

# Slang Words in *Me, and Earl, and The Dying Girl* Novel: Type and Interpretation

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**Abstract.** As a written representation of society, novel contains sociolinguistic issues which deserve a comprehensive analysis one of which is the use of slang words. This study explored slang words used in *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, a novel written by Jesse Andrews. The aims of this study were to categorize types of slang words used in the novel and to explain the interpretations of them. The data were collected from the dialogues in the novel. Using qualitative approach, the writer used the theory of Chapman (1988) to classify the data into their types. To explain the interpretations of slang words, the writer analyzed the role relationship among the speakers, the way the actors speak, and the meaning of each slang word found using slang dictionaries. The analysis reveals that as the relationship among the actors are equal and they naturally raise within the community, actors in the novel dominantly use primary slang words. Conversation using secondary slang words take place when the actors are not engaged within the community.

**Keywords:** Novel, Slang Words, Sociolinguistics

<https://ojs.unm.ac.id/eralingua>



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## INTRODUCTION

Language is not merely as a means of communication but it may also define social identities of the speakers. For instance, school principals generally speak in more structured way than security officers do. [Coulmas \(2013:4\)](#) claims that societal class depends on language. Since language is a primary instrument of its organization, members of society must use language to communicate. It means that language enables society exists. Without using language, there is no activity and interaction performed by members of the society. In other words, language and society are inherent one to another.

As language and society are related to one another ([Nasution, 2018](#)), studies on the relationship between society and language become popular. [Wardhaugh \(2006:13\)](#) defines a study which examines the relationship between language and society is called sociolinguistics. Some popular studies in sociolinguistics are in the context of gender ([Wodak & Benke, 2017](#)), education ([Flubacher & Del Percio, 2017](#)), sexuality and power ([Levon & Mendes, 2016](#)). When it is specific to code switching and code mixing, previous studies have explored the codes in the context of internet chatting ([Claros & Isharianty, 2009](#)), childhood community ([Ayeomoni, 2006](#)), classroom language ([Ariffin, Susanti, 2011](#), and [Ansar, 2017](#)), and a novel ([Putra & Yastanti, 2018](#)).

Achieving better comprehension of the language structure and of how the language work in communication is one of the purposes of studying sociolinguistics. It means that by studying sociolinguistics, people may acquire a better understanding of language structure and language use. In practice, language varieties always emerge since every individual never speaks the same way all the time. [Yule \(2010\)](#) argues that the distinction of the way people talk signifies membership in different social groups or speech communities. It means that the language variety people choose determines which social group they belong to. For example, standard language is more often used by people in higher social class than lower social class. However, non-standard language is more appropriate in speech since it may create friendly situation and closeness among the speakers. One of non-standard language widely used within society is slang words.

Nowadays, the use of slang words is easily found in several printed media like in novels. Novels are mostly consumed by teenagers and most of teenage novels talk about friendship and love story. A lot of teenage novels contain slang in order to attract attention. One of the teen novels is *Me, and Earl, and the Dying Girl*. The novel is written by Jesse Andrews. A preview to the novel delves a finding that a lot of slang words are applied to make the way of recounting the story much more interesting due to the used terms. The choice to analyzing the novel is also caused by a great number of readers that popularize the novel among alike novels in genre which empower the urgency to reveal the pattern of code mixing and code switching used in the novel as well as to help the huge readers avoid misinterpretation to the overall stories due to lack of shared information about code switching and code mixing ([Gulzar, 2010](#)). Therefore, this study aims to explore the use of slang words found in *Me, and Earl, and the Dying Girl* novel and give

interpretations to it. This study is significant for it shows the way people use language in different social contexts.

Some studies which concern with slang words can be found in [Novriansyah \(2007\)](#) in his paper entitled “An Analysis of Slang Terms in What Price Glory by Maxwell Anderson.” He analyzed kinds of slang language found in the film and described the reason of using the slang terms by applying theory of [Partridge \(1950\)](#). This descriptive qualitative study found three types of slang words. They are workmen’s slang, society slang, and soldiers’ slang.

