

## AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG WORDS IN THE “*GREEN BOOK*”, A MOVIE DIRECTED BY PETER FARRELLY

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### ABSTRACT

This paper aims to describe types of slang words, meanings, and reasons for using slang words in the *Green Book* movie directed by Peter Farrelly. The characters in the *Green Book* movie use slang words in their daily or informal contexts. The researchers used qualitative methods in this research process. The technique used in the data collection part was by using the observational method where the researchers observed the data collection in the form of scripts in the *Green Book* movie. Based on the data collection, there are 118 slang words found in this movie. The researchers concluded that there are three findings. The first finding is type of slang word where there are 4 types of slang words used by characters in the *Green Book* movie, such as fresh and creative, imitative, flippant, and clipping. Then, the second finding is the meaning of each slang word used by the characters in the *Green Book* movie. While, the third finding is the reason for using slang words where there are 7 reasons for using slang words, such as to address, to form intimate atmosphere, to initiate relax conversation, to express impression, to show intimacy, to reveal anger, and to express humiliation. This research is expected to broaden our knowledge about the slang words used in America and to widen our understanding about the application or use of slang words slang for daily life for speakers who are interested in using and learning slang words.

**Keywords:** *slang words, dialogue movie, type of slang words, meaning of slang words, reason of using slang words,*

### INTRODUCTION

American film director Petter Farrelly has produced the movie titled *Green Book*. The movie is set in the year 1962 when the majority of the United States have a racist mindset about the discrimination of differences in skin color between black and white. Peter John Farrelly was born on December 17, 1956. Farrelly became so famous for directing and producing romantic comedy films and comedies such as “Dumb and Dumber”, “Shallow Hal, Me, Myself and Irene”, “There's Something About Mary” and remake “The Heartbreak Kid in 2007”. Individually, Peter Farrelly directed the film *Green Book*, which won an Audience Award at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2018.

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Chaer and Agustina (2004) propose slang words are new words that develop from old words where the use of slang words will enrich the language vocabulary with new meanings. Language becomes a very important tool for humans because it is always used for social communities based on the need to transfer the meaning and purpose of the speaker's thoughts. Chaika (2008) argues that language cannot be change if there is circumdeficiency in it, but language develops over time because of several reasons such as human needs, expectations, and desires of humans. Slang is a variety of languages that were created because humans enact adjustments to language use. As a communication tool, language is used by humans most properly to deliver meanings and ideas, also the thing that can facilitate humans in the language is to adapt the language to the most suitable variety of languages.

Most of the previous researches have analyzed several movies that contain slang words in smaller quantities than this research. The results of this study are expected to allow readers to learn slang words with richer examples of slang words. These studies findings are supported by five previous researches from Prihandoko (2012), Rosa (2018), Panjaitan (2017), Novianti (2017), and Yuliana (2015). Firstly, research from Prihandoko (2012) which analyzed the types of slang using the theory proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006) such as; fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. The results showed There were 5 types of slang found in the *Ramona and Beezus* movie, the most of which are imitative types, where there are 111 slang words in imitative types. Meanwhile, the most slang words contained in the reasons of using slang word is reason to address where there are 27 slang words. The total slang words obtained by the researcher are 179 slang words.

Secondly, research by Rosa (2018). She described kinds of slang words based on the framework proposed by Fromkin in 1996 such as; society slang and public house slang. The theory of meaning by Geoffrey Leech (1974) such as; connotative meaning, conceptual meaning, collocative meaning, and social meaning. And functions of slang terms using framework by Allan and Burrige (2006) such as; to address, to humiliate, to initiate relax conversation, to inform intimate atmosphere, to express impression, to reveal anger and to show intimacy. In this study, the researchers of this study have concluded that there are two types of slang, namely society slang (11 slang words) and public house slang (6 slang words). In additional, the researchers of this study have found 3 meanings such as connotative meaning (6 slang words), conceptual meaning (7 slang words), and social meaning (4 slang words). Then there are two functions of using slang words, namely to initiate relaxed conversation (14 slang words) and to humiliate (3 slang words). The total slang words obtained by the researcher are 18 slang words.

