

SLANG WORDS IN *BIRDS OF PREY* MOVIE

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Abstract

[Slang Words in Birds of Prey Movie] This study aimed to analyze slang words appeared in *Birds of Prey* Movie. This study intended to find the types of slang words used by the main characters in *Birds of Prey* movie and used by the main characters in the movie. This study applied a descriptive qualitative approach. It is categorized as sociolinguistic because this study focuses on social context of social factors in utterances. The data were collected from the utterances of the main characters, Harley, Cass, Roman, Zsasz, Canary, Renee, and Huntress. The researchers utilized Chapman's theory to identify the types of slang words and Holmes's theory to analyze the social context as well as the meaning of the slang words. The result encompasses the type of slang words: primary and secondary slang words. Recommendation and implication are discussed further.

Keywords : Slang words, social context, primary and secondary slang, *Birds of Prey*

1. INTRODUCTION

Slang is an informal or non-standard language used at will, created, and used by people in a specific group. Slang reflects the social background of the people who use it. Slang is changing and updating. Each country has a slang style based on its own language. The famous countries that use slang the most are: United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. These countries are places for everyone for educational purposes and even leisure time. (Ekawati,2018). People can also learn their English is an international language, and we can learn about the culture and even their habits from any source.

The use of slang words can be found in many things, it could be on music, comics, social media, and movie (Latifah, 2017). As the characteristics of slang are spontaneous, unrestricted, and unconstrained by grammatical form, people often imitate the speaking styles and methods of actors and actresses in movies, especially when the characters use informal or irregular slang language.

The focus of this research is a movie about the American crime clown princess "Harley Quinn". *Birds of Prey* movie was used as the data source for this study. *Birds of prey* movie is one of the most popular American movies of 2020. According to IMDB reports, "*Birds of Prey*" won the 2021 Las Vegas Film Critics Association Awards for Best Action Film and Best Action Film Awards, and was selected as the 100 most popular narrative and animated feature films by the Reframe Stamp Awards.

The film mainly explicates a twisted story told by Harley Quinn herself. The Joker breaks up with Harley, and Harley's back becomes a target. Meanwhile, Gotham City's most vicious narcissistic villain, Roman Sionis, and his enthusiastic right-hand man, Zsasz, targeted a young pickpocket named Cass after stealing a valuable diamond. The huge bounty turned the city upside down to find her. Harley, the Huntress, Black Canary and Renee Montoya collided in the road. This unlikely group of four had no choice but to team up to defeat Roman. The characters, especially the protagonist, expressed slang. Therefore, this movie is considered since the movie portrays American people.

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Nowadays, slang used in daily life. Therefore, analyzing slang words contextual meaning could help us avoid misunderstanding especially in informal occasions. In order to design the discussion of the above research, there are two research questions as follows :

1. What types of Slang words are used by the main characters in *Birds of Prey* movie?
2. What is the social background and meaning of the Slang words used in *Birds of Prey* movie?

There are previous studies that are shown in this research, Firstly, Ekawati (2018) in her thesis titled "*Slang Words in Fast and Furious 7 Movie*" She used the theory proposed by Eric Partridge to observe the types of slang in the "Fast and Furious 7" movie. Through this research, she discovered two slang terms used in the "Fast and Furious 7" movie. These are public slang and social slang. Public House Slang is a slang term used by their community, not vulgar, not even cynical or mocking, such as the slang word buddy, which means friend. In addition, social slang is commonly used by society in daily conversations, such as the word gotta for arrival. The meaning of slang in the movie depends on the type of slang used and the background and setting of the characters. She summarized the meaning of slang terms based on the context.

Another study, "Sociolinguistic Research on American Slang" done by Zhou Yanchun (2013) revealed slang from the perspective of sociolinguistics. Zhou explained the characteristics of slang: humorous, simple, novel and steady. Researchers analyzed the factors that affect American language, including personal factors and social factors. The various factors are as follows: gender, occupation and age. Social factors include drug use, homosexuality and rock music. Then, this article focuses on the social functions of American slang. Researchers are interested in analyzing similar studies of slang that like to conduct this research.

