

## Slang Words used in Olivia Rodrigo Song Lyrics in the Album of Sour

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### Abstract

This final project is based on the study which attempted to analyze the slang word used in song lyrics by Olivia Rodrigo. The song's album is called *Sour*. There were eleven songs in the album but the researcher takes only seven among of them. The songs are Brutal, Traitor, Driver License, Good 4 U, Happier, Jealousy-jealousy, and Hope Ur Ok. The main purpose of this study is were to analyze the types of slang words found in the song lyrics, the meaning of the slang words found in song lyrics, and the dominant slang words found in song lyrics. This research is descriptive-qualitative analysis which analyzed the slang word used in the song lyrics usin Allan and Burr ridge's theory (2006). The result of the study was there were 48 data of slag words found in the song lyrics. Those slang words was classified into 4 types of slang words. The types were fresh and creative (41.6%), flippant (27.3%), imitative (12.5%), and clipping (18.5%). From these result it can be concluded that the dominant type of slang word is fresh and creatve.

### Keywords

Slang Words; Song; Lyrics

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## 1. PRELIMINARY

Sociolinguistics is a systematic discipline that combines sociology and linguistics. Linguistics and sociolinguistics, the study of language in connection to society, aim to comprehend language structure and how it functions in communication (Aitchison & Wardaugh, 2006). According to Holmes (2013), The study of the interaction between language and society is known as sociolinguistics. In order to understand why people speak differently in various social situations, it attempts to establish the social purposes of language and the ways in which it is utilized to express social meaning. Sociolinguistics is the study of the interactions between language and society with the goal of comprehending the structure of languages and how they function in communication. It indicates that those who study sociolinguistics get knowledge of how social structures influence speech. As a result, sociolinguistics has found that language in society varies greatly depending on the social and cultural background of the location. Slang terms are one of the language alterations that teens frequently employ.

One of the language varieties used in casual settings is slang. According to Munro (2007) the very informal usage of words and phrasal verbs that are not a part of the common language is known as slang. Slang is frequently used for a oral communication, however it is neither an official or informal language because many words quickly become archaic or obsolete due to trends. Slang is usually intentionally used to create specific identities (Anderson and Trudgil, 1990). A unique vocabulary that reflect the speaker's social context is slang. It is not an official language, yet it is more useful than standard English in common discourse when discussing physical activity, gender, and drunkenness.



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Agha (2015) states that slang refers to a group of errant registers of language and serves as an ideological framework for thinking about language. It denotes that only those who can understand conventional slang are used. Slang is an uncommon word created by contemporary individuals. It is frequently seen in current books, movies, and songs.

Both teenagers and children use contemporary language in speech. The most inventive and easily saturated with established order are young people. It also affects how people speak informally. Therefore they generally communicate using slang. Slang typically has a short lifespan because it was created to fit a certain circumstance at a specific time (Lerner, 1960). Nowadays slang is not only used in communication but also into song lyrics. Many musicians or composers put the slang words on their lyrics. One of them is soloist Olivia Rodrigo. Although in the lyrics already use language that is easily understood by the listener. Olivia also includes some slang words in the lyrics. The use of slang words is not only for the aesthetics of the song, but it can also be used to match the rhythm and tone of the song. Even so, some people also do not easily understand slang words because it will not be easy to find their meaning in a dictionary. The author chose the title "Slang Words Used in Olivia Rodrigo Song Lyrics in The Album of Sour", so that the listeners can easily understand the meaning of the song lyrics because the song in the album contain some lyrics use slang words.

Slang is a component of social interaction that can develop, particularly among young people. Those inside the group who discuss their thoughts and perspectives are more likely to use it to set themselves apart from others (Yule, 2010). Teenage interactions, whether spoken aloud or in writing, will always contain slang phrases. Even slang was practically nonexistent in a word reference. Slang is terminology that corresponds to an informal register and is often used in oral communication but is forbidden in official writing. Lingua (2006) states that slang is a component of a language that is typically used outside of the standard and can include both newly created words and expressions as well as new or expanded meanings connected to established terminology.

The usage of slang is very common in song and movie lyrics. especially in songs and movies that emphasize the social and cultural components of one's identity. According to Westphal (2021), Pop music describes a variety of musical styles that are popular worldwide and are listened to by a broad audience rather than a small number of people. American English has risen to take the lead in popular music, thus establishing its hegemony over the globe (Mair 2013:260).

