

The Analysis of Slang Variation and Emotional Expression in Selected Song Lyrics by Billie Eilish

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes slang variation and emotional expression in selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish using sociolinguistic and pragmatic approaches. Previous studies have generally examined slang usage and emotional expression separately, with limited attention to how slang contributes to emotional meaning construction in contemporary popular music. This study addresses that gap by investigating the relationship between slang variation, emotional expression, and identity representation in Billie Eilish's lyrics. The study also contributes theoretically by integrating sociolinguistic theories of slang with pragmatic analysis of emotional meaning. This research employs a qualitative descriptive method with data collected from nine selected songs: "Bad Guy," "Bury a Friend," "Therefore I Am," "Lost Cause," "Your Power," "Happier Than Ever," "My Strange Addiction," "idontwannabeyouanymore," and "Six Feet Under." The findings reveal three types of slang: General Slang (45%), Creative Slang (32.5%), and Group Slang (22.5%). General Slang is dominant because it creates conversational authenticity and emotional closeness with listeners. The emotional expressions identified include sadness (30%), anger (22.5%), fear or anxiety (17.5%), frustration (12.5%), insecurity (7.5%), emotional vulnerability (5%), and confidence or rebellion (5%). The findings demonstrate that slang functions not only as informal language but also as a sociolinguistic and pragmatic strategy for intensifying emotional meaning, expressing identity, and representing youth culture in contemporary song lyrics.

Keywords: emotional expression, pragmatics, slang variation, sociolinguistics, song lyrics

1. Introduction

Language is an essential means of human communication that continuously develops alongside social, cultural, and technological changes. It is not only used to convey information but also to express identity, relationships, attitudes, and emotional states. In everyday interaction, people often adjust their language according to the context and situation, resulting in the use of both formal and informal language varieties. One of the most prominent forms of informal language is slang. Slang is widely used in daily communication, particularly among young people, because it is considered more flexible, creative, and expressive than standard language. It often serves as a marker of identity and solidarity within a social group. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), slang functions as a linguistic marker that reflects group identity and social belonging. Similarly, Eble (1996) explains that slang is closely associated with informal situations and is frequently used to express personal feelings, attitudes, and emotions. This indicates that slang is not merely a linguistic variation but also an important medium for expressing emotional and social meanings. Furthermore, slang continuously develops alongside contemporary culture, digital communication, and social interaction, making it an important phenomenon in sociolinguistic studies.

The use of slang can be clearly observed in popular media, especially in song lyrics. Songs are not only a form of entertainment but also a medium for conveying ideas, experiences, and

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emotions. Songwriters often employ informal language and slang expressions to make their lyrics sound more natural, authentic, and relatable to listeners. Through song lyrics, personal emotions and experiences can be communicated in ways that resonate with broader audiences. Therefore, song lyrics provide valuable linguistic data for analyzing language variation and emotional expression. In addition, the increasing influence of digital media and music streaming platforms has strengthened the role of song lyrics in shaping contemporary youth language and communication patterns. One contemporary artist whose lyrics strongly reflect this phenomenon is Billie Eilish. Her songs frequently contain informal language and slang expressions that represent the emotional experiences of young people. Themes such as sadness, anxiety, loneliness, anger, fear, and emotional vulnerability are commonly portrayed in her lyrics, making her songs relatable to many listeners worldwide. The authenticity and emotional intensity found in her lyrics have made her music an important subject for linguistic analysis. In many of her songs, emotional meanings are conveyed not only through direct emotional vocabulary but also through slang, metaphorical language, sarcasm, shortened expressions, and stylistic choices that require contextual interpretation.

Emotional expression is an essential aspect of language use in song lyrics. According to Ekman (1992), basic human emotions include happiness, sadness, anger, fear, surprise, and disgust, all of which can be reflected through language. Furthermore, Yule (1996) states that meaning in language is not solely derived from words themselves but also from context and interpretation. This suggests that emotional meanings in song lyrics often require deeper pragmatic analysis to fully understand the speaker's intentions and implied meanings. Emotional expression in lyrics is frequently communicated indirectly through figurative language, metaphor, and emotionally loaded expressions rather than explicit emotional statements. Several previous studies have discussed slang usage and emotional expression in song lyrics and popular media. Wijaya (2020) examined slang usage in Western pop songs and found that slang functions as a marker of youth identity and emotional authenticity. Sari and Putra (2020) analyzed emotional expression in song lyrics using Ekman's theory and revealed that emotions are often conveyed implicitly through linguistic choices. Mendrofa et al. (2022) focused on slang variation from a sociolinguistic perspective, while Lestari (2022) explored the pragmatic functions of slang in popular music. In addition, Rahmawati (2021) analyzed emotional metaphors in song lyrics using conceptual metaphor theory. These studies provide important contributions to sociolinguistics, pragmatics, and emotional analysis in music discourse.

