An Analysis Of Slang Words Found in Avril Lavigne's Song Lyrics

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Abstract : The title of this research is "An Analysis of Slang Words Found in Avril Lavigne Song lyrics", This Research aims to answer two research problems: (1). What are the types of slang words found in Avril Lavigne song lyrics, (2). What are the meaning of slang words found in Avril Lavigne song lyrics. The data in this research are the lyrics of the songs by Avril Lavigne. In this research used theory from Mattiello (2008) in her book entitled "An Introduction to English Slang" was used to analyze the types of slang words. Theory by Leech's (1981) was used to analyzing and explain types of slang words that are used in Avril Lavigne song lyrics. The data were song lyrics analysis, the research tried to find and identify the slang word in lyrics by finding, marking, analyzing, and classifying the data according to the types of slang words and types of meaning. Finally, based on the data analysis, it was found that slang can be classified as several types such as compounding, prefixation, conversion, acronym, blending, clipping and variation. Furthermore, there were Five types of meaning found in this research, namely conceptual meaning, collocative meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning, and social meaning.
Keywords: slang word, type, meaning

INTRODUCTION

In our life, human needs to interact with each other. The necessary tool is language. Language has important function to all society who needs to use it because language is the way to interact one to another. There is no person or society able to live without language. Language is social communication tools in the form of a system of sound symbols generated from human speech. The science that studies language is called linguistics. According to Martinet (1987: 19) linguistics is a science that takes language as the object of its study.

In linguistics, the study of descriptive studies of the influence of all aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectations and contexts, ways of using language, and the influence of society on language is called sociolinguistics (Klare, 2012). Sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society. Sociolinguistics is also the study of the effects of various aspects to society, including cultural, norms, and contexts on the language used (Husdon, 1980). By using language, people can express feelings, ideas, emotion, and everything they have in their minds. In using the language, human being face many aspects concerned with language in use. Language can be used both in oral and written form based their contexts. While from its context, language can be used in informal and formal situations. Human always want to deliver it to other human by using language.

The song Avril Lavigne will be analysed to understand the types of slang words and the meanings of slang words used in this song. From this research, slang is very important to understand the meaning of the songs when someone read the song lyrics. Sometimes, each parts of slang cannot find in the dictionary so that make people difficult to understand what the meaning of the song that singer wants to convey. Avril Ramona Lavigne or the popular name is Avril Lavigneis is a Canadian singer, song writer, also actress. Avril Lavigne was born on September 27, 1984 in Belleville, Ontario, Canada, she spent most of her childhood in Napanee, Ontario. For more than a decade, Lavigne has enjoyed great success with punk-influenced pop music. Avril Lavigne learned to play guitar also started writing her own music or song as a teenager.

Based on the statements above, this research focused on this topic because it is so interesting to discuss. The topic covers analysis of slang words that are used in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics. The success of the slang act lays is the interpretation of the utterance and the behavior of the hearer and the speakers.

METHOD

There were four points of method research that can be found to examine the object, such as: data sources, data collection, data analysis, and presented the result of the analysis. A data source is the subject of the research where the data can be obtained. Song lyrics by Avril Lavigne's was chosen as data source. These songs were chosen as the data source because it provides a wide range of words from which it can be analysed using the study of slangs words.

Data collection refers to the process of gathering the data. In collecting the data, the researcher uses observation method and note taking technique. First, the researcher listens and read sentence by sentence from the song lyrics attentively, second, the word in the sentence which is categorized into slang was identified and underlined. Third, the data were written by note-taking technique and classified based on the types.

The data source was analysed by using descriptive qualitative methods. For first analysis is the types of slang words; the second analysis is the meaning of the slang words by theories from Mattiello (2008) and Leech (1981).

Presenting the result of the analysis is last step in this research. In this step, the data will be analysed with using informal methods; presenting the final result of the analysis using sentence to explain it

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Slang is informal language that is often to use by people in informal situation to replace the formal language slang is not a new phenomenon because slang existed long time ago. Slang also contributed in the make of new words in language. Slang has a form, function, and meaning just like standard language. The same linguistics process used to create and popularize slang as are used to create and popularize all other words. That is, all words were created and popularized in the same general ways, they are labelled slang only according to their current social acceptance, long after creation and popularization. Before start further, it is better to understand what the definition slang is first. There are many arguments about slang definitions:

According to Swan (1995), slang is a very informal kind of vocabulary, used mostly in speech by people who know each other well. The common definition of slang is an informal, nonstandard word also phrase, generally shorter lived than the expressions of ordinary colloquial speech, and typically formed by creative, often witty juxtapositions of words or images. The result of the research shows there are seven types of slang words in the lyrics are; compounding, prefixation, conversion, acronym, blending, clipping and variation. And the research found five meanings in the Avril Lavigne Song Lyrics. research found five meanings in the Avril Lavigne Song Lyrics. Those are conceptual meaning, collocative meaning, Affective meaning, reflective meaning, and social meaning.

