

Slang Words in Twenty One and Over

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ABSTRACT

This research aims at identifying the slang words in the movie Twenty One and Over. It also aims at defining the meaning and classifying types of slang words. This research is a qualitative descriptive method. The data source of the research is the researchers themselves and the movie Twenty One and Over. As a result, the researchers found that there are slang words often used in the movie. Each slang word has its meaning, described in this article. Those slang words are classified into three types of slang. They are society slang, workmen's slang, and public house slang.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the most fundamental instrument of human communication. It is more than a communication tool in social life. It is also can be an identification. People can be identified through the language they use. According to Kentjono (2003), language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols that social groups use for cooperation, communication and identification. For example, we can identify an individual's background by paying attention to how (he) speaks and what kind of language s (he) uses. A person who lives in a suburban and unfortunately does not have any chance to have formal education in school would have a different way of expressing things compared to someone who lives uptown and can study in school or even university. An individual lucky to live in a rich family will have a different way of expressing something compared to someone from a low economic background. These examples tell us another function of language.

Language and communication are related to language variation. Wardhaugh (2006) states that language variation is a way of characterizing certain variations. In daily communication, people use formal and informal language. Formal language is used in public speaking, meeting, presentation, master ceremony, etc. While informal language is used in daily activities when meeting with friends, group communities and social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Messenger, and WhatsApp. Some kinds of language varieties are

used in the informal context of communication. One of them is slang.

A slang is a kind of register that shows an informal style and is a way to make differences between communities with the other people. Slang words can be found in many conditions. Music, film, and TV programs are the example where slang is used. In music, slang can be found in songs' lyrics. Slang words on film are often found on its transcript. Slang on TV programs can be found in talk shows, reality shows, etc. Slang always develops and follows new trends, and so does the language. Examples: vulgar, sex, humorous, and hard, example: As hang-over, effects of heavy drinking (headache), nut (crazy), fire girl (sexy girls), in the club (pregnant), spunky (chubby girls), etc.

Young generations or teenagers use slang words in conversation. Therefore, it is not wrong to say teenagers own that slang language. However, it does not indicate that only teenagers use slang words. Doctors, Soldiers, Artists, etc., also perform this variation daily. The usage of slang words can be found everywhere. Akmajian, Demers, Farmer and Harnish (2010) explain some features of slang; Slang is a part of casual, informal styles of language use, it is like fashions on clothing and popular music, and it changes quite rapidly. Therefore, slang words can be found in social networks, the lyrics of songs, movies etc. In movies and songs, slang words bring out social culture and somebody's identity.

Analyzing the slang words, the researchers choose the movie *Twenty One and Over*. One of the reasons that this movie contains many slang words used in many different situations. Nevertheless, the movie is interesting enough to enjoy. As research material, one of the sentences found in the script is as follows:

Casey: What are you fucking doing, Dude?

The word *fucking* is an expression of anger and exasperation. The function in the sentence is as an Addition. The meaning of *Dude* in the sentence is fellow or what is commonly known as a friend. EFL learners do not use these terms (English as a foreign language), especially students in the Language and Art Education Department Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Muhammadiyah University of Palu.

The excerpt above shows that some slang words in the movie cannot be understood directly. English learners need to open their dictionary or other reference to find the accurate meaning of the slang words. Thus, the researchers investigate the slang words in a movie because it is made as media to represent the social condition and somebody's identification. Movies also allow a person to learn many aspects of knowledge related to English, especially everyday English. Learning English through movies also supports practising English in listening and speaking skills. Moreover, to choose the movie *Twenty One and Over* was the material for the research because the researcher found many slang words that cannot be understood directly, and those words are not familiar among language learners, especially in the Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Muhammadiyah University of Palu.

Based on the description, the researchers distinguish the objectives of research as follows: 1) to know the types of slang, 2) to find out what slang words are found in the movie, and 3) to figure out the meaning of slang words which are used by the characters in the movie *Twenty One and Over*.

