

# SLANG WORDS IN RIHANNA'S SONG LYRICS: SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROACH

Deasy Sartika Silalahi\*, Nurma Dhona Handayani\*\*

\*Student of English Department, Putera Batam University

\*\*Lecturer of English Department, Putera Batam University

E-mail: deasysartika1212@gmail.com

## ABSTRACT

*Language is known as a communication tool that is very important for a human being to convey messages, opinions or ideas. Sociolinguistics is a science that discuss about language seen from the society. Slang word is a kind of language variety which is informal and use in a society. The purpose of this research is to analyze word formation and find out social functions of slang words in Rihanna's song lyrics. This research is kind of qualitative research. In the process of collecting data, researcher used observation method. Moreover, Pragmatic Identity method with dividing key-factors technique was used to analyze data of this research. After analyzing the collected data, it can be seen the types of word formation which were used in Rihanna's song lyrics. There were 37 data found from Rihanna's songs. The data were divided into 5 types of word formation in Slang word found in Rihanna's song lyrics. Those types were coinage 1 data, blending 10 data, clipping 19 data, acronym 3 data and the last prefixes and suffixes 1 data. It can be concluded that there were many slang words used in Rihanna's song lyric.*

**Keywords:** Sociolinguistics, song, slang word

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is known as a tool of communication that is used by people to convey the message, opinions, or idea. According to K.Smith, (2013:225) language is a highly complex, socially learns the system of communication which allows us to express a very convey the outcome of thoughts and be polite. It means communication is shaped in term of oral and written way which it is done by two or more people. Besides that, communication is mostly used in the community of language users because that community has the same goals. In addition, certain language is commonly used in communication that cannot be understood by the outsiders of the community is called slang words.

Nowadays, there are many people use slang words in communication. Slang is a kind of informal language variation, used to make communication it easy and instant in social

group of teenagers. It is supported by Epoge, (2012: 130) slang is a region of lexis in a permanent state flux consisting of vivid and colorful words and phrases which characterize various social and professional groups, especially when these terms are used for in-group communication. It means that, slang word has given the accelerated development of communication, teenagers increasingly use of slang words in every situation and do not pay attention to the circumstances with whom and where they use the language. Moreover, the rise of artists use slang in mass media and electronics, makes teenagers more often to imitate it in daily life.

According to the explanation above, slang words are teenage languages that are used as a language of passwords. This language began to be known and used around 1970 which was originally known as the language of a street because it was usually used by slang (the term for thugs) as passwords that only understood

by their own groups. In the other hand, the slang word is growing and is being understood the thugs and street children because they often use the password in public places Daniel Anisa Heri, (2013). Slang word evolves from time to time. There are some words introduced since the 1970s and they are still used frequently. Moreover a few of these words are long known and change with other terms that are more unique and stranger. It is supported by Kenwood, (1964 :126) slang language today has become a phenomenon among the younger generation, not only in urban youth groups but even teenagers in the countryside know this slang as if a current trend cannot be missed..

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES**

### **Sociolinguistics**

Sociolinguistics is derived from the word's "socio" and "linguistics". Socio is same as a social word that is related to the society. Linguistics is science that studies and speaks the language especially the elements of language. Therefore, it can be said that sociolinguistics is the science of language and social Clark & Yallop,(2006). In general, the term sociolinguistics is used to learn the relationship between language and society. Sociolinguistics has a strong connection with anthropology through the study of language and culture, and with sociolinguistics through of the role, which language is considered in the organizations of social groups. It also has a link to social psychology, particularly how in -group and out- are identified Mustafa, (2010).

### **Slang**

According to Umam & Purnianda (2016), Slang is an informal vocabulary used mostly in a speech by people who know each other well. It is non-formal or casual spoken language created and used by people in a certain community. Slang words may change in meaning, have varied meanings at any one time, and usually originate from social groups. They are used instead of everyday terms among younger speaker and other groups with special interests. For these groups, slang is a private code that embodies their particular values and behavior and reinforces their exclusivity. It can be used by insiders who share ideas and attitudes as a way of distinguishing themselves from others.

