



Slang Words in How to Train Your Dragon Movie

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Abstract. This study examines the use of slang words in *How to Train Your Dragon* (2010). Slang represents an informal language variety that reflects emotions, identity, and social relationships in everyday communication. This study aims to identify the types of slang used by the characters and analyze their meanings based on Allan and Burridge's theory of slang and Leech's theory of meaning. A descriptive qualitative method was employed using the movie dialogues and transcript as the data source. Data were collected by repeatedly watching the movie, examining the transcript, identifying slang expressions, and analyzing their contexts. The findings indicate that the characters use various types of slang, with imitative slang occurring most frequently, followed by clipping, fresh and creative, and flippant slang. Regarding meaning, the slang expressions predominantly convey social, affective, connotative, conceptual, thematic, and reflective meanings depending on the conversational context and interpersonal relationships. The study concludes that slang functions not only as informal language but also as a means of expressing emotions, creating humor, strengthening solidarity, and constructing character identity. The findings also demonstrate that contextual factors play a crucial role in interpreting slang and contribute to the authenticity and realism of the movie's dialogues.

Keywords: Informal Language; Meaning; Movie; Slang Words; Sociolinguistics.

1. BACKGROUND

Language is an important part of human life because it functions as a tool for communicating ideas, feelings, opinions, and building social relationships. Through language, people can interact and establish connections with others in society. However, language is not static because it continuously develops and changes due to social, cultural, and technological influences. In sociolinguistic studies, language variation is influenced by factors such as age, social environment, culture, and communication situations (Wardhaugh, 2015). This statement is also supported by (Gurning et al., 2024) who state that language use is always related to the social conditions of the speakers. Therefore, each social group often has its own language style that reflects its identity and social relationships.

One of the language variations frequently used in daily communication is slang. Slang is a form of informal language commonly used by certain social groups, especially teenagers and young adults, to create intimacy, solidarity, and group identity. According to (Putri et al., 2026) slang is a form of informal language variation that develops rapidly within particular social groups and is often used to show social closeness and group identity. In addition, recent research by (Tasyarasita et al., 2023) shows that slang is creative and dynamic because it involves wordplay, abbreviations, and non-literal meanings in everyday communication. Slang is also used to express emotions, humor, and attitudes in a more relaxed way compared to formal language. This statement remains relevant today because the use of slang continues to develop through digital media, films, music, and social media.

The development of technology and digital media has caused the use of slang to become more widespread in modern society. Recent research by (Tasyarasita et al., 2023) shows that slang is widely used in popular song lyrics to create a relaxed, emotional, and relatable impression for young listeners. In addition, (Simorangkir et al., 2025) found that the use of slang on Twitter is influenced by social factors, including gender and users' communication styles. These studies prove that slang is not only a variation of informal language but also represents social and cultural identity in modern communication. Movies are one of the media that play an important role in spreading the use of slang because dialogues in movies often portray natural communication similar to everyday conversations. Through movies, audiences can understand how slang is used in conversations, how slang reflects social relationships among characters, and how slang helps build characters and story atmospheres. The use of slang in movies also makes dialogues feel more realistic, relaxed, and closer to the audience's experiences. Therefore, slang in movies becomes an interesting linguistic phenomenon to analyze, especially in sociolinguistic studies.

One of the movies that contains various uses of slang is *How to Train Your Dragon* (2010), produced by DreamWorks Animation. This animated movie tells the story of friendship, adventure, and social interaction between humans and dragons in Viking society. Besides having an interesting storyline and good visuals, this movie also presents various forms of informal language and slang used by the characters in their daily conversations. The use of slang in this movie is interesting to study because it functions to create humor, express emotions, strengthen solidarity among characters, and build character identity in the story. (Yusrizal et al., 2024) explain that the use of slang in animated movies makes dialogues sound more natural and expressive, helping audiences understand characters and social situations in the story.

Although many studies about slang have been conducted, research specifically discussing the use of slang in the movie *How to Train Your Dragon* is still limited. Most previous studies focus more on slang in songs, social media, or live-action movies. Therefore, this research is important to fill the research gap by analyzing the use of slang in the context of a fantasy animated movie. This research focuses on identifying the types of slang used in *How to Train Your Dragon* based on Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory and analyzing their meanings using Leech's (1981) theory of meaning. Through this research, the writer hopes to provide a deeper understanding of the function of slang in movie dialogues and how language can represent social interaction, emotions, and character identity in popular media. In addition,

this research is expected to contribute to sociolinguistic studies, particularly regarding the use of slang as a form of informal language in audiovisual media.

