

**AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG WORDS IN “DEADPOOL” MOVIE**

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### **RATIFICATION**

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## **“An Analysis of Slang Words in Deadpool Movie”**

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### *Abstract*

The types of slang used by the characters in Deadpool movie were mostly secondary slang, referred to the slang was used by people in their daily communication and those slang words were generally used in everyday talk. The main objectives of this study were analyzing the morphological aspect which focused on word formation process and Sociolinguistic aspect which focused on social factors and dimensions that influence the use of slang words in Deadpool movie. The method used in this study was descriptive qualitative. The data of this study were taken from Deadpool movie which were collected by downloading, reading, watching, capturing and listing. The data were analyzed by identification, classification, description, presentation and explanation. The data was analyzed based on theory of word formation (Plag, 2002) and (O’Grady and Guzman, 1996). The result showed there were some slang words formed through the word formation processes, those were: six affixation, one conversion, six clipping, ten blends, one abbreviation and nineteen compounds which influenced in the forming of slang. Based on those word formation categories, the reason of using slang were explained by theory of Sociolinguistic (Holmes, 2013) covering social factors and dimensions. The reasons which influenced the use of slang were: participants, setting, topic and function, moreover there were social dimensions that used to analyze the use of slang which related to the social factors, those were: social distance, status and two functional scales. In sum, this study showed that there were many aspects of slang language which could be analyses more deeply to increase our knowledge and new vocabulary.

**Keywords:** Slang, Word formation, Sociolinguistic aspects, Deadpool movie.

## **“An Analysis of Slang Words in Deadpool Movie”**

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### *Abstrak*

Jenis slang yang digunakan oleh karakter dalam film Deadpool kebanyakan adalah slang sekunder, disebut demikian karena digunakan oleh orang-orang dalam komunikasi sehari-hari dan kata-kata slang tersebut umumnya digunakan dalam percakapan sehari-hari. Tujuan utama dari penelitian ini adalah menganalisis aspek morfologi yang difokuskan pada proses pembentukan kata dan aspek Sociolinguistik yang difokuskan pada faktor sosial dan dimensi yang mempengaruhi penggunaan slang dalam film Deadpool. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Data penelitian ini diambil dari film Deadpool yang dikumpulkan dengan mengunduh, membaca, mengamati, menangkap dan mendaftar. Data dianalisis dengan identifikasi, klasifikasi, deskripsi, presentasi dan penjelasan. Data dianalisis berdasarkan teori pembentukan kata (Plag, 2002) dan (O'Grady dan Guzman, 1996). Hasilnya menunjukkan ada beberapa kata yang terbentuk melalui proses pembentukan kata, yaitu: enam afiksasi, satu konversi, enam kliping, sepuluh campuran, satu singkatan dan sembilan belas gabungan yang mempengaruhi pembentukan slang. Berdasarkan kategori formasi kata tersebut, alasan penggunaan kata slang dijelaskan oleh teori Sociolinguistik (Holmes, 2013) yang mencakup faktor dan dimensi sosial. Alasan yang mempengaruhi penggunaan slang adalah: peserta, setting, topik dan fungsi, terlebih lagi ada dimensi sosial yang digunakan untuk menganalisa penggunaan slang yang berkaitan dengan faktor sosial, yaitu: jarak sosial, status dan dua skala fungsional. Singkatnya, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada banyak aspek bahasa slang yang dapat dianalisis lebih dalam untuk meningkatkan pengetahuan dan kosa kata baru kita.

Kata kunci: Slang, formasi kata, aspek sociolinguistik, film Deadpool

## I. INTRODUCTION

Language is the central thing in human life. It is an instrument for conveying meaning and a way to interact one to another person in communication. In society, language can be considered medium for transmitting a message, information or idea from speaker to hearer. Through language the speaker can identify themselves as well as they view their language as a symbol of their identity. The importance of language in establishing social identity is shown in the case of slang (Spolsky, 1998). Webster (1989) states that slang is a language of particular group, trade or pursuit or an informal, non-standard vocabulary changed word and extravagant, forced or facetious figures of speech. It is informal words that are not considered standard in the speaker's language which created and usually used by member of certain occupational groups.

