

## Slang Expressions in "The Greasy Strangler" Movie

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**Abstract:** The research titled "Slang Expressions in 'The Greasy Strangler'" explores the various slang expressions used in the movie. It aims to identify the types and meanings of these slang expressions. The study employs four methodologies: identifying the data source, collecting data from the movie transcript, analyzing the data using descriptive qualitative methods and slang dictionaries, and presenting the findings. Key findings reveal the presence of both primary and secondary slang types, as well as a range of meanings including conceptual, connotative, social, affective, reflected, and collocative meanings. The research concludes with 16 instances of slang expressions, categorized according to Chapman's theory and Leech's types of meaning.

## INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a mediator for giving opinions, information, and self-expression. Language is the identity of an individual or group itself. That's why people could understand each other's abilities and behaviors through language. Language as a medium of communication has developed quite rapidly through periods. The types of words that are commonly used in society are generally loose types and familiar types. This relaxed and friendly variant is considered easier to understand when used for communication. An example of casual diversity and familiar diversity is slang.

Slang can be described as a variety of languages created by specific community groups and used in the course of everyday communication. Its meaning is known only to that group. Slang is often considered a type of informal language because it is typically used by a specific group and features its own set of words and phrases. Familiarity and intimacy in communication do not require perfect grammar with clear expressions, but short or concise utterances are sufficient. This is due to mutual understanding and knowledge. This aspect of slang makes it an interesting topic for research as it can reveal a lot about a particular group or culture's values, beliefs, and attitudes. The use of slang can also be used to study communication in informal settings, such as online communities, where the use of slang can be more prevalent. It is also used as a creative way of communication and can provide valuable insights into how language is used in a digital age.

A movie can be a suitable object for slang research as it provides a large and varied sample of dialogue that is easily accessible. It can also provide insight into how slang changes over time or differs between regions, as well as its use in specific contexts, such as comedy films. In this research on slang words, "The Greasy Strangler" movie is a fascinating subject for the analysis.

The movie's unique language usage, filled with slang, vulgarities, and unconventional expressions, presents an intriguing opportunity to delve into linguistic creativity in artistic works. The central characters in the movie primarily utilize slang expressions in their dialogues which may be confusing for those who are not accustomed to it, making the movie a suitable subject for analysis. By closely examining the language used in the movie, I aim to explore how slang is ingeniously employed to convey specific tones, themes, and character traits within the narrative. These slang expressions can be employed for various functions such as cursing, making jokes, etc. In essence, "The Greasy Strangler" serves as an engaging and multifaceted case study for unravelling the complex interplay between language, culture, and creative expression in this research.

An article entitled "Analyzing American Slang Words Used by Dylan Hartman on Instagram." written by Permatasari, Pedit, and Suamba (2021). This research used sociolinguistics as a grand theory of slang language and American slang dictionary to search the meaning of the slang. By using Yule, G Theory (2010) this research focused on analyzing Dylan Hartman Instagram Account. The purpose of this research is to investigate and comprehend the various types of slang, as well as classify and understand the meanings of the slang words found in Dylan Hartman's post. Through the analysis of the data, it was determined that there are four distinct types of slang words present in the post, including: Clipping, Blending, Acronym, and Coinage.

An article of international journal, entitled "Anti-language, Slang and Cyber Scam Subculture among Urban Youth in Southwestern Nigeria" written by Ajayi and Michael Temitope in 2019 is reviewed. This paper examines the use of anti-language and slang expressions in the Yahoo-Yahoo business of cybercriminals in southwestern Nigeria, drawing on Halliday's (1976) concept of anti-language. The data was analyzed using linguistic techniques, with a specific focus on the language strategies employed by the Yahoo-boys to commit illegal transactions, as per Halliday's (1976) anti-linguistic perspective, which includes elements such as anti-verbalism and colloquialism. This includes sublinguistic (morphological) processes such as reduplication, blending, and clipping. This categorization forms the foundation for describing the anti-language and slang terms found in the language used by cybercriminals.

## **THEORITICAL REVIEW**

The significant theories by Chapman (1986) and also by Leech (1981) applied as the foundation of the research. Chapman's theory (1986) about primary and secondary slang used to identify the types of slang. The theory of meaning applied to analyze the meaning of slang in this research is that proposed by Geoffrey Leech (1981). According to Leech, meaning can be divided into seven types, which are conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

Documentation method used in order to collect the data from "The Greasy Strangler" movie. These steps to collect the data followed: first, find the main data of the movie and its transcript, then watch and observe the movie, then read the transcript attentively for several times while take some notes of the slang expression and its meaning that occurs in the movie and its transcript.

The research design used in this research is a descriptive qualitative method. The use of this method aims to describe the forms of slang and also the slang meanings used by characters in

"The Greasy Strangler" movie transcript that has been collected in the form of words. This method describes one by one the slang expressions found in the movie, using several slang dictionaries in order to search the meanings of the slang expression. Additionally, the research will utilize movie observation and transcript analysis, gain a deeper understanding of the slang usage and meanings in the movie transcript.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this research, a total of 16 expressions used by the characters have been identified in "The Greasy Strangler" movie. The analytical process in this chapter commences with data presentation and then proceeds to thoroughly examine the types and meanings of slang words as they appear in "The Greasy Strangler."

### [3-1] → 01:53

Big Ronnie : Why not put a little grease in your java? Why not try it?

Big Brayden : You're such a **gross-out**, Dad. I think I might barf.

Big Ronnie : I'm not saying I wanna do it.

