

**SLANG LANGUAGES USED IN A MOVIE ENTITLED *BABY DRIVER*  
(A Sociolinguistics Approach)**

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**Abstract**

This article discusses about the types, the forms, and the functions of slang languages used by the characters in Baby Driver movie. Data in the form of conversations which contain slang languages were collected from Baby Driver movie script. The collected data then were analyzed by applying Sociolinguistics approach to see the types, forms, and the functions of slang used in Baby Driver. The findings show that there are three types of slang used in Baby Driver movie including society, criminal, and police slang. Second, there are two forms of slang used by the characters, words, and phrases. Meanwhile, there are ten functions of slang. They are to address, to form intimate atmosphere, to express impression, to show intimacy, to reveal anger, annoyance, or disappointment, to threaten or to mock, to express a blaming or accusing, to show high spirit, to persuade someone in conversation, and to be secret or as an identification marker.

**Keywords:** Slang, Sociolinguistics, Movie

**Abstrak**

*Artikel ini membahas tentang jenis, bentuk, dan fungsi bahasa gaul yang digunakan oleh karakter dalam film Baby Driver. Data dalam bentuk percakapan yang berisi bahasa gaul dikumpulkan dari skrip film Baby Driver. Data yang terkumpul kemudian dianalisis dengan menerapkan pendekatan Sosiolinguistik untuk melihat jenis, bentuk, dan fungsi bahasa gaul yang digunakan dalam film tersebut. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa ada tiga jenis bahasa gaul yang digunakan dalam film Baby Driver termasuk bahasa gaul dalam masyarakat, kriminal, dan istilah kepolisian. Kedua, ada dua bentuk bahasa gaul yang digunakan oleh karakter yaitu kata dan frasa. Sementara itu, ada sepuluh fungsi bahasa gaul. Antara lain: menyampaikan informasi, untuk membentuk suasana intim, untuk mengekspresikan kesan, untuk menunjukkan keintiman, untuk mengungkapkan kemarahan, kekesalan, atau kekecewaan, untuk mengancam atau mengejek, untuk menyalahkan atau menuduh, untuk menunjukkan semangat yang tinggi, untuk membujuk seseorang dalam percakapan, dan menjadi bahasa rahasia atau sebagai penanda identifikasi.*

**Kata kunci:** Bahasa Gaul, Sosiolinguistik, Film

## A. INTRODUCTION

Slang is an informal style of speech, which may be a single word, phrases or sentences. It is created and used by a particular community. Slang is like any other part of languages; it is changing over time from one generation of the users of slang to the next generation. Hartman and Stork (as cited in Alwasilah, 1989, p.57) states that "Slang is a variety of speech characterized by newly coined and rapidly changing vocabulary, used by the young or by society or by professional group for 'in-group' communication and thus tending to prevent understanding by the rest of the speech community". It means that the slang language is not only used by teenagers but also some other groups. People usually use slang in informal situations and informal places like when they are in a cafe, mall, school, home, and many more.

Pedersen (2007, p.5) also points out that many groups use slang as a way of defining who they are and what group they belong to. Slang is also used as a symbol or an identification marker by a certain community. That is why some slang terms can be understood directly and some are not.

Some people prefer to use slang rather than formal language in their daily conversation because the use of slang can make their speech more relax and casual. They usually use slang to communicate with other who has the same age, or close relationship with them. They create and use slang to enrich their language, to make it more fun so they will not feel bored. However, slang can be very rude and vulgar, so it may not be suitable and polite in some situation.

The use of slang can be found in many aspects. In music, slang is very important for many singers to show which genre they belong to, it can be pop, hip hop, rock etc. Every genre has different slang language in its lyrics. Slang also can be found in media like a TV show, novel, magazine and especially movie. The movie, also known as film, is visual communication that is created to entertain the people by telling a story. Slang is often used in a movie to represent the social condition. In the movie, slang is used by the gangster, teenager, gambler, criminal, and other characters.

