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An Analysis of Slang Words Used in NCT 127 Song "Regular English Version" on Album *Regular-Irregular*

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ABSTRACT

This study was aimed to investigate slang words formation in the NCT 127 song lyrics titled "Regular English Version" on Album *Regular-Irregular.* The researcher used theory of word formation process by George Yule. Descriptive qualitative research design is used as the methodology of this research. In collecting the data, the researcher used three steps which are finding, analysing, and discussing. In analysing the data, the researcher used document analysis by Bowen to interpret the meaning. The result showed there are 19 data categorized in 9 types of word formation process. Those are compounding (4 data), conversion (1 word), blending (1 word), abbreviation (1 word), clipping (4 word), borrowing (1), onomatopoeia (2 words), cliticization (4 words), coinage (1 word).

Keywords: Slang; Song; Word Formation

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini ditujukan untuk menginvestigasi pembentukan kata slang dalam lirik lagu NCT 127 yang berjudul "Regular English Version" pada album Regular-Irregular. Peneliti menggunakan teori proses pembentukan kata oleh George Yule. Metode penelitian yang digunkan dalam penelitian ini yaitu deskriptif kualitatif. Dalam mengumpulkan data, peneliti menggunakan tiga langkah yaitu menemukan, menganalisis, dan membahas. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menggunakan analisis dokumen oleh Bowen untuk menginterpretasikan makna. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan ada 19 data yang dikategorikan dalam 9 jenis proses pembentukan kata. Yaitu pemajemukan (4 data), konversi (1 data), pencampuran (1 data), singkatan (1 data), pemenggalan (4 data), peminjaman (1 data), onomatope (2 data), klitika (4 data), pemajemukan (1 data).

Kata-Kata Kunci: Slang; Lagu; Pembentukan Kata

INTRODUCTION

Language is the most important aspect for communicating in daily life. It cannot be separated because language always has a relation with the culture in a speaker's society. There are many different definitions of language according to the experts. According to Yule (2010) in Haspo & Rosa (2018) explains that language is a system of symbols that is mostly used for communication. As with breathing or walking, language is an important component of our daily lives, but possibly because it is so commonplace, we rarely notice it and take it for granted (Bloomfield, 1958) in Magria et al. (2021). Without language, we cannot communicate with others, transfer opinions, and inherit the culture from generation to generation.

Language is the medium through which ideas and information are expressed, thus it should improve over time. A language is constantly evolving; some languages develop through the addition of new features, while some are even on the edge of extinction because no one uses them (Natha et.al, 2022). The language is usually developed because new words come from different societies or trends which are created by adolescents. The way they communicate with each other combines various words or utterances and slang words.

Nowadays, slang words are the most used for communicating in daily life. It is because of the influence from social media, society itself, or songs. According to Eble in Hudson (1996) in Trimastuti (2017) slang is a constantly evolving collection of colloquial terms and expressions that speakers employ to build or reinforce social identity or group cohesiveness, as well as to conform to a particular trend or style in society at large. Slang words are restricted to only a society such as adolescents. Therefore, this kind of informal language is not fully understood by all language speakers (Trimastuti, 2017).

Slang words are made up of one or more letters or even one or more words. Based on Hafiza & Rosa (2020) one of the more common linguistic variants in the community is slang. Slang is a term that is typically formed by shortening or removing one or more letters from words, or even by changing the pronunciation of a word. Slang words are also the result of the word formation process. Word formation process itself defined as the process of creating new words and giving old words new meanings (Maulana & Rosa, 2021). According to Yule (2014), word formation process is divided into blending, borrowing, clipping, compounding, acronym, hypocorisms, conversion, coinage, derivation, backformation, and multiple process.

Based on the explanation above, the aim of this study is to analyse the slang words in the form of word formation process in the NCT 127 song entitled "Regular English Version." Therefore, this study is focused on analysing the type of slang word formation process in song lyrics titled "Regular English Version" by NCT 127. "Regular" by NCT 127 is very well known amongst K-Pop listeners including Indonesia. The researcher will identify the slang word formation and divide it into the types of word formation process. The researcher selects "Regular English Version" by NCT 127 because no study has previously examined this song.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A study was conducted by Haspo & Rosa (2018) entitled An analysis of Slang Words in Song Lyrics on Album Kamikaze. The data source was collected from Eminem song lyrics on album Kamikaze by using descriptive qualitative analysis for analysing the data. Therefore, it can be found that there are types of word formation process such as clipping, blending, acronym, and coinage.

Another study was conducted by Budasi & Bhuwana (2020) entitled Analysis of Slang Words Formation Found in the Lyrics of Drake's Songs. The researcher used qualitative research design. The researcher found that there were 190 slang words in

the song lyrics. They are divided into types such as clipping, coinage, multiple process, compounding, reduplicative, variation, borrowing, blending, acronym and initialism.

Next, study comes from Hidayat & Mu'man (2020) entitled The Word Formation Process of Slang Words in Rich Brian's Song Titled Dat Stick. Descriptive qualitative method was applied to this study. The way researchers collect the data by document analysis. The researcher found that there are 10 types of slang words in the lyrics. Those are acronyms, coinage, clipping as the most formed words, blending, and multiple processes.

