



A Study of Slang Words in the Album of “My World 2.0” by Justin Bieber

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Abstract

This study is entitled “A Study of Slang Words in the Album of My World 2.0 by Justin Bieber”. The album was chosen because it has slang words as the data source, the album has songs that are the most popular album by Justin Bieber and the most listened to songs by people around the world. The observation method was used to collect data and the qualitative method was used to collect the data clear and well-organized description of the problems. The theory used was from Kipfer & Chapman (2007) was applied in the analysis of the types of slang words. Based on the result of Album of *My World 2.0* by Justin Bieber draw the conclusion that the primary slang words and secondary slang words are the only types found in this study.

Keywords: *slang, song lyric, meaning*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini berjudul “A Study of Slang Words in the Album of My World 2.0 by Justin Bieber”. Album ini dipilih karena memiliki sumber data kata-kata slang, album tersebut memiliki lagu-lagu yang merupakan album paling populer oleh Justin Bieber dan lagu yang paling banyak didengarkan oleh orang-orang di seluruh dunia. Metode observasi digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data dan metode kualitatif digunakan untuk mengumpulkan data deskripsi masalah yang jelas dan terorganisir. Teori yang digunakan ditemukan dari Kipfer & Chapman (2007) diterapkan dalam analisis jenis kata slang. Berdasarkan hasil analisis Album of *My World 2.0* oleh Justin Bieber dapat ditarik kesimpulan bahwa kata-kata slang primer dan kata-kata slang sekunder adalah satu-satunya jenis dalam penelitian ini.

Kata kunci: *bahasa gaul, lirik lagu, makna*

Introduction

Slang is an informal variety of language. Although it is daily used in societies many slang words quickly become old-fashioned and not many people use them anymore. People usually use informal language in daily communication. The language varieties that are easily found in daily conversation are slang words or slang language.

The slang words can be found in the lyrics. Besides many peoples around the world like to listen to his music. Some maybe can understand and some not about the meaning of slang words that are used in the song lyrics. For example, the slang for the word “try” in English found in the song is “Tryna”. In song lyrics what do you mean, In the lyrics above Justin Bieber explains about someone trying to catch the beat of the song, and don’t be indecisive about what Justin Bieber said.

In this study the analysis of the slang has been found in the seven songs of Justin Bieber's “*My World 2.0*” album, the song are “Somebody to Love, Never Let You Go, Eenie Meenie, Common Denominator, One Time, One Less Lonely Girl, Baby. According to Salim (1991:1828) slang is a unique word, because usually only a group of people usually understand it. Slang words may be confusing to some people. The word is non-standard and often used only by members of a certain group. The slang word is created and only can be understood by some group or some community who create and use it to communicate again each other, it’s like secret words that only they understood the meaning so outsiders not going to understand its meaning. This study objective is to help everybody who is going to learn English deeply so they can understand the meaning of that “slang” in English. Because sometimes when someone tries to learn English, they usually start by listening to their favorite song in English.

There’s so many previous research in the same field about slang words and takes it as a review. The first review is written by Lestary, Aprilia (2016) with the title “A Study of Slang Word in Song Lyric Used by Bruno Mars”. Her research in analyzing the song lyrics that Bruno Mars has two problems is what kind of slang is and what kind of slang dominates in it. The theory of George Yule (1986) is the foundation to write what kind of slang and what slang is dominating the lyrics. She used observation to collect the data in the songs and wrote her research as descriptive and qualitative. That is similar to her research and my research is from the way we’re collecting the data and how to solve the problem in the research. So what is different in her research and this research is the theories that are used by us, She uses George Yule's (1986) theories as the foundation of her research and my research is using the theories by Kipfer & Chapman (2007) as the theoretical foundation to write my research.

The second review is by Ambhasari, Shasha (2018) she’s written an article with the title “Translation of Slang Word Found in The Subtitle of *Despicable Me* Movie Into Indonesian”. Her article has three problems, first is how to find the slang, second is what kind of type that slang, and third is what discussion she uses in equivalence. The theories that she uses as the foundation is written by Metiello, Elsa (2008) to analyze what kind of slang and a theory by Nida & Taber (1962) for the equivalence. She’s collecting data in her research by documenting the movie. What difference between her research and my research is the data source, she’s using movies and my research is using songs.

