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Analysis of Gay Language and Slang in Bali

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Abstract: *In community, people may use different language variation accordance with their age, gender, education, profession, ethnic origin, etc. (Holmes, 2013). The purpose of this study was to examine the linguistic features, derivation, and function of languages used by homosexual and bisexual men in Bali, Indonesia. In identifying the linguistic features of gay language, the researcher analyzed the data taken from the respondents from their simulation and list of gay words. The important role of creativity and language skills can be developed and enhanced through frequent use of language. The impact on gay language use is to create identities for gay communities, develop self-expression, provide exclusive spaces through obfuscation, and find their own comfort zones. language. The study also found that gay language serves many functions for their communities. These features included being a secret language, a community identity, a language that conveys similarities and a sense of belonging to community members. Homosexual language also served to show humor, helping people speak in a more friendly and fun way.*

INTRODUCTION

Everyday interactions in communities may use different variations of language based on ethnicity, gender, occupation, age, and even purpose. You can also create new language variations that serve as identification and/or affiliation for groups or communities. Changes or variations can occur in grammatical rules, vocabulary (such as forming new words or substituting words), semantics, suffixes, how words are pronounced, etc. New words have a special meaning according to the current regulations of our group or community.

Bali is considered as a friendly place; accepting people from different backgrounds– including those with different sexual orientation such as the lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender (LGBT). There are many tourists, including the LGTB group that spend their holiday in Bali and some of them even decided to stay and establish business in Bali. Not only do they mix very well with other LGBT people in Bali, they also mix well with straight people. Not all of them could openly live as gay/bisexual men for personal or other reasons, but they were able to live comfortably, healthily and safely in any area around Bali. Based on these facts and reasons, a survey of gay languages used in Bali is interesting and worthwhile.

Gay languages refer to registers because they belong to language variants used in certain

language communities. The language uses words and expressions with added and modified meanings to create and maintain identity. Homosexual language is characterized by lexical differences and can be said to involve linguistic variations related to usage, users, and context or context considerations of use. The purpose of this study was to examine the linguistic features and variations of gay language spoken by gay and bisexual men in Bali. This study also aimed to examine the function of gay language used by gay and bisexual men in Bali.

Slang is language that is marked as the informal style of language. Slang is popular among the teenagers. According to Denham (2013:192), Slang words or phrases are typically very informal, and they are usually restricted to a particular group- typically teens and adults as a marker of in group status. For teens, slang is a sign of group identity and they also use slang to distinguish their group from others. Teens also prefer to use slang rather than formal language, as slang is meant to show solidarity with group members. Slang identifies people of the same age and experience and it is often described as a vocabulary within a group that promotes group solidarity. Another motivation is to simplify words so that they can be easily communicated.

Slang, then, includes not just words but words used in a special way in a certain social context. Slang emanates from conflicts in values, sometimes superficial, often fundamental. Slang is sometimes superficial and often presupposes conflicts of fundamental values. Slang can be created when a person uses language in new ways to express hostility, ridicule, or contempt, but the new expression will die out if not picked up by others. If a member of a group who finds that his creation projects that member's emotional response onto an idea, person, or social institution, the expression is of importance according to the unanimity of attitudes within the group. New slang words are usually used commonly in subcultures before appearing in the dominant culture.

Slang also has some characteristics and the characteristics of slang are important to be discussed. There are four characteristics of slang according to Edward (2004) which are creative, flippant, fresh and onomatopoeic. After talking about the characteristics of slang, as we know people who use slang in their everyday communication also have reasons for using it. The society uses slang not because they have no reasons but they have some reasons behind using slang. Slang is used by society depends on the individual or some particular group and also depends on the situation and their social context. It can happen because the individual or some particular group have different reasons why they choose to use slang in their communication.

