

## ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN SLANG IN MOVIE “LAUGH OF LOUD”

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### **Abstract**

*Slang is an important feature in American culture. It is more effective than standard or conventional English, so the writer is interested to discuss and classify of slang words in Laugh of Loud movie. The purpose of this research is to classify slang word in Laugh of Loud (LOL) movie based on the characteristic on Andersson and Trudgill theory. This research used the descriptive qualitative method. The data source of this research is taken from the movie script of Laugh of Loud (LOL) directed by Lisa Azuelos, Karim Ainouz and Nans Delgado with the main the data is American slang. Based on the research result, there are 35 slang words or phrases in the movie of LOL, the slang is divided into four categories: (1) 8 slang words or phrases as the neutral syntactic level, (2) 10 slang words or phrases as typical informal situations, (3) 2 slang words or phrases as typical of spoken language, and (4) 15 slang words or phrases as creative. The meaning of slang words or phrases as informal situation category can be found in a dictionary.*

*Key words: American slang, phrases, movie*

## ANALISIS BAHASA SLANG AMERIKA DALAM FILM LOUGH OF LOUD

### **Abstrak**

Penggunaan bahasa slang merupakan sangat penting dalam budaya Amerika. Hal ini lebih efektif dari pada penggunaan bahasa Inggris biasanya, oleh karena itu penulis tertarik untuk membahas ciri khas slang yang digunakan dalam film Laugh of Loud. Adapun tujuan dari penulisan ini adalah untuk mengetahui ciri khas penggunaan slang yang digunakan dalam film ini. Penulisan ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Sumber data yang digunakan adalah teks film Laugh of Loud karya Liza Azuelos, Karim Ainouz dan Nans Delgado. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, terdapat 35 kata slang slang baik dalam bentuk kata atau frasa. Penemuan slang ini dibagi dalam 4 kategori: (1) 8 kata atau frasa dalam jenis tingkat sintaksis netral (2) 10 kata atau frasa dalam jenis situasi informal, (3) 2 kata atau frasa dalam jenis bahasa lisan dan (4) 15 kata atau frasa dalam jenis kreatif.

Kata kunci: Slang Amerika, frasa, film

## INTRODUCTION

According to Burdová (2009:8), slang is considered an independent non-literary language formation existing in a language and closely connected with its terminology. The etymological origin of the word, as well as its precise definition, seems to be ambiguous. Several theories about the origin exist. The word slang is supposed to be derived from the word *s'* language in England (18<sup>th</sup> Century) and was originally used to describe the vulgar language spoken by certain subcultures, e.g. soldiers or musicians' slang. Moreover, slang words and expressions are characterized by a high degree of informality, familiarity, and vocabulary richness. They are realized by a specific group of people whose members are connected by some particular link such as territory (Californian), age (teenagers), subculture (students), and mainly occur in the spoken form of the language.

Slang is an important feature in American culture. It is more effective than standard or conventional English for describing sports, sex, and intoxication in daily conversation. Slang's primary reason for being is to establish a sense of commonality among its speakers. What differentiate slang from other categories of speech are the reasons for using it. The reasons for using slang language include the desire to be different, to enrich the language, to engage in playfulness, to identify one's self with a certain school, trade or social class and to be secret. Slang is always used self-consciously, with the desire to create a particular identity (Andersson and Trudgill: 1990:87).

Slang changes its identity along with who is speaking. What is slang to one person, to another is not, depending on the person's educational, economic or social position,

and even in relation to the location and generation. Slang also changes over time and can disappear rapidly. At this time, slang is often used in Western movies such as Hollywood movies. Slang is used most heavily in movies about teenagers targeted at a teenage audience.

Many of the American movies that are imported to Indonesia are teenager's movies. In these movies, the actor and actress use slang expressions such as those found in *LOL*. It is a remake of a French movie and released by Lionsgate Films. It reflects American teenager's difficulties in navigating the peer pressures of high school romance and friendship while dodging their sometimes overbearing and confused parents. The writer chooses this movie because this movie was one of the most interesting romance comedy movies that contain a large amount of slang language.

