The Use of Slang in Teenagers' Facebook Pages

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the percentage of teenagers using Facebook slang and to find out the types of words displayed on Facebook. To study the vocabulary and sentence patterns of slang used by teenagers on Facebook, researchers used the slang quiz as a tool to find answers to research questions. The researchers then analyzed teen slang to determine the percentage of teenagers using Facebook slang and to find out the types of Facebook slang. The study was found that the test measured a basic understanding of Facebook slang. It can be seen that the sample group had a moderate level of knowledge of Facebook slang; the sample saw the slang on the Facebook page being popular at a high level; the sample group had a moderate level of understanding of Facebook slang; and the sample group used slang in their Facebook communication with friends or acquaintances at a low level.

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Introduction

Language is a culture that is constantly changing and can be lost like any other culture. Many new languages have emerged with the evolution of society and culture, such as academic languages, specialized languages, professions, and another language that has emerged in a specific group of people in society is called slang (Sukanya, 2013). Slang is a non-standard word or statement and is used in informal language to convey a widely used emotion or feeling. Slang expresses the attitude of the group or subculture that uses it. They are words or expressions that are used over a period of time, and the language changes over time (Academy, 2010). The origin of the term slang is unknown; it first appeared in print around 1800, applied to the speech of London's disreputable and criminal classes (Maurer, 1998).

Literature Review

Slang has been prevalent from the past to the present, as it is well known that slang originated in a particular group. The youth trend is very popular. Not only are teenagers using these slang words, but there are also some adults who follow the trend and use them. Most of them are used by people they know or are close to and can also be seen on various social media platforms. Therefore, the objectives of the study were to find the percentage of teenagers using slang on Facebook and to find the types of slang on Facebook.

Language is a culture that is constantly changing, arising and disappearing like any other culture. Today, languages are constantly emerging as the evolution of society and culture has resulted in the emergence of slang. New slang words are constantly coming up in modern times. The evolution of borderless communication has made it easier to communicate or interact among people in society, and it has become infinitely wider as the media today has grown rapidly to conform to the needs of consumers in the era of communication without borders. Consuming information, the public therefore has access to a variety of sources, such as communication through social media and receiving news through print media such as books,

journals, magazines, and newspapers. These are all interpolated with language methods that reflect or indicate the culture of choice of words in the present, including slang that is widely seen in all channels of communication today (Supittra,2017).

Using language is a skill and an art. The user must know sentence entry, order sentences into short messages, and short message sequence. It is part of the text and should be very careful. Therefore, the language can be used well, both for speaking and writing, that is, being able to speak or write for the user or the reader to understand the meaning exactly as they want. In particular, the use of the word is generally not a problem because most people understand the meaning of these words the same way, but what is the problem and the error in using it is that it is a newly created word that is used for a specific group. This altered word is called slang. Most of the time, the use of slang words is found among teenagers to communicate with each other without adhering to the correctness of the standard Thai language. They will focus on communicating the meaning to have the same understanding. This group of teenagers will create new words that are different from the original words but similar to the original words, may change the sound of the word, or use a wrong word to cause. The novelty of the word is modern and colorful in communication (Kaewpraek,1981).

Slang is defined in a multidimensional perspective, but what most scholars mean by the same is that slang is the use of words created as special words (Sawatdikul,1983) understood only by a particular group of people (Sethabutr,1981), especially a group of teenagers (Posakrishna,1998), which can be small or large (Devapalin,1988) and are the property of that group (Laksineenawin,1982).

In addition, scholars define the meaning of slang in the standard dimension of language as well; that is, slang is defined as a word that is used incorrectly according to linguistic principles (Setthabutr, 1981). used in informal situations with a special creation to produce strange words with unusual sound, word form, and meaning (Yaemsuan,1988) Languages that do not appear are in the dictionary (Buddhameta,2003).

Research Objectives

Qualitative and quantitative methods were used in this study to examine the percentage of teenagers using Facebook slang and to determine the types of Facebook slang among undergraduate business English students.

Research Methodology

1.Population and Sample

The subjects of the study were 26 first to fourth-year students at the University of Eastern Asia majoring in Business English. There were 4 from the first year, 6 from the second year, 10 from the third year, and 6 from the fourth year. By selecting based on the field of study and communication via Facebook, the sample characteristics selected corresponded to the research objectives. This sample was chosen because it was the sample that had the greatest chance of communicating in English and the convenience of collecting data.

2. Research Instrument

The Facebook slang test was used as a tool in this research, analyzing the basic understanding of Facebook slang through open-ended questions and specific terminology. The researchers found that the slang word that the sample group knew and understood the most was "suck" with an average of 85%, and the slang word that the sample least knew and understood was "sus" with an average of 50%. It was concluded that the entire sample group understood 46% of slang.