Method

The source of data being used in this study is the album by Justin Bieber. The data are taken from Justin Bieber's album released on March 19, 2010 with the title "*My World 2.0*". The data source is taken from browsing the internet about the songs of Justin Bieber. The song is "Somebody to Love, Never Let You Go, Eenie Meenie, Common Denominator, One Time, One Less Lonely Girl, Baby". The data collection has done in some steps there are: listening to the lyrics, focusing on the slang word that is found in the album, and grouping the various kind of slang words found according to their type. After collecting the data, the writer concludes by analyzing it. The types and formations of slang words will be identified by referring to following the steps: selecting song slang that can be found in Justin Bieber's album, tabulating the slang word that has been found, dividing the kind of slang word as their types, interpreting what is that slang word meaning, and concluding. There were two ways of presenting analyzed data such as informal and formal methods.

Result and Discussion

Result

This chapter showed a result of the *My World 2.0* album by Justin Bieber that are containing slang words. This study analyzes that only a type of slang word proposed by Kipfer and Chapman (2007) was found 24 slang words that is classified into primary slang and secondary slang.

Discussion

Primary slang

Kipfer & Chapman's (2007), the theory says the speakers naturally use primary slang because is like the pristine speech of a subculture it's like they might be muted without it. But the reality is not like that, because slang always becomes an alternative idiom, required to be chosen, many teenagers use, some people use to express some general expression in their daily communication, in urban street gangs use it every day. Example: someone with rich powerful and complex oral language life by using primary slang effectively.

Data 1

Watch them play for ya (in song *Somebody to Love* line 4).

The word **ya** means another way to say "you". This word is used by some people in daily communication and daily conversation to express feeling intimacy and closeness to someone and the person comfortable with using the word. This word is classified as primary slang because the word *ya* is usually used by people in daily life.

Data 2

She keeps on lookin’ (in song *Eenie meenie* line 6)

Lookin’ is actually from the word “look or looking” but have reduced become “lookin’ ”. This word is usually used in informal situations which are used by everybody to make comfortable. This word is classified as primary slang because everyone used it often.

Data 3

Baby, baby, baby oooh (in song *Baby* line 14)

Baby is a “one newly or recently born”, “baby” can be imagined if the baby is funny, cute, and adorable. It is classed as connotative meaning. It still has the same meaning as the word ‘Baby’ has two meaning but also has a meaning or purpose for the people we care about. This word is classified as primary slang because the word *ya* is usually used by people in daily life. The word “baby” means a newborn child (baby) and is a nickname for the woman we love. Based on the lyric above, the word “baby” means a girl he loves.

Data 4

And through all the heart achin’ (in song *Common Denominator* line 32)

Achin’ is actually from the word “aching” but has reduced become “achin’ ”. This word is classified as primary. Because it is usually used in informal situations which are used by everybody to make comfortable.

Data 5

Do you understand what I’m sayin’ (in song *Common Denominator* line 8)

Sayin’ is actually from the word “say or saying” but have reduced become “sayin’ ”. This word is usually used in informal situations which are used by everybody to make comfortable. It is has classified as primary. This word is usually used in informal situations which are used by everybody to make comfortable.

Data 6

Cause when I stare in your eyes (in song *Never Let You Go* line 16).

Cause is actually from word “because” but has reduced become “cause”. This word is usually used in informal situations which are used by everybody to make comfortable. The word of cause is classified as primary.

Data 7

We gon’ do our dance (In song *Never Let You Go* line 20).

Gon’ is used in informal situations and can be used in writing such as chat, message, or on social media. This word is classified as primary slang because this word is usually used by people in social life.

Data 8

*To impress these **Mr. Wrongs** (in song Favorite Girl line 29)*

Mr. Wrongs means a man who is always causing trouble. Mr. Wrongs is a guy who likes to make much trouble anytime and everywhere. This word is classified as primary slang because it is usually used by people in daily activities.