By reviewing these studies, we found similarities with this study. Both this research and Liani's research the types of slang words. What makes this research different from Liani is the theory. In Liani's research, she focused on the slang theory proposed by Eric Partridge (1950) and studied the types of slang, the meaning and reason of the main characters using slang, and in this research, She focused on the slang theory proposed by Chapman (2007) and the contextual meaning of slang spoken by the main characters.

However, if this study is compared with Zhou's study, this study contains a broader background, because Zhou only speaks American slang from a sociolinguistic perspective. At the same time, this research aims to analyze slang -depth, focusing on the types and meanings of slang. The similarities between this study and Zhou's are the use of sociolinguistic methods.

Slang

Eble (1996) pointed out "slang is defined as a set of constantly changing spoken words and phrases that are used to build or strengthen social identity, that is, cohesion within a group, or mainly social trends or fashions" Many people use slang in their informal communication, it because most people inclination to be unique or trendy. Slang is limitless, not restricted with any social boundaries. it exists in all cultures and social classes and in all languages, slang expressions are created in the same way as standard speech. Words are used as slang, which may be newly coined words, existing words may acquire new meanings, the narrow meaning of words may be generalized, words may be abbreviated, and even two words may be combined into new forms and new meanings.

Types of Slang

Chapman (2007) stated that slang can be classified into primary and secondary slang. Those are :

1. Primary Slang

Chapman (1988) stated “primary slang is general slang. It can be easily detected by contrast. Their characteristics are often rich, complex, and powerful” It used to express their feeling on their daily conversation. Chapman (1988) told that the specialized social vocabulary of subcultures primary slang. The suitable example to describe primary slang is teenage talk and the speech of urban street gangs, such as:

1. Baby : to call a girl or women (Chapman, 1988)
2. Dude : to call a man (Chapman, 1988)
3. Fuck : to do the sex (Chapman, 1988)

In conclusion, Primary slang is a general expression which not related to someone’s attitude or secret used by English people on their daily communication.

2. Secondary Slang

As opposed to primary slang, Secondary slang related to someone’s attitude or secret. The use of secondary slang is not so much to indicate a person’s role in a group, but to express one’s attitude and tact by temporarily pretending to be among street gangs, criminals, gamblers, or professional football players, thereby expressing one’s attitude towards someone. Human contempt borrows someone’s words to dress up, superior, and intelligent.

Secondary slang is a matter of style choice, not true identity. This slang is the meaning of those words. Secondary slang is also considered to be a word used to express something in a secret way, limiting only those who understand the meaning of the word. Most slang words are metaphorical and cannot be found directly through their literary meaning. Here are the examples of secondary slang :

1. Coke : cocaine (Chapman, 1988)
2. Pot : marijuana (Chapman, 1988)
3. Goddamn : a swear word or angry (Chapman, 1988)

Summarily, slang is used by a group of its own creators in its primary and natural contexts.

Nowadays, with the dynamically changes of trend and ease of modern technology and communication, Slang is possibly become general for everyone, not only for particular individuals or groups.

Social Factors

Holmes (2013) stated “there are social factors as basic components in sociolinguistics. She claims that there are some reasons that influence people on using slang words as well as the aims why people do not speak with the same style all time” There are four statements of social factors based on Holmes’ theory, those are: participants, setting, topic, and function of interaction. Majority of social factors are the basic elements which affect people to choose language they speak in, those are :

1. Participants

Participants or individuals are the one involved in the speech activity. Participants have control on the use of language. Holmes (2013) believes “there are many types of participants” such as family participants (father-daughter, wife-husband), work participants (boss-employee, customer-shopkeeper), and social participants (friend-friend, stranger-stranger) and many more.

