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SLANG EXPRESSION USED BY AUSTRALIAN TOURIST AT SORAKE BEACH  
SOUTH NIAS REGENCY

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**Abstract**

English language is divided into two kinds, they are Formal English and Informal English. In the field, Australian people who speak English use the informal English to communicate with their friends depends where they are and in what occasion they speak. And this informal English is called Slang. The purpose of this research was to describe the slang that produced by Australian Tourist at Sorake Beach and to classify the based on the types of slang. This research is focused on three domains, there are beach, surfcamp and shop. Then, this research was designed by using Qualitative Research. The data was taken from the Australian Tourist at Sorake Beach and the informants were seven (7) people. Researcher used Handphone as a tool to record their voices and the video during they speak to their friends. The result of the data shows that, the researcher found fifteen (15) Slang expressions that produced by Australian Tourist at Sorake Beach. Australian does speak and use the slang expressions in the their communication with their friends and they mostly use the Public slang in their communication because they usually drink beers and they stay at the beach. It can be concluded, slang is an informal expression that usually exist in English speaking to make the language more fashionable and attractive. The researcher suggests to the readers to use the result of the research as references to increase their knowledge about English and they can implement this research to communicate with the Australian tourist.

**Key Words:** *Sociolinguistics; informal English; slang expressions*

**Abstrak**

Bahasa Inggris dibagi menjadi dua jenis, yaitu Bahasa Inggris Formal dan Bahasa Inggris Informal. Di lapangan, orang Australia yang berbicara bahasa Inggris menggunakan bahasa Inggris informal untuk berkomunikasi dengan teman-teman mereka tergantung di mana mereka berada dan dalam kesempatan apa mereka berbicara. Dan bahasa Inggris informal ini disebut bahasa Gaul. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mendeskripsikan bahasa gaul yang dihasilkan oleh Turis Australia di Pantai Sorake dan untuk mengklasifikasikan berdasarkan jenis bahasa gaul. Penelitian ini difokuskan pada tiga domain, yaitu beach, surfcamp dan shop. Kemudian, penelitian ini dirancang dengan menggunakan Penelitian Kualitatif. Data diambil dari Turis Australia di Pantai Sorake dan informannya adalah tujuh (7) orang. Peneliti menggunakan Handphone sebagai alat

untuk merekam suara mereka dan video selama mereka berbicara dengan teman-teman mereka. Hasil data menunjukkan bahwa, peneliti menemukan lima belas (15) ekspresi Slang yang dihasilkan oleh Australian Tourist di Sorake Beach. Orang Australia memang berbicara dan menggunakan ekspresi slang dalam komunikasi mereka dengan teman-teman mereka dan mereka kebanyakan menggunakan bahasa gaul Publik dalam komunikasi mereka karena mereka biasanya minum bir dan mereka tinggal di pantai. Dapat disimpulkan, bahasa gaul adalah ungkapan informal yang biasanya ada dalam bahasa Inggris yang berbicara untuk membuat bahasa lebih modis dan menarik. Peneliti menyarankan kepada pembaca untuk menggunakan hasil penelitian sebagai referensi untuk meningkatkan pengetahuan mereka tentang bahasa Inggris dan mereka dapat menerapkan penelitian ini untuk berkomunikasi dengan turis Australia.

**Kata Kunci:** *Sosiolinguistik; bahasa Inggris informal; ekspresi slang*

### **A. Introduction**

Language is used to communicate to express a person's mind, expectation and desires to each other. By using language, people can understand each other. Language always develops over time because of the changing social conditions and human needs. Language as the way to differentiate the social groups of human. Every speaker has the ability to create new slang expressions, to use old words in a new way, to compose sentences they have never heard before and to combine sentences into new discourses. One of the prominent languages is English. It is known as a International Language and is applied across most countries and their education systems. English has various functions in the field of education, culture, and technology and it is also the bridge for people around the world to interact with each other.

