

AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG IN NICKI MINAJ'S RAP SONGS "SEEING GREEN" AND "FRACTIONS": A SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY

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Abstract

This research analyzes the slang word types used by Nicki Minaj in her songs "Seeing Green" and "Fractions". Thus, it covers two objectives: the types and meanings of the slang words in the song lyrics. This research study uses a descriptive qualitative method. Therefore, the unit of analysis is words or phrases containing slang. The main instrument of the research is the researcher herself by applying the theory slang types by Allan and Burridge (2006) and the theory kinds of meaning by Leech (1974). The findings of this research show that there are 69 data slang words in Nicki Minaj's songs "Seeing Green" and "Fractions". The analysis findings of the types of slang words show that it can be concluded that the highest data is Imitative with 28 data (40.57%), followed by Fresh and Creative with 18 data (26.08%), and also Flippant with 18 data (26.08%). Besides Flippant, there is Clipping with 4 data (5.79%) and Acronym with 1 data (1.44%). Furthermore, the analysis findings of the meaning types of slang words show that it can be concluded that the highest meaning is Stylistic Meaning with 32 data (46.47%), followed by Reflective Meaning with 19 data 27.53%, Affective Meaning with 14 Data 27.53%, Connotative Meaning with 2 data (2.89%), and followed by Collocative Meaning with 2 data (2.89%). Conceptual meaning and thematic meanings are not found in the songs. Thus, only 5 kinds of meaning are found in Minaj's songs "Seeing Green" and "Fractions".

Keywords/Kata Kunci: *Sociolinguistic, slang, types of slang, kinds of meaning*

INTRODUCTION

Certain communities or social groups use informal language, one of which is slang. Certain groups of people use slang to make their language different from usual. Burke (in Abadi 2010) states that slang includes "secret" words or sentences used in everyday conversations, books, magazines, televisions, movies, or song lyrics. Slang language is not an official language, but an informal one. However, it is widely used for oral communication for many purposes, as many words quickly become outdated because of trends.

Slang is often found in films, short stories, and songs. According to Partridge (1950, p.69), slang language is mainly spoken form, which is used in social milieus and popular media, and to a certain extent, it is used in song lyrics and publications. A song is a combination of music and lyrics. According to Grolier (1977, p.220), a song is a short musical work set in a poetic text with equal importance given to music and words. Each song has its own story to illustrate the story in the song. The composer will choose the right words to represent the feelings and tell the story behind the song. Most of the composers choose to use slang in conveying the message in the song. The phenomenon of slang utilized in nearly all musical genres makes the researcher interested in analyzing slang since people have yet to become familiar with the meaning of slang and how it is used. Defined by Leech and Svartvik (1981), "slang is language which is very familiar in style, and it is usually restricted to the members of a particular social group". In this research, the researcher showed the importance of languages in globalization and lifestyle.

Rap music lyrics mostly have vulgar meanings, which are different from other genres. However, there are more similarities and differences between them. For example, Minaj's songs talk about human activity or, more broadly, her lyrics talk about life, especially in the circle of American Artists. In those her songs, the sentence structure and word choice push forward imaginative quality and follow the reality of life. This rap music mainly uses non-standard English,

which tends to be vulgar and lazy and is often called bad or wrong. In most cases, some words in the text are slang. Many slang terms refer to what people feel. Therefore, the researcher provides two problems to be investigated. The problems aims to seek the slang type and their meaning found in the lyrics of Minaj's songs "Seeing Green" and "Fractions"?

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive qualitative describes types and meanings found in Minaj's songs "Seeing Green" and "Fractions". Moleong (2007) defines "descriptive qualitative is a research method intended to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by its research subject, such as character, perception, motivation, action, etc." The purpose of qualitative research is to explain a phenomenon as deeply as possible by collecting the deepest data, which shows the importance of depth and detail of the data being studied. The researcher applied the method to this research because it was suitable to analyze, describe, collect and identify the types of slang words. The researcher investigates the song lyrics in Minaj's selected songs "Seeing Green" and "Fractions" that contain slang. The researcher collects the data in each song lyric containing slang and books, journals, and online articles used as reference materials.

The data are Minaj's song "Seeing Green" (feat. Drake and Lil Wayne), produced by GOVI & Kid Masterpiece, and "Fractions", produced by YG! Beats & Tate Kobang. These re-released songs entered the Billboard Hot 100 list on 29 May 2021, peaking at 12th and 52nd respectively. The lyrics were the primary data containing slang, including the verse by two rappers, Drake and Wayne, who collaborate with Minaj in the song "Seeing Green". Those songs talk about life, especially wealth, career struggles, self-strength, and skills and achievements associated with human life. Therefore, the researcher will analyze the meaning and types of slang in these songs.

