

## The Study of Slang By Nicki Minaj in Pink Friday Album

Kadek Indah Wulanningtyas<sup>1</sup>, I Made Iwan Indrawan Jendra<sup>2</sup>, I Komang Sulatra<sup>3</sup>

English Department, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Mahasaraswati Denpasar University, Jl. Kamboja  
No.11A Dangin Puri Kangin, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

E-mail: <sup>1</sup>iintyass678@gmail.com, <sup>2</sup>iwaindrawan73@yahoo.com, <sup>3</sup>soelatra01@yahoo.com

**Abstract**— The study concerns with the slang words in song lyrics in Nicky Minaj *Album*. The aims of the study are (1) to analyze the types of the slangs in the lyrics, and (2) to analyze the slang word formations. The method of the research was descriptive qualitative. The data were obtained through listening to the songs and reading the song lyrics. From all of the collected data only 6 samples have been analyzed. The method of the study was descriptive qualitative. The writer used theory types of slang in the lyrics by using the theory by Chapman (2007), and theory slang word formations by using the theory by Mattiello (2008) to answer the questions. Based on the theory, there are two types of slang, namely primary and secondary slangs. There are two types of slang, namely primary and secondary slangs. There were 2 words that were identified as primary slangs: *crusty, niggas and legit*. This research found 5 secondary slangs, e.g. *man, fuck, 'bout, wanna, and baby*. The types of word formations used for creating the slang words are 5, namely compounding, acronyms and initialisms, blending, clipping, and word manufacture and fanciful formations. There were 2 compounding, 1 acronyms and initialisms, 1 blending, 3 clipping, and 1 word manufacture and fanciful formations.

**Keywords**— Song, Slang Word, Types of Slang, Slang Word Formations.

### 1. Introduction

Slang is a type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as very informal. According to Mattiello (2008) slang is a socio-cultural practice in which the speakers are privileged for social purposes to be at the same level as their audience. It can facilitate social intercourse, and inducing friendliness or intimacy.

In this 21<sup>st</sup> century, some English slang words are commonly used by more people around the world to make conversations interesting, such as *FR (for real)*, *FYI (for your information)*, *NOPE (not on planet Earth)*, *OOT (out of topic)*, *TGIF (thank God it's Friday)*, and *Yay or nay (yes or no)*. Slang words can also be found in literary works such as novels, films, songs, short stories, and social media platforms. Nowadays singers also use slang words to give characteristics to their songs. Almost all song genres contain some slang in the lyrics, but not as many as rap songs. This study analyzed English slang words found in the song lyrics by Nicki Minaj's in Pink Friday Album. In the songs the writer can find many slang words. The song lyrics in the album are worth to analyze because of the slang words in the lyrics. Such English slang words can be seen to have different types based on the forms and meanings. The formations of the slang words is interesting to study. The important point to analyze slang is to make it easier for people to comprehend the true meaning of slang in speech and to hold fluent in conversations.

### 2. Literature Review

The first is thesis written by (Putra, 2020) entitled "*An Analysis of Slang Used in Beastie Boys Song Lyrics*", the study conducted a research about types of slang, and the process of creating the slang, it found two types of slang, there are primary slang and secondary slang. For the process of creating the slang it found nine types. Moreover, aspects of the research, as proposed by (Chapman, 2007) theory about the types of slang, and the process of creating the slang theory by (Yule, 1985).

The other comparison that shows are the function of slang, types of slang, and the effect of slang by (Aris, 2015) with the title “*Study of Slang Word in Ride Along Movie*”. From the conclusion of analyzing Slang word in Ride Along Movie, it found that the there three types of slang are society slang, public house slang and slang in medicine. For the function of slang it can be concluded that the functions of slang word in the main characters to pursuit of to shows emotive feeling, self-identify. And for the effect it found positive and negative effects.

