# AN ANALYSIS OF SLANG EXPRESSIONS IN A MOVIE
## (A Descriptive Study of Slang Expressions Used by the Characters in "Two Night Stand" Movie)

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## ABSTRACT

This study investigated an analysis of slang expressions used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie. The purposes were to categorize the types of slang expressions which are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script, to describe the types of slang expressions which are dominantly used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script, and to analyze the types of slang expressions which are not ought to be used in the context of formal education. Content analysis was used to analyze the data which were adapted from Cohen, et al. (2007, p. 475). The finding revealed that the types of slang expressions which are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script could be categorized into 8 types of slang words including pure, dirty, name-calling, age-specific, gender-specific, offensive, sexual, and humorous. The finding revealed that pure was the type of slang expressions which was dominantly used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script. However, humorous was the type of slang expressions which was rarely used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script. The finding revealed that dirty, sexual, and offensive were the types of slang expressions which are not ought to be used in the context of formal education.

**Keywords:** *movie*, *slang expressions, the characters, "Two Night Stand"*

## INTRODUCTION

Language is the most important phenomenon in life. It is the way of expression and communication among people, which is, in general, the case of all languages. People have to understand the language being used to accomplish communication. It needs a set of agreed rules to produce a clear and right form to understand the language easily and perfectly. One of the special forms of language is slang which is not a standard variety of language used by people in their daily life for a long time. In line with this, Stenström and Jørgensen (2009, p. 181) argue that slang is a type of language category maintaining an exceptional status in the term of language which is nonstandard. In addition, slang is employed in almost all of conversations to provide people feeling comfortable and more familiar with their in spite the fact that the topic is useless. In line with this, Amari (2010, p. 1) argue slang emerges as a part of the daily interaction in a community using distinct and familiar groups or subgroups.

Meanwhile, the utilization of slang varies widely beyond social, ethnic, economic and geographical regions. In this modern era, the use of slang can be found in magazine, radio, newspaper, social network, advertising, and movies and so on. Likewise, Zhou and Fan (2013, p. 2209) also describe the rampant use of slang expressions in movies, television, newspapers, and magazines. It can be implied that movie is a very beneficial medium to enhance people slang knowledge. The movie offers slang to obtain audience's interest to watch and consequently the new slangs obtained from the movie are to be used in their routine activity. Therefore, this research focuses on an analysis of slang expressions in "Two Night Stand" movie.

In English language, there are several types of slang expressions which are usually used by the people. In this case, Stenström and Jørgensen (2009, p. 182) also presents several types of slang. The first is pure which is in association with young age activities and it employed consciously and irresistible preferences to build a distance from parents and reliable figures through the hidden word meaning. The second is dirty which is related to sex, defecation and the animal world and it employed to convey connotative meaning. The third is name-calling which shows what emerges to be feature of a specific person, for example a teacher. The fourth is age-specific at which one age group of young people (early, middle or late) dominates it. The fifth is gender-specific which is commonly used either in the male or the female lexicon.

The sixth is offensive which is utilized to convey emotions by feeling angry or to power the identity of group, excluding outsiders and shock the adult people. The seventh is sexual which permits teenagers to discuss something related to their sexual encounter without feeling unpleasant of losing status and esteem, by employing blurred expressions directly or figuratively. The last is humorous which is utilized inside or outside the community to keep in-group solidarity and approval by indicating superiority or a put down, by respecting words to laugh at and to laugh with.

In "Two Night Stand" movie, there are many kinds of American slangs which might be added to make viewers easily understand the story. "Two Night Stand" is a 2014 American romantic comedy film directed by Max Nichols and written by Mark Hammer. The film stars Miles Teller, Analeigh Tipton, Jessica Szohr, Leven Rambin, and Kid Cudi. A movie is about teenagers who manage to treat its characters with far more nuance, sensitivity, and intelligence, allowing them to be vulnerable and raw. The filmmakers behind Two Night Stand could have gone deep, or they could have stayed

light and silly, but they cannot have it both ways. In the end, Megan and Alec both overstay their welcome (https://cinejour.com/146-two-night-stand-2014/).

