

SLANG LANGUAGE ANALYSIS IN FILM “FURY”

IswanAramiko¹

Usman Kasim

Zulfadli A. Aziz

Universitas Syiah Kuala, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

The aims of this research are to identify the functions, types and the formation of slang words/phrases in the film “Fury”. This research is qualitative research with content analysis design. The data are slang words/phrases from the conversations of the film. The data were collected through observation with observation guide as the instrument. The result of the research shows that the functions of using slang in the film were to show emotion, rebellion, humor, toughness, creative, vibrant, informality, stylization, conciseness, and forcefulness. The types of slang used in the film were hip-hop slang, slang in University of Leicester, inner city slang of New York, general slang, and specific slang. The slang words/phrases in the film were formed by suffixation, final combining, reversed form, compounding, clipping, and word manufacture.

Keywords: *Slang, Analysis, Film “Fury”*.

INTRODUCTION

According to Fromkin, Rodman and Hyams (2003, p. 594) slang is a fast-changing group of words or phrases used in casual speech which are often invented and spread by close-knit social or age groups. This statement could be understood that the slang is a group of informal words or phrases that are used mostly in unofficial situations that might be popular and forgotten in short period of time.

Studying slang will bring the students to the real language usage which they would likely find in the society’s communication. Besides, it

¹ Corresponding Author: mrjuniorbm@gmail.com

also will help the students who want to study abroad, especially for those who want to study in English speaking countries. This is important since according to Widawski (2015) slang is not easy to define because it is very informal and contrast to the academic language.

According to Lynch (2006) the mastery of slang words or phrases could be achieved through deploying media such as movie, song, and poems. Using movie among others as media to learn slang is considered more apprehended. According to Lynch (2006), there are five reasons why movie are used as teaching media, namely the existences of varieties of action, slice of culture, historical chance that can be demonstrated using visual and audio-visual element.

One of the movies that consist of many slang words in the conversation in each scene is "Fury" which was released in 2014 in the United States of America. The conversation below illustrates some slang words used in the movie.

Don	: "God damn it. Ain't you done yet?"
Coon-ass	: "You got no right to be <i>fucking</i> sore with me. Quite <i>fucking</i> riding me".
Don	: "Roger".
Bible	: "We've been talking about the same dumb <i>shit</i> for three years".

There are three slanging words and phrases found in the conversation above; *god damn*, *fucking*, and *shit*. These slang words/phrases above are hard to understand because it requires a specific knowledge regarding slang words and phrases employed. Considering a high frequency of slang words used, this movie was chosen to be a research object from which the data were drawn.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Slang

Green (2014) argued that Scandinavian origin has been proposed as the term of slang from word *slengenavn*, which means "nickname".

The Function of Slang

The use of slang is affected by some social factors such as age, gender, status, etc. Slang is another area of vocabulary which reflects a person's age (Holmes, 2006, p. 167). Slang term is used almost in all

oral languages and usually used to express people's feelings, which are emotion, rebellion, humor, toughness, creativity, vibrant, informality, stylization, conciseness, and forcefulness.

Types of Slang

1. Hip-hop Slang

Hip-hop slang is from hip-hop music, its crossover triumph that takes in not merely the blacks who pioneered it and are its main creators, but also whites of every class, and extends into non-Anglophone countries. All suggest that it is both of "black slang" and has come to transcend it (Green, 2014).

2. The Inner City Slang of New York

According to Coleman (2014), the subjects of New York City slang are sex, substance abuse, and violence. They dominate the kids' language for example; terms relating to clothing are: *boots* "any footwear" → "I just got a fresh pair of *boots*", *fitted* "non-adjustable baseball cap" → "I must remain crisp to be good" "The fitted that don't look crispy, you can wear that in the rain", etc.

3. Slang in University of Carolina

According to Coleman (2014), slang in University of Carolina of the twenty-first century are sensitive to embracing diversity and including people unlike themselves in their social circles, and most belong to several different networks. Example of slang words in the campus are: "*abuck*" meaning one hundred dollars as in "I bought an L.E.D. T.V. for *a buck* ninety from my friend" and "*a grip of*" meaning a bunch of as in "*a grip of* us went together to watch what the people do in the river".