There are several studies related to slang language in movies done previously. One of them is conducted by Aramiko, Kasim and Azis (2020), who analyze slang language in the film *"Fury"*. Their study discusses the function of slang, the types of slang and the word-formation of slang found in the film *"Fury"*. Another study is conducted by Istiqomah, Rohimah, and Pratiwi (2020). Their study analyzes the translation strategies of slang language as employed in the movie *"The Social Network"*. Alternatively, an Analysis of American Slang in The Movie of *"The Blind Side"* was conducted by Jacob (2018). His study classifies slang words in *The Blind Side* movie based on the characteristic of Andersson and Trudgill's theory. These studies show that the topic of slang in movies is interesting to discuss and never ends due to the types of slang changes. Therefore, this current study is conducted to analyze the slang language in the movie *Twenty One and Over*.

1.1 Slang Language

People communicate using different kinds of language. Language is distinguished by types such as language variation and function. These types then create what we call standard and non-standard language. Non-standard language is any speech variety performed by a social group, community or nation that is different in pronunciation, non-standard language, or style do not follow the rules of a standard language. Informal situations cause non-standard language. It is often used in daily conversations with friends, group community, Social Media or Social Networks. The informal situation is marked by intimacy, such as slang language.

Slang is a non-standard language accepted in certain groups, such as adolescent, college, and household groups. Like a fashion or lifestyle, it is used by diverse societies, rich or poor, educated or uneducated, religious or atheist. Some people say that slang words are vulgar language, but most society still uses this slang language in their life activities. As Holmes (2001) argues, people in culture may verbalize some varieties of language according to the different social atmospheres they get. Therefore, slang is not

classified into a standard one.

People should indeed know whether they are in a formal or informal situation. When people speak, they should understand well about the situation around them. It is important to choose the appropriate language that will be used, formal style or non-formal. The use of slang can be affected by social factors such as age, gender, status, etc. Slang is another area of vocabulary which reflects a person's age. According to Jacob (1998), slang is more sociological than a purely linguistic idea and is best understood in modern society and culture theory. It shows that the user's social life determines the use of this kind of language.

To understand what Slang language is, we need to see the following definitions. Istiqomah, Rohimah, and Pratiwi (2019) summarize slang as one of the very informal expressions and language styles frequently used in particular speech communities or occasions. In comparison, Akmajian et al. (2010) state that slang words are something that everyone can recognize but no one can define. Its speaker shows huge creativity in their use of slang. Even at some point, it becomes the starting place of good humour. To recognize slang language, we may use the features given by Akmajian et al. (2010):

- a. Slang is part of casual, informal styles of language use. This type of variation is used in non-formal situations where sometimes it gives a negative connotation and is identified as a low or vulgar form of language.
- b. Slang, like fashion in clothing and popular music, changes quite rapidly. Since the generation changes, these slang terms easily change due to their popularity and use in the community.
- c. Specific areas of slang are often associated with a particular social group. It gives an identity to its user. Thus, one can find there is slang for teenagers, underworld (criminal), slang for the drug culture, etc.

There are assumptions that the downgrades of society commonly use slang. It is identical to impolite language and cannot be used in formal situations. Despite these assumptions, most theorists state that slang has an important role in our common speech and community because it gives a comfortable atmosphere and is easily understood by anyone.

1.2 Kinds of Slang

Slang words are used in informal situations. Richard (1985) states that slang is applied in an informal speech variety and is often identified as an "in group" language, for example, teenagers, army and other groups. Due to its use, this variety results from the rapid growth of the new word performed in society. It comes from the creativity of teenagers to make words or expressions easier or simpler to use. When the terms are widely known, it becomes common to use by a wider part of society. Furthermore, these slang words are very productive and have their characteristics.

