SLANG USED IN "TOP FIVE MOVIE" DIRECTED BY CHRIS ROCK

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APA Citation: Arfani, S & Rusfitasari, R. (2019). Slang Used In "Top Five Movie" Directed By Chris Rock. Journal of English Language and literature, 4(1), 39-50. DOI 10.37110/jell.v4i01.68

INTRODUCTION

In this globalization era, many people want to learn English, to be able to speak English fluently, and to understand English correctly. As the international language, English is used everywhere, and almost all professions require the ability to speak English. The basic thing to learn English easier is to know a lot of vocabulary. The simple way to do it is through watching movies, because not only know a lot of vocabulary but also know how to pronounce it.

When people watch movies, sometimes they find the difficulty to understand some of the conversations, as they are contained with informal English that does not follow the grammatical rules. One of the informal English that often difficult to understand is slang. Slang is informal and often not proper English. Slang usually created and used among teenagers or among a certain group of people. For example many teenagers in US often used “chick” to refer a young woman, “chicken” to refer a coward people, “dude” to refer a man, and many others.

People usually use slang to make the situation more comfortable and friendly, but for people who are still studied English it is difficult to know and understand the meaning.

In short, slang does not only occur in real life but also in movies. Many American movies use slang in their conversation especially movies about gangster or movies with comedy genre, and one of them is Top Five. The characters in this movie often use slang words in their daily conversations, and the main character use slang in many situations. Considering the fact, the writer is interested to conduct the research related to slang words. In this case, the writer chooses “Slang Words Used in Top Five Movie Directed by Chris Rock”.

Based on the background and reason of choosing the title above, the writer can identify those problems as follows:

1). What the meaning of slang words were used in Top Five movie?
2). What forms of slang words were found in Top Five movie?
3). What were the functions of slang words used in Top Five movie?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Definition of Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is concerned about how people use language and talk differently to other people in different situations. People tend to use different style of language when speak to other people with different age, social background, or even when they are in different places. All those things can be studied in sociolinguistics.

According to Wardaugh & Fuller (2015:1) “Sociolinguistics is the study of our everyday lives – how language works in our casual conversations and the media we are exposed to, and the presence of societal norms, policies, and laws which address language.” That statement means in sociolinguistic discusses about how people speak differently in different social situations.

Based on Holmes (2013:1) stated “Sociolinguistics is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used.” It means that sociolinguistics concerned with the way language used in society.

Suhardianto & Ambalegin (2017:4) argues “Sociolinguistics deals with the social aspects contained in society. Sociolinguistics also discusses the different variations of language used in society in describing social phenomena such as the use of slang itself.” It means slang can be known as part of sociolinguistic because there is phenomena which use different variation of language in society.

Based on theories above, the writer may concludes that sociolinguistics is the part of linguistics that studies the relationship between language and society, the way people use language and speak differently in different social situations with the influence of dialect, gender differences, or even social class.

Definition of Slang

According to Coleman (2014:3) “Slang is informal and non-standard, that much is uncontentious. Slang can be used in formal contexts to lower or challenge that formality.” It means that slang can be used in formal context to make the situations less formal. Teach speaking just as a repetition of drills or memorization of dialogues.

Widawski (2015:7) stated “While slang in itself is extreme, it also tends to generate extreme attitudes. Most people, consciously or not, use it because of its expressiveness, brevity or humor.” It means sometimes people use slang because slang is catchy and interesting. It is no wonder that slang is popular among teenagers.

While Green (2105:5) argues “Above all its functions, slang is a ‘counter-language’, the language that says no. Born in the street, it resists the niceties of the respectable. It is impertinent, mocking, unconvinced by rules, regulations and ideologies.” That statement means that slang is not an appropriate word, often mocking and do not follow the grammatical rules, so it cannot be used freely in formal situation.

Based on the definitions above the writer concludes that slang is very informal words that often only used by particular groups of people, and sometimes certain slang words also can be used in formal situation to make it less formal. Slang also very popular and cannot be separated from teenage life. Most slang words are spoken and usually considered as inappropriate words because some slang words have vulgar meaning, and do not follow the grammatical rules.