4. Slang in University of Leicester

In the University of Leicester, the students use terms that encompass jargon, dialect, national English, buzz words, colloquial language, family language, sociolects and idiolects, e.g. *ming* v. "to be disgusting, smelly, unhygienic or unattractive", *minger*, *ming-troll* n. "an unattractive person", and *minging* adj. "disgusting, smelly, etc." (Coleman, 2014, p. 2).

5. Multi-Cultural London English

According to Kerswill (2006), multi-cultural London English is seen as transcending many previous forms of youthful speech by incorporating elements of a number of cultures. It is perhaps impossible to measure, but the cultural crossover extends not merely between races but also classes and multicultural London English can also be found among young middle-class white speakers.

6. New Canting Crew

Accordingly, Coleman (2014) argues that the new canting crew slang, as the disparate material presented here demonstrates anything meaningful. There is no uniform criminal slang but at least three distinct language varieties, or sociolects, are used by transgressive groups – “several tribes” – operating in the United Kingdom today.

Slang Word Formation

1. Compounding

Compounding is morphological process which derives new words from two words, the first of which is a root, a word or a phrase, while the second of which is either a root or a word (Plag, 2002, p. 135). Accordingly, Eastwood (2002, p. 367) says some words are formed by combining two different words to make a compound, e.g. *bath + room = bathroom*.

2. Prefixation

Prefix is put at the beginning of a word; it changes the meaning of word (Eastwood, 2002, p. 369). The prefixes “*de-*”, “*re-*”, “*super-*”, “*un-*”, and “*under*” which are attested in Standard English offer no case study of slang extra-grammaticality (Mattiello, 2008, p. 91).

3. Suffixation

A suffix comes at the end of a word, for example, we can add the suffix *ment* to the verb *state* to form the noun “*statement*” (Eastwood, 2002, p. 370).

4. Final Combining Forms

According to Dressler (2000), final combining is classified as the marginal of morphology. Moreover, according to Eastwood (2002, p.376) some words have grammatical endings; a noun can have a plural

or possessive form: “friends”, “friend’s”; a verb can have an s-form, *ed*-form or *ing*-form, such as “asks”, “asked”, “asking”; and some adjectives can have a comparative and superlative form, namely “quicker”, “quickest”.

5. In-fixation

In-fixation process is frequent in slang. Its most common expletive infixes include *-bally-*, *-blessed-*, *-bloody-*, *-blooming-*, and *-fucking-* (e.g. *fantastic* → *fan-bloody-tastic*) (Mattiello, 2008, p.123).

6. Conversion

Conversion is the derivation of a word without any overt marking, for example *the bottle* → “*to bottle*”, *the hammer* → “*to hammer*”, *the file* → “*to file*”, *the skin* → “*to skin*”, and *the water* → “*to water*” (Plag, 2002, p. 134).

7. Back-Formation

Examples mainly include verbs back-formed from nouns such as *baby-snatch* ← “*baby-snatcher*”, or, rarely, from adjectives such as *lay back* ← *laid-back*, and nouns back-derived from adjectives with *-y*, *-ed*, or *-ish* endings as in *dill* ← “*dilly*”, *pea-brain* ← “*pea-brained*”, and *Yid* ← “*Yiddish*”) (Mattiello, 2008, p. 129).

8. Reduplicative

It is a class of diminutives that are derived by partial repetition of a base word; a formal process is also known as partial reduplication, for example: “*Andy-Wandy*”, “*Annie-Pannie*”, “*piggie-wiggie*”, “*lovey-dovey*”, “*Charlie-Parlie*”, “*boatie-woatie*”, and “*housey-wousey*” (Plag, 2002, p. 168).

9. Acronyms and Initialisms

According to Kridalaksana (2007, p. 159), abbreviation is a process of putting off one or some parts of a lexeme or a combination of lexemes so that it becomes a new word form. Although abbreviation is largely a convention of written language, sometimes abbreviations carry over into spoken language, for example written abbreviation such as *cm-centimeter(s)*, *Dr. – Doctor*, and Spoken-Written Abbreviations; *A.M. – Ante Meridiem* (in the morning), and *VIP – Very Important Person*.

10. Blendings

Blending is a model of the process by which listeners and readers construct new meaning by putting two mental spaces in correspondence for example "*the firm is on the rocks*" which is interpreted by taking a source space, commerce, and mapping it onto a target space. (Brown & Miller 2013, p.95).

