

Batam Teenagers' Slang Language: Shaping, Using, and Perspective

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan konstruksi pembentukan bahasa *slang*, bentuk penggunaan dan perspektif penggunaannya dalam kehidupan remaja di kota Batam. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode Padan dan Agih Sudaryanto. Penggunaan metode Padan untuk menemukan perspektif penggunaan bahasa *slang* di kalangan remaja, sementara metode Agih untuk melihat konstruksi bahasa slang itu sendiri. Metode pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini ialah metode Cakap dengan teknik Cakap Semuka (CS) terhadap 50 remaja yang di wawancara secara acak di tiga kecamatan terbesar di Batam yaitu Batam Center, Batu Aji dan Tiban. Dari hasil penelitian ditemukan antara lain formula konstruksi dalam pembentukan bahasa slang yang dapat dilihat dari tujuh cara antara lain: (1) Penyingkatan (*abbreviation*) seperti PHP (Pemberi Harapan Palsu) dan PJ (Pajak Jadian). (2) Penghapusan (*deletion*) seperti *gi* berasal dari kata „lagi“, dan *pa* berasal dari kata „apa.“ (3) Perubahan huruf dan suara (*letter and sound change*) seperti *maka_ucih* berasal dari kata „makasih“ dan *cayang* berasal dari kata „sayang.“ (4) Adopsi Asal Kata Dasar (*Adoption of Basic Word*) seperti *binggow* berasal dari kata „banget“ atau „sangat“ dan *jehong* berasal dari kata „jahat.“ (5) Singkatan Campuran Bahasa Indonesia atau Bahasa Inggris (*English or English-Indonesia mixed Abbreviation*) seperti *CoPas* berasal dari kata „Copy Paste“ dan *LoLa* berasal dari kata „Loading Lama.“ (6) Penyontekan (*Citation*) dari bahasa slang daerah lain seperti *Loe* berasal dari bahasa betawi artinya „kamu.“ (7) Konstruksi Baru (*New Construction*) seperti *nyanting* artinya „meminjam“ dan *badi* artinya „orang gila“. Sementara perspektif penggunaan bahasa slang dikalangan remaja dalam berkomunikasi antar mereka adalah 30.25% mengatakan bahwa mereka menggunakan bahasa slang karna ingin menunjukkan kepada kelompok lain bahwa mereka kelihatan lebih gaul dan keren, alasan karna mengikuti zaman sebanyak 27.72 %, lebih mudah berkomunikasi antar mereka 21 %, ikut-ikutan teman 7.56 %, lucu-luan 5.04 %, biar tenar 4.20 % dan kebiasaan 1.64 %.

Kata kunci: Slang, Perspektif, Konstruksi

INTRODUCTION

There are many varieties of languages used in the society. Varieties are used by groups to groups, speakers to speakers in terms of the pronunciation of the language, the choice of words and the

meaning of those words, and even the use of the syntactic constructions. In this fact, people may say the same thing in different ways. The speakers may use different styles of their language depending on the particular context which is formal and informal. One of the language varieties used in the society can be slang which is mostly used by teenagers. Slang language is one of language styles that belongs to more information language that is mostly used by youth. The existence of slang vocabulary is never constant. It will always be developed on and on appropriately with the youth's language development that can fulfill their needs in using language.

One of an informal style of languages which is mostly spoken is the slang language. Almost everyone uses slang on some occasions but it is not easy to define the word. According to Gemilasari (2013) slang has been defined as one of those things that everybody can recognize and nobody can define. Regardless of the social position, almost all people use slang from time to time. According to Trask (2001:201) slang is another word that is difficult to define, but expresses a concept that is understood by almost everyone; this is probably the fundamental quality of a slang term is not generally accepted. Slang words may come about by combining a word, by introducing a completely new word. Slang expressions have come and gone ever the year, some to return again but other never do. Slang expressions are remarkably resilient, persistent and survive over long period of time.

A phenomenon of slang language used mostly happened in teenagers' life. Now days, the use of the slang language is not only communicated by teenagers who live in big city like Jakarta, Bandung and Surabaya but are also already expanded into small city like Batam. The slang language has different forms from the formal use. It is made by teenagers to avoid the meaning from others. The form of slang can be single word form and phrase form.