## **Word Formation**

In linguistics, word formation is the creation of a new word. Word formation is sometimes contrasted with semantic change, which is a change in a single word's meaning. The boundary between word formation and semantic change can be difficult to define: a new use of an old word can be seen as a new word derived from an old one and identical to it in form. According to Yule, there are some words formations:

### **Etymology**

The study of the origin and history of a word is known as its etymology, a term which, like many of our technical words, comes to us through Latin, but has its origins in Greek (etymon, original form "+ logia, study of). And is not to be confused with entomology, also from Greek (entomon, insect) When look closely at the etymologies of less technical words, we soon discover that there are many different ways in which new words can enter the language.

### **Coinage**

One of the least common processes of word formation in English is coinage. That is the invention of totally new terms. A word may be produced by handwriting or by a computer that is called word manufacture or coinage.

### **Borrowing**

Yule states one of the most common sources of new words in English is the process simply labeled borrowing that is the taking over of words from another language.

### **Compounding**

Compound words are formed by combining two or more words into one unit with a perceptible meaning Poedjosoedarmo, Louisa and Reyes, (2014). Compounding is a joining of two or more separate words to produce a single form. According to (O'Grady and Guzman, 1996), one type of morphological process in language is termed compounding. There are 3 kinds of compound namely compound nouns, compound verbs, and compound adjectives.

### **Blending**

Combining of two separate forms to produce a single new term is also present in the process

called blending. However, blending is typically accomplished by taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of the other word. Blending is the fusion of two words into one, usually the first part of one word with the last part of another, as in gasohol, from gasoline and alcohol.

For example: radiogram from word radio + telegram, medicare from word medical + care.

### **Clipping**

The element of reduction which is noticeable in blending is even more apparent in the process described as clipping. This occurs when a word of more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form, often in casual speech. Clipping means cutting off the beginning or the end of a word, or both, leaving a part to stand for the whole.

### **Backformation**

Backformation to make a new word by deleting actual affix from another word in a language is called "Backformation". Typically, a word of one type like a noun reduced to form another word of a different type like a verb. A good example of backformation is the process whereby the noun television first came into use and then the verb televise was created from it.

### **Conversion**

A change in the function of a word, as for example, when a noun comes to be used as a verb (without any reduction) is generally known as conversion. Conversion is the process of forming words without changing the form of input word that function as a base. For examples can be seen in the words below: V derived from N: ship (the package), butter (the bread), button (the shirt) N derived from V.

### **Acronym**

Acronyms are new words formed from the initial letters of a set of other words. For example:

CD (Compact Disk) or VCR (Video Cassette Recorder where the pronunciation consists of saying each separate letter. More typically, acronyms are pronounced as new single word like NASA (Aeronautics and Space Administration).

### **Derivation**

The most common word formation process to be found in the production of new English words is a process called derivation and it is accomplished by means of the large number of small bits of the English language which are not usually given separate listing in dictionaries. These small bits are generally described as affixes. For example: noun to adjective from word boy + ish refers to boyish.

### **Multiple Process**

Multiple processes are words can be created through more than one of word formation processes. Although we have concentrated on each of these word-formation processes in isolation, it is possible to trace the operation of more than one process at work in the creation of a particular word. For example, the term deli seems to have become a common American English expression via a process of first borrowing delicatessen (from German) and then clipping that borrowed form. If someone says that problems with the project have snowballed, the final word can be analyzed as an example of compounding in which snow and ball were combined to form the noun snowball, which was then turned into a verb through conversion.

### **Social Function**

According to Zhou & Fan, (2013) there are three social functions of slang, those are:

#### **Pursuit of Self – Identify**

Respected as a symbol for dividing professional groups within the community, so that these social and professional groups are very diverse and different slang. If someone makes use of separate syllables with saying for a particular community or group of experts, would join a group that group has the same mentality.

