

SOCIOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF SLANG USED BY THE CHARACTERS IN STEP UP 2 THE STREETS MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to know the function of the usage of slangs that used by the characters in Step Up 2 The Streets movie. The method of this research was descriptive qualitative. The data were collected through documentation of utterances that contains slang words. The result of this analysis shows that; 1) there are 14 properties used in the movie: 'Color', 'Efficiency', 'Group-Restriction', 'Informality', 'Subject-Restriction', 'Orality', 'Musicality', 'Aggressiveness', 'Unconventionality', 'Offensiveness', 'Desire to Impress', 'Hybridism', 'Localism', 'Secrecy'. (2) The most frequent of sociological properties is 'colour'. (3) The purposes of using slang are to enrich the language, to induce friendliness or intimacy, to prove that someone did not belong to a certain society, and to be secret.

Keywords: *Sociolinguistic, Slang, Sociological Properties, Purposes*

Sari

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui fungsi penggunaan bahasa slang yang digunakan oleh para pemeran film 'Step Up 2 The Streets'. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui proses dokumentasi ujaran yang mengandung kata slang. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah (1) ada 14 properti yang digunakan dalam film, yaitu: 'Color', 'Efficiency', 'Group-Restriction', 'Informality', 'Subject-Restriction', 'Orality', 'Musicality', 'Aggressiveness', 'Unconventionality', 'offensiveness', 'Desire to Impress', 'Hybridism', 'Localism', 'Secrecy (2) Sociological properties yang paling sering digunakan yaitu 'color', (3) Tujuan penggunaan 'slang' yaitu untuk memperkaya bahasa, untuk menjalin keintiman or keharmonisan, untuk membuktikan bahwa seseorang tidak semestinya berada di suatu lingkungan tertentu, dan rahasia.

Kata Kunci: *Sosiolinguistik, Slang, Sociological Properties, Tujuan*

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Introduction

In social life, people should build the interaction between them in order to get the information. In interaction, language is the most crucial thing as the tool to communicate. Communication is that the method of giving and receiving the message at intervals 2 or a lot of folks. extremely development of exploitation of language that emerged sorts of languages is caused by the region, surroundings, sex, occupation and age. According to Coulmas in Orton (2007, p.34), language variation in space forms the subject matter of linguistic geography, which itself includes traditional dialectology. Language variation in time forms the subject matter of historical linguistics. The main advances in recent years, however, have been in the more obviously “human” dimensions of variation, that is, in social variation in language.

Some people used the language in many ways, like as orally and written language. It is as media of human expression or feeling. In communication process, each one has different ways to speak as formal and informal. Based on that kind of informal ambience, then it is called by slang. Based on Sohn (2006a, p.18) “Slang can be defined as a variation of a language or vocabulary used by members of a particular group for ease of expression, usually devised with the intent of restricting understanding to members of the group”. According to Stolt (2010, p.4) mentioned that “Slang is a characteristic for informal situations and is a peculiarity of spoken language, but not every colloquial expression is slang”. Slang often occurs in an informal situation such as college students talk with their friends, probably slang often involves in this situation, in fact, slang does not always occur within a conversation, depends on their environment.

Slang appeared in the twentieth century and firstly used by criminal classes and black communities in London. Criminal classes used slang as a secret, whereas the black communities used slang as a protest to the white community who become the majority. Day by days, as the development of language in society slang is not only used by black

communities but also white communities used slang as their spoken language especially in American communities.

In a study of the sociological approach according to Mattiello (2008, p.32), she mentioned “Slang is a sociocultural practice that speakers privilege is for such social purposes as being on the same speech-level with one’s audience facilitating social intercourse, and inducing friendliness or intimacy”. In social aspect, usually slang language use in one community or region as same as the speaker and hearer degree of formality in order to build a close relationship or to avoid to be neglected by the others.

In this case, slang is often used by the teenagers in a community by using unusual language to communicate in an informal situation. Teenagers use slang language for communication to the others in making a friendship that heard from their friend. According to Migut (2010, p.41) who defines some types of slang such as War, slang, criminal slang, urban slang, internet slang, prison slang, political slang, Afro American slang, vice slang, SMS slang, sex slang. Through Miguts’ explanation slang is much wider and there are many kinds of slang. Slang is not only used in a social group in a region, but also slang is used in different context. Such as internet slang, in fact, people use the internet are not the same as they communicate with the people around the world, much people should be used the internet at the present. Zhou (2013, pp.2209-2210) mentioned “Slang cannot be distinguished on the basis of its formal or grammatical features”.

