

Analyzing Slang in Social Media

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Abstract

The purpose of this research was to determine the types of slang and slang that were most used by UMLB students of English education, Eight semesters in social media. This is descriptive qualitative research. This research was conducted by non-participatory observation which is observing social media Facebook and WhatsApp. This research is also done with the documentation of screenshots. Participants of slang users in this research were twenty seven eighth-semester students of English Education Program at UMLB. The result of this research show that there were six types of slang used by the students, those were fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, clipping, and abbreviation. The number of slang found by the researcher is 74 slangs. 18 slangs for fresh and creative, 11 slangs for flippant, 6 slangs for imitative, 5 slangs for acronym, 13 slangs for clipping, and 21 slangs for abbreviation. Therefore based on the data, abbreviation is the most used slang or often used by UMLB students of English education, eight semesters in social media.

Keywords: *Slang, Social Media, Slang Users*

Introduction

In today's modern digital era, many people use social media as a means of communication indirectly or online and as an entertainment medium. Social media has also played a very important role in human life and has become an intermediary for everyone around the world without having to meet face to face in person. Social media is a medium used by consumers for a variety of text, images, sounds, and informational videos both with other people and companies and vice versa. It may be said that this is one of the most obvious similarities among all forms of social media, even though not all of them are made expressly to encourage sociability among their users. Social media sometimes referred to as online communities, these SM platforms are valuable given that people often do not perceive a difference between virtual friends and real friends, as long as they feel supported and belong to a community of like-minded individuals Aichner et.al, (2021). Social media is generally used as an umbrella term that describes a variety of online platforms, including blogs, business networks, collaborative projects, enterprise social networks, forums, microblogs, photo sharing, products review, social bookmarking, social gaming, video sharing, and virtual worlds Aichner & Jacob in Aichner et.al, (2021). Media that is often used by adults, teenagers, and children are Youtube, WhatsUp, Facebook, Instagram, Tiktok, Twitter, Snapchat, and so on. For now, Youtube, Instagram, Tiktok, and Snapchat are the most popular social media not only from within

the country but also abroad. Sometimes in opening the four favorite applications, the researcher often finds comments, captions, and some chats that use slang in English.

Slang is several words or language that are used in general on social media and are usually informal. Slang is a significant component of modern English language usage, distinguished by its informal and frequently non-traditional linguistic terms. Despite being informal, slang has a significant impact on communication dynamics because it reflects language advances, cultural shifts, and society conventions Tursunovich, (2024). At this time, slang in English is a trend that is often used by young people at home and from abroad. In Indonesia, the phenomenon of using English Slang has grown and become a trend for everyone. One of the influencing factors is social media.

Slang is also part of sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics examines social issues and how they relate to society. The study of language and its link to society is the subject of sociolinguistics, which has emerged as a distinct scientific field. The point of this statement is that human life is no longer as an individual but as a social society Firmansyah (2021).

Regarding the definition of experts, slang is a special and secretive social variation Chaer & Agustina, (2010). This means that these social variations are only used by certain groups or circles which are very limited and should not be known by other circles. Aswin in Sulaeman, (2019), said slang is a language nonstandard slang used in daily communication by certain social groups or teenagers. According to Matiello, (2008), slang is a widespread phenomenon in English, but, despite its pervasiveness, it has been marginalized or neglected in linguistics.

English slang is a variety of languages consisting of an assortment of words, sentences, and expressions, and sometimes the language or words are a little vulgar, humorous, and even a little sordid. Allan and Burridge in Rullu, (2018) classified the types of slang which are fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping.

The function of slang according to Patriide in Martinus (2018) that are, it is used to joke, to differ from others, to attract attention, to avoid clichéd words, to shorten, to enrich the language, to condense and give concrete images, to talk and write, to facilitate social relations, for friendliness and intimacy, to show group members, to show group differences, and for secrecy.

Based on the explanation above, the reason that the researcher is interested in conducting this research is because the researcher wants to give insight to everyone about the meaning of English slang used in Indonesian especially the researcher classmate which is UMLB students of English education, eight semester through all social media platform. Therefore, the researcher proposes research title *"Analyzing English Slang in Social Media"*.

Method

The design of this research is qualitative descriptive research. This research is to describe phenomena that occur naturally during changing times. According to Saryono (2010), qualitative research is a study used to investigate, find, describe, and explain the quality or privileges of social influences that cannot be explained, measured, or described through a qualitative approach (p.49).

In this research, the researchers chose social media as a subject especially Whatsapp and Facebook. The researchers chose UMLB students of English education, for eight semesters to get the data more specific.