#### **Emotive Feeling of The Slang User**

The emotive function provides an expression talker manner against it is subject. The use of language is very proficient because it is very important and significant in changing the emotional status of the audience when opposing someone helps positive energy when we are stressed. Slang words play a role in people to express their strong feelings, such as groups that recognize quickly, "slang also has a purpose, and bad words are a subcategory of

slang, a more uncontrolled phenomenon". It's like a dream that alleviates and eliminates psychological burdens, also releases tension from big burdens.

### **Achieving Politeness**

Establish these discussions, its idea of register needs to be talked about. List point to "method of talking or handwriting particularly to a particular purpose, purposes a definite district of communicating" option of the table is moved by three elements, affairs (informal or formal), the recipient (year, pair, work, and title of intimacy) last the measure the conversation. The make of use slang is detained because of three factors. One of the uses of slang word in incorrect affairs or make use of slang cannot to the right receiver or mistaken level in one is talking oration might impair fellowship and very well with his company.

### **Meaning Slang Word**

The researcher also uses the theory by Leech (2017) to analyze and explain the meaning of the word slang do Rihanna's song. Leech divides meaning into 7 forms: 1) Conceptual mean is the sometimes called 'denotative' meaning or 'cognitive' meaning, 2) Connotative is the kind of values and attitudes invoked by a word apart from its core meaning, 3) Stylistic meaning is a piece of language which conveys about the social circumstance of it uses, 4) Affective meaning has more directly a reflection of the speaker's personal attitude or feelings toward the listener or the target of the utterance, 5) Reflected meaning is intent whose appear in matter of multiplication conceptual meaning intent one get of a word forming a portion our reaction to other feels, 6) Collocative meaning consists of the associations a word option on account of the meaning of words whose tent to happen with it, 7) Thematic meaning is what is convey by the way in which a speaker or writer set the message, in terms of booking, focus and pressure.

### **Song**

According to the Grolier, "Song is a short musical work set a poetic text with similar interest given to music and to the words". "Song is a short metric composition prospective for singing. The song is a contexture of pitch or sounds in the thread,

composite, and tentative relation (usually accompanied by musical tools) to result in musical contexture that has entity and repercussions (containing rhythm).

### **Previous Study**

The first researcher is Widyanto (2013) the title "Publication journal an Analysis on Slang in the Script of the 8-mile film: a Sociolinguistic approach. In this research, there are found 2 types of the meaning of the slang word in the 8-mile film, denotative and connotative. This study has similarities with researcher research using a sociolinguistic approach and analyzing slang. In different, this study analyzes slang in the film, while the researcher research on the lyrics of Rihanna's songs. the syntactic form used in this study with 4 single words, the authors used 13-word formation by Yule.

The second researcher is Cook (2013) with the title "Fighting words: Canadian soldiers' slang and swearing in the great war", Canadian War Museum, Canada. The research analyzes the use of slang in the war situation. In this condition how the formation of slang words as the identity of soldiers when using the word slang. This study also has the same slang analysis with the author's research. In this study the social food in which the word slang is formed from the utterances used in accordance with the situation group for those who understand 13-word formation according to Yule.

Previous studies above have similarities with this research conducted by a researcher now, namely objects and approaches, namely sociolinguistics which are examined by slang words. Previous studies have similarities in research conducted by a researcher now, namely objects and approaches, namely sociolinguistics which are examined by slang words 'his study focuses on analyzing slang in speeches by Egyptian leaders. It is related to the language opportunities used by the community. While the researcher's research uses 13-word formation by Yule. In conclusion, the similarities with previous researcher with researcher now use the sociolinguistics and object approach, namely the same word slang, while the data sources are different, namely in the song lyrics in this research. In this study, the researcher obtained 38 data from five albums of Rihanna singers. There are types used in derivation lyrics,

coinage, prefixes and suffixes, acronym, blending and last clipping.

