



A Slang Analysis Used in the Movie “Fast Five”

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Abstract

This research explored the slang words used in the film *Fast Five* through a descriptive-qualitative approach. The aim was to identify and classify the types of slang present in the movie, utilizing the theory proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006). Data collection involved an observational method, which included watching the movie, analyzing the dialogue, reading the movie script, and documenting all slang words used by the characters. The study revealed that there were five types of slang in *Die Hart*: fresh and creative (32%), flippant (21%), imitating (7%), acronyms (7%), and clipping (21%). The predominant type was fresh and creative slang. The research suggested that the use of slang fostered familiarity within society and the social environment, but it also highlighted the importance of understanding these terms to avoid miscommunication in informal conversations.

Keywords: *movie, slang, sociolinguistics*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi kata-kata slang yang digunakan dalam film *Fast Five* melalui pendekatan deskriptif-kualitatif. Tujuannya adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dan mengklasifikasikan jenis-jenis slang yang terdapat dalam film tersebut, dengan menggunakan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Allan dan Burridge (2006). Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui metode observasi, yang mencakup menonton film, menganalisis dialog, membaca naskah film, dan mendokumentasikan semua kata slang yang digunakan oleh para karakter. Hasil penelitian mengungkapkan bahwa terdapat lima jenis slang dalam film *Die Hart*: fresh and creative (32%), flippant (21%), imitating (7%), acronyms (7%), dan clipping (21%). Jenis slang yang paling dominan adalah fresh and creative. Penelitian ini menyarankan bahwa penggunaan slang dapat menumbuhkan keakraban dalam masyarakat dan lingkungan sosial, namun juga menekankan pentingnya memahami istilah-istilah tersebut untuk menghindari kesalahpahaman dalam percakapan informal.

Kata Kunci: *film, slang, sosiolinguistik*

Introduction

The way people communicate today has changed dramatically over time. Consequently, it is essential to understand both what to communicate and how to do so effectively in society. Mastering these communication skills can help build stronger connections, foster mutual understanding, and navigate social interactions more smoothly. According to Hardjana (2016:15), communication involves the act of transmitting a message through specific media to another person, who then responds

upon receiving the message. Ekayanti (2020) notes that communication encompasses various forms of language used for interaction, often seen in everyday conversations, especially in informal contexts. In such informal settings, slang is commonly employed, particularly among young people.

Slang continuously changes and adapts with individuals inventing and spreading unique words and expressions to convey new or alternative meanings. This informal language is predominantly used in particular situations and contexts, often among close friends or millennials. The fluid nature of slang allows it to adapt quickly to cultural and social changes, reflecting the trends and attitudes of its users. Its usage can also foster a sense of identity and belonging within specific groups or communities. According to Richard (2013), slang is marked by its informality and is usually used in casual conversations. It often includes strong or unconventional language and is context-sensitive, making it unsuitable for formal environments like educational institutions, official speeches, or public events. Stevenson (2010) adds that slang enhances informal communication, promoting a sense of camaraderie and closeness among friends and peers.

Slang is not only prevalent in everyday communication but is also commonly found in films. At present, movies are a significant medium for illustrating the evolution of life situations, such as social lifestyles and the use of language for communication. According to Hornby (2016), a movie is a sequence of moving images accompanied by sound that narrates a story, typically showcased in cinemas or theaters. The term "movie" refers to a moving image, an artistic form, and the movie industry as a whole. Movies are created by capturing real-world images with a camera or by generating images through animation techniques or special effects. Notably, slang extends beyond everyday conversation and is often incorporated into creative mediums such as films. Several previous studies have also examined the use of slang in this context.

Numerous studies have examined the subject of slang. Wijaya (2021) discussed an analysis of slang words used in song lyrics by Twenty One Pilots on album *Blurryface* movie script. Wijaya (2021) applied descriptive qualitative method in her research. She used the theory from Patridge (1993). The research data were gathered through document analysis. After analysing the data, it was found 56 total of data in his research. Those slang words were classified into 5 types of slang words. The types were cockney slang, public house slang, workmen's slang, public school and university, and society slang. Public house slang was identified as the dominant types of slang words used in the song lyrics. Another study about slang was done by Dwiyanti (2021). She analysed slang words found in 1999 song album by Rich Brian's. Her researcher aims to find out the types of the slang words and the process of creating the words. The data were gathered by listening to songs, reading and interpreting the lyrics, highlighting specific words, identifying their types, and analyzing their formations. The study employed an observational method and utilized theories from Kipfer and Chapman (2007) and Mattiello (2008) to achieve these objectives. Same as Wijaya's researcher Dwiyanti (2021) applied descriptive qualitative method.