The purpose of this research is to classify slang word in *Laugh of Loud (LOL)* movie based on the characteristic on Andersson and Trudgill theory

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Language Variety

Coulmas (2005:53) defines language variety as follows:

Language variety based on expressions, constructions, and pronunciations are chosen by speakers of different generations at different frequencies. Actually, they are maybe used with a purpose in mind-to make fun of the "olde worlde", to make a claim for dignity, to show that we are up to date or loathe the trends.

Based on Kirk Hazen, in *The Study of Variation in Historical Perspective* (2014:70–89):

Offers an excellent review of the development of variationist sociolinguistics. The old question of variable rules remains moot in this discussion; wherever one comes down on the spectrum of acceptance or rejection of variable rules, no consensus can be found. We can suggest that a real data based solution to the question of ‘rules’ in language variation, with its implications for a community of speakers and the variable lect of a given speaker, can be found in a theory of stylistic analysis, as offered in Nikolai Coupland, 2007. *Style: Language variation and identity*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press.

Obviously, language is used for communication and it should be implicit. Furthermore, as the modern way of living becomes faster, new trends are also reflected in the development of language in the form of various new words and expressions as well as the improvement of grammatical structure. Comparison of those two linguistic areas shows that vocabulary grows so rapidly that the communicative function of language develops more novel and concise expressions in order to keep pace with modern trends in human life.

### Theory Of Slang

#### Definition of Slang

Leech and Svartvik (1981:26) assess slang in the following way:

*Slang* is language which is very familiar in style, and is usually restricted to the members of particular social group, for example ‘teenage slang’, ‘army slang’, ‘theater *slang*’. *Slang* is not usually understood by people outside a particular social group, and so has value in showing the intimacy of its members.

Apparently, besides *slang*, several different genres can be distinguished within the style of non-standard English such as argot, jargon, cant, flash, idiom etc. Hence, many *slang* dictionaries offer a variety of *slang* definitions discovering slight nuances among them.

And also, slang as well as general vocabulary, is characterized by a wide range of linguistic properties, e.g. grammar, semantics, phonology, as mentioned above. Not all of those properties are common linguistic features for both slang and general vocabulary, but some of them particularly suit to slang. Various studies on slang add another specific type of properties associated with slang called sociological properties. Sociological properties are derived from slang’s multiple nature and its function.

Coleman (2004:2) devotes attention to differences among these various types of non-standard language. She notes:

Slang is usually short-lived, and often belongs to a specific age or social clique. It is used, like fashion, to define in-groups and out-groups. Jargon is the specialized language of an occupational or interest group, and functions as often to exclude as include. Cant is the secret language of thieves and beggars, and is used for deception and concealment. Flash is used with specific reference to fashionable slang of London’s eighteenth and nineteenth century demi-monde. The boundaries between these types of language can not be clearly defined, and individual terms move easily between categories as they are adopted by new sets of speakers. Cant and slang both sometimes means jargon, and flash sometimes means slang, sometimes cant. The link between all of these language types is that they do not belong to what is now known as standard English”. In other words, Hotten (2008:7) sees differences

between slang and cant in the age of a given word. “cant is old, slang is always modern and changing”. To illustrate the difference, he gives an example of how a thief in cant language would term a horse a *prancer* or a *prad*, while in slang, a man of fashion would speak of it as a *bit of blood*, or *spanker*, or a *neat tin*.

By and large, several definitions about slang were offered. A major part of these definitions stresses all common features characteristic of *slang* whereas their contradictions arise from different authors’ emphases and their diverse points of view.

