SLANG WORDS OF MOVIE "CLUELESS"

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Abstract: Slang, as a linguistic phenomenon, serves as a means of informal communication within specific communities. This study delves into the analysis of slang usage in the film "Clueless." The primary objectives are to identify the various word formation processes employed and the functional roles of slang among the characters. Focused on the 2018 production of "Clueless" by John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein, this research adopts a library-based approach using descriptive qualitative methods. Data collection involves documenting slang instances from the movie script, followed by a systematic tabulation and theoretical framework explanation. The analysis employs perspectives on word formation processes and the functional dynamics of slang. Findings reveal thirty-two distinct slangs categorized into six words formation processes and seven functional roles. Additionally, meanings are inferred through contextual understanding and reference to dictionaries. This study contributes to understanding the intricacies of slang usage in contemporary media narratives.

Keywords: Types of slang words, Movie. Slang, function of slang, Clueless movie

Abstrak: Bahasa gaul, sebagai sebuah fenomena linguistik, berfungsi sebagai sarana komunikasi informal dalam komunitas tertentu. Penelitian ini menggali analisis penggunaan bahasa gaul dalam film "Clueless." Tujuan utamanya adalah untuk mengidentifikasi berbagai proses pembentukan kata yang digunakan dan peran fungsional bahasa gaul di antara karakter. Berfokus pada produksi "Clueless" tahun 2018 karya John Francis Daley dan Jonathan Goldstein, penelitian ini mengadopsi pendekatan berbasis perpustakaan dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Pengumpulan data melibatkan pendokumentasian contoh-contoh bahasa gaul dari naskah film, diikuti dengan tabulasi sistematis dan penjelasan kerangka teori. Analisisnya menggunakan perspektif proses pembentukan kata dan dinamika fungsional bahasa gaul. Temuan mengungkapkan tiga puluh dua bahasa gaul berbeda yang dikategorikan ke dalam enam proses pembentukan kata dan tujuh peran fungsional. Selain itu, makna disimpulkan melalui pemahaman kontekstual dan referensi kamus. Studi ini berkontribusi untuk memahami seluk-beluk penggunaan bahasa gaul dalam narasi media kontemporer.

Kata Kunci: Jenis kata slang, Film. Bahasa gaul, fungsi bahasa gaul, film Clueless

1. INTRODUCTION

Human beings are social beings who are always commit to a certain group of people. They live together and form a social community or a larger scope of society. Members of society interact with one another in many fields. One of the primary means used in this interaction is language. By using language, people can express feelings, hopes, ideas, experiences, thoughts, and wants (Wardaugh, 2006). When two or more people communicate with each other in speech, we can call the system of communication that they employ a code. In most cases, that code will be something we may also want to call language. Language as a social phenomenon that is a means of communication among people (Hoffmann, 2014).

Language is thus a product of active human consciousness working in well-defined

social groups. Society and language are easily identified by each other and are quite interdependent. Each society builds its language according to its specific requirements, and the language, in turn, affects society and paves the way for change in future societies. Language change is often marked by the change and development of the social and cultural atmosphere in which language changes appear slowly but surely (Chaturvedi, 2015).

Related to the use of language in a society, one of the sciences that can explain language is sociolinguistic. Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between society and language. Sociolinguistics deals with the characteristics of language varieties (Trudgill, 2000). Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and culture to provide a more in-depth understanding of language structure and how languages function in a community. Language has many varieties. Therefore, the researcher concluded that sociolinguistics is the study of language that is related to society, its functions, and the use of language itself.

In one language, there can be variety and dialect, which both can make new words, such as words. Globally, many people produce it, even from the eldest to the youngest, from high class or low class, with higher education or lower education. Also, the development of technology and the introduction of foreign cultures influence the lives of teenagers. It looks like how the people get dressed and how they communicate daily. Since then, people have learned many new words, and this situation influences their language style.

However, there are two aspects in which language behavior is important from a social point of view. The first is the function of language in establishing social relationships, and the second is the role played by language in conveying information about the speaker (Trudgill, 2000). In the study of language, it can be seen that there are various languages in society. Nevertheless, there is an idealized variety of language which exists for most people as the accepted version of the official language in their community. This is called standard language. On the other hand, some non-standards are used in situations other than formal ones and are usually spoken by the uneducated. One of them is slang.