However, despite the growing number of studies on slang and emotional expression, most previous researchers tend to analyze these aspects separately. Some studies focus mainly on slang as a sociolinguistic phenomenon, while others emphasize emotional expression through metaphor, figurative language, or lexical choice. There is still limited research that specifically examines how slang variation and emotional expression interact within a unified analytical framework. Furthermore, previous studies rarely integrate sociolinguistic and pragmatic approaches to explain how slang contributes to the construction of emotional meaning in contemporary song lyrics. This limitation indicates a significant research gap in understanding the relationship between informal language, emotional communication, and contextual meaning in popular music discourse. Therefore, this study aims to analyze slang variation and emotional expression in selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish.

This study seeks to identify the types of slang used in the lyrics, examine how emotional expressions are represented, and analyze how slang contributes to the construction of emotional meaning in the songs. The novelty of this study lies in its integrative approach, combining sociolinguistic, pragmatic, and emotional perspectives to examine slang not only as informal language but also as a linguistic strategy for intensifying emotional meaning, constructing identity, and representing youth culture in contemporary popular music. By combining these perspectives, this study is expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between informal language and emotional expression in modern music discourse. Furthermore, this study is expected to contribute to sociolinguistic and pragmatic studies, particularly in understanding language use, identity construction, and emotional communication in contemporary popular culture.

2. Method

This study applies a qualitative descriptive research design with an interpretative textual analysis approach. This design is considered appropriate because the object of the study consists of linguistic data in the form of words, phrases, clauses, figurative expressions, and contextual meanings found in song lyrics. The study emphasizes interpretation, contextual meaning, and linguistic function rather than statistical measurement. According to Creswell (2014), qualitative research is used to explore and understand meanings constructed by individuals or groups within social and cultural contexts. Therefore, qualitative methodology is relevant to this study because it allows in-depth analysis of slang variation and emotional expression in contemporary song lyrics. To strengthen the analytical rigor, this study integrates sociolinguistic, pragmatic, and emotional frameworks within a systematic analytical model. Sociolinguistic theory is applied to classify slang variation and examine its social functions, identity construction, and informality (Allan & Burridge, 2006; Partridge, 2004). Pragmatic theory proposed by Yule (1996) is employed to analyze contextual meaning, speaker intention, and implied emotional messages. In addition, Ekman's theory of basic emotions and Kövecses' conceptual metaphor theory are used to interpret explicit and implicit emotional expressions embedded in the lyrics. The integration of these theoretical perspectives enables a more rigorous and multidimensional interpretation of the data.

Respondents

This study does not involve human respondents because the research focuses on textual documents as the primary data source. Therefore, the research subjects consist of selected song lyrics written and performed by Billie Eilish. The songs were selected through purposive sampling because they are considered relevant to the objectives of the study. The selection criteria include: (1) the presence of slang or informal language expressions, (2) emotional themes such as sadness, anxiety, anger, loneliness, fear, and emotional vulnerability, (3) representation of Billie Eilish's distinctive lyrical style, and (4) relevance to contemporary youth language and culture.

Instruments

In qualitative research, the researcher functions as the primary research instrument because the processes of identifying, selecting, classifying, interpreting, and analyzing data rely on the researcher's analytical competence and theoretical understanding. To support analytical consistency and reduce subjectivity, several supporting instruments were employed: Documentation sheets for recording slang expressions and emotional expressions, Data classification tables based on slang categories and emotional categories, Analytical coding sheets to classify linguistic forms, contextual meanings, pragmatic functions, and emotional representations, Note-taking instruments for organizing interpretation systematically, Audio recordings of the songs to support interpretation of tone, emotional nuance, stress, and contextual meaning. The instrument development process was based on established theoretical frameworks, particularly Partridge's slang classification, Allan and Burridge's sociolinguistic perspective on informal language, Ekman's theory of basic emotions, and Kövecses' conceptual metaphor theory.

