

# The Slang Words from the Turning Red Movie Script

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Abstract : This study examines the types and functions of slang words in the movie script of "Turning Red," a comedic and fantastical animated film released in 2022. Slang, as an informal and dynamic form of language, plays a significant role in contemporary socialization and communication among young people. The research draws on sociolinguistic perspectives to explore the different categories and functions of slang words in the movie script. The analysis was conducted based on the theories proposed by Allan & Burridge (2006). The findings of the analysis reveal various types of slang words used in the movie script, including fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping types. The collected data is analyzed by using the descriptive qualitative method since it did not involve any numerical data. This study contributes to the understanding of slang as a sociolinguistic phenomenon and its significance in contemporary media, specifically in movie scripts. By examining the types and functions of slang words in "Turning Red," the research provides insights into the linguistic choices made by the filmmakers to reflect the experiences and language use of young people. The findings enhance our understanding of how slang contributes to the portrayal of social and cultural aspects in movies, highlighting its impact on society and language evolution. The study also examines the sociolinguistic functions of slang in the movie, shedding light on its role in expressing identity, fostering social connections, and reflecting contemporary youth culture.

Keywords : *Slang words, Turning Red Movie, Types of Slang, Movie Script*

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## 1. Introduction

Language acts as a medium of human socialization and interpersonal communication, thereby playing a crucial role in the formation and expression of one's identity as a social being. Language is dynamic and continually adjusts over time, driven by humanity's innate drive for development and always trying to find something new to express themselves in creative oneself. An example of this can be seen in the usage of slang words.

Slang is a type of language that is informal and often used among friends or within a specific social group. It's a form of expression that has been around for decades, and new slang terms continue to emerge with each passing year. Slang may appear as the attribution of new connotations to existing vocabulary or the employment of word abbreviations. According to Mulyana (2008), Slang is a set of words or terms that have its own characteristics because slang is special, unique, divergent, or contradictory meanings when used by people of a particular subculture.

No prohibitions and rigid rules are dictating the use of slang. Slang can be spoken by individuals from all age groups, including adults, teenagers, and children who can use slang as part of their daily conversation. However, the presence of use of this slang is predominantly spoken by young people or teenagers during their casual communication with their fellows' group. There are many factors because of the increase in slang usage such as a large number of influencers such as YouTubers and celebrities who influence the prevalence of using slang as a linguistic style of content, advertisements, song lyrics, poems, and movies. Those can be defined as media which is part of the development of science and technology and can be introduced as a culture that grows rapidly.

Further, according to Hartman and Stock (1972), slang is a type of speech used by young people or members of certain social groups to communicate. It is distinguished by newly created and frequently changing vocabulary. As a result, slang is now widely used in daily life. In some situations, practically everyone uses slang, although it might be difficult to identify. One of those things that everyone can recognize but no one can define is slang. Violence, crime, drugs, and sex are just a few of the topics that slang is particularly rich in. Slang has permeated several social groups and entertainment mediums, such as in movie scripts. The use of slang has become widespread in movie scripts. The reason this study is concentrated on slang words from movies is that people frequently pick up slang through entertainment media, particularly movie scripts, and they may easily replicate the gesture of the slang expression they witness or read in these movie scripts. Meanwhile, the purpose of slang in movies is to highlight the social and cultural aspects of people.

"Turning Red" is a comedic and fantastical animated film released in 2022, which effectively incorporates slang into its storyline, reflecting the contemporary experiences of today's youth. Produced by Pixar Animation Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios, the movie is directed by Domee Shi, with a screenplay co-written by Shi and Julia Cho. Lindsey Collins serves as the producer. The story revolves around Mei Lee, a 13-year-old Chinese-Canadian residing with her Chinese parents in Toronto, Canada. Mei Lee exudes self-assurance alongside dorky characteristics.

In the movie "Turning Red," there are several slang words and expressions used by the characters that are commonly used among teenagers and young adults. This journal aims to explore the types of slang words that are used in the Turning Red Movie's Script.