11. Clipping

According to Kortmann (2005), clipping is concerned with the process that expands the vocabulary of a language, i.e. create new lexeme: *Adv* → *Advertisement*, *Doc* → *Doctor*, *Flu* → *Influenza*, *Lab* → *Laboratory*, and *Phone* → *Telephone*.

12. Elliptic Rhyming Slang

In spoken or written English, particularly in Cockney dialect, a word is replaced by a rhyming word or phrase, making communication incomprehensible to those who do not understand the code (e.g. *trouble* and *strife* for wife) (Brown & Miller (2013, p. 385).

13. Reversed Forms

A prefix or particle indicating the reversal of the process denoted by the verb stem, as in *tie* – *untie*, *roll (up)* – *unroll* (Brown & Miller, 2013, p. 384).

14. Variation

By "variation" the slang formation mechanism which modifies word base by varying (part of)its spelling. It is an umbrella term for different processes e.g, *no* ← *nope* as in "*nope*, I don't need the book", and *basket* ← *bastard* as in "where did you put the *bastard* last morning?" and *canuck* ← *canada* (Mattiello, 2008, p. 150).

15. Word Manufacture and Fanciful Formations

"Word manufacture" consists of creating words for examplenihilowith no morphological motivation, as in *Kodak* (Mattiello, 2008, p. 155).

Film Theory

Film is a series of moving pictured recorded with the sound that tells a story, shown on television or at cinema/theatre (Wehmeier, 2005). Moreover, Lynch (2006) stated that there are five reasons why a movie

is used as teaching media namely, the existences of varieties of action, a slice of culture, historical chance, audio-visual element aids, and its intrinsic interest. Film/movie is a good media to study languages.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section will deal with the functions of slang in film, the types of slang in the film, and the process of forming slang words.

The Functions of Slang

1. Emotion

Slang words/phrases during the conversations in the film “Fury” could frequently be found, for examples “*Son of a bitch!*” used as a mild expletive phrase. This phrase was used by Coon Ass to express his emotion (anger) and to rebel his leader Don.

2. Rebellion

One of the examples of slang used to express rebellion was “I ain’t a *fucking* dog”. The “*fucking*” is an intensifier used for emphasis. In the scene of the film, Gordo told Don not to call him “animal”. He used that slang to rebel.

3. Humor

Humor was used in the conversation by means of slang ‘*fuck*’ as in “Nobody gives a *fuck* where are you from”. *Fuck* means “disregard”. Gordo said that word to add humor to his sentence.

4. Toughness

Toughness was also realized by using slang words. An example of it is in the phrase “*Knock him off*”. Contextually, this phrase was used when Don was angry to Gordo because he blamed Don about the situation.

5. Creative

Creative is the function that makes slang vivid, for example in “Grady, restock *ammo* and rations”. The origin of the word *ammo* is “ammunition”.

6. Vibrant

In 'fury' film, vibrant was realized by a slang expression such as "Boy get some *chow* and do what you can about mechanical issues". The slang word "*chow*", used to raise the spirit of his crew, is from "chowder".

7. Informality

In another conversation, Sergeant also used the slang to reduce formality when talking to Don. He said "four? you're *shitting* me", in order to confirm if they just had four tanks left.

8. Stylization

Stylization function was used in the sentence "Let's go *gents*". The literal word of "*gents*" is gentleman. Don said that slang word to his group because they had to go to battle as soon as possible.

9. Conciseness

Conciseness is one of the slang functions to short the word. For example, from the conversation of the film, Bibble, an actor of the film, answered "*roger*" to the command given by Don on the intercom. "*Roger*" means "yes" or "OK".

10. Forcefulness

Forcefulness in the film is used to show a high social status of a person. Don as a leader in the tank said the sentence "you rake the dog *shit* out of him" to Norman.

Types of Slang

The types of slang use in fury film are varied. They are namely hip-hop slang, slang in New York City, slang at the University of Leicester, general slang, and special slang.

1. Hip-Hop Slang

There are two examples of hip-hop slang that were found from the conversation of film "Fury". Examples of hip-hop slang in film "Fury" were as follows "*Fucker*" and "*Motherfucker*".

2. Slang in University of Leicester

This type of slang was found as the second type of slang used the most frequently. The examples of such slang include "*fuck*" and "*shit*".

