

IDENTIFYING SLANG WORDS IN MEGHAN TRAINOR'S SONG

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***Abstract** - This study aims at analyzing existing slang words in Meghan Trainor's song lyrics the data analyzed in this study are the slang findings in Meghan Trainor's song lyrics. Those the main source of the data is Meghan Trainor's song lyrics. The analysis was done in three stages, they are collecting the data, listing the category and presenting the results. The results showed some kinds of slang that are used and divided into three characteristics, they are clipping, blending and coinage. Clipping is a slang word spoken by shortening a word, blending mixes two words which have meanings which are then spoken in one word, while the coinage itself means creating a new word and that word became slang. The use of slang generally aims at creating interesting songs.*

***Keywords:** Slang, Meghan Trainor's song.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is a powerful device in society. In the normal transfer of information through language, some people use language to send vital social messages about who they are, where they come from, and whom they associate with. It is often shocking to realize how extensively they may judge a person's background, character, and intentions base simply upon the person's language, dialect, or in some instances, even the choice or single word.

Language is related to society and the study of it is named sociolinguistics, in Wardhaugh (2006:13) states that sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society. In society there are people belonging to the same social group of the same trade, profession, hobby, age, or social position tend to believe in the same way. This behavior influences not only the clothes they wear, but also the language they use. The language of a social group, particularly slang, is one of the several forms of behavior that keeps the ground distinct from other groups.

Slang usually found by some users of one social group that know each other well to show intimate solidarity. Thus, it is used informally, and some people usually use slang in speaking rather than writing. Slang normally refers to particular words and meaning but can include longer expressions and idioms.

Slang words mostly found in song lyrics because the singers tend to deliver their experiences to the listeners in a simple way. The writer was interested in Meghan

Trainor's songs. Meghan Trainor who is an American singer, song writer and record producer defines the most used slang of 2014. Her hit song entitled *All about the bass* is very popular. The *bass* itself classified into slang becomes a talking matter regarding its meaning. According to Trainor, it is a reference to the difference between the shape of a bass and treble guitar. A treble guitar is about the width on the bottom and the top, while a bass guitar is much bigger on the bottom. Thus, it is about having a big booty. In her analysis, the writer chose Meghan Trainor songs *All about that bass*, *Dear Future Husband*, *Lips are Movin*, *Walkshame*, *My Selfish Heart*, *No Good for You*, *Bang Dem Sticks*, *What If I*.

Slang is non-standard use of word in a language of a part social group. Slang terms are often particular to a certain subculture, such as: musicians, skate boarders and drugs users. Another theory of slang by Menchen in Mukhtar Abadi (2010: 13) slang is expressions that do not belong to standard English. For example: "what's up?" is an example of term for asking about people or greeting a person. The articles by Kelly Fox "some thoughts on slang", she described some statements or people thoughts of term "slang".

Slang as mentioned above is used informal situation containing colorful words and expressions. Slang is an unconventional words or phrases that express something old in a new way. Slang words sometimes flippant, impolite, and improper. Since slang is a wide concept and it is used in different and rather confusing ways, there is not fixed definition about it. Lighter in Abadi (2010:13) defined slang as informal, non-standard, non-technical vocabulary composed chiefly of novel sounding synonyms for standard word and phrases.

Slang is the non-standard or non-dialectal use of words in a language of a particular social group, and sometimes the creation of a new words or importation of words from another language. If somebody applies language in a new way to express hostility, or ridicule, he is likely to create slang, but the new expression will not exist unless it is used by another. A new slang term is usually widely used in a subculture before it appears in the dominant culture. Anderson and Trudgill in Abadi (2010:14-17) mention the typical of slang, some of them are:

1. Slang is typical of informal situation;
2. Slang is typical of spoken language;

3. Slang is found in words, not in grammar;
4. Slang is not register;
5. Slang is creative;
6. Slang is short-lived expression.

Furthermore, slang language is informal language, although it is widely used for oral communication in many forms, such as in songs and films. The following are some examples of slangs compared with formal language taken from Slang Dictionary:

Table 2.
Slang Words

Slang	Formal Language
Gonna	Going to
Gotta	Have to
Got unders one's skin	Bothers
Give a ring	To telephone
Hit the books	Study
Hit the road	To leave
Hold your horses	Be calm!
Take a rain-check	To the another time
What's Up	How are you

Source: Slang Dictionary (2016)

This recent study research is not the only one analysing slang, some previous studies had focused on slang. Hasanah (2003) in her study entitled A Sociolinguistics Study on Slang Used by Youngster in Batu stated that the use of non-standard in slang and colloquialism appear in the coarse words, under word, taboo or vulgar, for

instance *fuck, shit, chick* and the use of double negative. All those words are informal language because the language cannot be by formal situation. In the meantime Setyowati (2004) in her study entitled *The Use of Slang in American Popular Movie* states that slang also appears in the rap song. It is used to show the contents or topics of song that have many description of rough life, for example, politics, protest, dope, etc.