Forms of Slang

According to Widawski (2015:19), “Slang is quintessentially about vocabulary. In any language vocabulary is normally created from already existing words which are either modified or assigned new meanings; sometimes, entirely novel words are coined or borrowed from other languages.” It means slang can be created from various word formations, they are as follows:

1. Combining

Combining means combine two or more words or affixes to produce slang words. Parts of combining are as follows:

a. Compounding

Compounding is form of slang created by combining two or more words of various parts of speech. It can be noun-noun combination, adjective-noun combination, numerals-noun combination, or other combinations.

b. Affixation
Affixation is form of slang created by adding various affixes to a slang word. It can be prefixes, suffixes, or infixes.

c. Phraseology

Phraseology is form of slang created by combining a part of speech and other parts of speech, especially verbs and nouns, and sometimes accompanied by prepositions. It can be verb phrase, noun phrases, or even phrasal verbs.

2. Shortening

Shortening is form of slang created by shorten the word to make it simple and quicker to express. Parts of shortening are as follows:

a. Clipping

Clipping is form of slang that involves abbreviating a longer word by removing certain word to produce a shorter word. It can be back clipping, front clipping, or ellipsis.

b. Initialism

Initialism is form of slang created by abridged the words. It consists of the initial letters of words pronounced in sequenced, spelled using capital letters, and often followed by periods. In extreme case of initialism, the word can be abridged to just one letter which is capitalized.

c. Acronym

Acronym is form of slang made using the first letter of words and pronounce as one word.

3. Conversion

Conversion is form of slang created by changing the usual grammatical function into another without undergoing any alteration in form. Parts of conversion are as follows:

a. Verbification

Verbification is form of slang that involves the changing of nouns into verbs.

b. Nominalization

Nominalization is form of slang that involves the changing of verbs into nouns.

c. Other Processes

Other processes of conversion include changes from and into another parts of speech.

4. Blending

Blending is formed by joining two words and simultaneously clipping part of the first or second word, or both.

5. Borrowing

Borrowing is form of slang created by borrowing entire words from another language. It is extremely rare and often heavily modified. Parts of borrowing are as follows:

a. Loanwords

Loanword is form of slang taken from one language into another with various degrees of adaptation in spelling, pronunciation or meaning.

b. Loan Translation

Loan translation is form of slang when the meaning of a word (or words) from one language is literally translated into the form of another language to create an entirely new lexical entity.

c. Eponyms

Eponyms form a modest yet discernible word-acquisition process. These are expressions derived from personal names, often of inventors or creators, or names of fictitious characters. Eponyms play a marginal role because they normally require concrete knowledge which enables the speaker to associate the expression with the name.

d. Brand Names

Brand names are names protected by legal trademarks and are used to distinguish one product from similar ones offered by competitors. These play a marginal role because they tend to undergo the process of generalization or assimilation and may lose not only their original capitalization, but also their original meanings.

6. Creating

Creating is the process of inventing entirely new words. Parts of creating are:

a. Coinage

Coinage is creating a new word. Coinage of new words is rare in slang. Most slang uses existing words, modified either morphologically or semantically.

b. Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia is form of slang when new words are formed from natural sounds, or they are adapted visually to suggest certain sound.
In onomatopoeic usage, sound and meaning echo and reinforce each other.

c. Respelling
Respelling involves deliberate misspelling of an expression.

Based on the definitions above, there are six main forms of slang according to Widawski, they are combining, shortening, conversion, blending, borrowing, and creating. Each main form divided into more specific forms, they are compounding, affixation, phraseology, clipping, initialism, acronym, verbification, nominalization, other process, loanwords, loan translation, eponyms, brand names, coinage, onomatopoeia, and respelling.

d. Functions of Slang
According to Widawski (2015:99) “A good notion of what slang is can be derived from answering why it is used.” The functions of slang according Widawski are as follows:

1. Social Functions
Parts of social functions are as follows:

a. Identification
Identification is the main social function of slang. It means that slang is used by people to identify the groups and the members within society.

b. Rebellion
Sometimes slang is used to stand out in society. The prime users of slang in this function are criminals or people who live on the edges of society.

c. Interaction
Slang is also used for pure social interaction. It is used to facilitate social interaction and occurs in conversation for the purpose of establishing a mood and maintaining or ending social contact, and to make the situation more comfortable and friendly.

d. Secrecy
Slang is used by such groups as criminals or teenagers who often find a share vocabulary unknown to outsiders as an effective way to keep information secret.