The term "gross-out" in the given sentence is a prime example of **collocative meaning**. According to New Dictionary of American Slang (1986), "gross-out" uses to describe something that induces a strong sense of disgust or revulsion. It is closely tied to qualities associated with being unpleasant or repulsive. The specific linguistic pairing of "gross-out" with the verb "barf" in the sentence further emphasizes the intensity of the negative reaction. This collocation indicates that the suggestion, in this case, putting grease in coffee, is causing a profound and visceral response in Big Brayden, to the point where he feels nauseated.

Regarding its classification, "gross-out" falls under the category of **primary slang**. It is categorized as primary slang because it is a variation of the more standard expression "disgust," which is widely used in everyday language interactions.

### [3-2] → 02:00

Big Brayden : You're such a gross-out, Dad. I think I might barf.

Big Ronnie : I'm not saying I **wanna** do it. I just wonder why they haven't tried greasy coffee.

Big Brayden : Greasy coffee?

The term "wanna" in the given sentence exemplifies **collocative meaning**. The word "wanna" according to Meriam Webster Dictionary is an informal contraction of "want to," commonly used in spoken language, particularly in casual and conversational settings to express desires or intentions. Its presence adds an informal and relaxed tone to the dialogue, contributing to the overall conversational flow. The utilization of "wanna" contributes to the conversational and easy-going atmosphere of the interaction between Big Ronnie and Big Brayden. In this context, Big Ronnie uses "wanna" to convey a sense of curiosity or wonder about why someone hasn't tried putting grease in coffee before. It signifies an informal expression of interest rather than a definitive intention.

Based on this analysis, "wanna" is a **secondary slang**. It is not a specific feature of any particular subculture's language or identity. Instead, it is a widely recognized and informal form of speech used in casual settings to convey the same meaning as "want to."

### [3-3] → 02:28

Big Ronnie : Tell you a secret. I am the Greasy Strangler.

Bir Brayden : Hey, I call **bullshit** on that.

Big Ronnie : Ok. I'm not the Greasy Strangler

In the given sentence, the term "bullshit" categorized under **reflected meaning**. The term "bullshit" according to New Dictionary of American Slang (1986) used by Big Brayden as an exclamation of disbelief and contempt in response to Big Ronnie's claim of being the Greasy Strangler. He does not believe Big Ronnie's statement and expresses his scepticism with this exclamation. Big Brayden utilizes the colloquial expression "bullshit" to articulate his scepticism and disbelief in response to Big Ronnie's claim of being the Greasy Strangler. The term, in this instance, reflects a specific pragmatic understanding, serving as a direct and informal way of questioning the credibility and truthfulness of the statement. The reflected meaning of "bullshit" shaped by the context of the conversation, where it functions as a robust expression of doubt and disagreement.

Based on this analysis, "bullshit" in this context is **secondary slang**. It is a term used in certain contexts to express disbelief and contempt, often associated with informal and colloquial speech. It is a choice of word used to express his reaction to Big Ronnie's claim.

#### [3-4] → 02:41

Big Ronnie : OK. I'm not the Greasy Strangler.

Big Brayden : But you're a **bullshit artist**.

Big Ronnie : Yeah, I kind of am.

The term "bullshit artist" in the given sentences is **connotative meaning**. The term "bullshit artist" according to the New Dictionary of American Slang refers to a person who habitually and effectively exaggerates, cajoles, and seduces verbally. It carries additional implications beyond its literal definition, connoting someone who is not only deceptive but also skilled at manipulation and persuasion, often with a sense of cunning or insincerity. This reflects societal and cultural associations with the term, indicating someone who uses language in a crafty and dishonest way. Big Brayden accuses Big Ronnie of being a "bullshit artist," suggesting that Ronnie skilled at using persuasive and deceptive language and may not be truthful or genuine.

Based on this analysis, "bullshit artist" is **secondary slang**. While it might not be considered exclusive to a specific subculture's language or identity, it is a term used in certain contexts to confront and criticize someone's behaviour, often associated with informal and colloquial speech. It is a choice of word used to express disapproval and accusation.

#### [3-5] → 05:13

Big Ronnie : There are no free drinks, and if you're trying to rip me a new asshole, you're making a big mistake.

Indian tourist : You are a **shitty businessman**. You know that, no?

Big Ronnie : And you're a bunch of fucking cunts.

The term "shitty businessman" in the given sentence is a vivid example of **affective meaning**. The term "shitty" according to Dictionary of American Slang means tedious or unpleasant. It serves as a potent expression of the speaker's strong negative evaluation of Big Ronnie's business acumen, laden with dissatisfaction and disapproval. The term "shitty businessman" introduces an element of confrontation and disagreement, shaping the dynamics between the characters. The choice of such emotionally charged language creates a moment of critique that adds tension to the interaction.

Regarding its classification, "shitty businessman" falls under the category of **primary slang**. It categorized as primary slang because it is a variation of the more standard expression "bad businessman," which is widely used in everyday language interactions.

## CONCLUSION

Through the analysis of 16 slang data, the study identified 11 instances of primary slang and 5 instances of secondary slang. The primary slang is the dominant type of slang in the dataset. In terms of meaning, the analysis applied Leech's seven types of meaning: conceptual, connotative, social, affective, reflected, collocative, and thematic. The results showed that affective meaning was the most prevalent, with 8 instances identified. Additionally, collocative meaning appeared in 5 instances, reflected meaning in 1 instance, connotative meaning in 1 instance, and social meaning in 1 instance. Notably, no instances of conceptual or thematic meaning were found in the analysis.

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