The researchers chose this movie is to inform the reader that racist skin color differences are absolutely bad in social relations in the world, especially in a learning environment. In this study, the researchers used the theory proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006) to analyze types of slang such as; fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Then to analyze the meaning of slang the researcher used dictionaries entitled *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English* written by Dalzell (2008) and *Dictionary of Contemporary Slang* written by Thorne (2014). The theory assumed by Allan and Burrige (2006) was used to analyze the reason of using slang words. There are seven reasons such as; to address, to humiliate, to initiate relax conversation, to inform intimate atmosphere, to express impression, to reveal anger and to show intimacy.

Based on the explanation in the earlier section, the research questions in this study can be formulated as follows:

1. What types of slang words are used in the *Green Book* movie?
2. What are the meanings of slang words used by the characters in the *Green Book* movie?
3. What are the reasons for using each slang word in the *Green Book* movie?

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### Communication

Communication is the exchange of information and the delivery of meaning which is the main thing in social interaction between people or groups (Ruslan, 2003). So communication is the main medium in the process of conveying information and understanding from one person to another. Humans communicate by adjusting the context, according to who the speakers are talking to, where the location is when interacting, and what kind of atmosphere is happening. Based on these adjustments, the speaker will use one of the communication contexts called formal and informal situations in communication.

Lammers & Barbour (2006) propose that formal communication is used by speakers to express the purpose of the conversation with perfect Standard English, which means humans, in general, can understand well and there are no misunderstandings in the conversation. Formal communication has a wording that is arranged as well as possible.

On the other side, informal communication has the opposite characteristic, where the purpose of the conversation between the speaker and listener can be random and free but conveyed in a more relaxed way. Words or phrases used when speaking informally may not all be found in the standard Standard English dictionary. Slang is part of informal communication where the use of slang words aims to make the situation more relax in an informal context. By using slang words, humans will speak in an informal context that serves to strengthen relationships between people. The more intimate the relationship among speakers, the more casual and informal the language they use.

### Slang

According to Richards (2013), slang is a very unofficial language, where the word slang is used by humans in informal settings and conditions. The use of slang is also intended for abusive speech. Slang is used only in certain situation and places, for example in the cafe with friends. Slang words are not used in formal conditions such as when they are in schools, campuses, public speeches and other official events. Stevenson (2010) said slang is a word and phrase used when people communicating with best friend, colleagues and other people who have a close relationship with a speaker.

Chaer (2010) divides language variations based on the meaning of the speaker, who uses the language, where the speakers and listeners live, how the social position of speakers and listeners in society, what their gender is, and when it is used. Slang words and phrases are more commonly used for speech, such as in the conversation of the movie and daily conversations with humans in real life in an informal context. Thorne (2014) assumes that the very conspicuous informality of slang is consciously used in

preference to proper speech and by informal conditions. Slang is also useful as a tool to communicate easily and instantly where only can be understood by certain small, medium, and large social groups (Trimastuti, 2017). The exclusivity of the group can be reinforced by using slang as a personal code that displays values and behaviors that reflect the characteristics of those groups. Therefore, slang is not used in a formal context where the listener is not necessarily able to accept it well in his mindset and his understanding. Stevenson (2010) in the Oxford dictionary assumes slang is a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are considered as very informal context.

### **Types of Slang Words**

The phenomena in the project analyzed based on the theory proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006) to analyze types of slang such as; fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Then to analyze the meaning of slang the researcher used dictionaries entitled *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English* written by Dalzell (2008) and *Dictionary of Contemporary Slang* written by Thorne (2014). The theory assumed by Allan and Burrige (2006) was used to analyze the reason for using slang words. There are seven reasons such as; to address, to humiliate, to initiate relax conversation, to inform intimate atmosphere, to express impression, to reveal anger, and to show intimacy.