2. Psychological Function
Language is also linked with our thoughts and feelings. The use of certain expression especially slang is often motivated by psychological processes in our mind. Psychological function of slang will be explained as follows:

a. Emotions
Expressing emotions is one of the primary psychological functions of slang. Slang is proficient in providing verbal expressions for numerous emotional states and reaction such as enjoyment, anger, indifference, surprised, annoyance, and satisfaction.

b. Humor
Slang can also be used to express humor. It can reduce the solemnity, haughtiness or excessive seriousness of a conversation. It is also used to mask discomfort when talking about certain subject that considered improper and to make sarcastic or ironic comments.

c. Toughness
Slang may serve as a natural expression of such toughness, the natural manifestations of which include vulgarism and swearwords, which by their nature strengthen the swear’s image.

3. Rhetorical Functions
Rhetorical function is the manipulation of words, sounds and sentences structure for a desired effect. Parts of rhetorical functions are as follows:

a. Informality
Informality is one of the main rhetorical functions of slang. People use different kinds of language depending on the different situations, and the use of slang always diminishes the formality of communication.

b. Stylization
Slang, used in this function, serves to create one’s image and it becomes an outward characteristic of the users and reflects their personalities.

c. Conciseness
Slang words are used because they are concise and also they communicate more quickly, easily and effectively than standard ones.

d. Forcefulness
People use slang to sound more forceful and empathic. Slang is often more direct, vivid, personal and expressive, and thus more forceful than standard words.

4. Cultural Function

Parts of cultural function are as follows:

a. Wordplay

Slang is sometimes created and used for the mere pleasure of novelty and freshness derived from verbal experimentation. Besides, people enjoy manipulating the rules of language.

b. Word Battle

This function has been popularized by hip-hop culture and rap music.

c. Assimilation

While many slang expressions which originated among African Americans remain in that community, a sizeable number of them have become assimilated into general American slang, retaining various degrees of association with African America. It means that slang from another community or even country can be assimilated into another community or country.

Based on Widawski, there are four main functions of slang, they are social functions, psychological functions, rhetorical functions, and cultural functions. Each function divided into more specific functions, they are identification, rebellion, interaction, secrecy, emotions, humor, toughness, informality, stylization, conciseness, forcefulness, wordplay, word battle, and assimilation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this parts, the writer is going to analyze the slang words used in Top Five movie. In this chapter, the theory that the writer used is the theory of Maciej Widawski.

1. Slang Words Used in Top Five Movie

In this part, the writer has found the slang words used in Top Five movie. There are ten types of slangs which are analyzed. They are:

Data 1: Bullshit (00:01:59)

Chelsea : “Thank God things change!”
Andre : “Hey, look at this. Black man trying to get a cab in New York City. Watch this bullshit.”

The word bullshit means nonsense, irrational, or absurd. In the situation above he tried to get a taxi in the middle of New York City. It used by Andre to prove that nothing is change, the fact that black man can get a taxi in there is nonsense.

Data 2: Clown (00:02:59)

Audience 1 : “When you were in school, were you the class clown?” The word clown
means joke, tease or make fun of. The question above is asked to Andre Allen at one of his tv show. The words class clown that the audience I asked mean if he is someone who often make a joke at his class, because he is a stand-up comedian now.

Data 3: Chick (00:06:52)
Andre : “No, fuck James Nielson. He’s been ripping my shit apart for years.”
Silk : “The next one’s a chick. She just wants to do a profile piece on you.”
The word chick means a young woman, especially an attractive one. Silk used this word to describe a woman who will interview Andre next is attractive, unlike the previous one.

