

## Types of Slang Analysis Found in “Kevin Hart” Twitter Account

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**Abstract**– Many people use social media as a medium to interact with others, especially on Twitter. We usually see teenagers use slang words to communicate on social media Twitter and we know it as internet slang. This research aimed to discover the types of slang on the “Kevin Hart” Twitter account. In this study, the descriptive qualitative method was used to explain what types of slang and the meaning of slang. The writer used a theory of the types of slang by Allan and Burrige (2006). After collecting the data, the writer tabulated the slang words that had been found; divided the types and characteristics of the words; interpreted the meanings; and drew a conclusion. This study finds the types of slang in each variation, there are fresh and creative 3 data, flippant 3 data, imitative 13 data, acronym 1 data, and clipping 2 data.

**Keywords:** Slang, Types, Internet, Twitter.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Language has the biggest role in communication, to make proper communication we have to understand the meaning first. Holmes (2013) states that people use language differently in formal and informal contexts. People’s speech and writing styles show characteristics of their identity such as ethnicity, age, gender, and social background. It also provides information on the contexts in which language is used. Many people today used social media as a medium to interact with others, especially on Twitter. We usually see teenagers use slang words to communicate on social media Twitter. Swan (1996: 22) define slang as a term, expression, or particular use of language that is mostly heard in relatively informal speech, particularly in the usage of particular groups of individuals to communicate with one another. That language variation becomes popular and spreads among other users. It does not create a new language, but it develops into slang. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), slang is a popular and modern language stylistically inferior to formal and polite casual speech. It typically uses metaphor and/or ellipsis as well as verbal play, in which modern speech is utilized in some unique sense and denotation; otherwise, the vocabulary, and even the grammar, is imaginative or newly created.

The language commonly used in various social media is often referred to as *internet slang*. The purpose of using internet slang is to communicate more quickly and express emotions. For this reason, internet slang uses a lot of letters with the same sound, punctuation, capital letters, onomatopoeia, and emoticons. Yule (2010, p.259) states that slang is words or phrases that are used among younger speakers and other groups with special interests in place of more ordinary terms. Slang is reserved for a particular group of people and is private. Other types of language used in social media are formal, informal, regional, and foreign. Concerning people today, Twitter is a well-liked social networking site. Users can communicate and share their ideas with a large audience on the social networking site Twitter. On Twitter, users can read articles about the most important news and events of the day, follow celebrities or companies who post content they are interested in reading, or simply talk with friends.

The researcher chooses Kevin Hart’s Twitter account to analyze. Kevin Darnell Hart (born July 6, 1979) is an American actor, comedian, writer, and producer. He began his career as a stand-up comedian but became an actor in Hollywood movies and on television. On top of that, he has put out several well-liked comedy albums. Hart exactly got his start in comedy by rising in several amateur contests held in bars all around New England. His career culminated in 2000 when he made an appearance in Judd Apatow’s sitcom *Undeclared*. The researcher chose this topic not only because it is interesting to analyze, but also because it provides a better understanding for those who are still unfamiliar with the slang that has been floating on Twitter. Many people may become

confused and wonder what those strange words mean, so this study attempts to collect all the slang found on Twitter and figure out their meanings.

There have been many research studies done on slang terms. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), there are five different slang varieties: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Nuraeni and Pahamzah (2021) identified these five categories in their paper, "An Analysis of Slang Language Used in the Teenager Interaction". An interactive data analysis model by Miles and Huberman (1994) was used in this research to examine the data collected through document analysis and surveys. The results of this study showed that different types of teenagers responded differently to various slang terms that they used in conversation. The first highest result was the acronym with a total of 33 words (37.93%), then the second was clipping with a total of 25 words (28.75%), and next, the third was fresh and creative with a total of 16 words (18.39%).

Meanwhile, Situmorang and Herman (2021) write in their journal entitled "An Analysis of Slang Language Styles Used in Charlie's Angels Movie" to examine the various slang terms used in the action-comedy film "Charlie's Angels" in 2019. Sumarsono's (2007) theories about the various slang language styles and Zhou & Fan's (2013) regarding the purposes of slang language were used in this study. In this study's analysis result, there were four different slang language styles among six slang language types. They were using existing words and metaphors in inventive ways by clipping them. The most frequently seen slang language type in the movie was creative, which accounted for 10 data points (or 40% of the total), next to metaphors (7 data points, or 28% of the total), using existing terminology (5 data points, or 20%), and clipping (3 data points, or 12%).

Another previous study by Ardiana et al. (2022) entitled "An Analysis Types of Slang Word Found in Green Day Song Lyric Album" used the theory from Chapman and Kipfer (2007). Based on Chapman and Kipfer (2007), slang words consist of two types which are primary and secondary slang. As a result of this study, the researchers found 21 slang words, from 21 data only classified as secondary slang and no primary slang from 21 data.

