SLANG IN TIKTOK COMMENTS ON JULIANA MARINS' POSTS

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to investigate the characteristics and functions of slang words used in the comment sections of international TikTok posts by Juliana Marins. The method applied is qualitative descriptive, based on Moleong (2017). Data were collected by reading the comments of international netizens on TikTok, gathering relevant slang expressions, analyzing and classifying them into various morphological categories, as well as examining their functions and drawing conclusions. The data were taken from several TikTok comments, using Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory to analyze the types of slang, and Mattiello's (2008) theory to examine their functions. The findings reveal that the morphological processes of the slang words include Clipping (28%), Blending (17%), Acronyms (23%), Reduplication (5%), Borrowing (7%), Semantic Shift (11%), and Compounding (7%). In terms of creativity, only 45% of the slang—particularly Clipping and Blending—were considered creative. However, regarding function, only 30% of the slang words were used to express identity, as only 3 out of 10 words analyzed served that purpose.

Keywords: *Slang; Words; Tiktok; Comments; Function*

INTRODUCTION

Morphology, as a branch of linguistics, focuses on the study of word structures and forms. According to Aronoff (1976), morphology explains how slang words, despite being informal, can still follow specific morphological patterns. He also emphasized that morphology is not merely about derivation, but rather operates within its own system and set of rules. Moreover, morphology develops the concept that word structures have an internal logic even within everyday language and slang.

Language is a dynamic, symbolic system that enables human beings to communicate across various contexts. As Sapir (1921) emphasized, language is not only a tool for expression but also a reflection of cultural and psychological patterns. In modern digital spaces such as TikTok, language particularly in the form of slang evolves rapidly and creatively. International users employ slang in TikTok comments not just to communicate, but to express identity, humor, social belonging, and emotion. These forms of expression often result in unique word-formation patterns, which can be studied through morphological analysis.

According to Dumas and Lighter (1978), slang is a highly informal variety of language that often emerges within specific social groups. It functions as a marker of group identity and expresses emotion or attitude. The slang words found in TikTok comments such as "slay," "yeet," or "no cap" reflect these characteristics and demonstrate how online communities develop and use language creatively in informal contexts.

Slang is a branch of linguistics that provides space for deviation from standard language while also expressing creativity and group identity (Burridge, 2004). This can be observed in TikTok comment sections, where international users creatively coin and use terms such as "ate," "rizz," "no cap," and "slay" to convey social attitudes and reflect a sense of belonging within online communities. These expressions not only demonstrate non-standard word-formation processes but also highlight the social function of language in digital environments.

Table 1. Example of slang

No	Constructed from	Slang words	Meaning
1	Numbers	Ten out of ten	Perfect, excellent
2	Colors	Green with envy	Very jealous
3	Food	Spill the tea	Share gossip
4	Animal	Snake	A backstabber, untrustworthy person
5	Name of human	Karen	A demanding or entitled woman
6	Fruit	Peachy	Fine, good, pleasant
7	Things	Couch potato	A lazy person

According from Matiello (2008), The morphological processes found in Terms of slang function is categorized into:

1. Compounding

Slang is formed by combining two or more words into a new expression. Usually, the resulting word has a new meaning that cannot be directly inferred from the original components. Function: To add expressiveness and uniqueness to informal communication.

2. Clipping

Clipping is the process of shortening longer words by removing parts at the beginning, end, or middle. Clipped words tend to sound more casual and are quicker to use in daily conversations. Function: To suit fast-paced, informal speech styles.

3. Blending

Unlike compounding, blending merges only parts of two different words to create a new term. It is often used to form catchy and creative slang. Function: To showcase linguistic creativity and simplify new concepts.

4. Acronyms & Initialisms

Slang formed from the initial letters of words or phrases. Acronyms are read as full words (e.g., YOLO), while initialisms are read letter by letter (e.g., LOL). Function: To abbreviate longer expressions into memorable, efficient forms.

5. Borrowing

Taking words from other languages and using them in casual or slang contexts. These borrowed words often take on new meanings in the adopting language. Function: To reflect cultural influence and cross-language integration.

6. Reduplication

Slang created by repeating all or part of a word, sometimes with sound variation. This form adds humor, imagination, or expressiveness. Function: To enhance expressiveness and rhythm in speech.

7. Semantic Shift

Using a familiar or existing word but giving it a new, often unexpected, slang meaning. Function: To express group creativity and reshape meaning within specific social circles.

Slang words are utilized by both younger and older generations, evolving with the times and reflecting the trends of each era. These expressions often combine familiar elements from everyday life to create simpler or more impactful phrases. Slang is also a tool for expressing group identity or personal style. According to Allan & Burridge (2006), slang can be grouped into four main characteristics:

1. Fresh and Creative

These slang terms introduce novel ways of expression by transforming familiar ideas into unique meanings. Example: "Spill the tea" – meaning to share gossip, originally derived from something as ordinary as "tea."

2. Flippant

Slang in this category is often humorous, sarcastic, or mocking. Example: "Karen" – used to mock a woman perceived as entitled or overly demanding.

3. Impertinent

These expressions break social norms and can be intentionally rude or confrontational. Example: "Snake" – calling someone a "snake" implies betrayal and dishonesty, which is socially offensive.

