

# WAWASAN PENDIDIKAN



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## AN ANALYSIS OF ENGLISH SLANG WORDS DISCUSSED BY SLANG CONTENT CREATORS ON TIKTOK

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### Abstract

This study discusses the analysis of the meaning and types of English slang words discussed by slang content creators on TikTok. This study also discusses the contribution of English slang words in language learning. There are 50 data that have been analyzed by researchers. The methodology of this research was qualitative research. The study consisted of three steps, they were; reading, selecting, and classifying the data. To identify the types of slang words, the researcher used the theory of Michael Munro (2007). The researcher also used online and manual to find the meaning of English slang words. Researchers found six out of eight types of slang words on TikTok. They are United States slang, Canadian slang, Australian slang, New Zealand slang, South African slang, and Irish slang. The researcher did not find slang words that belong to the type of Caribbean slang and South Asian slang. There are 16 United States slang words, 3 Canadian slang words, 11 Australian slang words, 10 New Zealand slang words, 5 South African slang words, and 5 Irish slang words. The United States slang type dominates the type of English slang words discussed by slang content creators on TikTok.

**Keywords:** slang, type, language, tiktok, social media.

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is the instrument to communicate, both spoken and written. Humans cannot communicate without using language such as for requesting something, giving or asking information, entertaining, and the others. Language is integrated in human life, so humans as social creatures need language to communicate. By language, people can also socialize and communicate with each other, either verbal or nonverbal. The study of language about society is called Sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics consists of two words, “socio” means social or related to society and “linguistics” means the science of language. Fishman in Wardhaugh (2010:16) says that sociolinguistics should encompass everything from considering “who speaks (or writes) what language (or what language variety) to whom and when and to what end”. Language is not only considered as a language in sociolinguistics, but it may also serve as a means of communication, interaction, and other types of moments in the lives of people who live in society. Everyone has distinct functions in terms of language usage, phonetics, phonemics, word selection, idiolect, and sentence structure. In fact, society is rife with dialects. The difference in dialect is created by the speaker's social class, geographic location, social rank, habit, and many other factors. Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and the person who speaks it in society. Sociolinguistics also includes research on multilingual society's language change and development, as well as a system of social rank in utilizing language.

The process of language change is influenced by two factors. They are internal change and external change. Internal change is according to grammatical, while external change can be caused by social media. One of them is slang language. Slang can be concluded to be a type of language that created by a certain group of people which is used in the process of daily communication whose meaning is only known by that group. Slang is a phrase or word which is used in an informal or casual spoken. It created and used by people in a particular community. Yule (2006 : 211) defines slang, or “colloquial speech”, as words or phrases that are used instead or more everyday terms among younger speakers and other groups with special interests.

Slang is considered a familiar variety because the style of speech is characterized by using language codes that are personal and relatively fixed in groups. Familiarity and intimacy in communication do not require a complete grammar with the clear articulations and short utterances. This is due to mutual understanding and knowledge of each other. In the familiar variety, many unique forms or terms are used for a particular family or social group.

In this modern era, many people use slang in a daily conversations. People use slang to communicate on social media as well. As a result, slang is now commonly used by the majority of people. Blogs, social networks, wikis, forums, and virtual worlds are examples of social media sites where users may easily interact, share, and create content. People all over the world utilize blogs, social networks, and wikis as one of the most frequent types of social media. Social media is also a collection of web-based programs that are built on philosophy and technology that allow users to interact or communicate in an indirect manner. TikTok is another form of social media.

TikTok, otherwise known as lip-sync apps, is currently at the top of its fame. This video-based social media has received a lot of attention from the public, especially the younger generation. Zhang Yiming is the figure behind the launch of the music video platform. He is an alumnus from Nankai University, a software engineer graduate. Apart from being an alumnus from Nankai University, he also founded a technology company called "ByteDance". From that process, TikTok social media was created, which is a medium for making short videos.

Currently, video is one of the most popular contents for netizens globally. Video has even become a new source of livelihood for millennials to reap profits from advertisements that appear on their video channels. Video has also become a new weapon for marketing as a brand communication strategy. To facilitate them in making interesting videos, many developers are competing to create video editing applications.

