AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG IN HOW HIGH MOVIE

Widi Wahyudi¹, Nova Rina², Havid Ardi³
¹Student of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University
²Lecturer of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Bung Hatta University
³Lecturer of English Department Faculty of Art and Linguistics, University of Padang State

Abstract

This research focuses on the use of slang by the actors in the How High movie. The purpose of the research is to describe forms and meaning of slang in the movie. This research used substitution method where data were collected from the script of the movie. Based on the analysis, it is found that there are two forms of slang; word and phrase. The meaning of slang are contextual meaning that is the meaning of slang is based on the context.

Keywords: Slang, Form, Meaning, How High movie

Introduction

The movie is a manifestation of the development of the cultural life of the people of their time. From time to time, the movie had been developed both in terms of technology used and the theme. This is due to the movie develops in line with the cultural elements that lie behind them, including the development of language. In the movies, people can get new knowledge about social life in other places even countries, learn the new things, cultures, historical values and so on. By watching movies the audience can begin to know and to learn understanding everything, especially about the language. The audience may start by reading or hearing the conversation in the movie, and when they feel interested, they can start to share, socialize, and communicate to each other.

One of movies which is much use informal language is How High movie. How High movie mostly uses an informal style of language especially slang words to express and show the expression. According to Richard (1985), slang is used for a very informal speech variety which often serves as an “in-group” language such as teenagers, army, pop group, etc. The slang language is only known by the group itself, it can not be understood if we don't know what is the context when the group say the slang language. Slang almost could not be found in standard dictionary.

Forms of slang can be formed as word and phrase. So, a single word could be slang and it also applies on phrase depends on context, (Partridge, 2003: 46). Meaning of slang is based on context. It must be taken by real sources and cannot be analyzed by
using common dictionary (Partridge, 2003: 49). The word slang is only known by the group itself. The uniques of slang language on How High movie may make some people do not understand what the actor/actrees mean in the dialogue of the movie because the words slang is different from the standard meaning. So, the language used in How High movie need to classified more. The informal language usually uses a uniqueness words in the style. In How High movie actors create forms of slang not only by using good words (positive sense), but by using bad or taboo words (negative sense) as well. Some of slang forms are derived from bad or taboo words. Uniquely, the negative sense of the slang (taboo word) can change its sense to be positive in meaning.

So, the writer interested in explaining about the language style in the movie. The writer thinks the language style used a different meaning with the original. It makes the words more interesting and unique when some people read hear the conversation. The writer focused to explain the language style in How High movie. Beside that the language makes people know how to use language style in the daily conversation. The writer can see some languages in the movie which make interesting.

Methodology

The writer applied substitution method in analyzing the data (Sudaryanto 1993:37). Which is the writer classified with Source of Data, Method and Technique of the Data Collection, Method and Technique of the Data Analysis, and Method of the Representing the Data. The data for the research will be taken from the How High movie. Firstly the researcher did the observation on movie subtitle. Language – sentence, phrase which is data context is observed on movie subtitle. Secondly data which obtained through note taking are taken on data card. For enrichment and validity, the researcher gave mark timing of movie subtitle when the speaker saying then the research took a note. Those are the techniques the researcher did in providing data for this research.

In collecting the data, the writer used observation method. Observation method is observing the choice of words in the sentence of the movie texts. From the method, the writer observes all conversation that contains language style, which is used in How High movie. Furthermore, the technique of data collecting is notetaking (Sudaryanto 1993:133) where the data wrote in note. In this research, the writer used note-taking technique.
Firstly the writer reading the all the conversation in the movie script which is using language style and then the writer wrote the data in a note and the last the writer classifying the data. The writer used distributional method in analyzing the data. According to Sudaryanto (1993:13), distributional method is determining tool part of the language itself. In analyzing this data, the writer follows some ways. First, the writer found the style of language in *How High* movie to be analyzed. Second, the writer classified the data to find of language style used in various style of movie conversation to purpose of analysis. And the last, the writer concludes the result of analysis. In representing the data analysis, the writer used informal representation. The collected data are analyzed by using pragmatical and translational identity. According to Sudaryanto (1993:145) Method of representing the data is differed in 2 (two) forms: formal and informal methods. A formal method is used symbols or signs, and informal method is used a natural language or verbal language. In this research, writer chose informal method by explaining the current issues of the research from the data collected in the *How High* movie conversation and represents with some tools that is the writer need to explain the data. The tools are the methods and the techniques are used to prove, give evidence, and to explain the form and meaning of the slang.

**Finding and Discussion**

The writer presents the analysis and finding of the research. The analysis are about Slang language in *How High* movie. Many aspect in types of language style, but in this analysis the writer limit the problem in two categories, they are slang as word and phrase. Slang can be formed as word and the word can be formal or informal word but has different meaning from the original and most used by teenagers or youth and certain group of people, here the examples about slang formed as word:

**Source minute:**( 00:01:44,204  -->  00:01:47,571)

Silas : Got that *dough*?