Lastly, a study conducted by Raodhatul & Ardi (2019) entitled Word Formation of Slang Word in Songs Albums Created by Indonesian Rapper, Young Lex. The purpose of this study was to identify the word formation process of the slang words in a song album by Young Lex. Descriptive qualitative was the method used in this study. The researcher listened to 9 songs by Young Lex then they identify the slang words in those songs. The result showed that there are 6 types of word formations, namely blending (6 slangs), compounding (4 slangs), clipping (11 slangs), borrowing (7 slangs), coinage (4 slangs), and acronym (6 slangs).

METHOD

The researcher used descriptive qualitative research design. It was conducted by discussing, analysing, and finding the slang word formation in NCT 127 song titled "Regular English Version." There were three steps that the researcher did in collecting the data. First, the researcher observed the lyrics through screening reading technique. After that, the researcher conducted note taking to classify the words which were included in word formation types. Next, the researcher used document analysis by Bowen (2009) in Budasi & Bhuwana (2020), in order to interpret meaning, the song lyrics were treated as a document. Then, utilizing Yule's theory on the origins of slang words, the results of data collecting were examined. Then, the researcher showed the table of classification of slang word formation that is found in the song lyrics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the data collection, it could be found that there are 18 slang words in the NCT 127 song titled "Regular English Version". All of those slang words were categorized based on the theory of word formation process by Yule (2014). From 12 types of slang word formation process proposed, there were only 9 out of 12 types which are found. Those were *compounding, conversion, blending, abbreviation, clipping, borrowing, onomatopoeia, cliticization, and coinage.* The details of the result are as follows;

Table 1. Word Formation Process of Slang Words Found

Types of Slang Words	Number of Data
Compounding	4
Conversion	1

Blending	1
Abbreviation	1
Clipping	4
Borrowing	1
Onomatopoeia	2
Cliticization	4
Coinage	1
Total	**19**

1. Compounding

Compounding is one of the word formation processes that combining of two words to create a new word (Yule, 2014). There were 4 data categorized as this type of word formation. Those are *raincoat, spaceship, casket-fresh, and multi-color.*

a. *Diamonds dripping, better bring your* ***raincoat*** *(Splash)* (line 11)

Based on the data above, the word ***raincoat*** is a slang word in the process of compounding. It is from the combination of two words which are ***rain + coat. Raincoat*** means a coat worn as rain protection. The type of meaning of the word ***rai/ncoat*** is denotative meaning. Meaning without additional connotations or values is referred to as denotative meaning (Saifuddin, 2018). It can be defined as the actual term and do not have a special meaning. The word ***raincoat*** has been written in the dictionary.

b. *I might pull up in a* ***spaceship*** (line 14)

The next word which is categorized as compounding is ***spaceship.*** The process of producing this word is by combining two words which are ***space + ship.*** The word ***spaceship*** means a vehicle for planetary travel.

c. *Hopping out* ***casket-fresh,*** *looking like a fashion show (Ayy)* (line 40)

The third words which is categorized as compounding is ***casket-fresh.*** The process of creating this word is by combining two words which are ***casket + fresh.*** This kind of word has a connotative meaning. According to Matindas et al., (2020); Gigir and Inda (2009) stated that the implicit meaning of words, sentences, and phrases can be defined as connotative meaning. In other words, ***casket-fresh*** means wealthy people are buried with their jewelry inside of the coffin or casket.

d. ***Multi-color*** *diamonds like a rainbow (Yeah, yeah, yeah)* (line 67)

The last word which is categorized as compounding is ***multi-color.*** The process to produce this word is by combining two words which are ***multi + color.*** The word ***multi*** means more than one or many. So, ***multi-color*** means that the diamonds are refracted by a light and looks like it has many colors.

2. Conversion

Conversion is the second word formation process which is the researcher found in the song lyrics. According to Yule (2014), a change in a word's function, such as when a noun starts to be placed as a verb (without any reduction), is typically referred to as conversion. In the NCT 127 song lyrics titled "Regular English Version", the researcher found only one word which is categorized as conversion.

Iced out *both my wrists, now I can barely see the time* (line 22)

The word ***Iced*** basically comes from the word **'Ice'** which the function as a noun in the sentence. In the song lyrics line 22, the word ***Iced*** has changed its function from noun becomes verb. ***Iced out*** means richly decorated with jewelry made of valuable metals and stones on the wrists.

3. Blending

Blending is defined as a combination of two or more words to create a new one, usually by taking the beginning of other word and the end of the other one (Yule, 2014). In the term of blending process, it is found out that there is only 1 slang word identified in lyrics of NCT 127 song titled "Regular English Version".