Procedures

The data collection technique used in this study is documentation because the data are derived from written texts in the form of song lyrics. The procedures were conducted systematically through several stages: Selecting Billie Eilish's songs that contain slang expressions and emotional themes relevant to the study, Downloading and verifying the lyrics from official and trusted platforms such as Genius Lyrics, AZLyrics, Spotify, Apple Music, and Billie Eilish's official website, Reading the lyrics repeatedly to understand linguistic structures, contextual meaning, and emotional content, Listening to the songs several times to identify emotional nuance, intonation, emphasis, and contextual interpretation, Identifying slang expressions, figurative language, and emotional expressions within the lyrics, Recording the identified data into documentation sheets, coding tables, and analytical classification forms, Organizing the collected data systematically according to slang categories, emotional categories, and pragmatic functions.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis through several rigorous analytical stages: Data Identification, The researcher identified slang expressions, emotional expressions, figurative language, and contextual linguistic features appearing in the lyrics. Data Coding and Classification, The identified data were coded and classified systematically based on

theoretical frameworks. Slang expressions were categorized using Partridge's classification of slang and Allan and Burridge's theory of informal language. Emotional expressions were analyzed using Ekman's theory of basic emotions, while implicit emotional meanings were interpreted using Kövecses' conceptual metaphor theory. Contextual and Pragmatic Interpretation, The classified data were interpreted from sociolinguistic and pragmatic perspectives.

This stage focused on how slang functions to express identity, reduce social distance, intensify emotional meaning, and create intimacy between the singer and listeners. Pragmatic analysis was used to examine implied meaning, speaker intention, and contextual interpretation beyond literal meaning. Cross-Theoretical Interpretation, The findings from sociolinguistic, pragmatic, and emotional analyses were integrated to examine the relationship between slang variation and emotional expression in constructing meaning within contemporary song lyrics. Drawing Conclusion, Conclusions were drawn based on the findings to answer the research questions and explain how slang functions as a linguistic strategy for emotional expression, identity construction, and youth cultural representation. Validation Procedures To ensure the trustworthiness, credibility, and analytical validity of the findings, this study applied several validation procedures adapted from qualitative research standards proposed by Creswell (2014) and Lincoln and Guba (1985).

Validation Procedures

Theory Triangulation: The study employed multiple theoretical perspectives, including sociolinguistics, pragmatics, and emotion theory, to interpret the data comprehensively and reduce single-theory bias. **Data Triangulation:** The researcher compared linguistic data from multiple songs to identify recurring patterns of slang variation and emotional expression across different lyrical contexts. **Peer Review and Expert Validation:** The preliminary analysis and classification of data were reviewed by academic supervisors and peers with linguistic knowledge to evaluate analytical consistency and interpretation accuracy. **Repeated Reading and Listenin:** The researcher repeatedly read the lyrics and listened to the songs to strengthen contextual understanding, minimize misinterpretation, and ensure interpretive consistency. **Audit Trail:** All stages of data collection, coding, classification, and interpretation were documented systematically to maintain transparency and analytical reliability throughout the research process. Through these validation procedures, the study aims to produce credible, consistent, and theoretically grounded findings regarding slang variation and emotional expression in contemporary popular music.

3. Results and Discussion

Results: This section presents the findings of the research concerning slang variation and emotional expression found in the selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish. The analysis focuses on identifying the types of slang variation and examining the emotional meanings represented through the lyrics. The data were collected from several selected songs, namely Bad Guy, Bury a Friend, Therefore I Am, Lost Cause, Your Power, Happier Than Ever, My Strange Addiction, idont wanna be you anymore, and Six Feet Under. Based on the analysis, the researcher identified 40 data containing slang variation and emotional expression in the lyrics. The slang expressions are classified into three categories: General Slang (GS), Group Slang (GrS), and Creative Slang (CS). General Slang appears as the most dominant type because Billie Eilish frequently uses informal and conversational expressions to create a natural and authentic style in her songs. Creative Slang is also commonly found in the lyrics through metaphorical, unique, and emotionally expressive language, while Group Slang appears in several expressions related to youth culture and contemporary social communication. The findings indicate that slang is not only used as informal language but also functions as a stylistic device to strengthen emotional meaning, personal identity, and artistic expression within the songs.