The writer chooses to Step Up 2 The Streets movie to be analyzed because it is related to the topic of this paper that discussed slang language. The main characters in this movie are teenagers which are using slang language in their spoken. The writer is interested in investigating the social aspects of slang and its function that appear of slang usage in this movie. Therefore the writer digs more information about this study then presented through this paper. Step Up 2 The Streets movie, this film was released on July 15 2008. This film tells about the community of street dancer in America. The member of the community are the teenagers who often use slang language as their spoken language. As the writer had mentioned previously, at the previous paragraph

above, teenagers tend to use slang more in communication. The purposes are same those are to be accepted in a group, to associate with other, to describe a condition that cannot be described by standard English.

Based on statement above, the purposes of research is to know Sociological Properties of Slang Language Used by The Characters in Step Up 2 The Streets Movie.

Research Method

The writer used descriptive qualitative research using content analysis. The writer conducted the data analysis by enriching the information, looking for relationships, comparing and finding the pattern on the basis of the original data. The results of data analysis are presented in the form of a narrative description. Validity technique of data i.e. choosing and watching the movie, collecting the utterance that has slang words, analyzing and classifying the sociological properties based on theory, the writer confirmed the data with the experts who competent according the research object.

Finding and Discussion

Sociological means, the social factor that influences language usage especially slang. To define the properties that are used, the writer defines the appropriate meaning of slang, analysis the characteristic of slang in the dialogues. The writer uses Mattiello's theory about sociological properties as a source of this analysis. In Mattiello's theory, there are 31 sociological properties it also shows that the sociological properties may be classified in relation in either the speaker or the hearer. The properties of slang below are classified into speaker and hearer oriented that find in the dialogues, following:

Table 1. Speaker and Hearer Orientation

Slang	
Speaker Oriented	Hearer Oriented
Group Restriction	Color
Informality	Musicality
Localism	Aggressiveness
Subject Restriction	Offensiveness
Secrecy	Desire to Impress

From that explanation, the writer associates slang with the most appropriate sociological properties of slang. Based on the analysis the writer finds 14 properties of slang used in

Step Up 2 The Streets movie which are the properties and the forms of slang will be presented in the next followings.

1. Hybridism

Data 1: Aye

Missy: "Aye, why it gotta be me?" Andie: "Cause you are the youngest"
Duration 00:04:46,319 --> 00:04:48,310

One of the characteristics of slang is that some foreign language may occur in its vocabulary. The term Aye means (hello), it is the Scottish way of saying yes, it indicates that aye is kind of foreign language that occurs within the dialogue between teenager. The term Aye relates to "Hybridism Properties" of the sociological feature.

Data 2: Telemundo

Missy : [speaking Spanish] Felicia: "Girl, stop slinging that Spanish at me, Telemundo"
Duration 00:04:54,026 --> 00:04:57,189

Telemundo is an unfamiliar term, that is used by the speaker, it is the expression that describes someone who speaks Spanish. This term is one of a foreign language, that is associated with "Hybridism" of sociological properties of slang

2. Group-Restriction

Data 1: Man

Tuck: "Yo, the four-one-oh killed again, man" (Laughing)
Duration 00:04:20,059 --> 00:04:22,493

The man has originally meaning (male friends), it used as someone relation with other in a group. It also identifies people of a common age and experience. This word is categorized as "Group-Restriction" properties of a sociological feature.

Data 2: Guys

Chase: "Guys, come on. This is one performance. You can let it get you down"
Andie: "We didn't work this hard to give up"

Duration 00:48:16,990 --> 00:48:17,091

Guys is a general form of address it can be used to men or women in the mixed group. It indicates the speaker is a member of a particular group and it relates with "Group-Restriction" properties of sociological properties.

Data 3: son

Felicia: "That was sick, son" Andie: "Thank you very much I'm a genius"

Duration 00:04:22,562 --> 00:04:23,722

Son is the expression for the closest friend. This expression occurs in conversation among the member of a group that indicates the speaker is a part of a particular group. It refers to the speaker oriented which is the most appropriate properties used is "Group-restriction".

3. Desire to impress

Data 1: Gotcha

Tuck: "Gotcha!" Andie: "Oh, Jesus. Tuck!"

Duration 00:05:00,099 --> 00:05:01,862

Slang deliberately used by the speaker to impress or shock others, Gotcha means (got you) is used by the speaker to shock others. This expression includes in "Desire to Impress" properties of a sociological feature.