The last previous study was done by Putri (2023), entitled "an analysis of slang words used in *Fast and Furious 9* movie". Putri (2023) applied descriptive qualitative method. The purpose of this study was to determine the type and meaning of the slang

used in Fast and Furious 9 movie. The data source is taken from the script Fast and Furious 9 movie. This research examines individual slang words from the movie "Fast and Furious 9" using dictionaries and relevant slang theories. The analysis identifies two types of slang: society slang and public house slang. There are 24 instances of society slang and 6 instances of public house slang.

Previous studies have focused on various types of slang, and this study aims to identify the slang words used in the movie "Fast Five." As a result, this research is significant for advancing the analysis of slang types by considering different theoretical approaches, particularly in the context of the "Fast Five" movie.

Method

The data for this research were taken from the movie entitled fast five. This is an action film written by Chris Morgan and directed by Justin Lin. The significance of this film lies in its cinematic debut in 2011. This achievement is noteworthy because "Fast Five" is included in the action genre. The film stars Vin Diesel, Paul Walker, Jordana Brewster, and Dwayne Johnson. In collecting data, several methods were available for data retrieval. To begin, the researcher continued watching the film until relevant data were identified, then extracted or found the script of the film *Fast Five* online. After reading and extracting data from the film, the researcher analyzed the data directly and classified it into types and meanings of slang using various dictionaries and the slang theories proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006). This study used the theory by Miles et al. (2014) on qualitative data analysis, which included data condensation, data display, and drawing conclusions or verification. This methodological approach allows for a comprehensive exploration of the linguistic and narrative dimensions of slang usage in the context of the film "Fast Five."

Results and discussion

The main objectives of this study are to identify the different slang terms used in the movie "fast five" and to analyze their types. After identifying the movie, various slang words used by the characters were found, as detailed in the table below.

Table 1 Types of slang words found in Die Hart Movie

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Fresh And Creative	18	33,4%
Flippant	12	25,9%
Imitative	7	22,2%
Acronym	7	7,40%
Clipping	12	11,1%
Total	56	100%

From the table above, it is evident that the characters in the movie "Fast Five" used five distinct types of slang based on the theory proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006), totaling 56 instances. The most prevalent type was fresh and creative slang, which appeared nine times and made up 32% of the total. Flippant slang was noted seven times, representing 21%; imitative slang occurred six times, making up 13%; acronyms were found twice, accounting for 13%; and clipping appeared three times, also accounting for 21%.



Figure 1: Fresh and creative

O' conner : excuse me, buddy

Railwayman : please enter

In the scene described, O'Connor uses the term "buddy" after colliding with staff on a train. He says "buddy" to avoid a collision similar to the one with the woman earlier. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), fresh and creative language involves using new vocabulary, relaxed variations, and imaginative expressions, often including trendy terms. The use of "buddy" in slang can be considered fresh and creative because it deviates from its informal meaning. Slang words often change meaning or are used in unconventional ways, but they remain understandable to specific groups.

The use of the word "buddy" exemplifies linguistic creativity, where an existing word is employed with a new meaning or in a different context. The slang term "buddy" is appropriate for this situation because O'Connor does not know the person's name and uses "buddy" to avoid arousing suspicion from the staff. The term "buddy" conveys a more relaxed tone, thereby preventing any suspicion and supporting O'Connor's expression.



Figure 2: Fresh and creative

Vince : it's a good gig

The term "gig" is considered fresh and creative. It might be a newly created phrase with updated terminology, creativity, unofficial variety, and creative components. According to the Oxford Dictionary, "gig" refers to "a job, especially a temporary one.". In Vince's dialogue, the word "gig" implies that he and his team will get a temporary job which requires Mia and Brian to join in that job.