Teenager is very creative and productive human being in producing new word in communication and interaction. When talking about slang it means cannot be separated from talking about teenagers' creativity. Teenagers tend to use slang language in their daily communication especially in informal situation. According to Richard, as quoted in Gemilasari (2013:143), slang is used for a very informal speech variety which often serves as an „in group“ language such as teenagers, army and pop group. Slang is considered as a result of the rapid growth of the new word or term that is happening. It is such kind of teenagers' creative expression to make the words simpler and efficient to be spoken.

Slang, as defined by Rasekh (2011) is a vernacular vocabulary not generally acceptable in formal usage that is notable for its liveliness, humor, emphasis, brevity, novelty, and exaggeration. The usage of slang is definitely not a new occurrence and is utilized oftentimes for entertainment purposes during the conversations that people have with one another. Slang can vary based on the part of the world in which you are from in and its terminology often times originates from various sections of the globe.

The way how teenagers construct their slang can be done in some ways. It can be seen from the examples of use applied by teenager in their community:

- a. *Aq Clalu Cayang qamu Celamanya*
- b. *Makacih ya guys*

- c. *Lau PHO*
- d. *Mana PJ nya nih*
- e. *Jangan PHP dong*

The example in (a and b) above can be seen that the shaping of slang language in teenagers community in Batam is constructed by changing the sound. *Clalu*, *Makacih* and *Celamanya* (belongs to the change of sound „S“ to „C). The example in (c, d and e) are constructed by abbreviation. *PHO* – *Perusak Hubungan Orang*, *PHP*- *Pemberi Harapan Palsu* and *PJ*- *Pajak Jadian* (belongs to the abbreviation form).

Based on the phenomena of slang described above, the writer formulates this research into two some points: the shaping of slang, how it is used and Batam“s teenagers“ perspectives.

SOCIOLINGUISTICS VIEWS

Stockwell (2003:11) states that, sociolinguistics is a concerned with the relationship between language and context in which it is used. It means that sociolinguistics deals with the social factors. Sociolinguistics is also interested in the different types of linguistics variation used to express and reflects social factor as slang that the writer wants to analyze. In addition, sociolinguistics is the radical wing of the discipline. Sociolinguistics are field researchers; they go out collecting data from ordinary people about their actual language use, and on the basis of the evidence they construct theories as to how and why language changes. Sociolinguistics is concerned with the correlation between such social factors and linguistic variation. The factors meaning is age, gender, jobs, and religion”.

The quotation means that the sociolinguistics relates to the people and language use. It also has a few fundamental concepts; they are speech community and social networks. Speech community is a concept of sociolinguistics used to describe about unique language that is used by a group, just like jargon and slang. In addition, a social network is a way to link between someone to other people in different place. According to Chaer in Fasya (2013) “ sociolinguistics is any study of language in relation to society”.

In addition, Chaika(2008:479) states that sociolinguistics is concerned with the diversity of language as it is related to various sociological factors. Participants, setting, topic, function, social distance, status, formality, and two functions are social factors that influence people in communication.

Language Style

According to Holmes (2001:223) language varies according to its uses as well its users, according to where it is used and to whom, as well as, according to who is using it. It is known that language style is a language produced by addresser and writer caused by how the way using source language in choosing of word and pattern of arranging of the words. The study of that variation in language (style) which depends on the situation in which the language is used and also on the effect the writer wishes to create stylistics. Stylistics is concerned with the choices

that are available to a writer and the reason why particular forms and expressions are used rather than others.

Kind of Language Style

According to Hilman (2012:115) style of language can be classified into informal and formal style. Informal styles here are refer to the use of language for intimate condition such slang and colloquial which are used among friends. They use in some occasion, they combining old words into new meaning. Usually slang and colloquial varies from region because they are developing in a community.

However, Holmes (2001:22) states that informal language is the same as casual style. There are two styles of language that can be classified into casual language's circumference; they are slang and colloquial styles. However, in this research the writer focused on slang only.

Slang and its Form

According to Yule (2010) slang is used for a very informal speech variety which often serves as an "in-group" language such as teenagers, army, pop group, etc. The word slang is used only known by the group itself. The word actually has an informal language. The slang has been defines as one of those that everybody can recognize and nobody can define. Slang words almost could not be found in dictionary. Slang is informal, non- standard English vocabulary that provides effective shorts cut in expression because it is often vivid and sharp. Like idiom, slang is part of native speaker's informal talk.