Allan and Burrige (2006) divided the types of slang into 5 part. First is fresh and creative, it means the existence of new words or phrases developed by humans in innovative, smart, and creative ways and meanings. The slang word "daddy" is an example of a fresh and creative slang type. The word "daddy" comes from the word "father" which is a noun that leads to the male parents of the child and is now developing into a "daddy". Second is flippant, it is a type of slang that the words do not correlate with the meaning of the word, for example, actors and musicians often use the term "breaking a leg" slang that has the meaning of good luck. Third is imitative, it means the slang word that imitates an authentic form of Standard English. The word used in this type of slang is intended to be pronounced quickly and easily by the speakers. For example, "gonna" and "wanna". These slang words are words in Standard English as "going to" for "gonna" and "want to" for "wanna". Fourth is acronym, it is a type of slang in that words consist of the first few letters of a word or phrase. This slang aims to increase the word or phrases. For example, the slang term "BFF" which means Best Friend Forever, "BTW" which means By The Way, and "IDK" which means I Don't Know. Fifth is clipping, it is reduction of a word from the long to short from the previous one, for example, the word "cuz" is cut from the word "because", "maths" that came from "mathematics", and "exam" that came from "examination". All examples of clipping slang word become short from the basic word.

### **Meaning of Slang Words**

In analyzing the meaning of slang words the researchers used dictionaries entitled *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English* written by Dalzell (2008) and *Dictionary of Contemporary Slang* written by Thorne (2014). According to Aminuddin (2008), meaning is the relationship between a language and the assumption about each word in the language where the assumption has been mutually agreed upon by the users of a language so that they will understand each other's meanings of these languages. Based on Amiruddin's assumption, meaning is a description of the words that have been approved by the user of the language, each word

has a different meaning and meaning measures as a description of words from various languages. On the other hand, there are also words that not only have one meaning but there are two or more meanings.

### **Reasons of Using Slang Words**

The reasons for using slang terms into seven reasons (Allan & Burridge, 2006) such as; to address, used to maintain closeness between speakers and other speakers, if they have a distant relationship, the use of the word slang can bring them closer. To humiliate, it means the use of this slang is intended to embarrass others in a conversation, sometimes humans find it difficult to express an insult with the word in Standard English because it will sound stiff and innocent, using this slang word makes way of conveying one's dislike of others more expressive. To initiate relax conversation, for the comfortable while speaks, speakers are better to use slang because it is very comfortable to use in a relax state and adds an impression. It also will change the atmosphere to charm and comfort people who are friendly with each other. To form an intimate atmosphere, if a person has a considerable distance from others, the use of this slang can make them feel close, and make the atmosphere become very comfortable than before.

Furthermore, to express the impression, humans may express impressions in various ways, with the use of this slang humans will convey the impression by speaking interestingly through the use of slang words about a thing, person, or event that happen at a time. To reveal anger, the use of this slang is to convey the message to people who have a fairly close relationship with the person, the speaker may feel stiffness, and the listener will be angry if they use basic words or Standard English while they mad to a close friend or anyone that have a close relationship. It also will sound stiff and harsh if it is pronounced with English standards, where people use it because of a relationship that is not close like friends or brotherhood, this use is because the speaker has a friendly relationship with his best friend. To show intimacy, the use of these slang words is to show solidarity, humans use slang words to strengthen intimacy which eventually also brings the relationship between them closer.

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The method used for this research was qualitative research. The researchers analyzed texts or dialogue scripts of the *Green Book* movie. The text analysis method is the method used to describe things contained in recordings and visuals based on the purpose and field of research (Frey, et al., 1999). Text analysis is an important stage in researching some of these contexts. The researchers grouped slang words into systematic data based on the purposes, then the data was summarized and tabulated in the description of the data. This stage of research starts by collected data and then classifying data for research needs based on theoretical frameworks used in this research about some types of slang words, meanings of slang words, and reasons for using slang words. The data used were collected from the *Green Book* movie that was directed by Peter Farrelly.

This research used words or scripts spoken by characters of the *Green Book* movie. To get the script, the researcher watched the *Green Book* movie that was downloaded through the movie website obtained from <https://www.netflix.com/be-en/title/81013585> .Therefore, the source used was the application to watch movies that

provided *Green Book* movie in it, and also viewers are able to download or watch that movie streaming. The complete dialogue scripts spoken by characters of the *Green Book* movie were not written in this research, scripts of conversation attached by the researcher only contained slang words.