The characteristics of Slang words are generally only understood by the users' groups or communities. From these characteristics, slang words are distinguished in kinds. Patridge (1950) gives various kinds of slang as follows:

- Public House slang
Genial, cheery, and materialistic are the characteristic of this slang. Society used this slang language to show friendliness. Patridge (1950:149) explains that people will eventually apply this slang because it is the public house group of words and phrases which describe a subject by its characteristics. Neck oil means beer; near and far means bar; powdering hair means getting drunk; Jumbo means the elephant and castle; and Favorite vice means strong drink habit.
- Workmen's Slang
These slang terms show tradesmen's activities in working. Society applies this slang term when they connect with the tradesmen's world or live as a tradesman. Some of the terms employ the name of animals to express many things in the tradesmen's world. This slang type is connected to public house slang. Some examples of the terms are Screw up means without money, Matey means a companion in labour, and Brass means money.
- Slang in the Church
The terms in this type of slang are ones that many people need to pay attention to. This slang term is used to confine the exaggerated forms of the high and the Low Church (Patridge (1950:189). The examples are; Dolly worship means a nonconformist; St. Alban's clean shave means the appearance of the ritualistic or High-Church clergy members' face; Tait's indicates moderate clergypersons; the three B's connotes bright, brief and brotherly or a protest against the soporific nature of so many church services.
- Slang in Art
This slang has a little vocabulary. Patridge (1950) states that society has always been the chief patron of art, along with the few discerning dealers and a few rich outsiders. It is more complicated than in any other section to distinguish the jargon of art is quickly adopted by society, which, however, knows only a few words of artistic slang. Here are examples of Slang terms in Art; Slung indicates rejected, Frame indicates picture, and Tacks indicates the artist's equipment.
- Slang in Public school and university
Schools or universities generally have some words acknowledged to no other school or university, but

most words are familiar to all. The characteristic of this slang is the words added by syllable either to the beginning or the end. According to Patridge (1950), there are two kinds of this slang: slang proper and slang gibberish, the latter consisting in the addition of a syllable either to the beginning or the end of every word or else at the end of every syllable in a dissyllabic, or polysyllabic word. Some examples of slang in public school and university there are; Dame means an Eton term for a master who confines his attention to mathematics; little beg, means an abbreviation of a little beggar, so long. Pip-pip, toddle-oo, and olive oil means goodbye.

- **Society Slang**
Society slang is frequently used in daily language and connected with daily language. Patridge (1950:202) elaborates that since the war, society has become less walled-in, less snobbish, and less clannish, with the result that its speech is being fertilized more and more with technical terms and, more importantly, with colloquial and slangy terms from the world of commerce and manual work, from journalism, art and theatre, and in short form life as it is lived, not life as it is permitted by a comfortable income, not life in which attention need be paid only to one's social equals. There are some examples of society slang. Job crock means any piece of Japanese porcelain, or Cold tub means a cold morning bath.
- **Soldiers' Slang**
Soldier's slang words indicate the words that are related to war and its attributes. This slang term is commonly employed by speakers who have ever been in a soldier's community or are familiar and understood with the words. Patridge (1950) defines Soldier slang as a term from around the army community that the soldiers commonly use. These are examples of Soldier slang; pawny means water, Anzacs means New Zealanders, chin-chin means toasts, etc.
- **Medical Slang**
This medical slang is used by doctors and other people connected to the medical world or any activity in the medical world. The terms are frequently in initials and abbreviations forms. An individual unfamiliar with the medical world will find it hard to recognize the vocabulary of its slang term. Patridge (1950) states that the terms in medical slang are used between the doctor with other doctors or nurses and between the doctor with the patients. This slang is used because doctors seldom talk to others than doctors. Some examples of medical slang are; D.D.A. means the Dangerous Drugs Act, E.N.T. means Ear, Nose, and Throat, G.S.W. means Gun Shot Wound, and V.D. means Venereal Disease.

1.3 Slang in Movies

Movies are motion pictures telling stories about life, fictional or non-fictional. The language used in a movie is designed according to the background and situation in the movie. Thus, slang words are easily found in each movie.