From the definition above, we can conclude that slang can be used by some community. There is some community who has their own slang and only can be understood by the member of the community itself. Many terms originally derived from gay slang have become part of popular lexicons. For example, the word "drag" was popularized in Hubert Selby Jr.'s book Last Exit to Brooklyn. Conversation between gay men has been found to contain more slang and fewer commonly known terms for sexual behavior than conversation between heterosexual men. The reason why the writer chooses this topic because the writer is interested in analyzing the slang words used by gay community in Bali. The language is quite unique which can be understood by their own community or by teenagers or people who generally close to them.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Sociolinguistics studies language in relation to society, examining the relationship between language and social factors, including gender, social class, age, and ethnicity. This means that it is concerned with language as used for communication amongst different social groups of people in different social situations (Georgieva, 2014). Social context recognizes that people use language based on social situations. Examining the way people use language in different social contexts

provides insight into how language functions, social relationships within communities, and how people communicate aspects of their social identity through language and structure. provides a wealth of information on.

There are many close connections between gender and language. In other words, men use words differently than women use words. It is due to the structure of the language, the norms of society, or the people in the society who use the language. Moreover, gender (male-female) is socially constructed. Because of the social institution or taboo, variations/differences are found between men and women.

Regarding gender, extensive research on language, culture, and identity has sought to uncover 'the logic of the encoding of sex differences in languages,' to analyze 'oppressive implications of ordinary speech,' to explain miscommunication between men and women, to explore how 'gender is constructed and interacts with other identities,' and to investigate 'the role of language in helping establish gender identity [as] part of a broader range of processes through which membership in particular groups is activated, imposed, and sometimes contested through the use of linguistic forms... that activate stances' (Duranti 2009).

Hudson mentioned that (1981, p. 25) “the defining characteristic of each variety is the relevant relation to society – in other words, by whom, and when, the items concerned are used”. The term of linguistic variation refers to regional, social, or contextual differences in the ways that particular language is used (Nordquist, 2017). Language speakers make decisions about pronunciation, morphology, word choice, and grammar. For example, language differences between men and women, social class differences, and age group differences. Studies of language and sexuality include not only questions about how people stage their sexuality and express their sexual identity in discourse, but also how sexuality and sexual identity are linguistically represented in different genres of discourse. It also includes questions about how it is expressed.

According to Harvey (2000) questions about ‘how gay men speak ’belong to what we would prefer to call the study of ‘language and sexual identity’. In sociolinguistics, it has long been observed that the use of language, whatever it accomplishes, is an "act of identity", a means by which people tell each other who they are. It's been done. Of course, the use of language can serve this function in relation to gender identity as well as other types of identity (e.g. gender, class, ethnicity, regional provenance).

Gay languages refer to registers because they belong to language variants used in certain language communities. This language uses words and expressions with additions and alterations in meaning aiming at creating and retaining its identity (Dang, 2013). Gay language is characterized by lexical differences and can be said to involve linguistic variations related to usage, users, and context or context considerations of use.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this qualitative study, a phenomenological approach to collect the necessary data was used. Survey samples were obtained using a targeted sampling technique. The population in this study consisted of homosexual and bisexual male teenagers living in Bali, Indonesia. Respondents to this study were those who consented and gave their informed consent to participate in this study. A total of 4 people participated in this study. Two instruments were used in this study. The first instrument was the note-taking of natural conversations of the gay and bisexual men in Bali. The second instrument was a list of open-ended interview questions for the gay and bisexual men in Bali. The data were collected through observation and tape- recording the gay and bisexual men in Bali in their natural settings. In addition, interviews were also conducted through focus group

discussion with respondents in order to further investigate the linguistics features and gain more information to answer the research questions. Interviews were conducted in Indonesian to ensure their understanding of questions and allowed them to speak more freely and accurately. After that, the data were classified based on Miles and Huberman theory. Miles and Huberman (1984 in Sugiyono, 2009) stated there were three activities on data analysis: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing.

First, data reduction referred to the process of selecting, focusing, simplifying, and transforming the data that appear in the transcription. The big amount of data needed to be classified based on the theory. In this research, the utterances spoken by the respondents were categorized based on the word-formation theory.