### **Characteristics of Slang**

In their book, entitled “*Bad Language*”, Andersson and Trudgill (1990:70) give a theory about the characteristics of *slang* in the following:

#### ***Slang is Language Use Belows the Neutral Syntactic Level***

Based Andersson and Trudgill (1990:70), “*slang* is a relative concept. Since *slang* is relative, changes in neutral or formal usage will lead to changes in what is seen as slang”.

There are English *slang* words which moved from *slang* into neutral or even formal language. To explain more about the characteristics of slang above, here are the examples; *Phone*, *bike*, *bus* and *pub* once were slang versions of more the more proper terms *telephone*, *bicycle*, *omnibus* and *public house*. These words and phrases that used to be *slang* are now considered to be part of neutral or ‘proper’ language. It means that slang changes through time. What is *slang* for one person, generation or situation may not be *slang* for another.

#### ***Slang is Typical of Informal Situations***

The formality of language is tied to the situation. In formal situations people expect

formal language and in informal situation informal language. *Slang* is far more out of place or shocking at the Queen’s dinner table than in the locker room.

It means that the formality of a situation is not fixed once and for all, but it changes through time from one place to another. The relationship between student and teacher is an example of one such situation. In Western society, the relationship between student and teacher in Britain is more formal than in the United States. However, there is no simple or automatic relationship between the formality of a situation and language. Usually both change together, and every so often this goes unnoticed. During the first minutes, the situation is usually felt to be formal. After a while it loosens up and becomes less formal and participants mix slang words into their conversation.

#### ***Slang is Typical of Spoken Language***

On the whole and for most of people, the situations in which they write are more formal than the situations in which they talk. For example; if people go and watch a football game they will hear a lot of *slang* from the crowd around them. The next morning, when they read about the match in the newspaper, there will be far less *slang* in the paper’s coverage of the game. It means that the language of mass media—news paper, radio and TV broadcasting—contains very little *slang*, while in spoken language people usually use more *slang*.

#### ***Slang is Creative***

The creative aspect of *slang* is important because point of slang words is often to be startling, amusing or shocking. *Slang* word such as *groovy*, *heavy* and so on, attract attention. However, if these words are heard over and over again they soon lose their impact, thus *slang* terms are always

developing to make them stand out against more ordinary lexical items.

### **Function of Slang**

According to Patridge in *Slang Today and Yesterday* in (Andersson and Trudgill; 1990:87) the reasons for using *slang* are, “As an exercise either in wit and ingenuity or in humour, to be different, to be un-mistakeably arresting even startling, to be novel, to enrich the language, and to show that one belongs to a certain school, trade, profession or social class”. This explanation shows that people are individuals who desire uniqueness. Furthermore, the *Historical Dictionary of American Slang* points out that many groups use slang largely because they lack political power. It is a safe and effective way that people rebel against the establishment.

### **American Slang**

Since the film *LOL* is released by the studio Lionsgate, Mandate Pictures in Hollywood, the center of motion pictures in the United States, the *slang* used in this film is American *Slang*. American *Slang*, according to Flexner in *The New Dictionary of American Slang*, is the body of words and expressions frequently used by or intelligible to a large portion of the general American public, but not accepted as good, formal usage by the majority. American *slang* has been shaped and reshaped by the different cultures that make up the United States and by the emergence of technology, which has left American society with varieties of *slang*.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative descriptive method. The data source of this research is taken from the movie script of

Laugh of Loud (*LOL*) directed by Lisa Azuelos, Karim Ainouz and Nans Delgado with the main the data is American slang.

The procedures to collect data are: finding the slang expression in Laugh of Loud movie and the original script then the data were classified based on their characteristic. The number of words or phrases slang are 35 data. The data are classified into four categories: the neutral syntactic level, typical of informal situation, typical of spoken language and creative.