3. Data Collection

The researcher collected data from quizzes as a Google form in February 2022 from the first to the fourth year of the University of Eastern Asia liberal arts majoring in Business English. The results of the Google form are calculated as a percentage to indicate how much slang and knowledge all students understand. It also searches Facebook slang types to find out what types of slang are found on Facebook.

4. Data Analysis

After examining the basic understanding of slang on Facebook in the test, the researcher classified the basic understanding of slang on Facebook into a table that analyzes data with Microsoft Excel. For the data analysis, the frequency of basic understanding of slang for each question was counted to obtain a basic understanding of all slang in each question, and the percentage of slang for each question was reported.

Results

This article examined only the basic understanding of Facebook slang by Thai undergraduate business English majors. A five-item open-ended test was performed with the following results:

1. Do you know the slang words on Facebook? The answer to this question is that, on average, undergraduate students know slang at mid-level.

2. Have you ever noticed slang on popular websites (for example, food reviews or knowledge pages)? On average, undergraduate students have seen high-level slang from popular pages.

3. Do you have knowledge of slang words on Facebook? On average, undergraduate students have a low level of knowledge of slang.

4. Do you understand slang words on Facebook? On average, undergraduate students have a mid-level understanding of slang.

5. Do you use slang words to communicate on Facebook with friends or acquaintances? On average, undergraduates use slang in their Facebook communication with friends or acquaintances at a low level.

Another slang test is a test of specific vocabulary with the following results: The researchers found that the slang words that the sample group knew and understood the most was "suck" with an average of 85%, and the slang word the sample least knew and understood was "sus" with an average of 50%. In conclusion, 46% of undergraduates understand slang.

The role of the slang type is used in the same way as conventional vocabulary. However, slang is truncated or reinvented to communicate with a particular group. The types of slang are similar to common terms. The

researchers gave six examples of slang types: noun, verb, adjective, phrasal verbs, transitive verbs, and interjection.

From an open-ended test, the basic understanding of Facebook slang among undergraduate business English students is shown in the table.

Table 1

The Facebook Slang Fundamentals Comprehension of Students Taking an Undergraduate Business English Course

Questions	Level	Percentage
1. Are you familiar with the slang terms on Facebook?	mid-level	46%
2. Have you ever seen slang on popular pages (e.g., food review pages or knowledge pages)?	high-level	35%
3. Do you have knowledge of slang words on Facebook?	low level	38%
4. Do you understand slang words on Facebook?	mid-level	42%
5. Do you use slang words to communicate on Facebook with friends or acquaintances?	low level	38%

It was found that 46 percent of teenagers understood the meaning of slang words at an intermediate level, and it was evident that there were still many teenagers who did not understand the meaning of slang. On the other hand, a group of teenagers also saw a lot of slang on Facebook. Although seeing more slang on Facebook doesn't mean understanding the slang or its meaning, which results in less effect on the use of slang in communication.

Discussion

As mentioned previously, Salter (2017), in this era, slang is still popular with young people both on social media and in meet ups. As more and

more people communicate online, slang is more popular than polite as it is easier to communicate and makes them look more modern. At the same time, it is being seriously studied by linguists and other social scientists as a revealing index of the culture that produces and uses it.

As stated earlier, the purpose of the study was to determine the percentage of teenagers using Facebook slang and the type of slang on Facebook. Results of adolescents' use of Facebook slang, as evidenced by the Facebook Slang Fundamentals Test: undergraduate students know slang at an intermediate level; undergraduate students have seen high-level slang from popular pages; undergraduate students have a low level of knowledge of slang; undergraduate students have a mid-level understanding of slang; and undergraduates use slang in their Facebook communication with a friend or acquaintance at a low level.

In addition to the Facebook resources that researchers can find, today, teenagers are various using social media and slang communication has spread through applications such as Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and Snapchat. Therefore, the sample that the researchers studied was only a fraction of the adolescents who used slang on Facebook. There are also many young people who may be familiar with or use slang in everyday life, and the percentage of slang usage may also be higher.

Recommendations

It is recommended to study using interview methods to facilitate data collection because being on-site to interview researchers allows you to meet more people, including foreigners or people with whom you have previously communicated in English. In addition to getting the information you need; you'll also know why or how to use slang. Including the quiz, there should be a variety of questions to know how to use slang on Facebook. In the future, we should study with a target audience that is not an English major in order to find out how much slang is used by these people who are not familiar with English.

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