ILLOCUTIONARY FORCE OF SLANG WORDS IN "RAMPAGE" 2018 MOVIE

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Abstract
Slang words can contain particular meanings that cannot be interpreted directly. To know and understand the meaning behind the utterances, EFL learners can employ illocutionary force by analyzing the native speakers' daily communication of slang words. Therefore, this qualitative research aimed to explore the types of slang words and the illocutionary force behind the utterances in the *Rampage* movie. The data were collected from the movie transcript and analyzed using document analysis to explore the types of slang words and the illocutionary force. The analysis results revealed that all types of slang words were discovered in the movie, and the most used type was imitative, which occurred 14 times. The illocutionary force that underlined the characters implementing the slang words was to show that the speakers have higher status than the interlocutor, understand what they need to do in certain situations, ask other people to do something, want to show their psychological state, and they want to give a promise. The results of this study would enrich EFL learners' knowledge of slang words in particular and their vocabulary items in general.

Keywords: *imitative, illocutionary force, Rampage, slang word*

1. INTRODUCTION

Humans communicate using language to express their thoughts, opinions, ideas, and feelings to others (Bouman, Schwend, Motmans, Smiley, Safer, Deutsch, Adams, & Winter, 2017). Bouman et al. (2017) also add that language is used to provide effective communication across people, societies, countries, and cultures. Effective communication occurs when the listener can understand the intentions and messages of the utterances conveyed by the speaker (Haucsa, Marzuki, Alek, & Hidayat, 2020). Language may vary in many ways (Wardhaugh, 2010). One of the verities of language is language style. According to Situmorang and Herman

(2021), a method to see someone's personality and soul can be shown from a language style. There are four types of language styles: formal, informal, colloquial, and slang (Kirszner & Mandel, 2003, as cited in Sinaga, Sumarsih, & Husein, 2018). The fourth category, slang, will be explored in this study.

Linguistically, slang is one of the varieties shown in society, and it becomes interesting to be discussed (Izmaylova, Zamaletdinova, & Zholshayeva, 2017). Slang is considered informal language and not involved in standard language (Kartika & Pangestu, 2019). Slang changes rapidly for both

the vocabulary and the language, and it does not contain common standard English language like grammar, syntax, pragmatics, and phonetics (Merisabel, Arifin, & Valiantien, 2020). According to Wiruma and Azmi (2018), slang arises due to social influences from lower-class society. Only a few people from the same background, culture, age, and group can understand the meaning. Typically, new slang words always appear and use by teenagers (Budiasa, Savitri, & Dewi, 2021). It happens because slang is easy to be uttered.

Since slang words consist of uncommon words, slang words have particular meanings behind them. The intention behind the meaning of slang words cannot be interpreted only for one purpose. According to Macagno and Capone (2016), the interlocutors cannot directly believe the meaning of utterances. They need to consider or create a possible intention appropriate to the context. Considering the speaker's communicative intention in making an utterance is recognized as illocutionary force (Johnson, 2020). Illocutionary force is characterized by culture, conditions, and situations, for example, pointing a question, giving an order, or making or producing a statement (Hidayat, 2016). Thus, there is no doubt that slang expressions perform a particular illocutionary force in utterances. In short, illocutionary force is used to identify the meaning of slang words.

Some language users realize that illocutionary force and the meaning of slang words are found in movies. It is in line with Situmorang and Herman (2021) stated that many people still do not understand the importance of illocutionary force and the slang that appears in the movie. Moreover, a movie was chosen as the subject of this research because the movie is an authentic reflection of human society (Sobola, 2018). This study identified the use of illocutionary force to find a deeper meaning of slang words by the main characters in the movie *Rampage* (2018). Thus, it can be used to see how people use slang words and illocutionary force in their utterances. Movies provide an overview of everyday life in society and an understanding of linguistic phenomena (see Bram & Putra, 2019; Kristiano & Ardi, 2018). Moreover, the movie portrays the expressions, mimics, feelings, and ideas of the characters of human beings in a society (Kartika & Pangestu, 2019). Therefore, movies can benefit language users in understanding various meanings in English (Ratri & Bram, 2022).

