A STUDY OF SLANG WORDS USED BY K-POP COMMUNITY ON TWITTER AND THEIR IMPLICATION IN ENGLISH MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT

M. Aftizah Adjie Efendi[1], Amrullah[2], Arafiq[3], Ni Wayan Mira Susanti[4]

[1,2,3,4] English Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia

Email: adjieefendi343@gmail.com

Abstract: Language is a human system for conveying ideas and emotions through symbols, evolving with societal changes and technology. Social media, particularly Twitter, significantly influences language use, with communities like K-Pop fans creating unique slang. This study aims to analyze the types of slang used by the K-Pop community on Twitter and their implication in English Material Development. Using a qualitative approach, tweets were collected and categorized based on Allan and Burridge's theory, supplemented by Eble's classifications. The results of this study revealed that there are 56 slangs found in 50 tweets posted by K-Pop fans. 43 identified into five primary types of slang: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym and abbreviation, and clipped words, and 13 slangs made through word formation, highlighting the creative and dynamic nature of language within this community. The implications of slang were explored through various theoretical frameworks, and it is concluded that integrating slang words into English material will enhance students' linguistic knowledge and their pragmatic competence.

Keywords: language variation, social media, K-Pop community, slang analysis

INTRODUCTION

Language is a purely human and a non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols (Sapir, 1921: 7). It enables people to interact to one another in social setting, it is also used as a bridge to share knowledge, experiences, and emotions among individuals and communities. Wardhaugh and Fuller (2021) states that language is inherently social and culturally transmitted by society. As society changing, language is changing and evolving as well, influenced by cultural trends, technology, and social media platforms.

Social media is something that cannot be separated from today's life, with technology becomes more advanced, more people are exposed to social media. According to Seargeant and Tagg (2014), social media is a digital space or environment which its concept revolves around enabling and promoting engagement and interaction. The sites shifted from being

primarily a platform for consuming information to becoming a space where active participation took center stage.

Reitz (2012) states that the researchers consider varied reasons why individuals use social media, such as searching for information, establishing social connections, communicating with each other, participating in online social circles, sharing identities, looking for entertainment, regulating emotions, and fulfilling desires for self-expressions and personal growth. Apart from the reasons previously stated, Sweet et al. (2019) also states that individuals use social media to build online community with people that shares the same interests.

Communities share the same common interest and value, thus enabling them to exchange ideas and address concerns among like-minded individuals who genuinely comprehend one another (McDermott, 2000). The examples of interests that may lead to community formation include the arts, sports, cooking, cultures, and games.

The rise of social media platforms like Twitter has revolutionized the way people communicate online. These platforms have become virtual communities where users share interests, passions, and fandoms. The K-Pop community on Twitter, in particular, has emerged as a vibrant space for fans to connect, discuss, and support their favorite K-Pop idols and groups. Within this digital space, unique slang words and phrases have emerged, acting as a form of digital language specific to the K-Pop fandom. The use of slang words within the K-Pop community on twitter fosters a strong sense of belonging and identity among fans. By utilizing shared vocabulary and expressions, K-Pop fans create a unique online culture, reinforcing their connection to their fellow fandom and the idol or group they like. Slang words such as "bias", "stan", and "fancant" hold specific meaning in the K-Pop community and contribute to the establishment of a shared language that sets them apart from other online communities.

The constant interaction between English and K-Pop culture on Twitter has led to the assimilation of certain slang words into the English language, particularly in digital communication. As K-Pop continues to influence internet culture, these slang words become more widely recognized and understood by non-fans, slowly integrating themselves into informal English material. This phenomenon highlights the influence of K-Pop fandoms on the evolution of online language and the broader implications for English material development in digital spaces. Slang is an integral part of everyday conversation, particularly in informal contexts. It represents a vibrant aspect of language, reflecting cultural trends, social identities, and the ever-changing nature of human communication. In integrating slang into English materials, teacher can bridge the gap between classroom activities and real-world communication. This inclusion helps students to become more effective communicators.

