
The Meaning Of American Slang Lyrics On The Weeknd's Album The Highlights (Deluxe)

Mentari*, Asyrafunnisa, Andi Tenri Abeng

English Literature Program, Faculty of Education and Literature, Bosowa University, Makassar

*Email: mentariadelita16@gmail.com

Accepted: July 26, 2024 / Approved: December 30, 2024

Abstract

Slang is an informal language that developed over time. Sociolinguistics is the study of language in society, how it changes, the kinds of language that exist, and how language affects society. It implied that a society's social life could be influenced by language when social phenomena were present. This study aims to identify the types of slang words and the meanings included in The Weeknd's 36 songs album The Highlights (Deluxe). A descriptive qualitative method was employed to ascertain or to determine the meaning of the slang words and used George Yule's theory of types of word formation to identify the types of slang words. According to the study's findings, The Weeknd used a variety of word structures in his songs in the album. There were 150 pieces of data total from The Weeknd's 27 tracks and was separated into 5 types based on The Weeknd's song lyrics; Clipping, Blending, Coinage, Aconyms, and Compounding. The Weeknd used a lot of slang terms in his songs. The writer discovered that the context of slang words affects their meaning. Many slang words may have offensive or impolite connotations, and some have been determined to have sensitive meanings.

Keywords: Sociolinguistics, Song Lyrics, Slang Word, The Weeknd



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1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a communication tool consisting of grammar, vocabulary, sounds, and words that humans use to convey their feelings and ideas. Throughout human history, language has existed as a social phenomenon. It means that language can influence the social life of a society where social phenomena. As more languages are spoken, language is growing and changing more quickly. The study of language and society in the framework of social phenomena is known as sociolinguistics.

From a sociological point of view, slang serves the purpose of fostering intimacy or amiability, enhancing social engagement, and aligning an individual's communication style with that of their listeners. Because of linguistics linkages with various other academic subjects, this broad field of study was created. Sociolinguistics appears as linguistic interaction with society which can have an impact on the language itself. Yule in Sankar's study (2022), expresses the study of sociolinguistics focuses on how language and society interact.

Slang word is an informal language that is used in informal situations and appears over time, this language is most often used by teenagers or people who do not understand the use of these slang words. Dewi and Suastra (2018) stated that a term or expression that is commonly used in informal conversations and is perceived as being very informal is called slang. From a sociological point of view, slang serves the purpose of fostering intimacy or amiability, enhancing social engagement, and aligning an individual's communication style with that of their listeners. The song lyrics contain a tone of colloquial terms. Rap or hip-hop songs are well-known examples of word-heavy genre songs. It is the kind of music where practically every

word must be uttered rhythmically. Rap songs usually have lyrics that are a little bit rude, harsh, direct, and obnoxious. As a result, rap and hip-hop music tend to contain more slang terms than pop, jazz, country, and other genres. Tanamal, et. al. (2020). From a sociological point of view, slang serves the purpose of fostering intimacy or amiability, enhancing social engagement, and aligning an individual's communication style with that of their listeners. Teenagers typically use slang in everyday speech in the form of acronyms and new words. It is usually found in the surrounding environment, social media, and even in song lyrics that mostly appear in songs with the R&B, rap, and hip-hop genres.

This study aims to identify the types of slang words and the meanings included in The Weeknd's 36 songs album *The Highlights (Deluxe)*.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer provides an explanation of earlier research as well as the theoretical and sociolinguistic approaches that were further explored in this study.

2.1. Previous Studies

In this chapter, the writer provides an explanation of earlier research as well as the theoretical and sociolinguistic approaches that were further explored in this study.