Slang is one of varieties of language in sociolinguistics. It means this language is used by society to interact each other. Slang is popular in our daily lives. Some people are quite active in forming and spreading slang, it is seen when they try to create unconventional words or phrases that express either something new or something old in a new way and use it in daily life conversation such as in direct conversation, chatting, or in social network media. For example, people use the terms "awesome" and "cool" to describe something they approve of. Another example is an acronym "LOL", it widely used in instant message on the internet, means Laugh Out Loud and so on. We can find this kind of non standard words everywhere, it is not only popular in informal daily conversations, but also in magazine, radio, song and movie.

Nowdays, movie becomes so familiar in people's life. Those people are often imitated the style and the way the actor and actress spoke in a movie, especially when the characters use slang. It is one of language phenomenon that makes the writer interest to analyze slang. In this case, the writer choose Deadpool movie as a media to analyze, because it is one of the popular American movies discussed recently. Based on the writer's temporary observation, Deadpool movie has an interesting story within the superhero genres. This movie has funny and hilarious dialogues and the characters express a lot of slang. However, it is very hard to know the meaning of slang words in the dialogue of movie due to our unfamiliarity with the words. Thus, it needs to be

learned more deeply, because it might be difficult to understand the movie unless we find the meaning of slang in the English dictionary. Due to that reason, this study is conducted in order to give positive contribution for the learner. We can found easily the slang words which spoken by the characters in the movie to increase our new vocabulary, besides that we are be able to know how the slang words are formed and the reasons of using the slang. It can be said that by doing this study the learner not only get entertainment but also knowledge to understand the plot and story of the movie itself. According to the explanation above, it becomes the background of the writer to choose a title “An Analysis of Slang Words in Deadpool Movie”.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problems**

1. What are the morphological aspects of slang words used by the characters in Deadpool movie?
2. What are the sociolinguistic aspects which may cause the use of slang words used by the characters in Deadpool movie?

### **1.2 Purpose of the Study**

1. To analyze the Morphological aspects, focused on word formation process of the slang words used by the characters in Deadpool movie.
2. To analyze the Sociolinguistic aspects, focused on social factors and dimensions, which may cause the characters used slang words in Deadpool movie.

## **II. REVIEW OF LITERATURES**

### **2.1 Word Formation**

The study of word-formation can be defined as the study of the ways in which new complex words are built on the basis of other words or morphemes (Plag, 2002). It is the linguistic process of creating new words or terms, the processes might be from the old words to the new uses without change the meaning or it may creates completely new words. This study is analyzing word formation of slang word uses the theories

combination from those Plag (2002) and William O'Grady and Guzman (1996). The selected word formation processes taken from those experts are as follows:

2.1.1 Affixation, is also known as derivation. O'Grady and Guzman (1996) define derivation as a process when a word is created where its meaning and/or its category is different from its base by adding an affix. According to Plag (2002), there are three kinds of affixes which can be attached to the word, those are: prefixes, suffixes, infixes.

2.1.2 Conversion, can be defined as the derivation of a new word without any overt marking (Plag, 2002). While O'Grady & Guzman (1996) state that conversion is a process that assigns an already existing word to a new syntactic category.

2.1.3. Clipping, is a process in which the relationship between a derived word and its base is expressed by the lack of phonetic material in the derived word (Plag, 2002). It is supported by O'Grady & Guzman (1996) Clipping is a process where a polysyllabic word is eliminated its one or more syllable so that it becomes shorter.

2.1.4 Blends, as words that combine two (rarely three or more) words into one, deleting material from one or both of the source words (Plag, 2002). The same ideas proposed by O'Grady & Guzman (1996) blends are two words in which their non-morphemic components are mixed into one.

2.1.5 Abbreviations and Acronyms. Abbreviations are formed by taking initial or non-initial letters of multiword sequences to make up a new word (Plag, 2002). While acronyms are formed by taking the initial letters of some or all of the words in a phrase or title and reading them as a word (O'Grady & Guzman, 1996)

2.1.6 Backformations, is a process by which a suffix is deleted to derive a simple form from a complex one (Plag, 2002). Another definition comes from (O'Grady & Guzman, 1996), they define Backformation as a process that creates a new word by removing a real or supposed affix from another word in the language.