Slang is a component of the spoken language but by no means a "corrupt" form of language in any grammatical or structural sense (Bolozky, 2007). It consists of a separate register within the colloquial that stands out primarily because of its unusual nature, reflecting the desire of a well-defined group of speakers to express themselves uniquely by defying convention and breaking taboos.

Another example is that the durability of words varies greatly between standard English and slang (Heiman, 1967). Rarely do slang terms come into being without conforming to traditional principles of word origin. Whoever creates or uses such expressions to color his speech is often unknowingly exhibiting one of many slangs' standard principles of language formation.

For example, "yuk – yuk, whammo, slurp," "a tick – tock," and "buzz, bang, bhirr,

bizz, the bees, knees, longgone, a booboo, hankie-pankie."In standard, "*Piggly Wiggly, zig-zag, pitterpatter, walkie-talkie"*. In slang (*"plow jockey," "egghead, "brain trust," "hillbilly. standard, blackberry, cupboard, stone wall, soap opera"*. In slang, *"a hood, a college, specks, biochem, and, of course, Hey, teach."* In standard, *"gym, taxi, math, bus"*. In slang, *"to stomach (from the noun form), to bug (from the noun form), a find (from the verb form), the ins and outs (from the adverb forms)"*. In standard, *"to stone, to ink, to paper, to bridge (all from the noun forms)"*. words through the affixing of prefixes and suffixes, *"Having forgotten several items, I found I had to go-reKroger ing"*. "TV, SNAFU, OK, UNCLE," in slang, in standard *"CARE, NATO, UN, SNCC"*.

The slang language also has a function in society. One of them is to share interests, concerns, beliefs, and activities of other participants who take on common conversational topics and related areas for discussion.

More often, slang serves social purposes, such as, to identify members of a group, to change the level of discourse in the direction of informality, to oppose established authority. Sharing and maintaining a constantly changing slang vocabulary aids group solidarity and serves to include and axclude members. The role that slang has in society is that represents a person's background, education, belief, etc. It's the way certain people have twisted languages to mean new things that were not previously defined. Slang can represent emotions that are hard communicate to others. We can hear people use slang language in schools, the market, workplaces, and homes. Slang words can also be used in movies, dramas, novels, webtoons, comics, and social media.

The movie has become one of the most influential media that keeps offering the newest slang language. It is used to acknowledge and learn slang language. By watching movies and through their storyline, the viewers can gain many advantages, such as entertainment, information, knowledge, and most probably life lessons.

A movie is a complex form of art due to the language used as the main element to convey the messages to the audience. However, some expressions are difficult to translate into another language because they are peculiar to that language. It is the reason why the researcher will specifically analyze slang words in the movie. The title of the movie that the researcher will analyze is Clueless. It is an American high school romantic comedy film written and directed by Amy Heckerling. First debuted in theatres on July 19th, 1995, and became a major box-office hit. The storyline is based on Jane Austen's 1815 novel "Emma", with a modern-day setting of Beverly Hills.

To analyze the slang words in the movie Clueless by Amy Heckerling, the researcher will use the theory of Holmes (2013). This study aims to identify and analyze the slang words that were used in the movie Clueless by Amy Heckerling It also aimed to identify and analyze the slang words' functions through their characters, and lifestyles.

2.   RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used descriptive qualitative method. Data collection in this method is in the form of words, pictures or observations. The object of this research is the slang words used by the characters in the film Clueless. The data for this research is the script and dialogue showing the slang words of the characters, taken from the film Clueless by Amy Heckerling, translated and published in 1995. Apart from that, it is hoped that it can provide new insight into how to analyze clueless films. The techniques for analyzing the data is how the writer will analyze the data to find the result.

In the analysis of the movie "Clueless," the script and dialogues were meticulously categorized to discern the usage of slang words by the characters, employing Holmes' theoretical framework. Through this categorization, the data revealed distinct patterns of slang usage corresponding to different aspects of social class. These findings were then subjected to qualitative descriptive interpretation, ensuring coherence with the central focus of the thesis on slang words. The interpretations provided insights into the significance of the identified slang usage within the context of the characters' socio-economic backgrounds. Finally, the conclusions drawn from this comprehensive analysis were summarized, encapsulating the researcher's understanding and insights gained from the study.

