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An Analysis of Slang Used in Wednesday TV Series 2022

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Abstract

This research is conducted to discuss the types of slang words and the functions of the slang words in the Wednesday TV Series. The researcher used theory about types of slang proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) and Bloomfield and Guth (2014) to classify the types of slang and to analyze the function of slang. This research was conducted by using Descriptive Qualitative Research. The technique used to collect the data was the taking notes technique and to analyze the data was the document analysis. Based on the data analysis it was found seven types of slang found in Wednesday TV Series which is fresh an creative with a total 11 data, flippant with a total 22 data, imitative with a total 7 data, clipping with a total 7 data, abbreviation with a total 4 data, interjection with a total 2 data, and shortened forms with a total 2 data. Furthermore, there are seven function of slang found in Wednesday TV Series, they are to address with a total 8 data, to form intimate atmosphere with a total 9 data, to initiate relax conversation with a total 19 data, to express impression with a total 9 data, to show intimacy with a total 2 data, to reveal anger with a total 3 data, and to humiliate with 5 data.

Keywords: Slang, Wednesday, Analysis, Sociolinguistics

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I INTRODUCTION

Slang is a term used to describe words or expressions that are very casual, sometimes only temporary, and typically used to identify with those closest to one. It is utilized among people of different ages and social groupings. Slang is a common and well-known language style among

many people, and sociolinguistics studies them as one of the language varieties. It is a common language that used by members of social groups who are close to each other.

In language development this type of language plays an important role as its represent

trends, group identity and changing relationships. The usage of slang words that are more common among people of a given generation or age. For instance, each generation or age group typically has its own set of slang expressions that capture the current culture, fashions, or experiences that are important to them.

The demand for new terms can often be caused by changes in culture and society. The kinds of slang that arise can be influenced by technological advancements, fashion trends, music, politics, and other societal changes. Today's generation uses a variety of new slang words in both daily conversations and on social media today.

Example of slang word that is quite popular on social media today is the use of the word *salty*, *I'm still a fan even though I was salty*, in Indonesian *salty* means *Asin* but in the sentence *salty* is used to replace an expression of annoyance or anger. Then the word *slay*, *girl you ate that*, *slay*, generally *slay* means *kill* but in the sentence *slay* means *cool*, another example is the word *crush* used to mention someone we like, and the word *red flag* to express something bad in someone.

A few people use slang to develop or establish an interesting or remarkable speaking style. This may involve employing slang words that reflect a specific style or culture. Slang usage occasionally shows the impact of media such as movies, music, or social media. A person may feel more a part of the culture or movement if they do this. In informal settings, slang is frequently used to prevent the appearance of excessive formality. It is appropriate for circumstances in which more formal communication is neither required nor anticipated. Slang can also be used to get around formal or standardized language conventions that are seen as stiff or monotonous. A more creative and engaging speaking style could arise from it.

Slang may encourage an extra familiar and comfortable attitude in casual interactions or among close friends. It builds deeper interpersonal connections. Some groups of people establish and utilize slang to communicate among themselves so as to avoid being recognized by outsiders. This is completely compatible with the concept of language, which

states that language serves as the primary means of interactivity, the dissemination of ideas and information, and the construction of one's own identity. Teenagers who belong to particular social groups and who want to communicate their aspirations as a means of confidence, freedom of expression, and self-awareness typically utilize slang.

Based on the theory proposed by Allan and Burridge, the types of slang are as follows:

1) Fresh and creative. Slang words are considered fresh and creative if they contain something creativity, informal variation, new terminology, or are current as well. A few examples of fresh and creative slang words include *guys*, which are used to casually refer to a friend or someone, and *buddy*, which is used as a nickname for a friend or companion.

2) Flippant is a slang words that is used in opposition to its meaning. The term flippant refers to slang made up of two or more words that have no relation to the denotative meaning. For example, the word *dead end* can be categorized as flippant since it lacks a denotative or true meaning.

3) Imitative derives from the word imitating, which refers to slang words that are duplicated or taken from a Standard English word and have been contracted into shorter version by combining two different words. For example, the slang words *gonna* comes from the phrases "going to".

4) Clipping is a type of slang word that is formed by removing some elements from a lengthier word to get a shorter variant. Despite the modification in form, the meaning stays the same. For example, the word *till* comes from "until," and the word *cuz* from "because."

5) Acronym is slang words formed by combining the first letters of each word in phrase. The initials of a set of words or syllables are used to create this type. For example, the word *FOMO* is an acronym form of Fear of Missing Out.

The other expert, Chapman, also expressed his opinion about the types of slang. According to Bloomfield and Guth (2014), there are six types of slang.

1) Abbreviation is a term made by pronunciating the first letters of any or all of the words in a phrase or title as a word. Example,

ASAP (as soon as possible), CMIW (correct me if i'm wrong), and LOL (laughing out loud).

2) Funny Mispronunciation is an evolution in the intensity of the strange tone of the query employed as a humorous harsh language or to express distrust about anything.

