

# Form, Meaning, Function of Slang in Adolescents and Its Relevance to Indonesian Language Learning at Ringinasri Bejen Karanganyar, Central Java

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## ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by the extensive use of slang among adolescents in the Ringinasri Bejen Karanganyar. This study uses a qualitative descriptive, *padan*, and *agih* methods. Data were obtained using observation techniques, recording techniques, listening techniques, note-taking techniques. The primary data source in this study was a description of the analysis of adolescent slang variety in the Ringinasri Bejen Karanganyar. The secondary data of this study were literature and journals relevant to research on the variety of slang. Furthermore, the data were analyzed using the determining element sorting technique or PUP, the comparison technique (HBB technique), and direct techniques (vanished, replacement, expansion, and repetition). From the data, it was found that the data were in the form of slang words: (1) the basic word form contains five examples of words, (2) the form of affixed words contains 1 example of a word, (3) the repetition word form contains three examples of words, (4) In the form of compound words there are 1 example words, the meaning of slang words are, (1) denotative meaning there are five examples of words, (2) connotative meaning there are three examples of words, and the function of slang, namely (1) function of directive words there are five examples of words, (2) the function of the word regulation contains two examples of words, and (3) the function of the word emotive contains five examples of words.

**Keywords:** *Slang, Form, Meaning, Function.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is used as a communication tool that has an important task in the mechanism of life. Language also has a dynamic nature because it is continually transformed along with time and human activities. Language changes include external changes that occur due to direct contact with other languages and internal changes that occur due to innovations in society, emerging slang. People in informal conditions widely use slang. Words that are non-standard and tend to be witty are now often associated with slang. Nowadays, all groups commonly use slang, especially adolescents. The language used in serious or formal situations is the standard language. Based on age differentiation, the language used by adolescents is slang. They also form a culture to communicate according to their norms, values, and ways of thinking because they transition from adolescence to adulthood. Language develops

because of language shifts caused by multilingual factors that often occur in society, especially in adolescents (Ariesta, Qoyyimah, & Markhamah, 2021:260).

Adolescents in the Ringinasri Bejen Karanganyar Housing mostly use slang to interact. Slang is considered easy to understand for adolescents. From the behavior and thought patterns of adolescents in Ringinasri Housing, they think that slang is also reasonable to use to communicate with parents even though they do not understand the meaning of the slang. Although it is already popular, it turns out that the growth of slang in the context of freedom of communication has become a concern for the community, especially parents who live in the Ringinasri Housing Bejen, Karanganyar. This concern arises because today's adolescents, like millennials, are used to using slang when communicating with anyone,

anywhere, so this language is considered inappropriate and disrespectful. Misunderstanding in using slang occurs because of the mix between Indonesian and foreign languages (Kholifah & Sabardila, 2020:364). In addition, some consider slang as dirty language because it is filled with swear words or inappropriate expressions. In addition, many people, especially parents, do not understand well some slang words with distinctive linguistic characteristics encountered in the communication process, so communication between speakers and their interlocutors is not adequately established. For example, the problem is the use of the word "*anjay*" which is popular among adolescents today. It is used to express oneself, but on the other hand, the word "*anjay*" is also widely interpreted as a play on the word "*anjing*" (dog). In this case, it certainly illustrates that slang often causes chaos and misunderstanding in communicating in a society.

