

Slang Words on Astroworld Album by Travis Scott: A Sociolinguistics Study

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ABSTRACT

This paper is entitled Slang Words on Astroworld Album by Travis Scott: A Sociolinguistics Study. The aims of this research are to identify types and meanings of slang words from lyrics of Astroworlds Album by Travis Scott as a theory proposed by Patridge. The method used in this research is a descriptive method which is a method used to find the elements and characteristics of a phenomenon, in this case by identifying the types and meanings of slang words on Astroworld album. The data is analyzed using the following steps, such as listening to all the songs on the Astroworld album, identifying the lyrics included into slang words, collecting data, in this case the lyrics that are included into slang language, classifying the slang words based on the types of slang language, analyzing the data based on types of slang and its meaning, and making a conclusion from the data analysis. The result shows that there five types of slang words found in the Astroworlds Album: Society Slang (24 words), Slang in Publicity (12 words), Slang in Medicine (5 words), Cockney Slang (3 words) and Public House Slang (2 words). The meanings of each word refer to the word terms taken from www.urbandictionary.com. Of the 46 total data found, society slang is the type of slang word that is mostly found. This happens because most of the song lyrics tell of social matters that are motivated by the life experiences of the songwriters.

Keywords

Slang words, society slang, slang in publicity, slang in medicine, cockney slang and public house slang

Introduction

Language is used as a communication tool in speaking. Every human being must use language as a means of communication both orally and in writing. Language serves as one of the basic things for social life. For this reason, there is a connection between language and society. First, social structures can influence or determine linguistic behavior. The second possibility is the opposite of the first where linguistic structure and behavior can influence or determine social structures. The third possibility is that they influence each other; language and society can influence each other. The fourth possibility is to argue that there is no relationship between linguistic structures and social structures and that each of them stands independently of each other (Wardhaugh 1986).

According to Trudgill (1974), language is not only a means of communication that provides information about the weather or other subjects, but more than that language is very important in building and maintaining relationships with other people. Language is a characteristic of a region or country that has been cultured in that place. So

that language itself is included in a culture. Culture is a set of perspectives that are owned by a group of people and are reflected in their actions, relationships, communities, and artefacts. The key to understanding culture related to communication is to develop awareness and acceptance of different perspectives (Reiman, 2014). There are several aspects in culture, one of which is language which is the identity of a community group. It can be seen from the use of the language of the community itself. One of the language used in one community is known as a slang language.

According to the Oxford dictionary "*slang is a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal*". Those are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people.

Slang or in the Indonesian term known the same as slang, is an informal language or term that is not standardized by a certain group. Slang is indeed not commonly used by the general public because it is the language of the community, where only certain communities can understand

the meaning of the term, and is intended so that other people outside the community cannot understand the meaning of their conversation.

Slang is usually only seasonal, meaning that it is not standardized and is not used all the time. Likewise, there will always be new slang languages popping up.

Slang usually means vulgar or rude. Therefore, slang is only used with people who have a very close relationship with us such as friends and community members.

On the other hand, this language is strongly discouraged for use in formal situations, such as business, meetings, school students, or strangers we just met. It is feared that this will lead to misunderstanding.

In addition, slang should not be used in the field of writing, especially formal writing such as business letters, academic writing, essays, articles, news and others.

This kind of slang is commonly used by hip hop artists in writing their lyrics, Travis Scott is no exception in the album *Astroworld* which has a lot of non-standard vocabulary or slang words. Slang is widely used by young people who are creative in terms of thinking and feeling bored, and want something new with language refreshment that will create a new atmosphere to be more familiar in speaking.

Based on the explanation above, this research will discuss about slang words which the data are taken from *Astroworld* album by Travis Scott.

Literature Review

Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics is always related and inseparable from society because sociolinguistics studies the role of language in society. Holmes stated in his book *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics* (2001), "Sociolinguistics study the relationship between language and society. They are interested in explaining why we speak differently in different social contexts, they are concerned with

identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning".

From the explanation above sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society. This statement is supported by Wardaugh (2002), "Sociolinguistics is the study of the social uses of language".

According to Meyerhoff in his book entitled *Introducing Sociolinguistics* (2006) "Sociolinguistics is a very broad field, and it can be used to describe many different ways of studying language". Meyerhoff states that sociolinguistics includes a very broad grading that can refer to the background of the speaker in his social class, so in his analysis we need to know in detail how the person talks, the choice of words, and notations in speaking words. It can be concluded that sociolinguistics is the study of social relations in society with language as its relevance and how the interaction is related to the social factors that influence it.

