



The Usage of Slang Words in ‘My Block’ Movie

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: 15 August 2024	This study aims to identify the various slang words featured in the movie “On My Block,” with a particular focus on those employed by the main character while also delving into their semantic nuances. This research contributes to a broader understanding of the usage of slang language, enriching the knowledge of listeners and viewers alike. The study employed in this study revolves around documentation. Data collection involved viewing the movie and meticulously documenting dialogues containing slang expressions used by the characters. The subsequent analysis draws upon Partridge’s framework for categorizing slang types, coupled with sourcing slang meanings from Partridge’s dictionary. The study adopts a multifaceted approach, encompassing both formal and informal methods to present the analytical findings. The research findings effectively address two critical facets of the research problem. Firstly, they categorize the slang words featured in the “On My Block” movie into three distinct types: Society slang, Cockney slang, and Public House slang. Secondly, the study elucidates the significance of these slang words in the context of the movie, shedding light on their functional roles within conversational exchanges.
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1. Introduction

English slang refers to informal and non-standard vocabulary, phrases, and expressions used by specific groups or subcultures within the English-speaking community (Green, 2006). It is characterized by its creative, playful, and often rebellious nature. Slang terms are typically used to establish a sense of belonging, create a shared language among a particular group, or convey a specific attitude or meaning (Setiawati & Rusmawati, 2019).

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It's important to note that slang is considered informal language and may not be appropriate or suitable for formal or professional situations. The understanding and usage of slang can vary among individuals, so it's always helpful to be aware of the context and audience when using or encountering slang expressions (Sinaga et al., 2020). Here are a few key characteristics of English slang is generally used in casual, informal settings, such as among friends, peers, or in specific subcultures. Slang is constantly evolving, with new words and phrases emerging and old ones falling out of use. It reflects the changing trends, attitudes, and social dynamics of a given time (Soeparno, 2013).

Slang terms can vary significantly from one region or culture to another. According to Different countries, cities, or even neighbourhoods may have their own unique slang words and expressions (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015; de Klerk, 2006). Slang often involves playful wordplay, creative expressions, and unique metaphors or idiomatic phrases. It can be used to add color, emphasis, or humour to communication (Soeparno, 2013). Slang can serve as a way for certain groups or subcultures to identify themselves and distinguish themselves from others. It creates a sense of belonging and camaraderie among members of a particular community (Chaer, 2007).

There are several reasons why people use English slang is often used in informal conversations among friends, peers, or within specific social groups. It adds a casual and relaxed tone to the conversation and helps create a sense of camaraderie. Slang allows individuals to express themselves more colorful and vividly. It adds flair, humor, or emphasis to communication, making it more engaging and memorable (Chaer & Agustina, 2004).

Using slang can help establish rapport and build connections with others, especially within peer groups or informal settings. It can signal that the speaker shares a common background or experiences, facilitating communication and understanding. Slang often involves creative wordplay, unique expressions, and inventive use of language. It allows individuals to experiment with language, create new terms, and demonstrate their linguistic creativity (Hofweber & Graham, 2017; Ruliana, 2014; Smith, 1998). Based on the explanation above, this current research aims to determine the slang words are used by the main characters in the *On My Block* movie and to analyze the meanings of the slang words used by the main characters in the *On My Block* movie.

2. Literature Review

The emergence of slang words is a phenomenon in the development of language used by society. Usually, slang words are created for a specific purpose and are generally used in informal situations. As stated by Falaky (2016), the use of slang offers various opportunities for marginalized social groups to express their novelty and uniqueness (see also Frastiwi & Aisyah, 2022). In addition, slang words emerged as an identity for the language community (see Preece, 2015). The following are several previous studies that examine slang words using various analytical theories. First, research was conducted by Dewi and Widiastuti (2020). This study examines the meaning of slang words in song lyrics. The findings of this study show that there are six types of meanings found, namely

reflective, stylistic, affective, connotative, and conceptual meanings, and the most dominant is collocative meaning.

Second, research conducted by Linuwih and Handayani (2022) which analyzed English slang. This study shows that English education in Indonesia is not focused on teaching slang words. Likewise, Aisyah and Larasati (2021) investigated slang in song lyrics. The results of this study show that slang in song lyrics is relatively easy to find because it is different from formal language.

Then, Silalahi and Silalahi (2023) studied slang words on WhatsApp media. The results showed that the slang words found were generally in abbreviated form, for example, Zzz (sleeping) and Y (why). This finding is in line with Tubagus et al. (2021) that some slang terms retain their original meaning even though their spelling changes. Meanwhile, certain slang words are abbreviated or shortened and retain their original meaning. The last, research conducted by Yuniar et al. (2023) investigated slang words on TikTok social media. The results showed that slang words were mostly found in English.

