



UTM
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School of Education,
Faculty of Social Sciences
and Humanities

Assignment:	Assignment 1
Title:	A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Slangy Expressions of College Students in Malaysia

Name of the students:	Amirah Binti Mohd Zakuan	A20HP0022
	Durratul Ain Binti Faisal	A20HP0039
	Mohamad Haikal Bin Sadri	A20HP0078
	Norshalin Binti Samat	A20HP0155
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Name of the Lecturer:	Assoc. Prof. Dr Hadina Habil	
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Introduction

Fuller & Wardhaugh (2015) emphasised the study of our day-to-day lives, including how language functions in our informal interactions and the media to which we are exposed, as well as the existence of social norms, rules, and laws that address language, which is referred to as sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics is a subset of linguistics that focuses more on the everyday applications of language in society as a whole. The primary focus of sociolinguistics is on how people communicate. In addition, the focus of this division is on the ways in which the meaning of language can be taken out of its natural context and used to transmit ideas within society. Over the course of time and especially in response to advances in technology, language has undergone major significant change, particularly *Slang*.

According to Eble (1996), as referenced in Trimastuti (2017), slang refers to the ever-evolving collection of colloquial terms and phrases used by speakers to build or maintain social identity or cohesion within a group or with a trend or fad in society at large. Slang appears to be an element of every language used in everyday communication that is heavily impacted by the influence of the culture and the traditions of a particular place, community, or group. Slang languages can be sorted into two forms which are primary slang and secondary slang. Primary slang is often referred to expression words which are widely used such as the younger generation in their daily conversation (Chapman, 1998). Meanwhile, secondary slang describes the practice of using a variety of phrases to convey the same idea in a manner that is distinct from its primary meaning (Chapman, 1998).

Nowadays, the use of slang among Malaysian undergraduates is varied and unique as a result of the advent of digital media. In less than a generation, the use of digital media has increased across the board and continues thriving greater than we can imagine. The internet and social media are populated mainly by the younger generation which ultimately forms a massive digital community (Ghazalli & Abdullah, 2021). The large amount of popularity that social media gain every year, from direct electronic information exchange to virtual gathering places, to

retail platforms, to vital 21st-century marketing tools, has led to the broadening of slang expressions to accommodate the communicative demands of social networking (Saputra & Marlina, 2019). The purpose of this study is to identify the types, meanings and functions of the slangy expressions college students in Malaysia use in their daily conversations.

Objectives of study

1. To identify the specific slang expressions used among college students in Malaysia.
2. To interpret and analyse the identified slang expressions.

Literature Review

Name of Articles	Slang Language Use in Social Media Among Malaysian Youths: A Sociolinguistic Perspective
Authors	Norshahira Mohd Ghazali and Nur Nabilah Abdullah ¹
Objectives	To investigate the different types and functions of using slang language on Twitter and TikTok among Malaysian youth using a sociolinguistic approach.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The study used descriptive qualitative research. ● TikTok and Twitter were used as data sources. ● The data was gathered through non-participant observation techniques. ● The data was gathered through non-participant observation techniques
Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The study examined the various types of slang language found in TikTok video captions and Twitter tweets and divided them

	<p>into two categories: primary slang and secondary slang.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Based on the data, this study identified 17 slang languages, eight of which are primary slang and ten of which are secondary slang, that were frequently used by Malaysian youth on TikTok and Twitter between
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Name of Articles	Slangs on Social Media: Variations among Malay Language Users on Twitter
Authors	Zulkifli Zulfati Izazi and Tengku Mahadi Tengku-Sepora
Objectives	To analyse the variations of internet slangs used by Malaysian Malay language users on Twitter.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary Qualitative Content Analysis was the research tool employed in this study. ● The study applied the digital ethnography method ● Twitter was used as a source of data.
Findings	<p>The analysis of data revealed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Malaysian Malay language Twitter users showed an interesting use of internet slang ● Malay language users applied code-mixing and code-switching in their tweets, particularly between Malay and English ● The categorization of internet slang <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shortenings ○ Acronyms and Abbreviations ○ Onomatopoeic Spellings ○ Phonetic Replacements ○ Inanities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cacography ○ Repetition ○ Punctuations and Capitalisations ○ Emoji
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Name of Articles	The Usage Of English Internet Slang Among Malaysians In Social Media
Authors	Nor Azida Binti Sabri, Syazzim bin Hamdan, Na-Thinamalar Magiswary Nadarajan and Soo Ruey Shing
Objectives	To identify the usage of English internet slang that are commonly used in social media.
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Qualitative analysis of documents. ● WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, Telegram, and Facebook (online communication and social media platforms as source of data gathered). ● performed a content analysis to assess the sample/data.
Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The categorization of internet slangs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Phonetic Replacements ○ Phrase Abbreviations ○ Word Abbreviations ○ Inanity

Observation

From our observation, we have found that most Malaysia College students use slangy expressions in various settings. The slang that is employed may also give an indication of the feeling that the speaker wants to accentuate while transmitting that feeling through online platforms. The usage of slang can be classified into four categories—*Phrase Abbreviations, Imitative, Malay-English Lexical, and Shortening*. As we can see from the list in the table, some English words are used in Malay daily conversation. College students in Malaysia tend to add slangy expressions when they are talking as it adds more fun and colours to their conversations. Here are some examples of slangy expressions used by college students.