Other writers who have already studied the topic of song lyrics analysis are Dewi and Widiastuti (2020) titled of study *An Analysis of Slang Words in Song Lyrics Used in the Songs "That's What I Like", "Smoke On The Water", and "Ch-Check It Out"*. In this research, the researcher used 3 songs with different genres, namely pop, rock, and rap songs. To analyze the slang words in the songs, the researcher used documentation methods to collect data and qualitative methods to describe types of slang words. The theory they use to find out the type of slang in these three songs is Patridge's theory, and to find out the meaning of slang words they use Geoffrey Leech's theory. According to the examination of the three lyric songs written by the researcher, every lyric has a term slang that comprises main supplementary slang and slang. 37 colloquial terms were discovered by the researcher from those three song lyrics. Collocative meanings are the prevalent interpretations of slang words, and society slang is the predominant kind of slang language.

Yanti, et. al. (2021) titled *Slang Words Found In 1999 Song Album By Rich Brian's*. This study focuses on colloquial terms from Rich Brian's 1999 record. The goal of the study is to categorize different kinds of slang words and examine how they are made. This study employed the observation method to gather data. It employed the theories of Kipfer and Chapman (2007) and Mattielo (2008) for these purposes, and it conducted an analysis utilizing a descriptive qualitative method. For the result, one category of slang word secondary slang was identified by their study. Five pieces of information can be classified as secondary slang: 'wanna, tellin', 'round, mama, and gon'. Three different formations clipping, blending, and variation are used to create slang words and can be found in the data source.

Siringoringo and Marpaung (2022), titled *Analysis Of Slang Language In Song Lyric "Damn I Love You" By Agnes Monica*. This research aims to interpret the slang and identify the kind of slang used in the song lyrics "Damn I Love You" by Agnes Monica. To analyze the song lyrics they use a formation process according to Yule's theory and descriptive qualitative as their method. These findings demonstrate that Agnes Monica's song contains seventeen different types of slang word formations. These word formations make up the song's slang

vocabulary. The results of the song clipping, 7 blendings, and coinage revealed three categories of slang.

Nopitasari, et. al. (2022), titled “*An Analysis Of Slang Words Found In The Song Lyrics Of Katy Perry MTV Unplugged Album*”. The purpose of the study is to examine the various forms of slang and their definitions as found in the song lyrics of Katy Perry's MTV Unplugged album. A qualitative descriptive method was employed in this study. Partridge's (1984) theory was used to analyze the different kinds of slang words and Leech's (1981) theory was used to explain the word meanings. In this study, there are 16 words of society slang, slang in theater has 1 data, cockney slang has 2 data, public house slang has 1 data, and 1 data from slang in art. In the meantime, according to Leech's (1981) theory, this study found conceptual meaning occurred with 14 data, connotative meaning occurred with 6 data, and reflected meaning occurred with 1 data. This research also focuses on the types of slang words and their meanings.

Okthafiani and Hardiany (2022), titled *Analysis of The Use of Slang Word Formation in Drake's Song Lyrics on "Certified Lover Boy" Album*. This study examines the usage of slang words in a few of Drake's songs from the "Certified Lover Boy" album. The purpose of this study is to categorize the various slang terms that can be found in Drake's song lyrics from the "Certified Lover Boy" album, to interpret the meaning of the slang terms that can be found there, and to examine the slang terms that are present in the album's song lyrics. In this study, descriptive qualitative research methodology was used. The information was gathered from the lyrics of seven songs on Drake's album "Certified Lover Boy." By classifying the words in each type of slang, identifying the song into four categories of processes, and analyzing the data into the slang word, the data were analyzed using Yule's theory. 89 terms were identified in the songs based on three categories of slang that appeared in the lyrics of seven different songs from Drake's "Certified Lover Boy" album.

Meray, et, al. (2023) titled *An Analysis Of Slang Used In Justin Bieber Song's*. Their study aims to identify the various slang terms and types that Justin Bieber uses in his lyrics. Using qualitative research methods, the researchers examined the data. To categorize the data the researchers used the slang type theory of Allan and Burridge (2006): Imaginative sort, Saucy sort, Imitative sort, Abbreviation type, Cutting sort. The result of their study is, that slang is one of our ways of expressing ourselves, teaches us about language and slang, and makes our songs interesting. Nowadays, slang is a part of language, so it is easy to understand and improve one's knowledge of slang.

