THE TYPES AND FUNCTIONS OF SLANG USED ON TWITTER IN MILLENNIAL ERA

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Abstract: *This study analyzes the slang used by Twitter users during the Millennial era. The research aims to identify and classify the types of slang words and their functions. It employs qualitative methods, gathering slang data from tweets by Twitter users. The analysis is based on two theories: Abdul Chaer's theory, which categorizes word forms, and Patridge's theory, which explains the functions of slang on Twitter. The study identifies and classifies slang into four categories: basic words, derivative words, acronyms, and abbreviations. In total, 65 slang words were found, including 21 basic words, 6 derivative words, 9 acronyms, and 28 abbreviations. The study also identifies five functions of slang on Twitter: for jokes or fun, to appear unique and modern, to enhance readability and aesthetics, to avoid formalities, and to expand vocabulary.*

INTRODUCTION

Language, as defined by Kridalaksana and Djoko Kentjono (Chaer, 2014: 32), is an arbitrary sound symbol system used by social groups to work together, communicate, and identify themselves. Its primary function is to facilitate communication among humans, a crucial aspect of social interaction and coexistence. Language enables humans to convey messages, emotions, ideas, and thoughts, serving as a vital tool for interaction. Despite variations across different communities, languages share commonalities and unique characteristics, leading to diverse forms of expression, including slang. Slang represents a dynamic and evolving form of language, primarily used by younger generations. It involves new and rapidly changing vocabulary, often serving as a secret and special mode of communication within specific groups (Alwasilah, 1988). The emergence of social media, particularly platforms like Twitter, has amplified the use and evolution of slang. Twitter, a

microblogging and social networking service, allows users to post brief messages, or tweets, of up to 280 characters, fostering a unique environment for slang to thrive.

Twitter's journey began in March 2006, conceptualized by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams. Initially limited to 140 characters, the platform expanded to 280 characters in 2017, enhancing its capability for interaction and expression. Twitter gained significant popularity in 2007 during the South by Southwest (SXSW) music festival, marking a surge in daily tweets from 20,000 to 60,000, and establishing itself as a key medium for real-time updates and trending news (Harrera, 2016). This study focuses on the slang words used by Indonesian Twitter users in the Millennial era. The diversity of slang on Twitter reflects a form of intimate communication, promoting understanding and engagement among users. The persistent and growing use of slang on Twitter underscores its relevance, prompting an exploration into its types and functions in the context of the Millennial generation.

This research aims to answer two key questions: what the types of slang words used on Twitter in the Millennial era are, and, what the functions of slang words used on Twitter in the Millennial era are. It also contributes to understanding the development of slang words on Twitter, facilitating easier comprehension of their meanings and purposes. It helps readers identify the types and functions of slang used on Twitter, particularly in the Millennial era in Indonesia, enriching their linguistic and social knowledge.

LITERATURE REVIEW
1. Language

The existence of a language is inseparable from the community that uses it. Language evolves as society does, constantly changing over time. Some languages develop and progress with the addition of new aspects, while others face extinction due to a lack of speakers. A language's development is influenced by the needs, circumstances, and desires of its speakers (Chaika, 1994). The close relationship between language and society means that societal changes over time lead to differences in language use and the creation of new terms, resulting in shifts in meaning across different eras. Language, created by various communities, is inherently dynamic and varied.

The dynamic nature of language allows words within a sentence to refer to multiple meanings or categories. According to de Saussure, language can function as parole, langue, or language. Parole, a concrete object, consists of real utterances by speakers within a community, while langue, an abstract object, represents a specific language system. Language, the most abstract, denotes a universal language system (Kridalaksana, 2005). Language possesses intrinsic characteristics such as being systematic, symbolic, auditory, meaningful, arbitrary, conventional, productive, unique, universal, dynamic, humane, and variable (Chaer, 2003). These characteristics underline the absolute nature of language, enabling the emergence of new languages in every era and enriching global linguistic diversity.