2.1.7 Compounds, are the combination of lexical categories (nouns, adjectives, verbs or prepositions) to create a larger word (O'Grady and Guzman, 1996). Further, Plag

(2002) defines compounds (sometimes also called composition) rather loosely as the combination of two words to form a new word.

## **2.2 Sociolinguistics**

Sociolinguists are interested in explaining why people speak differently in different social contexts, and they are concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the way they are used to convey social meaning (Holmes, 2013). The writer uses theory from Janet Holmes (2013) to discuss Sociolinguistics aspects which may cause the use of slang words used by the character in Deadpool movie. The factors are divided into two, those are:

### **2.2.1 Social Factors**

#### **1. Participants**

Participants are persons or individuals involving in a speech event. The participants have influence to the use of language. According to Holmes (2013) there are many kinds of participant, for instance, family participants (father-daughter, wife-husband), job participants (boss- employee, customer-shopkeeper), and social participants (friend-friend, stranger-stranger), etc.

#### **2. Setting or social context of the interaction**

Setting refers to the physical situation or the typical place where speech interactions occur, such as home, church, mosque, school, office, etc. There are many aspects of the social context that can contribute in deciding which linguistic choice that will be used in a particular setting. Speakers have to consider an appropriate language in giving utterances determined by the social context and setting. They should know the different choice of language and the situation in which the language is proper.

#### **3. Topic of the interaction**

Topic refers to a subject of conversation or discussion. Each participant of the interaction may have different views from the others concerning with what exactly subject is being talked about. People somehow attempt to establish one main topic so that the communication runs well. They can link utterances together thematically, syntactically, or logically.

#### 4. Function of the interaction

The function of the interaction deals with the reason of language is used for. According to Holmes (2013) there are a number of ways of categorizing the function of speech. Those are, expressive (to express the speaker's feelings), directive (an attempt to get someone to do something), referential (to provide information), phatic (to maintain social relationships), commissives (it involves using threats and promises), etc.

### 2.2.2 Social Dimensions

#### 1. Social distance scale

The social distance scale is based on a horizontal axis of solidarity, with intimate social distance, i.e. high solidarity, on one end and distant social distance, i.e. low solidarity, on the other. This scale is useful in emphasizing that how well we know someone is a relevant factor in linguistic choice (Holmes, 2013). People use more standard forms to those they do not know well, and use more vernacular forms to their intimates. Like slang, vernacular forms act as solidarity markers; they can indicate membership of close-knit social groups (Holmes, 2013).

#### 2. Status scale

Holmes (2013) explains that this scale based on a vertical axis with superior, i.e. high status, on one end and subordinate, i.e. low status, on the other. Status refers to the respect people give to someone. Those who are superior have a high status and those who are subordinate have a low status. Status scale points to the relevance of relative status in some linguistic choices. It can be said that status relationship between people may be relevant in selecting the appropriate language.

#### 3. Formality scale

The formality scale is based on a vertical axis with high formality on one end and low formality on the other. This scale is useful in assessing the influence of the social setting or type of interaction on language choice. People

can speak very formally or very informally and their language choice is determined by the circumstances.

#### 4. Two Functional scale

The last scale—the functional scale—is divided into two sub-categories: a referential scale and affective scale. In referential scale, there are high information content and low information content, whereas, in affective scale, there are low affective content and high affective content. Basically the referential scale refers to the degree of the information given in the utterance whereas the affective scale expresses the degree of the speaker's inner feelings present in the utterance.

### **2.3 Slang**

Eble (1996) states that slang is defined as an ever changing set of colloquial words and phrases that speakers use to establish or reinforce social identity of cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large. One way to characterize slang is as special kinds of 'intimate' or in-group speech (Spolsky, 1998). It means slang usually used to make an intimacy between one person to another so that they can feel more closed each other among their own group speech. It is also used by them in order to keep the secret of what they are talking about, because generally slang is produced by the speaker itself.