The main instrument of this research was the documentation of the movie titled *Green Book*. *Green Book* is a movie directed by Peter Farrelly. Farrelly is an American director, screenwriter, producer, and novelist. This movie was released in 2018, the setting of this movie is 1962, with 130 minutes duration. In analyzing the data, the researcher wrote notes about important points to be study, such as the types of slang words, meanings of slang words, and reasons for the use of slang words contained in the *Green Book* movie. The researcher was carefully listening and understanding the dialogue spoken by characters in the movie to get research points about slang terms used in the *Green Book* movie.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Results

There are one hundred and eighteen (118) slang words found in the *Green Book* movie. All slang words found are classified into four types. Each slang word has been classified neatly and accurately based on types assumed by Allan and BurrIDGE (2006) to make readers easy to understand. These types of slang words are fresh and creative, flippant, clipping, imitative, and acronym, but the last type, acronym, was not found in this movie.

**Table 1** The distribution of the using slang words in each type

No	Type of Slang	Frequency	Percentage
1	Fresh and Creative	30	26%
2	Imitative	72	61%
3	Flippant	12	10%
4	Clipping	4	3%
5	Acronym	0	0%
Total		118	100%

The researcher has calculated and converted slang words or phrases found into a percentage, so the data is presented neatly in a table which will make readers easier to read and understand the data. Each of the category's frequency was divided by the total amount of slang (118) after that, multiplied by 100 to get the accurate nominal of percentage for each type of slang words. Based on the table presented above, the majority of slang words in the *Green Book* movie is imitative type where there are 72 slang words with 61% in percentage. Then followed by fresh and creative type as much as 30 slang words or 26% in percentage. Third is flippant type with 12 slang words and 10% in percentage. The last slang type contained in this movie is clipping type with a frequency only 4 slang words, 3% in percentage. The acronym type was not found in the *Green Book* movie.

### Discussions

Based on the data that the researchers have been collected, there are one hundred and eighteen (118) slang words that found in the *Green Book* movie. All of slang words found are classified into four types. Each slang word has been classified neatly and

accurately based on types that assumed by Allan and Burridge (2006) to make readers easy to understand. These types of slang words is fresh and creative, flippant, clipping, imitative, and acronym, but the last type, acronym, was not found in this movie. The results that have been found by the researcher can be observed in the table below:

**Table 2** The distribution of the types of slang words

No	Type of Slang	Frequency	Percentage
1	Fresh and Creative	30	26%
2	Imitative	72	61%
3	Flippant	12	10%
4	Clipping	4	3%
5	Acronym	0	0%
Total		118	100%

The classification of slang word frequency above includes the slang word contained in the *Green Book* movie. In the social context when the character spoke to other characters this slang word has been used for certain purposes. The slang word contained in the *Green Book* movie is very often used by people in America, especially the slang word in imitative type. The most frequent slang words in the *Green Book* movie are imitative type, where there are as many as 70 slang words and dominate as many as 62% of slang words. The most popular slang word in the *Green Book* movie such as "going to" and "want to", both slang words are easily used by native speakers.

The researchers have found a pattern of using the word slang word in the *Green Book* movie, where the pattern of using slang words is carried out by different characters and places. The slang words used by characters in *Green Book* such as in a bar, in a simple motel, and at any time when the main players are talking. The uniqueness of the use of slang words in the *Green Book* movie is seen when Tony and Don Shirley are together in many scenes, the two main characters have different traits, which they are polite and impolite. Tony as an impolite person never hesitated while used slang on Don Shirley who is a very polite person. It means that the use of slang words sometimes does not only condition a situation whether formal or informal. But who the speaker speaks with also sometimes does not influence a person to use the word slang.

On the other hand, the type of slang clipping is the least slang word in the *Green Book* movie, which is only 4 slang words, in percentage only 3%. The four words slang type clipping are the same word that is repeated four times, namely "em" which means an abbreviation of the word "them", This word makes it easier and it is very fluently to pronounce with any string of sentences that the speaker uses. In addition, one of five types of slang proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) is not found by the researcher, the type of slang is acronym type.