2. Language variety

Language variety is a fundamental aspect of human diversity, inherently linked to all human activities and movements throughout history. A language community typically

comprises individuals with diverse social statuses and cultural backgrounds, including those who are educated and uneducated, urban and rural residents, and people of different ages. These differences in background and environment contribute to the variety of language (Chaer, 2003).

With the advent of sophisticated technology and the rise of social media in the millennial era, languages have become even more varied and diverse. New words, meanings, and terms emerge as a result of the creativity of speakers, a phenomenon particularly common among today's teenagers, who often produce new expressions and blend various language variations in their everyday communication.

3. Slang

Understanding the development of slang in the digital era is crucial, as it not only changes language but also keeps us informed and helps us understand the language used by Millennials. Slang is a fascinating aspect of language development, particularly in today's digital age. Its usage on social media is widespread and dynamic, with new words frequently emerging from social media conversations and becoming popular among teenagers. Initially, slang served as a marker of group identity, but now it is used by almost all groups in written communication on social media (Maryland Institute of Research & Yang, 2014).

Slang is also closely tied to popular culture and English, the latter being a prominent international language. This connection has led to the rapid growth of slang vocabulary, especially in the modern digital world. Slang terms often arise from jokes and become part of everyday language, accepted across various social groups. According to Chaer & Agustina (2014), extensive research has been conducted on slang, particularly its use in social media communication. Slang appears in both spoken and written forms on platforms like WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, and includes basic words, abbreviations, acronyms, and puns.

Slang expressions are unique and varied, often specific to particular user communities, such as those on Twitter, to facilitate easier communication and create a sense of intimacy among users (Chaer, 2003). Research by Oktaviani & Pratiwi (2022) explains the various functions of slang, based on Partridge's 15 categories, including for fun, showcasing intelligence, standing out, aesthetic purposes, attracting attention, avoiding clichés, expressing rejection, fostering intimacy, and maintaining secrecy. In the Millennial era on Twitter, the most common functions of slang are for jokes, appearing contemporary, enhancing readability, avoiding pleasantries, and enriching vocabulary.

4. Twitter

Twitter is a social media platform commonly used for posting tweets or statuses in text form. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, "Twitter is the name of a social media service where people or organizations can publish short remarks or pieces of information, and where you can see information published by people or organizations that you choose." The Twitter logo, a bird named Larry Bird, symbolizes singing and reflects the platform's purpose of sharing information and personal thoughts. The bird's name was inspired by Larry Bird, a basketball player from the Boston Celtics, as one of Twitter's founders, Biz Stone, is a fan.

Launched on July 15, 2006, Twitter quickly became one of the world's top ten most visited sites, attracting a diverse user base that includes the general public, celebrities, and state officials globally. Its popularity rivals that of Facebook, thanks to its unique features. According to Eka & Harrera (2016), several common terms are associated with Twitter usage:

1. Timeline: A list of the latest tweets from followed accounts, including the user's tweets.
2. Direct Message (DM): A private messaging facility between users. DMs can only be sent if both parties follow each other, otherwise, they appear as message requests.
3. Trending Topics: A list of popular themes or news being discussed on Twitter.
4. Tweets: Informational messages limited to 280 characters, often sharing breaking news or personal interests.
5. Reply Tweet: A comment or response to a tweet.
6. Retweet: Sharing another user's tweet with one's followers.
7. Follow: Subscribing to another user's account to receive their updates.
8. Follower: A user who subscribes to another's account.
9. Mention (@): A way to tag or address other users in tweets by using their username.
10. Hashtag (#): A symbol used to mark keywords or topics, making them easy to find.