Data 4: Nigga (00:07:24)
Charles : “Now, when you tell me you wanted to do that movie about the Haitian revolution, Andre, what’d I say to you?”
Andre : “You said it wasn’t a good idea, okay?”
Charles : “No. No, you’re wrong, Andre. That’s not what I said. I said, nigga is you crazy?”
The word nigga means black people. It is simply used to refer a friend among black people, but it is considered derogatory if white people used it to call them. In the situation above, the word nigga used by Charles to refer Andre Allen.

Data 5: Black ass (00:07:57)
Charles : “You’ve never been more wrong. A nigga can get fired for saying nigga to a nigga. A nigga don’t run this damn company. Matter of fact, if niggas at this company found out that I used the word nigga in here, my black ass would be on the street.”
Andre : “I guess you’re right, nigga.”
The words black ass mean self, when referring to an African American. Charles used this words to refer himself. He explains to Andre, if anyone knew that he used the word nigga in his company, he would be fired.

Data 13: Sick (00:13:55)
Andre : “What’s going on?”
Erica : “Yeah, no. I’m here at the place. And it looks sick.”
The word sick means awesome. In the situation above, sick did not mean negative. Erica used it to explain that the place they used for their wedding is awesome and wonderful.

Data 17: Wassup (00:17:55)
Andre : “Hey, wassup? You came to pick me?” Jazz : “Yeah, man.”
The word wassup is a slurred what’s up. It is used as greeting. Andre used it to greet Jazz, the one who pick him up at the airport.

Data 19: Dawg (00:18:15)
Jazz : “Like I say, this is my town. Anything you need, you let a brother know. I’m the motherfuckin’ man in Houstown, dawg.”
The word dawg means a friend, as it is to address a close male friend. Usually it used among African American.

Data 21: Cool (00:19:17)
Andre : “Okay. All right, cool.”
The word cool means acceptable. Andre used it to express that he agree with Jazz.

Data 28: Jerk (00:30:08)
Erica : “The network, those jerks, they just thought they weren’t camera-friendly enough, and I would have never allowed them to do it.”
The word jerk means a contemptible and obnoxious person. Erica used it to refer people from the network.

2. Forms of Slang Words Found in Top Five Movie

In this part, the writer is going to categorize the slang words which were spoken by the characters in the Top Five movie by the forms. There are four forms of slang which are analyzed based on theory of forms of slang by Widawski (2015), they are combining, shortening, conversion, and blending. The complete result can be seen as follows:

1. Combining
Combining means combine two or more words or affixes to produce slang words. Combining divided into three parts, there are compounding means combine two or more words of various parts of speech, affixation means adding various affixes to the words, and phraseology means combining a part of speech and other part of speech especially verbs and noun, which sometimes accompanied by prepositions. The examples of combining found in Top Five movie are as follows:

| Compounding | Affixation | Phraseology |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Bullshit     | Snacker    | Walk-up     |
| Black ass    |            | Hang out    |
| H-town       |            | Fucked up   |
| Motherfucker |            | Locked up   |
| Homeboy      |            | Whack-off   |
| Corny-ass    |            |             |
| Buck wild    |            |             |
| Asshole      |            |             |
| Burning-ass  |            |             |

The writer is going to elaborate some of the slang words in the table above as follows:

a. Compounding

1) **Bullshit** is a combination from the words **bull** (n) + **shit** (n). It is noun-noun combination.

2) **Black ass** is a combination of **black** (n) + **ass** (n). It is nominal compounds with prefix black. It refers to African American.

3) **H-town** is made of a noun **(town)** and a letter of the alphabet **(H)**. It is referred to as letter compounds.

4) **Corny-ass and burning-ass** are adjectival compounds with the suffix **ass**.

It is as an intensifier of specified characteristic or nature.

5) **Homeboy** is an affix-like compound with the suffix word **boy**.

b. Affixation

The word **snacker** called affixation because the suffix **-er** added in the end of the word, **snack + (-er)**.

c. Phraseology

1) **Walk-up** called phraseology because it is a phrasal verb that becomes noun. It means a brothel.

