

***Understanding Slang in Eminem's The Marshall Mathers LP 2***  
***(Pemahaman bahasa Gaul dalam Eminem The Marshall Mathers LP 2)***

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**Abstract**

*This study is concerned with discussing about slang word formation processes in Eminem's songs lyrics. The research design of this study is descriptive – qualitative. The data of the study are from the lyrics in each Eminem's songs. In this study, the theory of word formation processes by George Yule (2006) in his book “The Study of language” is used to analyze the formation processes of each slang word. This study aims to answer two research questions: (a) what word formation processes are used in those slang words and how are they used to understand the lexical meaning in Eminem's song lyrics? (b) which word formation process is most frequently used in those slang words?. The data were collected through documentary study, the writer tried to find and identify the slang words in the lyrics by marking, classifying, and analyzing the slang words. The result shows that from 197 data, the most common word formation process that appears in Eminem's song lyrics is clipping. Clipping occurs when a word or more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form.*

**Keywords:** *Slang Words, Word Formation Processes, Lyric.*

**Abstrak**

*Fokus dari penelitian ini adalah proses pembentukan bahasa gaul dalam lirik lagu-lagu Eminem. Rancangan penelitian dari penelitian ini adalah kualitatif – deskriptif. Data dari penelitian ini adalah dari lirik lagu Eminem. Dalam studi ini, teori proses pembentukan kata dirujuk dari George Yule (2006) dalam bukunya “Studi Bahasa”, teori ini digunakan untuk menganalisis proses pembentukan dari setiap kata-kata gaul yang ditemukan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjawab dua masalah penelitian: (a) apa jenis proses pembentukan kata yang digunakan pada bahasa gaul dan bagaimana proses pembentukan kata itu digunakan untuk mengerti makna leksikal pada lirik lagu Eminem? (b) Yang mana proses pembentukan kata yang paling banyak digunakan di kata gaul?. Data dikumpulkan melalui penelitian dokumenter, penulis mencoba untuk menemukan dan mengidentifikasi bahasa gaul dalam lirik dengan menandai, mengelompokkan, dan menganalisis bahasa gaul. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa dari 197 data, proses pembentukan kata yang paling banyak muncul dalam lirik lagu Eminem adalah kliping. Kliping terjadi ketika sebuah kata atau lebih dari satu suku kata dipotong ke bentuk yang lebih pendek.*

**Kata kunci:** *Bahasa Gaul, Proses Pembentukan Kata, Lirik.*

**Introduction**

Slang is informal language, non standard words or phrases that is more common in speech than in writing and is typically restricted to a particular context or group (Procter, 2008:342). According to Fromkin *et al.* (2003:264), slang is considered as a result of the development of the new words that happen as a creative expression from people to make the words more efficient and simpler to be uttered. This phenomenon means that slang words are always updated in following the human

development. Slang words vary from generation to generation and one geographical area to others. Thus, the existence of slang is never constant. The processes by which words become slang are the same as those by which other words in the language change their form and meaning. Linguistically, these processes are called word formation processes.

Word Formation Processes, that is, the processes of creating new words and new uses of the old words or sometimes the invention of totally new words through the

process. The writer analyzes the data by using the theory of word formation processes proposed by George Yule (2006). He divides word formation processes into ten processes, which are using compounding, blending, clipping, acronym, coinage, borrowing, back formation, conversion, derivation and multiple processes.

Analyzing the meaning of slang used in Eminem's album *The Marshall Mathers LP 2* is the concern of this study. In Eminem's album *The Marshall Mathers LP 2*, he uses and forms words in a unique way that sometimes the meaning cannot be understood. The reasons why analyzing the meaning of slang used in Eminem's album "*The Marshall Mathers LP 2*" has become the topic because slang language within the lyric is also used in communication and some people who used English as foreign language may get confused in understanding the meaning of this song lyric.

The research comes with two following questions:

- What word formation processes are used in those slang words and how are they used to understand the lexical meaning in Eminem's song lyric?
- Which word formation process is most frequently used in those slang words?