Another study was an article entitled “Slang Words Used by the Characters in Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising” conducted by [Ariyanti \(2018\)](#). In analyzing the data, she used qualitative method. Her study identified types of slang terms and functions of slang words found in the film by using theory of [Allan and Burrige \(2006\)](#). The types of slang terms that she discovered were five types of slang. They are fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping.

The other study was an article conducted by [Larasati \(2018\)](#) entitled “Slang as Social Identity in Stand-Up Comedy Academy Indosiar: A Sociolinguistic Study” which was published by International Journal of Languages, Literature and Linguistics. She applied qualitative method to conduct her study. The data were collected from videos of Stand-Up Comedy Academy Indosiar. She analysed and classified the slang words into 4 categories of social identity, such as gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and age by using theory of [Tajfel and Turner \(1985\)](#). Her study obtained twenty-nine data which were mostly dominated by ethnic identity.

It is the object that distinguishes Novriansyah’s, and Ariyanti’s studies from our study that we focus on analyzing social activities in a popular novel while the two studies focus on the same topic to analyze a movie respectively. Further, the theories used to analyze the movie are consecutively by [Partridge \(1950\)](#) and by [Allan and Burrige \(2006\)](#) while our study is to use [Chapman’s \(1988\)](#) that focuses on slang words specifically. On the other hand, Larasati in her article concerns with slang words used in an impromptu scenario of video while our study concerns with the planned one. In short, that our study chooses a popular novel whose story line is frequent with slang words is an urgency to conduct this study.

Sociolinguistics is a discipline which examines the relationship between language use and social structures in society ([Spolsky 1998:3](#)). It investigates how language use correlates with social structures. Members of society are demanded to use language appropriately based on social structures. For example, workers are expected to speak in standard form of language at a meeting. However, they may use their local language with their workmate who come from the same regional origin at lunch. Language use appropriateness is determined by situational context.

To understand the situational context, people also have to pay attention to the choice of words or vocabularies. [Halliday \(2007\)](#) notes the choice of words is affected by the field of discourse, the mode of discourse, and the tenor of discourse. The field of discourse shows the content of what is being informed. The mode of discourse explains the speaker’s choice of mood or feeling. The tenor of discourse specifies the type of social relationship among the participants. It means that people may understand about situational context in language use

appropriately by analyzing the content of what is being said (field), the speaker's feeling (mode), and the type of relationship among the participants (tenor).

The distinction of the way people talk indicates that language has varieties. According to [Holmes \(2013:76\)](#), language varieties consist of a standard language and a vernacular language. [Holmes \(2013:79\)](#) points out that a standard language is a codified and stabilized language variety. It is deemed as a prestigious language, and it is used for communication in a formal context. It means that a standard language is a formal and proper language, and it is used in administration, commercial, and education. Since a standard language is considered as a prestigious language, it must be used by educated people or people in higher social status. On the contrary, [Holmes \(2013:77\)](#) notes that a vernacular language is an unstandardized language variety, and it does not have official status. Also, it is used for everyday interaction. It means that a vernacular language is an informal, colloquial, or non-standard language used in an informal setting. In other words, the varieties of language consist of standard languages and non-standard languages.

Slang is one of non-standard languages that we frequently find in speech. According to [Eble \(1996:11\)](#), slang consists of colloquial words and phrases that constantly change, the speakers use slang to form and strengthen their social identity in their group or with a trend in society. It means that slang is always found in conversation as slang contains colloquial words and phrases that always have transformation. [Yule \(2010:259\)](#) explains that slang becomes a preferable speech used by younger speakers and other social groups which have certain significance. It means slang is used not only by younger speakers, but also by other social groups to obtain a particular purpose. For instance, in order to create a more relaxed conversation, the speakers may use slang words since many slang words sound casual and playful.