Furthermore, "Two Night Stand" movie was chosen as a topic of the research because of some considerations. First of all, the movie was played by teenagers (Megan and Alec) as the main characters that performed many kinds of slangs in their conversation. Likewise, Stenström and Jørgensen (2009, p. 187) also argue that boys in the teenage' subculture tend to use dirty and name-calling slang to run a successful conversation. Secondly, the genre of "Two Night Stand" is an American romantic comedy movie which creates humorous effect of slangs. Similarly, Zhou and Fan (2013, p. 2209) argue "American slang is considered as "comedy" by Americans because of its humorous effect." Lastly, this movie also used American slang which is widely used throughout of American English world. In addition, Zhou and Fan (2013, p. 2209) also argue that American slang has gradually become more and more widely utilized and plays a progressively dominant role in daily American English discourse.

Supporting this current research, previous studies have consistently documented an analysis of slang expressions in movie and novel. One of them is the study conducted by Saputra (2016) entitled "The Analysis of Slangs Used in "Bad Boys" Movie Script." Furthermore, Wirahadi, Sedeng, and Qomariana (2016) also write a study entitled "Morphological Analysis of Slang Words Found in Terminator 2: Judgment Day." However, Aboh (2015) discussed "Slang and Multiple Methods of Interpreting Sex and Sexual Identity in the Nigerian Novel."

It can be concluded that the previous studies consider slang expressions used in movie and novel. In line with their studies, this study also identifies an analysis of slang expressions used in movie. Besides that, the previous studies and this study used a descriptive design as a research method. Meanwhile, the previous studies focused on movie Bad Boys, Terminator 2: Judgment Day, and the Nigerian Novel. However, this study is different from the previous studies because it focuses on the movie "Two Night Stand". Based on statement above, the writer is interested in the topic entitled: "An Analysis of Slang Expressions in a Movie (A Descriptive Study of Slang Expressions Used by the Characters in "Two Night Stand" Movie)." Based on the background of the study, the following research questions are formulated in this research:

1. What types of slang expressions are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script?

2. Which types of slang expressions are dominantly used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script?

3. Which types of slang expressions are not ought to be used in the context of formal education?

**METHOD**

In this research, the writer used qualitative research because it analyzed in-depth, rich, and detailed data concerning with structures and patterns of slang expressions which are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script. Similarly, Litosseliti (2010, p. 52) defines qualitative paradigm as a research dealing with structures, patterns, and the condition of something. Furthermore, a descriptive study was used as a research design in this research to describe and interpret the research questions. Likewise, many educational research tendencies employed descriptive methods to depict and do interpretation towards something (Cohen, et al. 2007, p. 205).

All words, sentences, and expressions used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script which contained slang expressions were chosen as the sample because it investigated an analysis of slang expressions which are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script. The documentary data which was used in this research was the document of "Two Night Stand" movie script. In line with this, documents refer to the primary sources such as "manuscripts, charters, laws, archives of official minutes or records, files, letters, memoranda, biography, newspapers and magazines, maps, diagrams, catalogues, films, recordings, transcriptions, log books and research reports" (Cohen, et al. 2007, p. 194).

Content analysis was used by the writer to analyze the data from all words, expressions, and sentences in the "Two Night Stand" movie script which contained slang expressions started from the beginning to the end of the movie story Cohen, et al. (2007, p. 475). Furthermore, the steps in doing content analysis were adapted from Cohen, et al. (2007, p. 475) such as "defining the units of analysis, deciding the codes to be used in the analysis, constructing the categories for analysis, conducting the coding and categorizing of the data, conducting the data analysis, summarizing, and conducting speculative inferences".

To prove that words, sentences, and expressions in "Two Night Stand" movie script were belong to slang language, the writer also checked and matched them with books of slang language from Dalzell and Victor (2008) entitled "Sex Slang", Munro

(2007) entitled "Pardon my English! An exploration of slang and informal language", Maitland (2010) entitled "The American Slang Dictionary", and Spears (2007) entitled "McGraw-Hill's Super-Mini American Slang Dictionary."