4. Secrecy

Data 1: Piece of cake

Tyler: "Piece of cake" Andie: "No way"

Duration 00:14:18,189 --> 00:14:21,352

A piece of cake is another way to say something that very easy to do. This term defines as "Secrecy properties" of sociological properties because both of characters above want to hide their conversation from other.

Data 2: Spot

Andie: “Yo, we gonna get some serious YouTube play, son” Felicia: “Come on, let's go. We gotta get to the spot”

Duration 00:04:33,039 --> 00:04:35,030

Spot means an apartment, building or particular place, based on the situation above the speaker tries to hide their conversation from the people around. It should be recognized by the member of the group itself where is the place mean. This term refers to “Secrecy” of sociological properties of slang, which is only the member of the group who knows where it means.

5. Aggressiveness

Data 1: Homeboy

Tuck: “Why don’t you show us now, homeboy” Kido: “All right lets go”

Duration 00:45:41,669 --> 00:45:43,762

Homeboy is the expression of someone who dislike another, homeboy like a mamas’ boy who never comes out. It is used by the speaker to mock the hearer as his distaste. It is categorized in the sociolinguistic feature as “Aggressiveness” of sociological properties.

Data 2: Out of luck

Tuck: ”You’re out of luck! Now go home leave” Missy: “That’s mad wack B”

Duration 01:21:41,391 --> 01:21:45,122

Out of luck means that someone is not having a chance for success. It used as speaker expression who dislike of someone from outside his group. This is categorized as the “Aggressiveness properties”.

6. Colour

Data 1: chill out

Andie: “I don’t even need to explain this. I’m out” Tayler: “Whoa, whoa, whoa come on chill out”

Duration 00:09:38,443 --> 00:09:40,468

Chill out means to be calm down, slang has a tendency to be colourful to make speech more interesting in interaction with other. In order to get the interlocutor's attention, the speaker made some words to be more colourful and to make the situation better. The writer argues, that this term refers to "Color Properties" of the sociological feature.

Data 2: Kicked out

Andie: "I got kicked out of my crew" Chase: "What for?"

Duration 00:38:56,064 --> 00:38:58,965

Kicked out or dishonourable discharge is the expression of the speaker to get hearer attention. By using extraordinary language, the hearer will be interested more in the topic. Sociolinguistic feature in this term is defined as "Color" of sociological properties.

Data 3: Check it out

Chase: "You guys, listen up. Check it out" All : (notice)

Duration 00:41:07,695 --> 00:41:09,560

Check it out means, it used by the speaker to attract people attention with colour full words. As Mattiello's theory that slang has a tendency to be colour full and interesting, this term including "Color of sociological properties".

7. Subject-Restriction

Data 1: Gig

Tuck: "Yo, we got this gig at the dragon coming up" All : (notice)

Duration 00:18:44,822 --> 00:18:46,847

A live performance either musical, theatrical or physical called gig, it describes as the activity of a group. This slang may be unfamiliar for people from outside, it only recognizes by the member of a group. "Subject-Restriction" is the most appropriate properties for this word, as Mattiello's statement that sometimes slang describes as the vocabulary of some activity in a society which makes slang peculiar to a set of people who are identified by the specialized terms they use among group members.

Data 2: DJ

Tuck: “Hey, yo. DJ Sand! Drop that beat homey” DJ Sand: “Lets clear the dance floor, see what they are talking about

Duration 00:45:50,811 --> 00:45:53,974

DJ is the abbreviation of Disc Jockey, in the sociolinguistic feature, it defines as “Subject-Restriction” of sociological properties. In Mattiello’s theory, slang is sometimes described as the vocabulary of some profession or occupation, e.g. a Disc Jockey is someone’s profession to play music.

8. Efficiency

Data 1: Jam Session

Andie: “When I was a little, my mom took me to watch a jam session”
(narration)

Duration 00:00:52,952 --> 00:00:55,512

On the dialogue above, the speaker is explaining about her childhood memory that her mother often took her to watch a Jam Session, it means a gathering of musicians, especially jazz musician playing freely in a public performance. The speaker tries to explain that activity in a simple way, this is characterized as the “Efficiency” of sociological properties which is the reason for using slang is to be brief and concise.

Data 2: Texting

Felicia: “Where have you been? I have been texting you all day” Andie: “I know, I am sorry, the school thing is crazy”

Duration 00:29:34,270 --> 00:29:36,670

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Texting is the act to send a message by cellular phone. As Mattiello’s explanation in Patridge, numerous slang is to be brief and concise. Word of texting makes the conversation more concise and to help the efficiency in the talk. This word includes in “Efficiency Properties” of the sociological feature.