According to Dumas and Lighter (1978:14-16, as cited in [Eble, 1996:11-12](#)), there are four criteria for slang, namely its presence reduces the dignity of serious speech or writing, its use interprets the user's special familiarity, it is a tabooed term in a regular conversation, and it is used as a replacement of conventional synonym in order to protect the user from discomfort caused by conventional item or further elaboration. [Partridge \(1950:18\)](#) notes communication in slang mostly contains emotion rather than thought, such as profanities and imprecations. It means bad words, swear words, curse words, vulgar terms, and violent terms are easily discovered in slang. [Coleman \(2012:31\)](#) asserts that many slang words are derived from standard words with opposite meanings. It means that standard words with new meanings may produce slang. In addition, [Green \(2016:83\)](#) confirms that slang may consist of words with infixes, such as -fucking-, -bloody-, and -iz-, clipping words, initialism, acronyms, and blending words. It means changes in word, such as infixes, shortening, abbreviation, and blending words, may give rise to slang.

According to [Chapman \(1988\)](#), slang words are divided into two types, they are (1) primary slang: the indigenous language of subculture members which is very natural to its speakers. Hence, this speech is always used in their conversation. Much of teenage talks and the speeches of urban street gangs are examples of primary slang. It means that primary slang is created and constantly used by the speakers. In other words, this speech is easily recognized and understandable in

conversation; and (2) secondary slang: to convey one's behaviour and resourcefulness by pretending momentarily to be a member of a street gang, a criminal, a gambler, a drug user, or a professional football player, etc. It is used to borrow someone else's verbal dress to express one's contempt, superiority, and cleverness. Secondary slang is about stylistic choice rather than true identification. It means that secondary slang is not a pristine speech of subculture members. It is used as a speech style of the speakers. It is also used to express something in a secret way.

## RESEARCH METHOD

### Research Design

Qualitative approach was applied in conducting this study since the writer analyzed and explained the slang words found in *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* novel in the form of essay. The data of the slang words found are part of qualitative data as they are in word forms. According to [Maxwell \(2013\)](#), three main features of qualitative research are its inductive, open-ended approach, its reliance on textual or visual data, and its primary goal of particular understanding. It means that in qualitative research the inductive approach is used by making the observations at the beginning to describe a phenomenon that is being studied, and open-ended approach applies open-ended question to seek in-depth description and interpretation from the researcher's experience. In addition, qualitative inquiry focuses on the process which results understanding than the outcome

### Data Sources, and Data Collection

This is a descriptive qualitative study that delves a novel as source of data to be analyzed. The novel is entitled *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, a novel written by Jesse Andrews published in 2013. The data are collected in some steps: First, the writers read the novel several times to understand the whole story. Second, the writers identify the words and phrases which contain slang. Third, the writers mark and collect the data into a table. Fourth, the writers classify types of slang terms found in the novel. Finally, the slang words found is described in descriptive form.

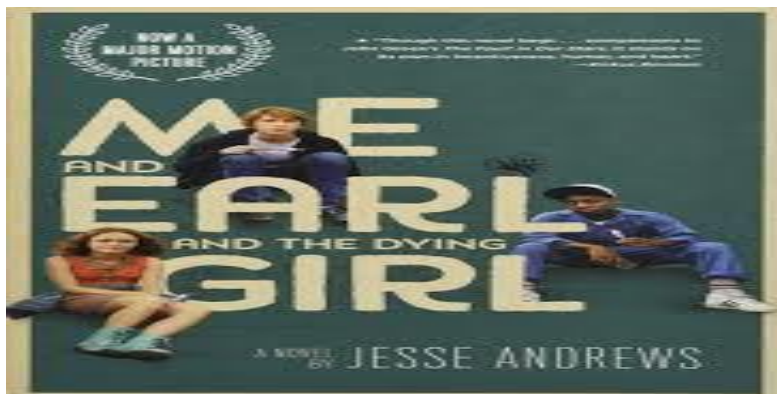


Figure 1. Cover of the Source of Data

After collecting the data, they are then analyzed through some steps: First by discovering the slang in the dialogues. Then, they are classified and explained based on types of slang words. All the data are explained in the form of essay. The data