Slang

Slang comes from the word *slanguage*. This term was first used in England in the 18th century. Slang was used by various denominations of people, such as gangsters, police and doctors. Slang is one form of language variation that can be found in social communities to show an identity of the group. Slang can be found in all languages and can change from time to time and can only be understood by certain groups.

Patridge (2004) says that slang is quite easy to use but very difficult to write. "*Slang is easy enough to use but very hard to write about*" This is a true statement because most people use slang, but if asked to identify slang; it might be difficult to do so.

Slang is defined as a variety of languages associated with groups and as an informal vocabulary. This is marked by many non-standard grammatical formations. Slang is an arrangement of words and informal expressions that are not considered standard and occur in things that are considered unnatural, although slang is more common among young people but is also

commonly used by people of all ages and social groups. According to Mateillo (2008), slang is a recreated speech of marginal or distinct subgroups in society and, second, it is quite temporary, unconventional vocabulary specifically primarily by connotations of informality and novelty.

The use of slang has both positive and negative effects (Swanson & Golden, 2010). The use of slang positively aims to describe a person's attributes of style, attractiveness, or relationship status. "*She's a sharp dresser*" or "*he looks smooth*" is a slang that describes someone who is well-dressed. In trying to describe an attention-grabbing person, we can say that "*he's hot,*" "*she's fine,*" or "*she's a babe.*" While for negative effects, slang is usually used to describe the user's emotions. For example, when angry, someone will use slang words like "*damn,*" "*shit,*" or "*fuck*" in their conversation; besides that, slang is also used to describe someone who looks and dresses cute. Some examples are: *goobers, dorks, nerds, and geeks.* Homosexual men are commonly referred to as *fags, homos, flames, and fairies.* A flirtatious woman who happens to be seen in public with lots of male friends may be told that she is a *slut, sleeves, or tramp.*

Types of slang

According to Partridge (1970), "The different types of slang are numerous, and I propose to treat of only the twenty four most important: after all, there are limits." But also Partridge (2004) updated the previous statement, the types of slang have been clarified to only eleven types.

Cockney Slang

Cockney slang is English slang that originated in the Eastern End of England. Initially, cockney slang was only used by the working class in England. But nowadays, almost everyone in the UK uses cockney slang especially in London. Slang has been popularized by film, music and literature. Cockney slang is the brightest place in England because it has a very clear accent, for example there is a change in the variation of a consonant from the sound *th* to *f* or *v*, such as *muva* for mother or *fank* you for thank you. In

British society, this slang is very easy to understand right away.

Below are some examples of Cockney slang taken from the book "A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English" by Partridge (2006):

- [1] *Airy-fairies*, meaning *(large) feet*
- [2] *Back double*, meaning *back street*
- [3] *Gosher*, meaning *a heavy blow or punch*

These examples are categorized as cockney slang because they are all found in the UK, where cockney is commonly used.

Public House Slang

The definition of a public house slang is considered as a group of words or phrases of a public house that replace the small amount of recorded vocabulary based on the nature of the subject. It is friendly, cheerful, materialistic, but not rude or cynical. The following examples are taken from "The Routledge Dictionary of Historical Slang" by Partridge (2006):

- [4] *Booze-shunter*, meaning *a beer drinker.*
- [5] *War Cry*, meaning *that the mixture of stout and mild-ale understood.*
- [6] *Round the corner*, meaning *having had something strong to drink.*

The term "*booze-shunter*" was used by South Western coolies and guards who frequented the pubs around Waterloo Station, derived from the term, which soon became common among the police officer community. While the term "*War Cry*" has a satirical reference to the Salvation Army, who spoke emphatically in polite language. And the term "*Round the corner*" was commonly used by lower class people around 1895–1930. From the explanation above, it is clear that these slangs belong to the slang of the public house because they have a connection with the public house or we usually call it a tavern.

Workmen's Slang

This type of slang is related to public house slang, however, there are differences between them. The characteristics of workmen's slang users do not mention "something" original but they call it by another name that is already used and understood

between them. For example, workers from a mining or iron factory will say *brass is not money*. The examples below are taken from the book "Slang and Unconventional English Dictionary" by Partridge (2006):

[7] *Jumping Jinny*, meaning *a mechanical stamper used in road-repairs*

[8] *Bank up*, meaning *to complete n a liberal scale; to reinforce generously, to lay in a mighty store*.

