

## USE OF SLANG AMONG TEENAGERS

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### Abstract

*Language can act as a tool for social integration as well as a tool for social adaptation considering the large variety of languages that exist. Slang is a typical teenage language that is usually only understood and comprehended by a certain group of teenagers because it contains secrecy. Slang among teenagers is very diverse, the words used tend to be short, easy to remember, and follow trends. Therefore, this research aims to find out what slang is often used by teenagers in Indonesia, what the meaning of this slang is, and why it is used. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with data collection techniques using document study with listening and note-taking techniques. The results of the research show that slang is widely used because slang contains language that is easily accepted and understood by teenagers. The words used tend to be short and easy to remember and the use of slang is done to create a relaxed atmosphere and a familiar impression in the environment of their association.*

**Keywords:** sociolinguistics, Slang, teenager, community, slang words.

### 5. Introduction

English has several branches of linguistics, including sociolinguistics, the study of language in society. Sociolinguistics helps us understand how language is used in social contexts, such as interactions between individuals, conveying aspects of social identity, and various events in society. Fishman (1971), in Kenbuan (2000: 153), explains that sociolinguistics is the study of language in terms of who speaks it, what kind of language they use, to whom they use it, and when they use it. It states that it is a science that studies language. ) states that sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics that studies aspects of social life.

Language is important in daily life as a means of communication. Without language, people cannot express emotions, ideas, and concepts and cannot communicate with each other. According to Tarigan (2008), language is a systematically ordered system that can be used not only in generative systems but also as emblems and symbolic symbols. Language is generally divided into spoken and written languages, and because it is the result of an agreement between individuals and groups, it is universal and known to many people.

In sociolinguistic research, language is a social phenomenon and its users are influenced by several factors such as education level, gender, social status, occupation, situation, and age. According to Eckert (1997), age-related language use in sociolinguistics may reflect changes in language within a community as it changes over time. Additionally, a person's language use also changes with age. During adolescence, broader social interactions can influence changes in a person's language style. Additionally, adolescents tend to use different types of language depending on the situation and who they are speaking to, such as formal language in school settings and

casual language among peers. Changes in language use during adolescence are therefore the result of complex interactions between various social and environmental factors. Adolescent language use also tends to be unique and diverse. This happens because teenagers tend to form groups that are exclusive and different from other groups, resulting in a special secret language that only that group can understand. The particular language in question is often referred to as slang.

Slang itself is part of sociolinguistics, and slang is referred to as informal language used in casual and informal situations, often used by teenagers or certain community groups, and is formed by adding, compressing, substituting, or transposing. Slang is a type of non-standard language used in daily conversation in a particular community. This non-standard language is usually understood and understood by the community simply because of the sensitivity involved (Aswin, 2015). Therefore, slang is more commonly used in a community, and its use is limited to communication between members who understand the language. According to Sarwono (2004), slang is a language specific to teenagers, whose language is modified to be understandable only among them, and almost all teenagers in the country influenced by mass media. It's something young people can understand. Even if the terminology evolves, it changes and expands almost every day. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), slang is an informal language dialect used for social interaction in a particular community or a particular region. Slang is formed not only from Indonesian, but also from English. Using English as slang has become very popular among Indonesian teens these days. Even English, an international language, is not immune to this phenomenon. English is now one of the most commonly used foreign languages as slang by Indonesian teens. With this background in mind, the problem formulation of this study is as follows. Which colloquialisms in English are commonly used by teenagers, and what does this colloquialism mean?

## **2. Research Method**

This research is qualitative descriptive research that aims to describe the structure of slang words used by teenagers and classify their forms based on their constituent elements. According to Yusuf (2017: 63), this type of research is used to accurately describe situations or events and to obtain deeper and broader information.

The data used in this research consists of words, sentences, and slang expressions commonly used by today's teenagers. The document study technique was employed to collect data, along with listening and note-taking techniques. The slang vocabulary used by teenagers was analyzed based on the scientific perspective of socio-linguistic studies, with the analysis stage using content according to Miles and Huberman. This stage includes (1) selecting data that is appropriate to the research problem's focus and eliminating unnecessary data, (2) classifying the data according to the type to be studied, (3) presenting the data resulting from data reduction, and (4) drawing conclusions as the final stage of research.

## **3. Discussion**

This study aims to present a list of English slang words that are commonly used by Indonesian teenagers in their daily lives, particularly on social media. The findings of this research reveal 15 frequently used English abbreviations of slang words.

NO	SLANG WORDS	MEANING	EXAMPLES
1	IDK	I Don't Know	"IDK what it means"
2	IMO	In My Opinion	"IMO, the movie was not that good"
3	OTW	On The Way	"I'm OTW to the meeting"
4	BTW	By The Way	"BTW, have you seen the new movie?"
5	OMG	Oh My God	"OMG! You are a genius!"
6	YOLO	You Only Live Once	"YOLO, let's go on a spontaneous road trip!"
7	LOL	Laugh Out Loud	"LOL, this baby is so funny".
8	CMIIW	Correct Me If I'm Wrong	"CMIIW, I thought you were a boy"
9	THX	Thank you	"Thx for the help!"
10	FYI	For Your Information	"FYI, the meeting has been rescheduled to next week"
11	LMAO	Laughing My Ass Off	"LMAO, that joke was hilarious!"
12	BF	Boy Friend	"Jungkook is my BF"
13	Gf	Girl Friend	"My gf and I are going to the movies tonight"
14	FOMO	Fear Of Missing Out	"I decided to go to the party because I didn't want to experience FOMO"
15	Gimme	Give me	"Gimme a gift in my birthday, could you?"