The growth of Twitter users is closely linked to advancements in technology, particularly smartphones, which have significantly increased social media usage

5. Millennial

Millennials, also known as Generation Y, are individuals born between 1980 and 2000. This generation has surpassed the Baby Boomers (born 1946 to 1964) to become the largest generation in American history (Rainer & Rainer, 2011). Millennials follow Generation X and are often characterized by their high level of education, with many having parents who pursued education beyond high school. Approximately 50 percent of Millennials are currently active in the workforce. Despite their independence, they maintain strong connections with their parents. Millennials aged 23 to 43 are distinct from previous generations due to their extensive use of technology, pop culture, and unique language development. Their lives are deeply intertwined with the internet and entertainment, and they often use slang and unconventional language.

As Millennials increasingly adopt computers, they open more opportunities to influence the internet. Their ongoing desire for advanced technology and effective communication tools is notable. Social media allows Millennials to not only communicate but also to share and observe the lives of their friends. This capability enables them to connect with acquaintances who might otherwise remain unknown without social media (Rainer & Rainer, 2011). Consequently, Millennials have a significant impact on the world, shaping perspectives, habits, and language both in real life and on social media platforms like.

RESEARCH METHOD

Using a qualitative approach, the study examines natural objects with the researcher as the key instrument, employing triangulation for data collection and inductive analysis, emphasizing meaning over generalization (Abdussamad, 2022). It explores slang on Twitter during the Millennial era, with data from captions related to the research problem. Data collection involved observing tweets, identifying, and classifying slang types and functions, followed by written analysis. Techniques included observation, interviews, and document analysis (Abdussamad, 2022). Data analysis involved reading and reviewing data for emerging themes and patterns, analyzing slang words and their meanings, and categorizing data.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. The type of slang words used on Twitter in the Millennial era

After analyzing slang words on Twitter, researchers found four types of slang used by Millennials: basic words, derivative words, acronym words, and abbreviations.

a. Basic words

Basic words are words that do not undergo a process of affixation such as prefixes, suffixes, or confixes (Margiyanti & Yuliyanto, n.d.). Basic word forms are found through analysis based on Abdul Chaer's theory. There are some basic words used as slang words.

The word *nder* is an absorption word from the word "*sender*" which means the sender or the creator of the tweet, usually, Twitter users will reply to tweets that they didn't know by calling or greeting the sender as *nder*. In the Cambridge dictionary, *sender* means a person who sends something. This word did not go through the affixation process, so it has two syllables *'sen + er* = sender' which means a person who sends something. Based on this, the slang *nder* which means sender in terms of slang words on Twitter is a basic word because it did not go through an affixation process.

The word *chill* is a form of the word that comes from *chill out*, which is an informal English word that means relaxed; and is often used by Twitter users in language, for example, *just chill* or *chill aja chill*. Meanwhile, according to the Cambridge English dictionary, *chill* is to (cause to) become cold but not freeze. The slang word *chill* which means relaxed does not go through the affixation process, and only has one syllable, namely *'chil = relax'*. Based on this, the slang *chill* is a basic word because it does not go through an affixation process.

The word *salty* is a slang word that means furious or annoyed. Meanwhile in the Cambridge Dictionary *salty* is tasting of salt or containing a lot of salt while on Twitter this word is used to show annoyance or insinuation about something. The slang word *salty* which means furious or annoying does not go through the affixation process and has two syllables namely *'salt + y'*. Based on this, the slang *salty* is a basic word because it does not go through an affixation process. There is no different form of the word *salty* which means containing salt, it just has a different meaning between the standard language and the slang language that is often used on Twitter. The following is a table containing some basic words used as slang words.