#### **2.3.1 Primary and Secondary Slang**

Chapman in Ammon et al (2004) stated that slang can be differentiated in primary and secondary slang. Primary slang is especially associated with groups which try to grade up their solidarity within the group with the help of using certain peculiar vocabulary. Those groups often belong to society-prisoners, thieves, drug dealers, con-artists, gamblers, nightclub performers etc.

On the other hand, secondary slang is more modern, functions for purposes of a breezy, trendy, or avant-garde style or attitude more than for identification with an easily delineated group (Ammon et al, 2004). It is not connected with a certain group in the society. The lexical items used in

secondary slang are acquired via television, movies and music rather than from personal interaction within members of a certain groups (Ammon et al, 2004).

Basically, slang is used by a group of its own creators in its primary and natural contexts. Interestingly, with the speed and ease of modern communication, there is a marked tendency for slang to become general and be used in its secondary function, that they lose the connection with their origin (Widawski, 2015).

### III. RESEARCH METHODS

#### 3.1 Research Approach

The method used in this study was descriptive qualitative method.

#### 3.2 Data Collection

The data of this study were collected in some steps: Downloading, reading, watching, capturing and listing.

#### 3.3 Data Analysis

There were some steps of data analysis, those were: Firstly, slang words found were identified by checking the whole data carefully and looked up in some Slang Dictionary whether the data were slang words or not. Secondly, was classified the data based on the morphological aspect used some related theories that proposed in the previous chapter. Thirdly was described the data based on the word formation categories. Finally was explained how the slang words were formed followed by the sociolinguistic aspect that determined the use of slang words by writing them in paragraph.

### IV. DATA DESCRIPTIONS AND ANALYSIS

Slang words	Minute/Time	Meaning
Wisecracker	00:59:33	n. a person who makes sarcastic, flippant or sardonic remarks.
Boom-box	00:31:23	v. to listen to music, as with a portable stereo radio.
Ammo	00:05:57	n. ammunition
Kinda	00:03:03	adv. kind of
FYI	00:47:04	For Your Information
Big time	00:25:07	n. the high level of success, outstanding, extravagant

#### 4.1 Affixation

The word “wisecracker” called affixation, since it includes on the type of suffixes because the affix *-er* added in the end of the word. The use of this affixation slang occurred in the situation when Wade and Weasel discuss about Wade’s plan to take revenge on Francis.

Weasel : “All you need now is a suit and nickname like Wade the **Wisecracker** or Scaredevil, Mr. Neverdie. Oh shit,”  
Wade : “What?”  
Weasel : “I put all my money on you and now I just realized I’m never gonna win the, uh..”

The expressive function has contributing Weasel’s utterance. In this context, Weasel wants to express his idea of what name is suitable for Wade. The setting aspect is influencing of his language choice, it takes place in the bar, so that’s why they can use slang freely. The social participants, between friend and friend, are also determining the use of slang. Because slang acts as solidarity markers; they can indicate membership of close-knit social groups.

#### 4.2 Conversion

The word “boom-box” is called conversion because it is the verb that is derived from the noun. The use of this conversion word occurred when Vanessa tried to make Wade believe that she would always love him no matter what and she wanted to fight Wade’s illness together.

Wade : “I want you to remember me. Not the ghost of Christmas me”.  
Vanessa : “Well, I wanna remember us”.  
Wade : ”I swear to God, I will find you in the next life and I’m gonna **boom-box** Careless Whisper outside your window. Wham!”.

The function of Wade’s utterance is commissives, because it involves promises. Wade uses “boom-box” slang to express his love and want to do something, which is playing his favorite song, to make Vanessa believe that he really loves her as well. Slang itself shows a built relationship and they are intimate each other. They two can

speak freely because this slang used in the informal place, their home. It can be said that the family participants, expressive function and the setting factor are the reasons that determined the use of slang word.

Furthermore, it can be concluded that conversion covers the process of a word where that word was a part of speech changed into a word of another part of speech. It could be seen from the grammatical form used by the character in movie, where the noun behaves as a verb, and created another meaning.

