

The Impact of Slang Language Used By “Gen Z” On The Existence of Indonesian Language

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ABSTRACT

Social media is enlivened by young people and does not rule out the possibility of the elderly enlivening it. Not only that, the creativity shown by young people in this era of modernization also gives rise to language variations that are varied from the standard or correct language in terms of grammar, but are made simpler, shorter, so that what is called among young people is slang. This research aims to find out the impact of Language Slang used by “Gen Z” towards the existence of Indonesian language; The research method used by researchers is descriptive qualitative research method. This research uses data collection techniques with documentation, listening and recording which is sourced from social media such as, Twitter, WA, and TikTok. The result shows that slang have an impact on enriching and expanding the vocabulary of the Indonesian language. On the other hand, the bad impact of the use of Slang are Indonesian is in danger of being replaced by slang, decreasing the degree of Indonesian, causing the extinction of the Indonesian language. Some terms or slang can become popular and widely used by the community so that they become part of the broader Indonesian language. So it is very importance to balance the use of slang with the ability to use good and correct Indonesian in a formal or professional context. This can also be done by improving understanding of grammar rules as well as learning to use more appropriate and standardized vocabulary in formal situations.

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1. Introduction

In this era of modernization, nothing is impossible. Development and change are accelerating. This acceleration is supported by the existence of technology, information and communication in control of human civilization (Idris et al., 2021; Shareef et al., 2021). In the pattern of daily life, humans cannot be separated from technology, such as the use of cell phones, social media, computers, and so on. Social media is enlivened by young people and does not rule out the possibility of the elderly enliven it. Social media is used as a second home (virtual world) or just entertainment to reduce fatigue due to real life (Baía Reis & Ashmore, 2022; Kurniasanti et al., 2019; Rahman et al., 2019).

One of the developments and changes that we can feel is the ease of communication (Sarupuri et al., 2023; Rahman, 2018; Rosyadi et al., 2023). The ease of communication is widely utilized by young people, especially cyberspace users. For example, long-distance communication used to be done by sending a letter and having to wait days to get a reply. However, nowadays there is no need to wait for days, even with a matter of seconds we can contact someone we want to contact quickly without thinking about distance or proximity.

In that view, the use of social media such as Facebook (FB), WhatsApp (WA), Instagram (IG), and other similar media is utilized by young and old people in communicating quickly and easily. This convenience is supported by the appearance and features that have been provided such as Smartphone, Laptop or computer. Support from features or display arises from interesting communication or different languages (varied).

The use of language symbols in the form of images and writing that are different or not in the standard language, but these things can be understood and represent the message that the sender of the message wants to convey. For example, a crying emotion can show sadness. Therefore, there is a variety or variation of language that has an interesting meaning in communication.

Not only that, the creativity shown by young people in this era of modernization also gives rise to language variations that are varied from the standard or correct language in terms of grammar, but are made simpler, shorter, so that what is called among young people is slang. For example, NT slang on TikTok which stands for 'Nice Try'. Slang is a form of linguistic creativity that describes social dynamics and cultural development (John McWhorter). It is also motivated by the times and cultural changes that increasingly require us to adapt to the current era or condition.

Based on the background of the problems above, the researchers carry out the research with untitled, "The impact of slang language used by "Gen Z" on the existence of Indonesian language". The researchers are interested in analyzing changes in the use of Indonesian language to slang and the impacts of Language slang used by "Gen Z" towards the existence of Indonesian Language.

2. Methodology

The research method used by researchers is descriptive qualitative research method. According to Sugiyono (2008: 15) that descriptive qualitative research is a research method based on the philosophy of post-positivism which is usually used to research on natural objective conditions where the researcher acts as a key instrument. This method aims to explain descriptively or describe in detail the problem of changes in the use of Indonesian language to slang in the era of modernization.

This descriptive qualitative method explains the changes in the structure of Indonesian language style to slang used in the current era, namely the era of modernization (Lambert & Lambert, 2012). Descriptive research only describes what it is from the results of the research and without anything that is not in accordance with the facts that are happening. This research uses data collection techniques with documentation, listening and note taking.

The research method used is content analysis of text sources and linguistic data covering social media such as, Twitter, WA, and TikTok. The data collected was analyzed qualitatively to identify trends and patterns in the use of language styles.