Pradana and Maryadi (2020) in their thesis categorize English slang words and examine the justifications for characters in the *Deadpool II* script employing slang words. Based on the findings, this study's conclusions provide 30 pieces of information about the different sorts of slang phrases and 13 functions for using them. The different slang term categories include 8 clippings, 8 imitatives, 5 new and creatives, 8 flippant, and 1 acronym.

In addition, Syahputra et al. (2021) in their international publication targeted at classifying the many slang expressions and explaining how slang words are created, as seen in Rob Cohen's screenplay for the movie script *The Fast and the Furious*. According to the findings of the data analysis performed on the slang words used in the movie script *The Fast and The Furious*, there are several different types of slang, including primary and secondary slang. There are a total of 5 slang words in *The Fast and the Furious*, 3 of which are primary and the other 3 are secondary. The primary slang predominated because individuals frequently use this kind of slang to make speech simpler in day-to-day interactions. From the study, it is known that the strengths include the use of different objects, which is *The Fast and the Furious*. However, the weakness is similar to the previous one, in which the study only included two categories of slang, which are primary and secondary slang. Therefore, the results were not varied and there were not enough data.

According to Chambers (2007), sociolinguistics is the study of the sociological variation between language and society. He focused on the connection between language and society. This is further clarified by a recent study by Nasution et al. (2019), the study between language and society is part of sociolinguistics which is a substation of linguistics and background that affects the use of children's language in society. Further, sociolinguistics is considered the study of how language use and social structure interact. It considers elements like the social backgrounds of the speaker and the addressee. According to Holmes (2013), the field of linguistics known as sociolinguistics investigates the link between language and society and how people use language in social contexts. They want to know why people speak differently in various social contexts and what the social functions of language are and how they are employed to social meaning.

According to Wardhaugh (2006), to gain a better knowledge of language structure and how languages work in communication, sociolinguistics is the study of the interaction between language and society. The goal of the sociology of language is to better understand social organization through the study of language, which is its equal goal. He goes on to say that slang terms or words are particular words or expressions that have a cultural and social meaning that is distinct from their literal meaning. For instance, when someone says to "keep their cool," they are not referring to the weather or temperature. Slang ultimately enables communication with those around. It can stir up feelings, make someone stand out in a crowd, or even give one a sense of community. Slang can be used to indicate membership in a group or comprehension of what others are saying.

## **2. Method**

The focus of this study is the sociolinguistic phenomenon in the *Turning Red* movie's script. The analysis will be limited to slang words, especially to identify the using and the types of slang words and the functions of the slang words used in *Turning Red* movie's script.

The study will utilize the script of the movie "*Turning Red*" as the primary data source. The script will be obtained from a reliable website, specifically from Disney Transcript Website to ensure the accuracy of the dialogue. To validate the data's precision, the movie

script will be cross-referenced by watching the actual film and comparing it with the movie subtitles. Subsequently, the obtained data will be analyzed to provide a comprehensive description of the meaning and interpretation conveyed through the dialogue.

The technique of collecting data will be taken by watching Turning Red movie and matching the movie subtitle with the movie script. Then, recording the important scene that gave rise to the use of slang words. Last, take note of slang words from the movie script that matched the movie subtitle. The researcher also analyzed data with some procedures such as identifying data from the dialogue and script. After that, classified the data and conclude the result.

The collected data will be analyzed by a qualitative method using Saliyeva's (2018) theoretical basis as a guide to focus the research. The process for analyzing data is through two steps. First, identifying and classifying the definition of slang words by using theory from Yule (2006), then analyzing and highlighting the types and functions of slang words by using theory from Allan & Burridge (2006).

The technique of presenting data will be prepared in text form and this study will classify the types and the functions of slang by highlighting specific slang words. After all the data is complete, the data will be represented all the aspects of this study. After this study is done, findings concerning the slang words from the Turning Red Movie script and describing analysis in accordance with the data.