There are many kinds of languages in the world. But, as we know that English represents the first international language that is used globally when people want to go abroad. English has also become standardized language for many countries and has been integrated to become their

national language. English language has been divided as standard English and non-standard English. Standard English is variety of English that is usually used in a formal situation, such as in school or the workplace. It is commonly used by people with an educated background of English grammar. Conversely, non-standard English is the non-formal English language which is used in non-formal situation such as beach, close friends, and street. And it is also known as relaxed and friendly English rather than serious, very correct, or official. Based on non-standard English, there is a study which is called slang. Slang is considered to be very informal and it is often restricted to special contexts or only used by a particular class, profession, social group, etcetera.

Slang is a unique language held by some community groups that are not used by other groups. Yule (2006:211) states, "Slang is an aspect of social life that is subject to fashion, especially among adolescents and used by those inside a group who share ideas and attitudes a way of distinguishing themselves from others".

There are many countries that use English as their national language,

including British-English, American-English, Australian-English, Irish-English, New Zealand-English. All of these countries have created new English words (i.e. slang) to describe feelings and objects and name people and places. Australian people have their own words in communicating to their friends and family. People outside of Australia cannot understand the language used by Australian people. This is true even for Americans, British, Irish, New Zealanders with English considered their first language. They have difficulty too in understanding Australian slang because they have their own words and pronunciation.

In Indonesia, there is a famous place for surfing which is called Sorake Beach. Sorake Beach is located in North Of Sumatera-Indonesia, South Nias Regency, Luahagundre Maniamolo Subdistrict. This place is known as a spot for the surfers around the world. According to Peterson in Golden Pig document refilm (1996) stated "Sorake beach was discovered by three Australian surfers in 1975, they are John Troy, Kevin Lovett and John Giessel. They promoted Botohili sorake as the beach which has a great place for surfing in the world because of its perfect waves and beautiful beach". A lot of people from many countries come to visit this place for surfing and travelling after this place well-known. Those tourists are from Australia, America, Brazil, New Zealand and many more others. Australian tourists are the most common to travel to Botohili sorake because they are very close to Indonesia and sometimes they mix their conversation using their own slang to the people there who want to speak to them.

Based on this phenomenon that is described above, the researcher found that

the listener could not understand the speaker was said because people usually talk formally. So, from that phenomenon the speaker and the listener have a misunderstanding and miscommunication with each other. Based on this phenomenon the researcher conduct the study entitled "**Slang Expression That Used by Australian Tourists at Sorake Beach-South Nias**".

In the society, people need to interact with the others by using a language. Language is very important for the human to be able to express their ideas from their mind and to be able to interpret other's mind.

Sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal being a better understanding of the structure of language and of how languages function in communication (Wardaugh, 2006:13). Moreover, Chambers in Wardaugh (2006:11) stated "Sociolinguistics is the study of the social uses of language, and the most productive studies in the four decades of sociolinguistic research have emanated from determining the social evaluation of linguistic variants". In addition, Holmes (2013:1) said "Sociolinguistics is concerned with relationship between language and the context in which it is used". Stockwell (2007:264) also proposed that sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics which investigates the relation between language and society. It is only focus to investigate how the people use language in their society.

Ferguson (1996:1) states that.

Sociolinguistics is the study of language in social use. Its special focus is on the relationships between

language and society, and its principal concerns address the form and function of linguistic variation across social groups and across the range of communicative situations in which women and men deploy their verbal repertoires.

Related to the explanation above, it can be concluded that sociolinguistics is the study of the language in the society that helps the society members to interact with each other.

## 2. Language and Society

Language is the main element in human life used for communication. In terms of communication, language is the use of a system of sounds and words to communicate. Standing on the idea that language is a means of communication and social interaction between human beings, Wardhaugh (2006:1) says that language is what the members of a particular society speak. Communication itself always involves individuals with their distinctive personality traits, attitudes, beliefs, and emotions. As an instrument of communication among people, language is a social phenomenon used as a process of conveying ideas to others that enables people to regulate relationships in order to keep their role as social beings in society. Furthermore, Edward (2009:20) stated that language is central to the human condition which is the most salient distinguishing characteristic of our species. It means that the language is used to indicate someone's identity.