The slang word "gig," as used by Vince when speaking to Brian, is seen as an attempt to form intimate atmosphere, given that Vince and Brian rarely meet. This suggests that their relationship is still distant, and they are not yet close friends. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), speakers often use slang to make conversations with strangers feel more comfortable and to reduce social distance. In this scene, Vince still appears somewhat awkward while communicating with Brian. Therefore, the use of the slang term "gig" aims to ease the tension and make the interaction more comfortable since they have only met a few times.



Figure 3 : flippant

Dom : You had to make a call, huh?

: Shitty call o'conner

In the above scene, Toretto uses slang while in the lake after a free fall in a car with O'Connor. The term "shitty call" he uses can be categorized as expressing disappointment or being in a difficult situation. This aligns with Allan and Burrige's (2006) theory that slang often consists of two or more words that do not correlate with their denotative meanings.

"Shitty" originates from the word "shit," which relates to excrement or something of very poor quality. Its primary denotative meaning is negative, implying something unpleasant or of low standard. "Call" refers to an act of calling, such as making a phone call, or it can refer to a decision or judgment, especially in the context of sports or business. This phrase is often used in difficult situations, workplaces, or where someone feels disappointed. In this particular situation, Toretto is in a difficult situation with O'Connor as they attempt to betray their collaboration with Reyes' men by plunging into a lake with a stolen car. At that moment, Toretto says, "You had to make a call, huh? Shitty call, O'Connor. Shitty call," expressing his disappointment with the difficult situation they are facing.

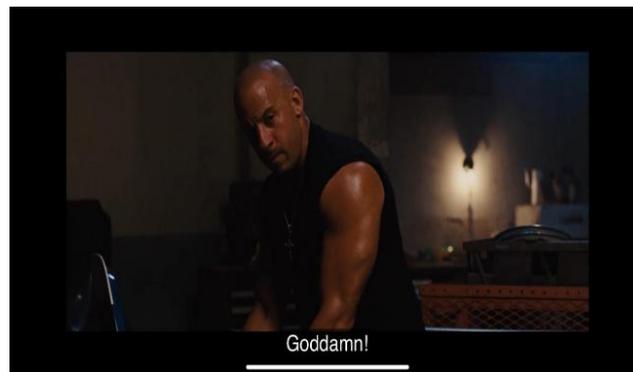


Figure 4 : Imitative

Vince : Goddamn
: what a mess

In the scene above, the word "goddamn" is used when Vince expresses his anger or frustration towards another plan made by Toretto without informing him. When Vince arrives, O'Conner also shows suspicion towards him. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), this word can be categorized as "imitative" because it is a form of slang that mimics or combines two words, resulting in a different meaning between "god" and "damn." "God" refers to a deity, and "damn" is an exclamation often used to express frustration, anger, surprise, or disappointment. In the movie "Fast Five," profane words like "goddamn" may be used by both protagonists and antagonists as an expression of their shock or emotions. This is intended to enhance the emotional expression of the characters when conveying surprise or anger in certain scenes.



Figure 5 : Acronym

Mia : What is it?

O' conner : DEA tags

In the scene, O'Connor uses slang while informing Mia about the car keys, explaining that the car they plan to steal has already been seized. The speech in this context contains data related to the term DEA. “DEA” refers to the “Drug Enforcement Administration”, a federal law enforcement agency in the United States responsible for enforcing laws regarding narcotics and controlled substances. According to Allan and Burrige’s (2006) theory, DEA can be categorized as an acronym because it is a shorthand form of slang created by combining the initial letters of each word in a phrase or using an initialism. The Drug Enforcement Administration is tasked with seizing items related to violations of drug laws, including illegal narcotics and assets obtained from criminal activities.

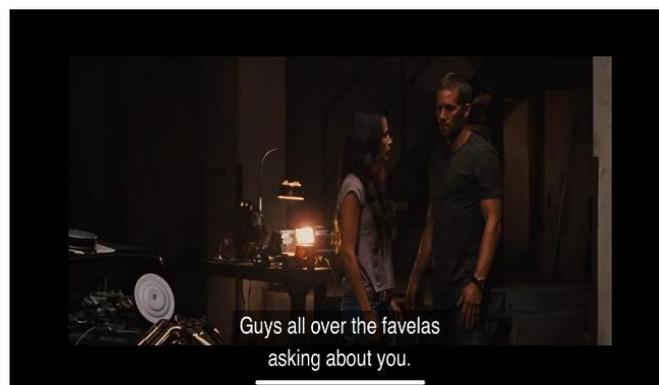


Figure 6: Clipping

Toretto : Where were you, vince?