3) Shortened Forms are written and spoken shortened versions of words, syllables, or groups of words formed by deleting internal letters and sounds.

4) Interjection is a words or phrases that are used to describe unexpected sentiments, emotions, or reactions, and they usually have no grammatical meaning. They are often utilized in order to express surprise, w

5) Figurative Expression. This form extends the meaning of words or groupings of words to achieve specific effects by associating two objects onder, or disagreement.

6) Nickname is a name given to someone based on their abilities. Nicknames are alternative for specific name of a recognized person, place, or object, and are typically used to communicate interest, they are a form of affection and fun.

Slang can be found anywhere, for example in places like school, the market, the workplace, and homes, and also in social media. Slang can also be found in American culture product for instance American movie. In this research, researcher choses the *Wednesday* series an object to be studied. *Wednesday* is an American series that carries the supernatural comedy horror drama genre. The *Wednesday* series tells the story of Wednesday Addams (Jenna Ortega), the firstborn of the Addams family who has supernatural abilities with an ecentric gothic style appearance.

Researcher choses this movie because several reasons, teenage characters from this movie appear in school, go about their daily life, and engage with one another. Slang words are utilized in teenage environments since they represent how young people nowadays communicate in daily basis. Characters from many social and cultural origins can be found in this movie. The use of slang words in this context can represent that differences that exist in society, such as variances in slang word usage depending on age groups, ethnic groupings, or social background.

II RESEARCH METHODS

The descriptive qualitative method was used by the researcher because it was required in the form of analysis research. Based on Dörnyei (2007:24) opinion, the qualitative method is characterized by goals related to undstanding particular aspects of social life, and their methods in general are more likely to create words rather than numbers, and main in open-ended as data for analysis. The data gathered may be textual, which means that it was obtained through audiotapes, videotapes, field notes and so on, Mack (2005:3). Based on the explanation above, the researcher took the data from *Wednesday* movie script.

In this research, researcher used observation method that defined by Mack (2005:2), observation methodis defined as a method for seeing and describing a subject's behavior, and it is includes a basic method of just observing the phenomenon. It is appropriate for collecting data using three methods generate are fields notes, audio and sometimes video

recordings, and transcript. The researcher use video and script because the researcher analyzed from *Wednesday* TV series.

Data analysis refers to the methodical classification and search for data for the purpose to gain a greater undstanding it and communicate it to others. According to Dörnyei (2007:213) the method of data analysis directed the researcher to the manner in which the research was carried out. Based on theory utilized in the spesific case, the analytical method directed the researcher in reviewing and describing the facts. Analytic method is a strategy for information analysis in view of result with speculations. In this research, after collecting the data, the researcher combined the theories by Allan and Burridge (2006) and Bloomfield and Guth theory (2014) to categorize of the data by separating slang type that was used when dialogue has taken place and then researcher also analyzed and interpreted the

function of slang based on Allan and Burridge theory (2006).

In order to collect data, the researcher uses Mack's theory, which states that we can utilize a variety of approaches, such as the taking notes technique. In collecting the data, researcher used taking notes technique. Taking notes is a way of writing down a summary of the data present. This research began on watching the Wednesday TV Series.

In watching the movie, the note-taking technique was used when there was a slang that appeared in the Wednesday TV Series based on Allan and Burridge's theory (2006) and

Bloomfield and Guth's theory (2014) about types of slang.

Dörnyei, data is studied through a process that goes from facts to theory (2007:242). To analyze the data that has been collected, the researcher used content or document analysis. Document analysis examines and interprets recorded material to learn about human behavior such as public records, textbooks, letters, films, or other document. Following data collection, the researcher examined and categorized the data depending on the theories used.

III RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1) Fresh and creative

Enid : Howdy, roomie.

Weems : Wednesday, this is Enid

Sinclair.

(Wednesday TV Series Episode 1)

In the dialogue above, the participants are Enid, Weems, and Wednesday. The setting in the dialogue above is in Wednesday new dorm in her new school. The relationship between Wednesday and Enid is distant relationship. Enid is a student at Wednesday's new school and will be her roommate. The relationship between Wednesday and Enid is distant relationship since they are just meet in that day and Wednesday's attitude toward Enid indicates she hates Enid.

Based on The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English and Urban Dictionary, the slang *howdy* means a friendly way of saying hello and *roomie* means a roommate. Based on the conversation above Enid chooses to use slang word *howdy* instead of hello and *roomie* instead of roommate. The purpose of using this kind of slang is she wants to form intimate atmosphere. Enid knows that Wednesday is a stranger. If Enid uses the word hello instead of *Howdy* and roommate instead of *roomie*, the distance of them will not have become closer as the word hello and roommate seems to be formal. According to the teory by Allan and Burridge slang *howdy* categorized into fresh and creative type.

2) Flippant

Wednesday : Relax. He's not interested in you.

Tyler : Uh, made you a quad.

On the house.

Fester : Hey, thanks kid. Need a refill on this puppy too.

