

# SLANG LANGUAGE IN JESSIE J'S SONG LYRICS

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis deals with *Slang Words in Jessie J's Song Lyrics*. This study aims at finding out the slang words in Jessie J's Song Lyrics; the most dominant type of slang words in Jessie J's Song Lyrics; and the reason of the dominant type word in Jessie J's Song Lyrics. This study applies qualitative and quantitative research method. Based on the types, It was found that there are 22 slang words in ten Jessie J's Song Lyrics; Shortened Sentence Forms (*til,shh, I'mma, cause, ain't*).Society Slang (*Damn, Fuck up, Bitch, L.A, FB*), Blending (*Gotta, Woulda, Gonna, Wanna*), and Someone's Nickname (*Mamma Daddy, Motherfucker, Dude, Babe, Mummy, Bunny*). The reason for slang used in Jessie J lyrics are to make them look unique and interesting, keep up with the times, add beauty to the tone in singing, and can make them shorter than grammatical words.

**Keywords:** *Slang Words, Shortened Sentence Forms, Society Slang, Blending, Someone's Nickname.*

## 1. Introduction

Slang language is not an official language or it is informal language, although it is widely used for oral communication in many purposes, as many words quickly become outdated and obsolete because of trends. There is no formal classification in slang language, except perhaps that it is a subclass of the language.

The writer's reason for raising the title about this slang language, because slang is a unique and funny language, it is also use is not common and cannot be used in all situations, so the writer wants to discuss it in more detail to increase knowledge and insight to people who are interested about slang. This slang language is usually used when people are talking informally with other people whom they think are close to them.

There is also many slang words used in song lyrics, one of them is the song lyrics by Jessica Ellen Cornish, popularly known as Jessie J, is a well-known English singer and songwriter. It is why the writer analyzes the use of slang language in her song lyrics. For an example of slang word in the lyrics of her song entitled "Price Tag" with the sentence "We just wanna make the world dance forget about the price tag", *wanna* is a slang word with meaning want to. Known for her unconventional music style, which mixes soul vocals with pop, electropop, and hip-hop, Jessie garnered much fame at a young age. She has also earned several awards and nominations, such as the 2011 'Critics' Choice Brit Award' and 'BBC's Sound of 2011.'

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher intends to find out the types of slang language used in

Jessie J's song lyrics and the reasons of using slang words in Jessie J's song lyrics.

## 2. Theoretical Frameworks

There are some relevant theories that are used for conducting this research, they are Sociolinguistics, Slang Language, and Types of Slang.

### A. Sociolinguistics

According to Wardaugh, sociolinguistics investigates the relationships between language and society with the goal of a better understanding of the structure of language function. It means that in sociolinguistics people will learn about the way of social structures influences how people talk and how language varieties and pattern of use correlate with social attributes such as class, sex, and age.

According to Chaika (1982), sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal being a better understanding of the structure of the language and of how languages function in communication. The equivalent goal in sociology of language is trying to discover how social structure can be better understood through the study of the language.

Sociolinguistics has become a very important role recent, and we have become aware the role of language not just as a means of communication, but also a creator of social identity (Dunkley, 2013). Sociolinguistic is study of our behavior and habit in everyday lives – how language works and media exposed to, societal norms, policies, and laws which address language (Wardhaugh, 2015).

Based on Janet Holmes (1992), that sociolinguistic refers to the study of the relationship between language and society, and how language is used in multilingual speech communities. Sociolinguistic are interested in explain why people speak differently in different social context. And the effect of social factors such as social

distance, social status, age, gender, class on language varieties.

### B. Slang

Slang is the nonstandard use of words in a social group's language. Slang phrases are frequently specific to a subculture, such as musicians, skateboarders, and drug users. Another theory of slang by Menchen (1936: 481) slang is expressions that do not belong to Standard English. For example: "what's up?" is an example of term for asking about people or greeting a person. Slang is the new vocabularies that made by people in social community. it is a specific word, phrases, or utterances, which is commonly used by people in their community. Slang language refers to unconventional word, so it is not appropriate to be spoken in a formal situation, such us in the school, university, or in the office. People speak differently in formal contexts and in formal contexts, especially when speaking informally, people often use slang: an informal but colorful words and expressions. members of the group do not understand.

