

## SLANGS IN BEYONCE KNOWLES' SONGS

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### ABSTRACT

This study is based on sociolinguistics problems. It deals with the use of slang. The writer focuses on Beyonce Knowles's songs lyrics as the scope of data. The objectives of the study were to find out the types of slang are used in Beyonce Knowles' songs and to reason for the use of the types of slang in Beyonce Knowles' songs. The data that support this study by using descriptive qualitative data by reading some references related to the subject matters. The findings showed Abbreviation and Baby's Expression slang were found in each lyrics of Beyonce Knowles songs. There weren't found Grammatical slang in two songs lyrics among ten songs, nor the Words Repetition, there weren't found in four songs lyrics. The writer concluded that Abbreviation is the most dominant type of slang found in Beyonce Knowles' songs.

**Keywords:** *Sociolinguistics, Slang, and Beyonce Knowles' Songs.*

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## INTRODUCTION

According to Coulmas (1998:5), Sociolinguistics is concerned with describing language use as a social phenomenon and, where possible, it attempts to establish causal links between language and society, pursuing the complementary questions of what language contributes to making community possible and how communities shape their languages by using them. In sociolinguistics, explaining why people speak differently in different social contexts, and identifying the social functions of language and the ways it was used to convey social meaning. Examining the people why used language in different social contexts provides a wealth of information about the way language works, as well as about the social relationships in a community, and the way people conveyed and constructed aspects of their social identity through their language.

That was the reason for the writer to study this case. The writer is interested in studying about the language used by people in the world, because language is a network of relationship. Thus, language played an important rule in human beings. The personality of speaker usually was shown through language. It controlled and manipulated the environment, built solidarity with the people around and conveys meaning. It also occurred to slang that was a reality and a living phenomenon.

Many slang expressions (eg. cash, kids) were widely used. However, some slang expressions were only used by members of particular social and professional groups, and nearly all slang was used between people who knew each other well or share the same background. It was so as the prove to the statement of Swan (2005: 526), 'Slang' is a very informal kind of vocabulary, used mostly in speech by people who know each other well. So it is usually a mistake for 'outsiders' (including foreigners) to try deliberately to use slang. This can give the impression that they are claiming membership of a group that they do not belong to.

There was also a danger that the slang might be out of date - some kinds of slang went out of fashion quickly, and when it got into books and it might already be dead. It was best for learners to avoid slang unless they were really sure of its use. If they started becoming accepted as part of an English-speaking community, they would learn to use community's slang naturally and correctly along with the rest of their language. Because many English slang expressions related to things that people felt strongly about (e.g. sex, family and emotional relationships, drink, drugs, conflict between social groups, work, physical and mental illness, death). Willis in Alwasilah (1985:57) also defined, 'For the most part, slang is the result of linguistic inventiveness, especially of young and lively persons who want fresh, original pungent, or racy terms with which they can rename ideas, actions, and objects that they feel strongly about. In effect slang was the result of a combination of linguistic irreverence and a reaction against staid, stuffy, pompous, pretentious, or colorless diction'.

Slang could be found in literary works such as song, poem, drama, etc. Song was easily found in daily life because song was universal, and thus slang in song lyric was chosen as the empirical of the study.

The research questions of the present study are: what types of slang words were used in Beyonce Knowles' songs?, What the type of slang words was dominantly used in Beyonce Knowles' songs?, Why was the dominant slang used in Beyonce Knowles' songs?

## **Slangs and Its Types**

### ***Slangs***

Sociolinguistics has so many aspects that can be used as a research. One of the aspects is slang. Slang is used in informal situations and the purpose is to get close relationship with others. Burke (2001: 9) states that slang encompasses "secret" words and idioms that are consistently used in books, magazines,

television, movies, songs, American homes, etc. and generally are reserved only for native speakers. Fromkin, et. al (2003:473-474) says that slang has been defined as “one of those things that everybody can recognize and nobody can define.” The use of slang or colloquial language, introduces many new words into the language by recombining old words into new meanings and also introduces entirely new words such as barf, flub, and pooped. Finally, slang often consists of ascribing entirely new meanings to old words. In social life, there are always certain groups of people who have particular language. It is a symbol of their group which is marked by their creativity toward language. It will make they are different from others. This characteristic is only understood by their groups. One of those groups is teenager. Teenagers tend to use slang language in their daily communication especially in informal situation. According to Richard (1985:212), slang is used for a very informal speech variety which often serves as an “in group” language such as teenagers, army and pop group. It is such kind of teenagers’ creative expression to make the words simpler and efficient to be spoken. It develops more and more until it becomes the common way to say something.

