

# **THE MEANING OF SLANG LANGUAGE IN 22 JUMP STREET MOVIE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research focused on the meaning of slang language used by the characters in 22 Jump Street Movie. The research was conducted by using qualitative method. The data were collected from the movie script. The objective of the study was to find out the meaning of the slang language used by the characters in 22 Jump Street Movie and also the reason why the characters used the slang language. The data were taken from the movie script which was downloaded from the internet. The data were analyzed by using Eric Partridge's theory about slang. The result showed that the meaning used by the characters were contextual meaning, depending on the situation or given context of the scene. The result show that only several slang language that have literal meaning. The reason of using slang language in this research was to reduce seriousness of the conversation since the movie was a comedy-action genre in which the comedy and action must be appeared at the same time.

Keywords: *22 Jump Street Movie, Meaning of Slang.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Human being needs a medium to interact with other people. The necessary tool that we need is called as language. Language has an essential function to all societies who use this, because language is a way to interact one to another person especially in communication so that they can understand each other. Language is human and non instinctive methods of communication, ideas, feelings, and desires as well by means of a system of sounds and sound symbols. Thus language as a tool of communication is needed to interact with others.

Language has a flexible characteristic and dynamic which will create new possibility in communication, so it is impossible that language just can stop in one word and one meaning because language can change as fast as the grown of human life itself. There are many kinds of language in this world, but as we know English is recognized and represented the first international language that used when people want to go abroad. Yet, English also becomes language of standardization for many countries to become their national language or second language, differs from Indonesia that ascribes English as foreign language.

English itself has been divided into two parts namely Standard English and Non-Standard English. Standard English is variety of English that is usually used in written and spoken which is normally taught in school or in deliberate manner also spoken by well-educated person. Standard English has colloquial as well as formal variants. On the other hand, Non-Standard English is properly used in particular situation and can not be used in formal situation and usually spoken by uneducated people. There are many kinds of Non-Standard Languages, one of Non-Standard English that is used on informal style is called as slang.

Chaer and Agustina (1998) said that slang is secret language that held by some communities or groups that are not owned by other groups. Slang is very informal words and expressions that are more common in spoken language,

especially used by a particular group of people. In application current slang can be found in the conversations of teenagers and young children. Young people are the most creative and most easily saturated with the establishment. It also affects the use of everyday language. They tend to want a refresher language and an intimate and friendly atmosphere in talking one each other. They consider that language is the vehicle for discussion and at the same time strengthens relationships and it is the most effective communication tool for those who are characteristic for the group. They create their own language structure that is different from the existing structure of language.

Generally, most of countries have their own slang terms in their language. For instance in Indonesia, slang can be found in daily conversation and most of teenagers use it such as jayus (not funny), bonyok (parents), cupu (old-fashioned), lebay (exaggerate) etc. Besides, it is used by teenagers, there are some social groups which usually use it, such as; street gang, football player, drug user, gambler. Slang is expressed spontaneously and is not bound by a lot grammatical norms. Variety of such language is not so systemic, interspersed with many regional languages and social dialects.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **A. Slang**

Slang is something that everybody can recognize but nobody can define. The literal meaning of slang is a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people. Finegan (2008) said that slang is particularly popular among teenagers and college students in general. Akmajian (1998) also added that slang has some salient features, first slang is part of casual

informal styles of language use, second slang is like fashions in clothing and popular music, changes quite rapidly, third specific areas of slang are often associated with a particular social group, and hence one can speak of teenage slang, underworld (criminal) slang, the slang of the drug culture and so on.

The speaker uses slang in order to achieve social dynamics with the people to whom he/she is speaking and slang outlines social spaces, and attitudes towards slang helps identify and construct social groups and identity (Adams, 2009:57). It means that when you use slang, you expose your ideas, your feeling, your attitude as how you want to perceive the people that talk to you and how you want those people to perceive you, to infer what you mean. Adams believe that slang can just as well be playful and a joking way of rebelling against standard language to mark the difference between e.g. parents and children (in-crowd versus out-crowd), but the children do not necessarily have wicked intentions with the use of slang. He also mentions that slang is not slang until someone recognizes it to be slang (Adams, 2009:62). It means that the addressee must be able to recognize the speaker's intent and to determine that what they are hearing is slang. According to Jacob (1998: 878) stated that slang is more sociological than a purely linguistic idea and is the best understood in the theory of modern society and culture. While Moore (2012:180) said that slang helps develop and create identity both as a group member and an individual in the eyes of the group. Slang is usually labelled as an "exercise in wit" and used "to be different", "to enrich the language" and "to show that one belongs to certain school" (Crystal, 2003:182). Furthermore, according to Palacois Martinez (2011:106) "teenagers are responsible for the linguistics innovations and changes" and "young people are the group with the most extensive slang ". The writer would like to conclude that slang words and expressions are characterized by high degree of informality, familiarity, vocabulary richness. They are realized by a specific group of people whose members are connected with some particular link , such as territory

(Medan), age (teenagers), subcultures (students) and mainly occur in the spoken form of the language.

## **B. History of Slang Language**

Early slang collections firstly used by the English criminal which was developed in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Therefore it was created a new kind of speech used by criminals and cheats, meaning it developed mostly in saloons and gabbling houses. (Partridge,1950:148). The English criminal was at first believed to be foreign, meaning scholars thought that it had either originated in Romania or had relationship to French. The English of criminal was slow developing. In fact, out of the four million people who spoke English, only about ten thousand spoke the English criminal. By the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, this new style of speaking was considered to be a language “ without reason or order”. Partridge (1950) divided the history of slang into five decades, which can be seen as the following era :

### **a. Sixteenth Century**

Slang for the first time appeared in the society and became the strange language, also only particular group was using it. For instance, thieves, beggar, criminals, etc.

