



WORD FORMATION OF ENGLISH SLANG IN RICH BRIAN'S ALBUM 1999

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Abstract

The goal of this study was to discover (1) what form of slang words that are found in Rich Brian album *1999* (2) what word formation processes of slang words that are found in Rich Brian album *1999*. Descriptive research was conducted for this type of study. The Coleman (2012) and Yule (2010) theories were applied in this study. The data was taken from the song lyrics in *1999* album which was released in 2020. The result showed from that the researcher found 2 of 9 forms of slang words. The 2 types of slang words are change in meaning (28,57%), and abbreviation (71,43%). Furthermore, the result revealed about the type of word formation process namely compounding (3,93%), blending (15,68%), clipping (78,43%), and acronym (1,96%). The most dominant form of slang words is abbreviation and the most dominant type of word formation process is clipping.

Key words: Word formation process, Slang word, Form of slang

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is a complex communication system that commonly used by humans to convey thought, ideas, or even information to one another. Language facilitates the communication between thoughts and feelings amongst individuals through sounds and/or symbols (spoken or written words), signs, moods, and gestures that convey certain meanings. It shows that language plays an important role in human life because language is the main means of communication. This is also supported by the opinion of Rabiah (2018) that language serves as a media of communication that allow us to convey our opinions, ideas, or messages to one another.

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Language variety is closely related to language as a main means of communication. Language variety focuses on the flexibility and adaptability of language in serving variety of communicative needs in different social, cultural and situational contexts. Language varieties refer to the different ways a language is used and spoken by different communities in different regions, social contexts, and situation. It can include different pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, and the usage. As time goes by, the language has changed and developed. These developments include the language style used by people in communicating in certain communities. According to (Latifah, Saddhono, & Wardhani, 2017) some aspects that make these changes occur due to interactions in these communities that use two or more different languages. Interaction in the community with two or more different languages causes variations in language use. Slang is prevalent among the various linguistic expressions found within society.

Slang is language that deviates from the features of standard language, known as non-standard language. Swan (2002) explains that slang is a very casual language that is frequently used by people who are familiar with each other and have a good working relationship. It frequently contains of words, phrases, and also expressions that deviate from formal language rules and may be difficult for others outside the group to understand. The use of slang itself is not only to expresses friendship, humor, fun, and intimacy but also the word will become the trademark of the community.

In the modern era, slang is not only for communication but also influences song lyrics. Slang has a significant influence on song lyrics and often used by songwriters to convey specific emotions, build a relatable atmosphere, and connect with their target audience. So, basically slang has become a dynamic and essential component of current songwriting. Songwriters are always looking for new methods to infuse slang into their lyrics in order to create music that connects with listeners, and reflects cultural trends. It is also supported by (Runuk, 2021) that slang in song lyrics serves to inspire and allow the songwriter to convey their emotions through song writing. It should be noted that the use of slang in song lyrics should be deliberate and contextually appropriate. The successful use of slang requires a balance between creative expression and efficient communication with the intended audience.

The word formation process refers to the process of developing new words in a language by modifying existing words and completely creating new ones. This process allows language to develop and adapt to new conditions and conceptions. It is also supported by Plag (2003) that the process of creating and forming a new word from previous word is known as word formation process. There are several kinds of word formation processes such as affixation, compounding, clipping, coinage, conversion, backformation, borrowing, blending, and acronyms. This was also stated by Ningsih (2020) new words are created through special processes such as affixation, blending, and compounding which are more efficient in creating new words.

There has been some research done about slang word formation in some areas such as in song lyrics, movies, and social media. In the area of song lyrics, the first research was done by Evadewi (2018) with her research entitled *An Analysis of English Slang Words Used in Eminem's Rap Music*. The purpose of this study was to discover the characteristics of slang. The next research was done by Raodhatul & Ardi (2019) with their research entitled *Word Formation of Slang Word in Song Albums Created by Indonesian Rapper, Young Lex*. This research aims to explore the word processing in the Indonesian rapper album. Another research in the area of song lyrics was done by Yulia (2020) with the title *An Analysis of Slang Words in Selected Avril Lavigne Song Lyrics on "Head Above Water" Album*. The goal of this research was to identify the types of slang words and determine their meanings.

Second, the next research about word-formation process in movie is a research that was done by Hafiza (2020) with the title *An Analysis of Word-Formation of English Slang Used in Straight Outta Compton Movie*. The goal of this research was to find out the trend of the slang words used in the process of word formation on Straight Outta Compton's movie. The next research was done by Novianti (2017) with the title *Word Formation Analysis of English Slang Language on Deadpool Movie*. The purpose of this research is to find out how the slang words are produced. Another researcher was done by Nurhaidah (2019) with the title *Word Formation Processes of Slang Used by the Main Characters in "The Duff" Movie*. The goal of this research is to find out the various kinds of slang and word formation process of slang.