An analysis of the use of slang can be investigated in the field called sociolinguistics. Meyerhoff (2006, p.296) states that sociolinguistics is the study of language in society. It is about how individual speakers use language to communicate with the other and how people use language differently in different towns and regions. Each town and region also has different slang language.

There are three types of slang used by the society including society slang, criminal slang, and police slang (Sullivan, 1921; Coleman, 2012; & Partridge, 1933). Society slang is a slang that is created and used by the society. Criminal slang is slang that is introduced by the criminal, they used slang to keep their secret and also as identification markers. Moreover, police slang is used by the police to keep their communication short, so it will be easier for them to do their job.

According to Necifero as quoted in Eric Partridge's book *Slang Today and Yesterday* (1933) People use slang for several reasons, such as to show high spirit, to show high spirit, to enrich the language, to be secret, to show that one belongs to a certain group.

Those types and functions are also used by the characters in *Baby Driver* movie.

In this research, *Baby Driver* movie is chosen to be analyzed. This movie is a crime action movie that is written and directed by Edgar Wright. This movie was released on 28th June 2017. The story of this movie is about a great gateway driver named Baby (Ansel Elgort) who works with a boss gangster (Kevin Spacey). They and the other gangsters work as a robber. After meeting his crush (Lyly James), Baby decides to leave his job as a criminal driver and finds a new job. But he is threatened by the boss gangster that if he leaves the job the boss gangster will kill his foster father and his crush.

The writer is interested in analyzing this movie because this movie is one of the best movies released in 2017. There are also many slang words that are used by the characters since the main character is a teenager and the other characters are gangsters who use many slang terms in their conversation. The writer limits the discussion only about the types, and the functions of slang that are used by the characters in a movie entitled *Baby Driver*. The example below might give a better explanation about the analysis.

Doc : **What the hell** else more do you need to know?

Griff : So you don't think that there is something wrong with him, just not saying anything?

Doc : There is nothing wrong with a little quiet.

The participants of the quoted conversation above are Griff and Doc. Griff is one of the gangsters in *Baby Driver* movie, and Doc is the boss of the gangsters. The setting of this conversation is in an underrated loft. In this situation, Doc and Griff are on their arguments, talking about Baby. Griff gets irritated with Baby. He wants to know what is wrong with Baby, why he does not talk and always wears his earphones. Then he tries to get the answer by asking Doc.

Based on the quoted conversation above, the phrase "*what the hell*" is used by Doc to express anger and annoyance. This function is suitable with the context when Doc uses this slang to ask Griff. The writer concludes that this slang phrase belongs to society slang type because it is often used in the society. The word "*hell*" is associated with death, dying or eternal damnation. This word is related to religion and something that is taboo. This is a kind of rude slang.

From the example above, it can be concluded that the use of slang in a movie can be examined in sociolinguistics field by categorizing the types of slang and analyzing the functions of slang.

It is also interesting to analyze slang terms in this movie because there are some problems that still can be explored in the term of slang. Firstly, most studies of slang language were limited in examining the use of slang language of some groups. Secondly, based on the previous researches, most of the researchers only concerned with the slang language in the form of words, not phrases. Lastly, there is still lack of research that explores another type of slang in society including criminal slang and police slang.

## B. METHODS

This research is examined sociolinguistics field. The object in this research is the slang terms used by the characters in this movie.

The script of *Baby Driver* Movie was used as the source of the data. The data consist of primary and secondary data. The primary data were the conversations between the characters that use slang language in “*Baby Driver*” movie. Meanwhile, the secondary data of this research were previous researches about slang, movie reviews and slang words dictionaries.

Then the data were analyzed to see the types of slang, the meanings, and also the functions of slang used in *Baby Driver* movie.

## C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this research, the writer employs *Baby Driver* movie as the source of data. The writer classifies the data based on the types of slang and then the writer analyzes the functions of slang.