Slang is traditionally considered as a vulgar, and rude form of language with a strong color of irreverence and yet vitality in a society. It is generally labeled as a linguistic taboo which should not be appearing in most formal social occasions. Slang is one of the language style belong to more information language that mostly used by youth. It will always be developed on and on appropriately with the youth's language development that can fulfill their need in using language. (Zhou, 2013:2209)

Forms of slang consist of word and phrase. One single word could be slang depending on the context, and it also applies on phrase (Paltridge, 2003:46). Slang words are formed by a variety of processes, of which the following are the main ones. Word is a row letter that is flanked by two spaces, and has meaning. Slang as phrase is a combination of two words or more than have non predicative characteristic.

Meaning of Slang

The meaning of slang is based on context. It cannot be analyzed by using common dictionary; it must be taken by real sources (Paltridge, 2003: 49). The word slang is only known by the group itself. The word actually has informal language. The slang has been defined as one of those that everybody can recognize and nobody can define. Slang words almost could not be found in the dictionary. Slang is informal, non-Standard English vocabulary that provides effective short cuts

in expression because it is often vivid and sharp. Like idiom, slang is part of native speaker's informal talk.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

Collecting Data

In collecting the data, the researcher applies the method that proposed by (Sudaryanto, 2015:201) called as *Metode Cakap* or interview method. In doing this method, the writer also involves *Cakap Semuka* technique which directly have an interview to the informants.

In this research the writer collects the data by applying some steps, they are:

1. The researcher interviews informants from Batam teenagers whose ages ranged from 12-19 years old.
2. The researcher asked each informant about the data required in this research by using questionnaire designed by the researcher. The researcher gave some questions like what forms of the slang language they used, what the meaning of the slang language meant to them, what the reasons to use the slang language were, and what the examples of use were.
3. During interview the researcher took pictures and record the conversation between informant as a document of research.
4. The researcher writes all data in the note-taking and classifies them based on form and social factor.
5. After collecting the data, the researcher tried to process the data based on form, using and reasons of using the slang language by teenagers, then selecting the data that were relevant, and analyzing them based on the theory.
6. The researcher classify the way how teenagers construct the slang, how to use the slang and percentage the teenager's opinion about the use of slang language.

Analyzing Data

In this research the writer applies the technique that is proposed by Sudaryanto (2015:27) called *Metode Padan* and *Metode Agih*. *Metode Padan* is used by researcher team to find out teenager's perspectives in the use of the slang language. Meanwhile, the application of *Metode Agih* is intended to figure out the forms of the slang language. The technique for *Metode Padan* applied by writer team is *Mitra wicara* technique or pragmatis technique, and the technique for *Metode Agih* applied is *Bagi Unsur Langsung* technique with some other followed techniques such as the expansion technique. The above concepts are done by several steps as follow:

- a. *Data Redution*. The data were obtained in the field was chosen and summarized according to the data need in the research.
- b. *Data Display*. It was aimed to ease the researcher to see the general description of the data based on the theory decided.
- c. *Verification*. The data were obtained were verified continuously during the research to get the valid data in this research

Clamanya is a replacement of the word Selamanya. To make slang language the teenagers change the letter “S” to the letter “C” as as is shown in the example below:

Example: Clamanya < Selamanya

Clalu is a replacement of the word Selalu. To make slang language the teenagers change the letter “S” to the letter “C” as as is shown in the example below:

Example: Clalu < Selalu

Change of “K” to letter “Q”

Qmu is a replacement of the word Kamu. To make slang language the teenagers change the letter “K” to the letter “Q” as as is shown in the example below:

Example: Qmu < Kamu

Change of “Ia” to sound “Y”

Dy is a replacement of the word Dia. To make slang language the teenagers change the sound “Ia” to the sound “Y” as as is shown in the example below:

Example: Dy < Dia

Change of “Au” to sound “W”

Tw is a replacement of the word Tau. To make slang language the teenagers change the sound “Au” to the sound “W” as as is shown in the example below:

Example: Tw < Tau

Change of “S” to sound “Z”

Maniz is a replacement of the word Manis. To make slang language the teenagers change the sound “S” to the sound “Z” as as is shown in the example below:

Example: Maniz < Manis

Change of “U” to sound “Oe”

Imoet is a replacement of the word Imut. To make slang language the teenagers change the sound “U” to the sound “Oe” as as is shown in the example below:

Example: Imoet < Imut

4. Forms of the slang language by “Adopting the Basic Sound”

Table 4. Forms of the Slang Language by “Adopting the Basic Sound”

No.	Kinds of the Slang Language	
	Slang Forms	Example of Slang use
1	Binggow/Bingits	Dia keren binggow/bingits
2	Cemengut	Cemenget ya cayang
3	Jehong	Qmu jehong ya
4	Keles	Kamu keles kali

The examples in Table 4 above describe the use and the construction of the slang language done by teenager:

Binggow and Bingits are formed from the word *Banget*. These words are used to express or to describes something.