In society, people usually speak with various styles. People can speak with their own style based on the agreement in the society. Those styles can be formal and informal. As what Bell in Wardhaugh

(2006:19), states that there are no 'single-style' speakers of language, because each individual controls and uses a variety of linguistic styles and no one speaks in exactly the same way in all circumstances. Based on that statement, it can be concluded that in the society people usually speak standard and non-standard language based on to whom they talk and where it takes place.

According to the theories above, society and language have a strong relationship to each other because society needs language as a tool to interact with each other. Besides that, in the society, the members use language in various styles. They are standard language and non-standard language.

## 3. Standard Language

As previously mentioned, people in the society usually speak to others by using various styles. Those styles are standard language and non-standard language. Standard English is generally the most formal version of the language, there is a range of registers within standard English, as is often seen when the writer is conducting and writing an academic paper, for example. We can see that academic paper should follow the grammatical rules and forms. Word to word should be built by following the grammatical form and the language choice must be academic words. The standard English is used in the formal situation such as school, office, etc.

According to Wardhaugh (2006:33), standardization refers to the process by which a language has been codified in some way. That process usually involves the development of such things as grammars, spelling books, and dictionaries, and possibly a literature. On the other hand, Trudgill (in Wardhaugh 2006:35) said,

“standard English is that variety of English which is usually used in print, and which is normally taught in schools and to non-native speakers learning the language. It is also the variety which is normally spoken by educated people and used in news broadcasts and other similar situations”.

#### 4. Slang Expression

Slang is like a fashion or lifestyle, used by various societies rich or poor, honest or dishonest. Some people may say that slang is vulgar language, but the fact, most society is still using slang language in their daily life communication. They still use slang because they do not want to be considered not fashionable. According to Jay (1992:6), slang is an informal nonstandard vocabulary composed typically of coinages, arbitrary changed words, and extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech. On the other words, slang is a vocabulary that is developed in certain sub-groups (teenager, musicians, soldiers, drug users, or athletes) for ease of communications. In addition, Holmes (2013:176) states, “Slang is the linguistic prerogative of young people and generally sounds odd in the mouth of an older person. It signals membership of a particular group- the young”. It means that slang is usually exist in the young people conversation. Young people use slang as a stylish language to show their fashion in speaking. They can create more slang words than the old people. On the other hand, Matiello (2008:31) stated that “Slang is the restricted speech of marginal or distinct subgroups in society and it is a quiet temporary, unconventional characterized primarily by connotations of informality and novelty”. It means that slang is the unconventional and informal language in the society. The user ignore the grammatical rules when they use the slang

in their speaking. However, this is a common phenomenon in a language. In the daily conversation, people usually use the slang to their well-known friends, street, etc. They use the slang to make their speaking more stylish and more simple.

Based on those definitions above, the researcher concludes that slang can be described as informal, nonstandard words or phrases which tend to originate in subculture within a society. Slang is often suggest that the person utilizing the words or phrases is familiar with the hearer’s group or subgroup. It can be considered a distinguishing factor of group identity. Slang expressions often embody attitudes and values of group members.

a. Slang expressions are created in basically the same way as standard speech. In addition, it is noted that the words used as slang may be new coinages, existing words may acquire new meanings, narrow meanings of words may be generalized, words may be abbreviate, etc. However, in order for the expression to survive, it must be widely adopted by the group who uses it. Slang is a way in which languages change and **Types of Slang Language**

According to Patridge (1933:148-202), Some of slang types are:

##### 1) Cockney Slang

Cockney slang is a form of English slang which originated in the east end of London, and has been popularized by film, music, and literature. Anthony Burgess used rhyming slang as a part of the fictitious dialect in his classic book *A Clockwork Orange*.

##### 2) Public House Slang

As the part of types of slang, public house group words and phrases make up for the smallness of the

recorded vocabulary by nature the subject. The definition of public house slang is considered as public house group words and phrases make up for the smallness of the recorded vocabulary by nature the subject and it usually takes place in the bar or pub.

