The phenomenon of “Literally” Slang Term on Twitter: Semantics View

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Abstract: This study focused on using “literally” slang terms on Twitter which aims to find out what the meaning of language variations. This research uses a qualitative approach, with a descriptive analysis method. The way to collect the data is the statements taken from Twitter as media used by people. This study showed that the use of literally word that happened nowadays had many purposes and meaning conveyed by the person. The finding of the research are the people use literally term to emphasize, surprised and the meaning is real not figurative on what she/he stated on their Twitter account. The conclusion is the use of slang must be in accordance with the context when, where, with whom to speak because not all slang terms are used in all situations. The use of slang can be used among teenagers, among colleagues, in casual or informal situations. Users of slang terms must be smart in placing the words because if they do not know how to place the words, they will be considered as an impolite or arrogant person by others. From the results of the research above, tweet users use the word literally by giving the meaning is not out of the context of speech, the meaning is acceptable and understandable by others.

INTRODUCTION

Social media can be seen positively or adversely as a two-sided virtual world. when young people, or what are now more commonly referred to as "digital natives," are actively consuming content on social media using hashtags and current events. Twitter is a platform that social media users utilize to make jokes and laugh at this phenomenon (Language of South Jakarta teenagers). Because Twitter is seen as a free medium and offers a welcoming environment for them. It appears that English and Indonesian are frequently used together throughout Indonesia, not just in South Jakarta. According to Van Dijk (2013), The existence of users who aid them in their activities and partnerships is the main focus of the social media platform. As a result, social media can be considered an online medium (facilitator) that promotes the development of social ties and user connections (Nasrullah, 2016:11). The time and space that social media owns are therefore unrestricted in this sense, suggesting that new groups will undoubtedly arise given how diverse the public space provided is. Meanwhile, Dan Raymond S. Ross (1974:b7) defines Communication is defined as "a transactional process involving cognitive sorting, selection, and distribution of symbols in such a way to assist recipients in deriving from their own experience meanings or responses that are comparable to those intended by source.

One aspect of Indonesia's rapid development is the infiltration of foreign cultures, which begins with language use and extends to speech patterns with considerably different
pronunciations and the delivery of words that are no longer conventional. During a particular time, teenagers will frequently utilize slang to communicate with one another. This is because those teenagers have their own language for expressing themselves. Slang is used to make communication more enjoyable by reducing the impact of refusals, rejections, and retractions or, on the other side, by emphasizing them more. It can also be used to diminish solemnity, pomposity, and overly serious conversation. However, individuals around one may not always understand slang which has a variety of informal or non-standard language that is seasonal.

On this occasion, the author takes variations of slang in Twitter social media because that term in the language is spread out in teenagers’ circles and it is very interesting to know deeply the slang they used in communication and as a teacher must know the development of the language outside as a control form for students in learning English. in this research focus on written form in expressing teenagers’ thoughts. Slang is often used and used by teenagers as a medium of communication with each other so that the conversation seems more relaxed and not seem stiff. Slang is one part of language variations that are temporary. Usually, slang is in the form of abbreviations, a mixture of English and Indonesian, acronyms, and antonym. Slang is widely used on social media, one of which is Twitter. Elementary, junior high, high school, and even university age, children usually tend to use slang, and indirectly this language has become a culture for young people the phenomenon of language use does not only come from Indonesian, but also from other languages that have been modified. Slang is formed from a variety of widely spoken languages as well as through language modifications. Currently, slang is starting to supplant the proper use of Indonesian in daily life. When dealing with informal situations, slang is appropriate, but it should not be used in formal settings. Teenagers frequently use slang, and most of them will feel proud if they don't grasp it because other teens would think they're out of touch (Azizah, 2019). They try to create words or phrases that are not usual in order to express something new or old-fashioned in a new way and use it in everyday conversations such as a daily conversations, chats, or social media. Teenagers often use slang to make sentences shorter and easier to say. Sometimes the slangs are more vivid and more expressive than the standard words.

It is very interesting to study the use of slang terms among teenagers because sometimes spoken slang has a different meaning than its actual meaning. By knowing deeply what is developing in a piece of wide information, it is better for students to know slang words to keep communication keep running smoothly in spoken or written and researcher do investigate to literally term as a control and evaluation for students in having communication either in oral or spoken and to be careful in using slang words that suite with the context.