There are many reasons that encourage people to have certain communication behaviors caused by social media, one of which is the use of language. TikTok, which can be accessed around the world, produces content in a variety of languages depending on where the creator's content comes from. From seeing the content on TikTok, we can indirectly learn a variety of slang languages, especially English slang words. That's why researchers are interested in conducting deeper research on the use of English slang words in TikTok with the title "An Analysis of English Slang Words Discussed by Slang Content Creators on TikTok and Its Contribution to Language Learning". The purpose of the research are to find out the meanings of English slang words discussed by slang content creators on TikTok, to classify the types of English slang words discussed by slang content creators on TikTok, and the last to find out the contribution of English slang words to language learning in speaking.

## **METHODOLOGY**

When doing research, the research method is quite important. In order to conduct research, the researcher must use the most appropriate method. The researcher would like to explain the research procedure in this chapter. The type of study, the purpose of the study, the source of the data, the data gathering strategy, and the data analysis technique are all included.

This study was conducted using a descriptive qualitative method. It is an acceptable sort of research to examine the meanings and types of English slang words mentioned by TikTok slang content providers, as well as their contribution to language development.

A qualitative research, according to Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009: 310), is a sort of study that produces a descriptive text of the events. Seixas, et al. (2018: 779) further noted that descriptive qualitative studies are used to provide a summary of an event, institutional framework, and generally observed behaviors. Furthermore, qualitative research is an approach for examining and understanding the meaning individuals or groups attach to a social human situation, according to Creswell (2014: 4).

The descriptive qualitative research method was employed by the researcher because it tries to identify and examine the meaning of the slang words produced, as well as their type and contribution to language development. The goal of this research is to describe the most in-depth example possible. The subject in this study is some popular contents about English slang in

TikTok (based on the views and the comments) which conduct slang words. The focus in this research is slang content creators who discussed about slang on social networks through social media TikTok.

Method of Data Collection

1. This observation technique is used so that researchers can observe for free, so it is expected that the results of this study will be objective. In this study uses non-participant observation. Observation non- participants are where the observer does not participate in people's lives who will be observed, and are separately acting as observer. In this case the observer only acts as an audience just without having to go directly into the field.
2. The reading technique is to read each informant's contents about slang uploaded in TikTok.
3. Documentation technique by taking photos of informants' contents about slang via the smartphone screen. It does to get a written language which is slang.

Method of Data Analysis

1. Reading the data  
The researcher watch and read the contents discussed by slang content creators on TikTok which consists of English slang words.
2. Selecting the data  
The researcher selected the data. In this step, the researcher selected the English slang words in the contents discussed by slang contents creators on TikTok.
3. Classifying the data  
The researcher classified the data. In this step, the researcher classified the gained data based on the type of slang words in the contents discussed by slang content creators on TikTok. Classifying the types of slang words based on Michael Munro's theory which was divided into eight types of slang according to English speaking countries around the world. They are United States slang, Canadian slang, Australian slang, New Zealand slang, South African slang, Carribean slang, Irish slang, and South Asian slang.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

1. The meanings and the types of English slang words discussed by slang content creators on TikTok  
To classify the data types of slang words, the researcher used Michael Munro’s theory. From this theory, the classification is divided into eight types, which are based on English-speaking countries around the world. They are United States slang, Canadian slang, Australian slang, New Zealand slang, South African slang, Caribbean slang, Irish slang, South Asian slang. The following is a classification table of 50 slang words found by researchers.