Data 9

*Catch a bad **chick** by her toe (In song Eenie Meenie line 2).*

Chick means a young bird, especially one newly hatched. This word is classified as primary slang because “Chick” is a dated word nowadays because no one uses this word it just becomes insulting to women. The young boy usually uses this slang. According to free dictionary, the word “chick” means a young bird (chick) and is a nickname for the young woman. Based on the lyric above, the word “chick” means a young woman.

Data 10

*To love '**em** and leave 'em (In song "Eenie Meenie, line 13)*

'em it means “them”. Many people reduced the word for communicating or interacting with each other and anybody who knows the meaning, uses it to make it more intimate or closer, therefore can be establish a harmonious relationship. This word is classified as primary slang because everyone used it often.

Data 11

*How many I told **you**s and start overs and shoulders have you cried on before? (In song One Less Lonely Girl line 9).*

Word of **you**s means another way to say “you’s or all of you”. Which this word is mostly used by some people who have a very close relationship such as family, friendship, or specific groups when they communicate or interact with each other in an informal situation. This word is classified as primary slang because the word “you” is just the shortening word that comes from the word “you all” and it is usually used in social life.

Data 12

***Fellas**, it's the moment you've been waiting for (in song First Dance line 2)*

Fellas are some informal words for describing a guy. Fellas are some words for describing or mentioning a guy. This word is classified as primary slang because everyone used it often.

Data 13

*And I just can't believe we **ain't** together (In song Baby line 22).*

ain't is a shortened word from “am not” (ain't is a phrase slang, it has the same meaning for “are not”, “is not”, “have not”, and “am not”). In the dictionary, this slang is used for a phrase or to defend yourself when someone insults you or when you’re doing something stupid or at fault. This word is classified as primary slang because everyone used it in daily activities.

Data 14

And just shake me 'til you wake me from this bad dream (In song *Baby* line 26)

‘**Til** is a general expression that is usually used in society, especially in daily life or informal situations. Actually “til” is shortened word from “until”. Nowadays most words have been reduced as the time development to interaction to be accepted and more adaptable to each other. And then it is usually used in writing such as messages, chat, and status on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and other kinds of social media. This word is classified as primary slang because everyone used it often.

Data 15

Now if you're tryna break my heart (in song *That Should Be Me* line 31)

Tryna is actually from the word “try to” but has reduced become “tryna”. This word is usually used in informal situations which are used by everybody to make comfortable. This word is classified as primary slang because everyone used it in daily activities.

Secondary slang

The theory of Kipfer & Chapman (2007) says to fix expressing someone’s attitude in a group choosing the secondary is not often to be used. They say to express some secret some group is using a slang word, so only restricted people can understand its meaning. Many peoples say that slang is only being used limited to underworld people, but in reality, it is used and spread out in every group of community in society.

Data 16

It's time to sink or swim (In song *Somebody to Love* line 3)

sink or swim means the author wants everyone to enjoy the violin symphony. It used to refer to a situation that they will have to succeed through their efforts or fail completely. The “sink or swim” become secondary slang because it has a secret meaning and only certain people understood the meaning of the word. Because it means a phrase to the situation that the speaker wants to enjoy or feel. The word “sink or swim” means “want everyone to enjoy the violin symphony”. Because this word has a secret meaning and only certain people understand what the meaning of the word is.

Data 17

For you I'd be (In song *Somebody to Love* line 5)

I'd be means I would, I had, I should. This word is used for saying that you would like to do what someone has suggested. Based on the song lyric above “I'd be”, it means an ‘Endearment’. This word is usually used to say that you would like to do what someone has suggested. Then it’s identified as secondary slang because it includes a code that is intentionally made by two or more people where this code can be understood only by the people who make it or their surroundings. “I'd be” here also can be understood as “endearment”. Because it has a secret meaning or code and only certain people understand the meaning of the word.

Data 18

*She had me going crazy, oh, I was **star-struck** (in song Baby line 41)*

Star-struck means interest and admiration. Star-struck is someone impressed of someone about famous people. It's can be called secondary slang because this can only be understood by people who know the phrase's meaning in the English word. Because this word has a secret meaning and only certain people understand the meaning of the word.