Third, there are some researches about word formation in social media. This research was done by Ningsih (2020) with her titled *Word Formation Analysis of Slang Language Used in Comments of Rich Brian's Youtube Channel*. To analyse the slang word process used in comments on Rich Brian's YouTube channel. The next research has been done by Rahmawati (2012) with the title *Word Formation Process on Slang Words Used by Transsexual*. The aim of this research is to describe slang words used by transsexual.

The study about slang word morphologically is necessary to do to see how slang words are formed. This is because the new slang words are always formed up to now with the development of the language. So, it can help people understand the meaning of slang, especially new slang words when people communicate, watch movie or listen to the music.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This type of the research is descriptive research. Descriptive research is define as the studies that focus on describing the characteristics of a particular individual or group (Kothari, 2004). This research was conducted to explain and describe how the formation process of slang phrases contained in Rich Brian's Album *1999*. The purpose of this research is to gain a better knowledge of the word-formation process of slang words used in social communication.

The data of this research are words and phrases of song lyrics which contain slang words that appeared in Rich Brian Album *1999*. *Sometimes*, *Don't Care*, *Long Run*, *DOA*, *Sins*, *When You Come Home*, and *Love in My Pocket* are the titles of the songs. Furthermore, the sources of the data of this research are lyrics in album *1999* by Rich Brian which released on 25th August 2020. The researcher discovered all the lyrics on <https://www.genius.com>, the world largest collection of song lyrics and music. There were three instruments: the researcher, laptop, and description table. The researcher is an important instrument for this research because the researcher plays an important role for doing a research. Laptop is the most important things to collect data processes to receive data from the internet. The researcher was used description table, this help researchers classified and analysed data. The data have been collected, identified, and classified into tables of type of word formation process and form of slang words. This research was conduct to find out the type of word formation process and form of slang words that appear in song lyrics in Rich Brian's Album *1999*.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

The researcher analyzed the data about the form of slang word based on Coleman (2012) theory, the researcher only found 2 of 9 processes form of slang words, namely change in meaning, and abbreviation. In addition, researchers also used the theory of Yule (2010) about the type of word formation process. In this process, 4 processes were found, namely compounding, blending, clipping, and acronyms.

A. Form of Slang Words

1. Change in Meaning

Datum 1:

*Feelin' like ain't **shit** sometimes*

I expect too much sometimes

Tell myself, "gotta move on with life"

'Cause even Drake gets booed sometimes, ayy

As it can be seen from datum 1, the word *shit* itself means feces. Meanwhile, the term *shit* in the song lyrics refers to a despicable or worthless person since he believed he was useless. It can be seen from the next lyrics that he always over-expects; he also tried to enjoy his life more even though he still get booed sometimes. Because the word feces changed to worthless and also changed the meaning of the word, so it can be categorized as a change in meaning.

Datum 2:

*I don't give a **fuck** I got to go*

Man, I've done the things I need to show

Don't need you to make me feel controlled

From the data above, the word fuck itself often refers to the act or instance of having sex with (someone) but in the lyrics of the song fuck means care. Despite of the people who don't want to hear the word, fuck is the most common word that often heard in general. Fuck can be used as a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb. The term fuck itself usually used to convey negative statements that express dislike, disrespect, and also don't care about someone or something just like in the song lyrics above, he states that he doesn't care about anything, it can be seen in the lyrics. Because the changing meaning of that word the researcher concluded that this slang is categorized as change in meaning.

2. Abbreviation

Datum 19:

When I'm the one that's gonna need it (I don't need it)

The word gonna is a method of writing "going to", gonna is to represent the words "going to" when they are spoken casually. When you say "going to" quickly without properly pronouncing each word, it might sound like "gonna". Usually use them only in speaking casually with friend. "gonna" is very common found on writing one of them in song lyrics. Usually the song lyrics are meant to reflect the songwriter's emotions. The word "gonna" itself categorized as abbreviation because some words are shortened.

Datum 16:

I don't know why, I don't wanna know

The word "wanna" is an abbreviation for "want to". Wanna usually used in movies, song lyrics, and other forms of entertainment because it is an informal speaking in English. Wanna itself means desire to do something for example "I wanna go home". If you say "want to" very fast it would be sounds like wanna. The word wanna categorized as abbreviation because some word are shortened.