Based on the research explained above, this new study focuses on analyzing slang words in song lyrics, using Partridge's (2008) theory to classify the types of slang in the song lyrics analyzed.

3. Method

This study is library research using a documentation method. The primary data source for this research is the Netflix movie entitled *On My Block*, a coming-of-age comedy-drama series that follows a group of diverse teenagers navigating the challenges of high school life in a rough inner-city Los Angeles neighborhood. The movie was chosen as a data source for this thesis due to its rich usage of contemporary slang and language expressions, which provides valuable insights into the linguistic patterns and cultural nuances of the characters' interactions, thereby offering a unique opportunity to analyze and understand modern language evolution within specific social contexts.

The process of collecting data for this study involved a meticulous approach centered around watching the selected movie and extracting crucial information from the dialogues delivered by the main character and four supporting characters. This methodological choice was made due to the significance of these characters in conveying the themes and messages relevant to the research objectives. By repeatedly viewing the movie, the researcher carefully listed and documented the dialogues, ensuring accuracy and completeness in capturing the essential content. The inclusion of dialogues from these specific characters was based on their relevance to the research questions, thereby focusing on extracting data that directly contribute to the study's analysis. Additionally, referencing the movie script during the data collection process helped maintain precision and authenticity in transcribing the dialogues. This thorough approach aimed to gather a comprehensive dataset that would sufficiently address the research goals outlined in the research, highlighting the importance of methodological rigor in the collection and documentation of data from cinematic sources.

Employing a qualitative method, this study employed observation of the gathered data, which is subjected to descriptive analysis. The aim is to discern the categories and significance of slang words within the movie's script. The analysis proceeds in two stages: initial classification of slang types and followed by an examination of each slang term's contextual meaning as outlined by Partridge (2008) within the scene's situation. This study uses informal methods. The data were presented by explanations in the form of paragraphs (informal) to make it easier to analyze the meanings and describe them in correlation with the slang type based on the context of the dialogues.

4. Results and Discussion

3.1 The type of Slang words featured in the movie "On My Block"

The following section presents the analysis of the types of slang and the slang meaning used by the characters in the movie script *On My Block*. The first part of the analysis presents the application of classification theory by Partridge (2008) and the second part is the meaning analysis of the slang words based on the concept, and the meanings that are being used are collected from the dictionary made by Partridge (2008) that have been updated by Dalzell and Victor (2007).

Society Slang

The movie includes five dialogues that prominently feature Society Slang. These dialogues showcase the use of trendy and informal language, reflecting the contemporary vernacular of the characters. The specific slang words and phrases identified in these dialogues are "Lit," "Vibin'," "Queen Bee," "Player," and "Drama."

Data [3-1]: Lit

- Ruby : "Man, that party was lit last night! The music, the energy—it was all on point."
Monse : "No doubt! I was dancing non-stop. And did you see Jamal doing the robot? Hilarious!"
Jamal : "Hey, don't knock the robot! It's a classic move. But yeah, the party was definitely lit."
Cesar : "I missed it, I ad some family stuff to deal with. But I heard it was crazy."
Ruby : "You missed out, Cesar. It was like the whole block came alive."

The reasons for using society slang in words or phrases in *On My Block* movie are (a) to be a secret, not understood by another group; (b) to fit in a certain society; (c) to show someone a sense of belonging.

Cockney Slang

The dialogues prominently feature Cockney Slang, a form of English slang with origins in the East End of London. Cockney Slang often involves wordplay, where certain words or phrases are substituted with rhyming or related words, creating a distinctive and playful language style. The slang words or phrases that have been found were apples and

pears, trouble and strife, dog and bone, Adam and Eve, and butcher's hook.

Data [3-6]: Apples and pears

Ruby : *"Hey, Jamal, can you grab that game controller for me? It's up the apples and pears."*

Jamal : *"Sure thing, Ruby. I'll get it from upstairs."*

In this dialogue, the characters Ruby and Jamal are discussing a game controller that Ruby needs. The conversation takes a playful turn when Ruby uses a slang phrase that employs rhyming slang. Ruby initiates the conversation by asking Jamal to fetch a game controller for her. However, instead of saying "upstairs," she uses the rhyming slang phrase "up the apples and pears."

Cockney rhyming slang is a form of wordplay in which a word or phrase is replaced by a rhyming phrase, where the rhyming word is dropped. In this case, "apples and pears" rhymes with "stairs," and the word "stairs" is omitted, leaving just the rhyming phrase to represent the intended meaning.

"Apples and pears" falls under the category of Cockney slang because it follows the rhyming pattern characteristic of this type of slang. It's not immediately obvious that "apples and pears" refers to "stairs," making it a prime example of the ingenuity and wordplay that define Cockney rhyming slang. The use of "apples and pears" to mean "stairs" illustrates the linguistic creativity of the Cockney dialect and how it adds a distinct cultural flavour to language use.