3) Workmen's Slang

This type also very closed to tradesman slang, yet all in all, it is better to consider them apart. The characteristic of the users of workmen's slang don't mention the real something but they call it with another name that already use and understood among them.

4) Tradesmen's Slang

In tradesman's slang as in workmen's slang, some words those are now related from their origin slang and using by the workmen's too. But, in tradesman's slang consider four as typical: tailors, butchers, chemists, and builders.

5) The Slang of Commerce

The slang of commerce refers to slang used in trade. This slang usually used when a member of committee has to make an agreement or engagement with their client in trade. Commerce here also can be interpreted as business transaction.

6) Slang in Public School and University

In these type students becomes the main source, because they are fresh, full of spirit to move forward for their future. In public school as in board schools and private

7) Society Slang

Every social group uses some type of slang, and by association, those words and grammar become property of that group, something that defines them in a certain way. In the modern world, slang has become so much a defining trait of so many groups

8) Slang in Church

Slang not only appears from people in the street or in their daily conversation, but also can be found from a holy place such as, church. It come up that slang has long since penetrated in the forum, and in justice to the clergy, it must be said that the principal disseminators of pure English throughout the country are the minister of our established Church.

## B. Research Methodology

### Research Design

The design of this research is descriptive qualitative research. According to Auerbach and Silverstain (2003:1) "Qualitative research is research that involves analyzing and interpreting text and interviews in order to discover meaningful pattern descriptive of a particular phenomenon". Given (2008:1) also states that qualitative research is designed to explore the human elements of a given topic, where specific method are used to examine how individuals see and experience the world.

Based on the defenitions above, this research proposal is designed with qualitative research which explains about the description of Slang expressions used by Australian tourist in a form of words and sentences and describes the function of slang words.

The location of the research is Botohilisorake, South Nias Regency and The source of the data of this research are slang expressions that uttered by Australian tourist at Botohilisorake, South Nias Regency in their daily communication. There are 7 (Seven) informants which is divided into three domains, they are beach, surfcamp and shop.

in collecting the data, the researcher used observation. According to Creswell (2012:181) "Qualitative observation are those in which the researcher takes field notes on the behavior and activities of individuals at the unstructured or semistructure way (using some prior questions that the inquirer wants to know). second, Audio-Visual consist of images or sounds that researchers collect to help them understand the central phenomenon under study. Creswell (2009:181) states that a final category of qualitative data consist of qualitative audio and visual materials. This data may take the form of photograph, art object, video type or any forms of sounds. And then, researcher used Audio-Visual consist of images or sounds that researchers collected to help them understand the central phenomenon under study. Creswell (2009:181) states that a final category of qualitative data consist of qualitative audio and visual materials. This data may take the form of photograph, art object, video type or any forms of sounds.

The technique of data analysis that researcher used to analyze the data was by using Miles and Huberman theory. According to Miles and Huberman (1984:10-12) data analysis consist of three streams of activity, they are data reduction, data display and drawing conclusion or verification.

In qualitative research, the trustworthiness is a crucial concept.

Therefore, the trustworthiness of the study is the important to acquire the truth of the data. Sugiyono (2012:458-469) explained that "the trustworthiness of the data is determined trough four techniques: 1) credibility, 2) transferability, 3) dependability, 4) confirmability.

### C. Research Findings and Discussion

#### Research Results

The location of this research was at Desa Botohilisorake, Kecamatan Luahagundre Maniamolo, Kabupaten Nias Selatan. Botohilisorake which has some domains such as beach, restaurant, surfcamp, shop, etcetera. Based on the result of observation. The researcher focused in three domains. They are Beach, Surfcamp, Restaurant and Shop.