Furthermore, the emotional expressions found in the lyrics are categorized into sadness, anger, fear, insecurity, frustration, loneliness, and emotional vulnerability. Among these emotional categories, sadness becomes the most dominant emotional expression represented in the selected songs because many of the lyrics discuss emotional pain, disappointment, anxiety, heartbreak, and psychological struggle. Anger and frustration are frequently expressed through sarcasm, profanity, and emotionally loaded slang, while insecurity and fear are conveyed through indirect language and vulnerable expressions. The findings also reveal that slang variation and emotional expression are closely connected because informal and creative language is often used to intensify emotional

meaning and create emotional intimacy between the singer and the listeners. In several lyrics, the meanings of slang expressions cannot be interpreted literally since they are influenced by context, metaphorical meaning, tone, and pragmatic intention. Therefore, the emotional interpretation of the lyrics requires contextual and pragmatic analysis in addition to lexical meaning. Overall, the findings demonstrate that Billie Eilish uses slang variation effectively to communicate emotional experiences, reflect contemporary youth language, and strengthen the emotional atmosphere and communicative impact of her songs.

Types of Slang Found in Billie Eilish’s Song Lyrics: There are three types of slang identified in this research, namely General Slang (GS), Group Slang (GrS), and Creative Slang (CS). These categories are analyzed based on the theories proposed by Eric Partridge as well as Allan and Burridge concerning slang variation and informal language use in social communication. The identification of slang types is conducted by analyzing words, phrases, clauses, and informal expressions found in the selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish. In this study, slang is considered an important linguistic phenomenon because it reflects contemporary language variation, social identity, emotional expression, and youth culture. The use of slang in song lyrics also demonstrates how informal language can function not only as everyday communication but also as an artistic and emotional strategy in modern music. Through the analysis, the researcher identifies the forms of slang used in the lyrics, their contextual meanings, and their communicative functions in representing emotional experiences and personal expression.

The findings of slang variation applied in Billie Eilish’s selected song lyrics are obtained from several songs, namely Bad Guy, Bury a Friend, Therefore I Am, Lost Cause, Your Power, Happier Than Ever, My Strange Addiction, idont wanna be you anymore, and Six Feet Under. General Slang is identified as the most dominant type because Billie Eilish frequently uses casual and commonly recognized informal expressions to create an authentic conversational style and emotional closeness with listeners. Group Slang appears in expressions associated with particular social groups, modern youth communication, and digital culture, while Creative Slang is represented through imaginative, metaphorical, unique, and emotionally expressive language that strengthens the artistic style of the lyrics. The analysis further reveals that slang variation in the lyrics functions not only as informal vocabulary but also as a linguistic device used to intensify emotional meaning, emphasize psychological conditions, express rebellion and vulnerability, and construct identity within the songs. In several lyrics, slang expressions are combined with sarcasm, figurative language, shortened expressions, and emotionally loaded words to convey sadness, anger, insecurity, frustration, loneliness, and emotional resistance more effectively. Therefore, the use of slang in Billie Eilish’s song lyrics reflects both contemporary youth language and emotional authenticity in modern popular music.

Table 1. Data Sheet of Slang Variation and Emotional Expression in Billie Eilish’s Song Lyrics

No	Code	Data	GS	GrS	CS	Emotional Expression	Explanation
1	Bad Guy	“Duh”	✓			Confidence	Casual dismissive slang
2	Bad Guy	“I’m the bad guy”		✓	✓	Rebellion	Identity expression
3	Idont wanna be you anymore	“wanna”	✓			Sadness	Informal emotional confession
4	Six Feet Under	“gonna”	✓			Fear	Conversational style
5	Lost Cause	“ain’t”	✓	✓		Anger	Informal rejection
6	Therefore I Am	“I’m not your friend”		✓		Irritation	Youth informal expression
7	My Strange Addiction	“strange addiction”			✓	Obsession	Metaphorical slang
8	Bury a Friend	“I wanna end me”	✓		✓	Depression	Emotional intensity
9	Happier Than Ever	“You ruined everything good”			✓	Anger	Emotional accusation