Vince : Guys all over the favelas asking about you

In the scene above, Vince is engaged in conversation with Toretto, Mia, and O'Connor, during which he mentions the term "favelas" while discussing a community in a densely populated area in Brazil. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), "favelas" can be categorized as slang clipping, which refers to a shortened form of a longer word or phrase. Specifically, "favela" is a clipped version of the phrase "favela community" or a longer designation referring to this type of settlement. In the context of a film, the use of the term "favelas" serves several important purposes. It effectively portrays the social and economic conditions of these slum areas in Brazil, characterized by severe living conditions and pronounced inequality. By incorporating "favelas" into the dialogue, the film provides a rich cultural context that highlights the stark contrasts between affluent and impoverished neighborhoods. This depiction not only reflects the broader social dynamics at play but also underscores the challenges faced by individuals living in these areas.

Furthermore the term "favelas" adds layers of tension and realism to the narrative, enhancing the dramatic impact and conflict within the storyline. It offers viewers a deeper understanding of the characters' backgrounds and motivations, situating them within a context that influences their actions and decisions. The term thus plays a critical role in shaping the film's overall plot and character development, providing insight into the socioeconomic factors that drive the story forward.



Figure 7: Clipping

Brian : hey, we found 'em

The slang term "'em" appears in a scene where Brian is talking to his team over the phone while they are on a train. In this moment, Brian and Mia inform the team that they have located the specific car they intend to steal. After making this discovery, Brian immediately notifies the team by saying, "Hey, we found 'em." In this context, "'em" refers to the item they were searching for. The word "'em" is classified as slang and falls under the category of clipping. As noted by Allan and Burrige (2006:69), clipping is the process of shortening a longer word or phrase without changing its meaning. According to the Urban Dictionary, "'em" is an abbreviated form of "them." So, when Brian says, "Hey, we found 'em," he is simply saying, "Hey, we found them."

The purpose of using the slang term “em” in this dialogue is to create a sense of closeness and informality. Allan and Burrige (2006) point out that slang is often used to make communication feel more casual and to reduce the social distance between speakers, especially in new or unfamiliar groups. Brian’s choice of the word “em” helps to establish a more relaxed tone among team members, reflecting that he and Mia are still relatively new to the group dynamic.



Figure 6: Clipping

Rico : Yo, you burned it.

Leo : Yo, this is how my mama does it. Relax.

Rico : Yeah, but your **mom** is the worst cook in the world.

The term “mom” is considered slang and falls under the category of clipping. As explained by Allan and Burrige (2006:69), clipping involves shortening a longer word or phrase while keeping its original meaning. According to the Urban Dictionary, “mom” is commonly used informally to refer to someone admired or respected, extending beyond its literal definition as “mother.” Therefore, when the character Rico says, “Yeah, but your mom is the worst cook in the world,” it can be interpreted as, “Yeah, but your mother is the worst cook in the world.”

In this dialogue, the slang term “mom” serves to create a more relaxed and intimate atmosphere. Allan and Burrige (2006) note that one of the key functions of slang is to refer to someone in a casual or informal way. Terms of address like “mom” can foster closeness, add humor, or reflect a shared group identity. These slang expressions often carry cultural or social meanings that make interactions feel more personal and expressive. In this case, Rico’s use of the word “mom” helps to make the exchange with Leo feel more friendly and comfortable.

Conclusion

Slang is commonly used in daily conversations and is often linked to younger people who significantly influence its evolution. This research aimed to identify different types and functions of slang. The study relied on Allan and Burrige's (2006) typological theory and applied Hymes' (1989) theory to explore the functions and varieties of slang. The study categorized slang into several types, including fresh and creative, imitative, flippant, clipping, and acronym. Of these, fresh and creative, flippant, and clipping are the most found, with several slang terms found in the film "Fast Five." Additionally, the research identified seven distinct functions of slang in the film, such as greeting, insulting, initiating casual conversations, creating an intimate atmosphere, conveying impressions, expressing anger, and indicating closeness. These functions illustrate how slang affects communication dynamics. The study recommends that those interested in slang analysis join social groups where slang is used to better understand and master it. The author suggests that slang could be a valuable area for future research, especially for students in the English Department.

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