2) **Hang out** is a phrasal verb. It means to spend time with someone.

3) **Fucked up** is a phrasal verb. It means ruined or make a mess.

4) **Locked up** is a phrasal verb. It means imprisoned in jail.

5) **Whack-off** is phrasal verb that becomes noun. It means an act of masturbation.

2. Shortening

Shortening means shorten the word to make it simple and quicker to express. Shortening divided into three parts, there are clipping means removing certain word to produce a shorter word, initialism means abridged the words, and acronym means using the first letter of words and pronounce as one word. The examples of shortening found in Top Five movie are as follows:

| Clipin g | Initialism | Acronym |
|----------|------------|---------|
| ‘em      |            | Cops    |
| Tux      |            |
| Meth     |            |
| Nuts     |            |
| ‘cause   |            |

a. Clipping

1) **‘em** is the clipping of the word them.

2) Tux is the clipping of the word tuxedo.

3) **Meth** is the clipping of the word methadone.

4) **Nuts** is the clipping of the word nutty.

5) **‘cause** is the clipping of the word because.
b. Initialism

The word **cops** is called initialism because it is initial for Constable On Patrol.

d. Acronym

After analyzed the slang words that found in Top Five movie, the writer does not find any slang words formed with acronym.

3. Conversion

Conversion means changing the usual grammatical function into another without changing the word. Conversion divided into three parts, there are verbification means changing nouns into verbs, nominalization means changing verbs into nouns, and other process means changing from and into another parts of speech. The examples of conversion found in Top Five movie are as follows:

| Conversation | Nominalization | Other Process |
|--------------|----------------|---------------|
| Clown        | Drank          | Cool          |
| Trashed      |                | Tight, Grand  |

Based on table above, it can be seen that the slang words as follows:

a. Verbification

1) **Clown** is called verbification because it is verb that is derived from noun.

   Clown as a verb means joke, tease or make fun of, while as a noun mean someone who perform in a circus or who tries to make people laugh.

2) **Trashed** is called verbification because it is verb that is derived from noun. Trashed as a verb means to criticize or malign someone or something, while as a noun means things that have been thrown away.

b. Nominalization

   **Drank** is called nominalization because it is noun that derived from verb. Drank as a noun means an alcoholic beverage, while as a verb means to drink something.

c. Other process

   Cool is called other process because it can be converted into various parts of speech. It may function as an adjective, adverb, noun, verb, or exclamation. The slang word cool in Top Five movie function as an adjective, means acceptable or agreeable.

4. Blending

Blending means joining two words to produce a single word. The examples of blending found in Top Five movie are as follows:

a. **Wassup** is the blending of what’s + up.

b. **Gonna** is the blending of going + to.

c. **Wanna** is the blending of want + to.

d. **Kinda** is the blending of kind + of.

3. Functions of Slang Words Used in Top Five Movie

There are four main functions based on the theory by Widawski (2015), they are as follows:

1. Social Functions

Social functions divided into four parts, there are identification means used to identify the group and the members within society, rebellion means to stand out in society, interaction means to facilitate social interaction, and secrecy means to keep information secret. The examples of social functions found in Top Five movie are as follows:

| Social functions | Identification | Rebellious | Interaction | Secrecy |
|------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|---------|
| Nigga Dawg       | Nope           | Chick      | Wassup?     | Motherfuckin' man |
|                  | Chick          | Wassup?    | Drank       |         |
|                  | Cool           | Beep me    | Homeboy     |         |
|                  |                | Bodyguardy | Oddy        |         |
|                  |                | Alkie      | Yo          |         |
|                  |                | Dude       | H-town      |         |
|                  |                | Hang out   | Jawn        |         |
|                  |                | Snacker    |             |         |
a. Identification

The **words nigga** and **dawg** are function as identification because it is used to address black people and close male friends among African American. Those words are often used by Andre and other characters in Top Five movie.

b. Rebellion

The writer does not find any slang words that function as rebellion in Top Five movie.

c. Interaction

1) **Wassup** is use for greeting, therefore it is function as interaction to maintaining social contact.

2) **Yo and dude** also used for greeting. Andre used it to greet his male friends.