### 3. Methods

This study used Nicky Minaj on Pink Friday Album as the data source. The data sources in this research were taken from some song lyrics of Nicky Minaj on Pink Friday Album were taken selected because the writers select the interesting to analyze. This study analyzed English slang words found in the song lyrics by Nicki Minaj’s on Pink Friday Album. The song lyrics in the album are worth to analyze because of the slang words in the lyrics.

The study was conducted by observation method in order to obtain detail information. Then, there are some steps conducted in order to get the data: firstly, listening to the song several times, secondly, reading the lyrics of the songs, The last step was and classifying the data according to the types and the formations.

The method that used in analyzed this study by using qualitative method. The data were analyzed based on the problems of the research and by using the theories. First, analyzing the types of slang word and then the word formations. The researcher used the theory of slang found in the book *Dictionary of American Slang* by (Chapman, 2007:11) to analyze the types of the slang words. Meanwhile, to analyze the formation process the researcher used the theory of slang formation found in the book *An Introduction to English Slang: A Description of its Morphology, Semantics, and Sociology* written by Mattiello (2008).

### 4. Results and Analysis

Below is the finding that is collected from the data sources. From the two data sources of Nicki Minaj in Pink Friday Album there are found 2 types of slang and 5 the formations slang as follow:

TABEL 1  
 TYPES OF SLANG IN NICKI MINAJ ALBUM

No	Types of Slang	The Number of Data	The Example of Data
1.	Primary Slang	3	Crusty, Niggas, and Legit
2.	Secondary Slang	5	Man, Fuck, Bout, Wanna, and Baby

The data of the types of slang can be classified into primary slang and secondary slang. The primary type of slang that was found was 3 words, and the secondary slang was 5 slang words. Secondary slang is more widely used in the song lyrics. It occurred dominantly in the song lyrics because the slang words are also widely used by people in their daily conversations.

Example of Primary Slang Words data in the song lyrics by Nicki Minajin Pink Friday Album are as follows:

1. ‘**Crusty**’ means ‘anyone who is ugly, raggedy, slump or cheap’. In song 1, line 45
2. ‘**Niggas**’ means ‘a term used to refer to or address a black person or black skin’. In song 3, line 39
3. ‘**Legit**’ means ‘Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force’. In song 4, line 62

Some examples of Secondary Slang Words found in Song Lyric by Nicki Minaj in Pink Friday Album are as follow:



1. **'Man'** means 'to greet one of your fellows'. In song 1, line 2
2. **'Fuck'** means 'unpleasant situation' (Literally: to have sex with someone). In song 1, line 39
3. **'Bout'** short term for 'about'. In song 3, line 5
4. **'Wanna'** means 'want to'. In song 3, line 39
5. **'Baby'** means 'endearment'. (Literally : a very young child especially one that has not yet begun to walk or talk). In song 4, line 44

In term of the findings on the slang formations, there are fifteen formations: Compounding, Prefixation, Suffixation, Final combining forms, Infixation, Conversion, Back-formation, Reduplicatives, Acronyms and initialisms, Blending, Clipping, Elliptic rhyming slang, Reversed forms, Variation, and Word manufacture and fanciful formations. The findings of the data were as follow:

TABEL 2  
 FINDINGS ABOUT THE SLANG WORD FORMATIONS, THE NUMBER OF THE DATA, AND THE EXAMPLE OF THE DATA

No	The Slang Word Formations	Types	Token	Percentage
1	Compounding	Motherfucker (Mother + fucker)	2	3%
		Throwback (Throw + back)	1	
	Total	2	3	
2	Acronyms and initialisms	CEO	1	1%
	Total	1	1	
3	Blending	Ima	11	11%
	Total	1	11	
4	Clipping	Ovo	1	83%
		Fuckin'	6	
	Blazin'	79		
Total	3	86		
5	Word Manufacture and Fanciful Formations	Gucci	2	2%
	Total	1	2	
Total Data		8	103	100%

It this research there are five slang word formations that were found, namely compounding, acronyms and initialisms, blending, clipping, and word manufacture and fanciful formations. When the numbers of the occurrence were calculated clipping occurred dominantly. The song writer used some clippings that are usually used in daily conversation in informal situation.