The data in this research are in the form of words. Therefore, the unit of analysis is utterances, words or phrases containing slang. This research analyzed the use of slang words in song lyrics based on the understanding meaning of the songs. To compile the data, the researcher read the song lyrics from Minaj containing slang suitable for the data research. The data in this research were in the form of words and phrases found in the songs related to types of slang. After the data is taken, the researcher will analyze the slang words in the song lyrics. The researcher focused on the type of slang and the meaning of slang found in the lyrics of Minaj's songs.

The steps in collecting data are taking the song lyrics from the Genius website (www.genius.com). After marking the word or phrase containing slang, the next is classifying the types and the meaning of slang. Moreover, data display is applied in analyzing the data. The steps are described as follows, the researcher puts the data into the datasheet table and classifies slang into types of slang using Allan and Burridge's theory (2006). After that, the researcher analyzed the meaning using Leech's theory (1974) that states meaning can be divided into 7 categories.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Slang Types in Nicky Minaj's Songs

There are five types of slang found in the lyrics of the songs. They are Fresh and Creative, Flippant, Imitative, Acronym, and Clipping.

Table 1. Types of Slang

No.	Types of Slang	Frequency
1	Imitative	28
2	Flippant	18
3	Fresh and Creative	18
4	Clipping	4
5	Acronym	1

The table shows that the highest data is Imitative with 28 data (40.57%), followed by Fresh and Creative with 18 data (26.08%), and also Flippant with 18 data (26.08%). Besides Flippant, there is Clipping with 4 data (5.79%), and followed by the lowest data found in the songs is Acronym with 1 data (1.44%). The most frequent type of slang found in the lyrics is Imitative. Imitative is a form of slang that imitates other words or combinations of two words that result in different meanings. It means that slang is derived from Standard English words. It uses Standard English words with different meanings or combines two different words. An Imitative "I'ma" is found in "Seeing Green".

"I'ma" is a shortened of "I'm gonna" or shortened of "I am going to" and "I am a". It is categorized as imitative because "I'ma" comes from "I'm gonna" ("gonna" = "going to") or "I am a", and it is shortened again. It means that this slang word has been imitated into another word for the new term. In the lines "I'm smokin' tarantula (Yeah) / Bae gave it to me (Hmm) / You dig? Yeah, hold up, hm / **I'ma** pull up so lit", Wayne is trying to say that he is smoking a cigarette, namely tarantula made by marijuana, he said that it is from his girlfriend, and said "you dig? Yeah, hold up," which it means "you get it? Wait!" Directly, he said "I'ma pull up so lit". He said that he pulled up the cigarette in an awesome way. The use of the term "I'ma" is related to the background of the rapper as African American, which is their English has its characteristics that make it different from Standard English, it is known as African American Vernacular English (AAVE), the grammatical deviation is one of the differences presented in AAVE characteristics.

The second most occurring slang types are Fresh and Creative as well as Flippant. Fresh and Creative refers to new words with a different form from the original but still have the same meaning or reference. An example of Fresh and Creative is "Bae" in "Seeing Green". In the lines "I'm smokin' Tarantula. / **Bae** gave it to me." Wayne says that he is smoking a cigarette made of marijuana from a brand called Tarantula. Directly, he says that it was given by his girlfriend. It is categorized as Fresh and Creative because "bae" is a shortened version of "baby" or "babe". It is a term of endearment primarily used to call a significant other or a close friend among African-American youth.

Besides Fresh and Creative, Flippant is also found in Minaj's songs. The slang is formed with two or more terms. The written term does not refer to a denotative meaning. One example is "makin' money" in "Seeing Green". The phrase means earning money, not literally producing money. It falls into the category of Flippant because it comes from a combination of two words, "making" and "money", that does not mean denotatively. In the lines, "You know, one of the perils of **makin' money** is / You can afford to be dramatic", Drake says that one of the dangers of earning money is that people can do anything they want. In addition, the gerund "making" is turned into "makin'", which is a characteristic of African-American Vernacular English (AAVE).

Another slang type found in the songs is Clipping, which means that a word is shortened by removing its parts, but its meaning is the same. "Opp" in "Seeing Green" is an instance. It is a syllable in the word "opposition", meaning people who compete against one another. Originating in Chicago, the slang is commonly used in rap. In the line "No one bitch could be my **opp**", Minaj says other women are below her league. It is usually used when the rapper trying to match the lyric with the beat. Similar to Flippant, the shortening of the word in Clipping possesses an AAVE characteristic.

The least occurring slang type is Acronym, which is formed from the first letters of each word put together. An Acronym, G.O.A.T., is found in the "Seeing Green". It is short for Greatest of All Time. It is categorized as Acronym because it is formed from the first letter of each word. In the line "The K-I-N-G, the **G.O.A.T.**, plus me, the Queen. / I send shots, send 'em back or flee the scene", "G.O.A.T." is a kind of term that commonly used in sports when referring to players who are widely considered the most talented. Minaj declares that her lover is the best man compared to other men. Acronym is used commonly in the hip-hop scene as they can fit better into the rhyme.