2. Setting or social context of the interaction

Setting refers to the physical places or typical location and situations where a conversation occurs, such as home, school, office, etc. There are a lot social and environmental factors that affect language choice to use in a particular environment. Speakers shall consider appropriate language when delivering words that are determined by social background and environment. They should be aware of the different choices of language and the suitability of the language.

3. Topic of the interaction

Topic refers to the subject of conversation or discussion. With regard to the topic being discussed, each participant in the interaction may have a different perspective from the other participants. People try to establish a main topic in some way so that the communication can go

smoothly. They connect discourses thematically, syntactically or logically.

4. Function of the interaction

The function of the interaction is the reason for processing language. According to Holmes (2013), there are multiple ways to classify speech functions. For example, expressive (to express feelings), direct (to request or ask someone to do something), referential (to provide information), phatic (to maintain social relations), commissive speech acts (involving the use of threats and promises), etc.

2. METHOD

The design of this study used a qualitative and descriptive study. Qualitative study will discover the results of the study based on the reality and facts that occur in society. Gay (2012) pointed out that qualitative research aims to delve into the research environment to gain insight into how things are, why, and how participants in the context perceive them. In order to achieve the detailed understanding they seek, qualitative research must conduct continuous and in-depth contextual research so that they can discover subtle, less public personal understandings. The object of this research is conversations that contain slang. This research only analyzes the Slang words of the main characters in "Birds of Prey movie ". They are: Harley Quinn, Roman Sionis, Zsasz, Cass, Huntress, Black Canary and Renee Montoya.

The researchers obtained raw data from the 2020 film "Birds of Prey Movie" directed by Cathy Yan, with duration 109 minutes. The researchers obtained the movie from DC Universe to maintain the movie's authenticity, and the script came from the original English subtitles of the movie.

After the researcher obtains and collects the data from the data source, follow the steps below to analyze the data to answer the research questions. First, check and identify the slang words in www.urbandictionary.com, check whether the data are slang words, and get the meaning of each slang word. Secondly,

categorize slang words into the research design table. Thirdly, explain the data why slang is classified as primary or secondary slang according to the slang theory of Chapman (2007).

Fourthly, describe the social factors in sociolinguistics proposed by Janet Holmes (2013), and analyze each social factor by identifying the theme of the interaction, the participants in the exchange, and the background of the interaction. Finally, find out the type and contextual meaning of slang used by the main characters in the movie by writing in paragraphs.

Table 1. Types of Slang Words

Slang Words	Types of Slang words	Minute	Sentences
Ain't	Primary slang	59:23	"Well, it ain't much..."
Wanna	Primary slang	42:53	"... that you wanna kill me to ..."

Table 2. Social Context and Meaning

Slang Words	Participants	Setting	Topic	Function	Literal meaning	Contextual meaning
Ain't	Cass & Harley (close relationship-friends)	Harley's House	Decoration of Harley's house	Expressive	To be not	Is/am/are not
Wanna	Harley & Rommy (rival)	Rommy's place	Negotiation	Expressive	Want to	Want to

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Types of Slang Words in Birds of Prey movie

In this study, the researchers identified two slang terms from Chapman. First of all, Primary slang shows a kind of universal, fashionable and expressive. It even has a rude meaning, but it is usually used in daily conversations that change easily according to the times and social trends.

In contrast, secondary slang shows a secret and restricted only to some people who understand the meaning. Secondary slang is a matter of stylistic choice rather than accurate identification. Therefore, the researcher

concludes that secondary slang such as unfamiliar and uncommon words that comes from some speakers. Secondary slang usually used by a drug user, a member of street gang, a gambler, a criminal, and so forth.