Slang words serve multiple functions in communication, providing speakers with a versatile tool for various social and emotional expressions. Allan and Burridge (2006) identify six primary functions of slang words: to address, to initiate relaxed conversation, to express impressions, to show intimacy, to reveal anger, and to humiliate. These functions help to appreciate the diverse ways in which slang enriches language and facilitates interpersonal interactions. Firstly, one key function of slang is to address or refer to individuals in a manner that reflects familiarity or informality. Slang terms for addressing people often replace formal titles or names, creating a sense of camaraderie and reducing social distance. For example, terms like "dude," "bro," "sis," or "mate" are commonly used to address friends or peers. These slang words convey a relaxed and friendly tone, signaling that the speaker views the listener as an equal or close companion.

Secondly, slang is frequently used to initiate relaxed and informal conversations, setting a casual and comfortable tone for interaction. For instance, starting a conversation with "What's up?" or "Hey, man" immediately signals a laid-back approach, inviting the listener to

engage without the pressures of formal language. This function of slang is particularly valuable in social settings where the goal is to foster friendly and spontaneous dialogue. Thirdly, slang words are often employed to express impressions, or reactions in an impactful manner. These terms can convey strong emotions, attitudes, or judgments with greater immediacy than standard language. For example, saying something is "awesome," "sick," or "lit" can convey enthusiastic approval, while "trash" or "lame" can denote disapproval or disdain.

Fourthly, slang can also be associated and used to show intimacy and closeness between individuals. Terms of endearment or pet names, such as "babe," "honey", or "buddy" are examples of slang that signal affection and a strong personal bond. This function is particularly important in relationships where maintaining emotional connections is crucial. Slang helps to reinforce these connections by making communication feel more personal and exclusive. Fifthly, expressing anger or frustration is another function of slang. Slang terms can provide a direct and forceful way to vent negative emotions, often with a sense of immediacy and impact. Words like "pissed off," "screw," or more intense expletives are commonly used to convey anger or irritation. The use of slang in this context allows speakers to articulate their feelings in a way that can be cathartic and emphatic. Lastly, slang can be used to humiliate or put down others, often through derogatory terms or insults. In addition to that, this function of slang involves using language to demean or belittle someone, reinforcing social hierarchies or expressing contempt. Terms like "loser," "idiot," or harsher pejoratives can be employed to ridicule.

Therefore, it can be known that K-Pop fans are actively interacting with each other on Twitter. In their conversation, K-pop fans use quite a lot of slang. For that reason, the writer is interested in conducting a study of the slang words used by K-Pop community on Twitter as K-Pop becomes increasingly famous. This research aims to help people, especially teenagers who want to enter the world of K-Pop and also ordinary people who want to understand K-Pop slang and its meaning. It also aims at the teacher, giving insight of its implication in English Material Development.

RESEARCH METHOD

To find out and analyze the slang words used by K-Pop community on Twitter, a qualitative approach is applied in this study. Qualitative research is a broad approach to the study of social phenomena. The various genres are naturalistic, interpretive, and increasingly critical, and they typically draw on multiple methods of inquiry (Marshall and Rossman, 2014). Slang is one of the examples of social phenomenon because it is created and influenced by social interaction trends.

The data of the research are collected from https://twitter.com. The research started from 02 January 2024 until 13 July 2024. The objects of the research are K-Pop fans tweets or posts on their accounts or comments under other people tweets. The data of the research are taken from several accounts' tweets or comments from K-Pop fans on Twitter. The researcher only selecting tweets or comments from K-Pop fans that are consist of slangs. In order to analyze the slang words used by K-Pop community, the researcher used slang words theory proposed Allan & Burridge as theoretical frameworks. To meet the first objective of this study, the researcher lists all the tweets posted by K-Pop fans on Twitter, find all the slang words inside the tweets, and categorize them into five primary types of slang according to Allan and Burridge's theory into a table.

