

AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG WORDS USED IN “THE HOLDOVERS” MOVIE SCRIPT

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Abstract: *This research aims to find out the types and reasons for using slang words by the characters in the “The Holdovers” movie script. The research design used in this study is descriptive qualitative research with document analysis as the research type. The source of the data was taken from the script of “The Holdovers” movie written by David Hemingson. Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory was used to analyze the data in this research. The finding shows that 96 data of slang words were found with Fresh and Creative types as the most dominant type of slang words used by the characters in this movie, Then followed the Flippant type, Imitative type, Clipping type, and lastly the acronym type. Meanwhile, out of 192 frequencies of utterances, it was found that To Reveal Anger was the most frequently used reason for using slang words in “The Holdovers” movie script. It is followed by To Address, To Express Impression, To Humiliate, To Initiate Relax Conversation, To Form Intimate Atmosphere, and lastly To Show Intimacy.*

Key Words: *Slang Words, Movie Script, The Holdovers*

ANALISIS KATA-KATA GAUL YANG DIGUNAKAN DALAM NASKAH FILM “*THE HOLDOVERS*”

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Abstrak: Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis dan alasan penggunaan kata-kata slang oleh tokoh-tokoh dalam naskah film “The Holdovers”. Desain penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dengan analisis dokumen sebagai jenis penelitiannya. Sumber data diambil dari naskah film “The Holdovers” yang ditulis oleh David Hemingson. Teori Allan dan Burridge (2006) digunakan untuk menganalisis data dalam penelitian ini. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa ditemukan 96 data kata slang dengan tipe *Fresh* dan *Creative* sebagai tipe kata slang yang paling dominan digunakan oleh karakter dalam film ini, kemudian disusul tipe *Flippant*, tipe *Imitative*, tipe *Clipping*, dan terakhir tipe *Acronym*. Sementara itu, dari 192 frekuensi pengucapan, ditemukan bahwa *To Reveal Anger* merupakan alasan penggunaan kata slang yang paling sering digunakan dalam naskah film “The Holdovers”. Dilanjutkan dengan *To Address*, *To Express Impression*, *To Humiliate*, *To Initiate Relax Conversation*, *To Form Intimate Atmosphere*, dan terakhir *To Show Intimacy*.

Kata Kunci: Kata Kata Slang, Naskah Film, *The Holdovers*

INTRODUCTION

Slang is described as an expression that the speaker intentionally uses to break away from Standard English and switch the atmosphere of the dialogue into an informal one. It is supported by Allan and Burridge (2006) in their study that everyone often enjoys using more casual but creative phrases and idioms, and slang, especially when interacting informally. Slang is also seen as an informal language mainly used for confirming group identity.

Slang can be seen as a linguistic and social structure (a speech register) that focuses on "relationships between social groups" rather than a specific linguistic repertoire (Agha, 2015). Yule also (2014) describes slang as words or phrases used by youths and groups with specific interests. They usually use it to "keep secret" a conversation. For example, in a group of people whose interest in a game word "Noob" is usually used to call someone in the beginner stage and bad at playing a game.

In this research, the researcher used the theory of Allan and Burridge (2006) to identify the types of slang and classify its reasons. There are five types of slang: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Meanwhile, there are seven reasons why people use slang according to Allan and Burridge (2006) including To Address, To Humiliate, To Initiate Relax Conversation, To Form Intimate Atmosphere, To Express Impression, To Reveal Anger, and To Show Intimacy.

The use of this kind of non-standard word can be easily found anywhere, it is not only popular in everyday conversation but also in novels, magazines, songs, movies, and social media (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, TikTok, etc.). Slang is often strongly connected to the media and dispersed through different forms of popular culture and music (Gordon, 2020).

On the other hand, it's common things to use media such as songs, videos, or movies in educational settings. It can help to increase the student's enthusiasm in the learning process and even help students to improve their skills. The role of movies in the development of lexical knowledge and grammatical structure cannot be underestimated (Albay, 2016). As Khan (2015) mentions the "visuality" of movies can help language learners understand in a suitable visual context, making it a highly effective language-teaching tool. She adds that movies provide a variety of methods and resources for teaching the target language, encouraging students to develop their listening and conversational skills.

Rao (2019) explains watching English movies proves beneficial in teaching English because it helps the students gain additional information about the culture and style of the native speakers. Besides, slang words become the kind of language style that English learners need to be aware of because not only in movies, it is also inseparable in daily interactions which almost all English speakers use nowadays. Therefore, English learners need to learn slang words as a part of improving their speaking skills and also expanding new vocabulary. As Curtis (2007) mentions watching English movies in the classroom can help students expand their vocabulary and even help improve their pronunciation and intonation while speaking.

