

# AN ANALYSIS ON THE USE OF SLANG LANGUAGE IN NICKI MINAJ'S SONG LYRICS

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## ABSTRACT

The phenomena of slang language use almost in all genres of music, inspired the writer choose to focused in the study to discusses about analysis of the types and meanings of the slang language in Nicki Minaj's song lyrics. The purpose of this study is to classify the types and determine the meanings of slang language that used, in Nicki Minaj's song lyrics. The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative method. The writer uses Eric Partridge theories and other relevant references as well in order to obtain the relevant analysis between the theory and the statement. From the results of the study, it is found out that Society slang was the slang language type that most often used in Nicki Minaj's song lyrics and the meanings of the slang language in this song is related to sexuality.

Key words : *Slang language, Song lyrics, Language*

## ABSTRAK

Fenomena penggunaan bahasa gaul di hampir seiiap genre musik saai ini, menginsiprasi penulis untuk fokus dalam penelitian yang membahas tentang analisis bahasa gaul yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Nicki Minaj. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menentukatt tipe dan makna dari bahasa gaul yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Nicki Minaj. Melode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Penulis menggunakan teori Eric Partridge dan beberapa teori pendukung lain yang relevan untuk menjadikan penelitian ini bersifat relevan antara teori yang digunakan dengan halyang akan diieliti oleh penulsts. Dari hasil penelitian sludi ini sesuai dengan teori Eric Partidge, penulis dapat menyimpulkan bahwa tipe bahasa gaul yang paling banyak digunakan dalam lirik lagu Nicki Minaj adalah Society Slang sedangkan banyak makna dari kata-kata bahasa gaul yang digunakan oleh Nicki Minaj berkaitan dengan seksualitas.

Kata Kunci : *Bahasa Gaul, Lirik lagu, Bahasa.*

## **Introduction**

Language has a large number variation in the world. Different areas have different languages and every language has its own characteristics. English language can be divided into two categories. Standard English and Non-standard English.

Standard English is the English that people use in grammar and has nothing to do with accent. While Non-standard English is a language which contain expressions which are regarded as incorrect or unusual used and not follow by the grammar rules. These are some example kinds of language that are included in Non-standard English such as: lingua franca, jargon, taboo and slang language. English language also has two variants, formal and informal English. Formal English is usually used for formal conditions such as research, business, application letters, papers, thesis, seminars and other formal situation. On the other side, informal English is called colloquialism because it is often used in daily communication.

Nowadays, people commonly use informal language in daily life; one of the languages that is easily found in daily conversation is slang language. According to Partridge (1950:69) "Slang language is mainly spoken form, which is used in social milieus and popular media, and to certain extern, it is used in song lyrics and publication". Slang also become popular and booming in social and popular media example like new slang words: "I3ae" that recently booming in some media social which is acronym of "Baby or Darling". Not only popular in media slang also could be found in lyric of songs-

Every song has their own story, to illustrate the story in the song the composer will choose the right word that can represent the feelings and convey the story behind the song, mostly the composer chooses to use slang language in the deliver their message in the songs. Many slang expressions relate to things that people feel strongly about, such as: sex, family and emotional relationship, drugs, conflict between social groups, work, physical and mental, illness even death. This could be the reason many song writers used slang language in their song lyrics in almost all genre of music.

The phenomena of slang language used almost in all genres of music make the writer interested in analyzing-about the slang language, since not everyone understands the meaning of slang language. One of music genres that uses slang language is R&B and Hip-hop music.

The popularity of slang inspired the writer to find the types of slang and meanings of the slang, language that are used in the song lyrics one of popular singer - rapper women named

Onifca Tanya Maraj or known professionally as Nicki Minaj. She is one of the American rapper singer and songwriter who is famous for using many slang words in her song. The writer formulates there are two statements of problem that have to be analyzed in this study as follows: What types of slang language are used in Nicki Minaj's song lyrics? and what are the meanings of the slang language in Nicki Minaj's song lyrics?

### **Related Studies**

There are three studies that were conducted by the previous students related to the same topics to analyse slang language, but the studies used different object. The first one is previous study entitled "An analysis of Slang language on EMINEM'S Rap Songs Lyrics" conducted by Astriyani (2010) from the University of Gunadarma. She analyzed the characteristics of non-standard English used in EMINEM'S songs and studied the meanings of slang language that are used in those songs. She stated that slang words used in EMINEM'S songs are usually used by Black American teenagers. There are some dirty words used in this song that related to personal background, mental illness and sex organs. She also explains to the meaning of slang words in the songs.

The second previous study is "An Analysis of Types of Slang Words on Selected Song Lyrics of Black Eyed Peas Song Lyrics". It was written by Julaela (2014) from University of Pamulang. She studied the meaning of slang words and analyzed type of slang used in Black Eyed Peas's lyric. She collected the data from albums of the Black Eyed Peas. There are 5 lyric songs of Black Eyed Peas that were selected to be analyzed. She applied the descriptive method to describe and to analyze all the data. It was analyzed by identifying, analyzing and categorizing the slang words in Black Eyed Peas's lyric song. She identified some of slang words used in the song has meaning that related to sex's, violence and also love.