The purposes of this research are:

- to find the type of words formation processes that are involved and the lexical meanings of the slang words.
- to expose the most frequently used process in forming the slang word.

### Research Methodology

This research is a qualitative research. According to Denscombe (2007:248), "Qualitative research tends to be associated with words or images as the unit of analysis". Qualitative research is not set up as experiments, the data cannot be easily quantified, and the analysis is interpretative rather than statistical. This study applies qualitative data as this is to analyze the song lyrics as the data and it attempts to reveal the deeper meaning that is the representation of slang words in Eminem's song lyrics by using theories of word formation processes. The data used sampling method, The total number of slang words of this album is 197 words. However, only 32 words are analyzed.

The writer used descriptive analysis. The writer would try to analyze the data and make a description about word formation processes of slang words in *Eminem's* song lyrics. McNabb (2011) states that descriptive analysis deals with document pattern which will be analyzed and also involves gathering data that describe events and then the data will be organized, tabulated, depicted and described. By applying this research method, the writer would try to analyze the word formation processes of slang words in those song lyrics.

In collecting the data, the writer read song lyrics and underlined the word which contain slang. Second, the data was tabulated based on the types of word formation processes. Third, the writer identified the slang words to find the meaning of the slang words and classified the slang

words based on the theory to find out the most common formation pattern of slang used in the lyrics.

In analyzing the data, the writer bold all uncommon words which occur in the whole song lyrics. After bolding all the uncommon word, those words are classified based on Yule's (2006) theory of word formation processes. This study put the data into a table of finding. In this case, this study presents three tables of findings. The first table is about classification of slang words based on word formation processes. The second table is about lexical meaning of slang words. Then, the last table is about mostly used process in forming the slang words. Finally, the writer made a conclusion based on the research.

### Result

Based on the findings there are 197 slang words that occur in those sixteen song lyrics. The writer found nine types of word formation processes in forming the words.

Table 1 The Most Dominant Type of the Word Formation Processes in Eminem's Song Lyrics

No	Word Formation Processes	Total	Percentage
1.	Clipping	68	43.51%
2.	Blending	65	32.99%
3.	Borrowing	3	1.52%
4.	Multiple Processes	9	4.56%
5.	Acronym	5	2.53%
6.	Coinage	4	2.03%
7.	Compounding	27	13.70%
8.	Conversion	2	1.01%
9.	Derivation	14	7.10%
10.	Backformation	-	-
Total		197	100%

**Discussion**

**Discussion of Word Formation Processes**

**Clipping**

Clipping is one of the word formation processes, where the beginning word is clipped. It means that there is a reduction process of one or more syllable of the word to perform a new shorter one (Yule, 2006). From the analysis, this research found fourteen clipped slang words, they are presented in the following table.

Table 1 Clipping the First Syllable

Words	Intended Meaning
Cause	Because
'em	Them
'til	Until

The first, the word **because** consists of two syllables **be** and **cause**, the initial syllable **be** is omitted and only the last syllable **cause** is remain. The second, In the word **them**, the letter **th** is omitted and replaced with apostrophe ('). the third, the word **until** consists of two syllables **un** and **til**, the initial syllable **un** is omitted and replaced with apostrophe (').

Table 2 Clipping the First Letter

Word	Intended meaning
'bout	About

The first letter **a** from the word **about** is cut and replaced with apostrophe (').

Table 3 Clipping the last Syllable

Word	Intended Meaning
Mic	Microphone

This process is done by omitting the last syllable **rophone** letters after the consonant **c** and only the first syllable **mic** is remain.

Table 4 Clipping the Last Letter

Words	Intended Meaning
Feelin'	Feeling
Gettin'	Getting
Holdin'	Holding
Crappin'	Crapping
Goin'	Going

The first, the last letter **g** from the word **feeling** is reduced and replaced with apostrophe ('). The second, the

last letter **g** from the word **getting** is reduced and replaced with apostrophe ('). The third, the last letter **g** from the word **holding** is reduced and replaced with apostrophe ('). The fourth, the last letter **g** from the word **crapping** is reduces and replaced with apostrophe ('). The last, the last letter **g** from the word **going** is reduced and replaced with apostrophe (').

