

Slang Words in “Deadpool & Wolverine (2024)” Movie: A Sociolinguistic Study

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Abstract:

This study investigates the discussion of slang found in the movie Deadpool & Wolverine (2024) from a sociolinguistic perspective. This study aims to classify and explain the types of slang according to the theory of Keith Allan and Kate Burridge (2006) used by the actors in this film. This study also uses a qualitative descriptive approach with data collected from the film's dialogue and divides it into types of slang according to Allan and Burridge's theory. This analysis also refers to Labov's (1972) sociolinguistic theory, which emphasizes the relationship between language and social context. These findings prove that slang in this film is not only a form of communication using informal language but also a tool for expressing solidarity and building character identity. The use of slang also reflects cultural trends that show how language also functions as a form of familiarity within a group. Additionally, the use of slang in Deadpool & Wolverine (2024) greatly influences the humor and tone of the film. The characters, especially Deadpool, often use slang to convey sarcasm, irony, and humor, increasing audience engagement and reinforcing the film's distinctive conversational style.

Keywords: Sociolinguistic, Slang, Film, Deadpool & Wolverine 2024, Informal

Abstrak:

Penelitian ini mengkaji penggunaan bahasa gaul yang terdapat dalam film Deadpool & Wolverine (2024) dari perspektif sosiolinguistik. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengklasifikasikan dan menjelaskan jenis-jenis bahasa gaul berdasarkan teori Keith Allan dan Kate Burridge (2006) yang digunakan oleh para aktor dalam film ini. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif dengan data yang dikumpulkan dari dialog film dan membaginya ke dalam jenis-jenis slang sesuai dengan teori Allan dan Burridge. Analisis ini juga merujuk pada teori sosiolinguistik Labov (1972), yang menekankan hubungan antara bahasa dan konteks sosial. Temuan ini membuktikan bahwa slang dalam film ini tidak hanya merupakan bentuk komunikasi menggunakan bahasa informal, tetapi juga alat untuk mengekspresikan solidaritas dan membangun identitas karakter. Penggunaan slang juga mencerminkan tren budaya yang menunjukkan bagaimana bahasa juga berfungsi sebagai bentuk keakraban dalam suatu kelompok. Selain itu, penggunaan bahasa gaul dalam Deadpool & Wolverine (2024) sangat memengaruhi humor dan nada film. Karakter-karakter, terutama Deadpool, sering menggunakan bahasa gaul untuk menyampaikan sarkasme, ironi, dan kelucuan, meningkatkan keterlibatan penonton dan memperkuat gaya percakapan khas film.

Kata kunci: Sociolinguistik, Bahasa Gaul, Film, Deadpool & Wolverine 2024, Bahasa Tidak Baku

INTRODUCTION

Linguistic studies provide an understanding of the general principles that govern communication. Among its various forms, informal language, including slang, demonstrates inventive and flexible human expression, is often found in specific communities, and serves as a marker of solidarity and identity. Language has additional functions in media and entertainment as it serves as a medium for shaping narratives, creating connections with audiences, and reflecting social trends.

Linguistics investigates how language functions as a system of sounds, words, and rules that enable humans to convey meaning and interact effectively (Yule, 2010). It connects language to communication, social interaction, and cultural expression. In addition, this field influences many other fields, including artificial intelligence, language education, translation, sociocultural studies, and cognitive science. This systematic study helps us understand that language is not only a tool for communication, but also a dynamic and important part of human life.

As it is stated by Labov (1972), “language as it is used in everyday life by members of the social order.” Sociolinguistics focuses on language as it is used in everyday life by members of society. Therefore, language variations such as dialects, slang, and speaking styles emerge as reflections of a person's social, cultural, age, and status background in society. Labov's statement can be supported by the fact that language is always influenced by the social context in which it is used. A person may speak casually to peers, but will switch to a more formal language when speaking to superiors or respected individuals. This shows that language can not only reflect social relationships, but also serve as a marker of group identity. For example, teenagers often use slang to show togetherness and solidarity.

The *Deadpool & Wolverine* (2024) movie represents a highly anticipated installment in the Marvel franchise, blending the sharp, irreverent humor of *Deadpool* with the gritty, stoic demeanor of *Wolverine*. This collaboration marks a unique cinematic event, as it brings together two of Marvel's most iconic and contrasting characters. Known for its meta-humor, fourth-wall-breaking antics, and boundary-pushing dialogue, the *Deadpool* series has consistently used language as a tool to entertain and engage audiences. The addition of *Wolverine* introduces a new layer of dynamic interplay,

juxtaposing Deadpool's sarcastic and slang-heavy speech with Wolverine's more direct and rugged communication style.