The researcher classified the types of slang words uttered by the main characters into table below :

Table 3. Types of Slang Words

Slang Words	Types of Slang words	Minute	Sentence
Ain't	Primary slang	59:23	"Well, it <i>ain't</i> much....l."
Wanna	Primary slang	42:53	"..... Now you're gonna say that you <i>wanna</i> kill me to set an example...."
Kinda	Primary slang	00:53	"...but I was never an <i>establishment kinda</i> gal..."
Gal	Primary slang	43:16	"...I'm your <i>gal</i> !"
Puddin'	Primary slang	29:03	" <i>Puddin'</i> and I broke up."
Scram	Primary slang	1:08:40	" So they know. Let's <i>scram</i> "
Chillax	Primary slang	1:08:24	" <i>Chillax</i> . No one knows we're here."
Asshole	Primary slang	46:12	"Hey, you're the <i>asshole</i> no one likes".
Boys in blue	Primary slang	34:54	" ... Where the fuck were you and your <i>boys in blue</i> then?"
Dummies	Primary slang	57:54	"... Paying is for <i>dummies</i> ..."
Outta	Primary slang	55:23	"There are two ways that diamond's coming <i>outta</i> ya. ...I'm <i>outta</i> groceries..."
For fucks sake	Primary slang	1:20:35	"Helena Bertinelli. <i>For fucks sake</i> ."
Badass	Primary slang	01:35	"...there's a <i>badass</i> broad...."
Dick	Primary slang	1:06:24	"Well, sounds like a <i>dick</i> ."
Ass	Primary slang	34:47	" <i>Dumb-ass</i> kids."
Fuck	Primary slang	1:05:13	"Get on the <i>fuckin</i> g table. This is my club..."
Shit	Primary slang	10:25	" <i>Holy shit</i> . Good work, Officer"
Dope	Secondary slang	59:26	"...is so <i>fuckin</i> g <i>dope</i> . Oh, shit. Is that a hyena in a bathtub"
Parley	Secondary slang	17:53	"...Ah, <i>crap</i> . Him, too? <i>Parley</i> ?"
Trustafarian	Secondary slang	53:14	"... Roman, you <i>trustafarian</i> fuckbag"

Social Context and Meaning of Slang Words in Birds of Prey Movie

In this part, the researcher explains the social context and meaning of the slang words uttered by the main characters. The researcher first analyzed those words using Social Factors theory proposed by Janet Holmes (2013). There are four points of social factors: participants, setting, topic, and function of interaction. The researcher identified the slang words based on Social Factors theory and classified the slang words and in order to convey a meaning of a

word, we need to identify the factors first, that some words could be interpreted directly without analyzing the social factor, but there are also many words especially slang words that need to be analyzed one after one factor to get the precise meaning of the word.

Table 4. Social Context and Meaning of Slang Words

Slang Words	Participants	Setting	Topic of interaction	Function	Literal Meaning	Contextual Meaning
Ain't	Cass & Harley (close relationship-friends)	Harley's House	Decoration of Harley's house	Expressive	To be not	Is/am/are not
Wanna	Harley & Rommy (rival)	Rommy's place	Negotiation	Expressive	Want to	Want to
Kinda	Harley	Harley's telling story	Harley's broke up story	Expressive	Kind of	Kind of
Gal	Harley & Rommy (rival)	Rommy's place	Negotiation	Expressive	Girl	Girl
Puddin'	Canary & Harley (close relationship-friends)	Bar	Harley's sad story	Phatic	Dessert	Nickname that are used to call the one we love
Scram	Cass & Harley (close relationship-friends)	Harley's house	Escaping from the cops	Directive	Leave	Leave
Chillax	Cass & Harley (close relationship-friends)	Harley's house	About to got caught by the police	Directive	Chill and relax	Calm down
Asshole	Canary & Harley (close relationship-friends)	Rommy's place	Mocking each other	Expressive	A person's anus	A stupid or irritating person
Boys in blue	Canary & Renee (close relationship-friends)	Canary's house	Renee warn Canary not to work with Rommy	Expressive	Boys with blue t-shirt	Cops
Dummies	Cass & Harley (close relationship-friends)	Market	Harley teach Cass to be badass woman in her own way	Referential	A replica of human being	A fool or stupid person
Outta	Cass & Harley (close relationship-friends)	Market	Making decision to get the diamond out of	Phatic	Out of	Out of

