

VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC APPROACHES TO 'SLANG'

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ANNOTATION

Slang is generally considered as informal style of speech which is used by groups of people in particular community. It is a part of language that is usually outside of conventional or standard usage and that may consist of both newly coined words and phrases and of new or extended meanings attached to established terms

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Communication is an important thing in human's life. Every time and everywhere people do it to get their needs. They use language as the main tool in this process of communication. According to O'Grady and friends (1996: 1), language is many things – a system of communication, a medium for thought, a vehicle for literary expression, a social institution, a matter for political controversy, a catalyst for nation building. Although there are a lot of languages in the world, they have the same main use, that is to express ideas in the main of human being so that they can reach their wants. In order to achieve their goals immediately in their communication, they use extra linguistic tools such as emotions, facial expressions, gestures as well as postures. What is more, there is a need to use informal language (colloquial language). However, people usually use formal or standard language in formal context, while in informal context people usually use informal one. There are some kinds of language varieties that used in informal context, one of them is slang.

Linguistic researches asserts that slang is generally considered as informal style of speech which is used by groups of people in particular community. It may be in the form of single word, phrase or a sentence. According to Linhua (2006) 'slang' is a part of a language that is usually outside of conventional or standard usage and that may consist of both newly coined words and phrases and of new or extended meanings attached to established terms.

The use of slang is developing rapidly from time to time than standard language. It gives ideas and encouragement to the linguistics researchers to continue research on slang. Long time ago, slang was mostly used by criminals, or by certain communities as secret expressions but now it is commonly used by teenagers. They often use it in

their daily communication with their community, any time everywhere without anyone understands the meaning. Goodword (2006) brings that slang is a crucial part of a young person “coming of age”. The advantage of the usage of slang in teenagers speech is that they feel free in conversation. They are so creative to create some new slang words in coloring the world by their creativity because sounds cooler than formal language. As Claire (1998) states many new words have been emerged and formed by teenagers such as wanna, ganna... . At the process of the communication they may create a lot of new words and modify standard words for internal using.

Furthemore, Noam Chomsky cited from Brainyquote (N.D.)said: “Language is a process of free creation; its laws and principles are fixed, but the manner in which the principles of generations are used free and infinitely varied. Even the interpretation and use of words involves a process of free creation”.

People always delight in playing with language; as the result, many languages phenomena are popped out. Each language phenomena has its own uniqueness which not all people will understand. Slang is also considered one of the language phenomena.

Currently, not only teenagers but a lot of people also are using slang in their daily conversations. Whereas slang was once considered as the lowest form of communication, now many people consider slang to be an intelligent and insightful variation to the blandness of the standard language.

As Bardulet mentioned that most people are individuals who desire uniqueness, it stands to reason that slang has been in existence for as long as language has been existence. Thus, slang exists because there is a language, if the language is developing, slang will be developing too and the opposite.

As Holmes (2001) states that people in society may speak some varieties of language in accordance with different social situation they meet. It is true that people should know whether they are in informal or formal situation. It is important choosing appropriate language that will be used, formal style or informal style. The use of slang language can be affected by some social factors like as age, gender, status, etc. Slang is another area of vocabulary which reflects a person’s age (Homles, 2001:167). According to Claire (1998.15), slang is a term that is used by people in social situation where they feel comfortable. Slang is usually used in non-formal situation. It can make a conversation becomes more intimate. Slang term is used almost in oral language and usually used to express people’s feelings and creativities. Slang is a variety of language that is used by a restricted part of the population, often younger or “less respectable” than the majority, and is based on a very informal or very innovative lexicon that often replaces other words available in the general lexicon.

So, we can conclude that slang is a non-formal or casual spoken language which is created and used by the members of a certain community and usually used in informal situations to boost the expressiveness.

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