The film is expected to maintain the witty and unconventional tone characteristic of the Deadpool franchise while exploring new narrative depths through the partnership of these two antiheroes. With its extensive use of modern slang, cultural references, and playful commentary on superhero tropes, the movie offers a fertile ground for linguistic analysis. Specifically, it provides an opportunity to study how slang is used to construct character identities, enhance humor, and reflect cultural trends. The fusion of these distinct characters and their linguistic styles makes *Deadpool & Wolverine* (2024) a compelling subject for exploring the intersection of language, culture, and storytelling in contemporary cinema.

Previous studies have explored the use of slang in various media forms. For instance, Nayya & Otong (2025) analyzed *Slang Words in the Movie Script "Inside Out 2"*, focusing on the types of slang and their classifications. Shan Derwin Susanto et al. (2023) analyzed *The Slang Words from Turning Red Movie Script*, which explored the linguistic features and sociolinguistic functions of slang used by the teenage characters, showing how slang reflects adolescence, identity formation, and cultural hybridity in the movie. Similarly, Eka Pasaribu (2024) conducted *An Analysis of Slang Words in the Movie "Agak Laen"*, emphasizing how local and English slang terms function as humor devices and serve as a reflection of social interaction in Indonesian pop culture. Rafilis & Mesi (2024) analyzed *An Analysis of Slang Used in "Wednesday TV Series 2022"*. In addition, Ni Kadek & Desak (2023) examined *Slang Words Used by the Main Character in the Movie "Senior Year"*.

Although the use of slang is widespread in modern films, understanding of how slang expression's function sociolinguistically in superhero or action-comedy films such as *Deadpool & Wolverine* (2024) remains limited. Previous studies have often focused on the linguistic form or meaning of slang, but few have explored how these expressions reflect character identity, social relationships, and cultural values. Therefore, this study examines the types, functions, and sociolinguistic meanings of slang words used in films to reveal how informal language contributes to character development and audience engagement.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Allan & Burridge (2006), “Slang is language of a highly colloquial and contemporary type, considered stylistically inferior to standard formal, and even polite informal, speech. It often uses metaphor and/or ellipsis, and manifests verbal play in which current language is employed in some special sense and denotation; otherwise the vocabulary and sometimes the grammar is novel or only recently coined.” It means slang is a type of language that is very informal and modern, which is considered less polite or less formal than standard or formal language.

There are five types of slang. The first is fresh & creative, which is slang that has never been heard before. The second is flippant, which is slang that combines two or more words to form a new meaning. The third is imitative, Imitative is a slang term that mimics another word or combination of two words that have different meanings. Slang that mimics another word is also called imitative. the fourth is acronym, slang formed from the initial letters/abbreviations of the first letters of a word and pronounced as a single word, and the last is clipping, slang that comes from cutting/trimming words so that they can be pronounced more concisely.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach because its focus is to analyze how slang is used in the film *Deadpool & Wolverine* (2024). Qualitative methods are suitable for examining linguistic phenomena comprehensively, especially in identifying how slang contributes to character identity, humor, and social commentary.

The main data source for this study is the dialogue from the movie *Deadpool & Wolverine* (2024). The main tool used for this research is a data compilation on the classification of slang found in films, which was designed by the researcher. The researcher also needed the film files as media, as well as transcripts.

Researchers watched the film several times to understand the context of each scene and the relationships between characters. Furthermore, supporting data was obtained from previous studies, books, and journals discussing sociolinguistics, slang,

and the theories of Labov (1972) and Allan and Burrige (2006). The framework was used to categorize the slang expressions collected for analysis. After classification, the function of slang was examined from a sociolinguistic perspective, which considers how language reflects cultural dynamics, relationships, and social identity.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Table Captions Should be Placed above the Table

No.	Type of Slang	Frequency
1	Fresh & Creative	40
2	Flippant	32
3	Imitative	4
4	Acronym	1
5	Clipping	10
	Total	87

From this table, researchers found approximately 40 slang terms that were fresh and creative, 32 flippant, 4 imitative, 1 acronym, 10 and clippings. Explanations of these slang terms are provided below.

Fresh & Creative



[01:47] "Yahtzee"

Explanation: When Deadpool says the word "Yahtzee," it into the category of *fresh and creative slang* according to Allan & Burrige's theory. This type of slang consists of new words that did not previously exist. In this context, he uttered these words after successfully taking down all his enemies with precision. The word is not used according to its literal meaning, but rather as a spontaneous exclamation to express Deadpool's excitement and success. He uses these words spontaneously to add humor and expressiveness. The use of this word also reflects the distinctive nature of the fresh &

creative type because it displays new innovations in non-standard language styles. This word can also be likened to the words “yes” or “gotcha.” This usage also shows the distinctive characteristics of Deadpool's spontaneous and humorous character. Thus, the word “Yahtzee” becomes a form of slang born from the creativity of its speaker.