Many researchers analyze slang in movies. Some of the movies that have been investigated are Zootopia movie (Panjaitan, 2017), The Wolf of Wall Street (Dewi, Suastra, and Ediwan, 2018), Fury (Aramiko, Kasim, and Aziz, 2019), and many other movies. This shows that this kind of research is interesting due to the rapid changes in slang, yet some of the terms born in the past are still used by society nowadays.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This is qualitative descriptive research which is looking for factual information that refers to the meaning, concepts, definitions, relationships, activities, characteristics and descriptions of things. Wallen and Fraenkel (2008:422) state that qualitative research investigates the quality of relationships, activities, situations, or materials. This research aims to analyze the types and meanings of slang words in the movie *Twenty One and Over*.

The data source in this research are; first is the researchers, as this movie described based on the researchers' point of view; second is the movie *Twenty One and Over*. This movie is an American comedy directed by Jon Lucas and Scott Moore. It was written and served as a directorial debut of Jon Lucas and Scott Moore. These movies were produced by David Hoberman, Ryan Kavanaugh and Todd Lieberman. The film stars were Skylar Astin, Justin Chon and Miles Teller. The film was released on March 1, 2013. It was distributed by relativity media, which takes 93 minutes. The story is telling about friendship among teenagers.

The researchers analyze the slang terms found in the movie *Twenty One and Over* and focus on the frequently used terms. It is conducted by concerning deep slang terms. In the first step, the researchers classify the words in the script encoding into slang words. After collecting the data, the researchers also look up the meaning from a dictionary of slang words to get the accurate meaning. Finally, the data is classified into types of slang.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study aims at analyzing the Slang terms used in the The movie *Twenty One and Over*. It is focused on the Slang words mentioned frequently, the meaning of those slang words, and the classification of

the slang words found. These words are classified into three types of slang defined by Patridge (1950). From the investigation, the researchers found 11 slang words mentioned frequently, with each meaning listed and three classifications for those terms. The meaning and the frequency of spoken is listed in the following table.

Table 1. Of Slang Words Found in The movie Twenty One and Over

| No | The Slang Word | The Meaning | Frequency | The type of Slang |
|-----|----------------|--|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Bucks | Dollars | 6 | Workmen's Slang |
| 2. | Fuck | Expression of anger or exasperation | 216 | |
| 3. | Bullshit | Nonsense | 7 | |
| 4. | Nut | Crazy | 6 | Society Slang |
| 5. | What's Up | A way to say hello or a general greeting | 10 | |
| 6. | Awesome | Good | 21 | |
| 7. | What the hell | An exclamation of surprise | 7 | |
| 8. | Buddy | Fellow | 10 | Public House Slang |
| 9. | Guy | a call for anyone | 70 | |
| 10. | Dude | Fellow | 107 | |
| 11. | Chill out | To calm down | 6 | |

Table 1 indicates the slang words found, their meaning, their frequency, and the classification of slang. There are many slang terms mentioned in the movies. However, the chosen ones are the terms that are frequently mentioned, and based on that limitation, here the researchers got 11 terms that are classified into three types of Slang words, and they are Workmen's Slang, Society Slang, and Public House Slang.

The discussion will begin with the classification. The first classification is Workmen's Slang type, which includes the term Buck derived from the movie. It has the characteristic of this type. People used the word bucks to show his describing dollars (money). The slang term for money commonly comes from the Workmen's Slang and is used by tradesmen.

The second classification is the Society Slang type. Mentioned frequently in the movie, this type of slang includes the terms Fuck, Bullshit, Nut, What's up, Awesome, and What the hell. Those terms convey vulgar meanings, usually used in every class of society, especially in informal situations. These terms commonly indicate the world and life, but they arise from school as the source of linguistic creativity. People use this type of slang in conversation to induce either friendliness or intimacy among users. The usage of this word is to show their friendship and emotional closeness.

The third classification is the Public House Slang. This type indicated the words Buddy, Guy, Dude, and Chill Out as part of it. These terms are characteristic of this type, used in informal situations in public, as a form of genial expression and cheery feeling, especially for young people. The speakers use public house slang to show the high spirit of young people. The next discussion is the meaning of the Slang terms found in Twenty One and Over a movie. Each term has its meaning. Furthermore, it will be elaborated on here.