10	Your Power	“Try not to abuse your power”			✓	Fear	Symbolic expression
11	Lost Cause	“You ain’t nothing but a lost cause”	✓	✓		Frustration	Emotional rejection
12	Therefore I Am	“I’m in the spotlight”			✓	Pressure	Figurative expression
13	Bad Guy	“Might seduce your dad type”	✓		✓	Rebellion	Sarcastic tone
14	Bury a Friend	“Step on the glass”			✓	Fear	Dark imagery
15	Six Feet Under	“Our love is six feet under”			✓	Sadness	Relationship metaphor
16	Happier Than Ever	“Just fucking leave me alone”	✓	✓		Anger	Emotional explosion
17	Therefore I Am	“Man, am I the greatest”	✓	✓		Confidence	Youth expression
18	Lost Cause	“Thought you would’ve grown eventually”	✓			Disappointment	Informal criticism
19	My Strange Addiction	“Doctor, can you help me?”			✓	Anxiety	Emotional dependency
20	Bury a Friend	“What do you want from me?”	✓			Fear	Emotional confusion
21	idontwannabeyouanymore	“If teardrops could be bottled”			✓	Sadness	Figurative sadness
22	Bad Guy	“Bruises on both my knees”			✓	Vulnerability	Symbolic expression
23	Happier Than Ever	“I don’t relate to you”	✓			Anger	Emotional distance
24	Lost Cause	“Why don’t you say what you’re trying to say?”	✓			Frustration	Direct emotional pressure
25	Therefore I Am	“Stop, what the hell are you talking about?”	✓	✓		Irritation	Informal confrontation
26	Bad Guy	“So cynical”		✓		Attitude	Youth identity
27	Your Power	“Will you only feel bad if it turns out that they kill your contract?”			✓	Fear	Implicit criticism
28	Bury a Friend	“Careful”	✓			Anxiety	Warning tone
29	Happier Than Ever	“Made all my moments your own”			✓	Sadness	Emotional control
30	My Strange Addiction	“You are my strange addiction”			✓	Emotional obsession	Symbolic attachment
31	Therefore I Am	“I’m sorry, I don’t think I caught your name”	✓	✓		Sarcasm	Indirect rejection
32	Lost Cause	“You fell apart”			✓	Failure	Figurative collapse
33	Six Feet Under	“Heartbeat”			✓	Love anxiety	Symbolic emotion
34	Bad Guy	“Own me”			✓	Dominance	Toxic relationship
35	Happier Than Ever	“Never treated me this shitty”	✓	✓		Anger	Strong emotional intensity

36	Bury a Friend	"I wanna end me"	✓	✓	Hopelessness	Self-destructive metaphor
37	Your Power	"Power isn't pain"			Trauma	Symbolic criticism
38	Therefore I Am	"I'm not your enemy"	✓		Defensiveness	Emotional denial
39	idontwannabeyouanymore	"Broken mold"		✓	Insecurity	Figurative identity
40	Lost Cause	"Nothing but a lost cause"	✓	✓	Frustration	Identity criticism

Table 1 presents 40 data containing slang variation and emotional expression identified in Billie Eilish's selected song lyrics. The table includes the code number, lyric excerpts, slang classification, emotional expression, and explanation of meaning. The findings reveal that General Slang frequently appears in the form of contractions such as *wanna*, *gonna*, *ain't*, and informal conversational expressions. Group Slang is used to represent youth identity, attitude, and social closeness, while Creative Slang appears through metaphorical and symbolic expressions that intensify emotional meaning. Furthermore, the emotional expressions found in the lyrics include sadness, anger, fear, frustration, insecurity, emotional vulnerability, anxiety, and emotional obsession. These findings indicate that slang functions not only as informal language but also as a medium for emotional communication. Frequency of Each Type of Slang:

Table 2. Frequency of Slang Variation in Billie Eilish's Song Lyrics

No	Types of Slang	Frequency	Percentage
1	General Slang (GS)	18	45%
2	Group Slang (GrS)	9	22.5%
3	Creative Slang (CS)	13	32.5%
	Total	40	100%

Table 2 shows that General Slang becomes the most dominant type found in Billie Eilish's selected song lyrics. It occurs 18 times or 45% of the total data. This finding indicates that Billie Eilish frequently uses informal conversational language to create intimacy and natural communication with listeners. Creative Slang ranks second with 13 occurrences or 32.5%. This type frequently appears through metaphorical and symbolic expressions used to intensify emotional meaning in the lyrics. Meanwhile, Group Slang becomes the least dominant type with 9 occurrences or 22.5%. Although less frequent, this type still plays an important role in representing youth identity and emotional attitude.