Initially, slang used to be called *okem* or *prokem*. Slang vocabulary is obtained from various situations, such as random words that come out when communicating, ridicule words, witty words (funny), words that show several expressions, creative words, and others. It can also be obtained from watching television serials or films and artist captions on social media. The slang used has uniqueness, creativity, and specific social values. As in the word "*cius*" which means "*serius*" (seriously), and other slang words. Slang functions as a form of expression of familiarity and togetherness of its users. The use of slang has also been accepted relatively by the community because it follows the times. For example, the word "*bancrit*" which means "*banyak cerita*" (have many stories), "*TTDJ*" which means to be careful on the road, "*mager*" which means lazy to move, and others. Slang has no particular criteria, only replaced by words that come out of a person depending on their mood. Slang words are not used in formal situations such as during meetings, speeches, exams, writing articles, and others. The positive impact of using slang is that adolescents become more creative. As in certain places, such as schools or workplaces, they are required to use formal language. Seeing the many vocabularies of slang used by adolescents to communicate, it is fascinating to study it further by analyzing its form, meaning, and function. In the learning process, the material on various languages is in the Indonesian Language and Literature Department FKIP taken in the seventh semester. The materials include Indonesian language diversity, essays, sentence patterns, EYD and grammar, language and style, language development, linguistic form units, language roles and functions, principles of essay

writing, and essay and paragraph planning. Based on the description above, the researcher wanted to choose the title "Form, Meaning and Function of Slang in Adolescents and Its Relevance to Indonesian Language Learning at Ringinasri Bejen, Karanganyar, Central Java."

## 2. METHOD

The qualitative descriptive method is used in this study which uses an unambiguous truth-telling technique regarding the symptoms that occur in the subject under study.

This research was carried out in Ringinasri Housing, Bejen Karanganyar. This qualitative method uses research subjects, namely people who can be asked for information for specific purposes. Research subjects are adolescents who, according to WHO (UN agency for world health), are aged 12 to 24 years.

This research's main data or primary data is to explain the analysis of the variety of adolescent slang in the Ringinasri Housing Bejen Karanganyar. The secondary data of this research are literature and journals relevant to research on the variety of slang. Observation techniques, recording techniques, listening techniques, and note-taking techniques were used in this study to collect data. The method used is the *padan* method, referential equivalence, and the tool used in this research whose determinant is in the form of reality indicated by the language referent with the PUP technique (select the determinants). The following technique is *hubung banding*. Furthermore, using the data analysis method with the speaker's tool being part of the language itself is called the *agih* method. There are two techniques in this method: basic and advanced. The basic technique uses natural elements, and the advanced technique uses the disappearance, replacement, expansion, and repetition techniques.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The form, meaning, and function of slang among adolescents in Ringinasri Bejen Karanganyar can be described as follows:

### 3.1 The Forms of Slang

The forms of slang words used by adolescents can be distinguished in forms, root words, affixes, compounds, and repetition.

### 3.1.1 Forms of Root Words

The smallest unit of speech that is significant is called the root. Words that do not have affixes are then known as root words. Through these root words, more complex words can be created.

- (1) “*Cius*, sumpah demi apa nih?” (Seriously, for what?)  
(Nurul/24/9/10/2021)
- (2) “Sumpah, *miapa* ndut?” (Seriously, for what?)  
(Restu/22/9/10/2021)
- (3) “*B aja* sih rasane es jeruk” (Nothing special with the orange ice)  
(Restu/22/9/10/2021)
- (4) “*Akuita* dong ya, haha” (Definitely I am)  
(Nestria/20/29/10/2021)
- (5) *Ngebucin* terus ki poraan bosen weki, haha” (Don't you be bored always with your boyfriend?)  
(Nurul/24/10/10/2021)

In Example (1), the root word “*cius*.” The word “*cius*” is a substitute for the word “serious” used by adolescents at Ringinasri Bejen Karanganyar to question whether what is being seen or discussed is the right thing according to the facts. The word “*cius*” consists of two syllables, namely *ci+us*, then produces the root word *cius*. The root form of slang is shortening, which originates from cutting off one word and then shorter speech (Norma, 2020: 78).

In Example (2), there is the root word “*miapa*”. The word “*miapa*” is a slang language used by adolescents to replace “for what”. The word “*miapa*” is an abbreviation. The word “*miapa*” consists of two syllables, namely *mi+apa* which is taken from the last syllable, namely “*demi = mi*” and the word “*apa*” does not change. The word “*miapa*” is an original word that is not given an affix. The formation of root words is made by taking syllables followed by irregular changes (Fawaid, 2021: 75).