### Types of Slang

The writer classifies the data based on the types of slang. The complete result of the types of slang that are used by the characters in *Baby Driver* movie can be seen as follows:

#### 1. Society slang

There are many slang words in the speech of society. Slang is concerned with the spirit of the universe, the world, life, and in that general. Slang in society is always changing. The writer categorizes this type of slang into *swearing, cursing, addressing and telling*. The example of the data analysis below might give a better explanation:

#### What the hell

##### Quoted conversation:

Doc : **What the hell** else more do you need to know?

Griff : So you don't think that there is something wrong with him, just not saying anything?

Doc : There is nothing wrong with a little quiet.

##### Context:

The setting is in an underrated loft. Doc and Griff are on their arguments, talking about Baby. Griff gets irritated with Baby. He wants to know what is wrong with Baby, why he does not talk and always wears his earphones. Then he tries to get the answer by asking Doc.

##### Data Interpretation:

Based on the quoted conversation above, the phrase “*what the hell*” is used to express anger and annoyance. It is taken from the Oxford Dictionary. This meaning is suitable for the context when Doc uses this slang to ask Griff. This phrase belongs to society slang type because this slang is often used in the society. It is categorized as swearing slang because this word is related to religion and something that is taboo. The word “*hell*” is associated with death, dying or eternal damnation.

## 2. Criminal slang

In this movie the writer only finds one type of criminal slang, it is robbery or gangster slang since the main story in this movie is about gangster life. However, the writer categorizes this slang into six areas of use. Those categories are *talking to or talking about someone; talking about violence, murder, and death, talking about money; talking about sex and other taboos; talking about the job; showing mood*. Below is the example of the data analysis:

### Roll in the dirt

#### Quoted conversation:

Darling : What's it matter to you?

Griff : Just think that he thinks, he's better than us. He wants to sit there in his car and keep his white shirt clean while the rest of us, **roll in the dirt**.

#### Context:

The setting is in an underrated loft. Griff takes off one of Baby's earphones and throws away Baby's sunglasses. Baby gives no response, and then Griff looks at Baby's iPod and drops it. This slang term is used by Griff when Darling asks him to stop disturbing Baby.

#### Data Interpretation:

From the conversation above the phrase *roll in the dirt* means *risk their life*. The meaning is based on the context that Griff and the other gangsters risk their life by taking dangerous way. They rob and kill people when Baby only stays in the car. Griff uses this slang to express his anger and annoyance. He thinks that Baby might think that he is better than the other members.

## 3. Police slang

The third type of slang that is used by the characters in *Baby Driver* movie is police slang. For those outside of law enforcement, they may think that police use different language in their conversation. Police have their own codes and slang language that might not be understood directly by the society. The use of that codes or slang is to keep the communications short so it will be easier for the police to do their job. The other function is to make the public cannot easily figure out what they are saying. In the movie, there are six slang terms that are related to the police or used by the police including *freeze, on the loose, hoostage, lookout, squad car, on foot*.

### Freeze

#### Quoted conversation:

Police: "freeze or we'll shot!"

#### Context:

The setting is in a strip mall. Baby, Buddy, and Darling are trying to escape from the police. They run away and three of them disappear out of the back of the strip mall. Baby is first, leaving Darling and Buddy behind. He vaults over a chain link fence and runs fast. He runs across the street, cars screeching around him. Baby runs fast and is out of control. Baby hides behind a tree. He stops and catches his breath. Baby looks around, sees the police chasing Buddy and Darling

on foot. Baby gears up. He knows that he cannot stop. Police are coming. The dog walker is waving in the direction of the trees. Baby runs and the police chase him. They will not shoot because there are too many people in the park. They are all screaming.

**Data Interpretation:**

In the situation, the police say “freeze or we’ll shot”. The word freeze here means stop. The police use this slang to command the criminal to stop running. The writer concludes this slang as police slang because in the movie this slang is used only by the police.

Table 1. Types of Slang

Types of slang	Frequency	Percentage
Society Slang	48	49 %
Criminal Slang	44	44,9 %
Police Slang	6	6,1 %
$\Sigma$	98	100%

The table above presents the type of slang used by the characters in *Baby Driver* movie. There are three types of slang that are employed by the characters and the occurrence of society slang dominates the slang types. As described in the table, society slang type dominates the other slang types that are used by the characters in *Baby driver* movie by 49%.

