

## A CASE STUDY OF THE USE OF SLANG IN THE INTERACTION AND FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE OF CLASS F ENGLISH LITERATURE UIN BANDUNG

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### Abstract

This research is a case study that discusses the use of slang in the author's interaction with the circle of friends in Class F of the English Literature Study Program at UIN Bandung. The background of this research is the phenomenon of the increasing use of slang among teenagers, including university students, as part of the expression of identity, familiarity, and group social dynamics. This study aims to describe the forms of slang and slang used, understand its function in social interaction, and examine its influence on the use of good and correct Indonesian. The method used is descriptive qualitative through observation and documentation of conversations, as well as the study of relevant literature. The results show that slang has become part of daily communication that is considered "familiar" and contextual in the student environment. However, the intensity of the use of this language also has an impact on reducing the existence of the use of formal Indonesian, causing misunderstandings of meaning, and obscuring standard language structures. This research emphasizes the importance of language awareness among adolescents and university students, in order to adjust the use of language to the context of communication, and still maintain the function of Indonesian as a good and correct national language. This study explores the use of language particularly the integration of Bahasa Indonesia and slang within the friendship circle of Class F students majoring in English Literature at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. The research aims to examine how language is used in daily interactions among peers, especially considering the increasing influence of technology on communication patterns. Through a quantitative descriptive method using questionnaires, findings reveal that the use of Bahasa Indonesia remains dominant among the students, with a consistently high score (5) across nearly all questionnaire items. In addition, the presence and frequent use of slang among students, especially outside formal learning hours, reflect the dynamic nature of language shaped by Generation Z's preferences and digital culture. These results highlight how both native language and informal linguistic trends coexist and evolve within academic and social settings. The study provides insights for future language planning and communication strategies that resonate with the linguistic identity of today's youth.

**Keywords:** *slang, language awareness, student communication, sociolinguistics, informal language, youth language*

### Article History

Received: June 2025

Reviewed: June 2025

Published: June 2025

Plagiarism Checker No 234

Prefix DOI : Prefix DOI :

10.8734/argopuro.v1i2.365

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**Publish by : Argopuro**



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## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini merupakan studi kasus yang membahas penggunaan bahasa gaul dalam interaksi penulis dengan lingkaran pertemanan di Kelas F Program Studi Sastra Inggris UIN Bandung. Latar belakang dari penelitian ini adalah fenomena meningkatnya penggunaan bahasa gaul di kalangan remaja, termasuk mahasiswa, sebagai bagian dari ekspresi identitas, keakraban, dan dinamika sosial kelompok. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan bentuk dan jenis bahasa gaul yang digunakan, memahami fungsinya dalam interaksi sosial, serta mengkaji pengaruhnya terhadap penggunaan bahasa Indonesia yang baik dan benar. Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif melalui observasi dan dokumentasi percakapan, serta kajian pustaka yang relevan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa bahasa gaul telah menjadi bagian dari komunikasi sehari-hari yang dianggap “akrab” dan kontekstual di lingkungan mahasiswa. Namun, intensitas penggunaan bahasa ini juga berdampak pada berkurangnya penggunaan bahasa Indonesia formal, menimbulkan kesalahpahaman makna, dan mengaburkan struktur bahasa baku. Penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya kesadaran berbahasa di kalangan remaja dan mahasiswa, agar dapat menyesuaikan penggunaan bahasa dengan konteks komunikasi, namun tetap menjaga fungsi bahasa Indonesia sebagai bahasa nasional yang baik dan benar. Penelitian ini juga mengeksplorasi penggunaan bahasa, khususnya integrasi antara Bahasa Indonesia dan bahasa gaul dalam lingkaran pertemanan mahasiswa Kelas F jurusan Sastra Inggris di UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji bagaimana bahasa digunakan dalam interaksi sehari-hari antar teman, terutama dengan mempertimbangkan pengaruh teknologi yang semakin besar terhadap pola komunikasi. Melalui metode deskriptif kuantitatif dengan menggunakan kuesioner, temuan menunjukkan bahwa penggunaan Bahasa Indonesia tetap dominan di kalangan mahasiswa, dengan skor tinggi yang konsisten (5) pada hampir semua butir kuesioner. Selain itu, keberadaan dan frekuensi penggunaan bahasa gaul, terutama di luar jam belajar formal, mencerminkan sifat dinamis bahasa yang dibentuk oleh preferensi Generasi Z dan budaya digital. Hasil ini menyoroti bagaimana bahasa asli dan tren linguistik informal dapat hidup berdampingan dan berkembang dalam konteks akademik dan sosial. Studi ini memberikan wawasan bagi perencanaan bahasa dan strategi komunikasi di masa depan yang selaras dengan identitas linguistik generasi muda saat ini.