(Wednesday TV Series Episode 7)

The participants of the dialogue above are Wednesday, Tyler, and Fester or Wednesday's uncle. The setting of the dialogue above is at the cafe where Tyler works and he gives a drink to Wednesday's uncle. The relationship between Tyler and Fester is a distant relationship since they are just meet at that day. The slang words on the house uses by Tyler in purpose to form intimate atmosphere because they are strangers. *On the house* generally means at home there is no correlation between the context in which slang is formed and the denotative meaning, therefore this word is classified as flippant. According to the Urban Dictionary, in the conversation above the slang word *on the house* means for free.

3) Imitative

Enid : It's called having your moment. You took

down Bianca Barclay.

Try to enjoy it. The girls wanna know if you wanna hang out later. Oh, come on, it won't kill you.

Wednesday : I'll think about it.

(Wednesday TV Series Episode 2)

The participants in the dialogue above are Wednesday and Enid. After winning the Poe Cup

Enid asked Wednesday to hang out with other friends. Their relationship become close since they became roommates. Based on the NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions, wanna means want to. Enid uses slang wanna which is short for "want to." This slang is categorized into imitative type since these words are derived from the word "want to." Enid uses slang wanna rather than uses want to. She has tendency to use slang words to make the conversation more relax or comfortable since the topic of conversation is nor serious topic. Speakers usually use slang in their conversation when they have close relationship in order to create relax conversation. Therefore, the slang wanna has function to initiate relax conversation function.

4) Clipping

Xavier: *Jeez*, you get any better at this, you'll be taking home a whole pack.

Wednesday: Pandas don't travel in packs. They prefer solitude.

(Wednesday TV Series Episode 1)

The participants of the dialogue above are Wednesday and Xavier. The setting of the conversation takes place at the festival. The topic of the conversation above is about Xavier being amazed at Wednesday's ability and finished the game so well. The slang *jeez* is used by xavier to express his impression toward Wednesday. This slang categorized into clipping type since this word clipped or short form of the word jesus. Therefore, this slang is categorized in express impression function.

5) Abbreviation

Enid : Whoo! Yeah, we did it!

OMG, Wednesday, we did it! This is the greatest moment of my entire life.

Wednesday : You didn't tell me it was a dark, vengeful spirit.

(Wednesday TV Series Episode 2)

The participants in the dialogue above are Wednesday and Enid. The setting of the dialogue is when they are winning the Poe Cup. Enid uses slang *OMG* which is abbreviation of Oh My God. Enid uses slang word *OMG* rather than uses oh my god. She has a propensity to utilize slang to start a relaxed conversation with the purpose

in creating the conversation more relaxed or comfortable, as the topic of discussion does not seem serious. When participants have a close relationship, they often utilize slang to create a sense of comfort in their communication.

6) Interjection

Tyler : *Holy crap!* Do you make a habit of scaring the hell out of people?

Wednesday : It's more of a hobby.

(Wednesday TV Series Episode 1)

According to the Urban Dictionary, the slang *holy crap* means an expression yelled at something surprising. The participants of the dialogue above are Wednesday and Tyler. The slang word *holy crap* was used by Tyler here because he was surprise by Wednesday who suddenly appeared in front of him while he was fixing his coffee machine. Based on the Urban Dictionary, the slang *holy crap* means a phrase used to suggest that something is shocking. Therefore, this slang is categorized in express impression function.

7) Shortened Forms

Ajax : Get away from her! Are you okay?

Enid : I didn't even want to go with him. I wanted to go with you.

Ajax : So why didn't you ask me?

Enid : 'Cause you blew me off the other night and never told me why.

Ajax : I was too embrassed to tell you.

(Wednesday TV Series Episode 4)

The participants of the dialogue above are Enid and Ajax, their relationship is close as they are classmates and Enid has feelings for Ajax. The topic of the dialogue above is about Enid who wants to come to the Rave'N dance with ajax. Enid uses slang word '*cause* which is a shortened forms of because. Enid uses slang word '*cause* rather than uses because. She has the propensity to utilize slang to start a relaxed conversation for the purpose to start a relaxed conversation for the purpose to make the participants feel more relaxed or comfortable, as the topic of dicussion does not seem serious. When participants have a close relationship, they often utilize slang to create a comfortable environment in their communication.

IV CONCLUSION

Considering the first problem statement about the types of slang used by the characters in Wednesday TV Series 2022, based on theory proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) and Bloomfield and Guth (2014) about types of slang, the researcher find there are seven type of slang utilized by the characters in this series. They are fresh and creative type, flippant, imitative, clipping, abbreviation, interjection, and shortened forms. Fresh and and creative type is contain with 10 data, flippant type with 22 data, imitative type with 7 data, clipping type with 7

data, abbreviation type with 4 data, interjection type with 2 data, and shortened forms with 2 data. Furthermore, there are seven functions of slang words according to Allan and Burridge (2006) found in this series, here is the summary of slang functions found: to address with 8 data, to form intimate atmosphere with 9 data, to initiate relax conversation with 19 data, to express impression with 8 data, to show intimacy with 2 data, to reveal anger with 3 data, and to humiliate with 5 data.

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