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

After collecting the data, the writer conducted the analysis to answer the following research questions:

1. **The Types of Slang Expressions which are Used by the Characters in "Two Night Stand" Movie Script**

The first research question which is formulated in this research is as follows: "What types of slang expressions are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script?" Based on the analysis, the writer set the finding that there were 332 slang expressions which are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script. In this regard, 8 types of slang words including pure, dirty, name-calling, age-specific, gender-specific, offensive, sexual, and humorous were used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script. It was in line with Stenström and Jørgensen (2009, p. 182) who state that "the types of slang words including pure, dirty, name-calling, age-specific, gender-specific, offensive, sexual, and humorous."

There were 84 words, sentences, and expressions of pure (PU). There were 19 words, sentences, and expressions of dirty (DI). There were 48 words, sentences, and expressions of name-calling (NC). There were 77 words, sentences, and expressions of age-specific (AG). There were 25 words, sentences, and expressions of gender-specific (GS). There were 42 words, sentences, and expressions of offensive (OF). There were 28 words, sentences, and expressions of sexual (SE). There were 9 words, sentences, and expressions of humorous (HU).

2. **The types of slang expressions which are dominantly used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script**

The second research question which is formulated in this research is as follows: "Which types of slang expressions are dominantly used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script?" The results of the data analysis from content analysis which was adapted from Cohen, et al. (2007, p. 475) was computed and described in the following figure:
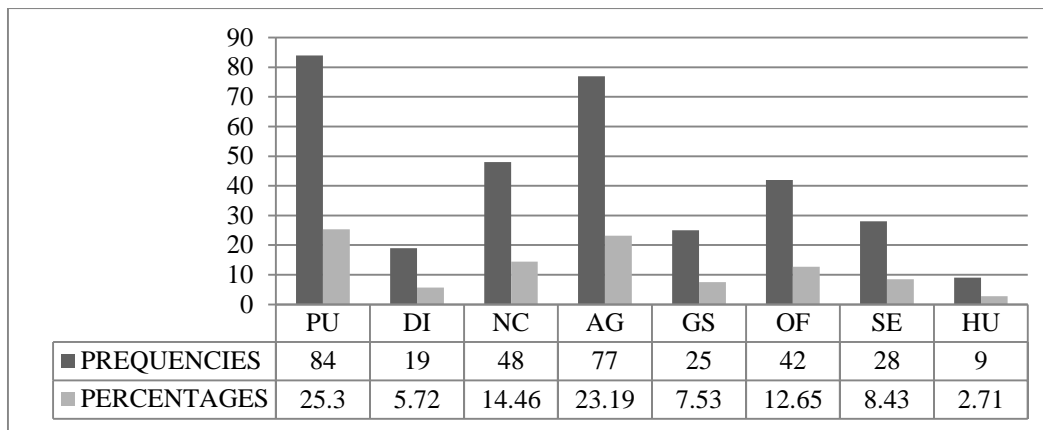
| | PU | DI | NC | AG | GS | OF | SE | HU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ PREQUENCIES | 84 | 19 | 48 | 77 | 25 | 42 | 28 | 9 |
| ■ PERCENTAGES | 25.3 | 5.72 | 14.46 | 23.19 | 7.53 | 12.65 | 8.43 | 2.71 |

**Figure 4.1  The Computation of the Types of Slang Expressions**

Based on the analysis, the writer pointed out the findings that pure was the type of slang expressions which was dominantly used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script. There were 84 expressions of pure which covered 25.3% of the total slang expressions. In this case, pure was used to show teenagers' activities. In line with this, pure is associated with the activities of teenagers that employed consciously and attractive preference to build a social distance of parents and reliable figures through a hidden word meaning consisting mainly of new expressions or qualify words in new sight (Stenström & Jørgensen, 2009, p. 182). However, humorous was the type of slang expressions which was rarely used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script. There were 9 expressions of humorous which covered 2.7% of the total slang expressions. This is in line with Stenström & Jørgensen (2009, p. 183) who said that expression of humorous is employed only in the context of teenagers' daily conversation (Stenström & Jørgensen, 2009, p. 183).