In Example (3), there is the basic word “*b aja*” which is used by adolescents to abbreviate the original word, which is so so or nothing special. The word “*b aja*” consists of two syllables, namely *b+aja*. The word *b* is taken from the initial syllable, namely “*biasa = b*” and removes the initial syllable, namely “*saja = aja*”. The word “*b aja*” is also an original word that has not been given an affix. Basic slang words usually use a

shorter basic form than the long and rambling form (Zein, 2018: 241).

In Example (4), the root word “*akuita*” means I. Adolescents often use the word. The word “*akuita*” has an affixed form. The word “*akuita*” has the ending -ita. The root word “*aku*” ends up with the formation of affixes. Affixed words are lexical forms that are modified by additions or affixes. The root words in the slang used by adolescents are formed by changing the sound or letters of the root words, creating new word formation, and imitating other languages (Carlos, 2019: 19).

In Example (5), the root word “*bucin*” is the root word. The word “*bucin*” is a slang language used by adolescents to express the term “*budak cinta*” (love slave) or someone who needs love. The word is included in the root word in the form of abbreviations. The word “*bucin*” has a more subtle sense of value than conveying it directly with the word “*budak cinta*.” The root word in abbreviations is a short form of syllables consisting of one or more and can be understood as a summary (Azizah, 2019: 34).

### 3.1.2 Forms of Affixes

The root words which are then embedded in affixes are words with affixes. With affixes, of course, the word will change its form, function, and meaning based on the embedded affixes.

- (6) “*Akika* ngantuk banget Tu, padahal aku ameh pergi” (I am sleepy, but I have to go now)  
(Nurul/24/10/10/2021)

In Example (6), there is the word “*akika*” which is slang used by adolescents to communicate casually to replace the words “*aku/saya*” (I). The word “*akika*” has a suffix -ika. The formation of slang through changes and additions of vowels and consonants can change the sound so that it is difficult to understand (Akyuwen, 2020: 98).

### 3.1.3 Forms of Repetition

Repetition is a word that comes from reduplication and implies a plural meaning. *Dwilingga* is the repetition of all lexemes. *Dwipurwa* is the repetition of the first syllable in a lexeme by weakening the vowel. *Dwiwasana* is a repetition of the back lexeme. In comparison, *trilingga* is an onomatopoeia repeated three times through various phonemes.

(7) “Cah kae ki pancen *bar-bar* banget yen ngepit motor” (He/she drives so fast)  
(Restu/22/10/10/2021)

(8) “Mbak seng diiklanke kui opo tenan cream *abal-abal* to? (Is that really a fake cream in the advertisement?)  
(Pramesti/19/29/10/2021)

(9) “Duh, *unyu-unyu* banget sih gonanmu mbak  
(Pramesti/19/29/10/2021) (How cute yours is)

In Example (7), there is a repetition of the word “*bar-bar*” which is slang and often used by adolescents to refer to someone who behaves irregularly. The word “*bar-bar*” has the form of a dwilingga verb which is repeated throughout the lexeme. The word repetition often causes changes in the meaning of the actual root word (Agsa, 2020: 403).

In Example (8), there is a repetition of the word “*abal-abal*.” The adolescents used the word to replace “*palsu*” (fake). In the conversation, the adolescents discussed the fake cream advertised.

Example (9) there is a repetition of the word “*unyu-unyu*.” This word is one of the slang words used by adolescents to describe something cute and funny. This term can refer to things that are adorable for people and stuff. The word “*unyu-unyu*” is a form of repetition that repeats all root words.

### 3.1.4 Forms of Compound

Compound Words A compound word combines two root words (morphemes) that ultimately have a new meaning. Each of the basic planes that make up it has the same location. There are no explanatory morphemes.