### 4.3 Clipping

The word “ammo” called clipping because it forms a new word by dropping more than one syllable from a polysyllabic word, *ammunition*. The use of clipping slang was found in the word “ammo”, in the situation when Dopinder and Deadpool were talking about a mission to revenge Deadpool’s enemy.

Deadpool : “Oh, Shit!. I forgot my **ammo** bag”.  
Dopinder : “Shall we turn back?”  
Deadpool : “No, no time. Fuck it. I got this. 9, 10, 11,12 bullets, or bust”.

Even though they are strangers, it seemed they two in the situation where they feel closed to one another. The function of the slang word “ammo” is to form intimate atmosphere. Slang can be one alternative way to alleviate the relationship between strangers so that they can reduce social distance and more comfortable. The conversation occurred in the informal place and situation. Therefore, choice of language depended on factors such as the particular topic, casual context or function of the interaction.

### 4.4 Blends

The word “kinda” called blends because it combines the words *kind + of*, to produce a new single term. The use of “kinda” slang occurred in the taxicab. The interaction began when Deadpool was sitting alone on the back seat of the taxi. He was getting bored and needed someone to talk to, so he decided to move to the front seat.

Deadpool : “**Kinda** lonesome back here. Yeah, little help”  
Taxi driver : “Okay, um, just, I have to keep my heands on the wheel.

Deadpool : “Excuse me. Whoo!”

The topic of the conversation is Deadpool’s dislike feeling of the silence situation. The participants were Dopinder as a taxi driver and Deadpool as a passenger. Even though both of them are strangers and have different status, driver and passenger, Deadpool used “kinda” slang to make an intimacy between him and the taxi driver. Apparently, Deadpool wants to reduce social distance and more comfortable to speak. Thus, he uses “kinda” slang to inform the driver about the situation in the passenger seat and expresses his feeling by using that slang.

#### 4.5 Abbreviation

The word “FYI” called abbreviation, since it is pronounced by naming each individual letter. FYI itself means *For Your Information*. The use of abbreviation slang was found in the word “FYI” involved Wade and Francis as the participants of conversation. Wade revealed the real name of Ajax, it was Francis, he spelled it out that made Francis get angry.

Wade : “Oops!. Snagged the dry cleaning tag off your lab coat. **FYI**, I could probably get you the superhero discount”.  
Francis : “You are so relentlessly annoying”.

Apparently, he uses this abbreviation slang as a joke to tease Francis. It is not intended to provide information on how the speaker is feeling. The interaction takes place in the the mutan workshop, where the scene showed it is not a formal place. Thus, setting factor contributes his language choice.

#### 4.6 Compounds

The word “big time” called compounds because it combines the words *Big* (Adj) + *time* (N) to form a new complex word. It includes nominal compounds, since the process produces a noun. The use of compound slang “big time” has shown when Wade wanted to propose his girlfriend, Vanessa.

Wade : “Listen, I’ve been thinking”  
Vanessa : “Really?”  
Wade : “About why we’re so good together”  
Vanessa : “Why’s that?”  
Wade : Your crazy matches my crazy. **Big time**”.

The conversation above takes place in the informal place, their home. The function of “big time” slang is expressive, that he wants to express his love toward Vannesa. This slang contains an affective scale, includes a high degree of affection or emotion. The use of slang showed us they were in a relationship, where Vanessa is Wade’s girlfriend, therefore he uses this slang to their intimate. It can be said that the slang provide clues to social factors, such as the relationship between the people in the particular situation, and how the speaker feels about the person addressed.

## V. CONCLUSION

Type of slang words that mostly used in Deadpool movie was secondary slang, since the words used are commonly used in real life. It means most people understand, or probably, often hear and use the slang words in daily communication. Based on data analysis there were some slang words formed through the word formation process. Based on its categories, it found that there were affixation, conversion, clipping, blends, abbreviation and compounds of slang words used by the characters in Deadpool movie. Furthermore, the social factors explained the use of those slang words were proper in the context of interaction.

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