

An analysis of slang terms in *Jumanji: The Next Level* movie

* Nur Aisyah^{1, a}, Sri Erma Purwanti^{2, b}, Edi Ardian^{3, c}

¹⁾ English Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Islam Indragiri

²⁾ English Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Islam Indragiri

²⁾ English Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Islam Indragiri

Email: [*nuraisyahkualalemang2003@gmail.com](mailto:nuraisyahkualalemang2003@gmail.com); [briermapurwanti@unisi.ac.id](mailto:sriermapurwanti@unisi.ac.id); ediardian@unisi.ac.id

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ABSTRACT

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Slang represents an informal variety of language that introduces new expressions and enriches vocabulary. This study aims to investigate the types of slang and identify the meanings of slang expressions used in the film Jumanji: The Next Level. A descriptive qualitative method with a document analysis design was employed. The researcher applied Allan and Burridge's (2006) framework to identify slang types and classify their functions. The findings reveal five types of slang used in the film: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping, with fresh and creative slang being the most dominant. Regarding function, each slang expression carries meanings that can be traced through dictionary references. In conclusion, slang is an informal linguistic variation that evolves over time alongside social and cultural developments.

ABSTRAK

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*Corresponding

Author

nuraisyahkualalemang2003@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Slang, as a type of language, refers to words or expressions that are more frequently used in informal conversation than in written communication. Because slang can be adapted to particular audiences or situations, its meaning is not always understood by everyone. Adams (2009) defines slang as expressions primarily used in spoken interaction rather than formal writing. It is considered a complex and unavoidable

An analysis of slang terms in *Jumanji: The Next Level* movie linguistic phenomenon whose emergence is shaped by historical, social, and cultural developments within a speech community. Similarly, Yanchun and Yanhong (2013) emphasize that slang differs from language in general due to its distinctive communicative function and usage. Unlike standard grammatical structures, slang often introduces words with extended or altered meanings and represents a stylistic form of expression rather than an officially recognized language variety. It is typically associated with group communication, where shared understanding allows members to interpret meanings that may remain unclear to outsiders.

From a sociolinguistic perspective, slang can also be viewed as an ideological framework for understanding language registers. Agha (2015) characterizes slang as a loosely defined linguistic register, implying that it may function almost as a separate linguistic system from the speaker's mother tongue, with meanings understood mainly by its users. Mattiello (2008) highlights the sociological dimension of slang, describing it as a marker of social identity and solidarity within communities. Holmes (2001) further situates slang within the lexical domain and associates it with generational identity, reflecting characteristics such as age or group affiliation. Swan (1995) explains that slang represents a highly informal type of vocabulary typically used among individuals who share familiarity. Allan and Burridge (2006) identify five types of slang—fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping—providing a framework for categorizing slang expressions. These perspectives suggest that slang is not a formal linguistic system but a socially constructed mode of communication that evolves over time and reflects cultural dynamics.

Slang expressions are commonly created to express ideas in novel or engaging ways and are widely used in daily interaction, online communication, and social media. Younger speakers, in particular, employ slang to shorten expressions and make communication more efficient and expressive. For instance, words such as cool or excellent may describe something impressive, while fire, originally referring to literal flames, has developed a figurative meaning indicating something outstanding or impressive. Other examples include kiddo, an affectionate term for a younger person, and the acronym NPC, meaning “non-playable character,” frequently encountered in digital contexts. These examples illustrate how slang enriches communication by providing

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expressive alternatives to standard vocabulary and demonstrating semantic flexibility across contexts.

Slang usage is not limited to everyday conversation but also appears in media and entertainment, including films where dialogue reflects natural spoken language. One example is the American adventure comedy film *Jumanji: The Next Level* (2019), directed by Jake Kasdan, which portrays characters entering a video game world to complete missions. The slang expressions used by characters in the film provide an interesting subject of study because their meanings often differ from literal interpretations and depend on conversational context. Such usage highlights the dynamic relationship between language, context, and character interaction, making films valuable sources for linguistic analysis.

In linguistic discussion, slang is closely connected to broader considerations of language and communication. Language itself functions as a primary medium for conveying ideas and mutual understanding, and slang contributes to this process by enhancing interaction within social groups. Adams (2009) reiterates that slang is more frequent in speech than writing and may vary according to audience or occasion, while Yanchun and Yanhong (2013) underline its distinctiveness from general language systems. Agha (2015) and Mattiello (2008) further reinforce the view that slang embodies social identity and group cohesion, emphasizing its cultural and sociological importance. Holmes (2001) and Swan (1995) describe slang as an informal lexical resource shaped by social familiarity, and Allan and Burridge (2006) classify slang into five categories that illustrate its structural diversity.

Fresh and creative slang involves newly coined or imaginative vocabulary that introduces alternative lexical forms to describe phenomena, often reflecting current trends; for example, *dude* is widely used as a casual form of address among peers. Flippant slang consists of expressions formed from multiple words that convey meanings distinct from their literal components and may signal casual or dismissive attitudes, such as *scooby-doo* this meaning to figure something out, or *whatever*, expressing indifference. Imitative slang arises from modifying standard words or combining elements into new forms, including *wanna* derived from *want to*, *homie* referring to a close friend, or compound and adapted forms like *walkie-talkie*. Acronyms are formed from the initial

An analysis of slang terms in *Jumanji: The Next Level* movie letters of phrases and function as condensed expressions, such as FYI for “for your information” or LOL, widely used in digital communication to signify laughter (Dalzell & Victor, 2008). Clipping involves shortening longer words without changing their meaning, as seen in till from until or 'cause from because, although such forms are typically restricted to informal contexts.