The reasons for using cockney slang in On My Block movie are (a) to avoid words that cause misinterpretation; (b) to show that one belongs to an English slang word.

Public House Slang

In this subchapter of the movie, the dialogues and scenes revolve around Public House Slang, which refers to the informal and colloquial language used in pubs or bars, especially in the context of British pub culture. These slang terms often reflect the unique atmosphere, social interactions, and customs associated with pub environments. There were five slang words or phrases that were found which were Booze, Snug, Lock-in, A bell, and Pork scratchings.

Data [3-11]: Booze

Ruby : *"Hey, Monse, the school day was rough. Fancy some booze after work?"*

Monse : *"You read my mind, Ruby. A drink sounds perfect right now."*

Cesar : *"Count me in too. A little relaxation after a long day sounds great."*

Jamal : *"I'm up for it as well. Let's grab some drinks and unwind."*

In this dialogue, the characters Ruby, Monse, Cesar, and Jamal are discussing the idea of going for drinks after a long school day. The use of "fancy some booze after work?" indicates that they are considering a social outing to a pub or a place where they can enjoy alcoholic beverages.

The word “booze” is a common slang term for alcohol, and it’s frequently used in casual conversations and in public house settings like pubs and bars. Its use can reflect informality and a relaxed atmosphere often associated with socializing over drinks.

“Booze” is classified as public house slang because it’s a term that’s often used in the context of pubs and bars, where people gather to socialize and enjoy drinks. It’s part of the informal and often jovial language that characterizes such settings. In the dialogue, the character’s use of “fancy some booze after work?” indicates that they’re suggesting a trip to a place where alcoholic beverages are served, aligning with the cultural context of public house slang.

The reasons for using public house slang in the *On My Block* movie are (a) to reduce seriousness in conversation; (b) to show the friendly way to speak; (c) to make it easier to socialize and be closer to someone.

Slang Meaning

Data 1: Lit

In this conversation, the slang term “lit” is used to describe the atmosphere and quality of the party. When the characters refer to the party as “lit,” they mean it was exciting, lively, and energetic. The term “lit” in this context suggests that the party was exceptional, with a great combination of music, energy, and overall enjoyment. It’s a modern slang term often used to emphasize that an event was highly enjoyable and successful.

Data 6: Apples and Pears

In this conversation, “apples and pears” is used as a rhyming slang term to mean “stairs.” Partridge’s theory highlights that rhyming slang is a form of linguistic play in which a word is substituted with a phrase that rhymes with it, often with the rhyming word omitted. The substitution adds an element of wordplay and code-like communication within specific social groups.

Data 11: Booze

In this conversation, “booze” is used as a colloquial slang term to refer to alcoholic beverages, typically in the form of drinks. Partridge’s theory encompasses a wide range of slang terms, and he highlights that slang often emerges to efficiently convey informal or unconventional concepts within specific social contexts.

The use of “booze” to mean alcoholic drinks aligns with Partridge’s idea that slang terms capture informal and everyday language that may not conform to standard language norms. In this context, “booze” is a casual and widely understood term for alcohol.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the slang used in the movie can be classified into Society slang, cockney slang, and public house slang. There was Society slang such as Lit, Vibin’, Queen Bee, Player, and Drama. Cockney slang such as Apples and pears, Trouble and

strife, Dog and bone, Adam and Eve, and Butcher's Hook. Public House slang such as Booze, Snug, Lock-in, A bell, and Pork scratchings. Society slang was the most frequently used slang word in the movie because this movie has many background locations that are closely linked to society. They strengthen their bonds with the people around them. Then, they come up with new terms and approach their friendship on their own. They use informal words or expressions that have their origins in a society's cultural groups. Slang language was seen as a modern fashion or style by those in society (see Tambunsaribu, 2020). To enrich society's vocabulary, they created their own words and phrases that can only be understood by their groups.

As anticipated, this study informs readers that they will gain a deeper understanding of slang words. The data analyzed within this study can serve as a valuable resource for readers, aiding them in their research endeavors. It equips readers with the ability to comprehend various types of slang and their corresponding meanings, as explored in this study. Additionally, this research encourages readers to expand their language knowledge by exploring the diverse linguistic expressions found in society. Furthermore, readers can broaden their understanding of slang not only through traditional written sources but also by delving into movies. Ultimately, this study is anticipated to prove beneficial for academic writing, particularly in enhancing English proficiency among younger generations in today's modern world.

Conflict of interest

The author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest.

Authors' contribution

Author made substantial contributions to the conception and design of the study. The authors took responsibility for data analysis, interpretation and discussion of results. The authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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