B. Type of Word Formation Process

1. Blending

Datum 1:

I don't care that I fell, I'ma make this jump (jump, jump, jump)

I'ma is an abbreviation for "I'm going to". The phrase "I am going to" is made up of four morphemes: "I am", "go", "(-ing)", and "to". The morphemes I am, go, and to are all free morpheme, whereas (-ing) is both a suffix and a bound morpheme. This process generates the word "I'ma" by removing components of the word and combining them into a new term, removing any parts of the word and blended with the word ma to become I'ma.

Datum 4:

But I ain't feelin' so creative lately

The phrase "ain't" is made up of two basic words. They are 'am' and 'not', 'is' and 'not', 'are' and 'not'. The first three words are free morphemes ('am, is, and are'), and the second word 'not' may stand alone. The phrase ain't is made by modifying each element of the word and merging them into a new word, removing and changing the phrase 'am, is, and are' then changing them into 'ain', then deleting and replacing the word 'not' with 't'. As a consequence, the words 'ain't' combined to produce a single new phrase.

2. Compounding

Datum 11:

*Do you see the smile up on my **motherfucking** face?*

The word motherfucking derives from the word 'mother-fucker'. Motherfucking is made of three morphemes: 'mother', 'fuck', and (-ing). 'Mother' and 'fuck' are free morphemes and (-ing) that is considered a bound morpheme. Motherfucking is formed by combining the words 'mother' and 'fuck' followed by an inflection process that adds a suffix (-ing) to make a new word.

3. Clipping

Datum 13:

*Even though it's not **somethin'** that you would need*

The word 'somethin'' is a reduction of the word 'something'. The clipping process happens during the word development process of this slang term. This is accomplished by reducing certain letters of the words. However, the word's meaning has not changed.

Datum 40:

*I can't take my mind off that **evenin'***

Evening is a greeting word that used by people to greet others. The clipping process occurs during the word-formation process of this slang terms. This is achieved by reducing certain letters in the word.

4. Acronyms

Datum 56:

*It's **D-O-A***

The word dead on arrival is abbreviated to D.O.A which used figuratively for a hopeless situation or something that is doomed from the start.

C. Finding of the Research

Table 4.1. Result of Form of Slang Word

No.	Form of Slang	Number	Percentage
1.	Change in Meaning	4	28,57%
2.	Change in Function	0	0%
3.	Change in Fom	0	0%
4.	Abbreviation	10	71,43%
5.	Change in Spelling	0	0%
6.	Folk of Etymology	0	0%
7.	Influence of other Words	0	0%
8.	Slang Loans	0	0%
9.	Slang of Sound	0	0%
Total		14	100%

The researcher discovered two types of slang terms based on table 4.1 regarding forms of slang words present in Rich Brian's Album 1999, namely change in meaning and abbreviation.

According to table 4.1, abbreviation is the most common type of form of slang words that appeared in Rich Brian's Album *1999*. There are 10 slang words with abbreviation type with percentage 71,43%, and change in meaning with percentage 28,57%.

Table 4.2. Result of Type of Word Formation Process

No.	Type of Word Formation Process	Number	Percentage
1.	Coinage	0	0%
2.	Borrowing	0	0%
3.	Compounding	2	3,93%
4.	Blending	8	15,68%
5.	Clipping	40	78,43%
6.	Backformation	0	0%
7.	Conversion	0	0%
8.	Acronyms	1	1,96%
9.	Derivation	0	0%
10.	Multiple Processes	0	0%
Total		51	100%

Based on the table 4.2 about type of word formation process found in Rich Brian's Album *1999*, from 10 types of word formation process, the researcher found 4 types of word formation process: compounding, blending, clipping, and acronyms.

Conforming to table 4.2, clipping is the most commonly found with percentage 78,43%, the second dominant data is blending with percentage

15,68%. The next is compounding with percentage 3,93% and the last one is acronyms with percentage 1,96%.

2. Discussion

a. Form of Slang Word

The finding of this research is about the form of slang words that appeared in Rich Brian's album *1999*. Slang words are classified into two types: change in meaning, and abbreviation. The form of slang words is classified based on the theory of Coleman (2012).

This research only found two types of forms of slang words: change in meaning, and abbreviation. Change in function, change in form, change in spelling, folk of etymology, influences of other words, slang loans, and slang of sounds are the example of form of slang words that are not discovered in this research. Meanwhile, abbreviation is the most dominant type in Rich Brian's Album *1999*. According to Coleman (2012), an abbreviation is an abbreviated version from a word or phrase. This type is found in many songs or writing texts except formal writing texts. Abbreviation aims to shorten the time and space in the process of typing a word or sentence either in song lyrics or movie scripts or even just to conform to conventional usage.