Table 1. Types of English Slang Words

No.	Types	Slang Words	Meanings
1.	United States Slang	1. Deadass 2. Brick 3. Yurrrr	Seriously, really Very cold What’s up, hi

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Mad</li> <li>5. Tight</li> <li>6. Dumb</li> <li>7. Bodega</li> <li>8. Beef</li> <li>9. Washed</li> <li>10. Namean</li> <li>11. Bofofem</li> <li>12. Yeeeeeer</li> <li>13. Iiiiiight</li> <li>14. Fade</li> <li>15. Foo</li> <li>16. Hella</li> </ol>	<p>A lot, extremely            Mad, irritated            Stupid            Corner store            To fight, being aggressive            Exhaust, tiredness            Know what I mean            Both of them            Yes, yeah            Alright, ok, yes            Murder            Friend, homie            Very, hell of a</p>
2.	Canadian Slang	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kerfuffle</li> <li>2. Give'er</li> <li>3. Keener</li> </ol>	<p>Disturbance, commotion            Doing something with maximum effort            Really extra</p>
3.	Australian Slang	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. G'day mate</li> <li>2. Uie</li> <li>3. Maccas</li> <li>4. Dunny</li> <li>5. Lolly</li> <li>6. Arvo</li> <li>7. Onya</li> <li>8. Mozzie</li> <li>9. Durry</li> <li>10. Slappa</li> <li>11. Kuta</li> </ol>	<p>Hello friend            U-turn when driving            McDonalds            Toilet            Candy            Afternoon            Good on you            Mosquitos            Cigarette            Slut            Good, the best, the gratest</p>
4.	New Zealand Slang	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chur bro</li> <li>2. Sweet as</li> <li>3. Yeah, nah</li> <li>4. Far out</li> <li>5. Reckon</li> <li>6. Teko</li> <li>7. Hard</li> <li>8. Mean</li> <li>9. Feed</li> <li>10. Keen</li> </ol>	<p>Thank you, hello            Cool, good or ok            Yes, but no            Disbelief, surprise            Guess, imagine, expect, believe, suppose            Shit, bullshit, lie            Good, cool, ill            Good, cool            Food, meal            Wonderful, splendid</p>
5.	South African Slang	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kak</li> <li>2. Boets</li> <li>3. Jol</li> <li>4. Gesuip</li> <li>5. Aweh</li> </ol>	<p>Shit            Brother            Party            Drunk            Greeting, acknowledgement</p>
6.	Carribbean Slang	-	
7.	Irish Slang	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inbits</li> <li>2. Ride</li> <li>3. Minging</li> <li>4. Craic</li> <li>5. Tobler</li> </ol>	<p>Sick, exhausted, broken, ugly            Very attractive            Fool, smelly, nasty            Fun, what's happened lately            To be by oneself</p>

8.	South Asian Slang	-	
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Based on the data analysis above, there are 50 slang words which are classified into eight types of slang according to Michael Munro's theory. They are 16 United States slang words, 3 Canadian slang words, 11 Australian slang words, 10 New Zealand slang words, 5 South African slang words, and 5 Irish slang words. The researcher did not find the type of Caribbean and South Asian slang that discussed by slang content creators on TikTok.

## 2. The contributions of English slang words in language learning

In the third study, the researcher explained how the contribution of slang words in TikTok. With the existence of slang language makes the language more varied and growing through the addition of new vocabularies. Because it is related to which language as a means of communication, slang makes a significant contribution to the speaking process. The following is a more detailed explanation regarding this matter.

### a. Facilitate communication

We need to learn slang language so that it is not rigid when communicating with natives. Moreover, natives use it in informal communication. Surely we don't want to be able to only communicate perfunctory with natives. Especially if we are going to live in another country that uses English as the main language.

### b. Closely related to culture

Slang is also closely related to culture. One of them is popular culture. No wonder if a lot of vocabulary in slang language continues to grow. The reason is that almost every day there are jokes or utterances which are then used as everyday language.

### c. Easy to understand

Although slang often changes, this language is one that is easy to understand. Moreover, slang is also used by many young people. When one utterance becomes a word that is catchy and easy to use, the language will spread easily.

### d. Avoiding communication errors

Slang is probably used more than the formal language you are learning. Because of its relationship with culture, of course we must learn slang if we don't want to experience fatal mistakes when communicating.

### e. Help express feelings

Sometimes, we may find it difficult to express our feelings in formal language. Therefore, slang is here to make it easier for you to express the feelings you have, both happy and sad. In addition, what you say to other people will also be easier to understand.

## Discussion of The Findings

The researcher took some examples of the meaning and the type of slang words from slang content creators on TikTok for discussion.