3.   RESULT

Partridge (1970) mentions that slang is an informal language used by various group in certain situations (p. 5). In addition, according to Eble (1996) slang is an ever- changing set of colloquial words and phrases that speakers use to establish or reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large (p. 11). Slang is different than standard language as slang is restricted language that can be used and understood by certain community only. With the help of Eble (1996) and Partridge (1970) explanations, the researchers conducted the study and found 29 words uttered by Cher Horowitz and those words are considered as slang words.

As the slang words are identified, the researcher came across two categories that make a word is identified as a slang word. Those are newly interpreted and newly created slang words. Newly interpreted is when the word exists and already has a meaning in standard language, however it has a new meaning in the movie based on the social factors. Just like explained by Zhou & Fan "slang is the diction that results from the game among the young and lively of playing with words and renaming things and actions; some invent new words, or mutilate or misapply the old, for the pleasure of novelty, and others catch up such words for the pleasure of being in the fashion" (2013).

An example of it is the slang word *go bump*, in the standard language its meaning is *to hit somebody/something by accident*. However,

based on the social factors, the contextual meaning is *to talk to people.* In other word, *go bump* has a new meaning in a community of teenagers which also used it to establish social identity with a trend in society at large.

Besides the newly interpreted, certain communities also have some words that are newly created which is considered as slang word. Newly created slang applies to the word which does not exist in standard language before. One of the examples is the slang word *doobie,* which is not part of the standard language, but certain community understood it by the meaning *marijuana.*

The table provided offers a comparison between newly created slang terms and newly interpreted slang terms. Newly created slang includes terms like "jeepin'" for driving around, "haul ass" to describe moving quickly, and "surfing the crimson wave" as a euphemism for menstruating. These terms demonstrate the inventive nature of language, often originating within specific social groups or contexts. Conversely, newly interpreted slang takes existing words or phrases and assigns them new meanings. For instance, "buzz" is interpreted as equivalent to "jeepin'," while "groovy" is redefined to denote something positive or enjoyable. This reinterpretation showcases the fluidity of language, where words can evolve and adapt to fit contemporary usage and cultural contexts. Through both the creation and reinterpretation of slang, language continues to reflect the dynamic nature of human communication and expression.

3.1. The Function of Slang Words Uttered by Cher Horowitz in *Clueless* Movie

In analyzing the functions of slang words in the movie *Clueless* specifically those uttered by Cher Horowitz, the researcher examined through the theory of Zhou & Fan (2013). There are two functions found as Cher Horowitz used the slang words in her daily conversation which are pursuit of self-identity (PSI) and emotive feeling of slang users (EF).

Table 1: Functions for Using Slang Words by Cher Horowitz

Data Code	Slang word	Contextual meaning	Function		
			PSI	EF	AP
01/NCS/V/03:33	Jeepin'	Cheating by having vehicular sex in a jeep	√		
02/NCS/N/03:51	Audi	Out of here	√		
03/NCS/V/04:48	Haul ass	To move very quickly to a different place		√	
04/NIS/N/06:23	Buzz	Rumor	√		
05/NIS/V/07:08	Choked	To perform a task poorly, especially when one is expected to do well		√	
06/NIS/Adj/07:41	Groovy	Excellent		√	
07/NCS/N/08:42	Couch commando	One who has complete control over a television		√	

		remote control device from a couch.		
08/NIS/Adj/13:03	Classic	To be expected		✓
09/NCS/V14:14	Surfing the crimson wave	Menstruation	✓	
11/NIS/Adj/17:35	Sucky	Awful		✓

3.1.1 Pursuit of self-identity

The first function is pursuit of self-identity. Slang is considered as the symbol for dividing the professional groups in society, it is because different slang is used within different social and professional groups. If somebody uses the words and expressions within a certain social group, the person will blend with the group members easily. For example, in a situation where a student utters a sentence containing the special college slang, that student intends to show that he is belonging to the inside of the teenager group.

According to the American scholar P. Roberts, the reason people use slang is that they want to show they are one of the qualified members among a certain distinct group. (Zhou & Fan, 2013).