are served in the form of sentences followed by analysis. Theory of Chapman (1988) is used to analyze types of slang word in this study.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data collected were from the dialogues in *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* novel. In identifying slang words, the writer applied the theories and opinions from several experts as stated in subchapter 2.2.4 Slang. In analysing types of slang words, the writer applied the theory of Chapman (1988). After analysing the dialogues in *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* novel, data of the selected slang expressions were collected, then presented in a form of table. The data of slang expressions are written in italics, underlined, and boldface types. Table 1 shows number of data, data of slang terms found, page number, and types of slang terms, namely primary (P) and secondary (S). The findings were described in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Types of Slang Words Found in *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* Novel

No.	Data of Slang Words	Page	Types of Slang	
			P	S
1.	Greg, you look like a <b><u>fruit</u></b>	26	-	√
2.	Uh... it <b><u>sucks</u></b>	34	√	-
3.	Why <b><u>the hell</u></b> not	59	√	-
4.	<b><u>Holy fuck</u></b>	89	√	-
5.	That guy sounds all weird and rigid and conservative like an <b><u>asshole</u></b> robot	96	-	√
6.	Mr. Cubaly is such a <b><u>perv</u></b>	115	√	-
7.	Uh... Takin' a picture of some <b><u>boobs</u></b> . Cubaly style	116	√	-
8.	This is the <b><u>barf</u></b> of a space alien	121	-	√
9.	His home is on some <b><u>fucked-up</u></b> meteor or something	123	√	-
10.	McCarthy puts <b><u>weed</u></b> in that soup	140	√	-
11.	Let's go to your house and <b><u>mack</u></b> on some grub	140	-	√
12.	Do McCarthy act <b><u>stoned</u></b> in class	141	-	√
13.	You get injected with a <b><u>shitload</u></b> of chemicals and your hair fall out	142	√	-
14.	I feel like an <b><u>ass</u></b> right now	149	√	-
15.	No one to see your weird- <b><u>ass</u></b> socks	161	√	-
16.	Sorry, sorry. I have to <b><u>chill out</u></b>	179	√	-
17.	Greg, you're a <b><u>fucking</u></b> great kid	204	√	-
18.	You must get a <b><u>hard-on</u></b> from all kind of freaky shit	207	-	√
19.	Hei <b><u>faggot!</u></b> Lemme be in your gay movie	221	√	-
20.	<b><u>Sup</u></b>	247	√	-

In analysing types of slang words, the writer applied the theory of Chapman (1988). The writer analysed the interpretations of the slang words found by

analysing the relationship among the speakers (tenor), the way of speaking or the emotion of the speakers (mode), and the meanings of the slang words found (field) by examining them in the selected slang dictionary, namely *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English* by Dalzell & Victor (2008) and *NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expression* by Spears (2000). In data analysis, the writer served five data to be analysed since these data represents the other data which have the same type of slang words. The following analyses are representatives of the use of slang words in the novel. Figure 1. shows front cover of the novel.

#### **Data 1. Fruit**

The word “fruit” is identified as secondary slang as this word is used to express “a homosexual” in a stylistic and secret way. In conversation, the teenagers rarely use the word “fruit”. The sentence “*Greg, you look like a fruit*” is uttered by Will, a schoolmate of Greg. The speaker feels disgusted about Greg’s behavior as Greg acts like a gentleman to persuade Mariah and speaks in a British accent. The social status between the speaker and the addressee is in equal position. Therefore, the speaker uses this word to insult the addressee as a homosexual. The speaker uses this word as to avoid others know the meaning of this word. The writer found the word “fruit” in *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, which means a homosexual.