After listing and categorizing all the slang words into five primary types of slang by Allan & Burridge, the data is analyzed and categorized into different types of slang and explaining the meaning of the slang words that have different meaning from the standard English. The slang words found in K-Pop tweets also includes Korean words. Online dictionary and sites, such as: https://dictionary.cambridge.org/,

https://krdict.korean.go.kr/m/eng/searchResult, https://www.merriam-webster.com/, https://www.dictionary.com/e/k-pop-slang/ are used to see the new meaning of the slang words and compare them to their original meaning in standard English.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results, there are a total of 56 slang words found in 50 tweets posted by K-Pop fans on Twitter. 9 slangs belong to Fresh and Creative; 6 slangs belong to Flippant, 6 slangs belong to Imitative, 11 slangs belong to Acronym and Abbreviation, and 11 slangs belong to Clipped Words. There are 43 slangs words categorized into five primary types of slang words based on Allan and Burridge's theory, meanwhile the remaining 13 slang words are not included in the five primary types of slang. The researcher acknowledges that the remaining slangs are formed through the word formation processes, therefore the researcher decides to categorize the 13 remaining slangs according to Eble's (1996) theory.

No.	Word formation	Slang words	Total
1.	Compounding	Fansite Hate train	2
2.	Affixation		-
3.	Functional Shift		-
4.	Shortening		-
5.	Blending	Mulfan Selca Mushow	3
6.	Borrowing	Hyung Aegyo Chaebol Sajaegi Maknae Nugu Ahjumma Ahjussi	8

Compounding

Compounding is a word formation process to make a new word by combining two or more words. There are only 2 slang words found in the tweets by K-Pop fans that classified as compound words, those 2 slang words are *fansite* and *hate train*.

- *Fansite* is a slang word that classified as a compound word because it is formed by two words fan (n) + site (n). Based on standard English, fan (n) refers to a someone who supports a person, meanwhile site (n) refers to a place where something is, was, or will be. In K-Pop community, *fansite* refers to a dedicated fan that takes photo and video of K-Pop idol and then they will share the result on the digital platform like Twitter or Instagram.
- *Hate train* is classified as a compound word because it is formed by two words, hate (v) + train (n). Based on standard English, hate (v) means to dislike someone or something, meanwhile train (n) refers to a railway engine. In slang term, *hate train* refers to a collective outburst of criticism, negativity, or retaliation aimed at individual, group, or thing, particularly on digital space where people have the ability to express their hatred easily through commenting and liking to a hate speech. In the K-Pop community on Twitter, the slang term is usually used by fans when their favorite idol or group got a hate tweet with massive like and repost.

Blending

Blending is a word formation to form a new word by merging two or more words and create a new word with new sound. There are 2 slangs found in K-Pop fans tweets that formed through blending, which are *selca*, *mushow*, and *mulfan*.

- *Selca* is a word that originated from self (n) + camera (n). In standard English, self refers to someone's characteristic, meanwhile camera refers to a device for taking photo and recording video. *Selca* is a popular term among Korean, it refers to a self-taken photo. *Selfie* is another term that is frequently used, especially by foreigners to refer to a self-taken photo. Due to the constant interaction between idols and fans, particularly in the digital space, K-Pop fans have adopted *selca* and used it frequently especially in the K-Pop community.

- *Mushow* is a slang word that classified as a blend word because it is formed from emerging two words, music (n) and show (n). In standard English, music refers to a pattern of sounds made by musical instruments, voices, or computers, meanwhile show refers to an entertaining theatre performance, television, or radio program. *Mushow* is commonly used by K-Pop fans to refer to music programs in South Korea that are broadcasted from Tuesday to Sunday. They are SBS Inkigayo KBS Music Bank, MBC Show! Music Core, Mnet M Countdown, MBC M Show Champion, and SBS M The Show.