3. Result and Discussion

Indonesian is a national language that functions as a means of communication, however, the use of Indonesian in everyday life is gradually being replaced by the use of teenage language known as slang. The use of slang often appears in the pronunciation of Indonesian in formal situations which causes the use of Indonesian language is not good and correct. In the current era of modernization, many people from teenagers to adults still use slang which is considered cooler than Indonesian on social media.

The Indonesian language used in social media has undergone many extraordinary changes and is not in accordance with the rules of language. In social media, Indonesian is able to develop to create new terms. Both are absorbed directly from Indonesian, as well as a mixture with foreign languages (Siregar, 2021). Thus, social media has a big contribution to the development of the Indonesian language if these conditions persist, it will threaten the purity of the Indonesian language and the younger generations prefer to use Indonesian that is not in accordance with linguistic rules (Albantani & Madkur, 2018; Partelow & Nelson, 2020). As a result, over time Indonesian will fade and replaced by slang.

Slang is a language that exists from the times which combines Indonesian with informal language. On the other hand, slang is vocabulary that can appear in words, phrase, and linguistic usage of an informal register, common in verbal conversation but avoided in formal writing (Wikipedia.org). Slang also does not have a linguistic structure which is a group of abbreviations, acronyms, and shortened words. This is influenced by many factors, for instance social factors, the prestige factors, and advertising factors.

1. Societal Factors

Social factors are the main cause of the fading of the Indonesian language today. The era of modernization that is happening gradually shifts Indonesian culture. Increasingly, slang is developing so that it is considered normal by today's circles. In slang, people are free to abbreviate language according to their wishes, for example the word, *kepo*, *mode*, *santuy*, and others.

2. The Prestige Factor

Prestige has become an integral part for Netizens in enlivening social media. Many teenagers try to be slang children who are not out of date, which requires them to keep up with the times, one of which is using slang. Teenagers

who use slang is an acronym for *lebay* children, which is written language in the form of abbreviations, foreign languages, codes, numbers, and symbols.

3. Advertising factor

Various kinds of advertisements on TV, radio, and the internet provide great support for the use of slang. People or net citizens often imitate the slang in advertisements in their daily lives including on social media. For example, someone watches a movie or advertisement that uses slang and then applies it to everyday life.

The following is an explanation and form of slang based on its formation pattern.

3.1. Slang Patterns in the form of Abbreviations



Abbreviations	What it stands for	Word meaning
BTW	By the way	A statement that relates to a situation

The slang formation pattern in Figure 1 shows that the word formation pattern of "btw" which means "by the way" consists of one word, which is an adjective. This is because researchers took the data or word from Tiktok @123kpn2lgi

3.2. Slang Patterns in the form of Acronyms



Acronyms	What it stands for	Word meaning
Salting	Salah tingkah	Statement when someone is feeling awkward in acting shy.

The picture above describes the use of slang in the form of acronyms. The formation pattern of taking one word has the meaning of two words, namely "salting" which means "wrong behavior". Which takes data from twitter @beautyfulvyb

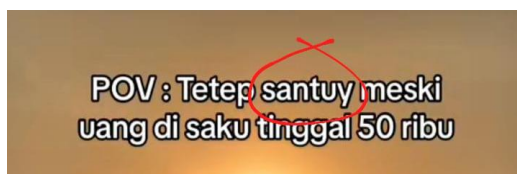
3.3. Slang Patterns in the form of Word Shortening



Word shortening	What it stands for	Word meaning
Typo	Tipografi	Mistakes made when typing in English.

The picture illustrates millennial teen slang in the form of shortening words that describe the explanation of the actual conditions. Namely the word typo has the meaning of an error made when typing, Taking data from TikTok @yudybramasta4

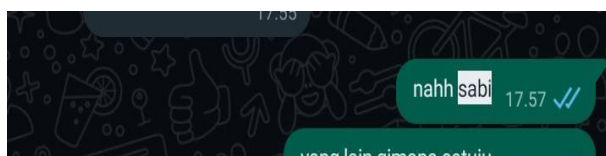
3.4. Slang Pattern in the form of a Punned Word



Pronouns	What it stands for	Word meaning
Santuy	Santai	Someone who is relaxed about any problem.