Flippant



[21:54] “No camel toe”

Explanation: This scene shows Deadpool wearing his new costume. The line appears as a humorous comment about his appearance, specifically the part that often highlights his tight costume pants, which are often the subject of jokes. This term itself is vulgar slang that refers to a certain shape that appears due to tight clothing in certain areas of the body. In this context, it indicates that this time his costume does not display that embarrassing appearance. According to Allan & Burrige's (2006) theory, this expression belongs to the Flippant type, which is a type of slang that combines several random words to form a new meaning. Thus, the phrase “No camel toe” shows how Deadpool uses foul language to create comedy and assert his identity as an antihero who is not bound by conventional speech ethics.

Acronym



[21:49] “Uhh! It’s perfect! FYI”

Explanation: Deadpool says, “Uhh! It's perfect! FYI” when he is trying on or checking his new costume in front of the mirror. He seems satisfied with his appearance and adds ‘FYI’ at the end of the sentence in a cocky and funny tone. The expression FYI is short for “For Your Information,” which means “as information for you.” In this context, Deadpool uses it not to actually provide information, but to reinforce his pretentious and humorous style of speech. He uses this expression to add a sarcastic and confident tone when praising himself. Based on Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory, “FYI” belongs to the type of acronym slang, which is a form of slang formed from the initial letters of several words, then used as a whole word in informal conversation. Deadpool uses “FYI” in an informal and more stylized way, not for its informative function as in professional communication. This demonstrates the characteristic of acronym slang, the use of popular abbreviations from written language to spoken language to add a casual or humorous nuance.

Clipping



[43:52] “Make ‘em fix things”

Explanation: This type of slang reflects the tendency of colloquial language to economize on form while retaining function, usually in order to sound faster, more familiar, or more casual. This sentence is spoken in the context of a casual and quick command, showing the informal style of speech typical of the characters in the film. The form “em” comes from “them” and is pronounced more briefly to sound natural and expressive in conversation, where the speaker cuts out part of the syllable to speed up or facilitate pronunciation. Deadpool uses this to add a relaxed, spontaneous, and unpretentious impression. Based on Allan & Burridge's (2006) classification, the form “em” can be categorized as Clipping, because there is a process of shortening the word from its full form (them) to a short form ('em), without changing its basic meaning. This

type of slang reflects the tendency of slang to economize on form while retaining function, usually to sound faster, more familiar, or more casual.

Imitative



[43:52] “Aye, aye, Cap’n”

Explanation: Deadpool says “Aye, aye, Cap’n” as a playful response to Wolverine's orders or remarks. In this context, Deadpool uses the exaggerated sailor's phrase “Aye, aye, Cap'n,” which literally means “Ready, Captain!” to mock or mimic Wolverine's authoritative tone. This phrase appears as a form of Deadpool's characteristic sarcasm, who often uses a parodic tone to defuse tension and play with his interlocutors. Instead of responding seriously, he responds like a crew member to his captain. According to Allan and Burrige's (2006) classification, the expression “Aye, aye, Cap'n” falls under imitative slang, as it is an imitation or adaptation of an expression that already exists in another context. In this case, the language of sailors or the military is reused with a looser meaning and a humorous style. Deadpool imitates an old expression and uses it outside of its original context, not on a ship or in a formal situation, but in a joking interaction. This shift in context makes the expression sound funny and sarcastic, demonstrating the characteristic of imitative slang: imitating a particular language for the purposes of style, sarcasm, or comedy.

CONCLUSION(S)

Based on an analysis of slang found in *Deadpool & Wolverine* (2024), researchers found that the use of slang plays an important role in character identity, conveying humor, and reflecting social interactions between characters. A total of 87 slang terms were identified and categorized based on Allan & Burrige's (2006) theory, consisting of 40 fresh & creative, 32 flippant, 1 acronym, 4 imitative, and 10 clippings. These results show that fresh & creative slang is the most prevalent type of slang in this film.

From a sociolinguistic perspective, slang expressions in this film serve more than just informal communication but they reflect social relationships, character dynamics, and cultural identity. Deadpool's frequent use of slang reveals his rebellious, comedic personality and his defiance of authority. Meanwhile, Wolverine's contrasting style of speech emphasizes seriousness. Therefore, slang in *Deadpool & Wolverine* (2024) functions as a linguistic tool that not only enriches the film's dialogue but also illustrates how language operates as a social and cultural phenomenon.

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