A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SLANG USED IN CURTAIN CALL EMINEM ALBUM SONG LYRICS

RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

by:

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2008
A. Background of the Study

Language is the most important thing for people to communicate; people cannot live without language. Generally, communication is a process of transferring message from the speakers to the hearers; the speaker sends a message and the hearer is one who receives the message. In sending a message, the speaker not only uses an explicit utterance or direct expression but also an implicit utterances or indirect expression. Even there are some ways to send the message in communicating; one of them is by song.

Song conveys message and meanings. The composer needs time to think, to choose the words, to read what she or he writes, to revise and to arrange the song. Then she or he considers its effect on the listener. Songs have special characteristics in their lyrics. Each lyric is created to have nuance.

Sometimes some of lyrics used slang according to the message that will be delivered. Some English slang expressions relate to things that people feel strongly about (e.g. sex, family and emotional relationship, drink, drugs, conflict between social groups, work, physical and mental illness, death).

One of examples of slang in sentences is:

The homework the teacher gave us was mickey mouse
The sentence above is included into slang the word mickey mouse has meaning “nonsense and waste of time”

“Can you get that sitrep to the MD by five?”

Sitrep and MD in the sentence above are abbreviation from situation report and Managing Director, both are included into slang.

The sentences of a certain lyric in the song are often shortened and unfinished. Sometimes, the sentences are not grammatical either. However, the composer also arranges a group of words correctly and chooses words and gets the beautiful lyrics. Unlike the general English song, the lyrics of Eminem mostly do not consist of grammatical English sentence. Eminem’s songs usually tell about human activity, violence, social critics, and sneaky lyrics. In those songs, the sentence structures and the choice of words are not really paid attention, in other case Eminem prefers not to push forward imaginative quality but to follow the reality of life. This song lyric mostly uses non-standard English, which tends to be vulgar, lazy in pronoun and it is often said as bad, incorrect and poor English. Mostly some of the words in the lyrics are slang words.

According to Pie (1956: 172) Slang is very ancient phenomenon; extending black into the history of language almost as for the second can beach. One of the main purposes of using slang is to write one’s identification with a group and to exclude outsider. Slang is also used by the majority to
refer; usually in derogatory manner, to minorities. The majority of people used slang as social and ethnic identify the reinforcement power of status.

From another references, slang is the non-standard use of words in a language and sometimes the creation of new words or important of words from another language. Slang terms are often particular or certain sub culture such as drug user, skaters, or musicians. Slang is sometimes confused with jargon which is the collection of vocabulary specific to a profession for example in medical terminology have “ partus “ which have meaning the process of born, or in film sometimes used “cut “ that have similarity meaning “ stop “. In English, slang and jargon include into informal form or non-standard English. According to Trudgil (1992: 117) a standard language is a language one of whose varieties has undergone standardization. Standardization, too, appears to be a relatively uncontroversial term, although the terminology employed in the discussion of this topic is by no means uniform. In other statements, he has derived standardization as consisting of the process of language determination, codification and stabilization.

Based on the explanation above, it is interesting to understand clearly about slang especially the characteristics of slang and the meanings of slang in song lyrics of Eminem. This makes, the writer interested in conducting a research concerning to the use of English slang words in rap music. His research is entitled “Linguistic Analysis of Slang Used in Certain Call Eminem Album’s song lyrics”

B. Problem Statement

In this research the writer formulates the research problem as follows:
1. What are the characteristics of slang used in Curtain Call album?
2. What are the lexical and contextual meanings of slang words used in Curtain Call album?

C. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer tries to limit the discussion about slang on Eminem’s song lyrics, because the writer is interested in these lyrics and found many words that can be identified into slang words.

D. Object of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problems mentioned above the research examines:

1. To identify the characteristics of Slang used in Curtain Call album’s.
2. To describe the lexical and contextual meanings of slang words in Curtain Call album.

E. Benefit of the Study

The writer really hopes that the research on the slang words has some benefits to the writer himself and to the readers benefit in general. The research is expected to have some benefits for:

1. Theoretical Benefit
   a. Giving some contributions to the enlargement of the slang words.
   b. The result of the study becomes one of the references in studying of contextual meaning particularly slang words.
2. Practical Benefit
   
a. The elaborations of this research will be useful for other researcher to conduct a study for the same topic.

b. The study useful as references for other researcher to do research in other view.

F. Research Paper Organization

Research paper organization is conducted to give a clear guidance in reading and understanding the content of the study. In order to have guidance for the reader in reading the whole content, this research paper is organized as follows:

Chapter I is introduction. This chapter contains background of the study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is review of related literature, previous study, underlying theory, those are: Language varieties, notion of slang, notion of meaning, notion of semantic, and notion of context

Chapter III is research method; this chapter covers type of research, object of the data, data and data source, method of collection and technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is elaboration the characteristics of slang words and the contextual meaning of slang words based on the contextual situation of song by Eminem.

Chapter V presents the conclusions and suggestions.