THEORETICAL SUPPORT

Twitter is one of the social media favored by teenagers. It is well known that there are differences between the official language spoken by the target language learners in the classroom and the conversations they hear outside, and that they are frequently expressed by students who do not understand some expressions despite knowing the target language at an advanced level. This is because language changes according to societies' communication needs, living styles, and other factors. Slang, a component of language and culture that adapts to the communication needs of cultures, is typically seen as a derogatory term and treated independently from the language. It is particularly disregarded in the field of teaching foreign languages.

Swearwords are taboo lexemes that are well-known in the speech communities in which they occur, do not change rapidly from year to year, and are considered taboo by virtue of their semantic link to emotionally charged entities such as human waste and sexuality. Slang lexemes are typically described as ephemeral and characteristic of specific social
subgroups (Moore, 2012). The term "slang" refers to a specific language created in every nation and in every language by various sectors or groups to facilitate agreement in various ways (Boylu & Kardaş, 2020). Slang becomes a component of spoken language when it is used in conversation. A type of discourse is slang. A type of speech's linguistic qualities can be found in the language's verbal, phonological, morphological, or syntactic levels (Izmaylova et al. 2017). When used in speech, slang becomes a part of spoken language. Slang is a type of conversation. The linguistic characteristics of a form of speech might be found in the verbal, phonological, morphological, or syntactic levels of the language (Fein, Whereas, 2011).

Eble (1996) as cited in Purba, Herman, and Purba (2019) stated that Slang is a group of commonplace languages that speakers use to create or reinforce a strong sense of social identity within a group or to keep up with current events or fashion fads in society at large. The language of slang is heavily impacted by the customs and culture of a particular location, community, or group. Hence, Yule (2010:13) proposes that Slang is more frequently employed by people outside of established, higher-status groups. Slang is a very informal language that sometimes contains offensive terms and meanings. It is frequently used by specific demographic groups and is typically not used in serious speech or writing (Kirszner in Sinaga, 2018; Sinaga et al, 2020). Twitter is a social media platform for microblogging that aims to spread quick updates through tweets. (Sulianta, 2015). Social media has evolved with the times, becoming a vehicle for information intermediaries to communicate. The existence of social media, friendship becomes very easy accessible, and communication can be smoother. Social media makes it easy for users to get information and build social networks very easily (Alyusi et al: 2018).

Regarding the types of slang terms, Allan and Burridge (2006) divide them into five categories as explained in below:

1. Fresh and creative. This category denotes the slang word's ability to express something in a casual atmosphere using a different lexicon. Many words that we already know subconsciously could be slang words that we are unaware of. Because slang words have been around since the 18th century, it is possible that these words are familiar to us because they were used in earlier times, as Allan and Burridge (2006) have pointed out. For example, the term "mom" is used to refer to a woman, especially the elderly.

2. Flippant. This form shows that the slang is composed of two or more terms, none of which have the same denotative meaning. "Break a leg" is the definition, which connotes "good luck." Theater-related superstition considers the possibility of good fortune to be a tempting fate. The colloquial term, which stems from folk etymology, gives context to the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln by American actor John Wilkes Booth. When he jumped onto the stage, the assassin fractured his leg. Contrarily, it is believed to be English in origin and was first used in the 1930s; it became widely used in the UK and the US around 1973.

3. Imitative. It indicates that the slang word originated from a word in Standard English, is a combination of two separate words, or uses a Standard English word with a different meaning. "gonna" is the example. This is the colloquial term that results from the phrases "going to."

4. Acronym. It is created by combining the first letter of each word in a phrase or by taking the initials of several phrases or syllables and pronouncing them as a single word. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO, serves as an illustration.
5. Clipping. With this type, a shorter term with the same meaning is created by eliminating some of the longer word. The word "'til," which comes from "until," serves as an illustration. Commonly used terms can be condensed into shorter forms. Additionally, clipped form should not be employed in professional conversations.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach, with a descriptive analysis method. The data collected are words or sentences or a description of the characteristics of the data accurately. Descriptive research is research that is directed to provide symptoms, facts or events systematically and accurately, regarding the characteristics of a particular population or area (Hardani, et al: 2020). The data taken from statement on twitter written by teenagers using literally slang from 20 twitter accounts. The researcher collects the data and then analyzes them descriptively.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Result

Language users when using social media to communicate, usually write down words as they are pronounced. In this study, the author will describe the slang that the author encountered for several days researching social media Twitter, namely "Literally" The following are some of the tweets that the author has encountered which are examples of the use of slang in social media Twitter which is increasingly commonly used by teenagers on a daily basis.