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

The data in this study was taken from Kevin Hart's Twitter account. The researcher used Kevin Hart's Twitter account because he frequently uses slang in his tweets, and it makes it easier for the researcher to analyze the type of slang. The data collection was done in some steps:

1. Observing tweets by the "Kevin Hart" Twitter account from May 2022 until July 2022.
2. Creating a list of the data and tabulating the slang words that had been found.
3. Divided the types and characteristics of the words.
4. Interpreting the meanings.
5. Concluding.

The data were analyzed based on a theory using the descriptive qualitative method. A social phenomenon can be studied from the participant's perspective using qualitative research. It shows that understanding social phenomena around individuals or social groups is the basis of the qualitative research methodology. The researcher used a theory of the types of slang by Allan and Burrige (2006). Then, the analysis consists of:

1. Analyzing the types of slang in Kevin Hart's tweets.
2. Explain the meaning of the slang that had been found in Kevin Hart's tweet.

## **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1 Result**

This chapter identified the types of slang words used in Kevin Hart's Twitter account. Allan and Burrige's (2006) theory was used in this study. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), slang is a very popular and modern language and is thought to be stylistically inferior to formal and even polite casual speech. It frequently uses metaphor and/or ellipses, demonstrates verbal play, and uses modern words in some unique senses and denotations; otherwise, the vocabulary and grammar are new or recently invented. The study discovered 21 pieces of data that belong under the categories of slang by Allan and Burrige (2006); fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping.

**Table 1.** The types of slang data that had been found in Kevin Hart’s tweets

Types of Slang	Result	Percentage
Fresh and Creative	3	14,29%
Flippant	3	14,29%
Imitative	13	61,90%
Acronym	1	4,76%
Clipping	2	9,52%
Total	21	100,00%

The table above explains the five types of slang based on Allan and Burrige’s (2006) theory that is found in Kevin Hart’s tweets. The researcher found 3 data fresh and creative; *guy*, *dope*, and *gang gang*, which have a completely new vocabulary, creativity, or imagination. The second slang is flippant, which is found in 3 data; *fucking amazing*, *fucking good*, and *fucking night*. That refers to a word or phrase made from multiple words which create a new meaning that differs from the actual meaning. Then, the third slang is imitative, which is the most used slang in Kevin Hart’s Twitter account. The researcher found 13 data in this study; *damn*, *bitch*, *ass*, *dick*, *fuck*, *ain’t*, *motha fucka*, *bitches*, *fucking*, and *shit* for the imitative slang term that imitates other words to produce a new meaning. The fourth slang is an acronym found in just 1 data, *ASAP*. The acronym is a type of slang that is made by combining the first letters of all the words in a sentence. And the last is clipping, found in 2 data that is *y’all* and *b-day*, and this type is one of several slang terms created by cutting out the longer words to create a shorter version, but still have the same meaning.

### 3.2 Discussion

#### a. Fresh and Creative

According to Allan and Burrige (2006), slang is described as being “fresh and creative” if it has a completely new vocabulary, an informal variation, creativity, or imagination. It can also refer to trendy words. Even though we may not recognize it, some words that come to mind immediately could be slang. Some of the types of fresh and creative slang are found in this study:

1. *“This is dope...I appreciate the love champ”*

The phrase “dope” is adjective slang that means very good. In the American Slang and Colloquial Expression Dictionary, “dope” means best or most excellent. In his tweet, Kevin Hart uses the word “dope” to express his praise and appreciation for something good in a casual situation.

2. *“In the gym with my guy.... @fableticsmen ... Father & Son workouts #Harts #QualityAndComfortAtitsBest”*

The informal phrase “guy” is for a young person or man who conveys familiarity, brotherhood, and even fondness. You can substitute the term “guy” for any noun. Particularly useful if you find it difficult to recall the names of items rapidly for some reason. In this context, Kevin Hart uses the word “guy” to explain that he is in the gym with his best friends in an informal situation.

#### b. Flippant

According to Allan and Burrige (2006), flippant refers to slang language formed of two or more words where the individual words are not related to one another’s denotative meaning. This study found some examples that included flippant in Kevin Hart’s tweets:

1. *“Belfast was fucking amazing tonight!!!! Thank you for the laughs!!!! #Comedic RockStarShit #RealityCheck”*

The phrase “fucking amazing” is one of the examples in his tweet. The word *fucking* and *amazing* are the first two words in the phrase. Every pair of words has a unique meaning, but when they are combined into one or more phrases, their meaning is changed from the individual words. In his tweet, Kevin Hart uses the word *fucking amazing* to explain something really awesome and unbelievable for him.

2. *“It’s showtime Cleveland .... Let’s fucking goooooooooo!!!! #Comedic RockStarShit #RealityCheckTour #LiveLoveLaugh”*

Another example is “fucking go” which has two phrases, *fucking* and *go*. In this context, the word “fucking go” is an individual word that is combined and has not related to each other but it creates a new meaning. In his tweet, Kevin Hart uses the word *let’s fucking go* to explain that his tour shows are already started and he is excited to invite people to watch it.