For research instruments in data collection, the researchers used observation and documentation as a research instrument. The researcher uses non-participatory

observation and documentation instruments, in which these two instruments are carried out by the researcher without directly involving the object or subject of the research, but can still get an idea of the object or subject being observed and documented. The researcher observes several examples of slang using cell phones and social media.

To analyze the data, the researchers used content analysis. According to Hayes and Krippendorff and Hayes, (2007) "In content analysis, it is usually generated or obtained by observers who record or transcribe into textual material, it can be images or sounds suitable for analysis". In content data analysis techniques, the researcher performed several steps, namely:

1. The researcher observe English slang on two selected social media which are Facebook and WhatsApp using cellphones and laptops.
2. Then, after getting the English slang that is often used by UMLB students of English education, for eight semesters on social media, the researcher immediately documents it using screenshots.
3. After that, the researcher used a dictionary to identify the type and meaning of the English slang used by McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions by Spears, (2006) and Internet Slang Dictionary by Doody, (2009).
4. The last, the screenshots are sufficiently available, and the results of the images can be included in the proposal as research evidence.

Results

This research presents the results of slang found on two social media platforms, namely Facebook and WhatsApp, with data collection instruments using observation and documentation. The researchers identified the type of slang used by UMLB students of English education, eighth semester in social media. In this case, the researcher observed the type of slang used by students in the use of social media Facebook and WhatsApp, and also analyzed the use of English slang which was mostly used by UMLB students of English education, eighth semester in social media. The researchers observed English slang that students often use in using social media Facebook and Whatsapp.

The researchers categorized the types of English slang used by students based on the theory of Allan & Burridge, (2006) which classifies slang, into several types such as fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clapping. The researcher also uses Triliska's, (2017) theory about word abbreviations. To find out the meaning of word types and the lengths of English slang used by students, the researcher used McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions by Spears, (2006) and the Internet Slang Dictionary by Doody, (2009).

The researcher classifies all words and sentences in the slang type based on the two dictionaries. The types of slang identified on social media Facebook and WhatsApp based on observations and documentation are as follows:

Type of English Slang that are Used by UMLB Students of English Education, Eight Semester in Social Media

Fresh and Creative

Fresh and creative is slang that has new vocabularies to describe something in an informal situation. This type of slang makes users use new words that are fresh and creative. Based on data collection that has been collected through social media Facebook and WhatsApp, the following are fresh and creative slang:

a) Facebook

Awesome in slang means great or a word to exclaim someone.



Famelanisa Arsyad

4 Apr pukul 08.21 · 🧑

Being yourself, thats so awesome 🤔🤔

Lihat terjemahan

(posted on April 4th, 2022)

Guys in slang means a fellow, a man or boy, but not necessarily male in the plural. Guy can be guys or besfriend.



Cian Satrin Mangala sedang bersama

Hierin Syelin.

15 Apr 2020 · 🧑

Santuy guys



(posted on April 15th 2020)

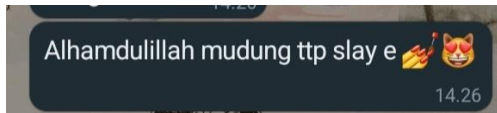
b) WhatsApp

Bestie in slang means a nickname for the word friend.



(Wa chat on July 16th, 2022)

Slay in slang means to overwhelm someone with one performance or other excellence.



Wa chat was on July 26th 2022

Flippant

Flippant is slang that consists of two words or more that do not correlate with denotative meaning. This type of slang makes users communicate with interesting and more creative words. Based on data retrieval that has been collected through social media Facebook and WhatsApp, the following is flippant slang:

a) Facebook

Anytime in slang means your welcome or word respond to thank you.



(Wa chat on July 8th 2022)

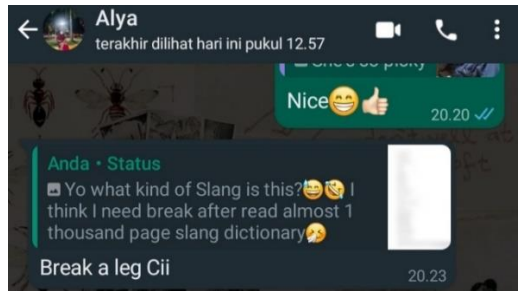
Break down in slang means lose the spirit of life due to a very deep sadness.



(comment on Maret 28th 2021)

b) Whatsapp

Break a leg in slang means a word of encouragement or an expression to encourage someone.



(Wa chat on August 26th, 2022)

Cupcake in slang means an attractive woman.



(Wa chat on July 29th 2022)

Imitative

Imitative is slang that uses the standard English word with different meanings or combines two different words. This type of slang makes users easier to abbreviate two words to become one word. Based on data retrieval that has been collected through social media Facebook and WhatsApp, the following are imitative slang:

a) Facebook

Ain't in slang stands for am not, is not, are not.