Second, data display means that the data can be displayed in an organized, compressed assembly of information that permits conclusion drawing and action, which consist of various types of matrices, graphics, networks, and charts. In this research, the classified data was displayed in the form of table.

Lastly, drawing conclusions requires one to step back and consider what the analyzed data means and evaluate its meaning. In order to draw conclusions, the reliability and validity of the data were checked.

The data were then analyzed descriptively based on sociolinguistics and language variations theories (Hudson, 1981; Holmes, 2013; Nordquist, 2017)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Function and Purpose of Gay Language

Identifying the purpose is very essential in the study of gay language. We discovered the clinging questions of “why are gays using it?” and also surfaced the deeper reasons of using gay language or terms in conversations. This emphasized the idea that it served as a secret language and was a way for the gay community to communicate publicly without revealing their sexual orientation to others. It has contributed greatly to the development of language. The more they use the specialized language the more influential it becomes which made it become more developed. In the same sense.

The second reason is sex talk. According to Roque (2007) sex is always in the menu when gays converse in groups. Talking about sexual topics is very common in gay conversations. They felt the freedom to gossip was the third reason. Because most people around them don't understand what they are saying. There is a sense of exclusivity when talking about sexual experiences that are viewed as moral issues in most places. According to Rubin (2005), it is a commonplace of contemporary discourse about sex that talking about it is intrinsically a good and liberating thing. She said that until recently, the issue was shrouded in shame and ignorance, and was widely believed to have barely been raised in debate, and we are still breaking that silence. celebrates openness to sexual talk, contrasting our modern, enlightened attitudes with the modesty of earlier times when such talk was taboo.

The next reason identified is gender identity. Expressing identity is a unique hoot for all gays. This touches not only on ideas about self-identity, but also on specific issues regarding gender identity. Homosexuals wanted to be identified by their sexual orientation. It's like identifying yourself. This is not only an appeal to society to worship them, but also a sign of self-respect. Gay language becomes their sexual identity in the form of technical language. This supported by Valentine (2003) when he mentioned in his article that studies of language and sexuality include not only questions about how people stage their sexuality and express their sexual identity in

discourse, but also how sexuality and sexual identity are linguistically represented in different genres of discourse. It also includes questions about how.

The final reason is comfort. Homosexuals use gay language to hide ideas from heterosexuals. The gay language becomes a code of communication dedicated to gays. They can speak absolutely anything, because only they can decipher it when they speak.

Implication of the Use of Gay Language and Slang by the Gay Community

The data below summarizes respondents' responses to the question, "Why do you use gay terms?" and "What is the purpose of using the language?" Key codes were identified from gay male responses.

Respondent 1 :

"I use gay language to express my social and personal relationships, express my experiences, and show my identity. It's about making them easily recognizable to each other. I love using colorful words to hide the true meaning and make people laugh out loud."

Code : To represent an experience, to show my identity and to make it easy for people of that orientation to recognize each other.

Respondent 2 :

"I have same-gender preferences, so I use gay language as a language to easily understand and communicate with my gay peers. For fun and to direct others and can also be used as a metaphor"

Code : Use it for fun and as metaphor in addressing it.

Respondent 3 :

"This special language has no restrictions or rules regarding its use and can be used freely. And most importantly, it allows us to showcase the rich creativity of our community in ways that truly reveal our true identities."

Code : Showcase the richness in creativity of our community, in such way that we can truly uncover our genuine identity.

Respondent 4 :

"Knowing that others are narrow-minded and sensitive, it is a way of expressing ourselves freely, as speaking openly or frankly can be offensive. We used gay language to avoid."

Code : Way to freely express themselves.

In each informant's response, adolescents expressed strong values regarding respect for the identities of people within and outside their communities. The gay community believes it is important not to assume an individual's identity or gender based on their physical appearance or gender expression.

Slang Findings

The writer carried out the analysis by listing all the slang word and terms that commonly used by the Gay community by observed their conversations and open-ended interview.