First, Bucks literally means male deer, hare or rabbit. When it is used in informal situations, the word Bucks means Dollars. To understand it better, the following example is provided:

Miller : They gave me 50 Bucks for this whole party, all right?

Casey : These chicks, I'm paying them five Bucks each tonight.

From the conversation above, Miller was talking with Casey. They talked about someone giving 50 Bucks for this whole party. In informal situations, the word bucks mean Dollars or Money. Miller and Casey talk about dollars, not male deer, in this conversation.

Second, Fuck literally means have sex, annoyance. When it is used in informal situations, it has a different meaning. The word Fuck means expressions of anger or exasperation. However, the word fuck has different meanings when it is used in different situations. For example, fuck up means mentally disturbed, fucking means exclam absolutely, fuck off means to masturbate, fuck you mean to go to hell. To understand the word fuck better, the following conversation is provided:

- Casey :** Name some more spots. You jerk off in, Miller.
- Miller :** Sometimes I wear flannel, made me feel like a lumberjack.
- Jeff Chang:** What the fuck? I am so sorry for him.
- Casey :** I don't even know you. I feel terrible.

In this situation, the speaker of the word Fuck is Jeff Chang. He talks with Miller. In this situation, the word Fuck means expressions of anger or exasperation. The characters used slang words to induce either friendliness or intimacy among users.

Third is Bullshit. This word is built from the word bull which means the male in the cow family, and the word shit which means solid waste matter passed from the bowl. Combined and used in informal situations, it means nonsense and rubbish. To understand it better, the following example is provided:

- Miller:** Yeah, awesome. What about Sidewinder at the Gorge, Casey?
- Casey:** I'll think about it, all right? That's all I'm saying.
- Miller:** Yeah. You're selfish. That's bullshit, woman.

In the conversation, Miller mentioned bullshit in informal situations, which means nonsense, and rubbish. The character uses the word "Bullshit" to convey something when he knows Casey is working in Newbury Capital in New York.

Forth is the word nut. This word means fruit with a hard shell around a part that can be eaten. When it is used in informal situations, it means Crazy. The following example will give a clear understanding.

- Miller:** That doesn't make any sense.
- Casey:** Yeah. Right?
- TW:** You know, the boy's a little Nuts.
- Miller:** Coming from a man in a diaper, eating a banana.

From conversation above is found when Miller and Casey TW (Tower Master) master about Jeff chang address, the word said by tower master was, "You know, the boy's a little Nuts". In informal situations, it means Crazy. Teenagers use the word to induce either friendliness or intimacy. The usage of this word is to show their friendship and emotional closeness.

Fifth is What's up? The word what is used in questions to ask for particular information about something, while the word up means towards or in a higher position. When it is used in informal situations, it gives different meanings. What's up is a term to say hello or what is going on in a general greeting. To understand it better, here is the conversation:

- Casey :** Miller! What's up, man?
- Miller :** Yo, what's up?
- Casey :** Come on, bring it in, baby. How you doing?

From the conversation above, the speaker of What's Up is Casey and Miller when they meet for the first time. The characters used slang words to sheer in high spirits, by the young speaker "Just for fun of the thing" in playfulness. He uses the word What's up to say hello to Casey.

The sixth term is Awesome. This term means causing awe. When used in informal situations, the word has a different meaning. It means Good or excellent. To understand it better, the following example is provided:

- Miller :** God, Dude, this campus is awesome!
This is freaking awesome. Are you looking at this shit? This is beautiful.
- Driver :** Do you go to school here?
- Miller :** No, I don't go to school here.

From the conversation above, the speaker of the word Awesome is Miller. He talked to the driver where they were on the road inside of the car. The topic of conversation is Casey's campus. In informal situations, it means Good or Excellent. He uses the word Awesome because Casey's campus is luxurious.

The seventh is What the hell? The word what is used in the question to ask for particular information about somebody or something, and hell means a place believed to be the home of wicked people after death. When used in informal situations, it means what has happened or an exclamation of surprise. The following conversation in The movie Twenty One and Over will help us understand the use.