Mikey : Will this make my drill sergeant stand at attention?

From the datum above, there is conversation between Silas and mikey, both are youth and have close relationship. The conversation was between seller (silas) and buyer (mikey) in Silas apartment. Mikey wanted to buy something to Silas and then Silas said “*Got that dough?*”. Originally, the meaning of the word “*dough*” is a thick, malleable mixture of flour and liquid, used for baking
into bread or pastry. But, in this conversation the word “dough” means money, if the conversation is not in close relationship or out from the group itself it can be misunderstood about the word “dough”, but in this conversation that they are know the meaning each other and they named the money as “dough”, because the word is used only in their community or group itself and it is used in informal situation, it can be proofed when Silas asking something and says “got that dough?”, then Mikey gives the money to Silas. The writer classifying the word “dough” into slang language formed as word which is mean money.

Source minute (00:02:35,822 --> 00:02:39,622)

Silas : Now what? Oh, shit, I've!Ivory
     : What's up, dog?

Silas : What's up, nigga?Hey, you get my message about goin' to the Jets game?

In thisdatum, the writer finds word “dog”, it is said between friend, silas and ivory they are classmate. In this conversation, the meaning of “dog” is diferrent with the StandardEnglish Meaning, in the real meaning of the word “dog” is an animal and if it is used in the condition where the hearer did not have a good relationship with speaker, such as close friend it can be mis-understanding. In the context, “dog” is not a swear word but “dog” means “friend”. Ivory has a good sense because he asking silas condition, when he said “What's up, dog?” He smiles and Silas directly replied “What's up, nigga?Hey, you get my message about goin' to the Jets game?” it indicates that Silas has good sense and good response, too. So, the writer classified word “dog” as slang word which is mean friend.

Phrase is a combination of two words or more that have non predicative characteristic. A phrase does not contain a subject and verb, consequently, cannot convey a complete thought. To make this explanation clearly, the writer will give some data of slang as phrase.

(00:14:56,462 --> 00:14:58,362)

Rector Huntley : Dean, it's as simple as this. The trustees of the university are riding my ass about getting some color up at Harvard.

Dean Cain : Excuse me?

Rector Huntley : Ethnic diversity.

The conversation is between rector Huntley and Dean Cain. Rector Huntley started the conversation “Dean, it's as
simple as this. The trustees of the university are riding my ass about getting some color up at Harvard." Then directly Dean Cain replied “excuse me? In this context “riding my ass” literally is swear word but, based on the conversation it is slang in form of phrase which is mean demanding. It can be seen from previous statement “The trustees of the university are riding my ass about getting some color up at Harvard” implied that rector Huntley has demanded to find student who has different ethnic, see the previous statement he said “ethnic diversity”. Literally, riding my ass mean riding in his ass, but based on the context it means demanding, so the writer classified riding my ass is a slang as phrase which is mean demanding.

(00:01:15,475--> 00:01:28,019)

Silas: What the fuck is your problem?

Buyer: My raasclot gashman dick won't stay tick, see?


The conversation is between Silas and his costumer, in this conversation the writer found slang as phrase raasclot gashman dick which is mean genital, the costumer has problem with his genital, so he wanted to buy the herbal medicine to Silas. The word such as "Crabs." "Bad Breath." "Limp Dick." on the conversation is a kind of medicine, and when Silas said "Limp Dick. Ha!" indicating that he found the medicine that what his costumer wanted. The word limp dick mean a disease that link to genital problem. So, the medicine that Silas called limp dick refers to what his costumer wantsto cure his genital problem, that’s why the writer classified raasclot gashman dick as a slang form as phrase which is mean genital.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Language style is used depend on the theme, target, readers or hearers classification and many other things. Besides that, language style is a language produced by addresser and writer caused by how the way using source language in choosing of words.

After analysis the data, the writer concludes that language style is a tool of communication. By using the tool human can say their intention, wants, messages, expression and information to other people. Slang founded in informal situation that is used with friends, and mostly used by teenagers or young people.

The form of slang can be as words and phrases. The important of all, every words of slang can change the meaning, it is depend on how, when, where, and by
whom it is used. The writer found that slang used in How High movie. They use very unique expression to express what they want to express. The words that they choose transform from (some) swear word or new word to the common conversation. The slang style has no rule about how to build grammatical sentences and the most important is the meaning of what they talk about. By doing this research, the writer suggests the reader to know the development of language style for the specific part like in the community or group who use slang intensively. The writer hopes that analysis can give contribution for everyone who wants to explore the other writing documents in English Language especially slang language style. In addition, the writer hopes this research can be useful for the writer and readers. The writer suggests to other writers who might be interested to continue this research with same topic that is about the language style especially slang style in the movie. In How High movie slang commonly used by teenager or younger people, but in this movie some of older used slang too. So, the writer suggests to who might be interested in this topic to analyze slang used by older people because it seems interesting when slang is used by older people. It is more interested as a research.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