(posted on July 20th, 2022)

Wanna in slang stands for want to



b) Whatsapp

Dunno in slang stands for don't or doesn't know.



(posted on September 5th, 2022)
Gotta in slang stands for got to.



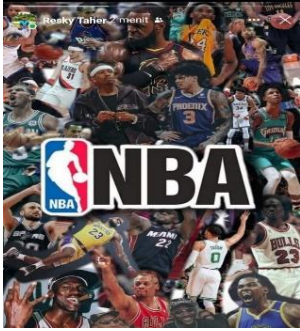
(posted on August 26th 2022)

Acronym

Acronym is slang that the result of the word comes from the first letter of each word in a phrase or using initials from a group of words and pronouns them as a new word. This type of slang makes users easier to shorten words and shorten sentences to form a new word. Based on data retrieval that has been collected through social media Facebook and WhatsApp, the following are slang acronyms:

a) Facebook

NBA in slang stands for National Basketball Association.



(posted on September 7th, 2022)

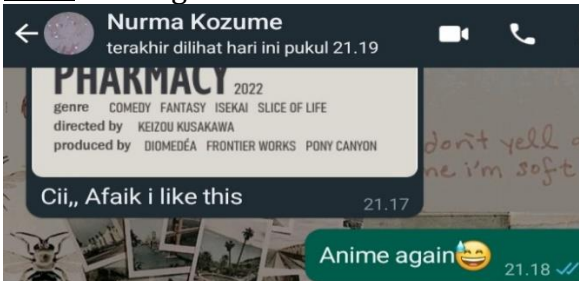
VIP in slang stands for Very Important Person.



(posted on Agustus 5th 2022)

b) Whatsapp

Afaik in slang is as far as I know.



(Wa chat on September 13th, 2022)

Asap stands for as soon as possible.



(posted on September 5th 2022)

Clipping

Clipping is a slang word that comes from deletion some part of the longer word becomes shorter. This type of slang makes it easier for users to shorten word that is long enough to be shorter but the meaning is still the same. Based on data retrieval that has been collected through social media Facebook and WhatsApp, the following is slang clipping:

a) Facebook

Admin in slang stands for administrator



(posted on August 2nd, 2022)

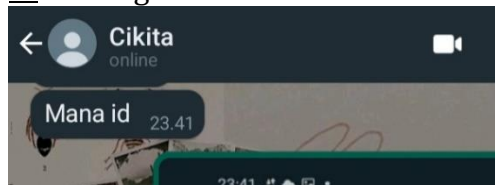
Lil in slang stands little\



(posted on April 25th 2020)

b) Whatsapp

Id in slang stands for identification



Wa chat on May 22th, 2021)

Ur in slang stands your.



(This Wa chat was on June 1st 2022)

Abbreviation

Abbreviation is the short form of a word. This type of slang makes it easier for the user to shorten words. Based on the retrieval of data that has been collected through social media Facebook and WhatsApp, the following is abbreviation slang:

a) Facebook

Aka in slang stands for as known as



(posted on January 20th, 2021)

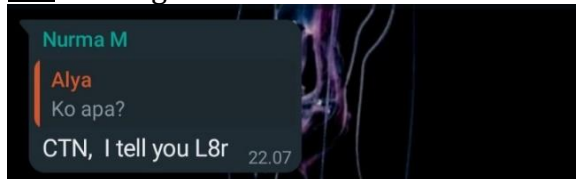
Diy in slang stands for do it yourself



(posted on June 21st 2022)

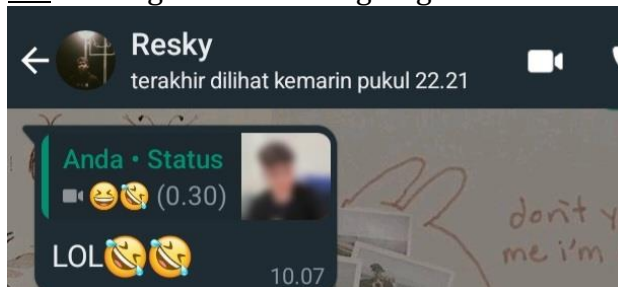
b) Whatsapp

Ctn in slang stands for can't talk now



(Wa chat was on July 12th, 2022)

Lol in slang stands for laughing out loud



(This Wa chat was on July 16th 2022)

The Most English Slang Used by UMLB Students of English Education Eight Semester in Social Media

From data collection carried out by the researchers, the researchers grouped the types of slang words that are most frequently used (Jeresano & Carretero, 2022). It is found that, many students used the type of English slang abbreviation where this type of slang makes it easier for users to shorten words. The type of abbreviation slang is the slang that researcher most often find on social media in the form of chat, posts, status stories and hashtag, because this type of slang is indeed to be used on social media not

to communicate directly. The slang abbreviation data found by the researcher in their research amounted to twenty one slang data, where some of the slang was often used by students and some were still rarely used by other students. Here are the following amount of slang that used by UMLB students of English education, eight semester in social media during the research period (July 12th – September 25th 2022).