## **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

### **Research Design**

In The purpose of this study is to find the information in the form of words like what happens to a song as a language that is understood user community. The data used in this study was qualitative data because the type of research is a textual analysis related to the language used by other people in the song. The method used in this qualitative research methods according to Sugiyono(2012) also called naturalistic research because this research was carried out on direct data sources of natural conditions.

Data analysis was qualitative and results from qualitative methods have more meanings than generalizations. In qualitative research, the analysis of qualitative data and the results of qualitative methods on meanings are more than generalization. In a descriptive qualitative study containing systematic descriptions of the theory through a naturally profound definition Sugiono, (2014) Therefore, the method that is used is descriptive using qualitative research.

### **Object of the Research**

The The primary from this research an analysis of slang words in the song. The object of the research in this study is the slang words in Rihanna's song lyric especially, focusing on thirteen types of slang word according Yule, (2010). The form of slang use was classified into etymology, infixes, coinage, prefixes and suffixes, borrowing, derivation, compounding, acronyms, blending, conversion, clipping, backformation, and last multiple processes. The analyze of the process word formation includes the social function and meaning of used slang words in the song. According to Sugiono, (2014) the object this study a scientific the goal to obtain data with aim and usability something valid, objectives, and reliable about something.

### **Method of Collecting Data**

This The researcher was to found out some evidence related to the slang word. In obtaining data, research used to the observation method of collecting data. According to Sugyono, the data collection method was the most strategic measure study,

for the major purpose of this study was to obtain data. The researcher used qualitative research in this study examines a phenomenon in depth about various social phenomena using words in song lyrics. The processes of collecting data could be seen in the following steps:

1. During observed and searching the researcher collection song from album Rihanna's.
2. Then, the researcher adjusts and group each song by album.
3. The last, the researcher search every slang word used in the song lyric.

### **Method of Analyzing Data**

The Analyzing data was the most important stage. The researcher made an analysis of data that had been taking. There were two kinds of analytical methods in study according to Sudaryanto, (2015), which were equivalent and Agih. The researcher used the second method in the data analysis process. The Padan method is an external mean, apart and not part of the appropriate of language. The researcher used Padan method due to the search for the slang words used in Rihanna's song lyric. In the process of data analysis, the researcher pragmatic Identity method with a determining dividing key-factors technique. The technique used by researcher was removing, releasing, deleting and reducing. The language form of all units would change when the data was weed out used this technique. The theories described in chapter II the researcher would analyze the data. As for the steps take on by the researcher in analyzing the data as follows:

1. Divide dan group every song, then every lyric is marked used in the slang.
2. Classification and analyze by grouping words according to the type of slang.
3. Explain the meaning of the word lyrics to the song and analyze the meaning of the word slang.

### **Method of Presenting Research**

The Three were two types of method of presenting results namely formal and informal according to Sudaryanto,( 2015). The formal method used when the researcher presented yield of the data analysis use symbols, tables, and diagrams called formal presentation methods. In the contrary, Informal method presented the yield of the data analysis use

word or sentence without symbols, mark, tables, and diagrams. From analysis above, the researcher chosen the informal method for researcher presented in data use independent clause to represent the yield of the data analyzed.

### Research Analysis

This chapters the researcher would discuss analysis and result findings. Namely, analyzing the data, the researcher used a theory that was explained in the preceding chapter to found answers formulate research. The song Rihanna there are many slang and social functions used in the lyrics have characteristics such as (words, phrases, and sentences). The researcher took five albums from a collection of Rihanna's songs. In five albums consisted of several songs. Rihanna's album consisted of Unapologetic, Anti, Good Girl gone bad, talk that talk, a girl like me, Researcher used Yule theory as a reference to analyze data.