#### **Data 2. Suck**

The word “suck” is categorized as primary slang since it is always used to express an objectionable experience. The sentence “*Uh... it sucks*” is uttered by Greg to his mother. The speaker feels unpleasant about what the addressee has informed about Rachel’s condition suffering from blood cancer. The speaker’s position is lower than the addressee in their social status. However, the speaker is allowed to use this word as they have a close relationship. The writer found the word “suck” in *NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions*, which means to be bad or undesirable.

#### **Data 3. The hell**

*“Why the hell not”*

The sentence is uttered by Earl to Greg. They have an equal position in social status as they are schoolmate. The speaker feels irritated with the addressee as Greg cannot watch Alphaville with Earl. The term –the hell- is used by the speaker to emphasize his question to the addressee. The writer found the word “the hell” in *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, which means it is used to reinforce imprecations, and questions of impatience and irritation.

#### **Data 4. Holy fuck**

*“Holy fuck”*

The expression above is uttered by Greg to Rachel. They have an equal position in social status since they are schoolmate. The speaker uses this term as he feels shocked at the addressee’s answer. The speaker is at Rachel’s house and asks what the time is. He does not realize that it is already night being at Rachel’s house. The writer found the term “holy fuck” in *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of*

Slang and Unconventional English, which means used for registering shock or surprise.

**Data 5. Asshole**

*“That guy sounds all weird and rigid and conservative like an asshole robot”*

The sentence above is uttered by Greg to Rachel. Since they are close friend and have an equal position in social status, the speaker uses this word to express his dislike with an insulting way. The speaker is talking about American accent from the 1950s, the speaker thinks that people who use the accent as a stupid person since the accent sounds very weird. The writer found the word “asshole” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means a fool; a person held in contempt.

**Data 6. Perv**

*“Mr. Cubaly is such a perv”*

The sentence above is uttered by Naomi to Anna, Rachel, and Greg. The speaker is talking about their teacher. The speaker feels annoyed by their teacher’s deviant behavior as their teacher always looks down her shirt. Hence, she says this word in assertive way to mention their teacher as a person whose sexual behavior is abnormal and unacceptable. The social status between the speaker and the hearers are equal as they are schoolmate. Therefore, the speaker can address such word to describe their teacher. The writer found the word “perv” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means a sexual pervert, or a person obsessed with sex.

**Data 7. Boobs**

*“Uh... Takin’ a picture of some boobs. Cubaly style”*

The sentence above is uttered by Greg to Naomi, Anna, and Rachel. The speaker utters this word to respond what Naomi says. Naomi says “It’s like: take a picture Mr.Cubaly, It’ll last longer”. The speaker feels funny about what Naomi says since Cubaly always looks down Naomi’s shirt. As they have an intimate relationship and an equal position in social status, the speaker is brave to express this slang word to mention woman breasts. The writer found the word “boobs” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means female breast.

**Data 8. Barf**

*“This is the barf of a space alien”*

The sentence above is uttered by Greg to Madison. The speaker says this word to respond what Madison says. Madison says that Greg has an interesting lunch. However, the speaker disagrees and feels disgusted about his lunch as he describes his lunch as vomit of a space alien. His lunch is leftover beef slice, bean sprouts, and lettuce in a plastic container. Since they are schoolmate and they have an equal position in social status, the speaker express his feeling to mention this slang word. The writer found the word “barf” in NTC’s Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions, which means vomit.



**Data 9. Fucked-up**

*"His home is on some fucked-up meteor or something"*

The sentence above is uttered by Greg to Madison, Naomi, and Rachel. The speaker is talking about their friend named Scot. The speaker insults Scot as he feels disgusted with Scot's weird appearance wearing trench coats like aliens. They have an equal position in social status since they are schoolmate. The speaker describes that Scot lives in untidy or ruined place due to his weird appearance. The writer found the word "fucked-up" in *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, which means ruined, spoiled, broken.