Types of slang words found in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics:

Compounding

According to (Mattiello 2008) compounding is the process of combining two words (free morphemes) to create a new word (commonly a noun, verb, or adjective) that has an entirely new meaning. The analysis of compounding can seen in the following:

Goddamn, it's gonna hurt (Avril Lavigne - Birdie)

The slang words that found on the lyrics above is "goddamn" from the words 'god' and 'damn'. The meaning of slang words in the lyrics above is an expression of anger, surprise, and intense excitement or frustration. "Goddamn" use to convey extreme displeasure, annoyance, or else surprise.

(Based on Urban Dictionary, 2022) "Goddamn" used to enhance or to replace a well used word to make the situation or person to sound bad or good or to hope for god wrath to be brought on the non believers. The meaning is not like in the dictionary but it makes a new meaning, which an expression of anger or shocked. The equivalence of the slang word in the standard language is oh my god. This expression is slang because it is an informal language and it is only being used to someone who have known each other well and also can be categorized as slang because it has a special sense that is to joke in a rude way with someone. This slang expresses of anger, shocked and surprised.

Prefixation

Among slang affixes, prefixes play a marginal role. Their number is indeed small, especially if compared with that of slang suffixes.

And we never will unplug it (Avril Lavigne – Bigger Wow)

Unplug

From the song lyrics above that found in Avril Lavigne song lyrics there is slang words "Unplug". "unplug" is the act of halting or postponing the usage of electronic devices. To leave, also back out of, and situation or person. "Unplug" has synonyms clear, free, unstop, and open. (Based on urban Dictionary 2021, "Unplug" mean do something that would contribute to forgetting one's problems or reducing stress. Unplug means to stop whatever you have been doing, take a break from your usual routine.

Conversion

Mattielo (2008) stated that "conversion is change or adaptation in form, character, or function something changed in one of these respects. Conversion is the creation of new word class from an existed word (of different word class) without any change in form. Conversion is the process to locate the new word in new syntax category without affixation process", (Mattiello 2008). The analysis of conversion can be seen in the following:

Chill out, what you yellin' for? (Avril Lavigne – Complicated)

From the song lyrics above there is slang words found in Avril Lavigne song lyrics is "Chill". Based on (Oxford English Dictionary, 2022) the word "chill" has meaning of being 'cold' but isn't really that often just rarely, otherwise it is slang for 'relax' which is the much more common meaning of it. According to (Urban Dictionary 2005) "chill" is just slang expressions for 'relax' so if people are 'chilling', people are 'chilling', people are calm down and relaxing this word conversion process changes the world "chill" (adjective) in the meaning of 'cold' to "chill" (verb) in the expressions chill comes from the African – American New York slang of the late 1970s derived from a song by Sugarhill's Rapper's Delight that came out in 1979. In this era, this word is used in all circles, especially teenagers, and is used in song lyrics to sound cool. In addition to expressing relax, this word is usually used to describe the attitude taken by a person, or an individual which/who is calm, and enjoyable or easy going, it is often used to describe parties, get togethers, and acquaintances, chill is in opposition to rowdiness, exciting activity, and stress. This slang words expressed relax, enjoy, and calm. The singer said relax because all done before.

Acronym and Initialisms

Based on (Mattielllo, 2008) acronym is formed by taking the initial sounds or letter of the word phrase and writing them into a combination. The analysis of Acronym can be seen in following:

Like a major rager OMFG (Avril lavigne – Hello Kitty)

From the song lyrics above there is slang words found in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics is "OMFG". The expression "OMFG" is formed by taking the initial of letter of the word. "OMFG" is acronym for "Oh My Fucking God". "OMFG" is a general exclamation. It means "oh my fucking god" it is when someone is surprised at something. It is often used in disbelief, excitement or when someone feels very strongly about something. Slang words "OMFG" called acronym because, acronym is formed by taking the initial sounds or letter of the word phrase and writing them into a combination. It is also called vulgar

slang. “OMFG” is more dramatic than version of oh my god. “OMFG” is used to expressed surprise, excitement and disbelief.