- Caser :** These fuckers have been carding me for years.
Miller : Whoa! Jeff Chang! Car!
Jeff Chang: Fuckers!
Miller : What the hell? Where is he going?
Casey : All right, Dude, relax. One more bar, and then we'll go home. I promise.

In the above conversation, the speaker of the What the hell is Miller. He talked with Casey before the bar when Jeff Chang left them. He used this word to show his feeling of surprise.

The eighth is the word Buddy. There is no word buddy in the English dictionary. However, it is used in informal situations means a fellow or good friend. To understand it better, the following example is provided.

- Caser :** Yeah, home. How do we get home, bud?
Jeff Chang Suck my shit.
:
Casey : OK, hey, hey. Get you home. We can get you rested. Just give us your address, Buddy. We'll get you a good night's sleep, a nice cup of coffee.
Miller : Dude, that's not gonna work. You gotta shake him.

From the conversation above, the speaker of the word buddy is Casey. He talks to Jeff Chang to ask for his address. Using the word reduces stiffness or seriousness when people are conversing.

The ninth is Guy, which means man. When it is used in informal situations, it means Man or Boy. Nevertheless, in informal situations, this word means friend, and it could be a girl or a boy. To understand it better, the following conversation.

- Casey :** Surprise, buddy!
Miller : What are you **guys** doin' here?

From the conversation above, the word Guy in plural form (guys) is said by Miller. He talks to his friends. Thus, this word is informally a call for anyone in a place without mentioning the name.

The tenth, Dude term as slang literally has no meaning in the English dictionary. Nevertheless, when it is used in informal situations, the word means fellow or man. To understand it better, the following example is provided.

- Casey :** How you doing?
Miller : Dude, how you fucking doing, Dude?
 Good. You look fat.
Casey : What?

From the conversation above, the speaker of the word Dude is Miller. He talked with Casey, asking about his situation. In informal situations, the word Dude summons man to show the high spirit of young people.

The last slang word in the The movie Twenty One and Over is Chill out. Chill means to become or make cold, an illness caused by cold and dampness, while out means away from or not inside a place. When it is used in informal situations, it has a different meaning. It means to calm down. The use of this term is shown in the following conversation.

- Miller :** Right, so, what are we gonna do?
Casey : Well, we can't just leave him here, man.

Jeff Chang: Hi-ya. Hi-ya, hi-ya, hi-ya. Hi-ya, hi-ya...

Miller : **Chill out** with the rain dance. I'm trying to tie you to the can.

The conversation shows Miller talking to Jeff Chang. When Casey and Miller keep Jeff Chang inside the bathroom, this situation shows how Miller tries to calm his friend down by dancing. Miller uses chill out to reduce seriousness in conversation.

4. CONCLUSION

Analyzing the research findings, the researchers conclude that there are Eleven slang words frequently used in the movie *Twenty One and Over*, they are Bucks, Fuck, Bullshit, Nut, What's up, Awesome, What the hell, Buddy, Guy, Dude, Chill out. Each slang word has a meaning: Bucks means Dollars, Fuck means an expression of anger, bullshit means Nonsense, Nut means Crazy, What's up means A say hello or general greeting, Awesome means Good or excellent, What the hell means An exclamation of surprise, Buddy means fellow or good friend, Guy means a call for anyone in a place without having mentioned the name, Dude means Fellow and Chill out means To calm down. Those slang words are classified into three types: Public House slang: Buddy, Guy, Chill out and Dude, and Workmen's Slang: Bucks. Society Slang: Bullshit, Fuck, What's up, Nut, Awesome and What the hell.

5. SUGGESTION

Through this research, the researchers suggest that slang words can be one of the topics for research, especially for English learners. Moreover, the researchers suggest that all the learners enrich their knowledge about formal and informal language in society. Studying slang words is not only conducted through books, but movies may be one of the sources when learners are not in the place of the language spoken. Finally, some slang words should be avoided by English learners in daily communication, for example, fuck, bullshit, etc. It is considering society's perception because they have vulgar and rude meanings.

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