Olivia Rodrigo is an American singer, actress, and songwriter. Olivia's first single, "Drivers License," which she released in 2020, broke numerous records and quickly rose to the top of the sales charts in 2021, catapulting her into the public eye. She followed it up with the singles "Deja Vu," which peaked at number three on the Billboard Hot 100, and "Good 4 U," which peaked at number one in a number of nations. In 2021, she released *Sour*, her debut solo studio album, which was well received both critically and commercially. 2021 will see *Sour* take home a number of honors, including three Grammy Awards (Best New Artist, Best Pop Vocal Album, and Solo Performance). In 2022, a Disney+ documentary titled *Olivia Rodrigo: Driving Home 2 U* that documents her creative process for *Sour* and the *Sour* Tour will be released.

## 2. METHOD

In this research, the researcher uses a descriptive-qualitative. According to Creswell (2014) A technique for studying and learning about the meaning that individuals or groups attribute to a social or human situation is qualitative research. Qualitative research gave you the opportunity to study a real-world setting in its own terms, thereby putting a wide array of study topics at your disposal Yin (2011).

The descriptive qualitative method was used to finding, analyzing, and discussing the slang words found in Olivia Rodrigo song and classified the types of slang words.

### 3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The researcher only analyze seven songs among twelve song because the researcher thought that seven songs was enough for this reserach. The reseracher analyze slang words used theory of Allan and Burrige. Based on the table of data on research findings, the researcher found 48 datas of slang words in 7 songs of Olivia Rodrigo. Following the background of the research, there are 3 statements of the problem. The first statement of the problem is about the types of slang language used in album *Sour* by Olivia Rodrigo. The researcher found the types of slang words used theory of Allan and Burrige, the slang is divided into five parts, such as Fresh and Creative, Flippant, Imitative, Acronym, and Clipping. According to data in table 1 – table 7, the reseracher found 20 data included in Fresh and Creative, 13 data including Flippant, 6 data including Imitative, 0 data including Acronym, and 9 data including Clipping. The second statement is identified the meaning of those 48 slang datas of slang words. The thirds statement of the problem about the most common slang in album *Sour* by Olivia Rodrigo. Fresh and Creative was identified as the dominant types of slang words in 7 songs of Olivia Rodrigo in album of *Sour*.

#### 1. Brutal song

##### a. Line 9

Slang word: *'cause*

There is word "cause" in line 9. The meaning of the word is to refer "because". The researcher categorized the word 'cause into the Clipping because it's reducing words into shorter.

##### b. Line 13

Slang word: *gonna*

The word gonna is derived from two word going + to, which means the same as "will". The researcher categorized the word of *gonna* into the Imitative because combining two different word.

##### c. Line 19

Slang word: *kinda*

The word gonna is derived from two word kind + of. The researcher categorized the word of *kinda* into the Imitative because combining two different word.

#### 2. Traitor song

##### a. Line 3

Slang word: *white lies*

The researcher found that *white lies* means a lie about a small or unimportant matter. The researcher categorized the words *white lies* into the Flippant because is made of two different word.

##### b. Line 4

Slang word: *dumb*

*Dumb* means idiot, stupid; mentally sluggish, slow-witted person. The researcher categorized the word *dumb* into the Fresh and Creative bacuse it's describe casual context in different word.

- c. Line 12  
Slang word: *as hell*  
*As hell* means as can be; to highest degree; extremely. *As hell* also can to make statement more forceful, so it can be one sentence. The researcher categorized the word *as hell* into the Fresh and Creative because it's describe casual context in different word.
3. Driver License song
  - a. Line 3  
Slang word: *cuz*  
There is the word *cuz* in line 3. The meaning of the word is to refer because. The researcher categorized the word *cuz* into the Clipping because it's reducing words into shorter.
  - b. Line 6  
Slang word: *cryin'*  
There is the word *cryin'* in line 49. The meaning of the word is to refer crying. The researcher categorized the word *cryin'* into the Clipping because it's reducing words into shorter.
  - c. Line 7  
Slang word: *blonde girl*  
In the context of the lyrics, the word *blonde girl* means a girl who has blonde hair, pair skin, with leight eyes. Usually, generalized to a Americans or Europes. The researcher categorized the word of *blonde girl* into the Flippant because is made up of two different word.
4. Good 4 U song
  - a. Line 1  
Slang word: *move on*  
In slang dictionary, *move on* means start doing something new from all the pain you had. People nowadays use the word move on to describe that they have forgotten someone. The researcher categorized the word *move on* into the Fresh and Creative because it's describe casual context in different word.
  - b. Line 9  
Slang word: *baby*  
In general, according to Urban Dictionary, *baby* means a new born, but in this context, the meaning is different. Based on slang dictioanry, *baby* is a sweetheart or darling. The researcher categorized the words *baby* into the Fresh and Creative because it's describe casual context in different word.
  - c. Line 20  
Slang word: *what the fuck*  
*What the fuck* mean an expression of extreme surprise or an expression of extreme annoyment of frustrasion. This slang was kinda of vulgar sentence. The researcher categorized the word *what the fuck* into the Flippant because is made up of two or more different word.
5. Happier song
  - a. Line 3  
Slang word: *move on*