(10) “Yen koyo ngono kui aku wes *soraya perucha* tenan mbak rasane, haha” (If something went like that, it was *Soraya perucha*.  
(Restu/22/9/10/2021)

In Example (10), the compound word “*soraya perucha*” is slang adolescents often use. The word “*soraya perucha*” consists of two basic words namely *soraya* + *perucha*. *Soraya Perucha* is a swimming athlete and film artist, but the word is used to replace the term stomachache in slang. Compound words can be identified when words are different but form new meanings. Contractions with no pattern are slang in compound words (Anindya, 2021: 127).

## 3.2 The Meaning of Slang

The use of language used by adolescents identified the use of denotative words when communication was carried out using slang. The meaning of denotative words used by adolescents is the original meaning and uses slang words that have connotative meanings when communicating. This arises initially because of cognitive meaning.

### 3.2.1 Denotative Meaning

Denotative meaning means objective meaning and what it is. This means that it does not create specific values and is not accompanied by emotions or thoughts. In simple terms, the meaning of denotation is general.

(11) “Yaampun mbak, aku ndek wingi WA Nestria ki *typo* kabeh, isin aku haha” (Oh my gosh, I send all *typo* messages to Nestria)  
(Restu/22/10/10/2021)

(12) “Bar kui Waku mung *diread* tok mbak, dari ora penak jane ki” (And she only read them. How embarrassed I am.)  
(Restu/22/10/10/2021)

(13) “Wes to Tu rasah *kepo* ngono lho, dijarke wae” (Don’t be too nosy. Let it be.)  
(Nurul/24/9/10/2021)

(14) “*Selow* wae ora sah dipiker Tu” (Take it slow.) (Nurul/24/9/10/2021)

(15) “Wong aku tuku neng Mitra malah larang bgt, *mehong* pokok e Tu” (I bought it at Mitra, but it was too expensive.)  
(Nurul/24/9/10/2021)

In Example (11), there is a word with denotative meaning, “*typo*.” In slang, adolescents are often used to replace “*salah*” (wrong). The word “*typo*” has the original meaning of wrong or incorrect. Words with denotative meaning experience a language shift that occurs due to contact between languages so that one language can shift to another (Ariesta, 2021: 262).

In Example (12), there is a denotative word, “*diread*,” which is a slang word used by adolescents to replace the word “*dibaca*” (read) in the discussion of WhatsApp messages. “*diread*” means “has been read” that it has a clear and true meaning that the reader can easily understand. The denotative meaning in slang comes from the respondent's speech as it is (Muliawati, 2017: 51).

In Example (13), there is a word with denotative meaning, "*kepo*." It is a slang word used by adolescents to express their curiosity. "*Kepo*" comes from the word "knowing every particular object" which English absorbs by the process of acronymizing words which have the meaning of wanting to know everything. In Example (14), there is a denotative word, "*selow*." It comes from the word "slow" which is absorbed from English, making a sound by adding a vowel (e). In adolescents' conversations, the word "*selow*" is defined as relaxed.

In Example (15), there is a denotative word, namely "*mehong*." The word "*mehong*" is used by adolescents to replace the word "*mahal*" (expensive). So, the word "*mahal*" is the original meaning of "*mehong*."

### 3.2.2 Connotative Meaning

The terms contained in a literal meaning are called connotative meanings. Connotation has a meaning that is not true. Therefore, this meaning is more likely to be emotional and associate a word that accompanies positive or negative feelings.

(16) "*Rempong* men to mbak-mbak" (How complicated you are.)  
(Restu/22/10/10/2021)

(17) Akui nek neng omah dewe *parno* banget Tu, dadine butuh konco setiapa waktu iki" (I am paranoid when I am alone at home, so I need a companion everyday.)  
(Nurul/24/9/10/2021)

(18) "*Bacot* banget nyettan cah kae ki, sebel aku" (She/he is a long-winded person, isn't she/he? I am upset!) (Restu/22/10/10/2021)

In Example (16), there is a word with a connotative meaning, "*rempong*." The word is a slang language that adolescents often speak to replace "*ribet/tidak praktis*" (complicated or impractical). So, the word "*ribet*" (complicated) is the original meaning of the word "*rempong*." The meaning in popular slang is a language that expresses enthusiasm, admiration, jokes, love, and friendship for an object (Noor, 2020: 367).