### 1. United States Slang

a. Deadass

Deadass is a word primarily used by teens, or New Yorkers who have a Timberland obsession, and usually spend their time in Brooklyn or the Bronx, this word means "seriously" or "really" to any other American.

Example :

- 1) I deadass need some new Timbs.
- 2) "I just got my new timbs dirty."  
"Deadass?"

b. Hella

The farmers from Northern California who settled here a long time ago (probably before the 1950's) were patient and slow people and took everything with ease. When they communicated to explain "very" they would say "hell of a" instead of "very" or "a lot".

Example :

- 1) LA is hella far away
- 2) It was hella cool!

2. Canadian Slang

a. Kerfuffle

It means a disturbance or commotion typically caused by a dispute or conflict.

Example :

- 1) There was a kerfuffle over the chairmanship.
- 2) When the rival soccer fans got a kerfuffle in the pub, the police were called.

b. Give'er

A Canadian slang phrase referring to doing something with maximum effort, most typically with a complete disregard for any consequences of doing such. Also carries connotations of the behavior being at least somewhat self-destructive.

Example :

- 1) "Give'er, Terry, give'er!"
- 2) "Come on, just give'er!"

3. Australian Slang

a. G'day mate

A greeting phrase usually meant to be slang from Australia meaning "Hello friend". Oddly enough, most Australians don't use this phrase and most see it as very stereotypical.

Example :

- 1) G'day mate!
- 2) G'day mate, you going to Robbo's joint for a BBQ later?

b. Arvo

It means afternoon. One of the many words that Australians have cut syllables off and replaced with "-o". This one represents the hours after 12 p.m., and is used by people, myself included, who can't be bothered saying "-fternoon".

Example :

- 1) Wanna hang out this arvo, mate?

2) I'll see you tomorrow arvo.

#### 4. New Zealand Slang

##### a. Sweet as

It is a slang that means cool, good, ok. It can also be used in place of "yes!".

Example :

1) That guy was sweet as.

2) "Wanna beer, mate?"

"Yeah, sweet as."

##### b. Reckon

Reckon means guess, imagine, expect, believe, or suppose. It is often used by rural types in Hollywood movies.

Example :

1) I reckon that there are twenty four hours in a day.

2) It will rain tomorrow. Do you reckon?

#### 5. South African Slang

##### a. Kak

It is pronounced 'kuk'. It means shit. It can be used in this context or as an extreme version of something.

Example :

1) Dude, that chick is kak pretty.

2) Go kak, man. You're so full of kak

##### b. Jol

A word that the South Africans use for party, or to express when we have a good time. Jol can also mean funny or cool.

Example :

1) Last night was a jol.

2) Are you going to Liam's jol?

#### 6. Irish Slang

##### a. Craic

Craic is an Irish word usually meaning fun or what's happened lately. It is used both in the Irish language and as a slang word in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Example :

1) This party's good craic, isn't it John?

2) What's the craic?

##### b. Tobler

It means to be by oneself. It is derived from the word 'toblerone' (to-hon-ler-own). It is used when somebody is left with none of their friends.

Example :

1) I've been sitting on my tobler for two hours.

2) My friends left me in here on my tobler.



## CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion there are 50 slang words which are analyzed. The researcher found the meaning of slang words collected using online translation sites, namely urbandictionary.com and manual way. The researcher found six of the eight types of slang by Michael Munro's theory. They are 16 United States slang words, 3 Canadian slang words, 11 Australian slang words, 10 New Zealand slang words, 5 South African slang words, and 5 Irish slang words. The United States slang type dominates the type of slang used by English speaking people on TikTok. Meanwhile, the researcher did not find the type of Caribbean slang and South Asian slang on TikTok. So it can be concluded that the two types of slang are not very popular or rarely discussed by slang content creators in Tiktok. The researcher also found that slang makes a significant contribution to the speaking process. In this research, the researcher found 50 slang words that can contribute in language learning, so there are no misunderstandings in translating the meaning of the English slang words. Not only learning the language, English slang also contribute in understanding the culture on social media TikTok. However, this research has an excellent contribution to language learning.

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