#### A. The Analysis of the Types of Slang

##### The Types of Slang

According to (Chapman, 2007:9) there are two types of slang, namely the primary slang and the secondary slang. Based on the theory, both types were found in the data source.

#### Primary Slang

According to (Chapman, 2007) Primary slang is the expression of subculture groups, essential and pure to them, but absolutely only an alternate to the inactivity of us, being become selected rather than reserved. Primary slang is slang that is not commonly used. The words in primary slang are often secretive and are more often used in communication between members of "subculture" groups, for example, such as motorbike clubs, street gang, school gang, drug gang, communities, and so on.

#### **Data 1**

“Broke bitches so **crusty**” (In song Did It On’Em, line 45)

The word “crusty” means ‘anyone who is ugly, raggedy, slump, or cheap’. People can imagine a crusty person like a tramp or homeless person with poor cleanliness. This word can be identified as a primary slang because of use in an informal situation. The songwriter uses the word, which is not widely used in daily communication or conversations. This word is used by few people for intimidating someone.

#### **Data 2**

“**Niggas** wanna be friends, how coincidental” (In song Moment 4 Life, line 39)

The word “niggas” is used ‘to address a black person or black skin’. This word can be identified as a primary slang because this word is used only among certain group of English native speakers. It is used mostly by white people who look down on black people. Many people consider this word to be offensive.

#### **Data 3**

“So real, you so trill, baby, everything **legit**” (In song Blazin’, line 62)

The word “legit” is an abbreviation of ‘Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force’. This word can be identified as a primary slang because it is extremely offensive and not used by many people but only by a group of people in communicated.

#### **Secondary Slang**

According to (Chapman, 2007:9) secondary slang is not selected so much to exhibition one’s part in a group as to secure one’s aspects into (agreement or disagreement) and inventiveness in appropriating the wordiness of such a member. Primary slang is used to hide something in a secret way where just closed people who comprehend the definition of that words.

#### **Data 1**

“**Man**, I just shitted on’em” (In song Did It On’Em, line 2)

“Man” is often used as a greeting among close friends. The word “man” can be identified as secondary slang, because this word is used as a choice of words to express one's behavior towards other people. Non-native English also commonly use this word to communicate with each other and have also understood the meaning of this word. This word is used by almost everyone anywhere in an informal situation.

#### **Data 2**

“Gucci, we don't **fuck** with it, it's too cheap, motherfucker, shitted on 'em”. (In song Did It On’Em, line 39)

The word “fuck” literally means ‘to have sex with someone’. Fuck is also often used when expressing extreme anger, or to add force to what is being said. This word is often used anywhere in an informal situation. It is also used in informal writing such a messages, chatting, caption on instagram, and other kinds of social media. Therefore this word can be identified as a secondary slang.

**Data 3**

“Don't worry **'bout** me and who I fire” (In song Moment 4 Life, line 5)

The word “bout” is a slang word for ‘about’. This word can be identified as the secondary slang because it is widely used in informal situations by all people. It can replace the standard language and make it easier for them to communicate with other people.

**Data 4**

Niggas **wanna** be friends, how coincidental” (In song Moment 4 Life, line 39)

The word “wanna” is a slang word for ‘want to’. “Wanna” can be identified as secondary slang word, because this word is often used by many people to communicate in daily life, meaning that the word is familiar to everyone. This word is not only used in spoken communication but also in written form, such as messages, chat, or various captions on social media. In literature, singers usually use this word to help and make it easier to sing a song.

**Data 5**

“And the lights even brighter, **baby**, stand next to my fire”. (In song Blazin’, line 44)

The word “baby” literally means “one newly or recently born”. The word is used to address someone you love and want to call with an endearment and full of affection because with the word we can be imagine someone who is funny, cute, and adorable. Which if with “baby” must be full of flabbiness, affection and love. This word can be identified as type of slang word as secondary slang because this word used by a person who you love and want to call with an endearment name as in the word “baby” that full of affection. This slang usually used in a social media, message or chat.