1. @earth900: “Watching this drama literally fell in love with Ye Jaewook. Literally His role here is so sweettttttttttttttttttttt... not perfect, but he's also not rude. Feels like it's a dream to have a boyfriend, ye jaewook”
2. @pillhe : “this is literally me when i don’t want to contribute ngelawak cuma mau ngeliatin dan ngetawain aja”.
3. @alvazalva. : “Literally a typical job that I like. going back and forth is not just stuck in one place, meeting new people, let alone being able to directly chat with the talents there, getting a good boss too and likes to hang out, what a life????”.
4. @rainbowmus1x : this art literally chishiya in S2, padahal ini art kenma ini udah lama (he put cry emoticon).
5. @athlanseit : Nangiss, capek banget wkwkwk gimana ya. Ibu tuh literally lulusan bk, belajar tentang psikologi, tapi sampai anaknya udah umur 22 tahun gini ga pernah ngerti kalau si anak bukan orang yg bisa ekspresin perasaan dengan baik.
6. @Opoxun_K : William : *fighting* Sherlock, literally.
7. @afkml : Literally ga ada satcupun lagu di album ini yang bisa di-skip. Enak semua.
8. @dededededea : kejadian aneh: jadi aku sama dia dulu 1 SMP, dan skrg kebetulan I jurusan dan 1 kelas di kampus. Dari smt 1, isi chat literally Cuma dia nanyain coding error/tugas doang, dan aku komen status wasapnya tentang menu/lokasi makanan yang biasa di post. Nothing personal sama sekali.
9. @nuggetjoon : Literally toner tercantik yang pernah aku liat. Peptaronic toner review.
10. @yoomiyacute : what a journey!! Neyymar words cannot describe how much I am proud of you literally aku sih baru bener, fans sama kamu pas piala dunia ya tapi kek tersentuh banget sama perjuangan kmu.
11. @apalagisc: sumpa, udh lama langganan Netflix dan di seller ini sampe dia tuh ngirim email dan pw duluan sebelum aku tf wkwk, literally belum aku bayar dan udah dikasih pw nya! Mana murah lagi.

12. @uwudrina : ini juga bagus! Salah satu filmnya nana Komatsu favorit gue, romance tp bkn yang tipe klise, nyeritain tgl cinde beda timeline/waktu (literally).

13. @romakhalapaa : Worth to hype siii, cumin kaget aja beneran literally kyk smua orang nonton ni series. Bahkan temenku yang bukan tipe suka nonton series pun nonton.

14. @jisseok : Literally gak ada yang bener bener my type sih wkwkwkwk soalnya ga demen cowok putih yang ganteng flower boy gitu kalo di rl, giliran udah yg agak gelap dikit kulitnya bukan tipe gue juga, mereka terlalu tampan semua sih.

15. @looveeprincesss : Bosen max. Literally bosen. Tapi bukan tipe bosen yang bisa diatasi dengan pergi bermain atau jalan-jalan.

16. @iniverren : I literally married a philosopher.

17. @listacuuwww : carilah tempat dimana kamu dihargai dan diterima. Literally, seseorang yang baik adalah seseorang yang tidak membuat kamu merubah diri agar sama dengannya, dan seseorang yang baik adalah dia yang bisa membuat kalian percaya diri, dan menerima kita seutuhnya.

18. @jenstudyyyy : aku udah ngelewatin fase-fase nyari followers. Skrng malah nyesel dulu kenapa ngefollowin akun-akun yang aku ga kenal, literally bener-bener stranger gitu. Pdhal IG jadi menarik klo kita ngeliatin foto2 org yang kita kenal atau yang kita tau aja.

19. @tabiancaa : Jujur, aku gap dan 2020 aku samsek ga ngelirik ITS, aku ngelirik kampus tetangga dan literally aku ank MIPA, tapi ngelirik kampus tetangga dan literally aku ank MIAP, tapi mempeng soshum, alhasil ga lolos di kampus tetangga, dan ikut mandiri UNESA 2 jalur (nilai UTBK) + (ujian lagi) ga lolos semua karena uangnya gede2an.