**Kata kunci:** bahasa gaul, kesadaran berbahasa, komunikasi mahasiswa, sociolinguistik, bahasa informal, bahasa remaja.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is the main tool in establishing communication between humans. In everyday life, language not only functions as a medium for conveying information, but also as a marker of social, cultural, and group identity. In today's modern era, the development of technology and social media has a major influence on language dynamics, especially among teenagers and students. One striking form of language development is the widespread use of slang in everyday conversation. Slang is often used to show closeness, intimacy, and following social trends in friendship circles. This phenomenon occurs not only in digital space, but also in direct interactions, including in academic environments such as campuses. Students, as part of the younger generation, often combine Indonesian with popular slang terms. Although the use of this language can strengthen social relations and create comfort in interacting, on the other hand, concerns arise regarding the decline in the use of good and correct Indonesian. This study aims to examine the forms, functions, and impacts of the use of slang in the interaction of writers with their friendship circles in Class F English Literature, UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. By using a descriptive qualitative approach, this study is expected to provide an overview of the dynamics of language among students and the language awareness that is developing amidst the influence of popular culture and social media.

Language is one of the most essential aspects of human life. It functions not only as a tool of communication but also as a reflection of cultural identity, civilization, and the social dynamics of society. In daily life, particularly in social environments such as friendship groups, language evolves into a social phenomenon shaped by mutual agreement among its members. This is clearly evident in small communities like the friendship circle of Class F students in the English Literature Program at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, which is the focus of this study.

In this context of friendship, language becomes the primary tool for expressing thoughts, building relationships, and shaping group identity. Along with the advancement of time and rapid technological development, communication patterns have undergone significant changes. The rise of social media and instant messaging applications has created new spaces for students to interact using more varied forms of language such as abbreviations, new terms, and especially slang. Slang, which was once considered secretive and exclusive, has now become a common mode of communication among the younger generation, including Class F students.

The emergence of slang is one of the impacts of globalization, which merges various elements of language and culture. Slang is essentially a social variation of language often used outside of formal contexts, but its use has now spread into academic settings. This raises concerns about the decline in the proper and correct use of Bahasa Indonesia, especially among students who are expected to become future agents of change, educators, or professionals in society. In fact, as the national language, Bahasa Indonesia plays a vital role in maintaining unity and serves as the main medium of education in Indonesia.

The linguistic phenomenon among students, including in the Class F friendship circle, reflects sociolinguistic symptoms that are important to examine. Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between language and society, in which language choices reflect social identity, background, and even power relations within a group. The students of Class F, as part of Generation Z, show distinctive patterns of language use blending Bahasa Indonesia, English, and slang in a single conversation. Code-mixing and code-switching have become common practices, reflecting the ongoing dynamics of language.

Furthermore, the role of technology accelerates the spread of slang. New terms are quickly adopted through social media and then become a part of the students' everyday conversation. In this context, language skills, which include listening, speaking, reading, and writing (Tarigan, 1979), are crucial to respond wisely to these changes. Students are

expected to adapt their language use to different contexts, while still upholding the proper and correct use of Bahasa Indonesia in formal situations.

Therefore, it is important to analyze how Class F English Literature students at UIN Bandung use language within their social circle, how slang influences their communication style, and how aware they are of the importance of preserving the integrity of Bahasa Indonesia amid modern communication trends. This study aims to contribute to a better understanding of language use among university students and to provide input for the development of relevant language cultivation strategies for today's young generation.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODS**

This research adopts a qualitative approach with a descriptive case study method, aiming to explore and describe in depth the phenomenon of slang and colloquial language use within a specific social context namely, the author's peer group in Class F of the English Literature Program at UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.