This research has similarity with the study that was done by Runuk (2021). The study used the same theory from Coleman (2012) but different source of data. Previous researcher discovered change in form, change in spelling, change in meaning, and abbreviation. In the previous research has the most dominant type of form of slang words which was change in meaning. According to (Coleman, 2012), change in meaning is a word change without changing the original meaning of the words, this is done to make it more attractive and match to the context of the song lyrics. It is also supported by (Nuraida & Halim, 2023), slang in song lyrics is used to communicate emotions to listeners. Because there is a process of change in meaning, so the use of slang in young people is very important to achieve social dynamism which makes it easier for them to express ideas according to what they see and understand (Hidayah & Ramadhan, 2020).

According to me, there are several reasons why the slang on Rich Brian's Album *1999* is a little bit, namely: First, audience reach: in order to reach a larger audience, musicians may choose to utilize more neutral or universal language in their songs. Excessive slang may make the lyrics difficult to comprehend for listeners from varied cultural or linguistic backgrounds. Second, themes in the Lyrics: each album may have a certain topic or message that the artist wishes to express. If the album's focus is on serious or meaningful storylines, the musician may prefer to utilize words that portray emotional subtleties over slang. Last, Rich's Evolution as an Artist Brian's musical style and literary approach may have evolved over time. This transition might represent changes in his personality and personal circumstances, influencing his usage of slang in his songs.

b. Type of Word Formation Process

The finding of this research is about type of word formation process that appeared in Rich Brian's album *1999*. This study discovered just four types of word formation process out of ten. Blending, compounding, clipping, and acronyms are examples. The theory of (Yule, 2010) categorizes many types of word formation process. Clipping was the most dominant type of word formation process. According to (Yule, 2010), clipping is the process of reducing some parts of the word without changing the meaning of the word. There are 15 uses of slang according to (Patridge, 1950), one of them is to the point or to shorten the sentence. This has the same purpose as the clipping found in the current research.

The researcher compares this research with previous research that has done by Runuk (2021). In the previous research found six types of word formation processes namely multiple process, clipping, borrowing, compounding, acronyms, and blending. The dominant type of word formation process in the previous research was multiple processes. According to (Yule, 2010) multiple processes is a word that requires another process to configure a new word. The purpose of multiple processes according to (Patridge, 1950) is to enrich vocabulary because it combines various processes to form new words.

According to me, the reason why the researcher only found two forms of slang words in this study is because Rich Brian is an Indonesian rapper who gained popularity in the hip-hop industry very lately. Around 2016, he made his debut in the music industry, less than 10 years since his debut.

Rap music's style and substance are heavily influenced by language and cultural environment. Rapper frequently employs slang, wordplay, and references deeply rooted in the cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the communities from which they originate. Rich Brian's experience with American slang and linguistic subtleties may differ from rappers who grew up in an African American cultural environment, given that he is from Indonesia and is not a native English speaker. While rapping in English and collaborating with American musicians has demonstrated his linguistic versatility and ingenuity, his use of slang and cultural allusions may be more restricted or distinct.

Rich Brian's 1999 album may be influenced by his Indonesian cultural heritage as well as his exposure to American hip-hop culture. It's not unusual for musicians like him to use their music to negotiate their language and cultural identities. His linguistic and cultural vocabulary may increase as he continues to mature as an artist and immerses himself in the hip-hop culture, allowing him to include more different slang forms and cultural allusions into his songs.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The results of this research lead to several conclusions. The data of analysis are taken from Rich Brian's Album *1999*. *1999* include seven songs: *Sometimes*, *Don't Care*, *Long Run*, *When You Come Home*, *D.O.A*, *Love in My Pocket*, and *Sins*.

First, in forming of slang words, there are two forms of slang words that categorized in the song lyrics: change in meaning, and abbreviation. Second, From the two forms of slang words the most dominant appeared is abbreviation with percentage 71,43%. Third, in analyzing word formation process, the researcher found four types of word formation process, namely blending, compounding, clipping, and acronyms. Forth, from four of types of word formation process, the most dominant process in this research is clipping with percentage 78,43%.

Based on research findings and discussion, the research provides some advice for the future researcher who wants to analyse the same subject in the scope of morphology. First, this research can be used as a reference related to form of slang words and word formation process. Second, it is proposed that the following researcher conduct research connected to this subject. Lastly, it is hoped that this research will make an essential contribution to the improvement of linguistics.

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