

A SLANG ANALYSIS USED IN THE “DIE HART” MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses slang words in the “Die Hart” movie. The method of study was descriptive-qualitative. The purpose of this study was to find out the types of slang used in this movie. In this study, the theory of Allan and Burridge (2006) was used to identify and explain types of slang. In collecting data, the observation method was applied to obtain authentic data. The steps of data collection were: 1) watching the movie several times; 2) taking note of the potential slang used by the characters; 3) rereading the movie script; and 4) recording all slang words found in the movie. The result of this study shows that there are a total of 32 slang words found in this movie. There are eight data that can be classified as fresh and creative (25.00%), eight data for flippant (25.00%), seven data for imitative (21.88%), five data for acronym (15.63%), and four data for clipping (12.50%). The use of slang words in this movie was dominated by fresh and creative, and flippant. The use of slang has an impact on creating familiarity in society and the social environment. Apart from that, it needs to be understood so that there are no misunderstandings when using those words with other people in an informal situation.

Keywords - *slang, informal situation, die hart movie*

INTRODUCTION

The way people communicate these days has evolved significantly over time. As a result, understanding what and how to communicate in society becomes crucial. According to Kurniadi and Mahaputra (2021), communication is the process of conveying meaning-containing messages or symbols from a communicator to a communicant with a particular goal. In everyday communication, there are two language contexts, namely formal and informal. Formal language is commonly used in situations that necessitate a high level of professionalism, respect, and adherence to established conventions, while people use informal language when talking with friends, family, or peers in everyday situations. In this informal context, they sometimes use slang.

Slang evolves dynamically, with individuals creating and disseminating unique words and expressions to convey new or alternative meanings. Such informal language is primarily employed in specific situations and contexts, often among close peers or millennials. According to Richard (2006), slang is like “an umbrella term” that covers informal expressions used outside of formal communication. It includes specialized vocabularies used by various groups, some of which may become popular slang with broader meanings over time. It may involve the use of strong or unconventional language. Slang is context-sensitive and may not be suitable for formal settings such as educational institutions, official speeches, or public events. Hadiwijaya et al. (2023) further explained that slang facilitates informal communication, fostering a sense of camaraderie and intimacy among friends and peers.

The use of slang is not only heard in everyday communication in real life but can also be found in movies. According to Hornby (2006), a movie is a series of movements or a picture recorded with a sound that tells a story, which is usually visualized in cinemas or movies. It is

a word that refers to an image that moves on its own, a movie as a form of art, and the movie industry. A movie is made by using a camera device to capture images of the outside world or by using special effects or animation techniques to create images. At the moment, movies are one of the ways to depict the evolution of life's situations, such as social lifestyles, human relation, and, of course, the use of language to communicate with other people (Tolok et al., 2021). Interestingly, slang transcends everyday conversation and can extend to creative mediums like movies. Some previous studies also focused on the use of slang.

The first study was written by Putri (2020) entitled "A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Slang Used by Cher Horowitz in the Movie *Clueless*". Her study focused on the analysis of slang words conveyed by the main characters of the movie. There were two problems regarding her study, such as determining the contextual meaning of the slang words conveyed by Cher Horowitz and explaining the function of slang words. She used a sociolinguistic approach to analyze slang. She only chose the words or slang spoken by Cher Horowitz. In collecting the data, there were 29 slang words found in the movie.

The second was written by Jayantini et al. (2022), entitled "An Analysis of Slang Words in Song Lyrics Used by Ariana Grande". The primary objective of this study revolved around examining the utilization of slang words within song lyrics. The study particularly focused on two key aspects; firstly, a comprehensive analysis of the various categories of slang as proposed by Chapman, and secondly, an investigation into the impact of these slang words, guided by Eble. The dataset for this study was drawn from the song lyrics of Ariana Grande, with specific attention given to the following song titles: "34 + 35," "Positions," "Thank U, Next," and "Side to Side." The data collection process encompassed multiple stages, including attentive listening to the songs, thorough reading and printing of the lyrics, systematic identification of slang words, categorization based on Chapman's framework, and recognition of the potential effects of these slang expressions as proposed by Eble. These steps were crucial in ensuring the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the gathered data. By adopting such a methodological approach, this study aims to shed light on how slang was utilized in contemporary song lyrics, particularly within the selected songs by Ariana Grande.

The last previous study was done by Meray et al. (2023), entitled "An Analysis of Slang Used in Justin Bieber Songs". The principal aim of this study was to focus on the types of slang employed within Justin Bieber's song lyrics while also pinpointing the specific slang words employed in these lyrics. To accomplish this objective, their study embraced the methodological framework suggested by Bogdan and Biklen. For data analysis. The data underwent a meticulous four-stage analysis process: unitization, categorization, explanation, and interpretation.