- *Mulfan* is a slang word that formed through a blending process between multi (prefix) and fandom (n). In standard English, multi is prefixed to describe having many, meanwhile fandom refers to a group of fans of someone or something. In slang term, fandom refers to someone who has more than one favorite idol or group.

Borrowing

Borrowing is a process of taking a word from one language and using it in another language, either fully or partially. There are 7 borrowed words found in K-Pop fans tweet: *Hyung, Aegyo, Chaebol, Sajaegi, Nugu, Maknae, Ahjumma*, and *Ahjussi*. These words are taken from Korean words and used by K-Pop fans on Twitter.

- *Hyung* (형) is a Korean word which means "older brother". The word is taken completely and used in a tweet "Riku wants to be close with his yuta hyung (tearing up emoticon)".

- *Aegyo* (애교) is a Korean word for "behaving cutely". The word is taken completely and used in a tweet "Jeno fidgeting and trying to use aegyo to stop jaemin from scolding them is so cute".

- *Chaebol* (재벌) is a Korean word for "conglomerate". This word refers to rich people who control the Korean economy. The word is taken completely and used in a tweet "This photo of JISOO is giving chaebol Youngro with a happy family studying at Hosu Women's University".

- *Sajaegi* (사재기) is a Korean word for "hoarding". In K-Pop context, *sajaegi* refers to an action of bulk buying and manipulating the charts by the K-Pop agencies to create an illusion that their artists are in demand. The word is taken completely and used in a tweet "And nothing is gonna change the fact that you've been interacting with an account that's a BTS anti which has been dragging them through sajaegi accusations".

- *Nugu* (누구) is a Korean word for "who". In a K-Pop context, *nugu* refers to an idol or group that is still relatively new and less popular. This term has negative connotation as it is commonly used by K-Pop fans as an insult to other groups. This term used in a tweet "Mind you Karina is better than all itzy and the nugu you stan".

- *Maknae* (막내) is a Korean word for "the youngest". This term is taken completely and used in a tweet "My tears drops a little every time people include jaemin as part of the

maknae line like that's so so so cute to me (tearing up emoticon)".

- *Ahjumma* (아줌마) is a Korean word for "madame". The word is taken completely and used in a tweet "They might not won the immortal songs but they got the ahjummas and ahjussi loving them they lost the war but won the battle".

- *Ahjussi* (아저씨) is a Korean word for "uncle". The word is taken completely and used in a tweet "They might not won the immortal songs but they got the ahjummas and ahjussi loving them they lost the war but won the battle".

The implications of slang words in English Material Development were analyzed based on various teaching and learning theories.

1. **Sociolinguistic Theory**

   Sociolinguistic theory emphasizes that language varies according to social groups and contexts. According to Eble (1996), Slang can serve as a marker of group identity and solidarity, allowing members to establish a sense of belonging and differentiate themselves. Incorporating slang into English Materials can make content more relatable and engaging for students. Sociolinguistics also analyzes the concept of code-switching, where people switching between different languages in different contexts. Teachers can teach slang to students in code-switch practice/activities by considering the appropriate social contexts while mastering the standard English for academic purposes.

2. **Cultural Relevant Theory**

   Cultural Relevant Theory argues that recognizing and valuing students' cultural identities within the classroom environment fosters intellectual, social, emotional, and political empowerment (Risa & Orey, 2020). Adding slang into learning materials can enhance students' cultural relevance and allow them to correlate with their own experience in the context of their studies.

3. **Communicative Language Teaching (CLT)**

   Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) emphasizes the importance of using language that students will encounter in real-life situations. According to Richards & Rogers (2001), materials are designed to enable learners to engage in meaningful interactions, practice language in relevant contexts, and develop communicative competence. As a significant part of authentic language that used in a real-life situation, using slang in teaching materials can help students to improve their practical skills and how to communicate properly in real-life situations.

4. **Constructivist Learning Theory**

   According to Vygotsky & Cole (1978), Constructivist Learning Theory posits that learners actively construct knowledge through their experiences and interactions with the world around them. Adding slang into learning materials can improve students' linguistic knowledge by using their everyday language, which makes the learning process more engaging and efficient. Boylu & Kardaş (2020) states that using slang words can help students understand and use the language more naturally.