Blending

Blending process are words that are created from non-morphemic parts of two already existing items. Below is the analysis of slang words that used blending process to form the words. Blending is one of slang formation process that created by two words. It is quite different from a compounding. The process of blending is typically accomplished by taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of the other word (Mattiello, 2008). The blending form process is also used in Avril Lavigne song lyrics slang word. The examples are:

Gotta let it go, just let it go (Avril Lavigne With Chad Kroeger - Let Me Go)

In the lyrics above the word gotta has combination between “Got + to” in informal speech and in representations of such speech, this word is very common expression in speaking. Gotta has been used regularly in the titles and lyrics or popular song since 1950s or even earlier. Gotta is used in written English to represent the words ‘got to’ when they are pronounced informally and used in writing represent the sound of the phrase ‘got to’ when it is spoken quickly.

Clipping

Based on (Mattiello, 2008) clipping is one of the word formation processes which formed by shortening the word. Clipping from generally has the same denotative meaning as the word it comes from, but it’s regarded as more colloquial and informal. Clipping form used by English people since 1980 (Marchand: 1969) in their daily communication to the present, or it is an alternative pronunciation used by rapper or hip hop singer to shorten, alter, or change the sound of a word. It is not related to someone’s attitude or something in secret. Clipping also makes it easier to spell and write many words (Nordquist, 2020). Clipping may occur in front or back part of word. Besides, in the clipping process it may be replace with certain new spelling. There are others clipping process found in forming slang words in Avril Lavigne song lyrics (can be seen in appendix). The following is the analysis of several words that is formed through this process:

Let 'em know that we're still rock n roll (Avril Lavigne – Rock N Roll)

The word ‘em is slang word, because it is a new vocabulary to describe “Them” in informal situation. This Word is called clipping because there is a reduction of word to one of its parts. In this case, this word is classified as initial clipping because it retains the final part of the word. In the word them, the letters “th” is omitted and replaced with apostrophe (‘). Most of people used the words ‘em because this way is easier rather hen using the word “them” itself. The lyrics above the singer just explain to them they are still rock n roll and do not care about make-up or fashions.

Variation

Variation is kind of slang word that makes a new word by modifying a word base by varying its spelling. Here are variation words that found in Avril Lavigne song lyrics. The analysis of variation can be seen in the following:

Call it a bad attitude, dude (Avril Lavigne - Rock N Roll (Acoustic)

From the song lyrics above there is a slang words found in Avril Lavigne song lyrics “dude” is English slang words, originally American English. The slang word “dude” is means ‘guy’ or ‘man’. The term dude is derived into variation from the word “doodle”. In the popular press of the 1880s and 1890s, “dude” was a new word for ‘dandy’, an extremely well- dressed male. According to Scott, “A slang term which has been the subject of much discussion. It first became known in colloquial and newspaper use at the time of the so called ‘esthetic’ movement in dress and manners in 1882-3. The term has no antecedent record, and is prob. One of the spontaneous products of popular slang. There is no known way, even in slang etymology, of ‘deriving’ the term, in sense used from duds (formerly sometimes spelled dudes), clothes in the sense of ‘fine clothes’ and the connection, though apparently natural, is highly improbable.” Based on (Urban Dictionary 2021) “dude” is the most important word in the English language, a gender neutral term for anyone that is chill o person calling the other to make situation relax,

to make humble, and to show excitement. “dude” means a stuck-up people who dressed overly well. “dude” refers any man, or guy who come from a city and dressed in a stylish way, cool and fashionable. The singer used this slang words express a relax situation, and humble with man.

Kind of meaning:

According to the (Leech, 1981) meaning distinguished in seven types namely: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, collocative meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning, thematic meaning, and social meaning. But there are 5 kinds of meaning are found in the data, they are; conceptual meaning, collocative meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning, and social meaning.

Conceptual meaning

Conceptual meaning (sometimes called ‘denotative’ meaning or ‘cognitive’ meaning) is widely assumed to be the central factor in verbal communication and it can be shown to be integral to the essential functioning of language in a way that other types of meaning are not. There were some samples of conceptual meaning found in the lyrics of the song Avril Lavigne.

Isn’t anyone tryin’ to find me? (Avril lavigne - I’m With You)

In the lyric above the singer just explains nothing tries to find she and no one come take her home. The word tryin’ has conceptual or denotative meaning trying. Its word means make an attempt or effort to do something (Oxford Dictionary OED, n.d). This is the basic propositional meaning that corresponds to the primary dictionary definition. This is the essential or fundamental meaning.