Data 19

***Bonnie and Clyde** (in song Stuck In The Moment line 6)*

Bonnie and Clyde mean a phrase to an aromatic relationship couple who commit crimes together. Bonnie and Clyde is a phrase about a man and woman who work together as criminally, the origin of the slang word about Bonnie is Bonnie Parker (a woman) and Clyde is Clyde Barrow (a man), who stole from US banks and businesses in the 1930s. It's can be called secondary slang because this can only be understood by people who know the phrase's meaning in the English word. Because this word has a secret meaning and only certain people understand the meaning of the word.

Data 20

*You don't have to **roll the dice** (In song Eenie Meenie line 29)*

roll the dice is you can say as gambling and because of that it also has a meaning as a good or bad result. It means "roll the dice" here the speaker told you not to have to gamble because you're not going to know the result it's bad or good. It is classed as secondary slang because it has a secret that intentionally can be understood by certain people who already know about the gambling world. Because nowadays most words have been reduced as the time development to interaction to be accepted and more adaptable to each other. And then it is usually used in written such as messages, chat, and status on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and another kind of social media.

Data 21

*Spend it like my **last dime** (In song Somebody to Love line 30)*

last dime it means you had no money left. You had only 10 cents left in your pocket [1 dime – 10 cents]. The expression is fairly old, it was still not much buying power. It's called secondary slang because it has a secret that is intentionally who can understand the meaning is the people who live in the country that have "cents" money in their finance system. Because this word has a secret meaning and only certain people understand the meaning of the word.

Data 22

***I'mma** hold it down for you (In song Common Denominator line 34).*

In fact, this **I'mma** here is meaning "I'm gonna" so it's being combined and becomes "I'mma". It's called secondary slang because it has a secret that is

intentional and can only be understood by the people who use it and the people around them. Because this word has a secret meaning or code and only certain people understand the meaning of the word.

Data 23

Now them butterflies in my stomach won't stop stop (in song One Time line 7).

Butterflies here is a phrase that the speaker wants to say that he/she is nervous and doesn't know what to do. It's can be called secondary slang because this can only be understood by people who know the phrase's meaning in the English word. Because this word has a secret meaning and only certain people understand the meaning of the word.

Data 24

Shawty right there (In song One Time line 47).

Shawty here has a meaning as “shorty” and is usually used to refer to some attractive woman. So sometimes if someone is called “shawty”, they make them become angry or happy, because it has two meanings as praising or insulting. Men usually use it to call a woman that has shorter in height than them. It's called secondary slang because it has a secret that is intended only can be understood by the people who use it and the person around them. Because this word has a secret meaning and only certain people understand the meaning of the word.

Table 1. Type of Slang Word

No	Types Slang	Example of the found Slang Word	The uses of the slang words in the lyrics
1	Primary Slang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For ya - Baby - 'cause - ain't - Tryna 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch them play <i>for ya</i> - I miss you <i>baby</i> - Cause when I stare in your eyes - <i>Ain't</i> my fault - Now if you're <i>tryna</i> break my heart
2	Secondary Slang	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sink or swim - roll the dice - last dime - I'mma - shawty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It's time to “sink or swim” - You don't have toroll the dice - Spend it like my last dime - I'mma hold it down for you - Shawty right there
Total	24		

For the sample of the data, it is not all kinds of slang were found in the data source. The total data finds are 24 data. 15 data are classified into primary slang and 9 data as secondary slang.

Conclusion

In this study found that slang has two kinds of types and the one who's dominating was the primary slang who has 15 data that can be found. After that is the secondary slang which only has 9 data because is rarely used by people and only some groups or community has used and understood its meaning. Primary slang often being used because it is always used by people in their daily lives and informal situations so the listener can easy to understand and make the speaker look more close to them. The purpose to use slang words is seldom to exchange information and make the conversation become easier to understand and for making the speaker and the listener become more closed to each other so there is no wall between them. This can support our purpose and this can support our factor if we like stylish clothes and popular entertainment fashions, effective slang must be new, interesting, and can be accepted in groups quickly.

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