II. METHOD

The data taken in this research are seven song lyrics by Meghan Trainor. There were three steps to conduct the study, based on Cohen, Manion and Mariosn (2000). The first step in this research was to collect all kinds of songs sung by Meghan Trainor and analyze each of the tracks to find slang words. In advance, the writer also included some variations of a language consisting of dialect, register, style, slang and jargon that are included in the use of language. The second stage is listing the slang words and their usage in the sentences that are in the song lyrics. Besides, the author wrote a few lines of lyrics that use slang and translated them to clarify the meanings of slang words in the lyrics. The third phase includes the presentation of the analysis results.

III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

As Florian Coulmas (2000:282) state in their book entitled *Research Method in Education* that one of the stages in analysis is generating natural units of meaning. There are some characteristics in forming slang words. In the study, the writer finds three characteristics in forming slang words which are used in Meghan Trainor's song lyrics, they are clipping, blending and coinage.

1. Clipping

'The element of reduction that is noticeable in blending is even more apparent in the process described as clipping. This occurs when a word of more than one syllable (*facsimile*) is reduced to a shorter form (*fax*), usually beginning in casual speech" (Yule,2010:56). From the data analyzed, the writer finds slang words in the clipping process. They are listed as follows:

- a. 'head: this word is redaction of 'ahead'.
- b. Bein': this word is reduction of 'being'.

- c. Movin': this word is reduction of 'moving'.
- d. Lovin': this word is reduction of 'loving'.
- e. Workin': this word is reduction of 'working'.
- f. 'bout: this word is reduction of 'about'.
- g. Lyin': this word is reduction of 'lying'.
- h. C'mon: this word is reduction of 'come on'.
- i. 'cause: this word is reduction of 'because'.

2. Blending

"The combination of two separate forms to produce a single new term is also present in the process called blending" (Yule, 2010: 55). The slang words that are in blending process are as follows:

- a. Gonna: this word is combination of word 'going' and 'to'.
- b. Gotta: this word is combination of word 'going' and 'to'.
- c. Tryna: this word is combination of word 'try' and 'to'
- d. Gon: this word is combination of word 'going' and 'to'.
- e. Ain't: this word is combination of word 'I am' and 'not' becoming new word ain't.
- f. I'mma: tis word combination of word 'I'am', 'going' and 'to'.

3. Coinage

"Coinage is the invention of totally new words, the typical process of coinage usually adopts the brand names as common words" (Yule, 2010: 53). The slang words which are in the coinage process are:

- a. Babe: this the new word of 'baby'.
- b. Ya: this the new word of 'you'.
- c. Bass: this the new word of 'body'.
- d. Momma: this the new word of 'mother'.
- e. Booty: this the new word of 'bottom'.
- f. The Meaning of Slang Word in Meghan Trainor's Song Lyrics

As Coulmas (2000:282) stated in their book entitled Research Method in Education that one of the stages in analysis is generating natural units of meaning; thus, the writer defines the meanings of slang words in Meghan Trainor's Song lyrics in the following table:

No	Slang Words	Formal Use	Interpretation
1	<i>bout</i>	about	the singer wants to talk about her body.
2	<i>ain't</i>	am not	she is not done the same yourself
3	<i>momma</i>	mother	the singer wants to talk that her mother do not worry about the bass (body).
4	<i>cause</i>	because	the singer wants to tell the reason why she will be perfect wife.
5	<i>em</i>	because	the singer wants to tell to show them that she is perfect.
6	<i>head</i>	ahead	the singer want to tell go ahead and tell them that she is not fat.
7	<i>wanna</i>	want to	the singer want to tell that she do not want to waste the time.
8	<i>gotta</i>	got to	the singer want to tell going to know how someone to treat she like a lady
9	<i>lovin</i>	loving	the singer want to tell that someone will be get special loving from her.
10	<i>movin, lyin</i>	moving, lying	the singer want to tell there are someone moving because lying to her.
11	<i>gonna</i>	going to	the singer want to tell that somone going to do the walk like a boss.
12	<i>bein</i>	being	the singer want to tell that the selfish heart is not good for someone.
13	<i>gon</i>	going to	the singer want to tell that world's going to come around.

14	<i>ya</i>	you	the singer want to tell that the boy not good for you (someone/lady).
15	<i>babe</i>	baby	the singer want to tell that she like someone it is called baby.
16	<i>tryna</i>	trying to	the singer want to tell there someone do not want to try to get in bed with her.
17	<i>c'mon</i>	come on	the singer want to tell that she want to ask someone (come on)

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion in the previous chapter, the writer concludes as follows:

1. Slang words are words used in the lyrics. The song writer uses slang in the song as purpose to make the songs interesting.
2. In this final assignment, the writer focused on the slang words that are used in the Meghan Trainor's song. The writer analyzed one by one of the slang words in order to get the accurate result.
3. The result of the analysis to shows how many slangs used in the lyrics of Meghan Trainor's songs. There are 21 slang words used from 7 songs.
4. Based on the analysis, the slang words are divided into three characteristics, they are Clipping, Blending, and Coinage.

The researcher suggests the next researchers to use different approaches and theories in interpreting slang words on songs, and to have a depth analysis on the study.

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