[9] *Sling one's hooks*, meaning *to be dismissed*.

Tradesmen's Slang

In the traditions of slang as in the workmen's slang, some words are related to native slang and the user is also a worker. But, the difference is that there are four typical users of slang traders: tailors, butchers, chemists, and builders. Tailors have the highest number of slang terms. The example below is taken from the book "Slang: Today and Yesterday" by Partridge (2004):

[10] Tradition of the slang for *tailors*: *house of parliament*, means *a meeting of the tailor's assistant and apprentices in the shop, especially for a serious purpose*.

[11] Trader's slang for *butchers*: *Turkish buyer*, means *a person of considerable importance*.

[12] Trader's slang for *chemists*: *tamarinds*, means *money*. This word closely reflects the nature of the chemists' trade. In other words, this slang is only used by chemists.

Slang in Art

Slang in Art is still related to the community. Words or phrases if slang in art are quickly adopted by the public, even though there are only a few words known as artistic slang. According to Partridge (2004), slang in art emerged in the seventeenth century when it was brought to the stage for the first time in Richard Brome's comedy, *A Fovial Crew*. In addition, this slang is far more difficult than other slang terms, meaning that it is very difficult to guess in the present. The examples below are taken from the book "A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English" by Partridge (2006):

[13] *Drawing*, means *a picture in water-color*.

[14] *Gamut*, means *a picture, a detail, etc., in tone with its accompaniments or the environment*.

This slang is classified as a slang in art because it shows the characteristics possessed by slang art and they are written clearly in the book "A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English".

Slang in Publicity

This type of slang is often used to start conversations in the public, because much of modern commerce depends on publicity, a company needs interesting phrases or poems that can impress the public. The examples below are taken from the book "A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English" by Partridge (2006):

[15] *In do a Garbo*, means *to avoid Press reporters and photographers and other publicity*.

[16] *Worth a guinea a box*, means *a small, cheap, yet good or useful article*.

[17] *Kelper*, means *a Falkland Islander*.

So, these examples belong to slang in publicity because the meaning and explanation of this slang relate to slang in publicity.

Slang in Theatre

Slang in theatre is related to slang in art because theatre is one of the terms of art. According to Partridge (2004), slang in theatre was used for the first time on stage in the sixteenth century. Slang in theatre began to develop in the nineteenth century and expanded its influence on spoken and informal English. Therefore, slang in theatre gradually gained status in the first part. For example Roman writers Plautus, Horace, Juvenal, and Petronius use slang for style purposes and Shakespeare also uses slang in theatre in his play.

In slang in theatre, there are several familiar terms, such as being professionally called *pro*. People who are sometimes hired with trivial remuneration to go onstage as one of the crowd, or when a number of actors want to exert influence are *super names*. A band or orchestra is called a *management*. *Ben* is for *benefits* and *sal* for *salaries*. Below are examples of theatre slang taken from the book "Slang: To-Day and Yesterday" by Partridge (2004):

[18] *Acting lady*, means *an incapable actress*. *From the poor act of the great majority of society women and girls that go on stage*.

[19] *Paper house*, means *theatre that at a given performance has an audience consisting mainly of those who have come with a free "paper" ticket.*

Slang in Public School and University

The main source of this slang is students, because they are fresh and full of creativity. Each school has its own special words that are not known by other schools. Examples of public school slang below are taken from the book "A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English" by Partridge (2006):

[20] *Bonse*, means *head*, for example "look out, or I'll fetch you a whack across the bonse."

[21] *Bung*, means *a lie*, for example "everything he said is a *bung*".

[22] *What's the mat?* Means *what is the matter?*

Slang at the university is different from slang used in public schools. When students leave school and go to university, they tend to leave their old slang and crash themselves into university slang. They grow into adults, choose to do new things or ways of thinking and prefer to make their own alma mater rules. Examples of university slang are:

[23] *Black and tame*, means *an Oxford undergraduate.*

[24] *Leccer*, means *a lecture.* This slang is commonly used by Oxford undergraduate since the early 1890s.