### **b. Seventeenth Century**

In this century, slang was rich of metaphors or figurative language and related to immoral action. Moreover, slang began to present in popular plays event and put the slang language on the stage for the first time, such as in Richard Brome's comedy *A Faviat Crew* and in one of William shakespeare's poem in the word hick.

### **c. Eighteenth Century**

The rhetoricians had established for the first time among the pupils and schoolmates alike, a key element in social conceptualization of slang. Furthermore, slang recognized as part of English vocabulary.

d. Nineteenth Century

Slang was growing, it could be seen that the intellectual produced the first slang dictionary (1899). The World War I and II also influenced in slang language, such as G.I, Pissed off, brass, etc.

e. Twentieth Century

Slang become a part of spoken language and not only used by thieves or criminals but also used by ordinary people, and slang was used in daily conversation because simpler and easier to speak it.

**C. The Kinds of Slang Language**

Burke (2001) on his book “Slang Language of American Teenager” who prefers to use the term “ Street Talk”, classifies the kinds of slang as follows:

1. Various in Slang
2. Abbreviate Words
3. Slang that used in America Television program
4. The particular phrase and idiom

**RESEARCH METHOD AND FINDINGS**

This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative method. According to Hariwijaya and Djaelani (2005). “ The purpose of descriptive analysis is to examine and derive information as much as possible from phenomena or certain group of people will be imported by this method”. Qualitative data could be applied here because Wallace (1998) said that “qualitative is used to describe data which are not amenable to being counted or measured in an objective way and are therefore

‘subjective’. The source of the data was the 22 Jump street movie, the writer watched the movie and got the data from the script. The data was the movie script and the writer also tried to find the slang words used in the movie. First step, the writer watched the movie and read the script. He classified the words in script by noting those words which including into slang language. To make it easier, the writer tabulated the data. The next step, the writer started to analyze, besides reading the script the writer also looked up the meaning from dictionary of slang to get the accuracy meaning.

After analyzed the data, it was found that the meaning of slang language used by the characters were :

**a. Pussy**

The setting of the scene was in a bedroom of dormitory. The participants of the conversation were Mercedes and Schmidt. They had fistfight in a dormitory room. One who said the slang word was Mercedes. Below are the quoted conversations :

*Mercedes : Get up old man river! Come on! Hey...get up and hit me you fucking pussy.*

*Schmidt : I'm not gonna fight a girl so just stop!*

*Mercedez :It shouldn't matter, if you thought of me as a person instead of a woman.*

In this part of script above, Mercedes told Schmidt that he is a pussy. Pussy literally means women viewed as sex objects. An unromantic male term used in the same indiscriminate manner as tail, ass, etc. In this generic sense, the term may be expressed as pussy, ‘some pussy’ or occasionally ‘a piece of pussy’. But Pussy in this quoted conversation means weak and harmless man. Mercedes uses the word pussy to describe Schmidt as a weak man because Schmidt couldn’t beat Mercedes in the fistfight, and Mercedes uses the word for patronizing or underestimating Schmidt.

**b. 'Em**

The conversation took place in a warehouse where Jenko and Schmidt just arrived there. The participants of the conversation were Jenko, Schmidt, Ghost and also some men who assist Ghost. The person who said the slang word was Schmidt, below are the quoted conversation :

*Schmidt : That's jeffe man, tell 'em about that crazy adventure you guys had.*

*Jenko : I don't know what you're talking about*

*Schmidt : Oh, man, when you were telling the story last night.*

There are some meanings of slang word 'em, it can be an abbreviation for the rapper, Eminem, or can be abbreviation for the name Emily, but from the conversation above, it can be seen that Schmidt uses abbreviate slang word 'em which has mean them, it is an abbreviation as well. From the beginning of the conversation, as they arrived, Schmidt kept using slang expression to be friendly and reduce seriousness among them all to hide out their undercover as a police officer.

**c. What the fuck!**

The setting of the conversation was in a container, the participants of the conversation were Jenko and Schmidt. They were trapped in a moving container in which there are a lot animals inside. The slang terms said by Jenko, below are the quoted conversation :

*Jenko : there's fucking birds and shit in here!*

*Schmidt : there's actual shit.*

*Jenko : **what the fuck!** There's a fucking dragon in here!*

What the fuck is a phrase said to state that one is in total disbelief or confusion as to what has happened, or what is happening. This is a vulgar interjection that sometimes used to express astonishment, shock, incredulity, or disbelief also. In



the slang terms from the quoted conversation above, the slang terms what the fuck means disbelief or confusion as to what has happened inside the container because all the animals come out from their crate. Jenko uses this slang terms to express a disbelief feeling also the state of feeling shock towards what happens inside the container.

### **CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the data, it can be concluded that the characters used the slang language based on the given situation or contextually. There were also some literal meaning of the slang language but the most dominant were contextual meaning. This could be predicted since a comedy-action movie contains a lot of jokes and therefore to make it more fun the other meaning of a word used. Also the reason of using the slang language was to reduce seriousness of the conversation in this research since this kind of movie genre required that.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the conclusion given, the following suggestions are needed to be considered in conducting the related research :

- 1) The writer suggests the students and lecturer who want to study about slang should learn about all the meaning of slang language.
- 2) The writer suggests the researcher who want to research about Slang to uncover all related things to slang that never been researched before
- 3) The writer suggests for those who frequently used slang as their way to communicate to understand or know more about the meaning of slang language, because the same words could have different meaning in another place.

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