01/NCS/V/03:33

In the data 01/NCS/V/03.33 the first slang word with the function of pursuit of self-identity is in the word *jeepin'*. The slang word *jeepin'* has the contextual meaning of *cheating by having vehicular sex, in a jeep*. It was uttered by the main character Cher Horowitz as a response to his accusation towards Dionne, saying his girlfriend Dionne is cheating behind his back. Cher, Dionne and Murray involved in a conversation where they are surrounded by other students in their high school. Cher uttered the slang word jeepin' with the intention of expressing her status as one of the members of a social class, her intention of pursuit of self-identity is addressed to the rest of the students crowded behind them. Zhou and Fan (2013) mentioned *"if somebody uses the words and expressions within a certain social group, the person will blend with the group members from mentality"*. She wants to show them that she is a qualified member of the same social group with Dionne and her boyfriend, Murray and that she understands the meaning of the slang word.

02/NCS/N/03:51

The second slang word with the function of pursuit of self-identity is seen through the word *audi*. Judging from the conversation, the contextual meaning of *audi* is *out of here*. Cher finds herself bored being caught up in a couple argument and she has no intention of joining, making her immediately leave the intense scene. However, the word *audi* is also considered a slang word since it is understood by some people and certain community in certain situation. In this case, as Cher and Dionne belong to the same social class, Dionne understood well what Cher means by saying the slang word *audi* and replied by saying *bye*.

Zhou and Fan (2013) mentioned *"if*

somebody uses the words and expressions within a certain social group, the person will blend with the group members from mentality". Based on Zhou & Fan, slang is considered as thesymbol for dividing the professional groups in society, it is because different slang is used within different social group. Pursuit of self-identity function is seen through Cher's intention of showing to the rest of the students behind her that she belongs to the same social group as Dionne. They have their own way of saying goodbye one of it by saying *audi* instead of the regular bye word.

04/NIS/N/06:23

The third slang with the pursuit of self-identity function is found as Cher uttersthe slang word *buzz* when she gives the latest update about Christian to Mr. Hall. Eble(1996) mentions in practice slang words always diminish the formality of a conversation in which they occur (p. 20). Despite of having the formal teacher studentrelationship, Cher insist on answering Mr. Hall's question casually, she uses the slang word *buzz* with the contextual meaning of *rumor*. In return, Mr. Hall accepted Cher'schoice of word, as a high school teacher it is common of him hearing slang words fromany of his students.

The pursuit of self-identity function is seen by using buzz as a symbol of self-belonging to a certain teenage social group. It is considered as the symbol for dividing the groups in society, Cher's teenage social group and Mr. Hall group as they belong to different groups in the society. Zhou & Fan mentioned that theusage of slang is considered as the symbol for dividing the different groups in society.In this case Mr. Hall and Cher are members of different groups as Mr.

Hall belongs tothe professional group of teachers while Cher is a member of one of the teenage groupsin her school.

09/NCS/V/14:14

The dialogue above happens when Cher Horowitz gives reason of her tardiness to Mr. Hall's class. She mentions the slang word *surfing the crimson wave* in which the contextual meaning refers to *menstruation*. Due to this problem she must run to the restroom, making her late to come to class. Cher's ultimate goal of saying the slang word is to show Mr. Hall that she is a qualified member of a different social class with him. Slang is often used to differentiate between outsiders and members of a distinct social group, resulting with the use of slang in which only qualified members are awareof the meaning. Being the outsider of Cher's group leads Mr. Hall to the unknown slang, but as Cher unintentionally mentions the rest room, he guested his way to think that Cher refers to girls' problem.

3.1.2. Emotive Feeling of Slang Users

The second function of slang found based on Cher Horowitz conversation in the Clueless movie is emotive feeling of slang users. According to (Zhou & Fan, 2013), the emotive feeling function reveals the speaker's attitude towards the subject. It is crucial and has powerful impact of language usage in terms of changing the emotionalstatus of an audience for or against someone or something. Thus, slang does not only have the function to stressing identity or group membership, but also psychologically needed for expressing emotion (p. 212).

03/NCS/V/04:48

The emotive feeling function is found in the data 03/NCS/04:48 as Cher Horowitz says the slang word *haul ass*. It happens in Mr. Hall debate class when she expresses her pro opinion towards Haitians refugee being in America, she describes thesituation just like when she throws a birthday party for her father. The contextual meaning of *haul ass* is *to move very quickly to a different place*. Cher uses the slang word to refer to her effort go to the kitchen in order to prepare everything for the unexpected guests or non-R.S.V. P guests and to maintain everything under control. The emotive feeling function is seen through Cher Horowitz strong emotion of surprisebut doesn't have any other choice, it is up to her effort to make last minute adjustmentsin order to have everything under control.