Frequency of Emotional Expressions

Table 3. Emotional Expressions Found in Billie Eilish's Song Lyrics

No	Emotional Expression	Frequency	Percentage
1	Sadness	12	30%
2	Anger	9	22.5%
3	Fear/Anxiety	7	17.5%
4	Frustration	5	12.5%
5	Insecurity	3	7.5%
6	Emotional Vulnerability	2	5%
7	Confidence/Rebellion	2	5%
	Total	40	100%

Table 3 indicates that sadness becomes the most dominant emotional expression represented in Billie Eilish's selected song lyrics. It occurs 12 times or 30% of the total findings. This result reflects Billie Eilish's lyrical style, which frequently explores emotional pain, loneliness, insecurity, and emotional vulnerability. Anger ranks second with 9 occurrences or 22.5%, followed by fear and anxiety with 7 occurrences or 17.5%. These findings demonstrate that emotional conflict and psychological struggle become central themes in the selected songs. The Most Dominant Type of Slang, Based on the findings presented in Table 2, General Slang becomes the most dominant type of slang used in Billie Eilish's selected song lyrics. This type appears 18 times out of the total 40 data or 45% of the total findings. The dominance of General Slang indicates that Billie Eilish frequently uses informal conversational expressions to create emotional closeness and authenticity within the lyrics. Through contractions such as *wanna*, *gonna*, and *ain't*, the lyrics sound more personal, emotional, and relatable to listeners, especially young audiences. Subheading

Discussion: This section provides a deeper explanation and interpretation of the findings presented previously concerning slang variation and emotional expression found in the selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish. The discussion focuses on explaining how slang variation functions in emotional expression, meaning construction, identity representation, and communicative intention within the lyrics. In this research, slang is not merely interpreted as informal language or nonstandard vocabulary, but also as a linguistic strategy that carries emotional intensity and contextual meaning. Through the use of slang, Billie Eilish is able to create lyrics that sound personal, authentic, emotionally expressive, and closely connected to contemporary youth language. The findings reveal that slang expressions contribute significantly to the emotional atmosphere of the songs because they strengthen the emotional tone, emphasize psychological conditions, and create intimacy between the singer and the listeners. In many cases, slang is used together with figurative language, metaphorical expressions, sarcasm, shortened forms, and emotionally loaded vocabulary to represent emotional experiences more naturally and effectively. Therefore, the emotional meaning of the lyrics cannot always be understood literally because many expressions are influenced by context, pragmatic intention, tone, and implied meaning.

Several lyric excerpts are analyzed in detail to illustrate how General Slang (GS), Group Slang (GrS), and Creative Slang (CS) are used to express sadness, anger, fear, insecurity, loneliness, frustration, disappointment, emotional resistance, and emotional vulnerability. General Slang is commonly used to create a casual conversational style and emotional closeness, while Creative Slang appears in metaphorical and imaginative expressions that strengthen the artistic and emotional impact of the lyrics. Meanwhile, Group Slang reflects contemporary youth communication and social identity associated with modern digital culture. The discussion also demonstrates that Billie Eilish frequently uses emotionally charged slang, sarcasm, and indirect expressions to portray psychological conflict, emotional instability, heartbreak, and personal struggle. In songs such as *Happier Than Ever* and *idont wanna be you anymore*, slang expressions are closely related to feelings of sadness, insecurity, and emotional exhaustion, whereas songs such as *Bad Guy* and *Therefore I Am* use sarcasm and informal expressions to represent confidence, resistance, and anger. Furthermore, the discussion indicates that slang variation in Billie Eilish's lyrics functions not only as a stylistic element but also as a reflection of emotional authenticity, contemporary youth identity, and modern social experience. Through these linguistic choices, the songs become more relatable and emotionally meaningful for listeners, especially young audiences who are familiar with informal communication and contemporary slang usage in everyday interaction and digital media. General Slang in Billie Eilish's Song Lyrics: Based on the findings, General Slang becomes the most dominant type found in the lyrics. This type commonly appears through contractions and informal conversational expressions.