In Example (17), there is a word with a connotative meaning, "*parno*," which is a slang word used by adolescents to someone who has a sense of worry, thinks badly even though he has not done anything and has thought about the risks that have not happened so that his fear is excessive. The word originated from the word "*Paranoid*." The connotative meaning in slang is a

picture of a positive or negative feeling written without formal language (Budiana, 2021: 379).

In Example (18), there is a word that has a connotative meaning, "*bacot*." The word is one slang that adolescents often use to express their feelings of irritation or emotion towards someone who talks too much. The word "*bacot*" comes from the word "*banyak + cocot*" which in Javanese has a rough meaning, namely mouth. So, the word "*banyak cocot*" is the original meaning of the word "*bacot*." The connotative meaning arises due to the emotional aspect that the adolescent is experiencing. The meaning of the word in which there is a feeling is called a connotative meaning, including a sense of expressing disappointment which is poured into slang because it is not in line with expectations (Kartina, 2019: 58).

### 3.3 The Meaning of Slang

Slang has an instrumental function when viewed from the listener or interlocutor, and then its function is regulation. From the speaker's point of view, it is an ordinary or personal function.

#### 3.3.1 Changes in the Function of Directive Words

The slang word has a directive function that changes its actual function.

(19) "Pomone aku wes tak *sikat* tenan mbak" (If I were you, I did that.) (Restu/22/10/10/2021)

(20) "lha asline ki seng *nembak* disek sopo sih?" (So, who confess love first?) (Restu/22/10/10/2021)

(21) "Sumpah, *garing* banget mbak" (It is not funny at all.) (Restu/22/9/10/2021)

(22) "*Pecah* tenan es acarane pas neng kampusku kae" (The event was very lively at my campus.) (Nestria/20/29/10/2021)

(23) "Awale di *kompore* cah-cah kae lho mbak, dadine emosi, haha" (They persuaded it, so I got emotional.) (Pramesti/19/29/10/2021)

In Example (19), there is the word "*sikat*." The word "*sikat*" is a slang word that adolescents often use

to mean an urge to take immediate action. However, the original function or function of the word "*sikat*" is a tool used to clean things. The directive function is to use slang words built from existing words by creating new meanings (Robingah, 2019: 13).

In Example (20), there is the word "*nembak*." The word "*nembak*" is used by adolescents to express love for someone. However, the original function of the word "*nembak*" is to fire a firearm to hit a target.

In Example (21), there is the word "*garing*." The word "*garing*" is a slang word used by adolescents to replace the word "*tidak lucu*" (unfunny). However, the original function of the word "*garing*" is the crisp sound that usually comes from crackers or foods that have a dry texture. Changes in the function of directives in slang can be used in intimate situations such as with family members or close friends (Julita, 2021: 7).

In Example (22), there is the word "*pecah*." The word "*pecah*" in the slang used by adolescents means *gokil*, exciting, or cool. However, the original function of the word "*pecah*" is to split into several parts. The word is often used when there is an incident of plates, glasses, or other items falling and splitting. Language creativity in the directive function attempts to create new expressions (Irawan, 2020: 204).

In Example (23), there is the word "*kompot*." Adolescents often use the word to inflame someone so that feelings of anger and emotion occur. However, the word "*kompot*" has its original function as a fireplace for cooking that uses kerosene, gas, or electricity as fuel.

### 3.3.2 Changes in the Function of Regulatory Words

The function of the regulatory word is a word that undergoes a process of inviting or ordering someone else.