In this research, the researcher chose a movie entitled "The Holdovers" because this movie is quite popular nowadays. This movie earned positive reviews and was named one of the top 10 films of 2023 by both the National Board of Review and the American Film Institute. The Holdovers also gets five nominations for the 96th Academy Awards, including Best Picture. Besides, the dialogue of this movie contains a

lot slang words, the story of this movie also shares positive messages for young people. Therefore, it can become one of the learning media, especially for acquiring new vocabulary and enhancing their ability to pronounce those new words.

Furthermore, the researcher use the “The Holdovers” movie script to analyzing the slang words contained in this movie. The researcher chose to analyze the movie script because it would be more accurate than making the script manually or listening directly to the movie's dialogues.

However, there are a lot of slang words used in The Holdovers movie which makes it hard to understand the meaning of words easily. Following the previous explanation, the researcher is interested in conducting research under the title “An Analysis of Slang Words Used in “The Holdovers” Movie Script.”

METHODOLOGY

This research utilized the descriptive-qualitative method as the design of this research. The data of this research was obtained from dialogues that contain slang words of utterances by the characters in The Holdovers movie. The data in this research was collected by using the following steps: Firstly, the researcher browsed and downloaded “The Holdovers” movie on the internet, Secondly, the researcher watched and observed “The Holdovers” movie. Next, the researcher downloaded and read the movie script. Lastly, the researcher highlighted all the slang words used in the movie script.

Furthermore, in analyzing the data researcher uses Miles & Huberman (1994) theory such as data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. After collecting and highlighting all the slang words in "The Holdovers" movie dialogues, the researcher started to analyze it. Then, identified all the slang words or sentences in the movie script using Allan and Burridge's theory. Next, classified all the slang words found in the movie based on the types and the reasons for using slang words and presented the data obtained in table form. Lastly, Found out the most dominant type of slang words used by the characters in The Holdovers movie script. The result of this research has been validated by three validators who are English lecturers and have master's degrees in English education.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Based on the research questions, this chapter showed the types of slang words, the most dominant type, and the reason for using slang words in The Holdovers movie script. In this research, slang is categorized into five different types: Fresh & Creative, Flippant, Imitative, Acronym, and Clipping. To validate the data, the researcher asked a validator with the specification; a lecturer who already passed postgraduate in English education to analyze the data that had been collected by the researcher.

There was a table of the statements that indicated slang words.

Table 1. Percentage of slang types

| Slang Types | Words Number | Type Percentage (%) |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Fresh and Creative | 33 | 34 |
| Flippant | 24 | 25 |
| Imitative | 18 | 19 |
| Acronym | 7 | 7 |
| Clipping | 14 | 15 |
| Total | 96 | 100 % |

The percentage of each slang category used in The Holdovers movie is shown in the table above. There were found 90 data of slang words in The Holdovers movie script. The first has 33 (34%) data is Fresh and Creative type. The second has 24 (25%) data found as Flippant type. The third has 18 (19%) data found as Imitative type. The fourth is the Clipping type with 14 (15%) words. The last is the Acronym type with a total of 7 (7%) words. Referring to the table about the percentage of slang type. It can be concluded that the Fresh and Creative type is the most dominant type used by the characters in The Holdovers movie script.

Table 2. Percentage of The Reason for Using Slang

| The Reason for Using Slang | Frequency | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| To Address | 42 | 22 |
| To Initiate Relax Conversation | 23 | 12 |
| To Humiliate | 32 | 17 |
| To Form Intimate Atmosphere | 7 | 3 |
| To Express Impression | 36 | 19 |
| To Reveal Anger | 46 | 24 |
| To Show Intimacy | 6 | 3 |
| Total | 192 | 100 % |

The percentage of the reason for using slang by the characters in The Holdovers movie script is shown in the table above. There are found 192 frequency of reason for using slang words in The Holdovers movie script. First, To Reveal Anger is 46 (24 %) data. The second is To Address has 42 (22%) data. The third with 36 (19%) data found as To Express Impression. The fourth is To Humiliate with a total 32 (17%) data. The fifth is To Initiate Relax Conversation with 23 (12%) data. The sixth is To Form Intimate Atmosphere with 7 (3%) data and the last is To Show Intimacy with a total 6 (3%) data. Referring to table above, can be concluded that the characters in the holdover movie script mostly use slang To Reveal Anger.

Discussion

After collecting and analyzing the data, it was found that the characters in The Holdovers movie script used 90 slang words. It can be seen in Table 1. that five types of slang words were found and used by the characters. The result included 33 (34%) data in Fresh and Creative type, 24 (25%) data found in Flippant type, 18 (19%) data found in Imitative type, 14 (15%) data in Clipping and the Acronym type with a total 7 (7%) data. Referring to table 1. above, the researcher found all of the five slang types and the Fresh And Creative type was the most dominant type used by the characters in The Holdovers movie script.

