

Slang in “If You Know What Happened in MCI”

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Abstract—This study classifies the form and formation of slang as a kind of an extra-linguistic form. To achieve the objective, the theory of word formation (Ridwan, 2003) was used. Data were obtained from “If You Know What Happened in MCI” novel. Referential method was made use in analyzing the data. The results of data analysis show that slang language occurs not only at the word level, but also at phrase and clause level. The majority, however, occurs at the word level. Language types included in the slang construction are not bound to one language but of many kinds, such as Indonesian, English, local language, mixture of two different languages and some of unrecognizable languages which were intensely code-mixed. Slang are formed through ten processes: coinage; borrowing; compounding; blending; clipping; conversion; back formation; acronym; derivation; multiple processes. Future nature of language would be adding on the existing theory of word formation, particularly that of morphological process of new words formation.

Keywords: Slang; word formation; “If You Know What Happened in MCI” novel

I. INTRODUCTION

There are a large number of studies that have been conducted on slang as one of the extralinguistic form of language. (Labov, 1972). In the last three decades, studies have been conducted focusing on the conditions and situation of development and classification of slang languages based on the field of the human profession (Belascq, 1979; Ensz, 1985; Grossman & Tucker, 1997; Angelov, 1999; Hill, 2005; Valencia & Ancha, 2006; Klerk, 2006; Roth-gordon, 2007; Lighter, 2012). Most of the results of the previous studies did not clearly cover the form and formation of slang in the languages used by small community groups, which should add to the new theories of linguistic. In fact, slang is a linguistic phenomenon that is always encountered in daily human communication activities, and even in the corpus or database of languages stored on a website that operates online, slang

frequently appear (Muliady & Distance, 2012). As part of the language, it is natural that there should be a classification of forms and processes of slang formation from one aspect of language (morphology), to provide insight into the phenomenon of the emergence of new language variations that enrich vocabulary in languages that live in a community. It is actually the arbitrary nature of the language that leads the emergence of variations of it, one of which is known as 'slang' (Klerk, 2006).

The absence of a mandatory relationship between the symbol (the tangible sound) and entities it symbolizes causes the existence of various languages in this world (Klerk, 2006; Epoge, 2012; Lighter, 2012). Thus, one example showing that language is arbitrary is the one manifested in the presence of slang used in communication (Stern, 1939; Izmaylova, Zamaletdinova, & Zholshayeva, 2017). Slang belongs to non-standard language used by certain social groups for internal

communication, with the base that none of the members of the group who do not understand. Slang language has a unique shape, that is, it is changeable according to the time or lifestyle adopted speakers.

Dalam hati aku merasa senang karena ada juga orang yang kepo in akun facebook-ku (Arifianti, 2015: 17-18).

Literal translation:

In my heart, I feel happy to meet the person who kepo in my facebook account.

In the example above, the italicized word, kepo in, is a slang borrowed from English acronyms and added with suffix -in in Indonesian. The word 'kepo' stands for Knowing Every Personal Object which is further abbreviated by taking each of the initial phonemes in the words.

To avoid misconception, clarification on what a slang is provided. Slang is a variation of speech characterized by a newly discovered and rapidly changing vocabularies used by young people or social and professional groups for communication. Slang language developing in Indonesia was formerly known with the term jargon or thug language (Adiwijaya, 2008).

When viewed in its development, the origin of slang in Indonesia is mostly originated from local languages such as Javanese and Betawi language and foreign languages such as English, Dutch, Portuguese and Chinese languages borrowed by modifying the form to suit the sound pronunciation system Indonesian sounds (Muliady & Distance, 2012). However, there are also slang languages whose roots are unidentifiable because they come from a play on a person's name, product or combination of two or more languages (Hill, 2005).

As the previous studies have not touched the standpoint on classifying the slang based on morphologically labelling classification, the present study seeks to offer a new way of identifying language identity through morfologically classification. Hence, the study examines the forms of slang and its formation process. Additionally, this study also tries to verify whether Ridwan's theory of new word formation could be prevalent in every new emerging words or not, those of which are coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, conversion, back formation, and multiple process (Ridwan, 2003: 46).

II. METHODS

The design used in the research is qualitative research design. The data were obtained from Arifianti's "If You Know What Happened in MCI" novel published by Loveable in 2015. The novel consists of five chapters and 260 pages. The researcher was the primary instrument in collecting data by utilizing simak method, which includes reading the entire contents of the novel and taking notes of clauses, phrases, and words containing slang expressions. Data were then classified by putting them in a table based on type and form by making use of the theory of the formation of slang language (referral reference method). The data that had been inserted in the table are then explained descriptively. If there was an element of slang whose formation was not contained in the theory referred to, the discussion was provided by stating several logical and empirical reasons based on the condition of the available data.

III. DISCUSSION

Slang Language Form

The slang forms found in the "If You Know What Happened in MCI" novel comprises word, phrase, and sentence. Word-formed slang is 32 items categorized as grammatical like noun, verb, adjective, phatic, and interjection. The slang with phrase-formed is 13 phrases, including attentive endocentric phrases, attributive endocentric phrases, multilevel phrases, ordinary phrases, and idiomatic phrases. A sentence or clause form of slang found in the novel is 6 sentences, such as declarative, interrogative, and imperative.