N	Slang Word / Terms	Meaning
11	Bottom	a man who takes the passive role in gay or homosexual sex

N	Slang Word / Terms	Meaning
22	Hustler	a person, usually male, who has sex for money
33	Queen	an effeminate gay man
44	Top	a man who takes the active role in gay or homosexual sex
55	Twink	a young man with boyish good looks
66	Gaydar	the supposed ability to detect someone's sexual orientation (from *gay* + radar)
77	Gaysian	an Asian gay men
88	Vers	a person who enjoys both topping and bottoming, or being dominant and submissive, and may alternate between the two in sexual situations, adapting to their partner
99	Chicken	a youthful gay man
110	Cupcake	young attractive man, usually a jock type, with a good body
111	Flower	a typically effeminate gay man
112	Lady Boy	transgender woman, but may refer to feminine gay men
113	Tranny	slur used for transgender people
114	Otter	a man who is slender and hairy
115	Coming out	When a person first tells someone/others about their orientation and/or gender identity

The writer found 15 slang words and terms which used by the respondents that participate in this study in their daily communication between the community. After listing the slang word used by the gay community in Bali that have been interviewed, the writer classified the characteristics of the slang words and terms. After listing all the characteristics of slang word, the writer discussed the characteristics of a slang word.

The word-formation process found in the gay language spoken by homosexual and bisexual in Bali is clipping. As you can see from the table, many of the words and terms used are the words that are formed by complex or compound clipping. Complex clipping, as the name implies, is more involved. It is the shortening of a compound word by preserving and combining its initial parts (or first syllables). The example of the word is ‘Gaydar’ which formed from the word ‘gay’ and ‘radar’. The other example is ‘Gaysian’ which formed from the word ‘gay’ and ‘asian’. Other word-formation in the gay language is mixed clipping which is clipping word with affixation to form another variety. For example is the word ‘Tranny’ is formed from the word ‘Transgender’ and added an affix ‘ny’. Gays usually do this process due to gay words exposed to straight people.

There are also some of the words derived from existing straight words. These words have different meanings when they are used in gay language. Like the word 'flower' when it used in the language it has a different meaning from the original meaning that we all know. The other examples from the table are bottom, hustler, queen, top, chicken, cupcake, and otter.

Lastly, there are the creative characteristics of slang word used by the gay community. According to Edward (2004), "creative slang is created from a new term, so it needs the creativity of the creator." This kind of words and terms created by mutual comprehension. These were derived from existing words that combined or common expressions with friends which were added in gay language conversations. For example the word 'twink' were created creatively by mutual understanding. The other examples are vers and coming out. There is also term that formed from combining two words resulting a new meaning for example; 'lady boy'. Blending is the word formation process in which parts of two or more words combine to formulate a new word whose meaning is often a combination of the original words (Kosur, 2014).

The creators of this slang in the gay language have an innovative way to make a unique slang. This slang is produced by the creator by using a new term which some of the slang words actually have an actual meaning.

CONCLUSION

This study provided insight into the features and functions of the gay language used by homosexual and bisexual men in Bali, Indonesia. Homosexual language is unique and constantly updated, and the term is crafted in very creative ways. Gay language allows speakers to verbally outsmart each other while entertaining listeners. In Bali's gay community, the gay language has emerged as an identity and an expression of belonging and solidarity. It also serves as a hiding place, a social networking device, and can be used to show humor and have fun.

The implication on homosexual language use gives homosexuals an identity, develops self-expression, provides an exclusive space through obfuscation, and finds a comfort zone in their language. They used slang word to communicate with the member of the community and also to people who generally close to them or understand the meaning of the slang word.

The gay language has always been an expression of a gay man's feelings of bliss, erotic feelings, and even his bitter defeat. It is the special language that has truly defined gay culture. A culture full of color and life. In sociolinguistics, we can say that language is culture, and gay language is definitely gay culture. It is unique and unmistakable.

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