### **3. Discussion**

After watching the movie and conducting research, this part is classified into the types of slang words in the Turning Red movie script. The study applies Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory to address the first and second research questions. This part contains the answer to the first research question which asked about the types of slang words found in Turning Red movie script. In finding the answer, the researcher uses Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory consists of a fresh and creative type, flippant type, imitative type, acronym type, and clipping type.

#### **3.1. Fresh and Creative Type**

Fresh and creative type refers to slang language use of new terminology, informal variety, cunning, ingenuity, and sometimes even contemporary phrases. The following data were analyzed:

##### *Guys*

The word "guys" is classified into fresh and creative types. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), fresh and creative refers to slang language use of new terminology, informal variety, cunning, ingenuity, and sometimes even contemporary phrases. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word "guys" means the informal way to use, a collection of individuals of any sex. It is a form of address that is inclusive of both men and women and is gender-neutral. From the movie script, you can see how the teacher says "guys" which refers to gender-neutral people who are on the same topic of conversation. In this context, it is known that the teacher is talking to the students, shown by how the reference "students groan" is found in the script. Therefore, it can be concluded that the teacher uses a fresh and creative type of slang word by using the word "guys" in meaning new terminology and informal variety.

### *Easy-Peasy*

The word "easy-peasy" is classified into fresh and creative types. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), fresh and creative refers to slang language use of new terminology, informal variety, cunning, ingenuity, and sometimes even contemporary phrases. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word "easy-peasy" means (coming from British English; casual; frequently used by kids) simple. In this context, it can be seen that the speaker uses the word "easy-peasy" to explain something very easy.

### *Nuts*

The word "nuts" is classified into fresh and creative types. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), fresh and creative refers to slang language use of new terminology, informal variety, cunning, ingenuity, and sometimes even contemporary phrases. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word "nuts" means someone offensive and emotionally unstable.

## **3.1. Flippant Type**

Flippant refers to slang language composed of two or more words whose denotative meanings are unrelated. The following data were analyzed:

### *Shut Up*

The phrase "shut up" which is classified into flippant type. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), flippant refers to slang language composed of two or more words whose denotative meanings are unrelated. According to Oxford Dictionary, the phrase "shut up" means an expression that is used informally to say to someone to stop chatting (frequently used as an order as a crude way to request someone to do so).

### *No Biggie*

The phrase "No Biggie" is classified into flippant type. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), flippant refers to slang language composed of two or more words whose denotative meanings are unrelated. According to Oxford Dictionary, the phrase "no biggie" means an expression that is used informally to say no big deal (frequently used to downplay or minimize the significance or importance of something).

## **3.2. Imitative Type**

Imitative refers to slang language that mimics a word in Standard English (SE) are said to be "imitative," as are combinations that combine two separate words with words from SE. The following data were analyzed:

### *Wanna*

The word "wanna" is classified as imitative. According to Allan and Burrige (2006), imitative refers to slang language that mimics a word in Standard English (SE) are said to be "imitative," as combinations that combine two separate words with words from SE. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word "wanna" refers to a colloquial method of writing or expressing "want to" or "want a." Thus, it can be seen how the word "wanna" relates to the colloquial method of expressing the word in Standard English (SE).

### *Chop-chop*

The word "chop-chop" is classified into imitative. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), imitative refers to slang language that mimics a word in Standard English (SE) are said to be "imitative," as combinations that combine two separate words with words from SE. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word "chop-chop" is a slang term for "hurry" and implies that something needs to be done right now

### **3.3. Acronym Type**

An acronym is a sort of slang that is created by using the initials of a set of words or syllables or by combining the first letters of each word in a sentence. The following data were analyzed:

#### *O-M-G*

The word "O-M-G" is classified into acronym types. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), an acronym is a sort of slang that is created by using the initials of a set of words or syllables or by combining the first letters of each word in a sentence. According to Oxford Dictionary, the acronym O-M-G means "Oh my God!" and is a common way to express surprise, enthusiasm, and humiliation.

