan perasaan emosional penggunaannya, dan 21 istilah gaul untuk mencapai kesopanan dalam menjaga hubungan dengan orang lain.

Kata kunci: Bahasa Gaul, Fungsi, Film *The After Party*

INTRODUCTION

Humans live with others, due to the nature of humans themselves as social creatures who have necessities in communicating with the others. In order to develop proper interactions with others, humans need a proper tool to express their ideas and feelings through signs and symbols. This tool is known today as language. Language has become the most important thing for humans in conducting communications with others. Humans can transmit their ideas and feelings in order to maintain relationships in their communication with others by utilizing language. Chaturverdi (2014) stated the language surrounds its users develops the users' personality, describes the users' social behavior, supports the users' social system, portrays thoughts and feelings, provides its users a platform to share ideas, co-operate, and refines its users' development process.

Language today becomes main tool to interact with people around the world. Language conducts a significant role in the world of trade, international agendas and many other important things in the world. The use of language allows people to portray feelings and thoughts through sounds, symbols, written or spoken words, posture, signs and others. Nowadays, there are a lot of languages utilized by humans based on their cultures, geographical locations, and backgrounds. In order to develop and to maintain relationships with people around the world, a language becomes a necessity to help humans in communicating with people across the world, which is the reason English being used by people around the world. English has become one of language which is officially uttered by people around the world. According to Berlitz (2021), there is a billion English speakers, consist of three hundred million native speakers and seven hundred million non-native speakers. Hornby (1995) also stated that English becomes a language of international communications throughout the world. According to the explanation before, it means that English is officially used by people around the world to conduct interactions and to maintain relationships with others.

English shares a similarity to other languages, which has formal and non-formal of the language. According to Widarso (1989), English contains two categories; standard English and non-standard English. Standard English is accepted by most English speakers which have proper background in education. In the other hand, Widarso stated that non-standard English is uttered by a young group, a student group and certain groups which utilize English in different forms. This type of language used by particular people to solidify their status as part of some groups. This type of language is usually known as slang language.

Slang words are varieties of language used by some persons in society according to different social situation, stated by Holmes (2001). The use of slang language can be influenced by some factors; age, status, and gender. Slang is frequently uttered by its users in conversation to portray their ideas and feelings, also develop intimate relationship in creative ways. In another statement, Burke (2003) stated slang words are non-standard terms made by the modern community and usually used by young people in particular condition. Slang language in modern time often occurs in daily life and still have relations within young people in various modern

media. Movie is one of the media that people watch in modern days. The viewers of the movie are able to get some benefits such as entertainment, information, knowledge, and life lessons. Movie has a complex format as a media, due to the use of the language as the significant part to convey the messages to the audiences. However, some expressions which are found in the movie are difficult to acknowledge due to the complex language, such as slang terms, are utilized often in the movie. The viewers who are not familiar with the format of language in the movie, such as slang terms from the movie, will find it difficult to receive information and messages that the movie try to portray.

The After Party is one of the movies which utilizes slang words to portray the life of hip hop community. It was released in 2018 and directed by Ian Edelman. It told a story Owen, who was known by his rap name "OH!", and his manager Jeffrey who try to develop Owen's career and signed a record deal with major music label. When Owen received an opportunity to perform in front of a famous rapper Wiz Khalifa and to raise his popularity, he failed to do it by messing his performance and became viral after throwing up at Wiz Khalifa. After that, Owen was at the bottom of his career and almost join marines, before Jeffrey found the only way to make him famous and signed a record deal to major music label. The movie itself portrayed the life of a young rapper in hip-hop community, which mostly used slang words in the dialogues. Due to a significant numbers of slang words found in this movie, the researcher chose *The After Party* as the object of the research. The researcher utilized the theory of functions of slang words by Zhou Yanchun and Fan Yanhong (2013) in order to examine the functions of slang words found in the movie.

RESEARCH METHOD

In conducting this research, the researcher utilized descriptive qualitative proposed by Creswell (1994). Johnson and Christensen (2004) stated descriptive qualitative research does not portray the numeral or statistics but it depends on the amount of knowledge of the researcher in analyzing the data. Bodgan and Bilken (1992) stated that qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected in the form of a word or picture rather than number. The written results of the research contain quotations from the data to illustrate and to substantiate the presentation. Based on the previous explanations, the researcher utilized descriptive qualitative method in order to find the functions of slang words found in the movie.

The researcher used *The After Party* movie as the main source of the data. The researcher also utilized subtitles as secondary data in order to help the researcher identify the data. In collecting data, the researcher implements some steps such as watching the movie for five times, reading the subtitles from the movie, determining slang words found from the movie, making notes for aspect in slang terms elaborated by some events, and classifying slang terms found in the movie based on the theory of slang words' functions from Zhou & Fan.