Sabila and Irawan (2023) titled “*Slang Words Found In Nicky Minaj's Songs*” The researcher aimed to examine the slang words in the Black Eyes Peas song to determine the type, meaning, and function of the slang words. The researchers investigated, examined, and classified the various forms of slang found in Nicky Minaj's songs using descriptive qualitative methods. The researchers applied Allan & Burridge's theory to analyze the data (slang words). The study discovered five different categories of slang terms in song lyrics, clipping, acronym, fresh and creative, imitative and flippant. This research aims to determine the type and meaning of slang words in Nicki Minaj's songs and determine the type of slang words that are dominant in the song.

Halawa, et. al. (2023), titled “*Slang Language In Jessie J's Song Lyrics*” Their study aims to identify the slang terms that can be found in Jessie J's song lyrics, along with the most prevalent types of slang words and their meanings. In their study, both qualitative and

quantitative research methods are used. They also employed Partridge's theory of slang type in their study. As a result of their study, 10 Jessie J's song lyrics were found to contain 22 slang terms: Shortened Sentence Forms (til, shh, I'mma, cause, ain't). Society Slang (Damn, Fuck up, Bitch, L.A, FB), Blending (Gotta, Woulda, Gonna, Wanna), and Someone's Nickname (Mamma Daddy, Motherfucker, Dude, Babe, Mummy, Bunny). According to their study's findings, Jessie J uses slang in her lyrics to give them a distinctive and captivating appearance, stay current with pop culture, enhance the beauty of her voice, and sometimes even shorten them beyond what is required for grammar.

Hanifah and Anggraeni (2024) with the title of their study *Types Of Slang Found In Song Lowkey By Niki*. The purpose of this study is to examine the usage of slang terms in music. Niki's Lowkey is the selection for the research topic. In this study, descriptive qualitative methods were also employed. The researchers used Allan and Burrige's theory which identified five categories of slang to examine the lyrics. As a result of the study, 22 slang terms representing 4 slang categories were identified. The initial kind is *fresh* and *creative*. Concerning the study's goal, the investigator found 22 colloquialisms in Niki's performance of the song Lowkey. Next, using Allan and Burrige's theory as a guide, they categorized the words according to their slang type.

Nurfitriani (2017) with research entitled, "An Analysis of Connotative Meaning and the Message in Demi Lovato's Selected Songs". The purpose of this study is to find the connotative meaning and message contained in Demi Lovato's song. The researcher used a qualitative descriptive method by describing the data in the form of words, then evaluating the data using the song's lyrics. The results of the study demonstrate the distinctions between a song's literal and implicit meanings as well as how the songs' message links to their historical history and setting.

Based on the previous studies above, several differences and similarities can be obtained. The similarity of this study with the previous studies above is that this study aims to determine the types and meanings of slang words from Western song lyrics. There are several differences between previous studies and this study, namely some of the studies above have the aim of determining the function of slang words, and also the message in the song. The slang and theory used in this study is Yule's word formation theory to determine the types of slang words. Meanwhile, in the previous studies above, some used Partridge's theory, Allan & Burrige's theory, Kipfer's theory, and also Chapman's theory. Then, the study above also only used a few songs, in contrast to this study which used one song album with a total of 36 songs in the album. Another difference is that no previous researchers have analyzed the same object as this study.

2.2. Related Theories

This section contains theories regarding this research, theories of American slang, Word Formation, the Types of Word Formation, and the Sociolinguistics approach.

American Slang

The first time slang was used as a group language was in 1980 This indicates that slang is only used as a group cipher or secret code when speaking together. Maulidiya, et. al. (2021) stated that however, as time and technology have advanced, slang language has also expanded. Slang was first utilized on social media. Slang was formerly limited to social media, but it has since spread to everyday life. According to Nardyuzhev, et. al, (2017). The English language has spread around the world in recent years, and the American version has a big effect on

worldwide standards. American slang is slang that is often used by Americans as a joke or comedy. However, American slang not only contains joking words but also contains negative words, vulgar, and even insults. Slang is used by people of all backgrounds in the United States. It could help grandparents and their grandchildren communicate more effectively.