Based on the the focus of the research, the researcher has found some slang expressions from Australian tourist's conversations at Sorake Beach. In the data description, the researcher tabulates the selected data of the slang expressions which are taken from the scripts of The Australian's Conversations as described below:

N O	The Utilize d of Words or Phrases	Real Meaning	Slang Meaning
1	Rubbing at right in	Rubbing inside	'Putting your thumb right into your buttock hole'
2	Shit	Expel feces from	'Bad day'

		the body	
3	Fully	Completely or entirely	'Certainly agree'
4	Sick	'Affected by Physical or mental illness'	'Wonderful, fantastic'
5	How's it hanging?	How is the thing hanging?	'How are you?'
6	Largies	Large things	'Big bottle of beers'
7	Stubbie		'Small bottle of beers'
8	Tradie		'Tradesman worker'
9	Get on the piss		'Get a drink or having a beer'
10	Bottle-O		'Bottle shop or beers shop'
11	Maccas		Macdonald's Restaurant
12	Pisspot		'Drunk person or a person who drinks a lot of beers and get

			drunk'
13	Crisie		'Christmas day'
14	Barbie		'Barbequeing activity'
15	Drongo		'Idiot person'

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the researcher found 15 (fifteen) slang expressions in the conversations in the transcript of the Australian Tourists at Sorake Beach.

Based on the second focuses of the research, the researcher has classified the slang words based on its types. According to Patridge (1933:148-202), there are 8 (eight) types of slang expressions. The types of the slang expressions are tabulated in the table and explained below:

NO	The Utilized of Words or Phrases	Types of slang
1	Rubbing at right in	Public house slang
2	Shit	Public house slang
3	Fully	Public house slang
4	Sick	Public house slang
5	How's it hanging?	Workmen's slang
6	Largies	Public house slang
7	Stubbie	Public house slang
8	Tradie	Trade's man slang
9	Get on the	Public house



	piss	slang
10	Bottle-O	Public house slang
11	Maccas	Workmen's house slang
12	Pisspot	Public house slang
13	Crisie	Society slang
14	Barbie	Society slang
15	Drongo	Public house slang

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the researcher has tabulated the slang expressions based on its types that found in the conversation transcript of the Australian Tourists at Sorake Beach.

#### A. Research Finding

##### 1. Slang expressions

Based on the research result, the researcher found 15 (fifteen) slang expressions in the Australian tourist's conversations. The slang expressions that found in the conversations are frequently used by the Australian tourist at Sorake Beach. Australian tourist are usually use the slang expressions in their conversation to make their words and sentences more simple.

##### 1. Slang types

based on the research result, researcher found that Australian tourist at Sorake Beach usually produce the public slang. Researcher analyzed that the Australian tourist are often produce the public slang because they usually like to drink beers after surfing and hang-out with their friends at the beach, coffee shop, surfcamp, etcetera. Australian tourist like take some beers and enjoy the moment of the togetherness with their friends and local people at beach.

#### B. Discussion

#### C. Slang Expression

In general, Slang expression is language (words, phrases and usages) of an informal register that members of particular in groups prefer over the common vocabulary of a standard language in order to establish group identity, exclude outsiders, or both. On the other hand, slang is also known as the words or expressions which is informal and occurred in a certain group which has different meanings and usually produced to make the language more fashionable and stylish.

##### 1. Slang Types

In addition, based on the result of data analysis conducted by the researcher, there are three types of slang which used in the conversations of the Australian tourists at Sorake Beach. The researcher used the theory of Patridge (1933:148-202) of Slang types in analyzing the slang expressions that found in the conversations of Australian tourist.

#### D. Conclusion

##### Conclusion

This research was designed qualitatively and aimed to find out the slang expressions and classify them based on its types. Based on the research result obtained from data analysis.

In conclusion, the slang expression is exist in the Australian conversation at Sorake Beach. Australian tourist usually use the slang expressions in their daily communication.

##### Suggestion

Trough this paper, the researcher suggests for those who are interested in analyzing or in comprehending the slang

language, they should join the group of society who utilized the slang language for improving their knowledge of language study and about understanding standard and non standard language which appear in society.

Especially for the students of English Language Education Study Program. This research is important for the students to enrich their knowledge about English. Because English is not only related with formal English, but it is also related with informal English. By knowing slang expressions, the students can interact with the native speakers more confident and bravely.

Finally, the researcher hopes that this study will be useful for the future improvement of studying sociolinguistics, especially about slang language and as reference for the students of English Language Education Study Program, who want to do similar research.

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