## **RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Fortunately, the writer found 35 *slang* words or phrases in Laugh of Loud movie. The *slang* is divided into four categories based on their characteristics. The first is the neutral syntactic level, there are 8 data: Slo-mo, Brazilian, What up, Phone, Swetie, Heel, Shut Up, Oh My Gosh. The second is typical of informal situation, there are 10 data: wanna, dude, cool, booked up, suck, gotta, ass hole, gonna, deal, dark. The third is typical of spoken language, there are 2 data: cop and chicken. The fourth is creative, there are 15 data: brutal, hooked up, nuts, A ton, bimbo, skank-ass hole, honey, huh, hot, pal, own up, emo, slut, yummy and starsky.

### **Slang is the Neutral Syntactic Level**

It means that English *slang* moved from slang into a formal language.

- (1) *slo-mo* is a blending. Fortunately, blending is derivational process in English. And also, blends are called by contaminations or portmanteau words into one word, as in *slo-mo*, form slow-motion which means to do something

as if recorded by a slow-motion camera.

*Lola : We're in Slo-mo, 'cause that's how all the hot girls always show up*  
(LOL, 00:01:15-01:36:40)

- (2) *Brazilian* means completely shaved female genitals.

*Anne : Lola, is that a Brazilian?*

*Lola : Mom!*

*Anne : Mom, what?*

*Lola : Nothing, it's just... It's my body and I'll take care of it how I want to.*

*Anne : No, It's not. And I'm not going to let you be a porn star.*

*Lola : what's a porn star?.Nothing.*

*Anne : Nothing.*

*Lola : Oh, yeah, Mom, you want me to freeze?*

(LOL, 00:05:18-01:36:40)

- (3) *What up?* or *what's up?*

A greeting which meaning is mostly irrelevant in that the questioner does not want an answer to the literal question.

*Chad : Yeah, I like what's under your shirt.*

*Ashley : Hey! Stop*

*Chad : What up, what up, what up?*

(LOL, 00:12:29-01:36:40)

- (4) *Phone* is clipping. Clipping is a process which abbreviates a word to one of its parts. The most common pattern is black-clipping, in which the beginning of a base lexeme is retained but in this case *phone* is fore-clipping. It was changed from telephone. Afterwards, this has long been part of Standard English, though it began as slang.

*Anne : Baby, I care about you.*

*Lola : I know. I'm sorry, Mom*

*Anne: Why didn't you talk to me?*

*Lola:I love you, Mom*

*Anne: I love you, Baby*

*Lola: Can I have my phone back now?*

(LOL, 00:29:38-01:36:40)

- (2) *Sweetie* or sweet heart, a lovable person; also as a term of endearment.

*Janice : Here's your drink.*

*Grandma : Thanks, sweetie.*

*Lloyd : So, how is it?*

*Grandma : It's good*

*Wen : I don't know*

(LOL, 00:36:04-01:36:40)

- (3) *Shut up!* meaning 'be quiet'

*Headmaster : Go. And your reason for being late is?*

*Kyle:Well, you're going to laugh.*

*Headmaster: This is as much as I laugh*

*Lola: Did you see her face?*

*Kyle:Yeah, she totally wants me.*

*Lola:Shut up!*

*Kyle:So, did you make up with Chad?*

(LOL , 00:08:26-01:36:40)

- (4) *Oh my Gosh*, from oh my God!

This is a euphemistic version of the original used for expressing shock.

*Emily:Yummy*

*Emil: Oh, my gosh.*

*Mr. Ros: Oh, God. You okay? Oh, hey.*

*Emily: Oh, Mr. Ross*

(LOL, 00:56:05-01:36:40)

### **Slang is Typical of Informal Situations in LOL**

A sub-set of a language used by one particular group, it consists of words and expressions which will not be found in the dictionary, and can be distortions of existing words or entirely invented terms. It is used in informal situations. It is not appropriate in formal situations.