Those previous studies above were inspiring and supported this study as well. Because of the language development, especially in slang, this study was also considered to be conducted. As a result, this study was important in terms of contributing to the development of the analysis of slang types, taking into account the differences in the theories used, especially in the "Die Hart" movie.

METHODS

This study used a descriptive-qualitative method. In this study, “Die Hart” movie was chosen as the data source because it is one of action-comedy genre movies, a unique combination in the world of filmmaking. It was a Tripper Clancy-produced action-comedy film directed by Eric Appel. The significance of the movie lies in its debut in the cinematic world in 2023. The plot revolves around the character played by Kevin Hart, a famous actor known for his comedic roles. In collecting the data, some methods were used, including continuously watching the movie, taking note of the potential slang used by the characters, rereading the movie script, and categorizing the slang words found. Then, after double-checking and categorizing the data, the theory proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006) was used to analyze them to reveal the types and the reason why the characters used the slang words. Another theory of qualitative data analysis from Miles et al. (2014) was also used to support the discussion part of this study, including data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification. This methodological approach allows for a comprehensive exploration of the linguistic and narrative dimensions of slang usage in the context of the “Die Hart” movie.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The primary goals of this study are to identify the various slang terms used in “Die Hart” movie, and then to analyze their types. Following the identification of the movie, several slang words used by the characters were discovered, as shown in the table below.

Table 1 Types of Slang Words Found in *Die Hart Movie*

| No | Type of Slang | Frequency | Percentage |
|----|--------------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1. | Fresh and creative | 8 | 25.00% |
| 2. | Flippant | 8 | 25.00% |
| 3. | Imitative | 7 | 21.88% |
| 4. | Acronym | 5 | 15.63% |
| 5. | Clipping | 4 | 12.50% |
| | Total | 32 | 100% |

From the table above, it can be seen that the characters in the “Die Hart” movie used five different types of slang based on a theory proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006), totaling 32 instances. Fresh and creative, with eight occurrences accounting for 25% of the total. Flippant was observed eight times, accounting for 25%; Imitative was observed seven times, accounting for 21.88%; Acronyms were discovered five times, accounting for 15.63%; and Clipping was observed four times, accounting for 12.50%. The following section of this study would include details about how the characters used the slang in this movie.

Type 1: Fresh and Creative



Figure 1. Ron welcomed his old friend, Josh (0:41:29)

Nathalie : Josh Hartnett!
 Ron : Hey, hey, hey, **buddy!**
 Josh : ooh, ooh, ooh.

In the scene above, the word “buddy” was used by Ron. In that situation, he just opened the door for Josh and used the slang word. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), fresh and creative refers to something innovative, incorporating completely new vocabulary, casual variations, clever whimsy, and may also include trending words. The use of the word “buddy” can be categorized as fresh and creative because its use deviates from its informal meaning. The use of this is also an example of linguistic creativity, where an existing word is used with a new meaning or in a different context. The word “buddy” is more appropriate for the situation because it conveys a sense of closeness between Ron and Josh. Therefore, it can be interpreted as a best friend or companion, emphasizing their close and friendly relationship. This choice of slang also creates a relaxed impression and strengthens ties of friendship or partnership in informal communication between friends or group members, as can be seen in the scene depicted.

Type 2: Flippant

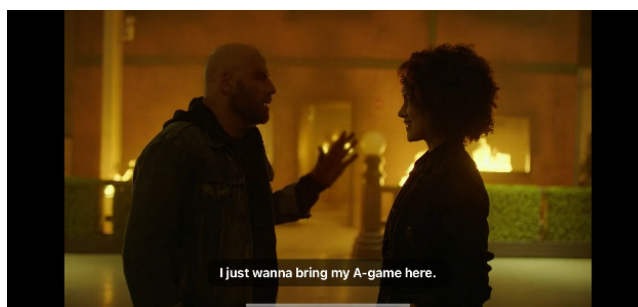


Figure 2. Nathalie first meeting with Ron was while studying about acting in an action movie (0:17:37)

Kevin : Get your ass up.
 Nathalie : Yeah um, I’m just so nervous. I’ve never been in an action movie
 Before. I just wanna bring my **A-game** here.

In the scene above, there is a slang word “A-game” that Nathalie used when she met Ron. It could be categorized as flippant because it is derived from two terms. Allan and Burridge

(2026) explained that flippant is a type of slang that consists of two or more words that have no correlation with the denotative meaning.

“A” is the first letter of the alphabet, and “game” means an entertaining activity or sport. So the word A-Game” is a slang term used to express that someone is at their best or performance. This word is often used in the context of competition, work, or situations where someone is expected to give maximum effort and the best results. On that occasion, Ron was testing Kevin to act as a fire rescuer, and suddenly Nathalie came and greeted Ron while chatting. At that time, Nathalie used that slang to show that she would give her best, even though it was the first time for her to act in an action movie. In the other words, “A-game” shows intentions or a person's goal to perform at their best in a given situation.