05/NIS/V/07:08

The data above shows the next slang word to have the function of emotive feeling of slang users. The particular function lays on the slang word *choked,* it is uttered by Cher Horowitz in a phone conversation with her best friend Dionne right after she gets her final report.

Its contextual meaning is *to perform a task poorly, especially when one is expected to do well* (Dalzell, p. 148). The dictionary meaning match perfectly with Cher's intention of using the slang word. As a student Cher is expected to do well in school by her dad, this involves in trying to get good grades in any subjects. Her grade in debate class is not satisfying enough for her as she expectedherself to do well in it and pass the class. Cher response by saying choked

shows her strong emotion of disappointment towards her grade in the debate class. Furthermore,she feels troubled and terrified of her father's reaction on that matter.

06/NIS/Adj/07:41

The data above shows the use of slang word *groovy* to express Cher's emotivefeeling towards her Geometry test result. However, after analyzing the social factors inthis situation, the contextual meaning of *groovy* is *excellent*.

It is an achievement whichmakes Cher to be proud of herself even though it is not a perfect grade but is really close to it. Cher expresses her strong emotion after getting her results back as soon as she enters her house to a painting of her mother who passed away since she was a baby. Despite of her absent throughout Cher's life, a mother will always have a strong connection with her children. It can be seen by the usage of slang word to express Cher's feeling of contentment of getting 98 in Geometry. Cher wants to share her excitement with her mother although it can only be done through showing it to the painting of her.

07/NCS/N/08:42

The conversation in the data 07/NCS/08:42 happens in the living room when Cher and her stepbrother Josh spend one afternoon on snacking and watching television. Cher calls Josh as *couch commando* as the response of him changing the tv channel from cartoon to news. Based on the context of the conversation, Cher intention of saying the slang word is to refer to Josh who has the audacity to

change the TV channel as pleases or in other words its contextual meaning *is one who has complete control over a television remote control device from a couch*. The emotive feeling of slang user function is seen of Cher's annoyance towards Josh who gets in theliving room after her but instead have the courage to take the TV remote from her andchange the TV channel.

08/NIS/Adj/13:03

Classic is an adjective that acts as a complement to describe Cher's response after seeing Miss Geist flattered from reading the poem and receiving a beautiful rose. Contextually, the new meaning is *to be expected.* Miss Geist's reaction is to be expectedby Cher.

The lovely surprise in which she thought coming from Mr. Hall, but little didshe know the surprise was set up by Cher and Dionne. It is their way to play match makers for their two teachers. Classic as a slang word has the function of showing Cher's happiness after seeing Miss Geist rosy cheeks and beautiful smile after readingthe love poem. Although Miss Geist's response is to be expected by Cher but after seeing her reaction it gives Cher a whole satisfaction after doing such good deed.

11/NIS/Adj/17:3

The last slang word with the function of emotive feeling lays on sucky, it is Cher's way to describe and express her dislike towards coffee. The contextual meaningof it is *awful.* Cher uses the slang word sucky to show that she is not a coffee person given her personal belief it might stunt her growth. By saying sucky Italian roast, she gives her opinion of the awful taste of coffee,

instead she would rather have lemon *snapple*. Based on her personal reason, consuming coffee might stunt her growth whichshe tries to avoid. She hopes Mr. Hall accepts her coffee offer as she accidently takes her father's coffee instead of her lemon *snapple* this morning.

4.   CONCLUSION

After investigating the data, the researcher found some conclusion to answer the research questions. this research identified the function of slang used by the characters in Clueless movie, it can be concluded that there are all seven types function of slang found in Clueless movie. In this movie, reveal anger of slang user was the most frequent function of slang used by the characters. By knowing the function of slang, the researcher drew a conclusion that emotion is the biggest factors why the speaker use slang in their conversation. And also, from those data, the researcher has searched the meaning of each slang based on understood the content of the dialogue and some dictionaries. Through this study, the researcher concluded that slang language was mainly used among people who had intimated social relation with each other. This was due to the factthat social dimension factors such as comparative ages, social distance and mutual familiarity played an important role in someone's choice in language usage. Slang language was a trend among teenagers, and it became one of the famous language varietyused in the adolescence life circle.

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