**B. The Analysis of Slang word Formations**

According by (Mattiello, 2008: 72-155), there are fifteen types of slang word formations. The formations are Compounding, Prefixation, Suffixation, Final combining forms, Infixation, Conversion, Back-formation, Reduplicatives, Acronyms and initialisms, Blending, Clipping, Elliptic rhyming slang, Reversed forms, and Variation Word manufacture and fanciful formations.

In this research the writer only found five slang word formations, namely compounding, acronyms and initialisms, blending, clipping, and word manufacture and fanciful formations.

TABEL 3  
 EXAMPLE OF SLANG WORD FORMATIONS IN NICKI MINAJ ON PINK FRIDAY ALBUM

No	Slang Word Formations	Slang Word	Song
1	Compounding	Motherfucker (Mother + fucker)	Did It On'Em
		Throwback (Throw + back)	Did It On'Em
2	Acronyms and initialisms	CEO	Moment 4 Life
3	Blending	Tryna	Moment 4 Life
		Ovo	Moment 4 Life
4	Clipping	Fuckin'	Did It On'Em
		Blazin'	Blazin'



---

5	Word Manufacture and Fanciful Formations	Gucci	Did It On'Em
---	--	-------	--------------

The table above is data that includes the categorized as the slang word formations and the analysis can be describe as follows:

### Compounding

According to (Matitello, 2008:72) compounding is a common morphological mechanism which obtains new words consisting of “two elements, the first of which is either a root, a word or a phrase, the second of which is either a root or a word”. For examples is found in *doss-house* ‘a lodging house’, *hot chair* ‘the electric chair’, and *outside man* denoting a person involved in robbery.

### Data 1

“Gucci, we don't fuck with it, it's too cheap, **motherfucker**, shitted on 'em” (In song Did It On'Em, line 38)

“Motherfucker” can be identified as compounding. The word “motherfucker” is formed by combining two words “mother” (n) and “fucker” (n).

### Data 2

“The greatest **throwback** since that Nolan Ryan (In song Moment 4 Life, line 42)

The word “throwback” can be identified as compounding. It is formed by combining two words “throw” (v) and “back” (adv).

### Acronyms and initialisms

According to (Mattiello, 2008:135) acronyms and initialisms are words coined by taking the initial letters of each words in a title or phrase since acronyms are words pronounced as full words. For examples dink (< double/dual no kids) and AC/DC, AC-DC (humorously < alternating current, direct current).

### Data 1

“Shout out to the **CEO**, 500 Degreez” (In song Moment 4 Life, 37)

The word “CEO” is alternate of a Chief of Executive Officer. Usually pronounced in short, because make it easy to pronounce. CEO can be identified as acronyms and initialisms because the words coined by taking the initial letters of the words in a title or phrase.

### Blending

According to (Mattiello, 2008:138) Blending is a common derivational process in English. It is, also called contaminations or “*portmanteau* words” (after Carroll). It is formed by merging parts of words into one word, as in *smog*, from *smoke* and *fog*. Blends are preferentially formed by taking the beginning (head) of a word and the end (tail) of another one (as in *smog* above). Less typical blends exist by combining two heads (as in *modem* < modulator+demodulator), or a word with a tail (as in *guesstimate* < guess + estimate, *fanzine* < fan+magazine).

### Data 1

“And **I'm**ago and get some bibs for'em” (In song Did it on'em, line 9)

Word of “I'ma” is actually a contraction of the slang phrase “I'm gonna”, which means “I am going to”. This word can be identified as blending because combining the beginning of a word and the end of another word.

### Clipping

According to (Mattiello, 2008:141) Clipping is a process which abbreviates a word to one of its parts. The most common pattern is back-clipping, in which the beginning of a base lexeme is retained (e.g. *lab* < laboratory). Other possible patterns include fore-clipping, in which the final part of the word is retained (e.g. *phone* < telephone), clippings in which the middle of the word is retained (e.g. *flu* < influenza), and clipped compounds (e.g. *cablegram* < cable telegram).