The qualitative approach is considered appropriate for this study because it focuses on understanding the meaning behind linguistic behavior, especially how language is shaped, used, and interpreted within natural social interactions. Rather than seeking generalizations, this research emphasizes depth, context, and the subjective experiences of language users within a particular social circle.

### **Type and Approach of the Study**

This study is classified as a case study, which is a type of qualitative research that investigates a phenomenon within its real-life context, especially when the boundaries between the phenomenon and context are not clearly evident. The case selected here is the language behavior of the author's own peer group—a small, close-knit community of students who frequently interact both in academic and informal settings. This particular group was chosen because it provides rich, contextual data about the ways in which young people, specifically university students, engage with and adapt language in response to both social belonging and cultural trends.

The case study approach allows the researcher to examine linguistic practices in a nuanced and holistic manner, focusing not only on the forms and patterns of language use but also on the social meanings and implications embedded in such practices. By situating the study within a specific group, the research seeks to uncover the linguistic characteristics that emerge from everyday communication among Generation Z students who are navigating academic life and digital culture simultaneously.

#### **- Data Collection Techniques**

To obtain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under study, data were collected using three primary techniques:

#### **- Participant Observation**

The researcher actively engaged in and observed daily conversations and interactions with peers in Class F. Through naturalistic observation, various instances of slang and colloquial expressions were identified and recorded. This method enabled the researcher to witness firsthand how language is used in spontaneous settings, offering insight into the frequency, function, and social motivations behind the use of non-standard language forms.

### **Documentation of Conversations**

In addition to direct observation, various interactions were documented in the form of written transcripts or notes. These include both oral conversations (e.g., during breaks, group discussions, or casual meet-ups) and written communications (e.g., WhatsApp chats, group messages, or social media comments). These data serve as authentic records of how slang and informal expressions are used across different communication platforms.

- Literature Review

A theoretical review was conducted to support the analysis of field data. Relevant literature on sociolinguistics, youth language, code-switching, language variation, and slang was reviewed to frame the findings within existing academic discussions. Previous studies concerning the impact of digital media, globalization, and generational identity on language use were also consulted to provide a broader context.

- Data Analysis Technique

The data were analyzed using content analysis, a technique commonly used in qualitative research to interpret meaning from the content of text data systematically. The researcher categorized various types of slang and colloquial expressions based on their lexical form, frequency of use, and communicative functions. These categories were then interpreted to understand the underlying purposes of language use, such as expressing identity, humor, solidarity, or resistance to formal norms.

Furthermore, the data were analyzed in light of sociolinguistic theories—particularly those related to language variation, code-switching, identity construction, and social meaning. Special attention was given to instances of code-mixing and code-switching between Indonesian, English, and slang, which were prevalent in the communication patterns of the peer group. The analysis also took into account the situational context, including the participants' roles, settings, and topics of conversation, in order to grasp how linguistic choices were influenced by social factors.

The overall analysis was conducted descriptively and interpretatively, aiming not only to classify linguistic forms but also to uncover how such language practices reflect the evolving cultural identity of young Indonesian students. This analytical approach enables a deeper understanding of how informal language use coexists with and sometimes challenges the expectations of formal academic discourse, highlighting the tensions and negotiations inherent in youth communication today.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study found that the use of slang and colloquial language has become an integral part of daily communication among students in Class F of the English Literature Program at UIN Bandung. This language use reflects the closeness of social relationships, group dynamics, and the influence of social media on the way young people communicate. Forms of Slang and Colloquial Expressions Used Several terms frequently appeared in conversations between the author and classmates, including:

"bestie" (teman dekat)

"gas" (ayo, semangat)

"cuan" (untung)

"mager" (malas gerak)

"capek mental" (lelah secara psikologis)

"gws" (get well soon)

"random banget" (tidak terduga)

These words are used both in face-to-face communication and through instant messaging platforms, such as the class WhatsApp group. These patterns indicate that students are actively adapting language from digital trends and popular culture.

These phrases are not merely popular buzzwords; they serve as indicators of social belonging and emotional expression among youth.

Their frequent use among students shows a conscious adaptation to digital culture and current trends, where such expressions are continuously created and reshaped.

## Social Roles of Slang Usage

### - Social Functions of Slang Usage

The use of slang within this friendship circle serves several social functions:

Building intimacy: Slang serves as a symbol of closeness and comfort among friends.