Table 5 Clipping between of the Word

Word	Intended Meaning
Ma'am	Madam

This process is done by omitting the middle part of the word **madam**, the consonant **d** is omitted and replaced with apostrophe (').

Table 6 Clipping in the First Letter and the Last Letter

Word	Intended Meaning
'n	And

This process is done by omitting the first letter **a** and the last letter replaced with apostrophe (').

Table 6 Irregular Clipping

Words	Intended Meaning
Ya	You
Yo	Your

The first, the letters **ou** in the end of the word **you** is omitted and changed into vowel **a**. The second, the letters **our** in the end of the word **your** is omitted and changed into vowel **o**.

**Blending**

Blending is a process of combining two different words to produce a single new term (Yule: 2006). It is quite different from a compounding. The process of blending only takes the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of other word.

Table 7 Blending

Word	Intended Meaning
Ain't	Am + not
Gotta	Got + not
Won't	Will + not
Coulda	Could + have
Whatcha	What + are
Gon'	Going + to
That'd	That + would

The first, the word **ain't** is a combination from the first letter of the word **am** become **a** with the second word **not** become **n't**. The second, the word **gotta** is a combination from the first part of the word **got** become **got** with the first syllable of the word **to** become **ta**. The third, the word **won't** is a combination from the first letter of the word **will** become **w** with the first syllable of the word **not** become **n't**. The fourth, the word **coulda** is a combination from the first part of the word **could** become **could** with the first syllable of the word **have** become **a**. The fifth, the word **whatcha** is a combination from the first part of the word **what** become **what** with the first syllable of the word **are you** become **cha**. The sixth, the word **gon'** is a combination from the first part of the word **going** become **gon** with the first syllable of the word **to** become apostrophe ('). The last, the word **that'd** is a combination from the first part of the word **that** become **that** with the first syllable of the word **would** become ('d).

**Compounding**

According to Yule (2006), the process of compounding is the first element of the new word is combined with the next element to produce a new word. Compounding is one of word formation processes that can produce a new word with a new meaning. The discussion divides the compound words into two classification, there are compound noun and compound verb.

**Compounding Nouns**

Table 8 Compounding Noun + Noun

Words	Intended Meaning
Goddamn	Annoyed
Horseshit	Disbelief talk or action

The first, the word **goddamn** is the combination form of noun **God** and a noun **damn**, it is used to show that you are angry and annoyed. The second, the word **horseshit** is the combination of a noun **horse** and a noun **shit**, it is used to express disbelief or incredulity talk or action.

**Compound Adverb**

Table 9 Compounding Verb + Adverb

Word	Intended Meaning
Fucked up	Did not go right

The word **fucked up** actually consists of two words. They are a verb **fucked** and an adverb **up**. It is used to express something that did not go right.

**Acronym**

According to Bauer (2003:237), An acronym is a word coined by taking the initial letters of the words in a title or phrase and using them as a new word.

Table 10 Acronym

Words	Intended Meaning
HAM	Hard As a Motherfucker
MC	Mis Controller
OCD	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

The first, the word **HAM** is derived from the word **Hard As a Motherfucker**. It is used to describe the actions of a person being very passionate about something. The second, the word **MC** is derived from the word **Mic Controller**. It means a rapper who is either the host of an event. The last, the word **OCD** is derived from the word **Obsessive Compulsive Disorder**. it is a mental disorder that is characterized by obsessive thoughts or compulsive actions, it is because there is a chemical imbalance in the brain.

**Borrowing**

Borrowing is one of the word formation processes, where the new word is derived from another language (Yule, 2006:65).

Table 11 Borrowing

Words	Intended Meaning
Boo	Beautiful
Au jus	With the juice

The first, the word **boo** is borrowed from French language. The word **boo** is from the word **beau**. **Beau** originally means beautiful. When we use slang word **boo**, it means girl friend or boy friend. The next, The word **au jus** is borrowed from French language. **Au** is a French term of **with the**, and **jus** is a term of **juice**. **Au jus** is used in food service. It means to serve an item with the natural juice.