Previous researchers conducted several studies about illocutionary force and slang words. First, Situmorang and Herman's (2021) research focused on determining slang language style in the Charlie's Angels movie. This study adopted the theory of Sumarsono (2007) to determine the type of slang words and the approach of Zhou and Fan (2013) to determine the function of slang language. This study found that there were four types of slang language. The function found was an emotive feeling of the slang users. The second research conducted by Kartika & Pangestu (2019) also discussed the reasons the main characters used slang words in the Deadpool 2 movie. The results of this study found 66 utterances of slang words. Anto and Hulu (2019) conducted a comparative analysis of how each language, such as colloquial, slang, and transformational, was shaped in the context and perspective used by the three languages. However, limited studies discuss deeply related the illocutionary force to find out the meaning of slang words. Thus, the researchers were eager to fill the gap in the in-depth analysis

regarding the illocutionary force performed by the Rampage movie characters through their use of slang expressions in their utterances. Two questions were formulated: First, what types of slang words are used by the characters in the *Rampage* movie? Second, what illocutionary force is used in the slang words in the movie?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW
2.1. The understanding of Slang

One of the language variants in English is slang. Slang consists of words and phrases considered informal, colloquial, and non-standard language and are commonly used in speech (Izazi & Tengku-Sepora, 2020). Slang is typically used among young people and in nonformal situations. It is in line with Agsa and Ambalegin (2020), who said that slang is prohibited from being used in formal cases because it expresses impoliteness, vulgarity, and rudeness. It can be assumed that young people use slang and have a close relationship with each other.

Moreover, slang is something that other people can identify but no one can explain (Grant, 2017). Ones who use slang reveal various creativity in their expression speech and a source of humor in conversation. Therefore, understanding slang can enlarge EFL students' understanding of variations in the language of English.

According to Allan and Burridge (2006. p. 69), there are five types of slang words. The first type of slang word is fresh and creative. Slang with the characteristic of fresh and creative aspects is expressed in informal environmental conditions. According to (Allan & Burridge (2006), slang words of this type have been known by many since the 18th Century. One example of slang with this characteristic is the word babe (noun). The word is expressed to

address a mate, wife, or husband. The second type of slang word is flippant. Slang with flippant characteristics is slang words consisting of two or more words with denotative meanings. One example of this type of slang is *spill the tea*, which means revealing information, secrets, or gossip. Then the third type of slang word proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) is imitative. Slang words with imitative type come from a Standard English (SE) word. Standard English terms are used in a certain way or to combine two separate words. One example of this type of slang is the word "gonna," a combination of the word going to.

Moreover, the fourth type of slang word is acronyms. A slang word with the type of acronyms is an abbreviation taken from the first letter of each word. The collection of words becomes an initial and pronounced as a new word. One example of this type is ASAP, an acronym for as soon as possible. Last but not least, the fifth type of slang word is clipping. Slang words with clipping characteristics come from shortening words by reducing some parts but not changing the meaning. An example of clipping is the word till, which comes from the word until.

2.2. Illocutionary Force

Illocutionary force is the function of utterances achieved with communicative force by the speaker. Hidayat (2016) also adds that utterances of illocutionary forces are produced as the speaker's intention in delivering their mind. The speaker desires to express their thoughts, responses, assumptions, and feelings in each slang word. Moreover, slang and illocutionary cannot be separated because the illocutionary force gives meaning to slang words. These two things can be considered as two sides of a coin. There are seven components of

illocutionary forces defined by Searle & Vanderveken (1985).

a) Illocutionary point

The illocutionary point is an essential feature of the illocutionary force. Each utterance has a fundamental purpose or intent conveyed by the speaker at the illocutionary point. The essential points in a sentence or utterance can be describing something, promising something to someone, requesting someone to do something, and so on. These points must be responded to so that the objectives can correspond to the illocutionary points.

b) Different degrees of the strength of the illocutionary point

Two illocutions can have the same point or purpose but have different levels of strength. For example, when the illocutionary point of speech is to express an apology, expressing regret has lower strength than humbly apologizing.

c) Mode of achievement

In the mode of achievement feature, some utterances require specific conditions for illocutionary points to be performed. For example, if someone achieves authority as a witness in a court of law, the voice is considered testimony.

d) Content conditions

An illocutionary can be attained in speech acts if illocution is under propositional content. An example of propositional content is one can make promises to others according to his abilities but cannot promise something that he cannot control.