Common Slang Classifications

Phrase Abbreviations	Imitative	Malay-English Lexical	Shortening
JK	Yass/stan Queen	Open Table	Intro
GG	Low-key	Have Have	Tq
NGL	Fire	Sound	Pic
IMO	Ghosted	Style	Bcoz
IYKYK	Salty	Boss	Acc

Phrase Abbreviations

Phrase abbreviations as defined by Merriam Webster (1991) is a shorter version of a written word or phrase used instead of the complete word or phrase. For example, “IYKYK” is an abbreviation for “If You Know You Know”. This is presented as an instance of newly developed language with its distinctive tone and syntax. Acronym is used as a synonym of

abbreviation although they are already a part of them in the preceding phrase. In other words, an abbreviation is the shortest possible version of a word or phrase. And for the same reasons, it is commonly used to employ slang terms in abbreviated forms. Phrase abbreviations used to help the users to save the writing from being bogged down with using the same lengthy sentences over and again. Based on our observation, the phrase abbreviation that always be use by youth these days are:

1. JK

“Don't be like that, I'm **jk**”
(Don't be like that, I'm **just kidding**)

2. GG

“That was a well- fought match, friend!”
“Same to you! **GG**! Would you battle it again?”
(Same to you! **Good Game**! Would you battle it again”

3. NGL

“**NGL**, aku penat la”
“**Not gonna lie**, I'm exhausted”

4. IMO

“Aku bukan apa la, **IMO** kau patut buat macam ni”
“**In my opinion**, you should do like this”

5. IMO

X: Isn't that joke referring to...
Y: **IYKYK**
(**If you know, you know**)

Imitative

Imitative is another branch of slang that is being actively employed by today's young people in their everyday conversations. The slang words that were born from this category are primarily derived or imitated from standard English words, giving more concepts to the words and expanding their meaning (Rezeki & Sagala, 2019). From our experience and observation, we personally have used and encountered many imitative slangs being applied in various settings whether on social media or in daily physical interactions. For examples,

1. Queen

“**Yass Queen!** I setuju dengan your opinion.”
“We only **stan a Queen** yang ada common sense .”

In short, “yas queen” is an emphatic term of endearment, encouragement, celebration, love and/or show of support. The slang words are pronounced as YAAA-SSS-SSS kwEEEn. Next, “stan” someone or something is to be a fan of that person or thing. When you say you “stan a queen,” that means you’re supporting someone who truly deserves it — a compliment. .

2. Low-key

“I **low-key** want to eat that entire cake”
“Weii aku **low-key** have crushed on one of our classmates. But diam-diam ok.”

The slang variant of low-key (often written without the hyphen as lowkey) functions as an adverb. Lowkey is typically used to describe a speaker's desires or emotions. Lowkey retains the dictionary definition's meaning of “of low intensity” and “not very emotional.” However, additionally, it can also indicate something that is secretly (perhaps somewhat shamefully) wanted or felt by the speaker.

3. Fire

“Can I be honest with you? Lagu yang kau tulis semalam was on **fire**! NGL!”

The slang word fire is a word to describe something or someone exactly like the functions of an adjective. If we closely analyze the first sentence, the fire there refers to the quality of the songwriting which is in a positive way.

4. Ghosted

“My boyfriend **ghosted** me for two days like kenapa tho”
“Serious lah! Is she really **ghosting** me after seeing my text? ”

When a person cuts off all communication with their friends or the person they're dating, with zero warning or notice beforehand. You'll mostly see them avoiding friends' phone calls, social media, and avoiding them in public. In certain cases, the act of suddenly ceasing all communication with someone the subject is dating, but no longer wishes to date. This is done in hopes that the “ghostee” will just "get the hint" and leave the subject alone, as opposed to the subject simply telling them he/she is no longer interested.

5. Salty

“She was **salty** because she lost the game.”
“It was just a Football Game, dah kenapa si Amran tu nak salty sangat?”

Salty is a slang term for irritated, angry, or resentful, especially as a result of losing or being slighted. If someone seems irritated or angry they might be described as being salty.

Malay-English Lexical

The Malay-English language, also known as ME, is renowned for having a distinctive diversity of meaning. ME speakers have been assimilating several English words that have then been modified to match various cultural contexts. The Standard English Lexicalization category, also known as English lexemes with local usage, comprises primarily of lexemes that are employed in a way that reflects the distinctive features of Malaysian English (Baskaran, 2005 as referenced in Santha & Rohani, 2021). Therefore, in this section it mostly covers Polysemic Variation, Informalisations, Compounding and Code-Switching.