**Derivation**

The new word is derived from existing word by adding affixes. They are often used to make words which have different grammatical category or meaning from the root. There are three kinds of affixes. However, in English there are only two kinds of affixes. They are prefix and suffix.

**Prefix**

Prefix is a morpheme that is added at the beginning of a word. Those are *-pre*, *-un*, *-re*, *-miss*, *-ex*, and *-im*. Prefix is not found in the song lyrics.

**Suffix**

Suffix is a morpheme that is added at the end of a word. There are four types of suffixes: noun – forming suffixes, adjective – forming suffixes, verb – forming suffixes and adverb – forming suffixes. In this song lyrics

only one of them are found. It is adjective – forming suffixes.

**Adjective-forming suffixes**

The word **romantical** is an adjective. The word is composed of a noun **romantic** and a suffix **al**. The attachment of suffix **-al** into a noun **romantic** produces a new derivational word **romantical**. The attachment changes the part of speech the noun **romantic** becomes an adjective.

**Multiple Processes**

Multiple processes, according to Yule (2006) occur when the formation of a new word involves some types of the word formation process.

Table 12 Multiple Process

Word	Intended
Motherfucker	Worthless person

The word **motherfucker** is a noun. The word is derived from the noun **mother** and **fuck**. It is a compounding process. Meanwhile, the word **motherfucker** into noun because it was signed by noun marker. It is a conversion process. However, the second word **fucker** is composed of a verb **fuck** and a suffix **-er**. It is a derivation process. Therefore, the word **motherfucker** is composed through three processes. There are a compounding process, conversion process and derivation process.

**The Most Dominant Type of the Word Formation Processes in Eminem’s song lyrics**

Based on the findings there are 197 slang words that occur in those sixteen song lyrics. From the total percentage above, it can be seen clearly that the most dominant types of word formation process is clipping. In the process of clipping, there are 68 slang words or 43.51% of the total slang words that use the process of clipping, there are 65 slang words or 32.99% of the total slang words that use the process of blending. In the process of compounding, there are 27 slang words or 13.70% of the total slang words that use the process of compounding. In the process of derivation, there are 14 slang words or 7.10% of the total slang words that use the process of derivation. In the process of multiple processes, there are 9 slang words or 4.56% of the total slang words that use the process of multiple process. In the process of acronym, there are 5 slang words or 2.53% of the total slang words that use the process of acronym. In the process of coinage, there are merely 4 slang words or 2.03% of the total slang words that use the process of coinage. Furthermore, there are 3 slang words or 1.52% of the total slang words that use the process of borrowing. Ultimately, there are 2 slang words or 1.01% of the total slang words that use the process of conversion. Clipping and blending have high percentage because those processes have the same purpose (shortening the words).

Moreover, other processes are used by adding, bundling two words, and producing totally new words.

**Conclusion**

This study aims at analyzing the types of word formation processes, the lexical meaning of slang words found in the sixteen song lyrics of Eminem’s album *The Marshall Mathers LP 2*. Based on the findings, there are 197 slang words found in Eminem’s song lyrics, then the meaning of these slang words were interpreted by using slang online dictionary and oxford dictionary. The slang words were categorized based on the types of word formation processes. They were borrowing, acronym, blending, clipping, compounding, coinage, multiple processes, derivation, acronym and back formation processes. Word formation process is kind of language change. The process has changed the language to be shorter, simpler and meaningful.

The finding shows that the meaning of the slang words found was suitable with word or phrases in the song lyrics. It aimed to expand the understanding of the readers about the real meaning of slang words in Eminem’s album *The Marshall Mathers LP 2*. Based on the result of analysis, this study reveals that many slang words can be formed through word formation processes. It is obvious that word formation processes play a significant role in slang words such as borrowing, acronym, clipping, compounding, blending, coinage, multiple processes, derivation and back formation. They create new words from the original words or words which are related to each other.

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