The most frequent type of slang that appeared in “The Holdovers” movie script was the Fresh and Creative type. It found about 32 words (35%) in this movie script. The Fresh and Creative slang words uttered by the characters are “*Daddy*”, “*Dumb*”, “*Hell*”, “*Absurd*”, “*Darling*”, “*Guys*”, and “*Cool*”. As Allan and Burrige (2006) explained, slang has fresh and different vocabulary for describing something on a casual occasion. This type of slang usually consists of familiar words or phrases in our daily life conversation. This finding is similar to the previous research findings by Syahputra & Syafitri (2022) and Selvina (2021). Their research found that the fresh and creative types were the most used.

The second most frequent appearance of slang type in The Holdovers movie script was Flippant type. Researcher found about 19 words (21%) total in The Holdovers movie script, such as “*Gotta (got to)*”, “*Gonna (going to)*”, “*Bullshit*”, “*Sweetheart*”, “*Honeymoon*”, “*Dunno (don’t know)*”, and “*Goddamn*”. As Allan and Burrige (2006) mentioned, this type of slang is formed from two different Standard English words and become familiar nowadays. As

In the other hand, after finished analyzing the data researcher also found out the reasons why the characters used slang words in The Holdovers movie script. In this result researcher wrote down every utterance that used slang in it. This is needed because every dialogue uttered by characters in this movie has a different purpose and reason behind it. It means the same words can have different meanings according to the context and the situation. According to Allan and Burrige's (2006) theory, the reason for using slang is divided into seven including: To Address, To Initiate Relax Conversation, To Humiliate, To Form Intimate Atmosphere, To Express Impression, To Reveal Anger, and To Show Intimacy.

According to Table 2. above, there were 192 frequencies of reasons for using slang words in The Holdovers movie script. In the first frequency, To Reveal Anger is 46 (24 %) data. The second is To Address has 42 (22%) data. Third, 36 (19%) data were found as To Express Impression. Fourth is To Humiliate with a total of 32 (17%) data. The fifth is To Initiate Relax Conversation with 23 (12%) data. The sixth with 7 (3%) data is To Form Intimate Atmosphere and the last is To Show Intimacy with a total of 6 (3%) data. Referring to the table above, can be concluded that the characters in The Holdover movie script mostly use slang To Reveal Anger.

The most frequent dialogue uttered by the character in The Holdovers movie script aims To Reveal Anger. It showed up about 46 (24 %) times in this movie script. People use slang to show unpleasant or dislike feelings towards something or someone by cursing them. As Allan and Burrige (2006) explained, speakers who are in close relationships frequently use slang to express their anger instead of using standard language. For example, *fuck*, *shit*, *damn*, *bullshit*, *goddamn* and *hell*.

The second most frequent appearance reason in The Holdovers movie script was To Address. Someone who has a close relationship usually tends to use an informal kind of address to address their friends, relatives, or their beloved person. Related to Allan and Burrige (2006), stated that people usually use slang words or phrases to keep close when communicating with others. Someone with a close relationship usually prefers to use the informal address. There are 42 (22%) slang words found in the movie script, such as *daddy, sweetheart, darling, mom, dad, guys, and losers*.

This specified analysis showed that all the types of slang and the reasons for using slang are found in this movie. The characters in this movie frequently use slang to reveal anger in casual settings, with the Fresh and creative type being the most used. To discuss the findings above, the researcher also compared them with the previous related studies. The type of slang that is frequently used in this study is Fresh and Creative with 33 (34%) data. It is also supported by previous research findings by Syahputra & Syafitri (2022) and Selvina (2021). Fresh and Creative became the highest type because the main character in this movie was a teenager who tendency to use slang. Furthermore, Sudiyanti (2017) found it To Address as the highest reason for using slang words. Murthi (2023) To Show Intimacy as the frequently used reason for using slang. In contrast with the researcher's finding To Reveal Anger showed up about 46 (24 %) times in this movie's script.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, the research found that there were 96 slang words, the most commonly used types of slang words in this research were Fresh and Creative type followed by Flippant type, Imitative type, Clipping type, and last Acronym type. Meanwhile, from a total of 192 utterances that contained slang words, there were found the most frequent reasons for using slang was To Reveal Anger, followed by To Address, To Express Impression, To Humiliate, To Initiate Relax Conversation, To Form Intimate Atmosphere and the last is To Show Intimacy. In addition, from the result of this research, it can concluded that slang words is often used by teenagers and also usually used in informal situations.

Recommendations

Based on the conclusions above, the researcher's suggestion for the teacher, students, and readers is to increase their awareness and knowledge about slang words. There are a lot of Slang words are usually inappropriate because it has a rude connotation but not all slang is bad words. Therefore, readers especially students have to know the meaning of slang to express their thoughts wisely and it also can expand their vocabulary and their cultural knowledge about English language. Researcher also hope for the future study to expand research on the same topic. There are many aspects of slang words that can be analyzed the phenomenon of slang language using various theories and data sources such as novels, poems, songs, and other sources as main data. Hopefully, there is some improvisation in learning that can be useful to others.

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