### *Types of Slangs*

Burke’s (2001:45), specifically the study deals with Abbreviation, Grammatical Slangs, Baby’s Expression, and Word Repetition in the context of situation.

1. **Abbreviation.** Some of abbreviation were used in the novel, magazine, also comics. Some of them were very popular and always expressed by Americans. Some of the abbreviations were slang but not all abbreviations were used as slang expression. For example: “Ain’t”. Means “I am not”.
2. **Grammatical Slang.** In linguistics, grammar refers to the logical and structure rules that govern the composition of the sentences, phrases, and words in any give natural language. The term refers also to the study of such rules, and this field includes morphology and syntax, often

complemented by phonetics, phonology, semantics and pragmatics. For example: “I done put in a call”. Means: “I have done put in a call”.

3. **Baby’s expressions** were used by parents to their baby or children in order to make simple communication. For example: “Look the little birdie” means “look the little bird”.
4. **Word repetition** was used by people are likely repeated the words that used by them. For example: ‘again and again’ has meaning ‘repeatedly’. For example: “Let’s go, let’s go Little Kitty Kat”. Means “Let’s go Little Kitty Kat”.

### *Songs*

According to Hamlen (2012 : 7), songs were contained within songs environments. In music, a song was a composition for voice performed by singing or alongside musical instruments. A choral or vocal song might be accompanied by musical instruments, or it might be unaccompanied, as in the case of a cappella songs. The lyrics (words) of songs were typically of a poetic, rhyming nature, though they might be religious verses or free prose. A song might be for a solo singer, a duet, trio, or larger ensemble involving more voices, although the term was generally not used for large vocal forms including opera and oratorio. Songs with more than one voice to a part were considered choral works. Songs could be broadly divided into many different forms, depending on the criteria used. One division was between "art songs", "pop songs", and "folk songs". Other common methods of classification were by purpose (sacredvssecular), by style (dance, ballad, Lied, etc.), or by time of origin (Renaissance, Contemporary, etc.).<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Song>.

## METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted by applying qualitative descriptive designs. The data were taken from Beyonce Knowles' songs. Qualitative involved looking in-depth at non-numerical data. Descriptive was one in which information was collected without changing the environment and without interference from the researcher. Qualitative descriptive was conducted by stay close to their data and to the surface of words and events. Bodgan and Biklen (1982) said that qualitative researchers went to the particular setting under study because they were concerned with context. They tried to analyze it with all its richness as closely as possible to the form in which it was recorded or transcribed. In collecting descriptive data, qualitative researchers approached the world in a nit-picking way.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### *Result*

After searching, downloading, listening, reading, identifying, classifying the data into the types of slangs in each the utterances by the songs of Beyonce Knowles, finally the writer could show the readers to the result of slang itself and their meaning.

- 1. Abbreviation.** Falling comes from falling. Only one word losts from fallin' that is letter "g", but it influence to the pronunciation of the word itself. It changes the pronunciation. Yais the original form of "you". And in this case, the writing of "you" itself change to be the pronunciation. It means that there's no good systematical in writing anymore.

No.	The Title of the Song	Slangs	Meaning
1.	Countdown	Fallin' (2) He rock Ain't (2) Ridin' (2) He deserve Trickin' Stopin' London speed Houston rock	Falling He rocks I'm not Riding He deserves Tricking Stopping London speeds Houston rocks

- 2. Grammatical Slang.** Rhyming slang, in which a word is replaced by a word or phrase in rhythm with it. Table 2 indicates words are not only using in rhyme or poetry, but also in slang.