Word twisting is a way of changing a word from its original form. Namely the word *santuy* which means relaxed. Taking data from TikTok @novanrinando

3.5. Slang Pattern of Word Reversal



Word reversal	What it stands for	Word meaning
Sabi	Bisa	A statement of one's willingness and agreement to a plan.

This form of word reversal is not much compared to some of the findings of teen slang. The presence of slang with reversed patterns is very diverse, some of which are in the form of response for asking an invitation with *sabi* (Madurese language) means "can", the reversal process begins with the last phenomenon move to the first phenomenon or from the last syllable become the first syllable and vice versa. From the datum above, the language change takes from Indonesian language "bisa" to Madurese language "sabi" means "can". In other word, the first syllable *bi* in Indonesia language move to the last syllable in Madurese language, and the second syllable *sa* in Indonesia language move become first syllable in Madurese language (*bisa* become *sabi*). This data was taken from WhatsApp.

3.6. Slang Pattern of Meaning Shift

Shift in meaning	What it stands for	Word meaning
Receh	Uang pecahan	It's a term for jokes that aren't very funny but can make someone smile.

The example takes from Conversation between two friends in their dormitory.

- A : *Aku sudah bikin kopi, tapi kok masih ngantuk yah.* (I made coffee, but I'm still sleepy.)
 B : *Loh kok bisa? Biasanya kan langsung on kalau habis minum kopi.* (How come? You're usually on immediately after drinking coffee.)
 A : *Oh iya, ternyata tadi aku Cuma bikin, tapi lupa minum* (Oh yes, it turns out I just made it, but forgot to drink it.)
 B : *Ealah, receh banget sih lo.* (Ealah, what a dime you are.)

Referring to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* (KBBI) Online, the word *receh* means money with a small nominal value (*recehan*). In other words, *recehan* are commonly known as objects that lack value, just like small change that has no value to many people. In slang, *receh* (dime) describes something that is trivial, low, or lacking in quality. From the example above, it can be seen that the conversation between A and B is in intimate way. Means they are knowing each other very well and B thinks A's jokes is very trivial.

Furthermore, the last slang formation is taking existing words by making changes or shifts in meaning and creating new words with the desired intent. The new meaning generated from the existing word is very different. This shows that the shift in meaning in the word is developing or expanding in nature, namely bringing up a new word from before (Anindya & Rondang, 2021).

3.7. The Impact of Slang on the Use of Indonesian Language

In this millennial era, many teenagers to adults have used slang and even worse, the Indonesian millennial generation is inseparable from the use of slang on social media. The solution to avoid the use of slang in the community is by instilling a love of using Indonesian. With the frequent use of slang, it has an impact or influence on the development of Indonesian as the language identity of the Indonesian nation. The impact is as follows:

1) Indonesian is in danger of being replaced by slang. The activity of using Indonesian is closely related to the culture or tradition of a generation. If in social media it has been found in everyday life. But the reality is that there are still many who use Indonesian formally.

2) Decreasing the degree of Indonesian, because using slang is easier than using Indonesian which has many meanings and meanings. So teenagers and society prefer to use slang in everyday life. The frequent use of slang that is used causes the fading of the Indonesian language degree.

3) Causing the extinction of the Indonesian language. The application of slang that is increasingly widespread in the surrounding environment is one of the causes of extinction and threats to the Indonesian language and is a sign of a decrease in the quality of the Indonesian language. So it is inevitable that one day there will be a shift of Indonesian to slang.

4. Conclusion

Based on the results and the previous discussion, the researcher can put forward several things that are drawn as conclusions that have been described. That in this era of modernization, the development of Indonesian language is strongly influenced by slang. As a result of this influence, Indonesian people and net residents prefer to use slang. The bad impact is that the existence of Indonesian language is increasingly stigmatized by foreign languages and the charm of Indonesian language is fading in the hearts of Indonesian people. However, on the other hand, the use of slang can also have an impact on enriching and expanding the vocabulary of the Indonesian language. Some terms or slang can become popular and widely used by the community so that they become part of the broader Indonesian language.

Therefore, it is very important to balance the use of slang with the ability to use good and correct Indonesian in formal or professional contexts. This can also be done by improving understanding of grammar rules as well as learning to use more appropriate and standardized vocabulary in formal situations.

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