The society slang is followed by the criminal slang which has percentage 44, 9 %. In this type, most of the criminals use this slang in talking to or talking about someone. The criminals have their own language in addressing someone. They use a different address as their identity, to be secret, or just for fun. They also use different language when they talk about someone. In this type, talking about sex and other taboo is the fewest. The writer has only found one data that is used by the characters. However, in real life, talking about sex and other taboos is very usual among criminal. They have many slang words that are related to sexual activity.

On the other hand, police slang type is the fewest slang type in this movie. The percentage of this type is 6, 1 %. Actually, there are many slang termsthat are used by the police. Police have their own jargon, symbol, codes, and slang in their language that might not be understood directly by the society. For those outside of law enforcement, it seems like police use different language in their conversation. However, police slang type becomes the fewest in this movie, since the main character and the main story in this movie is not about police.

After analyzing the types of slang terms that are used by the characters in *Baby Driver* movie, the writer then analyzes the slang functions of each type. The table below might give a better explanation

Table 2: The Functions of Slang Based on Each Type

Functions of slang	Frequency	Percentage
To address	27	27,5 %
To form an intimate atmosphere	16	16,3 %
To express impression	3	3,06 %
To show intimacy	4	4,08 %
To threaten	6	6,1 %
To reveal anger, annoyance, and disappointment	12	12,2 %
To express blaming and accusing	2	2 %
To show high spirit	4	4,08 %
To persuade someone in conversation	4	4,08 %
As an identification marker or to be secret	19	19,3 %
Total	98	100 %

Based on the data analysis, the characters are used slang word for 10 functions such as to address, to form intimate atmosphere, to express impression, to show intimacy, to threaten, to reveal anger, annoyance, and disappointment, to express blaming and accusing, to show high spirit, to persuade someone in conversation, and as an identification marker.

The dominant function is to address. Slang words such as *kid*, *boys*, and *folks* appear frequently in the whole story of this movie. The speaker tends to use slang word to address since they want to make it confident to call someone who has a close relationship with them. It will create relax condition and reduce the distance between them. As a result, this function is dominantly used by the characters in this movie with 26 data. This function also has the highest number of data in both society slang type and criminal slang type. The second function as an identification marker or to be secret. The writer found 19 data that are used by the characters to be secret or as an identification marker.

On the other hand, the fewest functions that are used in *Baby Driver* movie are to blame or to accuse. In this movie, the writer only found two data that suitable with this function. This function is used in society slang type. Based on the story of this movie, this slang is used by the characters when they blame the other character. In this movie, Darling and Griff use slang to blame Bats for what he has done.

#### D. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, the writer concludes that there are 98 slang terms (52 slang words and 46 slang phrases) used in *Baby Driver* movie. Related to the second finding, about the types of slang that are used by the characters in *Baby Driver* movie, the writer finds three types of slang executed by the characters. They are society slang, criminal slang, and police slang.

The writer divides society slang into *swearing, cursing, addressing and telling*. In criminal slang, the writer divides it into six areas of slang including *talking to or talking about someone, talking about violence, murder, and death, talking about the job, talking about sex and other taboos, talking about money, and talking about mood*.

The occurrence of society slang dominates the other slang that are used by the characters in this movie. In another hand, police slang is the fewest slang compared with the other types of slang in this movie.

In referring to the last finding of the functions of slang that are used by the characters in *Baby Driver* movie, the writer finds that there are eight functions of slang. Those functions are based on the background of the characters, the settings in the movie, and data interpretations. From the analysis of research findings in chapter three, the writer concludes that the functions of slang that are used in *Baby Driver* movie are to address; to form intimate atmosphere; to express impression; to show intimacy; to reveal anger, annoyance, or disappointment; to threaten or to mock; to persuade someone in conversation; and to be secret or as an identification marker.

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