(24) "*Kuy* Tu mengko neng alun-alun, pengen jajan ki" (Let's go to the town square. I want to get some snacks.)

(Nurul/24/9/10/2021)

(25) "*Hayuk* to, selak bengi Tu" (Hurry up, it is getting darker.)

(Nurul/24/9/10/2021)

Example (24) contains the word "*Kuy*." A group of adolescents often uses the word to express an invitation

or replace "*yuk*" (Let us go!). The function of regulation is to supervise and control various events in directing and controlling other people (Irawan, 2020: 211).

In Example (25), there is an utterance using the word "*Hayuk*" which is slang that adolescents often use to replace the word "*ayo*" (come on) to symbolize an invitation.

### 3.3.3 Changes in the Function of Emotive Words

The function of an emotive word is a word that changes its function according to the emotion or feeling.

(26) "*Mager* i mesti koe mbak" (You must be lazy to move.)

(Restu/22/10/10/2021)

(27) "Sumpah deh Tu aku lagi *boring* banget iki" (Oh my gosh, I am very bored.)

(Nurul/24/10/10/2021)

(28) "*Gabut* eram i to, neng omah terus ora tau dolan" (You have free time but do not want to go out.)

(Nurul/24/9/10/2021)

(29) "*Gaje* banget to koe ki" (What on earth are doing!)

(Nurul/24/10/10/2021)

(30) "*Bancrit* banget to weki Tu" (How long-winded you are.)

(Nurul/24/9/10/2021)

Example (26) contains the word "*mager*." The word "*mager*" is a term that is often used by adolescents to interpret the expression of feeling lazy to move or being lazy in carrying out an activity. Changes in the emotive function allow the speaker to express personal feelings, emotions, and reactions. The emotive function of slang tends to be colorful to make speech more interesting in interacting with other people to attract the attention of the interlocutor (Meinawati, 2019: 54).

In Example (27), there is the word "*boring*." The word "*boring*" is usually used by adolescents to replace the word bored in acting. The emotive function of slang is to convey expression to groups of adolescents (Suleman, 2018: 154).

Example (28) contains the word "*gabut*." The word "*gabut*" is a word that adolescents often use to express

no activity. With the presence of prokem language nowadays, it has an emotive function following the feelings being experienced by the speaker and is considered something natural (Putra, 2020: 60).

Example (29) contains the word "gaje." The word "gaje" is used by adolescents to express feelings of irritation because of someone's undefined behavior. The emotive function in slang is also commonly used to embarrass the speaker and tends to express feelings of displeasure or dislike for the speaker for something that is being done (Manurung, 2020:42).

Example (30) contains the word "bancrit." The word "bancrit" itself has the meaning of many stories. Adolescents often use the word to remind their interlocutors of irritation because they are too talkative or talk a lot that has no end. The function of emotive words used in one's speech can reflect one's thinking ability, personality level, and feelings (Gustiasari, 2018: 435).

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on research on the use of slang among adolescents aged 12-24 years in the Ringinasri Housing Bejen Karanganyar, Central Java, it can be concluded that:

(1) There are word forms in slang in adolescents' conversations, namely the root word (*cius, miapa, b aja, akuita, bucin*), repeated word (*bar-bar, abal-abal, unyu-unyu*), affixes (*akika*), and compound words (*soraya perucha*).

(2) There are slang meanings in adolescents' conversations in the Ringinasri Housing Bejen Karanganyar, namely denotative meanings (*typo, read, kepo, selow, mehong*), and connotative meanings (*rempong, parno, bacot*).

(3) There are functions of slang in adolescents' conversations in the Ringinasri Housing Bejen Karanganyar, namely the function of directive words (*sikat, nembak, garing, pecah, kompor*), regulatory words (*kuy, hayuk*), and emotive words (*mager, boring, gabut, gaje, bancrit*).

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Researchers act as research planners, research managers, data collectors, analyzers, and article writers.

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