**1. IDK → I Don't Know**

"IDK" means someone's ignorance of something. This slang is often used in informal conversations, especially on social media and text messages. IDK is an abbreviation of "I don't know" that means "*saya tidak tahu*"

Example: "IDK what it means" → "*Entah aku tidak tahu apa maksudnya*"

**2. IMO → In My Opinion**

IMO slang means an explanation of an opinion expressed by someone. This slang is often used in informal conversations.

Example: "IMO, the movie was not that good" → "*menurut pendapat saya, film itu tidak terlalu bagus*"

**3. OTW → On The Way**

OTW slang explains that someone is on their way.

Example: "I'm OTW to the meeting" → "*saya sedang dalam perjalanan menuju pertemuan*"

**4. BTW → By The Way**

BTW slang is often used in informal conversations to introduce a new topic or insert additional information.

Example: “BTW, have you seen the new movie?” → “*Ngomong-ngomong, apakah kamu sudah menonton film baru itu?*”

**5. OMG → Oh My God**

The slang OMG is often used to express surprise, surprise, or admiration for something.

Example: “OMG! You are a genius!” → “*Ya tuhan, kamu sangat jenius!*”

**6. YOLO → You Only Live Once**

The slang YOLO is often used to invite someone to do something bold or spontaneous.

Example: “YOLO, let’s go on a spontaneous road trip!” →

**7. LOL → Laugh Out Loud**

The slang LOL is an abbreviation of “*Tertawa terbahak-bahak*” and is used to indicate that something said was very funny or interesting.

Example: “LOL, this baby is so funny.” → “*(tertawa terbahak-bahak), bayi ini sangat lucu*”.

**8. CMIIW → Correct Me If I’m Wrong**

CMIIW slang is often used in informal conversations to ask for correction or provide additional information.

Example: “CMIIW, I thought you were a boy” → “*koreksi jika aku salah, aku menurutkan bahwa kamu adalah anak laki-laki*”

**9. THX → Thank you**

THX slang is an abbreviation of “thanks” or “thank you” which means “*Berterima kasih*” in English. This slang is often used in informal communication.

Example: “Thx for the help!” → “*terima kasih atas bantuannya!*”

**10. FYI → For Your Information**

FYI slang is an abbreviation of “For Your Information” or “*Untuk informasi/ sekedar informasi untuk kamu*” in English. This slang is often used in informal conversations to provide additional information or m

Example: “FYI, the meeting has been rescheduled to next week” → “*untuk informasi kamu, pertemuan telah dijadwalkan ulang menjadi minggu depan*”

**11. LMAO → Laughing My Ass Off**

The slang LMAO is an abbreviation of “Laughing My Ass Off” or “laughing out loud” in English which means “*Tertawa ngakak*”. This slang is often used in informal conversation to indicate that something said is very funny or ridiculous.

Example: “LMAO, that joke was hilarious!” → “*tertawa ngakak, lelucon itu sangat lucu!*”

**12. BF → Boy Friend**

Slang BF is an abbreviation of “boyfriend” which means “*pacar laki laki*”

Example: “Jungkook is my BF” → “*Jungkook adalah pacarku*”

**13. GF → Girl Friend**

The slang GF is an abbreviation of “girlfriend” which means “*pacar perempuan*”

Example: “My gf and I are going to the movies tonight” → “*pacar perempuan saya dan saya akan pergi ke bioskop malam ini*”

**14. FOMO → Fear Of Missing Out**

The slang FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) means “*Takut ketinggalan trend*” in English. This slang is used to express someone's fear or anxiety about missing something interesting or important.

Example: “I decided to go to the party because I didn’t want to experience FOMO” → “*Saya memutuskan untuk pergi ke pesta karena saya tidak ingin merasakan ketakutan ketinggalan*”

#### **15. Gimme → Give me**

The slang Gimme comes from the words "give me" or "*Berikan aku*" in English.

Example: “Gimme a gift in my birthday, could you?” → “*beri aku hadiah di ulang tahun ku, maukah kamu?*”

After analyzing the data regarding the use of slang among Indonesian teenagers both on social media and in social gatherings, it has been observed that around 15 slang words have become popular. These words are derived from English abbreviations such as IDK, IMO, BTW, OTW, FOMO, LOL, BF, GF, GIMME, FYI, LMAO, THX, CMIIW, YOLO, and OMG. Teenagers predominantly use slang to create a relaxed atmosphere and a familiar impression in their interactions.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Teenagers are a group of people who can be called a group who have a language that they agree on as a language that is easy for them to understand for interacting with fellow teenagers. From the results of this research analysis, it can be concluded that slang is widely used because it contains language that is easily accepted and understood by teenagers even though slang is non-standard language. Slang is usually only understood and comprehended by the community because it contains secrecy. The variety of slang among teenagers is very diverse, and the language used also has special characteristics, namely: short, lively, and creative. The words used tend to be short, easy to remember, and follow trends. It is easy to use, rather long words will be shortened through a morphological process or replacing them with shorter words.

Overall, there are around 15 slang words that come from English abbreviations that are most popular among teenagers. The use of slang is done to create a relaxed atmosphere and a friendly impression in their interactions.

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