In slang dictionary, *move on* means start doing something new from all the pain you had. People nowadays use the word *move on* to describe that they have forgotten someone. The researcher categorized the word *move on* into the Fresh and Creative because it's describe casual context in different word.

b. Line 6

Slang word: *sunlight*

In general, *sunlight* means a light from the sun. But in this context of the lyrics means a beautiful things or nice memories that happen in the past. The researcher categorized the words *sunlight* into the Fresh and Creative because it's describe casual context in different word.

c. Line 15

Slang word: *bullshit*

*Bullshit* also one of the type of vulgar slang. The meaning of *bullshit* is talk nonsense. The researcher categorized the words *bullshit* into the Flippant because is made up of two or more different word.

6. Jealousy, jealousy song

a. Line 1

Slang word: *kinda, wanna*

The word *kinda* is derived from two word kind + of, and the word *wanna* is derived from want + to. The researcher categorized the word of *kinda* and *wanna* into the Imitative because combining two different word.

b. Line 2

Slang word: *cuz, too good to be true*

There is the word *cuz* in line 2. The meaning of the word is to refer because. *Too good to be true* means the presence of someone who is so good in every aspect that it is too real to make it impossible for that person to exist because it is too perfect. The sentence of "*too good to be true*" has become a sentence that is often used to describe someone. The researcher categorized the word *cuz* into the Clipping because it's reducing words into shorter, and the word *too good to be true* into the Fresh and Creative.

c. Line 10

Slang word: *bout*

There is the word *bout'* in line 10. The meaning of the word is to refer about. The researcher categorized the word *bout* into the Clipping because it's reducing words into shorter.

7. Hope Ur Ok song

a. Line 2

Slang word: *towhead blond, eyes of salt*

*Towhead blond* means a person with blond hair. *Eyes of salt* means someone has teary eyes. The researcher categorized the word of *towhead blond* and *eyes of salt* into the Flippant because is made up of two different word.

b. Line 6

Slang word: *cuz, dad*

There is the word *cuz* in line 6. The meaning of the word is to refer because. The words *dad* refers to daddy, so the term is used to address a father. The researcher categorized the words *cuz* and *dad* into Clipping because it's deleting some part.

c. Line 7

Slang word: out of touch

*Out of touch* it means lost contact, the closest person who disappeared. The researcher categorized the word of *out of touch* into the Flippant because is made up of two different word.

**Tabulation of the types of slang words found in the song lyrics**

Types of Slang Words	Number of Data	Total of Slang Words	Precentage
Fresh and Creative	20	48	41.6%
Flippant	13	48	27.3%
Imitative	6	48	12.5%
Acronym	0	48	0%
Clipping	9	48	18.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100%</b>

From the tabulation of the data above, the most common types of slang words found in the song lyrics were Fresh and Creative with 20 data (41.6%), then followed by Flippant with 13 data (27.3%), Clipping with 9 data (18.5%), Imitative with 6 data (12.5%), and Acronym with 0 data (0%).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, the researcher concluded the slang words in the song lyrics on the album *Sour* by Olivia Rodrigo. The song lyrics were *Brutal*, *Traitor*, *Drivers License*, *Jealousy-jealousy*, *Hope Ur Ok*, *Good 4 U*, and *Happier*. The researcher found 48 slang words, and those slang words were classified into five types following the theory used by the researcher. They were fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Many words of slang which were found in selected 7 songs lyric of Olivia Rodrigo on *Sour* album. The researcher also found that the slang used in *Sour* album by Olivia Rodrigo is more dominant to the fresh and creative type with 20 data.

From the research above, in each songs on *Sour's* album there are several slang words. Many musicians made songs using slang words to make it easier to understand. In the other hand, some people also do not understand slang words because it won't be easy to find their meaning in dictionary. Therefore, researcher assumed that it was important to study and to understanding the meaning of slang, so that there's no misunderstanding. In this study also gave the example of using slang word in daily life.

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