These words were used as the verbs such as “Hey *fuck* you Don” or “Four? you’re *shitting* me”.

3. General Slang

General slangs found in the “Fury” film include “ain’t *tridding* you”, “*knock him off*”, “*Son of a bitch*”, “*Probably a bunch of bums looking to surrender that’s all*”, “*bullshit*”, and “*assholes*”.

4. Specific Slang

There were some specific slang words and phrases used in the conversation of “Fury” film. They were “*roger*” and “*Grady*”, “*ammo*”.

Slang Word Formation Process

1. Compounding

An example for compounding from the conversation of film “Fury” was “*motherfucker*” \rightarrow (n) + (v) + (s) = (n). The word “*motherfucker*” is formed by combining two words “*mother*” (n) and “*fucker*” (n). This word is also added the suffix “*-er*” to the final word to result a new word.

2. Suffix

The word “*fucker*” \rightarrow (v) + “*-er*” (s) = (n) is one example of word with suffix. The slang word “*fucker*” is formed by combining a suffix “*-er*” after the verb “*fuck*”.

3. Final Combining Forms

The slang word “*fucking*” was formed by combining a root ‘*fuck*’ and inflectional suffix ‘*ing*’. The process to result word *fucking* is called final combining form.

4. Reversed Form

The slang phrase “*Knock it off*” is one of the reversed form from the conversation of the film. “*Knock it off*” is a reversal process by combining a verb, pronoun, and adjective to result in a verb. The literal meaning of “*knock it off*” is to stop doing something. The meaning of “*knock it off*” in slang is to kill someone.

5. Clipping

There are some examples of clipping words, including “*laboratory* \rightarrow *lab*” and “*dormitory* \rightarrow *dorm*” “*Grady*”, and “*ammo*”. Specifically, the word *ammo* is a root without prefix and suffix.

6. Word Manufacture

Word manufacture was also found in the conversation, such as "chow".

Discussion

Most of the scenes in the film used slang words. Slang is such as the main language in the film because it is used in almost of the context situations. The person who used slang words in the film is a person with characteristics strong and bad attitude. But bad attitude is not always related to the user of slang. The slang is used by the actors in the film even though they are different in ages and attitudes.

Language attitudes in using the slang words/phrases seem like the popularity of slang words in the film. The background of the users is not too affected why someone uses the slang. Based on the film "Fury", even he is a boss or not, young or old, they all used slang. In fact the "Bible" is a religious soldier in the film also used slang words. Even though, Korth (2005, p.5) says that "language attitudes, thoughts, and feelings about specific language and its speakers are related closely".

Even the slang languages have negative reputation according to "polite" or not "polite", but in fact from the film, slang language is regarded as effective language to share information instead the standard/formal language in certain situations. The most types of slang use in the film "Fury" are general slang, even the actors are American army, and they rarely use specific/army slang. It proofs that slang spread in one area to the wide world. there are some types of slang do not use in the conversation of the film, such slang at University of Carolina, Multi-Cultural London English slang (MLE),and New Canting Crew slang.

Finally, the slang words used in the conversation of "Fury" film are not merely specific/army slangs even their job is as an army. Otherwise, they used general slang mostly in their conversation. It shows if slang is not only spread in one group of society, but also spread to the others group. The generalization of slang has spread across the group of society.

CONCLUSION

The function of slangs found in the conversation of film "Fury" were to express emotion, rebellion, humor, toughness, creativeness, vibrant, informality, stylization, conciseness, and forcefulness. However, the actors in the film mainly used slangs for the emotional expression,

compared to other functions. The variety in using slang in the film shows that slang has an important role in the conversation to make an effective communication in the war.

Moreover, the types of slang words/phrases used in the film were general slang, hip-hop slang, slang at University of Leicester, inner city slangs of New York, and specific slang (army slang). General slang was the most frequently used in the movie. It was found the contradiction between the common type of slang used in the film and the users' background as army who has its own slang repertoires. This phenomenon shows that slang has been generalized in the society.

Additionally, the slang words/phrases in the film "Fury" were formed with suffix, final combining, reversed form, compounding, clipping, and word manufacture. However, most slang words in the film were formed by using final combining formation. The slang word formations in the film were similar to ordinary words formations.

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