Know you ***wanna*** *roll with me* (line 4)

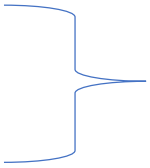
This systematic process of word formation ***wanna*** which comes from the word ***want to.*** Therefore, ***Want*** is a complete word of ***wan,*** while the ***to*** experiences changes becoming ***na.***

4. Abbreviation

According to Magria et al. (2021), Abbreviations are formed of capital letters and are created by combining the first letters of several other words but it is not pronounced as a new word. This is totally different from acronym which formed by combining the first letter of words then it is pronounces as a new word. In the term of abbreviation process, the researcher found only 1 data which is classified as this type of word formation process.

VVS *my diamonds, I don't need no light to shine* (line 21)

Very



Very ***VVS*** → Abbreviation

Slightly Included

The term ***VVS*** is often used as a a measurement of a diamond's clarity that describes how it appears visually, including any internal inclusions or external flaws. This kind of diamond is considered as the most expensive and valuable. In the NCT 127 song lyrics, it represents that they have high and good quality, classy, and no need a validation to be a famous person.

5. Clipping

According to Yule (2014), The clipping procedure makes the reduction component that is noticeable in blending much more obvious. This happens when a word with more than one syllable, such as facsimile, gets changed into a shorter form, such as fax. In the term of clipping, the researcher found 4 data which is categorized as this type of word formation process.

Table 2. Clipping

Slang word	Meaning
*Haters **gon'** be mad* (Line 9)	Gonna (going to)
***'Cause** I need a bag on the regular* (Line 24)	Because
*I am too rich to compete, so don't compare **'em** to me* (yeah, yeah) (Line 34)	Them
*Yeah, yeah, **drippin'** water faucet, splash* (Line 54)	Dripping

Those slangs are often found when we are listening to native speakers who speak casually without pronouncing each word then it sounds like ***gon', 'em, 'cause, drippin'.***

6. Borrowing

According to Yule (2014), borrowing is term from other languages are being adopted. Based on data collection, the researcher had found 1 word which is defined as this type of word formation process.

*Dripping, water **faucet**, splash (Splash)* (line 20)

The word ***faucet*** is adopted from two languages. The first one is from Middle English, ***Fawcett.*** Second is from Old French word which is ***fausset. Faucet*** refers to a tap or a device for controlling the flow of liquid or gas from a pipe or container.

7. Onomatopoeia

Onomatopoeia comes from Greek words, namely *onomo* and *poeieo, Onomo* is defined as name, while *poeieo* is defined as making. According to Leonardi (2013) in Chang et al. (2018), onomatopoeia is a word whose phonetic structure imitates a natural sound to express the sound or motion of the object that made it. The researcher had found 2 words in the NCT 127 song lyrics that represent this type of word formation process.

Dripping, water faucet, ***splash (Splash)*** (line 20)

Let's get ***bounce*** (line 71)

Splash refers to a sound produced when something hits something or drops into liquid. Meanwhile ***bounce*** refers to an object especially a ball hits a surface, it moves fast up, back, or away from it then rebounded (once or repeatedly).

8. Cliticization

According to Rizki & Marlina (2018), clitics are the parts of a word that need to be attached to another word since they are no longer syllabic. A word was categorized as clitics as long as such components couldn't stand alone. The researcher found 4 data which are classified into cliticization.

Table 3 Cliticization

Cliticization	Meaning
…. I ***don't*** *need no light to shine* (Oh) (line 54)	Do not
Yeah, this ***isn't*** *real, ….* (line 70)	Is not
…. Let's *get bounce* (line 71)	Let us
I just made a million and ***I'm*** *still not satisfied* (line 23)	I am

In this case, those cliticization that has been mentioned on the table above occur in the end of word. This type of cliticization called as enclitic. The term "enclitic" refers to a clitic that is connected to the end of a word and follows its host (Setiani & Kuning, 2022).

9. Coinage

The last word formation process that the researcher found in the NCT 127 song lyrics titled "Regular English Version" is coinage. According to Yule (2014), coinage refers to the invention of new terminology and its popularization. According to Faradisa et al. (2019); Delahunty and Garvey (2010), coinage is the process of creating a term from a brand or product name. This problem is particularly common when a company needs to come up with a unique name for a product. The researcher found only 1 word which represents this type of word formation.

On the way to ***Mars****, ….* (line 48)

The word ***Mars*** was invented in 1610 by Galileo Galilei. Due to its red color, it was given the name of the Roman god of war. ***Mars*** also refers to the fourth closest planet from the sun in solar system. It is also lies between Earth and Jupiter.

CONCLUSION

From what has been stated above, it can be concluded that the researcher found 19 data that categorized in 9 types of word formation process in NCT 127 song titled "Regular English Version". Those 9 types of word formation processes are compounding (raincoat, spaceship, casket-fresh, multi-color), conversion (iced out), blending (wanna), abbreviation (VVS), clipping (gon', 'em, 'cause, drippin'), borrowing (faucet), onomatopoeia (splash, bounce), cliticization (don't, isn't, let's, I'm), and coinage (Mars).

From this research, the researcher expects to help the listener to understand the meaning of slang words in the NCT 127 song titled "Regular English Version". For further study, the researcher suggests to conduct the same study with different sample of study in popular social media nowadays such as Twitter, TikTok, Instagram. The researcher also suggests for the next study to give more information about word formation process clearly.

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