In analyzing data, the researcher used Interactive Model Analysis proposed by Huberman and Miles (1984). Interactive Model Analysis provides data analysis when the research is in the field

or after returning from new field in the analysis and the data analysis has been done simultaneously with collection process. This technique of data analysis is through four stages; 1) data collection, 2) data reduction, 3) data presentation, 4) conclusion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. RESULTS

The researcher used Zhan & You theory of the functions of slang words to determine slang words found in the movie into three categories. The researcher found that from 85 slang terms found in the movie, there are 12 slang words to pursuit self-identity, 52 slang words to portray emotive feelings of their users, and 21 slang words to achieve politeness.

Pursuit Self-identity

Slang is considered as symbol of certain group in society. Yanchun Zhou and Yanhong Fan (2013) stated that if someone utilized slang terms within a certain social group or professional group, someone would blend mentally with the group members. The users of slang terms have a purpose to be identified as part of groups by using slang words which are related to the groups. Based on the previous explanation, the researcher concluded that slang words are utilized by their users to gain recognitions as part of certain groups.

In *The After Party* movie, the researcher found 12 slang words that portray the signs of their users who have objectives to be recognized as part of certain groups. The researcher portrayed one of the data below:

00:02:32

Bernard : You gangsta?
Jeff : Mm hmm.
Bernard : You in that murder gang shit? Slaughter gang shit?
Owen : No. Not really.
Bernard : You **hard**? You shoot somebody's mom before?

Based on the quoted conversations above, Bernard used slang "hard" to ensure that Owen is a rapper that has a relation with criminal activities since rapper with criminal backgrounds attracts attention from public. According to NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions, "hard" means "though".

00:09:47

Wiz Khalifa : You smoke?
Owen : Like.... Like, not all the time. Like.... Like a little bit.
Jeff : Like, if your definition of a little something is all day every day. We love **weed**.

Owen : Shut the fuck up. What are you doing?

Jeff : One pic of you chieffing a joint with Wiz Khalifa gets us 10,000 fans on Instagram, easy.

Jeff used the slang *weed* to show Wiz Khalifa that he and Owen also consume drugs in order to get a picture with Wiz Khalifa and raise their popularity through Instagram, since Wiz Khalifa is one of the most famous rapper in the world. Jeff utilized the slang term in order to become part of Wiz Khalifa's group as consumers of drugs. According to NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions, *weed* is a term to refer to marijuana.

01:00:29

Jeff : You know, you were so obsessed with following my sister around tonight, that you blew our last chance of achieving our dream.

Owen : Am I fucking hearing things? You blew our last chance when you made me smoke Khalifa kush, so we could get some **stoner** Instagram followers. We're not **stoners**, Jeff.

Based on the conversation above, Owen used slang *stoner* which is a term to refer a drug user. His motive in using the slang was to clarify that he and Jeff did not consume drugs and pretended as drug users in order to get famous instantly. According to The Online Slang Dictionary, the slang term *stoner* means "a person who frequently smokes marijuana".

Emotive Feeling

People tend to utilize slang terms to express the way they feel about someone or something. According to Zhou and Fan (2013), slang is not only for stressing someone's identity or group membership, but also help its users to portray their emotion for psychological need, as one of the functions of language. Based on the previous explanation, it can be concluded that slang words have a function to show the emotive feelings of the users.

In *The After Party* movie, the researcher found 52 slang words have been utilized in order to show the emotive feelings of their users. Below is one of the data that portrays the function of slang terms to show emotive feeling:

00:07:33

Mr. Levine: You know you're not gonna have time to play rap manager at Harvard next year with your pre-law course load, plus your internship at Slowski Scheinbaum Saperstein Selquwitz and Mascarpone.

Jeff : **Fuck** my life.

Based on the conversation above, Jeff using slang *fuck* which is a way to disregard something. Jeff showed his anger due to the way his father treat his job as Owen's manager as

a joke. According to NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions, *fuck* means an expression of anger or exasperation.

Jeff : DJ Khaled!

DJ Khaled : Bro, you gotta **chill**, man, chill. I'm on the low, man.

Jeff : Bless up!

DJ Khaled : Bless up. Wise up!

Based on the conversation above, Owen and Jeff visited an exclusive after party which had numbers of famous visitors. DJ Khaled uttered slang *chill* to tell Jeff to calm down after Jeff called his name with excitement voice, since DJ Khaled is one of the famous music producer. According to NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions, *chill* has a meaning of "to relax".

00:14:09

Owen : Because my dad served in the Marines and his life turned out pretty sick compared to my current life.