Slang is a type of language that has particular features and is commonly used by teenagers, but argot is a type of language that is typically used by the thief or pickpocket group, making it a secret language.

### C. The Types of Slang

According to Partridge (1950) there are several types of slang, namely:

#### 1. Blending

Blending is a process of combining two or more words become a new word. Usually it is combining the end of the word and the beginning word. The combination of two separate forms to produce a single new term is also present in the process called blending. However, blending is a typically accomplished by taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of the other word. In the worldwide, there is a

product that is used as gasoline but is made from alcohol, so the “blended” word for referring to this product is gasohol. To talk the combined effects of smoke and fog, we can use the word smog.

Examples :

- a. Smaze (smoke + haze)
- b. Gotta (got + to)
- c. Smurk (smoke + murk)
- d. Bit (binary + digit)
- e. Brunch (breakfast + lunch)
- f. Motel (motor + hotel)

#### 2. Someone’s Nickname

Someone’s Nickname is the type of slang related to someone or a thing that has particular conditions toward their appearance.

Examples:

- a. Chickens -a coward
- b. Honey -beloved person
- c. Dude – friend

#### 3. Shortened Sentence Forms

Shortened Sentence Forms are any modification of word that is shortened or has been modified by speaker to make the slang appears shorter than the original word.

Examples:

- a. Y’all -you + all
- b. Whatcha – what are you
- c. Lemme - let me
- d. Kinda kind of
- e. Bumder – bummer and bender

#### 4. Society Slang

Society slang is commonly used in daily speaking and connected to the society. Every society group uses some types of slang, and by association, those words or phrase become property that belong to that group.

Examples:

- a. Silver pheasant -A beautiful society woman
- b. Booty cadillac - Very sexy butt
- c. Lotto - Lottery or Games
- d. High as hell - Very drunk

### 3. Research Design

The researcher uses a descriptive qualitative and quantitative method in this research. According to Surakhmad (1994:147) and Moleong (2001:6), descriptive research is a research method using a technique of collecting, classifying, analyzing, interpreting, and drawing a conclusion from the data analysis. Meanwhile, Woods (2006:2) suggests that the qualitative method focuses on the natural setting, meaning perspectives and understanding, and a big consideration on the process. The research by collecting the data, arranging or classifying the data and analyzing the data of the research. The objectives of this research are classifying slang and interpreting slang function in the data analysis. As a result, conclusion will be drawn from data analysis. The data used in this method is in the form of words and sentences. This strategy is used in the writing because it is acceptable and relevant to the information found in some of Jessie'J's song lyrics.

The data of this research are in the form of words or sentences in the lyrics of a famous singer named Jessie'J. The data sources were taken from words or sentences found in the lyrics of Jessie'J's song. The writer also used internet sources to find some meanings of words or other social media that helped the writer to complete this research.

### 4. Discussion

The data are taken from 10 Jessie J song lyrics. There are four types slang, namely: Society Slang, Blending, Shortened Sentence Forms, and Someone’s Nickname.

#### a. Society Slang

Society-related slang is frequently used in everyday speech and is related to the society. Every social group has its own slang, and by association, certain words or expressions become their own property. For examples:

1. Silver pheasant -A beautiful society woman
2. Booty cadillac - Very sexy butt

There are six slang words found on Society Slang type in Jessie J Song Lyrics. The word “*damn*” is to explain or describe someone’s feeling of annoyance for something. The word “*fuck up*” is to explain or describe feeling of annoyance for something or someone. The word “*fuck*” is an obscene english-language or vulgar word. It often refers to act of sexual intercourse. The word “*L.A*” is a society slang to Los Angeles. The word “*FB*” is a society slang that usually people say Facebook.

#### b. Blending

The technique of blending involves merging two or more words to create a brand-new word. Typically, it involves joining the beginning and the end of a word. Blending is a procedure that also involves combining two distinct forms to create a single new phrase. On the other hand, blending is often done by linking the beginning of one word to the end of another. Gasohol is a term that has been "mixed" to refer to a substance that is used worldwide as gasoline but is actually manufactured from alcohol. Smog is the term used to describe the combined effects of smoke and fog. For examples:

1. Smaze (smoke + haze)
2. Gotta (got + to)

There are ten slang words found on Blending type in Jessie J Song Lyrics. The word “*wanna*” refers to the word want to. The word “*gonna*” is a informal constraction refers to going to. he word “*would*” refers to would have. The word “*gotta*” refers to got to.