### Process of Word Formation Coinage

#### Data 1 "Babe" (line 14-17)

Oh, and babe I'm fist  
fighting with fire  
Just to get close to you  
Can we burn something babe?  
And I run for miles  
just to get a taste

The meaning of the word babe refers to recounting the struggle of a lover who has such deep feelings. Through the struggle, he/she will be taken to be able to be with a boyfriend who is very loved. The word babe in the song is actually came from the word Baby which has been invention of totally new terms and adopt from another word through the coinage process. Based on the explanation above, Babe is concluded as a slang.

### Blending

#### Data 1 "We'd" (line 11-14)

I knew that **we'd**  
become one right away  
Oh, right away  
At first sight,  
I felt the energy of sun rays  
I saw the life inside your eyes

The meaning of the word we'd refers to the person who felt love at the first sight. The word We'd in the song is actually came from the word We Would which has been

combining the word from We + Would and it produce a new single term through the blending process. Based on the explanation above, we'd is concluded as slang word.

#### Data 2 "Ain't" (line 11 - 15)

Can't You See  
**Ain't** It Clear, I don't Care  
Get Closer to me  
If You Dare  
I double Dare, cause'

The meaning of the word Ain't refers to the sensitivity of someone to love them back and expect them to be able to understand. The word Ain't in the song is actually came from the word Ain't which has been combining the word from combining the word from ain + to' and it produce a new single term through the blending process. Based on the explanation above, Ain't is concluded as a slang.

#### Data 3 ". I'll" (line 21 -22)

What now?  
I just can't figure it out  
What now?  
I guess I'll just wait it out  
(wait it out)  
What now? Please tell me

The meaning of the word I'll refers to the explanation of expecting the presence of someone who does not come before him. Waiting until the feeling of boring and the expression of disappointment sat asking but did not come too. The word I'll in the song is actually came from the word combining between form I + will and it produce a new single term through the blending process. Based on the explanation above, I'll is concluded as a slang.

#### Data 4 "You're" (line 12-15)

It's not much of a life **you're**  
living It's not just something you  
take it's given  
Round and around and around  
and around we go  
Oh now, tell me now,

The meaning of the word **you're** refers to explains that regret in making decisions in life and must dare to go through with a mistake made and believe there must be a change. The word **you're** in the song is actually came from the word **You Are** which has been combining the word from and '**you + are**' it produces a new single term through the

blending process. Based on the explanation, **you're** is concluded as a slang.

### Clipping

#### Data 1 "Cause" (line 32-34)

There's no one to call

**Cause** I'm just playing games with them all

The more I swear I'm happy

The more that I'm feeling alone

The meaning of the word Cause refers to someone who did not have anyone to accompany. There was a feeling of wanting to be cared for by others. The word Cause in the song is actually came from the word because which has been shortened through the clipping process. The clipping is process cutting from spelling the 'Be' form 'Because' which turns into Cause. Based on the explanation above, Cause is concluded as slang word.

#### Data 2 "Fuckin'" (line 4 -7)

Love it, Then Come and Get it

I know that ya Fuckin' with it

Ya See me, ya Like it, huh?

Heels Givenchy, huh?

The meaning of the word Fuckin' refers to the thing that someone will like it. The word Fuckin' in the song is actually came from the word Fucking which has been shortened through the clipping process. The clipping process cutting from spelling 'g' form 'Fucking' which turns into Fuckin'. Based on the explanation above, Fuckin' is concluded as slang word.

#### Data 3 "Goin'" (line 7-10)

stripped goin' Up and Down that Poles and I still feel Got my Money

four O'clock and we ain't Going Home cause of the I still Got my Money

The meaning of the word goin' refers to the explain someone in a dance program and contribute a lot of money to the desired time. The word Goin' in the song is actually came from the word Going which has been shortened through the clipping process. The clipping process cutting from spelling 'g' form Going which turns into Goin'. Based on the explanation above, Goin' is concluded as a slang.