[25] *Brute*, means *one who has not matriculated.*

The slang word "*Black and tame*" comes from Oxford University and comes from the black dress and the tamed coat that was affected in that period, with puns on Black and Tans. While "*Leccer*" is commonly used by Oxford scholars since the early 1890s. And the term "*Brute*" comes from the University of Cambridge in the nineteenth century; it might come from a crude English word.

Slang Society

Society slang is generally used in everyday speech and is connected with the community. Each community group uses several types of slang, and by association, the words or phrases belong to the group. In the modern world, slang becomes crucial for the nature of many groups which is

impossible to ignore its impact on western society. There are so many slang in people's daily speeches, most of the words are gone soon, but a large number of them make it fine in ordinary places. In addition, community slang shows happily or happily about the objects and practices of the slang users' calls themselves. The example below is taken from the book "A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English" by Partridge (2006):

[26] *Come the Rothschild*, means *to pretend to be rich.*

[27] *Repulsive*, means *unpleasant or dull.*

[28] *Silver pheasant*, means *a beautiful society woman.*

Slang "Come the Rothschild" comes from the legendary wealth of the famous family. This slang was invented in 1880 but was never used again in 1914. While the term "Repulsive" was used for the first time in 1930 by Evelyn Waugh, in *Vile Bodies*, 'Isn't this a disgusting party?' And the term "Silver pheasant" was used for the first time in 1920 by Manchon. The explanations above are a few examples from society

Slang in Medicine

Slang in medicine is the slang used by doctors or nurses. Examples of this slang are very difficult to find. According to Partridge (2004), *Ware* gave four terms used in 1999: *bone-clother*, *port wine*, which is now usually replaced as "fattener"; *locum* (short for *locum tenens*) is still very commonly used by doctors and pastors; *pith*, *the spinal chord* when severed; to be scheduled, to die, or rather to die.

Ware only has very few medical slangism lists because doctors very rarely talk "shop" to others than doctors and because, in the words of the one notable authority on medical slang. Below is an example of a medical term according to the book "A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English" by Partridge (2006):

[29] *Lord have mercy (up) on me*, means *the "iliac passion", a "colic" of the small guts.*

[30] *Sciatic*, means *a sciatic nerve.*

Based on its meaning and explanation, this slang was included in medical slang.

Soldier's Slang

Soldier's slang is a slang term that appears around the army community which is generally used by soldiers. In English-speaking countries, it often takes the form of abbreviations / acronyms or derivatives of the NATO Phonetic Alphabet, or combines aspects of formal military terms and concepts. Military slang is often used to strengthen or reflect competition between services (usually friendly and funny). Examples of slang are:

[31] *BOHICA* stands for *bend over*, here it comes again.

[32] *FIGMO* describes *a person, especially one who has a short remaining time on station, which is a lax attitude toward their work.*

[33] *SNAFU* stands for *the sarcastic expression situation normal: all fucked up.*

This is a famous example of military acronym slang, although it is sometimes bowdlerized for all dirty or similar. This means the situation is bad, but it is normal.

Methodology

In this research, the writer uses descriptive method. Suryana (2010) states that the descriptive method is a method used to find the elements and characteristics of a phenomenon. This method begins with the steps taken are as follows:

1. Listening to all the songs on the Astroworld album
2. Identifying the lyrics on the Astroworld album included into slang words
3. Collecting data, in this case the lyrics that are included into slang language.
4. Classifying the slang words based on the types of slang language
5. Analyzing the data based on types of slang and its meaning
6. Making a conclusion from the data analysis.

Research Questions

1. What types of slang words are found in song lyrics in the Astroworld album?
2. What is the meaning of each slang word found on the Astroworld album?

Object of the Research and Data Source

The object of the research is types of slang words and its meaning from song lyrics by Travis Scott - Astroworld album. The data sources are taken from song lyrics a hip hop album named Astroworld by Travis Scott.

This album was first made in 2016 and released in 2018 through Cactus Jack Records and Grand Hustle Records, and distributed by Epic Records. The album features guest vocals from Kid Cudi, Frank Ocean, Drake, The Weekend, James Blake, Philip Bailey, 21 Savage, Swae Lee, Gunna, Nav, Quavo, Takeoff, Juice World, Sheck Wes and Don Toliver among others.

Results and Discussion

This part will explain about the types of slang words found in the data of the song lyrics on the Astroworld album and their meanings. Of the eleven types of slang words based on Patridge's theory, five types of slang words were found on the Astroworld album, namely Society Slang, Slang in Publicity, Slang in Medicine, Cockney Slang and Public House Slang. The meanings of each slang words refer to the word terms taken from www.urbandictionary.com.