1. Sound

“Tadi aku kena **sound** dengan ayah aku”
(I have been scolded by my father)

For instance, the word ‘*Sound*’ in English may be uttered in a different meaning among Malaysian youngsters. However, in ME lexical context, it is commonly used as a way to indicate someone being scolded or had an earful.

2. Open Table

“Jom kakak aku ajak **open table** dekat mamak”
(My sister is treating us at Mamak, so let’s go there)

In addition, Baskaran (2005) highlighted the fact that compounding occurs when two different and distinct words are merged, resulting in the production of a new word that might have many interpretations. However, in this context, both meanings have been mixed and changed into distinct words, with the intention of fitting into the cultural setting of Malaysia. It is commonly assumed that the slang term "Open Table" relates to the act of treating someone to a meal or demonstrating an act of inviting people to join in for dining.

3. Boss

“Boss, nak teh tarik satu!”
(Waiter! I would like to order teh tarik)

This particular context can be referred to as Polysemic Variation which is defined as English original words that do not entirely align with its original meaning in English standards. The term ‘Boss’ is usually used in Malaysia as a sign of respect regardless of hierarchy status.

4. Have have

“Dia tu orang *have have*”
(She is wealthy)

Informalization refers to the context of ME, often uses word replacements of regular English vocabulary and has a variety of lexemes that signal a more conversational tone and register (Baskaran, 2005 as cited in Nor, Zamri and Awab, 2015). Based on the phrase above, the word “have” is doubled to indicate someone being a wealthy person. In English standard, “have” holds the meaning of owning something.

5. Style

“Baju kau hari ni nampak *style!*”
(Your outfit today looks stylish!)

The example above is an indication of code-switching in a sentence. Code-switching is described as the language alternation which consists of more than one language. Hence, the sentence above is specified to describe one’s outfit as being stylish.

Shortening

Shortening is one of the examples that are under slang. According to Sotvoldiyev (2021), every language's lexicon tends to undergo significant alterations because it is constantly evolving. For instance, over time, certain words lose their relevance. Instead, new ones appear and help the language's lexical fund by filling up, knocking some archaic phrases off their perch. In addition, other factors could result in significant or slight changes to both structure and semantics. People nowadays, especially students, tend to shorten the words when they are typing text messages as it becomes a habit for them to type faster. However, shortening can be the main reason why students these days are bad at writing because they are used to short forms when writing messages to their friends or family. Here are some examples of shortening words that we often encounter

1. Intro

“Wei **intro** lah kawan kau tu kat kitaorang”
(Hey! Introduce your friend to us!)

The word “intro” is often used to ask for a self-introduction. In this sentence, the word intro is used by his/her friends to introduce their new friends to the old group of friends.

2. Tq

“**Tq** admin”

The word “tq” usually refers to thank you. In this sentence, the word tq is used after he/she is done with asking for any requests from the admin.

3. Pic

“Can you please take my **pic**?”

The word “pic” here means picture. For this sentence, someone is asking for help from another person to take their picture.

4. Bcoz

“**Bcoz** of you I’m late to school.”

The word bcoz here means because. The sentence above, it explains that the reason he/she is late to school is because of one person.

5. Acc

“Here is my bank acc number. Please transfer the money to this **acc**.”

The word acc usually means account. This sentence shows that acc refers to the person's account number. The person is asking someone to wire the money into his/her bank account.

Conclusion

In conclusion, there are a number of slang that is recently developed by Malaysian students, the primary motivation for which was the students' desire to integrate themselves more seamlessly into the environments typical of their new generation. It can be seen that Malaysian students typically tend to use Phrase Abbreviations, Imitative, Malay-English Lexical and Shortening as their selected slang in communicating with people around their age. The classification of slang that was discussed earlier may be easily identified as popular/trendy, and people are beginning to recognise the language's capacity to help them emphasise their feelings through an online connection. Slang is responsible for a number of changes in language, as well as a variety of linguistic alternations that have become simpler and can be utilised in a number of

different communication contexts. However, it is impossible to deny that the development and use of slang in everyday life has had a substantial impact on the way people use language in general. Slang is used everywhere. As a result, the use of slang in everyday speech can be minimised all at once in order to avoid more language disruption in the future.

Suggestions for future research

Generally, slang is viewed as the language of youth. It seems to be an element of teenage culture and fashion. The new generation uses slang for a variety of objectives. Usually, slang is employed as a code among youngsters, when they want their words unreadable by other generations. The advancement of communication technologies and language and culture slang has spread to other languages and cultures. Further research might expand by doing more research on the influence of gender on slang languages.

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