5. **Critical Literacy Theory**

   According to Freire (1970), Critical Literacy Theory aims to develop students' ability to read texts in an analytical and questioning manner, fostering critical consciousness. By adding slang into learning materials, students can be motivated because it acknowledges their linguistic identities and encourage critical reflection of language usage and societal norms.

6. **Multiliteracies Theory**

   Multiliteracies pedagogy involves designing learning experiences that engage students in multimodal composition, critical media analysis, and the use of digital tools for communication and collaboration. As one of a form of linguistic literacies that is

commonly used in digital space, adding slang into learning materials means teachers acknowledge the various forms of literacy that students interact with.

Sociolinguistics is a study of how language and society interact with each other. It explores how language used within social contexts and how society influence language use and structure. Because language is used to communicate with each other every day in a social group, social factor like age, gender, educational level, etc. can influence language as well. Slang is one of examples of language variation that is used in everyday life communication. Slang is usually used in a speaking activity and mostly used by teenager (Tambunsaribu, 2019; Nuraeni & Pahamzan, 2021; Alidin, 2022). However, with technology being more advanced, slang also has become widely used in digital space like Twitter.

After presenting the data analysis, it is revealed in the finding that there are 56 slang words found in 50 tweets made by K-Pop fans on Twitter. The slang words are in English and Korean. Those 56 slang words are *IJBOL, fam, dozen, OMG, bestie, ad, fav, fem, masc, vibe, loser, sus, maknae, meh, giggle, tea, yap, gen, MV, slay, shade, GG, def, ahjumma, ahjussi, nugu, ASAP, glow up, buzz, basic, IKTR, FYI, LMAO, flex, hate train, clout, receipt, roar, cuz, mulfan, ship, mushow, cringe, sajaegi, selca, fansite, chaebol, pic, FR, wheez, salty, aegyo, PAK, SOTY,* and *hyung*. In the first analysis, the researcher analyzed the slang words used by K-Pop Community on Twitter. There are fifty-six (56) slang words found on the Twitter identified and listed the slang words into the table. The second objective of this study is analyzing the implications of slang words in English Material Development. The researcher used sociolinguistics theory and various teaching and learning theories in previous chapter. The implications are: Incorporating slang into learning materials can make content more relatable and engaging for students, can enhance students' cultural relevance and allow them to correlate with their own experience in their studies.

There are two objectives of this study, to find out what type of slang words used by K-Pop community on Twitter and to analyze the implication of slang words in English material development. The researcher used theory proposed by Allan & Burridge, and Eble to find the first objective. There are 56 slangs found using the Allan & Burridge theory and Eble's theory: IJBOL, fam, dozen, OMG, bestie, ad, fav, fem, masc, vibe, loser, sus, maknae, meh, giggle, tea, yap, gen, MV, slay, ahade, GG, def, ahjumma, ahjussi, nugu, ASAP, glow up, buzz, basic, IKTR, FYI, LMAO, flex, hate train, clout, receipt, roar, cuz, mulfan, ship, mushow, cringe, sajaegi, selca, fansite, chaebol, pic, FR, wheez, salty, aegyo, PAK, SOTY, and hyung. 9 slangs are classified as Fresh and Creative, 6 slangs are classified as Flippant, 6 slangs are classified as Imitative, 11 slangs are classified as Acronym and Abbreviation, 11 slangs are classified as Clipped Words, 2 slangs through process compounding, 8 slangs through process borrowing, and 3 slangs through process blending. The implications of slang words in English Material Development are: Incorporating slang into learning materials can make content more relatable and engaging for students, can enhance students' cultural relevance, can help students to improve their practical skills, can improve students' linguistic knowledge, can be motivated because it acknowledges their linguistic identities, and can encourage critical reflection of language usage.

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