#### c. Shortened Sentence Forms

Shortened Sentence Forms are any modification of sword that is shortened or has been modified by speaker to make the slang appears shorter than the original word. For examples:

1. Whatcha – what are you
2. Lemme - let me

There are twelve found on Shortened Sentence Forms type in Jessie J Song Lyrics. The word “*Ain’t*” is considered by many to be incorrect english and it is common in the very informal speech. It can be used to mean am not,are not,is not,have not,and has not. The word “*cause*” is a short form of word because. The word “*I’mma*” is a short form refers to I am going to. The word “*til*” is a short form refers to until. The word “*shh*” is a explain or expression to accept someone to be quite.

#### d. Someone’s Nickname

Someone's nickname is a type of slang that relates to someone or something that is often referred to because it has certain conditions to its appearance. For examples:

1. Chickens - a coward
2. Honey - beloved person

There are eleven found on Someone’s Nickname type in Jessie J Song Lyrics. The word “*mamma*” is another nickname of word mother. The word “*bunny*” is the nicknames for loved ones. The word “*babe*” is a special nicknames for loved ones. The word “*papa and daddy*” are another nickname of word father. The words “*dude*” are someone’s nickname refers to friend word. The word “*mummy*” is another nickname for the word mother. The word “*motherfucker*” is someone’s nickname,it is a form of the profanity fuck.

After finding the most dominant slang words in the ten lyrics of Jessie J's song, here are some reasons of using slang words used in the songs that the writer found:

1. To make it easier to say  
By using slang words, singers will find it easier to say when singing, and can even produce a more beautiful tone.

For example: In Jessie J's song Nobody Perfect, which says 'Cause now I'm the one that's hurting, yeah. The word cause here is used to make it easier for the singer to pronounce the words in the song lyrics when singing, so that the words mentioned match the tone and beat of the song.

2. To make it shorter

Slang words do not have grammatical rules, so in using slang words users can make them shorter than grammatical words.

For example: In the lyrics of Jessie J's song L.O.V.E "Fuck it, Imma write a song about love, yeea". The word Imma which means I am going to is used to shorten the meaning of the real word Imma in singing, so that the singer gets a more beautiful, connected, and pleasant tone to hear.

3. To make it look cooler

Using slang words, the singer will look cooler when singing it, and has its own uniqueness. Not infrequently some singers use slang words to make them look cool and unique when singing, by using other words but with the same meaning.

For example in the lyrics of Jessie J's song *Who's Laughing Now* "You've got teeth just like Bugs Bunny". The word bunny here is the same as babe.

#### 4. Conclusions

After analyzing research findings, the writer draw the conclusions about slang words in Jessie J song lyrics , they are:

1. There are 22 slang words found in Jessie J's song lyrics.

They are : *Damn, Wanna, Ain't, Gonna, Cause, Mamma, Woulda, Daddy, Fuck up, Gotta,*

*Motherfucker, Dude, Bitch, I'mma, Til, Shh, Babe, Mummy, Bunny, M.A, FB, and Papa.*

2. The reasons of using dominant type slang words in Jessie J song lyrics are:

a. Making it simpler to say

Slang words make singing simpler for performers and can help them achieve a more attractive tone.

For example: In Jessie J's song Nobody Perfect, which says 'Cause now I'm the one that's hurting, yeah. The word cause here is used to make it easier for the singer to pronounce the words in the song lyrics when singing, so that the words mentioned match the tone and beat of the song.

b. To reduce its length

Slang terms are shorter than grammatical words because they do not adhere to grammatical norms.

Slang words do not have grammatical rules, so in using slang words users can make them shorter than grammatical words.

For example: In the lyrics of Jessie J's song L.O.V.E "Fuck it, Imma write a song about love, yeea". The word Imma which means I am going to is used to shorten the meaning of the real word Imma in singing, so that the singer gets a more beautiful, connected, and pleasant tone to hear.

c. To make it look more stylish

Using slang words will make the vocalist appear cooler while singing it, and it has its own distinctive quality.

For example in the lyrics of Jessie J's song *Who's Laughing Now* "You've got teeth just like

Bugs Bunny". The word bunny here is the same as babe.

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