Word Formation

Word formation is the process of forming words by adding, subtracting, and combining each word to produce a new word, this is also known as a phenomenon that is close to human life. It appears that word formation research is coming out of a dormant phase. Humans need to know where the word comes from, therefore people must know every process of word formation by adding prefixes and suffixes, summarizing, or adding other words to change the original word.

Types of Word Formation

Based on Yule's theory in research Cambridge University Press (Cambridge University Press, 2006), there are some types of word formation processes: *Etymology* is a term that, like many of our technical words, comes to us through Latin but has Greek roots, is the study of a word's origin and history. (etymon 'original form' + logia 'study of'), and is not to be confused with entomology, also from Greek (entomon 'insect')

Coinage, or the creation of entirely new terms, is one of the less frequent ways that words are formed in the English language. Older examples are *aspirin*, *nylon*, *vaseline*, and *Zipper*; more recent examples are *Kleenex*, *Teflon*, *Tylenol*, and *Xerox*.

The act of simply appropriating words from other languages, or borrowing, is one of the most frequent sources of new words in the English language. Example: Japanese: *Suupaa* or *Suupaamaaketto*.

Compounding, languages like German and English use this combining process a lot, whereas languages like French and Spanish use it much less. This process is called compounding. Typical compounds in English are a bookcase, doorknob, fingerprint, sunburn, textbook, wallpaper, wastebasket, and waterbed.

The process of "blending" also involves combining two different forms to create a single new term. But generally speaking, blending is achieved by joining the beginning of one word to the end of another word. Example: *Want + to = Wanna*

Go + To = Gotta.

Clipping, The reduction component that is discernible in blending is even more evident in the clipping process. Example: *Hurtin'* (hurting).

Backformation, a good example of backformation is the process whereby the noun television first came into use and then the verb televise was created from it. Example: *Emote* from 'emotion'.

Conversion is the general term for a change in a word's function, such as when a noun is used as a verb (without any reduction). Other terms for this frequently occurring process include "functional shift" and "category change."

Acronyms, words created from the first letters of a group of other words are called acronyms. More typically, acronyms are pronounced as new single words, as in *NATO*, *NASA*, or *UNESCO*.

Derivation, the process that is by far the most common for word formation in the creation of new English words has not been covered in our list thus far. Affixes is the common term used

to describe these tiny "bits." Some familiar examples are the elements *un-*, *mis-*, *pre-*, *-ful*, *-less*, *-ish*, *-ism*, and *-ness* which appear in words like *unhappy*, *misrepresent*, *prejudge*, *joyful*, *careless*, *boyish*, *terrorism*, and *sadness*.

Prefixes and Suffix, looking more closely at the preceding group of words, we can see that some affixes must be added to the beginning of the word (e.g. *un-*). These are called prefixes. Other affixes have to be added to the end of the word (e.g. *-ish*) and are called suffixes.

Infixes, as the name implies, this is an affix that is inserted inside another word and is known as an infix. It is possible to see the general principle at work in certain expressions, occasionally used in fortuitous or aggravating circumstances by emotionally aroused English speakers: *Hallebloodylujah!*, *Absogoddammitly!* And *Unfuckinbelievable!*

Multiple Processes for instance, it appears that the term "deli" entered the American English language by first being borrowed from German, then being clipped from a delicatessen. If someone says that *problems with the project have snowballed*, the final word can be analyzed as an example of compounding in which *snow* and *ball* were combined to form the noun *snowball*, which was then turned into a verb through conversion.