**Data 10. Weed**

*"McCarthy puts weed in that soup"*

The sentence above is uttered by Earl to Greg. The speaker feels shocked as McCarthy's soup contains weed since they are intoxicated after consuming McCarthy's soup. Since they are close friend and they have an equal position in social status, the speaker mentions weed as a drug directly. The writer found the word "weed" in *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, which means marijuana.

**Data 11. Mack**

*"Let's go to your house and mack on some grub"*

The sentence above is uttered by Earl to Greg. The speaker suggests the addressee to go home and eat some food since they are intoxicated after consuming a drug. The speaker feels uncomfortable about their condition. Therefore, the speaker suggests that they go home and eat some food to relieve their intoxication. They have an equal position in social status as they are schoolmate. The speaker prefers using this slang word to mention "eat" to avoid others know about their condition. The writer found the word "mack" in *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, which means to eat voraciously.

**Data 12. Stoned**

*"Do McCarthy act stoned in class"*

This sentence is uttered by Earl to Greg. The speaker is talking about their teacher. The speaker feels confused about their teacher's behavior. Since their teacher consumes soup containing marijuana, the speaker would like to know if their teacher gets stoned in class. The speaker uses a stylistic way to describe "high" condition. Since they have a close relationship and an equal position in social status, the speaker asks to the addressee using this slang word. The writer found the word "stoned" in *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, which means intoxicated on a drug.

**Data 13. Shitload**

*"You get injected with a shitload of chemicals and your hair fall out"*

The sentence above is uttered by Earl to Greg. Earl is a best friend of Greg. They have an equal position in social status as they are schoolmate. The speaker is talking about Rachel's chemotherapy. The speaker intends to say that Rachel gets injected with a lot of chemicals and her hair falls out. The speaker feels scared of Rachel's chemotherapy. Since they are good friend, the speaker says this slang

word to the addressee directly. The writer found the word “shitload” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means a great deal of.

**Data 14. Ass**

*“I feel like an ass right now”*

The sentence above is uttered by Greg to Rachel. The speaker feels terrible since he comes to the addressee’s house while on drugs. Since they have a close relationship and have an equal position in social status, the speaker insults himself by saying that he feels like a stupid person. The writer found the word “ass” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means a fool.

**Data 15. -ass**

*“No one to see your weird-ass socks”*

The sentence above is uttered by Maxwell to Earl. They have an equal position in social status since Maxwell is a brother of Earl. The speaker feels annoyed by Earl’s appearance which shows his weird socks, and speaks to him in derogative way by saying his socks are extremely weird. The writer found the word “-ass” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means used as an intensifier for the preceding adjective or adverb.

**Data 16. Chill out**

*“Sorry, sorry. I have to chill out”*

The sentence above is uttered by Rachel to Greg. Rachel is a good friend of Greg. As Greg tells a funny story to Rachel, Rachel cannot stop laughing. However, the speaker feels uncomfortable with her pain as she laughs. Hence, she speaks in assertive way to inform that she should calm down. The writer found the word “chill out” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means to calm down, or to relax.

**Data 17. Fucking**

*“Greg, you’re a fucking great kid”*

The sentence above is uttered by McCarthy to Greg. McCarthy is a teacher of Greg. Even though the speaker is superior, he intends to create an intimate relationship. Therefore, he uses the word “fucking” as an intensifier of “a great kid”. The speaker intends to say that Greg is an absolutely great kid. Since Greg ignores his schoolwork to accompany Rachel, he gets bad mark. The speaker feels trustful as he believes that Greg is able to improve the bad mark. The writer found the word “fucking” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means used as an attention-getting intensifier.

**Data 18. Hard-on**

*“You must get a hard-on from all kind of freaky shit”*

The sentence above is uttered by Earl to Greg. They have an intimate relationship as good friends. The speaker chooses this slang word to avoid others listen what they are talking about since the setting takes place at the addressee’s back porch. The speaker is talking about sexuality matter. The speaker thinks that if the addressee is a bisexual, he must get an erection from all kind of very odd thing.