Data 3: Freestyle

Andie: “Why don’t you dance here?” Moose: “I can freestyle all right, right?”

Duration 00:33:44,720 --> 00:33:46,847

Freestyle means the term for a form hip-hop dance that borrows from many styles of dance in and outside of hip-hop. It includes in “Efficiency” of sociological properties

because the message delivered by the speaker is brief and concise but it still understood by the hearer.

10. Localism

Data 1: Dang

Man: "Oh dang! Relax, relax. That's my computer man" All : (Exclaiming)
Duration 00:52:46,593 --> 00:52:47,617

Dang is a euphemized of damn mostly used by Southerners and Mormons. The characteristic of this word is not found in hearer oriented, Dang, include in speaker oriented that speaker characterized as an individual who comes from the specific regional area. Dang defined it as "Localism" properties mean that slang in many regions is different, although they share English as their common language.

Data 2: Gosh

[hip hop song plays on ringtone] Moose: "It's my mom" Andie: "Oh, my gosh!!"
Duration 00:32:31,113 --> 00:32:34,480

Gosh is the surprising exclamation of the speaker. There is not evidence about the speaker nationality but this term may include as "Localism" sociological properties of slang because of this expression associate with Britain slang.

11. Musicality

Data 1: whatcha gonna do

DJ Sand: "She punched on you, whatcha gonna do?" All : (book)
Duration 00:12:20,505 --> 00:12:22,496

Normally teenager uses the term whatcha gonna do only when speaking fast and casually with their friends. For example, whatcha is the short form of (what are you) and gonna is a short form of (going to). If it said them very fast, without carefully pronouncing of each word's pronunciation. It can be heard whatcha gonna do. This term refers to "Musicality" of sociological properties which is slang tends to play with sound.

Data 2: Holy hell

Felicia: "Holy hell. I cannot believe you're about to do this" Andie: "Well, it is this or Texas, so... take your pick"

Duration 00:15:06,537 --> 00:15:11,497

Holy hell is the expression of someone feeling disbelief about something. The writer assumes this term refers to hearer-oriented which is the speaker of this movie tries to attract the attention of the interlocutor. The most appropriate properties of this slang are "Musicality" which tends to play with sound.

12. Orality

Data 1: Yeah

Taylor: "Maryland School of The Arts" Andie: "Yeah, I know what it is"

Duration 00:09:47,685 --> 00:09:50,245

Yeah, means yes, is the expression that often used as everyday conversation. This is the type of "Orality" of sociological properties. It occurs within the conversation between two people in an informal situation and this term is never used in formal written language.

Data 2: Geez

Andie: "Oh, geez!" Chase : (laughing)

Duration 01:00:28,420 --> 01:00:30,752

Geez is the exclamation of surprise. This expression is associated with spoken language. The writer defines that the most appropriate of sociological properties used is "Orality".

Data 3: Gosh

[hip hop song plays on ringtone] Moose: "It's my mom" Andie: "Oh, my gosh!!"

Duration 00:32:31,113 --> 00:32:34,480

Gosh used as an expression surprise of the speaker. Based on the situation of the dialogue it refers to "Orality" of sociological properties. But it will be different if the speaker is a Britain. This form includes in "Localism" of sociological of slang because

Gosh is an expression of British slang, but there is no evidence about the nationality of the speaker in this movie.

13. Informality

Data 1: Big deal

Sarah: “You realized you could have been arrested?” Andie: “It was’t a big deal. You have no idea”

Duration 00:06:40,933 --> 00:06:43,094

The expression of Big Deal means that something anything that is very important. The second speaker above viewed as someone who has the desire to soften seriousness, which is the first speaker talk something important to the second speaker. The condition above tends to show the “Informally” properties of a sociological feature.

Data 2: Whatever

Tyler: “I’m just trying to look out for you” Andie: “Yeah, whatever”

Duration 00:13:35,113 --> 00:13:37,775

Whatever means that the speaker does not care about the topic of the conversation. The speaker tends to soften the seriousness of the conversation. It refers to the “Informal” of sociological properties of slang.

14. Offensiveness

Data 3: Fish

Tuck: “Hey, yo, DJ Sand! drop that beat, homey. Looks like we've got new fish in town” DJ Sand: “Let's clear the dance floor. See what they talking about”

Duration 00:45:51,849 --> 00:45:54,010

Fish is the expression of the speaker as disrespect for other people by impolite appellations. In this case, Fish means a stupid or inept person. This term describe as “Offensive” of sociological properties of slang which is many of sexist slang word refer to male or female as animals.