e) Preparatory conditions

The illocutionary in the preparatory condition is acquired if the speaker has a social status or understands the action. Speech acts must have conventional recognition, not just promises but because of the speaker's commitment. One example of a preparatory condition is that a person can bequeath something to another person if he is the object's owner or has authority over the thing.

f) Sincerity conditions

In the sincerity condition, the speaker expresses the physiological state in his utterance. The speaker, in the sincerity condition, means their words. An example of the sincerity condition is when one apologizes because they feel sorry for their actions. It can be categorized as sincere because the person knows the physiological state.

g) Degree of the strength of the sincerity conditions

Illocutionary expressed by someone has a different intentional state. In other words, the psychological state defined by a person may have different degrees. One of the various psychological degrees is when a person asks for something by requesting and beseeching.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

The method utilized in this research was qualitative research. According to Aspers and Corte (2019), qualitative research is an approach used to explore, understand, and attempt to interpret the meaning of an individual or group's phenomena related to social or human problems. Naderifar, Goli, and Ghaljaie (2017) added that using a qualitative method could define one's experiences and inner feelings. Moreover, qualitative research can be considered a helpful method in constructing issues, collecting large amounts of data, and interpreting data with detailed descriptions and analysis. Therefore, non-numeric data were presented in this study.

The method that was used in this study was the document analysis method. Document analysis is a series of organized processes used to review, select, evaluate, and synthesize data found in printed and electronic documents (Mackieson, Shlonsky,

Connolly, 2019). In short, the document analysis is carried out repeatedly from surface observations (skimming), thorough observations (reading), and interpretations.

The data source of this research was in the form of a movie transcript of *Rampage* (2018). The transcript was taken from https://subslikescript.com/movie/*Rampage* -2231461. It is American science fiction directed by Brad Peyton and launched in 2018. The researchers were interested in conducting research using a movie because characters' intonation and expressions can be easily observed to know the meaning of the utterances.

Analyzing and interpreting the data was directly started after all the sources had been gathered (Sugiyono, 2014). The researchers used Creswell's (2013) five steps to analyze the data. The five steps of analyzing the data were preparing, reading, coding, writing the description, and creating final interpretations of the data. The first thing was to prepare by reading the script of the movie. Then, the researchers classified the utterances by coding on the theories by Allan and Burridge (2006) and Searle and Vanderveken (1985). After having the classification, the researchers started to write the descriptive analysis. The final study was formulating the final interpretations.

Triangulation was employed to avoid bias and establish the accuracy and validity of data analysis (Fusch, Fusch, & Ness, 2018). In short, the triangulation technique was used to avoid false interpretations in analyzing the data. According to Denzin and Lincoln (2017), data triangulation can be done by four techniques. The first technique is source triangulation. The second technique involves conducting data analysis with more than one researcher. Analyzing by more than one person

increases the credibility of the data. The third data triangulation technique is methodological triangulation. Methodological triangulation means the triangulation technique, which uses more than one method to obtain the accuracy of data analysis. The fourth technique is the theoretical triangulation technique. The theoretical triangulation technique compares the data found with the relevant theory and asks for expert opinion in the appropriate field. The triangulation technique chosen in this research was source triangulation. This technique was suitable to be employed in this research. Researchers collected data from various sources like movie scripts and subtitles to avoid false interpretations. The researchers also checked the data by comparing theories from Allan and Burridge (2006), Searle and Vanderveken (1985a), and views from other experts.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
4.1 Kinds of Slang Words Used by the Characters in the Rampage Movie

Based on the movie *Rampage*, the researchers found that all characters employed all types of slang in their conversation. There were 40 utterances identified in this movie. The types of slang found were 11 utterances of fresh and creative, ten phrases of flippant, 14 statements of imitative, two utterances of acronyms, and three clipping slang words.

Table 1. Slang word types in *Rampage* Movie

No	Slang words	Frequency
1	Fresh and Creative	11 (27.5%)
2	Flippant	10 (25%)
3	Imitative	14 (35%)
4	Acronyms	2 (5%)
5	Clipping	3 (7.5%)
	TOTAL	31 (100%)

The data illustrated in the table above revealed that the most dominant type of slang word in the movie Rampage was the imitative type, with a comprehensive presentation of 35%. It was followed by fresh, creative, and flippant with 27.5% and 25%, respectively. The type that rarely appeared in this movie was clipping with a percentage of 7.5%, followed by acronyms with 5%. The explanation of each type was explained as follows.