Table 1. Meaning of Slang Used by UMLB Students of English Education Eight Semester in Social Media.

No	Slang Type	Slang	Meaning
1	Fresh & Creative	Awasome	Great or a word to exclam someone.
		Gurl	Girl.
		Guys	A fellow, a man or boy, but not necessarily male in the plural. Guy can be guys or besfriend.
			Bullshit or people who like to lie.
		Liar	Really like something.
		Love it	Proper or appropriate and respected person.
		Respect	Excellent or word to decrbe something extreme and great.
		Savage	Name or mark a name.
			Nickname for the word friend.
		Tag	Nicknames for people who have a crush or
		Bestie	people who like friends who
		Crush	Hooded sweatshirt.
			Theatrical or scene is playing.
		Hoodie	See you again.
		Scenario	Don't have the right partner yet.
		See ya	To overwhelm someone with one perfomance or
		Single	other excellence.
		Slay	Not interested.
			Pick me up or small food that are sweet or salty.
2	Flippant	Skip	Greeting to greet someone.
		Snack	
		What's up	
		Anytime	Your welcome or word respond to thank you.
			Enforcer or person that protect someone.
		Bodyguard	Lose the spirit of life due to a very deep sadness.
			Words of encouragement or expressions to
		Break down	encourage someone.
			An attractive woman.
		Break a leg	A cute person, typically a woman or a baby.
			Events or flashbacks that reoccur on previous
		Cup cake	events.
		Cutie pie	Means to attempt to pick up someone or to
			attempt to seduce someone.
		Flash back	Forget it or it does not matter anymore.
			A term of address for someone who is clever or
		Move on	perceptive.
			I will be back after or continue to pay attention
		Never mind	to this matter.

No	Slang Type	Slang	Meaning
		Sherlock Stay tuned	
3	Imitative	Ain't Wanna Yall Dunno Gonna Gotta	Am not, I'm not, is not, are not. Want to You all Don't know Going to Got to
4	Acronym	NBA VIP Afaik Asap KFC	National Basketball Association Very Important Person As far as I know As soon as possible Kentucky Fried Chicken
5	Clipping	Admin App Bro Fav Lil Pic U Id Mic Ok Pro Sis Ur	Administrator Application Brother Favorite Little Picture You Identification Microphone Okey Professional Sister Your
6	Abbreviation	Aka Btw Diy Fyi Hbd Ctn Gbu Gws Hth Idk Ily Ko Lol Nc Otw Pls Ss Tv Ty Wdym Wifi	As known as By the way Do it yourself For your information Happy birthday Can't talk now God bless you Get well soon Hope this help I don't know I love you Knockout Laughing out loud No comment On the way Please Screenshot Television Thank you What do you mean Wireless fidelity

Discussion

Based on the research conducted, the researchers found six types of slang used by eight-semester UMLB students on two social media platforms Facebook and Whatsapp, namely, fresh & creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, clipping, and also abbreviation. To identify the data, the researcher found and selected some slang in social media Facebook and Whatsapp using two slang dictionaries, namely, McGraw-Hill's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions by Spears (2006) and Internet Slang Dictionary by Doody (2009).

The number of slang found by the researcher is 74 slangs. 18 slangs for fresh and creative, 11 slangs for flippant, 6 slangs for imitative, 5 slangs for acronym, 13 slangs for clipping, and 21 slangs for abbreviation. Therefore based on these data, it can be concluded that abbreviation is the most used slang or often used by UMLB students of English education, eighth semesters in social media by period (July 12th – September 25th, 2022).

Conclusion

In this part, the researcher then draws the conclusion that there are six categories of slang that students use on Facebook and WhatsApp: acronym, clipped, flippant, imitative, fresh & innovative, and abbreviation. These conclusions are based on the research findings and the conversation. There are 18 postings about new and inventive slang, 11 about flippant, 6 about imitative, 5 about acronyms, 13 about clipped, and 21 about abbreviations. It indicates that slang abbreviations are the most common or slang terms used on social media by UMLB English education students in their eighth semester.

Then, the researchers also would like to suggest that lecturers of English as a whole teach their students a little bit about slang, particularly those who are still in the first semester, so that they can gain insight into slang that is frequently used by foreigners. In order to avoid awkwardness or confusion when encountering shortened words frequently used by foreigners on social media, students and other readers should acquire new abilities, specifically by understanding how to use slang.

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