2. LITERATURE STUDIES

Previous studies related to slang have been conducted by several researchers. Research conducted by (Permata et al., 2023) entitled *Types of Slang Analysis Found in “Kevin Hart” Twitter Account* showed that slang is used to create humor, express emotions, and build closeness between speakers and audiences. The study applied a descriptive qualitative method by analyzing slang found in Kevin Hart’s Twitter account. The findings revealed that slang has social and communicative functions in creating more relaxed and expressive conversations. The difference between Permata’s research and the present study lies in the research object and focus of analysis. Permata’s study focused on the use of slang in social media, while this research focuses on the use of slang in the animated movie *How to Train Your Dragon*. In addition, this study not only identifies the types of slang but also analyzes the meanings of slang based on the conversational context among the characters in the movie.

Research conducted by (Munthe et al., 2023) entitled *An Analysis of Slang Words in IT Movie* showed that slang in movies is used to express emotions, build social identity, and strengthen informal interactions among characters. The study used a descriptive qualitative method and applied Bloomfield’s and Leech’s theories to identify the types and meanings of slang in movie dialogues. The findings indicated that the most dominant type of slang was interjection slang, while the meanings that appeared most frequently were affective meaning and social meaning. The difference between Munthe’s study and the present research lies in the theory and research object. Munthe’s study used Bloomfield’s theory to classify slang in the movie *IT*, whereas this research applies Allan and Burridge’s (2006) theory to classify slang in the animated movie *How to Train Your Dragon*. Moreover, this study emphasizes the relationship between slang usage, social interaction, and character development in animated movies.

Research conducted by (Ayu et al., 2023) entitled *Slang words used in Olivia Rodrigo song lyrics in the album of Sour* on Olivia Rodrigo Songs showed that slang is widely used in song lyrics to create a relaxed, emotional, and relatable impression for young listeners. The study found that the most dominant type of slang was fresh and creative slang. In addition, the use of slang in songs also reflects language creativity and the speaker’s social identity. The difference between Sanditari et al.’s research and the present study lies in the data source. The previous study used song lyrics as the research object, whereas this study uses dialogues from

an animated movie as the main data source. Therefore, this research focuses more on the use of slang in conversational interactions among characters and social contexts in the movie.

Research conducted by (Fauzi et al., 2025) entitled *An Analysis of Wordplay and Idiom Translation in Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets into Indonesian* showed that slang in movies functions as informal language as well as a representation of social relationships and conflicts among characters. The study used Allan and Burridge's theory to identify the types of slang found in the movie. The findings revealed that slang helps create more realistic dialogues and strengthens characterizations in the story. The main difference between Fauzi et al.'s study and the present research lies in the movie object and the social context represented in the story. The previous study analyzed language expressions in the fantasy movie *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, while this research focuses on the animated movie *How to Train Your Dragon*, which presents Viking cultural backgrounds and different social relationships. Furthermore, this study emphasizes the analysis of slang meanings based on Leech's (1981) theory.

3. METODE

This research employed a descriptive qualitative method because the study aims to describe the types and meanings of slang used in the movie *How to Train Your Dragon* (2010). According to (John W. Creswell, 2014), qualitative research is an approach used to understand social and linguistic phenomena through the interpretation of naturally obtained data. This method was used to analyze language use, particularly slang, based on the conversational contexts among the characters in the movie. This study applied a descriptive method because it aims to describe and analyze the forms of slang and their meanings without manipulating any research variables. The research focuses on identifying the types of slang based on (Allan & Burridge, 2006) theory and analyzing the meanings of slang based on Leech's (1981) theory of meaning.

The data source of this research was the dialogues in the movie *How to Train Your Dragon* (2010) and its movie transcript. The research data consisted of words, phrases, and slang expressions used by the characters in their daily conversations throughout the movie. A total of 47 slang data were found in the movie. However, only 36 data were analyzed because several data contained repetitive contexts and similar meanings. This selection was conducted to avoid repetition and maintain the effectiveness of the analysis. The data collection technique was carried out by watching the movie repeatedly, reading the movie transcript carefully, identifying slang expressions, taking notes on the slang found in the dialogues, and classifying

the data based on the types and meanings of slang. In identifying slang words, this research also referred to Urban Dictionary and Merriam-Webster Dictionary to confirm the meanings and usage of slang expressions in contemporary English.

The data analysis technique was conducted through several steps. First, the slang expressions found in the movie dialogues were identified and classified based on (Allan & Burrige, 2006) theory of slang classification. Then, the meanings of the slang expressions were analyzed using Leech's (1981) theory of meaning. Afterward, the findings were interpreted descriptively to explain how slang functions in building social interaction, expressing emotions, and strengthening character identity in the movie. To ensure data validity, the researcher repeatedly checked the movie dialogues, transcripts, and subtitles to maintain consistency and accuracy in the analysis.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

This study found four types of slang words used in *How to Train Your Dragon* (2010) based on (Allan & Burrige, 2006) theory, namely fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, and clipping slang. The findings also showed that imitative slang was the most dominant type used by the characters in the movie.

Table 1. Types of Slang Words Found in *How to Train Your Dragon*.