Example: *Qmu* Hebat *binggow* = *Qmu* cantik *bingits*

Cemengut is formed from the word *Semangat*. This word is used to support someone to do something hard.

Example: *Cemengut* ya kakak = *Semangat* ya kakak

Jehong is formed from the word *Jahat*. This word is used to express someone's character

Example: Qmu *jehong* ya = Kamu *jahat* ya

Keles is formed from the word *Kali*. This word is used to express or to emphasize someone's opinion. This word is not used for counting or multiplication.

Example: *Iya tau Keles* = Iya, saya sudah tahu tentang itu * 2 *keles* 2 = 4

5. Forms of the Slang Language “English or English-Indonesia Abbreviation”

Table 5.
Forms of the Slang Language “ English or English-Indonesia Abbreviation”

No.	Kinds of Slang Language	
	<i>Slang Forms</i>	<i>Example of Slang use</i>
1	<i>COPAS</i>	<i>Loe Copas ini ya</i>
2	<i>OTW</i>	<i>Gue lagi OTW</i>
3	<i>GWS</i>	<i>GWS ya kamu</i>
4	<i>OMG</i>	<i>OMG Keren binggow</i>
5	<i>INTRO</i>	<i>Intro dong kamunya</i>
6	<i>LOLA</i>	<i>Lola kali kamu ya</i>
7	<i>WAKSELFIE</i>	<i>Ih dia Wakselvie</i>

The data of slang and example of its use displayed on **Table 5** above describes the way how teenagers in Batam to construct slang language in their community. The way used to construct slang is by using English or English-Indonesia abbreviation which is explained below:

English Language Abbreviation:

The word *COPAS* comes from the original of English language words of *COPY PASTE*. It combines to make slang language. The combination happened in the initial each syllable of words. *CO* and *PAS*.

The word *OTW* comes from the original of English language words of *ON THE WAY*. It combines to make slang language. The combination happened in the initial of each letter of words *O*, *T* and *W*.

The word *OMG* comes from the original of English language words of *OH MY GOD*. It combines to make the slang language. The combination happened in the initial of each letter of words. *O*, *M* and *G*.

The word *GWS* comes from the original of English language words of *GET WELL SOON*. It combines to make the slang language. The combination happened in the initial of each letter of words. *G*, *W* and *S*.

The word *INTRO* comes from the original of English language words of *INTRODUCE*. It takes two initial syllables of the word to make the slang language.

English – Indonesia Abbreviation:

The word *LOLA* comes from the original of English – Indonesia language words *LOADING - LAMA*. They are combined to make the slang language. The combination happened in the initial of each syllable of English – Indonesia words. *LO* and *LA*.

The word *WAK - SELFIE* comes from the original of English – Indonesia regional language words of *AWAK and SELFIE*. *Awak* is a word that is mostly used by Sumatra people to refer to the first or third singular person. They are combined to make the slang language.

6. Forms of the Slang Language “Citation”

Table 6. Forms of Slang Language “Citation”

No.	Kinds of Slang Language	
	<i>Slang Forms</i>	<i>Example of Slang use</i>
1	<i>Loe</i>	<i>Loe mau kemana</i>
2	<i>Gue</i>	<i>Gue suka loe</i>
3	<i>Die</i>	<i>Die cantik sekali</i>

The word *Loe* comes from the Jakarta language that refers to *Kamu* or *You* in English language. This word is adopted by BatamTeenagers to use in their communication.

The word *Gue* also comes from the Jakarta language that refers to *Saya* or *I* in English language. This word is adopted by BatamTeenagers to use in their communication.

The word *Die* comes from the Jakarta language that refers to *Dia* or *He* or *She* in English language. This word is adopted by BatamTeenagers to use in their communication.