Jeff : He owns a fake Chipotle called Chip O'Lees. My guy, he is one cease and desist letter away from going bust.

Owen : Woah! Don't be a **dick**, okay?

Based on the conversation below, Owen utilized slang *dick* to show his anger toward Jeff who described his father's work in a disrespectful way. The Online Slang Dictionary stated the slang word *dick* is a term refer to a mean person or a rude person.

Achieving Politeness

People tend to use slang terms to implement the politeness in the conversation due to some factors in some situations. According to Zhou and Fan (2013), using proper slang terms help the users to develop certain atmosphere or maintain social connections. Slang words are often used in informal situation and have importance in playing phatic function to maintain relationship and intimacy between the utterers of slang words. Based on previous explanation, it can be concluded that slang terms are important in casual circumstances to develop intimacy in relationships between their users.

In *The After Party* movie, the researcher found 21 slang words which have signs in achieving politeness of their users. Below are some data the researcher already found:

00:02:06

Jeff : Well, Bernard, please tell Rahmel to come see OH! this Thursday at Charlamagne's Up Next MC Showcase. Sure to be **lit** as tits.

Bernard : Lit as tits.

Jeff : Mm-hmm.

Bernard : A basement full of **broke-ass** SoundCloud rappers and zero bitches is gonna be lit as tits? I mean, no offense, man, you're nice, but that sounds horrible.

In this conversation, Bernard said what he thought about the place where Owen would perform. Due to informal situation and their similar ages, Bernard used slang *broke-ass* to achieve politeness when he gave a commentary about the place where Owen would perform. According to The Online Slang Dictionary, *broke-ass* has a meaning of "out of money".

00:09:30

Jeff : What's up, Bernard?

Bernard : **Cool**, man.

Jeff : **Cool**. Did you bring Rahmel with you?

On the conversation above, Bernard came to the club where Owen would perform and met Jeff. Bernard and Jeff utilized the slang in order to maintain intimacy in communication. According to NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions, slang *cool* means "good".

00:28:39

Jeff : Jessica, this is my fifth voicemail. Do I need to send you a fucking raven? You're making me look awful in front of my client.

Owen : Jeff's head is about to **pop off**.

Alicia : His heart is in the right place, but he needs to stop spazzing out. He's turning into our Dad.

Owen : That's like his biggest fear in life.

In this conversation, Owen and Alicia gave commentaries about Jeff who was angry about their names were not listed in French Montana's VIP list concerts. Owen used slang *pop off* to have a proper conversation with Jeff's older sister Alicia. The usage of the slang word showed that Owen had a good relationship with Alicia. NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions stated that the slang term *pop-off* means "to lose one's temper".

B. DISCUSSIONS

The After Party is a movie that tells about the struggle of a young rapper in gaining popularity in United States of America. As this research discussed, the movie contains particular numbers of slang terms uttered by the characters from the movie. After analyzing

the data, the researcher discussed the data in order to reach the objective of this research; to classify the function of slang words from the movie. In this research, the researcher found that the characters from the movie used 85 slang terms, which had been categorized into three functions; 12 slang terms to pursuit self-identity, 52 slang terms to show emotive feeling, and 21 slang terms to achieve politeness. The result of this research conveyed the high amount of slang words were utilized by the characters to express their feelings.

The research also compared this research to previous research in order to deepen the discussion of the research. As the researcher already stated at previous sections, this study aimed to examine the function of slang words from *The After Party* movie by implementing theory of function of slang words proposed by Zhou & Fan (2013). Therefore, the research compared to previous research which also implemented similar theory.

In Situmorang and Herman's research (2021), the researchers identified the functions of slang words found from *Charlie's Angels* movie, using the theory of functions of slang words from Zhou & Fan theory. From 25 slang words obtained from *Charlie's Angels* movie, the researchers identified 5 slang words were uttered to pursuit self-identity, 13 slang words were utilized to show emotive feelings of their users, and 7 slang words were uttered to achieve politeness. Based on the result of the research, the researchers found the slang words mostly utilized to show emotive feeling of their users. However, the researchers found fewer slang terms were used from *Charlie's Angels* movie.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis from previous section, the conclusion of the problem about the function of slang words found from *The After Party* movie directed by Ian Edelman can be presented as follows:

There are three functions of slang words according to Zhou & Fan (2013); to pursuit self-identity, to show emotive feeling, and to achieve politeness. From the movie, the researcher found 85 slang words, which were consisted of 12 slang words to pursuit self-identity, 52 slang words to show emotive feeling, and 21 slang words to achieve politeness. Based on the number of slang words uttered by characters from the movie, they used slang words mostly to show emotive feeling, due to big amount of dialogues from the movie.

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