Society Slang

Data 1

Had some real conversations with my nigga, Bill (Houstonfornication by Travis Scott)

The underlined word *nigga* is included into a type of society slang word because 'N' word is an initial to name a Nigger or a Nigerian person. Most Nigerians who used to become slaves will be called nigger or nigga by their employers. But in this day and age the use of "N" word is closer to close greetings such as bro or dude for fellow black people in America.

Data 2

I tried to show 'em, yeah (Sicko Mode – Travis Scott ft. Drake)

The underline words is included into one type of slang called society slang. The "em" here belongs to a slang society because it is usually interpreted as "them" by young people in America like " I

wanna kill ‘em” which means “ I wanna kill them”

Slang in Publicity

Data 3

All three Rollies look alike (Stop Trying to Be God_Travis Scott)

The underlined word Rollies belongs to the type of slang in publicity because this type of slang is often used to start conversations in the public. “Rollies” is a slang term for a Rolex watch, most commonly used by rappers. Rolex is one of the most prestigious watch brands in the community. The public knows that this brand's watch is widely used by the rich. Many rappers use Rolex watches to impress the public that they too are classy singers.

Data 4

Ice on my neck, flawless baguettes. (YOSEMITE_Travis Scott)

The slang word ‘Ice’ is included into slang in publicity because the word ‘Ice’ means an expensive jewelry, usually in the form of diamonds that is worn in either necklace, ring, chain, or earrings by the rappers. Diamond is a precious stone consisting of a clear and colorless crystalline form of pure carbon, the hardest naturally occurring substance.

Slang in Medicine

Data 5

Sippin' on purp, feelin' like the Barre Baby (It's lit) (Stargazing_Travis Scott)

The term of “purp” is included into a slang in medicine. This term of purp means a ‘marijuana’ that displays purple hairs and deep greens. Marijuana is also used for medical reasons, especially for specific medical treatment and for some particular disease such as cancer and AIDS. In addition, marijuana can also be used to brew tea and, particularly when it is sold or consumed for medicinal purposes.

Data 6

Sipping on lean, no Robitussin. (Can't Say_Travis Scott)

The underlined word ‘lean’ is a slang word included into Slang in Medicine because the slang

term of ‘lean’ is a medical term that is related to cough medicine abuse. Cough medicine that is misused by people becomes unhealthy liquor.

Cockney Slang

Data 7

Know the coupe fast when it ends with a S. (Yosemite_Travis Scott)

The underlined word ‘S’ is included into a slang word called Cockney Slang. The term ‘S’ is an initial that is commonly used at the end of the message to represent ‘sex’ in England. Therefore, ‘s’ means ‘sex’.

Data 8

Wildin' on me and all my Gs, we been going for a week. (Astrothunder_Travis Scott)

The underlined word “my Gs” is included into a slang word called Cockney Slang. The term ‘my Gs’ is an abbreviation for “gangster” or “gangsta”. This term is commonly used to greet a friend or associate in England.

Public House Slang

Data 9

I told her it's B.Y.O.B., that mean buy your own booze. (No Bystanders_Travis Scott)

The underlined word ‘booze’ is a slang word that is included into public house slang. The term ‘booze’ is a slang term for alcohol, specifically any type of beer. The slang word ‘booze’ (alcohol) replaces the small amount of recorded vocabulary called ‘beer’.

Data 10

Had to guzzle the fours. (Who? What!_Travis Scott)

The underlined word ‘guzzle’ is a slang word included into public house slang. The term ‘guzzle’ is meant “to drink especially liquor greedily, continually, or habitually”.

Conclusion

From the explanation of the analysis, it can be concluded that of the eleven types of slang words based on the theory proposed by Partridge, there are 5 types of slang words in Astroworld Album by Travis Scott, namely Society Slang (24 words),

Slang in Publicity (12 words), Slang in medicine (5 words), Cockney Slang (3 words) and Public House Slang (2 words). So that the total number of slang words found is 46 words. Of the 46 total data found, Society Slang is the type of slang word that is mostly found. This happens because most of the song lyrics tell of social matters that are motivated by the life experiences of the songwriters. Meanwhile, the meaning of each slang word refers to the slang term on www.urbandictionary.com.

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