The third previous study was conducted by Ari Hanggoro (2011) from" the University State Islamic of Syarif Hidayatullah, entitled is "An Analysis of Slang Terms in The "American Gangster, A Movie Directed by Ridley Scott". The main objective of this study is to., know the meanings kinds. and the reasons for using slang in American Gangster movie. He also uses Eric Pat ridge's theories and other relevant references.

Based on those related studies, there are similar elements to this study both of the studies was also analyzed the types and meanings of slang language in the song lyrics, but the third

study used movie scripts as object of analysis. The differences this study with three studies above is the object of the study where the writer used the lyric of song that was written and sung by women singer as the object of the study which are used the slang words that implies something a quirky, different, and feminine.

## **Review of Literature**

According to Hudson (1996:4) "Sociolinguistics is one of branch of linguistic that focuses on the study of language in relation to society. Sociolinguistics is also studied of how people use language in their everyday lives and also study of the effect of various all aspects to society, including culture, norms, and context on the language used". Languages has many variations around the world, one of non-standard language variations is slang. Slang language uses free style composition words that have a special characteristic that mostly used by young people or certain people in same group. Slang is identical with spontaneous, there are no rules for creating slang.

Slang Language is non-standards use of word in a language of a part social group. Slang is something that everyone can easily detect but nobody can define. According to Fromkin & Rodman (2003:264) "Slang is a kind of casual language that occurs as a result of the rapid growth of new words that is used as a creative expression from people in order to make the words more efficient and simpler to be uttered". This means that slang is used in informal situation and people usually use slang to talk with their friends or their society, but it is not polite to talk to elders using this language. People like to use slang because it is more communicative and enjoyable. Slang is sometimes created spontaneously by people, usually to describe what exactly they are feeling, or new words that has been created to express specialized meanings, example when people want to describe that they feel depressed, or sadness they use 'blue' to describe that feeling.

According to Akmajian (1998) "slang has some salient features, first slang is part of casual informal styles of language use, the term slang has traditionally carried a negative connotation it is often perceived as a "low" or "vulgar". Second slang is like fashions in clothing and popular music, changes quite rapidly. Third specific areas of slang are often associated with particular social group, and hence one can speak of teenage slang, underworld (criminal) slang, the slang of the drug culture and soon. From the statement above, we can conclude that slang language

nowdays is used very commonly by some people in public. Slang usually does not live long; some slang words quick to die, easily forgotten or be replaced by entirely new expressions but some of slang words that ever Workmen's slang has a link with the public house slang. It is very closely allied to Tradesmen's slang and also considered to people's activity in working. Here are examples of Workmen's slang for the town labourer:

- a. Screw up means without money, therefore unable to move about at will.
- b. Matey means a companion in labour.
- c. Brass means money; this is very general term seems to have originated the chopper and iron industries.

#### **4. Tradesmen's Slang**

Tradesmen's Slang, some of the words are related to origin slang and the users are the worker too, but the difference is the Tradesmen's slang considers four as typical: tailors, butchers, chemist, and builders. Here are examples of Tradesmen's slang:

- a. House of parliament means a meeting of tailor's assistant and apprentices in the shop, especially for a serious purpose.
- b. Tradesmen's slang for butchers: 'Turkey buyer' means a person of considerable importance.
- c. Tradesmen's for chemist: 'Syrup' means money.
- d. Tradesmen's for builders: 'Flannel jacket' means the navy on heavy work has so long and so unexceptionally worn flannel.

#### **5. Slang in Art**

Slang in Art it is considerable more difficult than other slang terms, the meaning is hard to be guessed even in the present day. Here are several examples:

- a. Frame means a picture
- b. Slung means Rejected
- c. Crocks mean ornamental China.

#### **6. Slang in Publicity**

Slang in Publicity, is often used for commerce. Here are several examples:

- a. Sunlight means soap.
- b. Worth a guinea a box means Beecham's pills.
- c. Glaxo baby means a plump and healthy child.