Word-formed Slang

The word-formed slang language found in the novel is derived from Indonesian, English, regional languages, bilingual, and unidentifiable languages. Slang formed from the Indonesian word is amounted to 9 words. It is as displayed in Table 1.

Table 1 tells the word-shaped slang originated from Indonesian consists of a number of grammatical categories such as noun, verb, adjective, and phatic category. The noun-categorized slang is three words; the verb-categorized slang is two words; adjective-categorized slang is 3 words; and slang with phatic category is 1 word.

In Table 2, slang originating from English word-formed is amounted to 8 words. The slang is presented as follows.

Table 1. Word-formed Slang Derived from Indonesian

No	Word	Category			
		Noun	Verb	Adjective	Phatic Category
1	<i>Gebet</i>	+	-	-	-
2	<i>Y</i>	-	-	-	+
3	<i>Cendol</i>	+	-	-	-
4	<i>Kamfret</i>	-	-	+	-
5	<i>Jempol</i>	+	-	-	-
6	<i>Gengges</i>	-	+	-	-
7	<i>Nyinyir</i>	-	+	-	-
8	<i>Korslet</i>	-	-	+	-
9	<i>GEGANA</i>	-	-	+	-

Table 2. Word-formed Slang Derived from English

No	Word	Category			
		Noun	Verba	Noun	Interjection
1	<i>Plis</i>	-	-	-	+
2	<i>Likers</i>	+	-	-	-
3	<i>Kepo-in</i>	-	+	-	-
4	<i>Honey</i>	+	-	-	-
5	<i>Ba-dum-tss</i>	-	-	-	+
6	<i>Dafuq</i>	-	-	-	+
7	<i>Selow-selow</i>	-	-	+	-
8	<i>Message</i>	-	+	-	-

In the 2 table it can be seen that slang of English word-formed consists of a number of grammatical categories such as noun, verb, adjective, and interjection. The word with noun

category is 2 items. The verb-categorized slang is 2 words. The slang with adjective category is 1 word and of interjection category is 3 words.

Table 3. Word-formed Slang Derived from Local Languages

No	Word	Local Languages			Category		
		Javanese	Sundanese	Betawi	Noun	Verb	Adj
1	<i>Greget</i>	+	-	-	-	-	+
2	<i>Mantengin</i>	-	-	+	-	+	-
3	<i>Jomblo</i>	-	+	-	-	-	+
4	<i>Ngenes</i>	+	-	-	-	-	+
5	<i>Jones</i>	-	+	-	+	-	-
6	<i>Buset</i>	-	-	+	-	-	+
7	<i>Getol-getolnya</i>	-	-	+	-	-	+

In the table 3 can be seen that the slang-shaped word derived from the regional language is divided into grammatical categories of nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Slang which

has noun category comprise 1 item; word with verb category is 1 item; adjective-categorized word is 5 items.

In the table 4 it can be seen that the slang

Table 4. Word-formed Slang Derived from Two-mixed languages

No	Word	Languages		Category	
		Local-Indonesian	Local-English	Noun	Adjective
1	<i>Jombloversary</i>	+	-	+	-
2	<i>LDR (Lu Doang Relationship)</i>	-	+	-	+

in the form of words and derived from the mixture of two languages is 2 words. The first word of the word *jombloversary* is a combination of the word *jomblo* derived from the local language (Sundanese) and the word '... versary' is taken from an English 'anniversary' fragment, which is then put together into a new word. The second word is

the *LDR*, an acronym of the sentence 'Lu Relationship' which is a blend of Sundanese and *doang* which is a Jakarta accent and English 'relationship', which then put together in the form of acronym. The grammatical category found in these two words are the noun category in the word *jombloversary* and the adjective category in the word *LDR*.

Table 5. Slang with Unidentifiable Language Types

No	Word	Category		
		Noun	Adjective	Interjection
1	<i>Ciyee</i>	-	-	+
2	<i>Krik krik krik</i>	-	-	+
3	<i>Wkwkwk</i>	-	-	+
4	<i>Ngocol</i>	-	+	-
5	<i>Jayus</i>	-	+	-
6	<i>Hode</i>	+	-	-

In table 5, it can be seen that there are 6 types of slang in the form of word, derived from an unidentified language. This slang language appears for various reasons. For example, the word *jayus*, derived from the name of the person, namely Djayusman Soepadmo popular in the 90s. I had been known that Djayusman used to produce jokes but people considered it was not funny so a word with the term *jayus* appears. There is also a slang inspired by the characters in a game in the social media, Ragnarok Online, where there is a monster named Hode which is shaped like a male sex and then inspired the creation of the term to describe men who behave like women in cyberspace especially for looking for profits. In addition, there are also slang-inspired sounds (onomatopoeia) like *krik krik* derived from the sound of insects that then is used to describe the moment that is considered extraordinary but

for others look normal. There is also an expression *wkwkwk*, which is used to express laughter. Although derived from an unidentified language, these slangs can be classified into grammatical when examined from the meaning of the slang. For the category of nouns there are 1 word, the word categorized into the adjective is 2 words, and the word that categorized as interjection is amounted to 3 words.