Example:

"I don't wanna be you anymore."

The word *wanna* is an informal form of "want to." In this lyric, Billie Eilish uses General Slang to express emotional insecurity and self-hatred. The informal expression creates intimacy and makes the emotional confession sound more natural and authentic.

Another example:

"I'm gonna run away."

The word *gonna* represents casual spoken language. The lyric expresses emotional fear and emotional escape from painful situations.

General Slang frequently appears because it reflects everyday communication used among young people. Through this informal language, the singer creates emotional closeness with listeners and strengthens the authenticity of emotional expression.

Group Slang in Billie Eilish's Song Lyrics, Group Slang is used to represent youth identity, attitude, and emotional interaction.

Example:

"You ain't nothing but a lost cause."

The word *ain't* functions as informal youth slang. It intensifies emotional frustration and disappointment toward another person.

Another example:

“Man, am I the greatest.”

The word *man* represents casual youth interaction. Pragmatically, the expression creates a sarcastic and emotionally expressive tone.

Group Slang functions as a sociolinguistic marker that reflects contemporary youth culture and emotional identity.

Creative Slang in Billie Eilish’s Song Lyrics, Creative Slang appears through symbolic and metaphorical expressions.

Example:

“Our love is six feet under.”

The phrase metaphorically represents a dead relationship and emotional loss. The expression intensifies sadness and hopelessness.

Another example:

“You are my strange addiction.”

The phrase *strange addiction* metaphorically represents emotional obsession and unhealthy attachment.

Creative Slang becomes important because it allows emotional meanings to be conveyed indirectly and artistically.

Emotional Expression in Billie Eilish’s Song Lyrics, The findings indicate that emotional expression becomes a dominant aspect in Billie Eilish’s lyrics.

Example:

“Just fucking leave me alone.”

This lyric strongly expresses anger and emotional frustration. The use of slang intensifies emotional aggression and emotional release.

Another example:

“If teardrops could be bottled.”

This lyric metaphorically represents sadness and emotional pain. The emotional meaning is expressed indirectly through imagery and figurative language.

The findings demonstrate that emotional meanings in the lyrics are frequently expressed through slang, metaphor, and contextual interpretation rather than direct emotional vocabulary.

The Relationship Between Slang and Emotional Expression, The findings of this research reveal that slang variation and emotional expression are strongly interconnected in the selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish. Based on the analysis, slang does not merely function as informal or nonstandard language, but also serves as an important linguistic strategy for expressing emotions more naturally, personally, and intensely. Through the use of slang, Billie Eilish is able to represent emotional experiences such as sadness, anger, insecurity, frustration, loneliness, fear, disappointment, and emotional vulnerability in a more authentic and relatable way. Informal expressions found in the lyrics help create emotional intimacy between the singer and the listeners because the language resembles everyday communication commonly used by contemporary youth. As a result, the emotional messages conveyed in the songs become more direct, expressive, and emotionally impactful. In several lyrics, slang expressions are used together with sarcasm, metaphorical language, profanity, shortened forms, and emotionally charged vocabulary to strengthen the emotional atmosphere and emphasize psychological conditions experienced by the speaker in the songs.

Furthermore, the analysis demonstrates that different types of slang contribute differently to emotional meaning construction within the lyrics. General Slang is frequently used to create a casual conversational style and emotional closeness, while Creative Slang strengthens emotional imagery, symbolic meaning, and artistic expression through imaginative and figurative language. Meanwhile, Group Slang reflects contemporary youth culture and social identity associated with modern communication and digital interaction. The findings also indicate that the meanings of slang expressions cannot always be interpreted literally because many expressions depend on context, tone, pragmatic intention, and emotional situation. In songs such as *Happier Than Ever* and *Six Feet Under*, slang expressions are used to intensify sadness, emotional exhaustion, and heartbreak, whereas in *Bad Guy* and *Therefore I Am*, informal and sarcastic expressions are employed to portray confidence, rebellion, emotional resistance, and anger. These findings prove that slang variation contributes

significantly to emotional meaning construction in contemporary song lyrics because it enables emotional experiences to be communicated more vividly, realistically, and symbolically. In addition, the use of slang strengthens the artistic identity of the songs and reflects how modern popular music functions as a medium of emotional communication, self-expression, and social representation in contemporary culture.

4. Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion presented in the previous chapter, several conclusions can be drawn concerning the analysis of slang variation and emotional expression in selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish. This research aimed to identify the types of slang variation used in the lyrics, analyze the emotional expressions represented through the songs, and explain the relationship between slang variation and emotional meaning construction. The analysis was conducted using sociolinguistic, pragmatic, emotional, and discourse theories proposed by Allan and Burridge, Eric Partridge, Paul Ekman, Zoltán Kövecses, and George Yule.

First, the findings reveal that slang variation appears frequently in Billie Eilish's selected song lyrics and functions as an important linguistic strategy in constructing emotional meaning, identity representation, and artistic expression. The researcher identified three types of slang variation, namely General Slang (GS), Group Slang (GrS), and Creative Slang (CS). Among these categories, General Slang becomes the most dominant type with 18 occurrences or 45% of the total data. The dominance of General Slang indicates that Billie Eilish frequently employs conversational and informal language such as *wanna*, *gonna*, and *ain't* to create emotional intimacy, conversational immediacy, and authenticity. These informal expressions reflect contemporary youth communication patterns commonly found in everyday interaction and digital discourse.

Second, the findings demonstrate that emotional expression is strongly represented throughout the selected lyrics. The dominant emotional expressions include sadness, anger, fear, anxiety, frustration, insecurity, emotional vulnerability, confidence, and rebellion. Sadness becomes the most dominant emotional category with 12 occurrences or 30% of the total data, reflecting Billie Eilish's lyrical tendency to portray psychological struggle, loneliness, heartbreak, and emotional exhaustion. The analysis further reveals that emotional meanings are frequently communicated indirectly through slang, metaphorical expressions, sarcasm, profanity, and figurative discourse rather than direct emotional vocabulary.

Third, this research proves that slang variation and emotional expression are closely interconnected. Slang does not merely function as informal or nonstandard language, but also operates as a sociolinguistic and pragmatic strategy for intensifying emotional meaning, constructing identity, and creating interpersonal closeness between the singer and listeners. General Slang contributes to conversational realism and emotional authenticity, Group Slang reflects youth identity and social positioning, while Creative Slang strengthens metaphorical imagery and symbolic emotional meaning. The findings therefore support sociolinguistic theories that view slang as a marker of solidarity, identity, and social belonging, while also reinforcing pragmatic and discourse theories emphasizing contextual meaning and speaker intention in emotional communication.

Theoretically, this research contributes to sociolinguistic and discourse studies by demonstrating that slang in contemporary song lyrics functions beyond lexical informality. The findings expand the understanding of slang as a multidimensional linguistic resource that constructs emotional discourse, negotiates identity, and reflects modern youth culture. This study also contributes to the integration of sociolinguistic, pragmatic, and conceptual metaphor approaches in analyzing emotional communication within popular music discourse.

However, this research still has several limitations. The study focuses only on selected song lyrics by Billie Eilish, resulting in a relatively limited data scope that may not fully represent slang variation in broader contemporary music discourse. In addition, the research applies qualitative interpretation, which may involve subjective analysis despite the use of theoretical triangulation and validation procedures. The study also primarily focuses on textual analysis without examining audience reception, listener interpretation, or sociocultural responses to the lyrics. Therefore, future researchers are recommended to conduct broader comparative studies involving different artists, musical genres, cultural contexts, or digital communication platforms. Future studies may also apply interdisciplinary approaches such as discourse analysis, multimodal analysis, corpus linguistics, or

psychological linguistics to obtain deeper insight into emotional language and identity construction in popular music. In addition, future research may investigate how listeners interpret slang and emotional meaning in song lyrics to explore the relationship between language, emotion, and audience reception more comprehensively. Overall, this research concludes that slang variation contributes significantly to emotional meaning construction in contemporary song lyrics. Slang functions not only as informal language but also as a sociolinguistic, pragmatic, and discourse strategy that strengthens emotional expression, reflects contemporary youth identity, and enhances the artistic and communicative impact of modern popular music.

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