			Cass' stomach			
For fucks sake	Renee, Huntress (close relationship-friends)	Amusement park	Huntress identity	Expressive	Swear words	Shocked
Badass	Harley	Her telling story	Harley's background	Referential	a bad or slightly frightening person	A person with extreme attitudes and behavior and is admired by others
Dick	Harley & Cass (close relationship-friends)	Harley's house	Make fun of Joker	Expressive	A genital organ of men	A stupid or unpleasant man, stupid things
Ass	Canary & Cass (close relationship-friends)	Side of the road	Getting upset or distemperd	Expressive	Butt	Suffix to add more emotional context.

Fucking	Rommy and Erica (Rommy's friend)(close relationship-friends)	Bar	Getting annoyed	Expressive.	To have sex	swear words to express extreme anger.
Shit	Harley & Cass, Renee & A cop, Renee & Cass(close relationship-friends)	Police Officer	Surprised	Expressive	Feces	A contemptible or worthless person, nonsense, any negative things, expressions of shock
Dope	Cass & Harley(close relationship-friends)	Harley's house	Talking about Harley's house	Expressive	Drug	Cool
Parley	Harley & enemies(opponent)	Harley was surrounded by her enemies	Being chased by all enemies	Commisive	To have discussion	Negotiation
Trustafarian	Harley & Rommy(rival)	Jail	Harley betrayed by Rommy	Expressive	Rich people	Rich people
Sell me out	Renee & Assistant DA(close relationship-ex)	Police officer	Getting upset	Express disappointed	Trade	Betray

A. Dick

The word dick is actually refers to several things, it could be a man's genital organ or it could be stupid things, or even stupid man. The slang word dick appears in some dialogues and some of them are found in minute 1:06:24 and 1:36:32

Dialogue 1

Cass : What's this?
 Harley : It's art. Don't touch.
 Cass : He your ex or something?
 Harley : You don't know who that is? The Joker. The Clown Prince of Crime? My former partner in madness? The Harlequin of Hate? The Jester of Genocide? You've never heard of him?
 Cass : Well, sounds like a dick

Dialogue 2

Harley : I'm sorry, kid. And I'm sorry I tried to sell you. That was a dick move. For what it's worth, you made me want to be a less terrible person.

Dialogue 1 showed that the slang word dick appears in the conversation between Harley and Cass. The word dick uttered by Cass

when Cass looked around Harley's house then found Joker's sketch on the wall. Cass didn't know who Joker is, and then she asked Harley. Harley answered surprisingly because she thought everyone knows Joker due to his great crime. In contrast, Cass had no idea and mocking Joker by saying "sounds like a dick"

To understand the slang word dick in this dialogue, we have to understand the context. This conversation happened between Harley and Cass which both of them are friends. The word dick has several meaning. It could be a men's vital organ as well as a nickname to insult a stupid person. In Dialogue 1, dick refers to stupid man. Cass did not know who Joker is and only judging him by his look and Harley's description about Joker. Cass think of a stupid man, so she judged him by his looks and mock Harley by saying that her ex-boyfriend looks like a dick.

In Dialogue 2, the slang word dick also used to describe stupid thing express regret of what Harley done towards Cass. A journal titled The Analysis of American Slang in Movie Script "The Wolf of Wall Street had discussed about this term as well. It explained that this slang word had two meaning and to understand we must first comprehend the context. The slang word dick could mean a penis when the context of the conversation is about having sex. Conversely, the word dick could also mean dumb or stupid person as it is explained above when the context is related to a person or behavior.