Sociolinguistic

The study of language structure, communication function, and the social and cultural effects of language on society is the focus of the scientific discipline of linguistics. Sociolinguistics studies how social factors influence linguistic variation and change. One of the studies in linguistics that has a relationship between language and society is sociolinguistics. The study of language and its social context is known as sociolinguistics. For this reason, linguistics is related to the social component, which is a component of society Harared (2018).

Song Lyrics

One literary example is Song. According to Rosita and Rosyidi (2019, p:60), While listening to music is a fun pastime, the listener cannot enjoy themselves if they are unaware of the song's significance. Songs are a variety of rhythmic sounds accompanied by strains of music that produce harmonious sounds. Songs have lyrics written by the songwriter who puts ideas into the song.

Song lyrics are a collection of words with different tones and rhythms that are arranged according to the songwriter's thoughts, feelings, or experiences. Suharto (2004, p:4) stated a lyric is just a song's words. The lyrics serve as both a melodic element that supports the topic, character, and goal of the song and an integral component of it. Through the song lyrics, the songwriter conveys feelings and messages. People always hear and sing every lyric without understanding every word in the song. Songs may have lyrics that use unfamiliar vocabulary or new terms that the listener does not understand, making it difficult for the listener or music lover to understand the songwriter's intended message.

Abel Tesfaye

Biography is a series of a person's life journey from birth to adulthood. It also contains information about family, a person's personal life, and the achievements that people have. A biography is a thorough narrative of an individual's life. Hart (2023, p:1) concluded that The Greek words "bio," which means life, and "graph," which means writing, are the roots of the English word "biography." Therefore, a biography is an in-depth narrative of an individual's life that offers a thorough examination of their experiences, successes, and challenges. The Weeknd,

real name Abel Tesfaye, is an Ontario singer-songwriter who was born on February 16, 1990, in Scarborough. The Weeknd is a well-known pop sensation around the world for his captivating brand of synth-driven pop and R&B with a trip-hop influence. His 2011 debut album, *House of Balloons*, garnered a lot of attention from around the world. Tesfaye grew up in the Scarborough neighborhood of Toronto, where he was born. Abel is of Ethiopian origin, and during his early years, his grandmother, who looked after him primarily while his single mother was at work, taught him the Semitic language of Amharic. In his early years, pop and R&B singers like Michael Jackson, R. Kelly, and Prince had an impact on him musically. At the age of 17, Abel left high school and moved into the Parkdale neighborhood of Toronto to live with two friends. Along with working at an American apparel store and doing drug experiments, he started writing and recording music. Cowie (2015).

3. METHOD

In this case, the writer's position serves as the primary instrument, triangulation is the method used for data collection, qualitative data analysis is used for data analysis, and the research findings emphasize meaning rather than generalizations. The writer employs qualitative research methods to investigate a phenomenon in detail regarding different social phenomena using words found in song lyrics. In this research, the main thing is to analyze the slang in song lyrics. The researcher uses The Weeknd's album entitled 'The Highlights (Deluxe)' and then focuses on grouping slang into the word formation process to determine the types of slang words in the album. The writer uses theory which is the supporting theory of this research is Sociolinguistics by George Yule (2006), slang is a sociolinguistic phenomenon. Secondly, to find out and determine the types of slang words, the researcher used the theory of the word formation process by G. Yule.

4. RESULTS

On *The Weeknd's* album, however, only 5 of these types appeared, while the remaining 8 types were not represented at all. Out of the album's 36 songs, only 27 contain examples of these types of word formation, making them relevant to Yule's theory, while the remaining songs were either not relevant or did not contain any slang words, thus not contributing to the analysis of word formation types.

4.1 The Types of Slang Words in The Weeknd's Album.

Clipping

There were 69 slang words on 25 songs with *clipping* type. The data included in the clipping type because the word experiences omitting the last and first of the word, resulting, which is in a shortened word without changing its meaning or part of speech.