## 3.  The types of slang expressions which are not ought to be used in the context of formal education

The third research question which is formulated in this research is as follows: "Which types of slang expressions are not ought to be used in the context of formal education?" Based on the analysis, the writer pointed out the finding that dirty, sexual, and offensive were the types of slang expressions which are not ought to be used in the context of formal education. It should not be suggested to be used in the context of formal education because it taught about sex, defecation and the animal world and employed to convey connotative meaning. In line with this, offensive is used to express emotions through feeling angry or to empower group identity, excluding outsiders and

distress the adults; in other words, it was often categorized as 'a fool or a stupid person' (Stenström & Jørgensen, 2009, p. 183).

However, there were also some types of slang expressions which were ought to be used the context of formal education, namely pure, name-calling, age-specific, gender-specific, and humorous were the types of slang expressions which are ought to be used in the context of formal education. It should be suggested to be used in the context of formal education because it taught about teenagers' activities, characteristic of a particular person, teenagers, gender to distinguish male or female lexicon, and jokes and laughs. In line with this, humorous is used inside or outside the community to keep in-group solidarity and approval by indicating superiority or a put down, by respecting words to laugh at and to laugh with. That can be comprehended only in the daily conversation of teenagers' context (Stenström & Jørgensen, 2009, p. 183).

**Discussion**

The findings of this current research were also supported by the previous studies which have consistently documented an analysis of slang expressions in movie and novel to support this current research. One of them is the study conducted by Saputra (2016) who revealed that there are five types of slang employed by the characters in this movie. They are fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping as adapted from Allan and Burridge (2006). In line with his study, this study also revealed there are 8 types of slang expressions which are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script including pure, dirty, name-calling, age-specific, gender-specific, offensive, sexual, and humorous. The difference among the names of the types of slang expressions are caused by Saputra (2016) who used five types of slang which were adapted from Allan and Burridge (2006). Meanwhile, this study used eight types of slang which were adapted from Stenström and Jørgensen (2009, p. 182).

Furthermore, Wirahadi, et al. (2016) also showed that there are two kinds of slang. They are slang word and slang phrase as adapted from O'Grady and Guzman (1996). The previous study from Wirahadi, et al. (2016) considered slang expressions used in movie. In line with his study, this study also revealed there are 8 types of slang expressions which are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script including pure, dirty, name-calling, age-specific, gender-specific, offensive, sexual, and

humorous. The difference among the names of the types of slang expressions was caused by Wirahadi, et al. (2016) who used two types of slang which were adapted from O'Grady and Guzman (1996). Meanwhile, this study used eight types of slang which were adapted from Stenström and Jørgensen (2009, p. 182).

In addition, Aboh (2015) showed that given the 'sacredness' attached to sex and sex-related issues, the sampled novelists deploy slang as euphemistic strategies to account for sex and sexual identity as adapted from Griswold (2000). In line with his study, this study also revealed there are 8 types of slang expressions which are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script including pure, dirty, name-calling, age-specific, gender-specific, offensive, sexual, and humorous. The difference among the names of the types of slang expressions was caused by Aboh (2015) who used two types of slang which were adapted from Griswold (2000). Meanwhile, this study used eight types of slang which were adapted from Stenström and Jørgensen (2009, p. 182).

**CONCLUSIONS**

The writer concluded that the types of slang expressions which are used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script could be categorized into 8 types of slang words as adapted from Stenström and Jørgensen (2009, p. 182), they are pure, dirty, name-calling, age-specific, gender-specific, offensive, sexual, and humorous. The writer concluded that pure was the type of slang expressions which was dominantly used by the characters in "Two Night Stand" movie script. There were 84 expressions of pure which covered 25.3% of the total slang expressions. The writer concluded that dirty, sexual, and offensive were the types of slang expressions which are not ought to be used in the context of formal education. However, there were also some types of slang expressions which were ought to be used the context of formal education, namely pure, name-calling, age-specific, gender-specific, and humorous were the types of slang expressions which are ought to be used in the context of formal education.

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