### Data 1

“Shout out to the **OVO**, red wings and fatigues, oh” (In song Moment 4 Life, line 38)

The word “obvi” is a short term for "obviously" and this word can be identified as clipping it is typically used as a single word to reply to a statement or a question that doesn't need a detailed response because the answer is so apparent.

### Data 2

“You must've lost your **fuckin'** mind, shitted on 'em” (In song Did It On'Em, line 21)

The slang word “fuckin” can be identified as a clipping because this word is a shortened word of “fucking”. Nowadays many people used it every day.

### Data 3

“This club is heated, this party's **blazin'**” (In song Check It Out, line 14)

The slang word “blazin” can be identified as clipping because this word is shortened from “blazing”.

### Word Manufacture and Fanciful formations

According to (Mattiello, 2008:154) in ordinary English, this is commonly found in the formation of brand names and scientific words. A slang example illustrating this process is *scag/skag*(U.S.) ‘a cigarette (stub)’, ‘heroin’, which is neither an acronym nor a blend, but a term of unknown origin. They have no recognizable base, in fact, but a fantastic odd shape, which mostly reproduces a blurred indistinct meaning, as in Amer. *whang- doodle* denoting ‘something unspecified’.

### Data 1

“**Gucci**, we don't fuck with it, it's too cheap, motherfucker, shitted on 'em” (In song Did It On'Em, line 39)

“Gucci” is actually a luxury brand from Italy that popularize goods made of leather. Many people use *gucci* to mean ‘very good’ or ‘luxurious’ in informal communication nowadays. Therefore this word can be identified as word manufacture and fanciful formations.

## 5. Conclusion

After conducting the analysis about the slang words in song lyric in Nicki Minaj, some points can be concluded here. From all of the collected data only 8 have been analyzed. Based on the theory, there are two types of slang, namely primary and secondary slang.

The words of primary slang are often secretive and the meanings are not widely known. They are more often used in communication between members of "subculture" groups. There were 3 words that were identified as primary slangs: *crusty*, *niggas*, and *legit*. This research found 5 secondary slangs, e.g. man, fuck, ‘bout, wanna, and baby. The secondary slang were found more because the words are commonly used by people in daily conversation.

The types of word formations used for creating the slang words are 5 namely compounding, acronyms and initialisms, blending, clipping, and word manufacture and fanciful formations. There were 2 compounding, 1 acronyms and initialisms, 1 blending, 3 clipping, and 1 word manufacture and fanciful formations. Among the formations clipping was found the most.

## References

- [1] Chapman, Robert. 2007. *Dictionary of American Slang*. London: Pan Macmillan.
- [2] Genius <https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-moment-4-life-lyrics> retrieved September 16, 2020.

- [3] Genius <https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-did-it-onem-lyrics> retrieved September 16, 2020.
- [4] Genius <https://genius.com/Nicki-minaj-blazin-lyrics> retrieved September 16, 2020.
- [5] Mattiello, Elisa. 2008. *An Introduction to English Slang: A Description of its Morphology, Semantics, and Sociology*. Monza: Polimetrica International Scientific Publisher.
- [6] Putra, Dewa Putu Budi. (2020). "An Analysis of Slang Used in Beastie Boys Song Lyrics". Denpasar: English Study Program Faculty of Foreign Languages Mahasaraswati University Denpasar.
- [7] Saputra, Andrianto Aris. (2015). "Study of Slang Word in 'Ride Along' Movie Script". Malang: The State Islamic University Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.
- [8] The Free Dictionary. (2011) <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/song> retrieved September 16, 2020.
- [9] Urban Dictionary <https://www.urbandictionary.com/> retrieved September 16, 2020.
- [10] Wardaugh, Ronald. (2008). *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*. USA: Blackwell Publishing.