Phrase-formed Slang

Phrase-formed slang languages are also found in the novel "If You Know What Happened in MCI". This kind of slang form is derived from the Indonesian language, English, and a mixture of two languages. The one that is derived from Indonesian encompasses 3 phrases as displayed in Table 6.

Table 6. Phrase-formed Slang Derived from Indonesian

No	Phrase	Category	
		Attributive Endocentric	Idiomatic
1	<i>Rahasia Illahi</i>	+	-
2	<i>Kakak-adek</i>	+	-
3	<i>Fakir asmara</i>	-	+

In table 6, it can be seen that the slang of the Indonesian phrase-shaped phrase consists of attributive endocentric and idiomatic. Attributive endocentric phrases are 2 phrases

and idiomatic phrase is 1 phrase.

The slang language of phrase-formed, derived from English, is a total of 5 phrases as shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Phrase-formed Slang Derived from English

No	Phrase	Category		
		Attributive Endocentric	Ordinary	Idiomatic
1	Forever alone	+	-	-
2	Badluck Brian	-	-	+
3	Like a boss	-	-	+
4	Luv u	-	+	-
5	Troll face	-	-	+

In the table above, it can be seen that slang language with phrase form derived from English consists of endocentric attributive phrase, ordinary phrase, and idiomatic phrase. Attributive endocentric category of the slang is

1 phrase; ordinary category is 1 phrase; and idiomatic category is 3 phrases.

Phrase-shaped slang, derived from a mixture of two languages and composed of 5 phrases, is shown in table 8.

Table 8. Phrase-formed Slang Derived from Two-mixed Languages

No	Phrase	Language					Category		
		Local -Ind	Ind-Local	Eng -Ind	Ind-Eng	Contributive Endocentric	Compound	Idiomatic	
1	<i>Jomblo ngeres</i>	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	
2	<i>Senasib seperjonesan</i>	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	
3	<i>Likers militan</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	
4	<i>Wabah jomblo</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	
5	<i>Pengemis like</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	

In Table 8, it can be seen that the slang in the form of phrase is amounted to 5 phrases. The identification of the mixture of languages leading the formation of slang of phrase form encompasses, among others: 1) a mixture of regional and Indonesian languages found in the *jomblo ngeres* phrase, where the word *jomblo* is a word derived from the local language (Sundanese) and *ngeres* is from *mengeras* 'ossify' existing in the Indonesian language; 2) a mixture of Indonesian and Regional languages found in the phrase *senasib seperjonesan* and the phrase *wabah jomblo*, where the word *nasib* and the word *wabah* are Indonesian words, while the word *jones* is a combination of the word *jomblo* and *ngenes* and the word *jomblo* is originated from the Sundanese; 3) a mixture of English and Indonesian is found in the phrase *likers militan*, where the word 'likers' comes from English and *militan* is from Indonesian; 4) a mixture of

Indonesian and English is found in the phrase *pengemis like*, where the word *pengemis* comes from Indonesian language and 'like' is from English. Phrases derived from a mixture of these two languages are also included in the category of compounded phrases, as many as one phrase; contributive endocentric phrase is one phrase; and idiomatic phrases are 3 phrases.

Sentence-form Slang

Apart from slang in the form of words and phrases, slang in sentence form is also found in the novel "If You Know What Happened in MCI". There are sentence-shaped slangs used in this novel, derived from bilingual integration of English and an unidentified language. The sentence-shaped slang language derived from English is shown in Table 9.

Tabel 9. Sentence-formed Slang Derived from English

No	Sentence	Category
		Declarative
1	You da real MVP, bro!	+
2	Go home, you're drunk.	+
3	You don't say	+

In the table 9, it can be seen that the sentence-shaped slang, derived from English consists of 3 sentences. Each of these sentences belongs to the category of declarative sentence.

So far, the results of this study have shown how slang in a novel looks. In addition, this study also confirmed that Ridwan's theory of new word formation strategies also occurred in slang formations in the novel. In simple terms the social aspects of humans cannot be separated from their relationship with linguistic aspects, such as morphology.

IV. CONCLUSION

As it turns out in the results of the present study, the slang forms realized in the "If You Know What Happened in MCI" novel are manifested in words, phrases, and sentences. Classification of slang as a part of the language formed through a bilingual and multilingual community social process, can be effectively carried out with a morphological study approach. In addition, language has so far developed in its use as a communication tool in human being life as result of slang existence, particularly those which result from bilingualism dan multilingualism. At this opportunity, routinely changeable status of every language in human being continuously results in the formation of new theories of language and its relation to human social environment. It is much more be since science and technology are sustainably developed and advanced, allowing people form different backgrounds and cultures meet through cyberspace to mix different languages in use for communicating.

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