The writer found the word “hard-on” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means an erection.

**Data 19. Faggot**

*“Hei faggot! Lemme be in your gay movie”*

The sentence above is uttered by Will to Greg as mockery. The speaker speaks in directive way, since they have an equal position in social status. The speaker feels joy to address the addressee as a homosexual since Greg does not belong to any groups in school. The addressee would like to make a movie for Rachel. However, the speaker mocks the addressee to make a gay movie. The writer found the word “faggot” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means a male homosexual.

**Data 20. Sup**

*“Sup”*

The expression above is uttered by Earl to Greg. Their position is equal in social status as they are schoolmate, and they are good friends. The speaker uses this expression as a greeting to the addressee. The speaker feels glad when uttering this word. The term “Sup” is derived from the expression “what’s up”. The writer found the word “sup” in The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English, which means used as a greeting.

From twenty data shown in Table 1, the greatest numbers of speaker who use slang words are the speakers who have the equal position in social status. Seventeen data show that slang is used by the speakers who have the equal position in social status. One datum signifies that slang is used by the speaker who is in higher position or superior to the addressee who is in lower position or subordinate. Besides, there are two data which show that the speaker who is subordinate or in lower position speaking to superior or in higher position by using slang.

The speakers in the novel who have the equal position in social status are teenagers. Teenagers use slang more often since they tend to express their thought and feelings directly, although many slang words uttered contain a lot of bad, impolite, and vulgar words. They prefer using slang as it is used to create their interaction more relaxed. Moreover, slang is used by the speakers to express the solidarity among the participants as young people. This language use correlates to Wardhaugh’s opinion (2006). [Wardhaugh \(2006\)](#) states “... solidarity is often more important than politeness in personal relationships.” It means in personal relationships, politeness presumably becomes an unimportant matter compared to solidarity.

The speaker who is superior or in higher status often talk by using standard language due to their educational background and economic success to the equal status speaker in order to show his membership in higher status group. While, the higher status speaker uses standard language to the lower status speaker to show his prestige, honor, and power. However, the data found in the novel shows that the speaker who is superior speaks slang language to the subordinate. This is because the speaker in higher status intends to create a close relationship or lessen social distance to the addressee. Since the addressee is a teenager, the speaker uses

the slang language in order to be acceptable. This sign fits to Holmes's explanation (2013). Holmes (2013:172) claims that standard speech form portray social distance. It means an informal language (slang) is used to make the social distance among the speaker disappeared.

On the other hand, the lower status speakers tend to use more standard language to the higher status speaker in order to show their respect. As the lower status speakers are subordinate, their language use must be polite. However, in data analysis there are two data which shows that lower status speaker uses slang to the higher status speaker. This is because the speaker feels that they have an intimate relationship, and the interaction is in informal setting. Hence, he is allowed to use very informal language (slang) to the superior position. This evidence corresponds to Holmes's idea (2013). Holmes (2013:168) explains "Interactions between a mother and her child are likely to be very relaxed and informal, and it is in relaxed informal context that vernacular forms occur most often in everyone's speech." It means an informal language is used not only by looking at how close the relationship is, but also how relaxed or informal the situation is.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis pointed out that there are two types of slang words. They are primary slang and secondary slang words. There are twenty-one data of the primary slang and nine data of the secondary slang found. It means that the primary slang dominates the type of slang words found. The primary slang becomes the dominant type of slang used in the novel due to the setting and the characters in the novel. This novel tells about high school life, and teenagers must use slang in their conversation more often. It can be concluded that slang in the novel is used to show solidarity and intimacy among the characters. The interpretations of the slang words found show that slang words can be used by the speakers who have the equal position in social status, higher status position to lower status position, and lower status position to higher status position. Besides, slang words are used to express the speakers' emotion toward the addressees and situation. Further study on slang words used in different platforms is strongly suggested.

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