**Table 3** The distribution of reason of using slang words in the *Green Book* movie

Type	The Distribution of Reason of using slang words							Total
	To address	To form intimate atmosphere	To initiate relax conversation	To express impression	To show intimacy	To reveal anger	To express humiliati on	
I	22	5	1	1	-	1	-	30

<b>II</b>		7	27	1	1	35		72
<b>III</b>	-	-	-		4	5	1	12
<b>IV</b>	-	4	-	-	-	-	3	4
<b>V</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	22	16	28	2	5	41	4	<b>118</b>
<b>%</b>	19%	13%	24%	2%	4%	35%	3%	

Another finding of the research is that several reasons to use slang words based on Allan and Burrige's (2006) assumption where there are 6 reasons to use slang words, such as to address, to form intimate atmosphere, to initiate relax conversation, to express impression, to show intimacy, to reveal anger and to express humiliation.

Based on the table of the distribution of reasons of using slang words, the slang word mostly used by characters in *Green Book* movie is reason for reveal anger, where there are 41 slang words or 35 % in percentage. Most of that kind of reason to use slang word are "bullshit", "goddamn" and "shit". The three slang words are very much repeated by speakers in the *Green Book* movie. In addition, the researchers have found the reason for using the fewest slang in the *Green Book* movie is to express impression, where there are only as many as 2 slang words or 2% in percentage, two of that slang words are "absurd" and "fucking", where "absurd" refer to bad impression pronounced by Don Shirley to Tony and "fucking" refer to the good impression pronounced by Tony while talking with Don Shirley.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the first problem statement about the types of slang used by characters in the *Green Book* movie, the researchers found there are 4 types of slang spoken by the characters in this movie. They are fresh and creative, imitative, flippant, and clipping, but there is no slang word for acronym type in the *Green Book* movie. The percentage of fresh and creative type is 25%, imitative type 62%, flippant type, 10%, and clipping type 3%, type of slang imitative dominates as the type of slang that is most used in this movie. This is because the type of this slang includes the word slang, which is very often used by native speakers, this type of slang is a type of slang word that contains the word slang which is popular until now. On the other hand, the clipping type is the least type of slang contained in the *Green Book* movie, this is because the characters in the *Green Book* movie only use clipping type when the speaker wants to do the abbreviation for the word such as slang word "'em" for "them" in standard.

All of the slang meaning in the *Green Book* movie is pretty much consistent with the explanations provided by the researchers before regarding the meaning of each slang word and they are in line with the purpose of their use. When angry the characters uses a slang word that has a very expressive meaning to use when angry. Where in reality native speakers and foreign language users also use the same slang word on average for the same purpose as well. The meaning of the whole slang word has a strong correlation with the purpose and reason of using each slang word. Likewise,



when the characters want a relaxed atmosphere, the characters use slang words such as "gonna" and "wanna" which have the meaning of "going to" and "want to". Some slang words have similarities to the meaning of the slang and are also very useful for abbreviation which make it faster and accelerates pronunciation in a sentence that pronounce.

The third finding of the research problem is the reasons of using slang words where there are 6 reasons proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006), they are to address, to form intimate atmosphere, to initiate relax conversation, to express impression, to show intimacy, to reveal anger and to express humiliation. Based on the finding, there is the reason to reveal anger as the most reason slang word spoken by characters in *Green Book* movie, which reaches 41 slang words with 35% in percentage. For that reason, the most widely spoken slang words are "shit" and "goddamn", where "shit" means the response of anger to nonsense and "goddamn" means hatred of something bad for the speaker. In addition, the reason of slang is least used by characters in *Green Book* movies is to express impression where there are only 2 slang words and 2% in percentage, both words are "absurd" and "fucking", "absurd" which means the expression of the strangeness and vulgarity of a thing or attitude of someone and "fucking" is a slang word that expresses a very cool or good thing, or bad and annoying.

There are significant differences with some of the previous studies that have been reviewed by the researchers. This research has a difference in analysis material from the study conducted by Rosa (2018) entitled "*The Slang Words Use in The Hitch movie directed by Andy and Tennant*", in his study there are different meanings and types with fewer numbers, There were 18 slang words found. On the other hand, the researchers found similarities in the previous study entitled "*An Analysis of Slang Words Used by The Characters in Ramona and Beezus Movie*", where the imitative type of slang is the most slang available in the movie.

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