#### Data 4 "Comin'" (line 1-5)

It's a Critical Emergency

Betta run run run **comin'**

charged with the yeaaaah

Told Me This World Was Mine

Such a Beautiful Lie

The meaning of the word **comin'** refers to explained freedom in a relationship that has long been desired and feels like there is no free pressure like a bird. The word **Comin'** in the song actually came from the word **Coming** which has been shortened through the clipping process. The clipping process cutting from spelling 'g' form **Coming** which turns into **Comin'**. Based on the explanation above, **Comin'** is concluded as a slang.

### Acronym

#### Data 1 "SOS" (line 9-11)

But I can't control myself,

got me calling out for help

**SOS** please someone help me

It's not healthy for me to feel this

Y.O.U. are making this hard

I can't take it, see it don't feel right

The meaning of the word SOS refers to someone who need help without considering mutual respect, and selfish. The word SOS in the song is actually came from the word Saves our souls which has been stands for through the acronym process. Based on the explanation above, SOS is concluded as slang word.

#### Data 2" Mr (line 6)

Mr. DJ Mr. DJ Mr. DJ Mr. DJ!

Tun it up! Mr. DJ Mr. DJ Mr. DJ Mr.

Can I hear everybody say (Tun it up!)

The meaning of the words **Mr** refers to a gentleman and a person who control the music party. Call each abbreviation based on the call. The word **Mr** in the song is actually came from the word **Mister** which has been stands for through the acronym process. Based on the explanation, **Mr** is concluded as a slang. disk jockey.

#### Data 3 "DJ" (line 7)

Mr. DJ Mr. DJ Mr. DJ Mr. DJ!

Tun it up! Mr. DJ Mr. DJ Mr. DJ Mr.

Can I hear everybody say (Tun it up!)

The meaning of the words **DJ** refers to a gentleman and a person who control the music party. The word **DJ** in the song is actually came from the word **Disc Jockey** which has been stands for through the acronym process. Based on the explanation, **DJ** is concluded as a slang language.

### Prefixes and Suffixes

#### Data 1 “hopelessness”

I’ve been believe in something  
so distant As if I was human  
And I’ve been denying

This feeling of **hopelessness** in me,

The meaning of the word hopelessness refers to human nature instincts that must be a feeling of inner self. Feeling great is always a strong state and never falls and to face a state of self that cannot be fragile in a problem. The word hopelessness in the song is actually came from the word hopeless which has been to be adding through the Suffixes process. The Suffixes process add the end ‘ess’ form hopeless which turns into hopelessness. The Suffixes process hopeless + ess. Based on the explanation above, hopelessness is concluded as a slang.

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In this chapter, the researcher discusses two things, namely conclusion, and suggestions. In conclusions, the results of the research are summarized so briefly. While the suggestions contain input from the reader for better research.

#### Conclusion

Form the results of analysis in previous chapter there are 37 data of slang word found in Rihanna's song lyrics. Based on the theory that is used, there are 5 types of word formation contain in the lyrics of Rihanna's song. From the data above, there are 37 data found from Rihanna’s songs. That is coinage 1 data, blending 10 data, clipping 19 data with, acronym 3 data and the last prefixes and suffixes 1. The total 37 data.

As for the results of the analysis of social functions, there are 17 words from Rihanna's songs. The highest social function is the Pursuit of Self-identity. Rihanna tend to use contemporary words so that many slang words are found. Data on social function are influenced by the original meaning of the word and was not the word slang.

No	Type word formation	Frequency
1.	Coinage	1
2.	Blending	10
3.	Clipping	19
4.	Acronym	3
5.	Prefixes and suffixes	1
	Total	37

#### Suggestion

Finally, the researcher is in the suggested section. This section is the end of this research. It takes a difficult, long and persistent process to complete this thesis. And a special impression can be passed. The researcher hopes this thesis can be useful for the reader as a material of knowledge and the readers would wisely use the right and correct words. Hopefully, this thesis can be used as a reference to differentiate the use of contemporary song lyrics because they are more active as reviewers in finding out what is good and not. Especially, the listeners can give more attention to the songs that are uncommon to use slang language excessive. It will indirectly give the wrong teaching if it is not appropriate to apply.

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