#### *TTYL*

The word "TTYL" is classified into acronym types. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), an acronym is a sort of slang that is created by using the initials of a set of words or syllables or by combining the first letters of each word in a sentence. According to Oxford Dictionary, the acronym TTYL means "Talk to You Later" is a well-established acronym within informal digital communication and has been widely adopted for its convenience and brevity in expressing the intention to continue a conversation later.

### **3.4. Clipping Type**

One type of slang known as "clipping type" is created by cutting out certain words from longer ones to create a shorter version with the same meaning. The following data were analyzed:

#### *Dad*

The word "dad" is classified into acronym types. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), one type of slang known as "clipping type" is created by cutting out certain words from longer ones to create a shorter version with the same meaning. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word "dad" refers to involving, referring to, or referring to a parent or father figure as a more personal pronoun.

#### *Grandma*

The word "grandma" is classified into acronym types. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), one type of slang known as "clipping type" is created by cutting out certain words from longer ones to create a shorter version with the same meaning. According to Oxford Dictionary, the word "grandma" means mother of either one's mother or father.



#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the use of slang words and expressions is common among teenagers and young adults, and "Turning Red" is not an exception. Slang is a way to create their own identity. According to Tairova (2021), slang is a type of language that is used by a particular group of people and it is characterized by its creativity and flexibility. Slang is often used to express solidarity within a group or to exclude others who are not part of the group.

The movie's script provides an excellent dialogue representation of the language that young people use today. They use slang as a way to communicate with a subset of people, there is an intimacy that can develop. By understanding the language, we can connect better with the younger generation, create a sense of belongingness, and communicate more effectively. The study conducted by Lutviana and Mafulah (2021) investigated the use of slang words in the online learning context of EFL classes, the students had a positive attitude towards the use of slang words and the use of slang words in online classes can be an effective strategy to make learning more engaging and enjoyable for students.

The analysis of the slang words used in the script of the movie "Turning Red" reveals the presence of various types of slang, namely fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. These slangs add depth and authenticity to the dialogue, reflecting the evolving nature of language and its ability to capture contemporary cultural expressions.

The first type of slang identified in the script is fresh and creative language. This category encompasses inventive phrases and wordplay that provide a unique and vibrant flavor to the dialogue. Such slang words demonstrate the writers' creativity and their attempt to establish a distinctive voice for the characters in the movie.

The second type, flippant slang, is characterized by its casual and irreverent nature. These terms often serve to express humor, sarcasm, or a laid-back attitude. Flippant slangs contribute to the comedic aspects of the script and enhance the overall entertainment value of the movie.

Imitative slangs, the third type, involve the adoption of sounds, words, or phrases from specific subcultures or groups. They are used to convey a sense of belonging or to create a particular atmosphere within the story. By incorporating imitative slang, the scriptwriters enable the audience to connect with the characters and the world they inhabit.

Acronyms, the fourth type of slang, are abbreviations formed from the initial letters of words. In the movie script, acronyms serve as efficient communication tools among the characters. They condense complex ideas or expressions into concise and easily recognizable forms, facilitating a rapid exchange of information and contributing to the pace of the storytelling.

The final type of slang identified is clipping. Clipped words are formed by shortening longer terms, often used in informal contexts. They add a sense of informality and spontaneity to the script, reflecting the way people speak in everyday conversations. Clipping slangs allow the characters to connect with the audience on a relatable level, making their dialogues feel natural and authentic.

Overall, the use of slang words in the movie "Turning Red" adds depth and authenticity to the characters and their relationships, making the movie more relatable and engaging for the audience. The slang words used in the "Turning Red" movie script demonstrate the careful

attention paid to linguistic nuances and the desire to create a realistic and immersive narrative. The inclusion of fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronyms and clipping slang enhances the characters' personalities, fosters audience engagement, and contributes to the overall enjoyment of the film.

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## Electronic Source:

Disney Transcript: <https://transcripts.foreverdreaming.org/viewtopic.php?f=949&t=66890>