1. Fresh and creative

Data 1

*Davis: George! George! Easy, **buddy**. Easy.*
George: [chuckles]
Davis: Okay. Okay. Oh, very funny. It was very funny.

(00:09:17)

The utterances on Data 1 were spoken by Davis, who had a role as a Primate Specialist. Davis invited his students to visit the San Diego Wildlife Sanctuary. Suddenly the albino monkey approached them and surprised his friends, so Davis asked him to stay calm because the albino monkey understood the sign language that Davis had taught him. Moreover, the slang word "*buddy*" appeared in the 18th Century and was used in informal conversations to show closeness. Thus, this word could be indicated as a fresh and creative slang word.

2. Flippant

Data 2

*Russell: Brett and Claire, you sneaky **sons of bitches**.*

(01:01:00-01:01:02)

Flippant are two combinations of words that have different meanings from the original. The word son of bitch expressed by agent Russell combines more than one word with other purposes. This slang word means to insult someone unpleasantly.

3. Imitative

Data 3

*Nelson: All right, get **outta** here, you big lug.*

(00:12:41)

Imitative derives from an abbreviation of two standard English words. One of the imitative phrases in this movie was the word "*outta,*" which stands for the word "*out to.*" The word *"outta"* is usually used in nonformal situations. This slang came when two people who had been friends for a long time discussed that Davis did not want to hang out with new people but instead chose to play with his pets. So that made Nelson tell him to go home directly.

4. Acronym

Data 4

Man on radio: We are showing LOS in the command module.

(00:01:31-00:01:33)

The characters in this movie did not frequently use the acronym. However, one of the acronyms is found at the movie's beginning. The acronym was LOS. LOS is a command that stands for Loss of Signal phrases. This slang was used when one crew in outer space tried to return to earth, but there was a problem contacting people on earth.

5. Clipping

Data 5

Kate: So, what do we do now?
*Davis: I'm sorry, **Doc**. There's no "we" anymore.*

(00:52:45-00:52:46)

Slang words with clipping type come from omitted or partially deleted words, but the meaning does not change. One example of clipping found in this movie is "Doc." Davis revealed this word after knowing the information that Naomie had an essential role in the virus attack in their city. Therefore, Davis used this word to abbreviate the word "Doctor."

4.2 The Illocutionary Force of the Slang Words in the Rampage Movie

Based on the movie Rampage, the researchers found that all characters employed all types of illocutionary in their conversation. After analyzing the data, the researchers discovered that there were 40 utterances recognized in this movie. The types of illocutionary force found were twenty utterances of illocutionary point, one utterance of the degree of strength of illocutionary point, five utterances of content conditions, six utterances of preparatory conditions, and eight utterances of the degree of strength of sincerity condition.

Table 2. Illocutionary force types in
Rampage Movie

No	Illocutionary force types	Frequency
1	Illocutionary point	20 (50%)
2	Illocutionary point degree	1 (2.5%)
3	Mode of achievement	0
4	Content conditions	5 (12.5%)
5	Preparatory conditions	6 (15%)
6	Sincerity conditions	8 (20%)
7	Sincerity condition degree	0
	TOTAL	40 (100%)

Table 2 shows that the most dominant type of illocutionary force word is the illocutionary point. It is followed by sincerity and preparatory conditions with 20% and 15%, respectively. The types that rarely appeared in this movie are content conditions with a percentage of 12.5%, followed by the degree of strength of illocutionary point with 2.50%. The explanation of each type is explained as follows. Meanwhile, the types of mode of achievement and degree of strength of sincerity condition are not found in the movie. According to Searle and Vanderveken (1985), the illocutionary force can be interpreted as the speaker's intuition or intention in expressing thoughts and feelings in each utterance. Therefore, the illocutionary force has a role in giving meaning to each slang word.