15. Unconventionality

Data 1: Benjamin

DJ Sand: "What's poppin'? I'm the man, DJ Sand. Tonight it's all about the Benjamins, baby" (playing music)

Duration 00:08:04,283 --> 00:08:07,377

The term Benjamin means money, which is this term defines as an unusual slang expression. This term describes as "Unconventionality" of sociological properties of slang that refers to speaker oriented in order to release the speaker from monotony or neutral style.

Based on the data above, the writer summarizes some characters of Step Up 2 The Street Movie that frequently involved the terms of slangs in their spoken language in their daily life. The characters are the followings.

1. Andie is an American girl. She is included in a dancer community in New York. In interaction, she often uses some terms of slang such as jam session (a gathering of musicians), cheesy (not real), big deal (anything very important), kicked out (dishonourable discharge), gosh (surprising exclamation) etc. Those are some terms of slang that used by Andie Step Up 2 The Street movie.
2. Missy, the same as Andie, Missy also one of the members of a street dancer in New York, she is an American girl but in the dialogue, the writer finds a foreign word that used by her as her expression as the affirmative of something. The word is aye (the expression of saying yes), the word of aye is the expression of saying yes in Scotland, therefore foreign language may occur in its vocabulary.
3. Tayler is Andie's brother. Sometimes people need to adapt to communication with other by understood or even used unfamiliar words, in this case, Tayler used some slang words in other to get closer his younger sister Andie. Some terms of slang used are chill out (calm down), a piece of cake (something very easy to do) etc.
4. Tuck is a black American that leads the dancer community in New York, as the writer knows that the black community related with the published of slang. Slang begins to recognize and use by public since black community use it as a secret. The dialogues of Tuck that include terms of slang are man (Friends), gotcha (got you),

homeboy (the expression of dislike), out of luck (not having a chance for success), gig (a live performance), homey (someone who never goes out) etc.

5. Felicia is one of the members of a community of street dancer in New York, in interaction with friends, she also used some terms of slang such as texting (send a message by cellular phone), holy hell (expression of disbelieving of something), Telemundo (expression of Spanish) etc.

Through those features of sociological properties mentioned above, the slang usage has a certain background in its use. Every single word has different properties and certainly, it depends on the situation, the purposes, language variant and established time. Slang is a typical spoken, informal side of human interaction, and slang words are restricted in their social status and geographical distribution (Brown & de Klerk, 2006). The different opinion that said slang is an ever-changing set of colloquial words and phrases that speakers use to establish or reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large (Brown & Eble, 2006). The use of slang is offered as a major index and signal of alienation and solidarity, remarkable in that the same locution can signal both in the same situation. The development of studies of slang will contribute substantively as a significant component of linguistic and social behaviour and methodologically as a basis for integrating the study of language and society into a unified theoretical framework (Drake, 1980).

Conclusion and Recommendation

Slang is associated with many sociological properties, which has varied functions There are 31 sociological properties mentioned by Mattiello, and the properties are reported only 14 properties include. There are 1.) 'Color' properties; as hearer oriented in order to get his/her attention. 2.) 'Orality'; associated with spoken language and never used in formal written language. 3.) 'Efficiency'; to deliver the message in a simple way. 4.) 'Musicality'; slang as hearer oriented in order to get hearer attention, the typical tendency of slang is to play with sound. 5.) 'Group Restriction'; as speaker oriented that speaker as a member of a group with same age and experience. 6.) 'Informality'; as speaker oriented in order to soften seriousness. 7.) 'Aggressiveness'; as hearer oriented, express hostility and dislike. 8.) 'Localism'; as speaker oriented, as an individual who

coming from the different region. 9.) 'Subject Restriction'; as speaker oriented that describe the activity, occupation and profession. 10.) 'Hybridism'; as speaker oriented, that slang may use foreign language. 11.) 'Secrecy'; slang is exclusive. 12.) 'Offensiveness'; slang is free natural speech. 13.) 'Desire to impress'; as hearer oriented to shock, arresting other. 14.) 'Unconventionality' of sociological properties.

For the next researcher, this paper is concerns to the topic about sociological properties of slang in general. It is important to take different research slang perspective in sociological properties of 'Ephemeral' and 'Time-Restriction' feature means in a short-lived and ever-changing vocabulary viewed from more specific theories because slang as high rising and innovating on its vocabulary in every generation. It may have different forms in every century, e.g. comparing the changing of the words to meaning in every century.

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Biography

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