Blending

There were 21 slang words on 15 song data with *blending* type. The data was included in the blending type because the word undergoes a word blending process by combining two words into one word, where parts of two or more words are combined to create a new word. Typically, it involves taking the beginning of one word and joining it with the end of another. The resulting word usually retains the meanings of the original words in some way.

Coinage

There were 32 slang words on 14 songs with *coinage* type on the songs. The data was

included in the coinage type because the word has experienced creating new words from scratch, frequently with no preexisting roots or affixes.

Acronyms

There was 1 slang word on 1 song with an *acronyms* type on the song: Tell Your Friends. The data is included in the acronym type because the word was created by combining the first letters of several words. This new word is typically spoken as a whole rather than one letter at a time.

Compounding

There was 1 slang word on 1 song data with the compounding type of the song: Reminder. The data is included in the compounding type because the word experienced a word formation process where two or more words are combined to create a new word with a distinct meaning.

Based on the explanation above, it could be concluded that the type of word formation of slang words that were most often found was the first type, *clipping* second, *blending*, third coinage, fourth *acronyms*, and lastly *compounding*.

4.2 The Meaning of Slang Words in The Weeknd's Album

The Highlights (Deluxe) was a collection of *The Weeknd's* most popular songs from his earlier albums. Released as a curated compilation, it was both a celebration of *The Weeknd's* career and a way to introduce his music to people who might not know all his work. The album looked back on *The Weeknd's* journey as an artist and explores the different emotions and experiences that have shaped *The Weeknd's* music. The use of slang was the album adds to its emotional depth and makes it more relatable, appealing to a broad audience. The album explores different parts of *The Weeknd's* life, like fame, excess, love, and sadness. The songs often look at the contrast between pleasure and pain, success and loneliness, and the impact of living a wild, indulgent life. In this collection, *The Weeknd* reflected on his journey as an artist, the ups and downs of his personal life, and the results of the choices he made.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 The Types of Slang Words in The Weeknd's Album.

There were 13 types of word formation based on George Yule's theory were, *Etymology, Coinage, Borrowing, Compounding, Blending, Clipping, Backformation, Conversion, Acronyms, Derivation: Prefixes Suffixes, Infixes, and Multiple Processes*, the writer found 5 types of word formation were, *Clipping, Coinage, Blending Compounding and Acronyms*, 150 slang in lyrics of *The Weeknd's* album, The Highlights (deluxe). On The Weeknd's album, however, only 5 of these types appeared, while the remaining 9 types were not represented at all. Out of the album's 36 songs, only 27 contained examples of these types of word formation, making them relevant to Yule's theory, while the remaining songs were either not relevant or did not contain any slang words, thus not contributing to the analysis of word formation types.

5.2 The Meaning of Slang Words in The Weeknd's Album

The relationship between society and language was called sociolinguistics. Society did not know or understand how to use slang words in social life, while in this modern era, slang words often appeared and were used, but society did not understand the meaning behind them. Understanding offensive slang helps people recognize when others are using offensive or derogatory language therefore they can act accordingly. Several slang words were also found to

contain sensitive meanings, and many slang words could have rude or offensive meanings. Society needs to understand the use of language wisely and be aware of the context of the use of slang words because these slang words could be hurtful or inappropriate to say. By knowing these slang words, people could avoid using them impolitely, especially in formal or professional situations.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The Weeknd's use of slang in *The Highlights (Deluxe)* demonstrated the rich variety of word formation processes, including *clipping*, *blending*, *coinage*, *compounding*, and *acronyms*. Based on the results of this study, the writer provided suggestions for consideration by researchers and readers in the future. It would be beneficial to investigate in future studies how the growth and function of slang have affected other musical genres and performers besides *The Weeknd*. The writer also hopes that readers and researchers will understand the types and meanings of slang based on George Yule's theory and have an understanding of the use of slang in society. In the next research, the writer provides suggestions for further researchers to conduct research by analyzing the role of media in the use and delivery of slang words on social media using media social theory. The writer hopes that this research will be useful for readers, society, and the next researchers.

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