20. @intoaura : semester 5 with 24 sks terus dapat tugas tiap hari literally ditampar tugas and that’s not easy, not the simple one terus aku juga sering kecapean and here I am sudah hopeless bgtsama hasil akhir, aku Cuma berharap ga ada nilai D sih.

2. Discussion

Literally is one of the most frequently used English words in a conversation, especially mixed conversations between English and Indonesian. However, before you use this vocabulary, you must first know what literally means and how to use it properly. Do not let you use the wrong one which results in canceling being a slang and smart teenager. Meaning of "literally", Reporting from Merriam Webster, literally has several meanings that can be used in sentences, first, It has a literal meaning where it has the synonym exactly which means "exactly". Example: She meant it as a joke, but they took it literally. Second, literally is used to emphasize statements that are true and accurate even though they may sound surprising. This word is synonymous with "actually" or "really" which means "really". Example: There were literally thousands of people. Third, it has an informal meaning or provides information. Used to emphasize a statement or description that is not true or may be taken literally. Example: I saw him in the store. He was literally drooling over a fancy mobile phone.

Slang words are trending among teenagers influenced by many resources from social media, they make their own circles in friendship and have mixed language when they are communicating among friends. It happens as well in virtual world in which they make statements on their twitter account or give comments by mixing language Indonesian and
English. The word of literally is not strange anymore because it is used in daily communication. For some people, 'literally' is like slang that is often used by young people, sometimes we even know it as a term in 'English for South Jakarta children'. However, has this popular 'literal' usage been placed in the right context? In English, 'literally' includes adverbs or adverbs. In Indonesian, in general 'literally' is defined as 'literally', or the meaning of 'literally'. At least, there are 3 meanings and uses of this word. 1. Provide information that what is meant is the true meaning literally, not figuratively. 2. Emphasize the truth of a statement that might be considered surprising. The word literally means "literally" or "the real meaning". 3. This word is used when agreeing to something that actually happens. English community for south Jakarta now is famous in teenagers circle; they speak with slang terms and influence other teenagers fast. They are very active on social media which make them confident when saying literally in sentences because they know that literally word is used now in their daily conversation so for some teenagers are fine using it while others do not know the development of slang word feel strange with the word moreover they do not know the meaning and of course, they do not tell on their sentence.

Based on the result above, most of the slang terms are fresh and creative category in which the term is already there for a long time but people rarely used in communication. From 20 tweets, 15 tweets contain literal meaning not figurative numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 6,7,8,9, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20. 4 tweets emphasize meaning in numbers 4, 12, 13, 14. 1 tweet is surprising meaning number 16. The use of literally slang in teenagers’ communities is not out of the context, The meanings are understandable, they use the word correctly based on the meaning they want to convey to others. Teenagers use them as a form of self-existence and prestige that they belong to the great circle in their community. The statement which is added with literally word intent to convince the reader, surprised on what is happening, to emphasize on what he/she is saying on twitter. They use literally word the same as actually, really. It is known that those words are available for a long time but teenagers use frequently in communication now since there is south Jakarta teenagers claim themselves that they true a slang community. They used English and Indonesian or mixed as a form self-existence and this phenomenon influences some teenagers in Indonesia. Mostly they use literally slang when they explain something, inform something or notice something to others.

CONCLUSION
Slang is not only derived from the modification of a language but also from several popular languages used by most people. Slang terms give contribution to the friendship in creating good atmosphere in circles. Slang terms used provide warm conversation, easy going, flexible, relaxed situation, light conversation, the atmosphere is not rigid, it makes fun and not boring when conversing. But the use of slang must be in accordance with the context when, where, with whom to speak because not all slang terms are used in all situations. The use of slang can be used among teenagers, among colleagues, in casual or informal situations. Users of slang terms must be smart in placing the words because if they do not know how to place the words, they will be considered as an impolite or arrogant person by others. From the results of the research above, tweet users use the word literally by giving the meaning is not out of the context of speech, the meaning is acceptable and understandable by others. It has some meanings on literal meaning, emphasizing, and surprising about something, someone or situation.

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