B. Chillax

The researcher found the slang word chillax in minute 1:08:24. It was uttered when Harley Quinn had the conversation with Cass in her house, and suddenly the cops come to harley's house. The dialogue is listed down below:

Cass : You said they wouldn't find us.
 Harley : **Chillax**. No one knows we're here.
 Gotham Police : Harleen Quinzel, this is Gotham Police.

The slang term chillax is a compound word for chill and relax. In this conversation, the word chillax is used as an indicator of interaction, and Harley tells Cass to be calm because she thinks no one knows if she lives there.

C. Shit

The word shit appears in some conversations. It is one of the offensive slang terms. Shit has many meanings, such as literal meaning feces, and other meanings related to swear words. The word shit is usually used to express surprise or shock or to refer to something negative. Here are some conversations contain the slang word shit :

Dialogue 1

Renee : Jesus Christ. This is Montoya. What the hell was that? Shit. Wow.

A cop : Detective. Found this necklace.

Renee : Holy shit. Good work, Officer.

Dialogue 2

Harley : Well, it ain't much, but it's better than a prison cell.

Cass : ..is so fucking dope. Oh, shit. Is that a hyena in a bathtub?

Harley : I named him Bruce after that hunky Wayne guy.

Dialogue 3

Renee : Cassandra Cain, back already? Thought by now you'd figure out how not to get caught.

Cass : You smell like shit.

The dialogues above shows the contextual meaning of the slang word shit. As we can see in dialogue 1 and dialogue 2, the slang word shit is used to express their shock. Dialogue 1 At 10:24, Renee found Harley's necklace in a toxic industrial processing plant. This necklace symbolizes love between Harley and the clown, and is also an exclusive place for the clown and Harley. Renee was surprised and did not expect it. Therefore, to express it, she used the slang word shit.

Dialogue 2 takes place in Halley's house. Harley takes Cass to her house to protect Cass

from Romy. Cass was surprised that Harley had a hyena as her pet, so she used slang to express her shock. The word shit also appears in dialogue 3. It happened when Renee met Cass at the police station. During the conversation, Cass told Renee that she smelled like shit. The literal meaning here is that Renee smells like feces. As can be seen from the previous scenes, Renee accidentally hit the trash can while hunting Harley.

4. CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the author gives the conclusion related to the research and two questions based on the prior chapter. In this study, the researchers analyzed the types of slang and the contextual meaning of the slang in the film "Birds of Prey "Movie. The data of this study are selected from the dialogues of the main characters. This research examines two issues. The first is the type of slang used in the "Birds of Prey" movie. The second question is the contextual meaning of the slang in the "Birds of Prey" movie.

When analyzing the types of slang used in the "Birds of Prey" movie, the researchers determined the primary and secondary slang theories proposed by Chapman. In the movie "Birds of Prey", the main characters uttered twenty slang words. Those are seventeen primary slang ; ain't, wanna, kinda, gal, puddin', scram, chillax, asshole, boys in blue, dummies, outta, for fucks sake, badass,dick, ass, fucking, and shit. Three secondary slang, Those are also appear in the dialogue: dope, parley, and trustafarian.

The second question is the contextual meaning of slang words used in the film "Birds of Prey". In this study, researchers used the social factor theory proposed by Janet Holmes to discover the contextual meaning of slang. The researchers first identified the social factors of the dialogue in each dialogue of the main character. Four social factors are used to determine contextual meaning, namely the function of participants or social relations, setting, topic, and function of interaction.

Finally, this research examines that the slang in the "Birds of Prey" movie is recognized as slang, because the word is newly interpreted and newly created, and only certain communities can understand and use it. Moreover, the contextual meaning of slang is determined by the social factors of dialogue. In order to enrich the analysis of slang, the researchers suggest that future researchers use different types of movies as research objects to conduct similar analyses. This will enrich each movie with different types of slang, not only in its contextual meaning. Secondly, the researchers also suggest that other researchers use different methods for research, such as semantic methods. The semantic perspective helps to highlight the pragmatic functions of slang. As a result, the deepest result of the slang function will be realized.

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