Kinds of Meaning found in Nicki Minaj's Songs

Out of the 7 kinds, there are only 5 kinds of meaning from the slangs found in Minaj's song "Seeing Green" and "Fractions".

Table 2. Kinds of Meaning

No.	Types of Slang	Frequency
1	Stylistic Meaning	32
2	Reflective Meaning	19
3	Affective Meaning	14
4	Connotative Meaning	2
5	Collocative Meaning	2
6	Thematic Meaning	0
7	Conceptual Meaning	0

Table 2 shows that the highest meaning is Stylistic Meaning with 32 data (46.47%), and followed by Reflective Meaning with 19 data 27.53%, Affective Meaning with 14 Data 27.53%, Connotative Meaning with 2 data (2.89%), and followed by Collocative Meaning with 2 data (2.89%). Conceptual meaning and thematic meanings are not found in the lyrics.

Stylistic Meaning is the most occurring kind of meaning, which refers to the part of the language that conveys the social context of its use and conveys the social context of language use to establish relationships between people and describe social roles. It is found in the line "The **cash blue**, but I'm still seein' green" in the song "Seeing Green". The phrase "cash blue", which is synonymous "blue money", refers to the USD 100 bill. Looking closely at it, there are blue lines on the top and bottom of the bill. The rapper then shows that even though he has so much money, he is still seeking money. This slang is categorized as having stylistic meaning because it employs another style to talk about money. Besides, the phrase is not globally used, only in the US.

The second most frequent kind of meaning in the slang is Reflective Meaning. It happens when familiarity with one meaning of a word influences the interpretation of another. Increased sensitivity to language in all senses makes it easier to find meaning reflected in poetry. An instance is the line "**No cap**, I'm on them capsules, I done relapsed" in "Seeing Green". It comes from the combination of two words "no" and "cap". The slang "no cap" usually means "not lying". However, in the lyrics, it is used to mean "not using condom" because "cap" is another word for "condom". Therefore, the meaning type of this slang is reflective meaning since it has both denotative and connotative meaning that can cause an ambiguous meaning. Thereon, it will affect the different reactions of sense or meaning by the listener. The slang "no cap" is then intended to convey that she is in an intimate situation with a man. Its use is to convey the sense of the lyric in an implicit way.

Another kind of meaning found from the slang in Minaj's lyrics is Affective Meaning. It is a kind of language that reflects the personal feelings of the speaker or writer including his attitude towards the listener or something that is uttered. An example is "Bitch, we ain't **duckin'** no action" in "Fraction". "Duckin'" is the contraction of "ducking". It means hiding or avoiding someone or something. Minaj is trying to give explanation to the listener or the person that she meant with the rude way. The meaning type of this slang is affective meaning. This slang is categorized as affective meaning because the rapper conveys her attitude toward the listener or the person that she intends to.

The following kind of meaning found in Minaj's songs is Connotative Meaning. It is what people think about two words and find whether it is possible or impossible the word has two different meaning from the denotative meaning. Connotative meaning is a word when it has sense of positive and negative value. One of the instances is "He was a **good cat**" in "Seeing Green". The slang "good cat" comes from combination of two words "good" and "cat", which does not refer to a denotative meaning. It is to avoid awkwardness when men saying other men are handsome or good looking, as in male circle, complimenting seach other's look is uncommon. This slang is categorized to have connotative meaning because the word good cat is not representation its literal meaning but it refers to good looking.

The last kind of meaning found in the slang used in Minaj's songs is Collocative Meaning. It refers to the association of words by common, or customary common occurrences with certain types of words. It can be found in the line "El

Chico luxury, wanna see my **niggas ball** so bad" in "Seeing Green". It comes from combination of two words "nigga" and "ball". The former word is the plural of the word "nigga", which a term of endearment from one African to another, while the latter has connotative meaning. The slang thus refers to an African-American men's testicles. Therefore, it is categorized as having **collocative meaning** because it is specifically for African Americans.

CONCLUSION

There are five types of slang found in Minaj's "Seeing Green" and "Fractions". Imitative is the most frequent type of slang that appeared in Minaj's songs "Seeing Green" and "Fractions". In addition, there are five kinds of meaning found in the songs: Stylistic Meaning, Reflective Meaning, Affective Meaning, Connotative Meaning and Collocative Meaning, while Conceptual meaning and thematic meanings are not found in the songs. Stylistic meaning is the most frequent kind of meaning that appeared in Minaj's songs. The rappers in the songs use Imitative and Stylistic Meaning to convey the lyrics implicitly, which has vulgar or rude sense with stylistic or implicit way. Thus, those lyrics described that they were influenced by their circle or environment as African-American rappers.

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