## 7. Society Slang

In society, there arises a kind of special vocabulary, which is constantly changing with changing fashion. Here are examples of the society slang:

### Finding

In the data finding, the writer focuses on the slang words in Nicki Minaj song lyrics. The writer made a table to show 40 slang words selected data which were taken from three song lyrics of Nicki Minaj. There are 7 types of slang language that found in this song as described below:

| No | Song Title | The Slang words              | The Types of Slang             | The Meaning of Slang words  |
|----|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1  | Bang Bang  | <i>Booty Cadillac</i>        | Society Slang                  | Very sexy butt  |
| 2  | Bang Bang  | <i>Lemme</i>                 | Society Slang                  | Abrevation of let me  |
| 3  | Bang Bang  | <i>Till</i>                  | Society Slang                  | Abrevation of until   |
|    | Bang Bang  | <i>Momma</i>                 | Society Slang                  | Mother  |
|    | Bang Bang  | <i>a bad girl</i>            | Society Slang                  | <i>Coo) woman</i>   |
|    | Bang Bang  | <i>Lotto</i>                 | Society Slang                  | Lottery or Games  |
|    | Bang Bang  | <i>Kitten</i>                | Cant' Slang                    | Pussy   |
|    | Bang Bang  | <i>Umph</i>                  | Cant' Slang                    | To express horniness  |
|    | Bang Bang  | <i>HAngin &amp; Bangin</i>   | Society Slang                  | Hangin : Hungover effect from alcohol<br>Bangin : SexY                  |
|    | Bang Bang  | <i>Rang in &amp; Slangin</i> | Society Slang                  | Rangin: Ring <i>in</i><br>Slangin: Having intercourse with many females |
| 11 | Bang Bang  | <i>A in't &amp; Cause</i>    | Public school and Universities | Ain't: contraction (to he + not) Cause: short from because              |
| 12 | Anaconda   | <i>Some Coins</i>            | Workmen's Slang                | Money   |
| 13 | Anaconda   | <i>Bitch</i>                 | Cant's Slang                   | Unpleasant female   |
| 14 | Anaconda   | <i>Wanna</i>                 | Public school and Universities | Short for want to/ want a   |
| 15 | Anaconda   | <i>'em</i>                   | Society Slang                  | Abrevation of them  |
| 16 | Anaconda   | <i>Dumb shit</i>             | Cant' slang                    | Stupid / Idiot  |
| 17 | Anaconda   | <i>High as hell</i>          | Society Slang                  | Very drunk  |

|    |          |                  |               |                       |
|----|----------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 18 | Anaconda | <i>Fuck 'em</i>  | Cant' Slang   | Making love with them |
| 19 | Anaconda | <i>'em honey</i> | Society Slang | Them are very skinny  |
| 20 | Anaconda | <i>Hit 'em</i>   | Society Slang | Fuck <i>with them</i> |
| 21 | Anaconda | <i>Dick</i>      | Cant's Slang  | Male genital          |

|    |            |                      |                                |   |
|----|------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 22 | Anaconda   | <i>Dude</i>          | Society Slang                  | Nickname for men                              |
| 23 | Anaconda   | <i>Pussy</i>         | Cant' Slang                    | Vagina  |
| 24 | Anaconda   | <i>Slang Cocaine</i> | Cant' Slang                    | Drug seller                                   |
| 25 | Anaconda   | <i>Salad</i>         | Society Slang                  | Another name for sex                          |
| 26 | Anaconda   | <i>Fal ass</i>       | Cant' Slang                    | Big/ large butt                               |
| 27 | Anaconda   | <i>Fucking</i>       | Cant' Slang                    | Very cool club - not give a negative meaning  |
| 28 | Anaconda   | <i>Motherfucking</i> | Cant' Slang                    | Interjection                                  |
| 29 | Anaconda   | <i>Fuck</i>          | Cant* Slang                    | Exclamation of anger                          |
| 30 | Girlfriend | <i>BFF</i>           | Public school and Universities | Best Friend Forever                           |
| 31 | Girlfriend | <i>Look in</i>       | Public school and Universities | Look in                                       |
| 32 | Girlfriend | <i>Shillin</i>       | Cant Slang                     | Lyin;g to                                     |
| 33 | Girlfriend | <i>Tickin</i>        | Society Slang                  | Tick sounds before booming                    |
| 34 | Girlfriend | <i>A lot to</i>      | Public school and Universities | Short for a lot a                             |
| 35 | Girlfriend | <i>Thru</i>          | Public school and Universities | Short for through                             |
| 36 | Girlfriend | <i>Gotta</i>         | Public school and Universities | Short for have you got a                      |
| 37 | Girlfriend | <i>Range Rover</i>   | Publicity Slang                | Knowns Automobile brands                      |
| 38 | Girlfriend | <i>Shit'</i>         | Cant Slang                     | Dung  |
| 39 | Girlfriend | <i>VIP &amp; ID</i>  | Slang of Commerce :            | VIP :Very Important Person ID :Identification |
| 40 | Girlfriend | <i>ICU</i>           | Medical Slang                  | ICU: Intesive Care Units                      |

The writer found 40 slang words. The dominant slang words that are found in the song lyric of Nicki Minaj are related to sexuality. Based on Patridge's classification types of slang, those slang words that are found in Nicki Minaj song lyrics are categorized into Medicine Slang, Slang of Commerce, Slang Publicity, Cant Slang, Public Schools and Universities Slang, Workmen's Slang and Society Slang.

The result of the analysis, Society Slang was the slang language types that are most often used in Nicki Minaj song lyrics. Society Slang language is considered as a new fashion or trend which is used commonly in daily life.

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