No.	The Title of the Song	Slangs	Meaning
1.	Kitty Kat	-We in trouble - He don't want no mo'  - He don't want you anymore - You is just a hot mess	- We are in trouble -He doesn't want anymore -He doesn't want you anymore - You are just a hot mess s

- 3. Baby's Expressions.** There are many baby expressions in the song lyrics by which Beyonce Knowles tried to tell the listeners that baby expressions can express feeling and emotions.

No.	The Title of the Song	Slangs	Meaning
1.	Daddy	Biz -Shoulda -Coulda -Momma -Dutty -Kinda	-Business -Should have -Could have -Mother -Duty -Kind of

#### 4. Words Repetition

Table 4 indicates that words repetition to repeat the same words. Therefore someone who is likely repeated the words, thus she or he has not aware used the slang.

No.	The Title of the Song	Slangs	Meaning
1.	Countdown	-My boo, boo, ridin'	-My boo riding
2	Why don't You Love Me?	-Now, now, now, honey	-Now, honey
3	Broken Hearted Girls	-No, no, no broken-hearted girls	-No broken-hearted girls

#### *Discussion*

The abbreviations, grammatical slangs, baby's expressions and word repetition could be found in this slangs. Abbreviations are very popular and always expressed by American. Some of the examples of abbreviation in slang are 'yo head means "your head", wanna means "want to", gotta means "going to", dem means "them", ain't means "I am not", and so on.



Grammatical slangs refers to the logical and structure rules that govern the composition of the sentences, phrases, and words in any give natural language. Some of the examples of the grammatical slangs are We dressing to the 9 means “We are dressing to the 9”, We in trouble means “We are in trouble”, He don’t want you anymore means “He doesn’t want you anymore”, and so on.

Baby’s expressions are used by parents to their baby or children in order to make simple communication in their daily life, or sometimes it can be a call for a couple of sweetheart. Here are some of the examples of baby’s expressions: Me and my boo means “Me and my darling”, Momma means “Mother”, Homie means “Home”, Shoulda means “Should have” and so on.

Word repetition is used by people are likely repeated the words that used by them in songs or when do conversation with others. These are the examples of word repetition of slangs in Beyonce Knowles’ songs: Now, now, now, honey means “Now honey”, Daddy daddy, daddy daddy means “Daddy”, No, no, no broken-hearted girl means “No broken-hearted girl” and so on.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

### ***Conclusions***

After analyzing the slangs in each songslyrics by Beyonce Knowles, conclusions are drawn as the following. First, The reason why the writer chose this topic to be analyzed was because of lack of awareness for using slang words in the formal situation. As the same things to Beyonce Knowles’ songs, so many slangs found in the lyrics. Second, there were four types of slang in ten songs of Beyonce Knowles’ songs namely, Abbreviation, Grammatical Slangs, Baby’s Expressions, and Word Repetition. Third, Abbreviation and Baby’s Expression slang were found in each lyrics of Beyonce Knowles songs. Fourth, There weren’t found Grammatical slang in two songs lyrics among ten songs, they are: Daddy and Naughty Girl. It means that in eight others song were found the grammatical

itself. Fifth, Nor the Words Repetition, there weren't found in four songs lyrics among ten songs, and they were: If I Were a Boy, Ring the Alarm, Naughty Girl, and Crazy in Love. And finally after the writer has analyzed the data, the writer concluded that Abbreviation is the most dominant type of slang found in Beyonce Knowles' songs. It was the dominant slang used in Beyonce Knowles' songs because it's very popular and always expressed by American

### ***Suggestions***

Relating to the conclusions, suggestions were staged as the first that it was suggested to English teacher or lecturer, it was important for them as the facilitator in teaching grammar especially dealing with listening skill in the music, to increase the knowledge of the people who interested in learning the existence of slang, and also for those who interested in hearing Western's songs. Second, it was advised to the Music Fans, Composer, Education, Censors and others media in the world to be careful in using the words or language because sometimes their creations contain several slang languages. Third, slang is not only for bad things but also for, good things because slang is creativity. And the last, the readers or the learners, who interested in hearing the Beyonce Knowles' songs, could refer to this study to help them understand slangs meaning in Beyonce Knowles' songs.

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