No	Types of Slang	Frequency	Percentage
1	Fresh and Creative	10	27.8%
2	Flippant	5	13.9%
3	Imitative	12	33.3%
4	Clipping	9	25%
Total		36	100%

The table above shows that imitative slang was the most dominant type found in the movie. This indicates that the characters frequently used spontaneous and informal expressions in their conversations to create natural and realistic interactions. One example of fresh and creative slang is the phrase “twelve days North of hopeless” uttered by Hiccup. This expression was categorized as fresh and creative because it uses imaginative and hyperbolic language to describe Berk's condition humorously. Another example is the word “nah” categorized as imitative slang because it imitates informal spoken language commonly used in everyday conversation. In the movie, the expression functions to create a casual and familiar interaction among the characters.

In terms of meaning, the study found six types of meaning based on Leech's (1981) theory, namely conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflective meaning, and thematic meaning. Social meaning was the most dominant meaning found in the movie.

Table 2. Types of Meaning Found in *How to Train Your Dragon*.

No	Types of Meaning	Frequency	Percentage
1	Conceptual Meaning	3	8.3%
2	Connotative Meaning	7	19.4%
3	Social Meaning	12	33.3%
4	Affective Meaning	8	22.2%
5	Reflective Meaning	1	2.8%
6	Thematic Meaning	5	13.9%
	Total	36	100%

The findings indicate that slang in the movie mostly functions to show social relationships, familiarity, and informal interaction among the characters. In addition, slang expressions were also used to express emotions, create humor, and strengthen character identity throughout the movie.

Discussion

The use of slang in *How to Train Your Dragon* shows that informal language plays an important role in creating realistic and natural communication in movie dialogues. The dominance of imitative slang and clipping slang indicates that the characters tend to use spontaneous and simple language forms in their daily conversations. Expressions such as “nah,” “yeah,” “gonna,” and “kinda” make the interactions among the characters sound more relaxed and natural, creating a communication style that is closely related to everyday life. This finding is in line with (Fauzi et al., 2025) who state that the use of slang in movies helps create more realistic dialogues and strengthens character identity in the story.

In addition, the dominance of clipping slang reflects the tendency to use simpler and more efficient language in spoken communication. Slang expressions such as gonna, gotta, and kinda are used to shorten utterances and create a casual conversational atmosphere. This finding indicates that the use of slang in movies is influenced by modern communication styles, which tend to be practical and informal. This result is supported by (Turnip et al., 2024) who explain that shortened slang expressions are commonly found in popular media because they are considered more expressive and easier to use in everyday communication.

The use of fresh and creative slang in the movie also demonstrates language creativity in expressing messages and emotions. Hyperbolic and metaphorical expressions are used to create humor and strengthen the emotional expression of the characters in certain situations. For example, the expression “twelve days North of hopeless” is used metaphorically to describe a condition in an exaggerated way. Such creative expressions help portray Hiccup as a humorous and sarcastic character. Therefore, slang does not only function as a variation of informal language, but also as a linguistic strategy to strengthen character development in the story. This finding is supported by (Purnama et al., 2024), who state that creative language use in audiovisual media can enhance emotional engagement and communication appeal within a story.

In terms of meaning, the dominance of social meaning indicates that slang in the movie is mostly used to show social relationships and familiarity among the characters (Tasyarasita et al., 2023). The use of slang in informal communication reflects solidarity and emotional closeness between the characters. This finding is consistent with Leech’s theory (1981), which states that social meaning is related to social conditions and relationships among speakers in communication. In addition, (Guterres et al., 2026) explain that the use of slang is strongly influenced by social environment and speakers’ communication styles.

This study also reveals that slang strengthens emotional expression in movie dialogues. Several slang expressions are used to express anger, mockery, enthusiasm, and humor, making the dialogues more expressive and engaging. The use of informal language in emotional contexts helps the audience understand the characters’ feelings more deeply. This finding is supported by (Septia et al., 2025), who state that slang in movies has emotional and social functions in building interactions among characters.

Overall, the use of slang in *How to Train Your Dragon* demonstrates that informal language has broader functions than merely serving as a variation of everyday speech. Slang plays an important role in creating realistic dialogues, strengthening social relationships among characters, creating humor, and supporting character identity in animated movies. Therefore, slang becomes an essential element in building communication quality and social interaction in modern audiovisual media.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion, this study found four types of slang used in *How to Train Your Dragon* based on Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory, namely fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, and clipping slang. The most dominant types found were imitative and clipping slang, showing that the characters frequently used spontaneous and informal expressions in their conversations. Furthermore, based on Leech's (1981) theory of meaning, six types of meaning were identified: conceptual, connotative, social, affective, reflective, and thematic meaning. Among them, social meaning was the most dominant, indicating that slang in the movie is closely related to social relationships, familiarity, and solidarity among the characters. Overall, the use of slang in *How to Train Your Dragon* does not only function as informal language variation, but also helps create realistic dialogues, express emotions, strengthen character identity, and build social interaction among the characters in the movie.

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