### c. Imitative

According to Allan and Burrige (2006), the word “imitative” is a slang term that imitates other words or word combinations to produce a new meaning. Some imitative types are found in this study, they are damn, bitch, ass, dick, fuck, ain’t, motha fucka, bitches, fucking, and shit. Some examples are:

1. *“Mount Everest ain’t got shit on me because I’m on top of the world...I’m on top of the world!!!!!! #Mood #LiveLoveLaugh”*

The word “ain’t” in this line is a contraction that can mean, “am not”, “are not”, and “is not”. It can also mean, “have not”, “has not”, “do not”, “does not”, or “did not”. The “ain’t” word is incredibly versatile, a kind of one-stop-shop for saying something isn’t, didn’t or wasn’t. Since this word is so popular, many English speakers are familiar with it. The word “ain’t” is usually used in informal situations and makes a conversation more casual in everyday speech. In this context, Kevin Hart uses the word “ain’t” in a casual situation to explain that Mount Everest does not get him because he’s on top of the world in hyperbole terms.

2. *“So damn beautiful and so damn good!!!! Hard Work Taste Different”*

When you’re upset, annoyed, or amazed by anything, you can use the informal exclamation “damn” to curse. The term “damn” is typically regarded negatively. Avoid using it around children and strangers, as well as in official situations like workplaces and schools. In his tweets, Kevin Hart uses the word *so damn beautiful* and *so damn good* which means that he is really amazed about something beautiful and good.

### d. Acronym

According to Allan and Burrige (2006), the acronym is a sort of slang created by blending each initial of a set of words or the first letters from all the words in a sentence. Like the example found in this study, there are some acronyms in his tweets:

1. *“2nd shows have been added in Toronto and Seattle.....my Pre Sale is LIVE DAMN IT!!!!!! Let’s goooooooooo....This TOUR IS FUCKING INSANE!!!!!! Get yo tickets ASAP #RealityCheck #ComedicRockStarShit ....Go to KevinHartNation.Com”*

The word ASAP is a popular internet slang and short form for “As Soon As Possible” that is used in informal contexts in both spoken and written English. The word is used when something is needed urgently and fast. In his tweet, Kevin Hart uses the word ASAP to inform his followers to buy his ticket shows for the 2nd tour in Toronto and Seattle.

### e. Clipping

According to Allan and Burrige (2006), clipping type is one of several slang terms created by cutting out the longer words to create a shorter version but still has the same meaning. The most frequently used terms can be condensed into a shorter form, like “ad” to mean “advertisement”. Additionally, it’s inappropriate to use the clipping form in formal conversations. This study found some clippings that were used in Kevin Hart’s tweet:

1. "Make sure y'all catch me on @fallontonight. always a great time when me and @jimmyfallon link up!!!! Styled by @ashleynorthstyle #ComedicRockStarShit #LilSwag"

In other tweets, Kevin Hart uses the word "y'all" which means "you" and "all". When speaking to or referring to two or more persons, the phrase "y'all" is used, which is a contraction of "you" and "all". That word is commonly used in the southern United States, particularly in states such as Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. They used that word in music and other forms of popular culture to make it more familiar and acceptable to those who didn't grow up with it. Although "y'all" is a naturally plural word, it's more often used as a colloquial expression when addressing a bigger group of individuals.

2. "B day photo dump....Great times with good people....So much love and appreciation for friends & family!!!! We had that Mino lino flowing @grancoramino"

In this context, another clipping is found in the word "b-day" which means "birthday". A birthday is the day which a person was born and some of us will celebrate it every year with cakes and candles. Instead of saying "happy birthday", youth today use a modifier slang word "b-day" to make it simple, quick, and looks trendy to say both in spoken and written language. In Kevin Hart's tweets, he uses the word "b-day" in his birthday photo to make it simple in an informal situation.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

There are so many types of slang language used by youth today in social media. Slang is a very popular and modern language and is thought to be stylistically inferior to formal and even polite casual speech. It frequently uses metaphor and/or ellipses, demonstrates verbal play, and uses modern words in some unique senses and denotations; otherwise, the vocabulary and grammar are new or recently invented. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), there are 5 types of slang words; fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. This study found 21 pieces of data in Kevin Hart's Twitter account from May 2022 until July 2022.

From those 21 data, imitative is the most popular slang type that is usually used in his tweets. The slang words used by Kevin Hart in his tweets are typically used in casual contexts. The purpose of using slang words on social media Twitter now is used to create jokes in social interactions and to grab attention. Slang is a new form of communication that is popular among teenagers on social media that allows users to express their feelings or build a new language.

In the end, the purpose of our research improved the clarity of the various slang terms based on Twitter. To examine the data with theory in this study, descriptive and qualitative methodologies are used. Kevin Hart is a well-known actor and comedian in Hollywood, and the way he uses slang on Twitter makes it interesting to examine the many sorts of slang. The researcher anticipated that the results of this study will be used as a guide for other reference.

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