7. Forms of slang language “New Construction”

Table 7. Forms of Slang Language “New Construction”

No.	Kinds of Slang Language	
	<i>Slang Forms</i>	<i>Example of Slang use</i>
1	<i>Nyanting</i>	<i>Nyanting dong bukunya</i>
2	<i>Relat</i>	<i>Kita rekat yok</i>
3	<i>Tekong</i>	<i>Jangan tekong dong</i>
4	<i>Badi</i>	<i>Dia badi ya</i>
5	<i>Taken</i>	<i>Taken yok</i>
6	<i>Rempong</i>	<i>Rempong kali dia</i>
7	<i>Kepo</i>	<i>Kepo aja loe</i>

Nyanting is the slang language that refers to the meaning of *Pinjam* or borrow. No correlation form of pronunciation between the word *nyanting* and *pinjam*.

Relat is the slang language that refers to the meaning of *Jadian* or make a relationship with boyfriend or girlfriend. No correlation form of pronunciation between the word *Relat* and *Jadian*.

Badi is the slang language that refers to the meaning of *Orang Gila* or a crazy man. No correlation form of pronunciation between the word *Badi* and *Orang Gila*.

Taken is the slang language that refers to the meaning of *Merampas* or carry away. No correlation form of pronunciation between the word *Taken* and *Merampas*.

Rempong is the slang language that refers to the meaning of *Banyak omongor* fussy. No correlation form of pronunciation between *rempong* and *banyak omong*.

Kepo is the slang language that refers to the meaning of *Pengen Tau* or to know curiously. No correlation form of pronunciation between the word *Kepo* and *to know curiously*.

8. Teenagers' Perspective in Use of the Slang Language

Table 8. Teenager's Perspective in Use of Slang Language

No.	Reason of Using Slang	Amount	Percentage
1	Friends influencing	9	7.56 %
2	Following to new era	33	27.73 %
3	To show off existence	36	30.25 %
4	Getting easy to communicate	28	21.00 %
6	Being familiar	5	4.20 %
7	Habit	2	1.68 %
8	Having fun	6	5.04 %
Total		119	100%

Based on the data found by the researcher in interviewing the informants as displayed above, it can be concluded that the teenagers mostly use the slang language because of the showing off to others. It can be seen from the percentage of its use, which is 30.25 %. Other mostly used reason of the slang language by teenagers is following modern era, which is 27.73 %, getting easy to communicate among them, which is 21% , having fun, which is 7.56 %, and becoming familiar, which is 4.20 %, and habit factors, which constitutes 1.64 %.

CONCLUSION

From the data analysis above it can be conclude that the forms of the slang language that are used by teenagers in Batam can be formed into several ways such as abbreviation which is divided into three categories are initial each word collection, initial syllable collection, and word letter chosen. The second way of how the slang language is formed is through deletion. It can be divided into the deletion of initial letter and the deletion of the initial syllable. The third way is letters and sound change. It includes the change of "S" to letter "C", the change of "K" to letter "Q", the change of the sound "Ia" to sound "Y", the change of sound "Au" to sound "W", change of "S"

to sound “Z”, and the change of sound “U” to sound “Oe” such as *Imoet* is a replacement of the word *Imut*.

The fourth way of creating the slang language is the adoption of a basic word. For instance, the words *Binggow* and *Bingits* are formed from the word *Banget* means *very*. The fifth way is called the English or English-Indonesia abbreviation like the word *CoPas* which comes from the English words *Copy Paste* and the word *LoLa* which comes from the original English – Indonesia language words *Loading–Lama*. The sixth way of creating the slang language is the citation such as the word *Loe* which comes from the Jakarta language that refers to *Kamu* and the word *Gue* which also comes from the Jakarta language that refers to *Saya*. The last way of forming the slang language that is done by teenagers is the new construction. It refers to the new forms of the slang language which allegedly are formed under arbitrariness. For instance the word *Nyanting* is the slang language that refers to the meaning of *Pinjam* or borrow and the word *Badi* is the slang language that refers to the meaning of *Orang Gila* or a crazy man. The two of these words have no correlation of sound and form with the basic form of the word *Pinjam* and *Gila*.

The last result of this research is apparently teenagers’ perspective in the use of the slang language. The reason for using the slang language that is applied by teenagers in their community is to „show off“ their existence in society. It is declared by 36 informants or 30.25 %. Other reasons are the effect of the modern era which is declared by 33 informants or 27.73 %, and getting easy to communicate which constitutes 21 %.

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