Type 3: Imitative

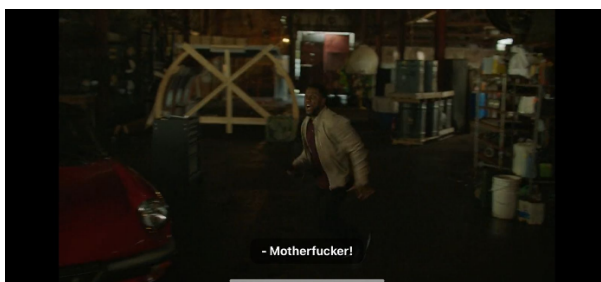


Figure 3. Josh and Ron made Kevin angry (0:56:18)

Josh : You're bad, man
 Kevin : **Motherfucker!**
 Josh : No,no,no,no,no oh my god

In this scene above, the word “motherfucker” was used by Kevin to express annoyance or anger towards Josh and Ron for playfully pointing a gun that did not contain bullets at him (as the gun only produced sound but did not shoot bullets). Kevin still felt frightened by the situation. Based on Allan and Burrige (2006), this word can be categorized as an imitative because it is a form of slang that mimics other words or combines two words to create a different meaning, in this context, between mother and fucker. The word “mother” is a female parent, while “fucker” shows a stupid person. Motherfucker is an extremely insulting name for someone people hate or for someone who has made other people angry. In the “Die Hart” movie, profanities like “motherfucker” might be used by both protagonists and antagonists as a form of expressing their emotions, especially in high-pressure or dangerous situations. This is intended to add an emotional dimension to the characters or to convey a sense of violence and tension in specific scenes.

Type 4: Acronym



Figure 4. Kevin is talking to Josh about Ron who Kevin considers a bad person. (0:43:08)

Josh : Okay!
 Kevin Hart : We need the people from out there to come in here. Okay.
 I'm taking about the Feds, the **DA**.
 Ron : What are you whispering about?

In the scene above, there was one type of slang used by Kevin when he met Josh with a worried expression. In this situation, Kevin was having a conversation with Josh, where he explained to Josh that he considered Ron to be a dangerous person. Kevin wanted Josh to help him take Ron to the police. and said "DA." According to Allan and Burridge (2006), it can be categorized as an acronym because it is an abbreviation of slang that is created by combining the first letters of each word in a phrase or by using the initials of a group of words or syllables. This "DA" likely refers to "District Attorney." District attorneys are public officials responsible for prosecuting criminal cases on behalf of the government in a particular judicial district. The District Attorney's goal is to uphold justice by determining whether to prosecute a criminal case, protecting the public from crime, ensuring a fair legal process, investigating cases, filing formal charges against criminals, and engaging in legal negotiations when necessary.

Type 5: Clipping



Figure 5. Kevin and Nathalie are hiding and find a property that makes Kevin suspicious. (1:10:17)

Nathalie : Kevin, focus!
 Kevin Hart : it's **props**.
 Kevin : It's a bunch of fuckin props over here.

In the scene above, it can be seen that Nathalie was asking Kevin to focus on something. Kevin said the word "props" to Nathalie because he saw a property, for example, a statue, a

steering wheel, and so on. Based on Allan and Burridge (2006), the word "props" can be categorized as a type of clipping because clipping means a slang word that comes from deleting part of a long word to become a shorter form with the same meaning. The word "Props" (shortened form of "props") refer to anything used by actors or placed on set to support or enhance a scene. Props include physical objects such as furniture, equipment, fake weapons, fake letters, or other items necessary to provide authenticity to the scene. The purpose of props in a film is to support the narrative, provide authenticity to scenes, support characters, facilitate acting, contribute to production design, and ensure visual consistency. Props help create a credible environment, enrich the story, and provide important visual details. In movie scenes where the characters view the situation as if it were a movie, the statement suggests that the actors treated the people in the scene as props, referring to them as human props.

CONCLUSION

Slang is a style of language used in everyday life, especially in informal contexts. Besides being found directly in everyday communication, especially in a certain community, slang can also be found in a movie, one of which is Die Hart. In this movie, five types of slang are found, such as fresh and creative, imitative, flippant, clipping, and acronym. Most of the characters in this movie use the first and second types of slang, which tend to occur because of the emotional closeness between one character and another. This reinforces the fact that slang tends to be used if someone is close to other people in a community. In addition, an understanding of this slang also needs to be studied further so that later, the uniqueness possessed by this slang can give color to language development and avoid misunderstandings in the future.

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