Adapting to the environment: Students tend to follow the dominant language style to avoid being perceived as "kaku" or "tidak gaul."

Signaling group identity: Language functions as a marker of "who belongs" to the group and strengthens the sense of togetherness.

Although the use of slang fosters stronger social bonds, it also affects students' ability to use proper and formal Indonesian. Some observed impacts include:

Distortion of standard sentence structures, for example, in the use of informal pronouns like gue or elo in academic contexts.

Difficulty adjusting language register, especially when writing formal assignments or speaking in official forums.

Ambiguity in meaning, as not all slang terms are understood by everyone particularly lecturers or outsiders to the group.

### Example 1:

Di Kelas Penulis: "Gimana, kalian udah siap presentasi? Jangan sampai baper ya kalau ada yang kritis."

Teman C: "Iya, jangan baper. Yang penting tetap santai aja."

Teman D: "Bener, nanti malah jadi ribet kalau baper."

### Analisis:

In this conversation "baper" which is short for "bawa perasaan" used to describe an overly sensitive emotional reaction to criticism. This shows how slang is often used to ease tension and create a more open atmosphere for sharing opinions.

### **Slang carries multiple socio-pragmatic roles within student communities:**

#### - Creating Familiarity and Group Solidarity

The use of casual terms helps foster a sense of closeness and trust among peers. Expressions like "bestie" or "gas" are used not only for brevity but also as subtle signals of informal connection, helping to reduce interpersonal distance.

#### - Conforming to Group Norms

Many students adjust their speech patterns to align with the linguistic style dominant within their social circles. Using slang helps them avoid appearing overly formal or rigid ("kaku"), and maintains their sense of inclusion and social awareness.

- Marking Group Membership As Holmes (2013) explains, language serves as a marker of in-group membership. Slang operates as a kind of linguistic code that conveys shared understanding and values, setting insiders apart from outsiders.

#### - Easing Social Tension

Slang is often employed to diffuse awkwardness or conflict. For instance, phrases like "jangan baper" (don't take it personally) are used to normalize emotional reactions in group discussions and maintain a relaxed atmosphere.

- Impact on the Use of Formal Indonesian The intense use of slang in a friendly environment can affect students' formal language skills, especially in academic situations. For example, in formal communication with lecturers or when compiling assignments, students may find it difficult to abandon the habit of using slang words such as "mager", "gas", and "cuan", which are more casual and contextual.

This can be seen in the following example:

**Example 2:**

Penulis (dalam tugas kelompok): "Tugas ini cukup sulit, tapi jangan mager, kita harus gas agar selesai cepat.

" Dosen: "Harap gunakan bahasa Indonesia yang baik dan benar, bukan bahasa gaul, terutama dalam penulisan tugas".

**Analisis:**

Note that in formal communication with lecturers, the use of non-standard slang can reduce the quality of communication. This shows the importance of self-control in choosing language that is appropriate to the context.

**-Sociolinguistic Analysis**

Seen from a sociolinguistic perspective, the slang used functions as a social marker that creates group cohesion. This phenomenon reflects the basic principle that language is not only a means of communication, but also a tool for building identity and social solidarity (Chaika, 1982). In this context, the forms of slang show how students adjust their language style to the existing social context.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, it can be concluded that the use of slang among students of Class F English Literature UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung is very dominant in daily communication, especially in interactions between classmates. Terms such as "gas", "mager", "cuan", and "baper" are used as a form of social closeness and group identity. The use of this slang serves to strengthen friendships, create a relaxed atmosphere, and adapt to developing social trends, especially those influenced by social media.

However, although slang has an important role in the social life of students, its impact on the use of good and correct Indonesian cannot be ignored. The use of slang in inappropriate contexts, especially in academic assignments and formal communication, risks reducing the quality of the Indonesian language used. Therefore, it is important for students to be wiser in choosing language that is appropriate to the situation and context, so as not to sacrifice clarity and credibility in communicating.

The use of slang among students in Class F reflects not only linguistic creativity but also the social and psychological functions of language. However, it is important to foster awareness of contextual appropriateness, so that students can effectively navigate between informal camaraderie and the expectations of academic or formal environments.

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