- (1) *Wanna* or want to  
A spelling of **want to** intended to reflect a dialectical or informal pronunciation.  
*Lola: We just wanna look like we don't care. Especially in front of the guys.*  
(LOL, 00:01:21-01:36:40)
- (1) *Dude* or brother, friend  
*Emily: Dude, I cannot believe he hijacked my Zadig bag! I had to special order this thing.*  
(LOL, 00:03:03-01:36:40)
- (2) *Cool* or wine, well, good, gorgeous  
*Emily: Cool. Cool.*  
*Teacher: X-squared equals 9X plus 4B. Be quals 9, equals 14. Any question?*  
(LOL, 00:08:49-01:36:40)
- (3) *Booked up* or busy  
*Teacher: Tutoring for what?*  
*Emily: for trig, of course.*  
*Teacher: for your mother?*  
*Emily: No, for me.*  
*Teacher: Right, right, right. Sorry. No, no, I'm sorry, I'm already all booked up this semester.*  
(LOL, 00:11:41-01:36:40)
- (4) *Suck* or perform poorly  
*Chad: Bro, we're gonna suck if we don't practice.*  
(LOL, 00:15:31-01:36:40)
- (5) *Gotta* or have got to  
This term goes from the phrase *have got to* and is intended to reflect a dialectical or informal pronunciation.  
*Kyle: Sorry, guys, I gotta bail.*  
(LOL, 00:15:25-01:36:40)
- (6) *Asshole* or jerk  
*Anne: Stupid asshole cops, giving me a ticket. Just because my registration's expired one day.*  
(LOL, 00:19:29-01:36:40)
- (7) *Gonna* or going to  
It seems like *wanna* and *gotta*, it is also used to reflect a dialectical or informal pronunciation.  
*James: You know, that was so great, to the... The talk in there. I... I'm gonna buy you a drink.*  
(LOL, 00:44:06-01:36:40)
- (8) *Deal* or problem  
*Kyle: Hey, Lol, what's your deal?*  
*Lola: My deal is that everybody knows she does guys in the bathroom, Kyle.*  
*Kyle: Wait. What? You think Ashley and I... in the bathroom?*  
(LOL, 00:46:23-01:36:40)
- (9) *Dork* or nerd  
*Lola: The emo one next to the slut.*  
*Jeremy: Nice hair. What a dork.*  
*Lola: Come on, he's not that bad. Shut up and make it look sexy.*  
(LOL, 00:50:27-01:36:40)
- Slang is Typical of Spoken Language in LOL**  
A subset of a language used by one particular group, it consists of words and expressions which will not be found in the dictionary, and can be distortions of existing words or entirely invented terms. It is used in informal situations. It is not appropriate in formal situations.
- (1) *Cop* or a policeman  
*Anne: Stupid asshole cops, giving me a ticket. Just because my registration's expired one day.*  
(LOL, 00:19:29-01:36:40)
- (2) *Chicken* or coward  
*Lola: I'm gonna go to hell.*  
*Wen: You're such a chicken*  
(LOL, 00:36:01-01:36:40)

### **Slang is Creative in LOL**

In this case, *slang* is always developing year by year.

(1) *Brutal* or horrible

*Chad: So you missed me?*

*Lola: Yeah. It was brutal. You didn't call or text me.*

*Chad: I did. You just didn't get it because there was no reception. Plus I kind of hooked up with this girl, another counselor.*

(LOL, 00:03:47-01:36:40)

(2) *Hooked up* or to have intimate relations

*Chad: So you missed me?*

*Lola: Yeah. It was brutal. You didn't call or text me.*

*Chad: I did. You just didn't get it because there was no reception.*

*Plus I kind of hooked up with this girl, another counselor*

(LOL, 00:03:57-01:36:40)

(3) *Nuts* or crazy, weird

Teenagers' efforts to invent new words and to modify the form or meaning of existing ones are evident from the below slang nouns *nuts* and adjectives or phrases *nutty*. The young are indeed creative and continually in search of *movie* expressions which show that they are fashionable.