Taken together, these perspectives illustrate that slang represents a dynamic and evolving linguistic resource shaped by social interaction, cultural identity, and communicative needs. Its presence across everyday communication and media demonstrates its relevance for linguistic study, particularly in understanding how informal vocabulary reflects identity, creativity, and social relationships within specific contexts.

METHOD

The approach used in this study is qualitative. According to Hancock et al. (2009), qualitative research involves the collection, analysis, and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual data to gain insight into a particular phenomenon of interest. The instrument used for data collection in this study is documentation. Documentation may take the form of artwork such as pictures, films, statues, music, and others (Sugiyono, 2011). In this context, the present study examines a film as an artistic work; therefore, the documentation analyzed in the movie *Jumanji: The Next Level* focuses on the use of slang expressions.

Data in qualitative research are generally presented as substantive categorical information that is difficult to quantify. The works of art referred to here include pictures, films, statues, music, and others (Sugiyono, 2011). Based on the classification of qualitative data types, the data in this study consist of slang expressions identified in the movie *Jumanji: The Next Level*. Regarding data collection procedures, the quality of the data is determined by the techniques and instruments used. In qualitative research, the primary instrument is the researcher themselves. Since the data used in this study are derived from the film script in textual form, the data collection techniques include: directly observing the movie *Jumanji: The Next Level* (2 hours and 3 minutes in duration) and its script; carefully listening to and observing each word in order to identify slang expressions; marking and recording the slang expressions found in the script and in a

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notebook; and verifying the findings by rechecking the identified slang data to ensure their validity.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After data analysis, five types of slang words were found in the Jumanji the next level film, namely the first is fresh and creative, this slang type shows a particular word has different words of lexis to describe something a type of slang words that has a completely new vocabulary, with a new imagination, has many informal variations, and can be words that are currently trending or even words that people don't know yet. There are 42 (forty two) fresh and creative slang words found in this film, namely: a game, amazing, awesome, bet, beat, break, bitch, buddy, busted, cool, damn, dead, dude, fire, fricking, guys, goddamn, gosh, hip, holy, hot, insane, joint, kiddo, meh, nope, oy vey, savage, show up, sick, smouldring, stack, stuff, sucks, split, sweet, sweetie, up, yeah, yo, what the hell.

The second is the slang word flippant, the flippant sort of slang is a term or phrase made from two or more words that produce a new meaning that differs from the literal meaning of the word that creates it, flippant is used to describe attitudes or speech that are considered too casual, disrespectful, or inappropriate for the context of a serious situation. There are 17 (seventeen) flippant slang words found in this film, namely: bastard, Big deal, crap, hell, It's complicated, No big deal, pissed, Pissed off, Same, Shit, Spit it out, Son of a bitch, whatever, What's up, What in tarnation, What the hell, You're telling me.

The third is imitative slang words, the term that is formed by replicating a regular English word, reinterpreting a normal English word, or merging two separate words to form a new slang word. There are 5 (five) imitative slang words found in this movie, namely Ain't, Brunch, gonna, Gotta, Wanna.

The fourth is the slang acronymy It consists of the first letter of each word in a phrase which is then chosen as the initial and forms the initial of a new phrase that has the same meaning after being explained. There is 1 (one) slang acronymy word found in this movie, namely NPC.

The fifth is clipping This kind of slang term is created by removing certain phrases from long words to create shortened phrases without changing the meaning of the phrase.

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There are 10 (ten) slang clipping words found in this movie, namely Bro, Cut, dad, Dr, Ex, grandp, hippo, kid, mom, Split.

Researchers found 3 types of slang that are not included in the type of slang word, namely the first is slang phraseology, there is 1 (one) word, namely by the way. The second is informal slang, there is 1 (one) word, namely guy. and the third is familiar slang there is 1 (one) which is honey. and the total slang words found are 78 slang words. Of the 78 slang words found there are several words that often appear in the jumanji the next level movie namely yeah, up, grandpa, gonna, gotta and guy.

CONCLUSION

The researcher would like to conclude the findings of this study. In this subchapter, the researcher investigates the slang terms used in the movie *Jumanji: The Next Level*, directed by Jake Kasdan. Based on the theoretical framework and research findings regarding the types of slang, the researcher found that there are five types of slang used by the characters in the movie.

These types are fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. The distribution of each type shows that fresh and creative accounts for 42 occurrences, flippant 17, imitative 5, acronym 1, and clipping 10. In addition, three categories of slang expressions were identified, namely slang phraseology, informal slang, and familiar slang. The fresh and creative type dominates the use of slang by the characters in the movie, whereas the acronym type appears least frequently. This type of slang is relatively more difficult to create compared to other types. Furthermore, the use of slang in *Jumanji: The Next Level* is influenced by word choice, character background, and the setting of the scenes.

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