4. Group-Exclusive or Secretive

This slang serves as an in-group code, understood mostly by those familiar with certain cultures or communities. Example: "Couch potato" – widely recognized among English speakers, but potentially confusing without cultural context, referring to someone who is lazy and inactive.

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative method. Qualitative research is a type of research aimed at understanding the phenomena experienced by research subjects in a holistic manner, and by means of descriptive methods in the form of words and language, within a specific natural context, and by utilizing various scientific methods (Moleong, 2017:6). Sudaryanto (1986: 57) states that research methods are divided into three stages: data provision, data analysis, and presentation of analysis results.

This research aims to seeking answers to the following questions:

1) What morphological processes occurred in the slang found in the comments of netizens on Juliana Marins' Posts TikTok?

2) What are the functions of slang used in the comments?

3) What characteristics of slang are found in the comments of netizens in TikTok?

This research focuses on the morphological processes; the characteristics and the functions of the slang used in the comments by netizens on Juliana Marins post on TikTok. A set of data collection is implemented:

1. Reading comments of netizens on TikTok

2. Collecting comments containing slang.

3. Classifying the data of the slang based on their characteristics.

4. Analyzing the functions of the slang used in the comments

5. Drawing conclusions.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data 1. **sus**

Morphological Process: Clipping (from the noun suspicious)

Function: In-group identity

Explanation: The word **sus** is a clipped form of suspicious, commonly used in online gaming communities and TikTok to label someone as untrustworthy. According to Allan & Burridge

(2006), this word represents in-group communication and reflects group-specific code-switching, particularly among Gen Z and meme culture.

Data 2. **stan**

Morphological Process: Blending (stalker + fan)

Function: Self-identity, fandom expression

Explanation: **Stan** is used to show obsessive admiration for a public figure or influencer. This slang reflects a user's identity as a loyal fan, often signaling belonging to a specific fanbase. It represents self-identification and affiliation, aligning with Allan & Burridge's concept of slang as a social marker.

Data 3. **LOL**

Morphological Process: Acronym (Laughing Out Loud)

Function: Expressive (emotion)

Explanation: **LOL** is used to express amusement or laughter in a brief form. Its acronymic structure allows for rapid, emotionally charged interaction. Mattiello (2008) emphasizes that slang like **LOL** provides an expressive shortcut in informal digital communication.

Data 4. **dead**

Morphological Process: Semantic shift (literal → hyperbolic)

Function: Expressive (emotion)

Explanation: While **dead** literally means lifeless, in slang it indicates "laughing uncontrollably" or being overwhelmed. This reflects semantic creativity and emotional exaggeration, a typical trait of expressive slang as noted by Mattiello (2008).

Data 5. **slay**

Morphological Process: Semantic shift (from "to kill" → "to impress/look stunning")

Function: Self-identity

Explanation: **Slay** is used to express that someone looks impressive or performs excellently. It projects self-confidence and empowerment, especially among users with strong visual identity. This aligns with Allan & Burridge's notion of slang as a tool for constructing personal identity.

Data 6. **hangry**

Morphological Process: Blending (hungry + angry)

Function: Expressive + Humor

Explanation: **Hangry** humorously describes irritability caused by hunger. It is an example of creative blending, with both emotional and humorous function. Mattiello (2008) mentions that slang often captures complex feelings with a playful tone.

Data 7. **glow-up**

Morphological Process: Compounding (glow + up)

Function: Self-identity

Explanation: **Glow-up** refers to a person's physical or personal transformation. This slang is used to assert change in identity or self-image. As Allan & Burridge (2006) explain, slang can express personal evolution or projection of improved identity.

Data 8. **OMG**

Morphological Process: Acronym (Oh My God)

Function: Expressive

Explanation: **OMG** is used to express shock, surprise, or excitement. As a highly frequent acronym in digital communication, it simplifies emotional reaction and matches Mattiello's view of slang as an efficient emotional outlet in informal text.

Data 9. **fave**

Morphological Process: Clipping (favorite)

Function: Mild expressive / Preference

Explanation: **Fave** is a casual way to express preference or taste. Though less emotionally intense, it still contributes to individual expression, indicating likes or admiration. It slightly overlaps between expressive and identity functions.

Data 10. **okey-dokey**

Morphological Process: Reduplication (playful form of "okay")

Function: Humor / Playfulness

Explanation: This term is used to soften or lighten communication, often to sound friendly or funny. As noted by Mattiello (2008), such reduplication in slang is tied to informality and humorous effect, making communication more relaxed.

CONCLUSION

The morphological analysis of ten selected slang expressions from TikTok comments on Juliana Marins' posts reveals a strong preference for informal and creative word formation. The data show that the most frequently used morphological processes are Clipping (20%), Blending (20%), Acronyms (20%), and Semantic Shift (20%), while Compounding and

Reduplication appear less frequently, each at 10%. This balanced distribution highlights the linguistic creativity and adaptability of online users in shaping new expressions to suit fast-paced, informal digital interactions. The dominance of Clipping, Blending, and Acronyms reflects users' desire for brevity, expressiveness, and novelty—aligning with Mattiello's (2008) view of slang as morphologically innovative and Allan & Burridge's (2006) emphasis on its functional and playful nature.

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