3) **Nope** used by Chelsea for pure social interaction, she spontaneously used it as she and Andre argue about the president.

4) **Chick** used by Silk to establishing Andre’s mood so that he will give an interview to the reporter.

5) **Alkie** used to establishing the mood between Andre and Chelsea while they are in the car.

d. Secrecy

**Motherfucking’ man** is function as secrecy because it cannot be easily understood by other people, either it means negative or positive. Jazz used it to refer himself as a man who has many connections and influence in Houston.

2. Psychological Functions

Psychological functions divided into three parts, there are emotions mean providing verbal expression for numerous emotional states and reaction, humor means to reduce seriousness of a conversation and to mask discomfort when talking about improper or taboo subject, and toughness is natural manifestation of vulgarism and swearwords. The examples of psychological functions found in Top Five movie are as follows:

| Psychological function | Emotion | Humor | Toughness |
|------------------------|---------|-------|-----------|
| Bullshit               | Clown   |       | Motherfucker |
| Epic                   | Walk-up |       |           |
| Sick                   | Locked up |     |           |
| Asshole                |         |       |           |

Based on table above, it shows the slang words in the table above as follows:

a. Emotions

1) **Bullshit** is used to express annoyance. Andre used it because he is annoyed with Chelsea.

2) **Epic and sick** are used to express satisfaction. Erica used it because she is satisfied with the decoration of the place for her wedding.

3) **Asshole** is used to express anger. Chelsea used it because she is angry with her ex-boyfriend.

b. Humor

1) **Clown** is used to reduce the solemnity in Andre’s show. One of the audience also asked those question just for humor.

2) **Walk-up** is used to disguise the subject that is improper to talk about in public place, because walk-up means a brothel.

3) **Locked up** is humor because Silk said that to amuse Andre.

c. Toughness

**Motherfucker** is used as expression of frustration. Andre said it because he is frustrated his greeting on the radio always rejected by the radio’s DJ.

3. Rhetorical Functions

Rhetorical function divided into four parts, there are informality to diminish the formality of communication, stylization to create one’s image, conciseness to communicate more quickly, and forcefulness to sound more forceful and emphatic. The examples of rhetorical functions found in Top Five movie are as follows:

Table 1: Psycholoical Function
Based on the table above, it can be seen the slang words in the table above as follows:

| Rhetorica functions | Informality | Stylization | Conciseness | Forcefulness |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Cougar              | Bro-bro     | 'em         | Gonna       | Black ass    |
|                     |             | Wanna       | Cops        | Biatch       |
|                     |             | Flip        | 'cause      | Corny-ass    |
|                     |             | Tux         | Grand       | Bitch        |
|                     |             | Meth        | Kinda       |              |

4. Cultural Functions

Cultural functions mean the slang words are related to the culture, such as hip hop culture among African American. Cultural function divided into three parts, there are wordplay, word battle, and assimilation. The writer does not find any slang that function as wordplay, word battle, or even assimilation, because those function usually used in hip hop culture.

CONCLUSION

After analyses and discussion have been discussed in chapter previously, so the conclusion will be discussed in this parts.

There are twenty slangs were found in this movie but only ten types of slang are going to discuss in the types of slang and meaning. The meaning of each slang word is based on the context of situation and by whom when the slang is used. It means one slang could have two different meaning, for example the word motherfuckin’ man has two different meaning, they are excellent or admirable person and a despised person.

Second, the writer found eleven forms of slang in Top Five movie. There are compounding, affixation, phraseology, clipping, initialism, verbification, nominalization, other process, blending, onomatopoeia, and respelling. Not all of the forms are used to create the slang words that used in Top Five movie. The forms that not used are acronym, borrowing, and coinage, while the most form of slang found in Top Five movie is compounding.

Third, the writer found nine functions of slang in Top Five movie. There are identification, interaction, secrecy, emotions, humor, toughness, informality, conciseness, and forcefulness. The functions that the writer did not find in the movie are rebellion, stylization, and cultural functions, while the most function of slang found in the movie is interaction.
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Biography

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