Collocative meaning

Collocative meaning consist of the associations a word acquires on account of the meaning of words which tent occur with it. Sample of collocatives meaning found in Avril Lavigne song lyrics can be seen in the following:

And hell yeah, i’m the motherfuckin’ princess. (Avril Lavigne – Girlfriend)

The phrase motherfuckin’ is called collocative meaning since the noun word mother conveys meanings when it is going together with others adjective. The word mother itself is a noun and has meaning “female parent of a child”. And based on Dictionary of American slang the word fuckin’ itself is an adjective and vulgar slang used for emphasis or to express anger, annoyance, concept tempt, displeasing, despicable, or surprise, or surprise. Means woman one dislike or disapproves, such as fucking, idiot, fucking moron, etc. Based on the online slang dictionary (2021) In this case, the verb motherfuckin’ refers to “a name or something to hype it up and suggests that is really cool and baddas”.

Affective meaning

Affective meaning has more directly a reflection of the speaker’s personal attitude or feelings toward the listener or the target of the utterance. Such feelings or attitudes are usually negative or insincere in nature. They are normally expressed through such forms of language use as insult, flattery, hyperbole, or sarcasm. The example of connotative meaning in the one of the Avril Lavigne’s song lyrics can be seen in the following:

And I’m like Fuck You!

(Avril Lavigne – Fuck You)

The word phrase fuck you in the sentence above is included in affective meaning. This sentence belongs to the affective meaning because it comes from the feeling or emotion of the singer. The sentence fuck you used for emphasis or to express anger, annoyance, contempt, displeasing, despicable, or surprise. This sentence describe that the singer’s condition is in anger. According to (Urban Dictionary, 2017) the sentence fuck you is a term used to say you strongly hate or dislike someone. You mostly say it to someone you are upset with, or someone you hate.

Reflective meaning

Reflective meaning is the meaning which arises in cases of multiple conceptual meaning when one sense of a word forms a part of our response to another sense. In short, reflected meaning is what

communicated through association with another sense of the same expressions. Sample of reflected meaning found in Avril Lavigne song lyrics can be seen in the following:

Now i am his p..p.. p.. pussy cat (Avril Lavigne – p.. p.. pussy cat)

Based on (Meririam Webster's Learner's Dictionary, n.d) the word Pussy is "kitten" it is another way of saying "cat" but in the lyrics song above it isn't really used that often just rarely, otherwise it is slang for "vagina" (female genitalia), which is the much more common meaning of it. Therefore, the word pussy is called affective meaning which is a meaning that appears in the same word expressions. This definition arises because it eliminates other meanings in the same expression.

Social meaning

Social meaning is a piece of language which conveys about the social circumstance of t uses. The social meaning is decoded from a text through human knowledge toward some dimensions and the level of language use in a The sample of social meaning found in the lyrics Avril Lavigne song can be seen in the following: certain language scope.

He was a fruity dude (Avril Lavigne – Fruity Dude)

In the lyrics above avril lavigne explain he was a fruity, she had manly face, and her head was up in space with all the little aliens. The words dude in that song lyrics above are indicated to have social meaning. The word, dude is a word that Americans used to address each other (Urban Dictionary, 2003). As indicated by Leech, social or stylistic meaning concerns what is communicated of the social circumstances of language use (1974:16-17). We know it from the dialects or the language usage of "status" as the category of its usage to differentiate between each dimension which shows something from the different style.

CONCLUSION

Slang words are not only found in everyday conversation, but also in the lyrics of the songs. Slang becomes a popular word to uses for musician to make pronunciation easier. The research is curious to investigate slang words as found in Avril Lavigne song lyrics and how they are formed. After analyzing the data which have been discussed in the previous chapter, the research attempts to explain the conclusion of this research. In the type of slang words the research concludes that the research has analyzing is, based on Mattiello (2008) theory the types of slang words there are fifteen types. But in Avril Lavigne Song lyrics the researcher only found seven types of slang words in the lyrics are; compounding, prefixation, conversion, acronym, blending, clipping and variation.

The type of word formation process which was mostly used in the album is clipping process. Based on the analysis using the theory of Leech (1981) which divides the meaning into seven parts, the research found five meanings in the Avril Lavigne Song Lyrics. Those are conceptual meaning that is the ordinary dictionary everyday meaning of a word or expression, collocative meaning that is communicated thru association with words which lean to occur in the environment of other word, Affective meaning that is communicated of feelings and attitudes of the speaker or the writer, reflective meaning that is communicated through association with another sense of the same expressions, and social meaning, what is communicated of the social circumstance of language use.

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