1. Illocutionary point

One of the utterances of this type was uttered by Davis with the word *"buddy"* to address one of his monkey friends named George. The illocutionary force of the word *"buddy"* revealed that Davis was surprised by George's slightly aggressive behavior towards new people. Since Davis requested George to do something by trying to calm him with a quiet conversation, it can be considered that Davis implied the type of illocutionary point. In short, the illocutionary force was to calm George, the albino monkey, and to address him in a friendly way.

2. Degree of the strength of the illocutionary point

The illocutionary force and degree of strength of the illocutionary can be seen in the utterances *"Reroute to the lab and secure the canisters."* The situation when the statements were uttered was an on-fire spaceship. The experiment they were doing failed. Claire as the founder, had the authority to give orders to the astronauts, although the astronaut is a researcher and a scientist. Therefore, giving orders has a higher degree of strength than asking.

3. Content conditions

Illocutionary force in utterances of *"If you move, we're gonna be in big trouble"* is an example of content conditions. It indicates a situation when Davis, Nelson, and Conor made a study visit to the wildlife sanctuary. Davis, as a primatologist, asked Nelson and Conor not to move because they were in the middle of a group of monkeys in the forest. Therefore, Davis asked them not to move because maybe something could go wrong, and Davis could not control that.

4. Preparatory conditions

Illocutionary force in the utterances *"Let us cut the bullshit, Russell"* becomes an example of preparatory condition because Davis, a primatologist, understands the current situation. Since an albino monkey mutates inside the plane, it could endanger the people. He understood his status and circumstances when Davis said utterances identified preparatory conditions.

5. Sincerity conditions

The illocutionary force in the utterances *"sneaky sons of bitches"* showed the physiological state of Agent Russell. Agent Russell felt very disappointed and angry with people named Brett and Claire for deceiving the country by pretending to be above the law. Therefore, he expressed the utterances to insult both of them and showed disappointment.

The researchers proposed two research questions in this study. The first question was about the types of slang words uttered by the characters in the Rampage movie. The theory formed by Allan and Burridge (2006) was employed to discover the types of slang words, such as fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. After analyzing the data, it was revealed that the imitative was the dominant type shown in the Rampage movie. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), the imitative is taken from an abbreviation of two standard English words. The two standard words can come from different meanings or combinations of two other words. The second question proposed in this research was what kind of illocutionary forces showed in the Rampage movie.

The researchers discovered that the five types of illocutionary forces appeared in this study. The five types of illocutionary force that appear in the *Rampage* movie are illocutionary point, different degrees of strength of the illocutionary point, content condition, preparatory condition, and sincerity condition. These five types correspond to situations when the characters express their utterances, such as showing status, understanding the situation, asking to do something, showing their psychological state, and promising something. The result of this study is supported by the research conducted by Sudiyanti, Suarnajaya, and Swandana (2018), which also has similarities that imitative is the most dominant type of slang word in *Step Up: All in* the movie. However, the research conducted by Sudiyanti et al. (2018) did not show and explain the meaning of the illocutionary force behind the slang words uttered by the characters in the movie

5. CONCLUSION

This study aims to determine the types of slang words in the *Rampage* (2018) movie and the meaning behind the slang words expressed by the characters. Knowing slang words are necessary due to the uncommon and different meaning from standard English (Merisabel et al., 2020). Differences in meaning that can appear in slang words require the interlocutor not to immediately believe the meaning behind the utterances (Macagno & Capone, 2016). Therefore, slang words can undoubtedly show the illocutionary force behind their meaning. Based on the data found, all types of slang words were used by the characters in this movie. Imitative was the type of slang word that appears most often, as much as 14 times, with 35%. Meanwhile, the type that rarely appeared was acronyms which only appeared twice with 5%. The types of fresh and creative, flippant, and clipping appeared 11 times (27.5%), ten times (25%), and three times (7.5%).

This study also demonstrated various meanings of illocutionary forces from each word of slang words, such as to show that the speakers have higher status than the interlocutor, understand what they need to do in certain situations, ask other people to do something, want to show their psychological state, and they want to give a promise. Moreover, the researchers suggest looking at other subjects besides movies that contain illocutionary force and slang words in the utterances or sentences. Hence, the EFL students can gain their understanding related to the branch of pragmatics deeper. Last but not least, future researchers are motivated to explore further information about the applicability and benefits of Indonesia's daily context and memes.

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