*Jeremy: You Women really are nuts.*

(LOL, 00:24:17-01:36:40)

(4) *A ton* or many, lots

*Anne's friend: Since Lucy has broken up with Rick, she's going out with a ton guys.*

(LOL, 00:24:22-01:36:40)

(5) *Bimbo* or a young woman considered to be sexually attractive but of limited intelligence.

*Jeremy's father: You used to love my farts.*

*Jeremy's mother: I was lying to you.*

*What about you and Allen?*

*You guys still see each other?*

*Anne: Just with the kids*

*Jeremy's mother: Good, because we saw Allen*

*the other day with the biggest bimbo.*

(LOL, 00:19:29-01:36:40)

(6) *Skank-ass ho* or a dirty whore

*Lola : Stop following me.*

*Chad : You wish. Skank -ass ho.*

*Lola : Stop calling me that!*

(LOL, 00:27:28-01:36:40)

(7) *Honey* or a term of endearment

*Anne: Mom, how could you let this happen?*

*Grandma: Honey, I just don't know. I can't seem to hold my drinks like I used to.*

(LOL, 00:39:06-01:36:40)

(8) *Hot* or pl. Strong sexual desire. (adj) (1)

Of a person (originally a woman): sexually attractive. (2) Of goods: stolen. As *hot stuff*, stolen goods.

*Chad: Wow, Your sister is ad.*

*Ashley : She is not my sister.*

*Ashley's step mother : Actually, p-motr*

(LOL, 00:41:59-01:36:40)

(9) *Pal* or friend

*Chad: Wow, Your sister is.*

*Ashley: She is not my sister.*

*Ashley's step mother: Actually,.*

*Ashley's father: And she's my wife, a*

(LOL, 00:42:05-01:36:40)



- (10) *Own up* or admit  
Lola : *was it good?*  
Kyle : *What do you mean?*  
Lola : *Come on, don't lie to me.*  
*Just own up to it.*  
(LOL, 00:45:23-01:36:40)
- (11) *Emo* or an emotional rocker  
Lola : *The emo one next to the slut.*  
Jeremy : *Nice hair. What a dork.*  
Lola : *Come on, he's not that bad.*  
*Shut up and make it look sexy.*  
(LOL, 00:50:25-01:36:40)
- (12) *Slut* or sexually promiscuous woman  
Lola : *The emo one next to the slut.*  
Jeremy : *Nice hair. What a dork.*  
Lola : *Come on, he's not that bad.*  
*Shut up and make it look sexy.*  
(LOL, 00:50:25-01:36:40)
- (13) *Starsk*, a reference to an old TV show about cops called starsky and hutch  
Grandma: *So, do you like him?*  
Anne: *who?*  
Grandma: *who?*  
Grandma: *Starsky.* (mention to James)  
Anne : *Mom, would you not call him that?*  
(LOL, 01:05:51-01:36:40)

## CONCLUSION

After analyzing from this thesis, the writer found some information such as the background of *LOL* movie and the characteristics of *slang* in the movie that is divided into four categories as the according to Andersson and Trudgill's theory. They are *Slang is the Neutral Syntactic Level, Typical of Informal Situations, Typical of Spoken Language, and Creative*. the writer found 35 slang words or phrases as the four categories of slang in *LOL*. For example: *slo-mo,*

*brazilian,* and *what up* demonstrate that *slang* is the neutral syntactic level, while *wanna, gonna,* and *gotta* are examples of how *slang* is typical of informal situations. After that, *cop* and *chicken* show that *slang* is typical of spoken language and *brutal, hooked up, and nuts* exemplify that *slang* is creative.

Based on the research result, there are 35 slang words or phrases in the movie of *LOL*, the slang is divided into four categories: (1) 8 slang words or phrases as the neutral syntactic level, (2) 10 slang words or phrases as typical informal situations, (3) 2 slang words or phrases as typical of spoken language, and (4) 15 slang words or phrases as creative. The meaning of slang words or phrases as informal situation category can be found in a dictionary.

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