Table 1. Basic Words and Its Meanings

No.	Basic words	Description and Meanings
1.	*nder*	means the sender/the creator of the tweet, usually Twitter users will reply to tweets that they do not know by calling/greeting the sender as *nder*
2.	*chill*	is a word form that comes from *chill out*, which means relaxed or take it easy.
3.	*salty*	the word *salt* that means *garam* becomes *geram*. Usually, this word is used to show annoyance or insinuation about something
4.	*triggered*	The word comes from English which means *dipicu*. Usually, Twitter users use this word to describe themselves as being '*terpicu*' to be angry or unhappy about something.
5.	*cosplay*	a kind of fake imitating a public figure, anime or something
6.	*periodt*	It is not a typo, the word *periodt* can be interpreted as a point or serves to strengthen the message being conveyed. The word is usually placed at the end of the sentence.
7.	*moots*	is Twitter slang another word for '*mutual*' and means two accounts that follow each other.
8.	*tweep*	literally interpreted as someone who has become a friend or follower of an account registered on Twitter
9.	*misuh*	is a word from the Javanese language which means to say harshly.
10.	*deact*	is an absorption from the English language, namely '*deactivate*' which means *menonaktifkan*. Just like some other social media, Twitter also has a deactivated account feature. Before '*deact*', don't forget to say goodbye, then two days later it's active again.
11.	*spill*	is a shortening from *spill* the tea to reveal something that many people do not know, and netizens ask the sender to tell it.
12.	*sambat*	derived from the Javanese language which means to complain
13.	*flop*	the term '*flop*' that Twitter users use means 'to fail'. In a sense, when the tweet is empty of responses, it is a flop.
14.	*social butterflies*	the character of people who easily make friends with anyone as known as friendly.
15.	*thread*	threads or Twitter chains that are usually used to tell something long because it is not enough to just make one tweet
16.	*based*	an account created to discuss a certain topic such as hobbies, beauty, pets, and so on.
17.	*disclaimer*	a term used as a warning to the reader
18.	*akun alter*	means second account. Usually used to share complaints that cannot be shared on the first account
19.	*clingy*	is a term for people who are very dependent on their partner, and always want to know what are their partner activities every time.

| 20. | *hyung* | means 'brother' comes from Korean, usually used to greet friends on Twitter. |
| 21. | *jalan ninja* | Twitter users like to use this term to express their life choices. |

b. Derivative words

This derivative word comes from a basic word that gets affixes or derivatives resulting from the development of other words. There are some derivative words used as slang words.

The word *membagongkan* comes from Indonesian Language *bagong* which is formed and gets confix (gets a prefix and suffix) *mem-* and *-kan*, so that the word *membagongkan* is formed. According to *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia*, the word *bagong* has two meanings, the first is wild boar and the second is a machete or boat. While the word *membagongkan* in Javanese language means bother. But the meaning of the word *membagongkan* in slang Twitter is surprised or shocked not believing or other things such as being speechless with a condition or situation, and various other things. So, the meaning of *membagongkan* is a form of expression of surprise or a confusing condition for someone.

The word *mutualan* comes from the basic English word *mutual* and gets the suffix *-an* then becomes *mutualan* . According to the Cambridge Dictionary, mutual means (of two or more people or groups) feeling the same emotion or doing the same thing to or for each other. The term *mutualan* based on a slang word on Twitter means a relationship following each other's social media accounts, this one word is often found in someone's posts that are busy or have lots of likes, retweets, and comments.

The word *Ava* is a derivative of the word *avatar*. Avatar based on Cambridge Dictionary is an image that stands for you in online games, chat rooms, etc, and that you can move around the screen. The table below contains some derivative words used as slang words.

Table 2. Derivative Words and Its Meaning

No.	Derivate words	Description and Its Meanings
1.	*membagongkan*	substitute word for "surprise or troublesome or confusing"
2.	*mutualan*	ask to follow each other
3.	*ava*	is a shortening from *avatar* which means profile photo
4.	*dom*	is shortening for domicile
5.	*fess*	an account that is a forum for Twitter members who have the same hobbies/interests among themselves.
6.	rep	is an abbreviation of the word 'Reply' which means reply

c. Acronym words

The acronym is part of the shortening. The shortening that will be discussed in this discussion is an acronym. Shortening is the process of separating the parts of a lexeme or a combination of lexemes that can be shortened but have the same meaning as the full form. An acronym is the result of shortening in the form of a word or can be pronounced as a word which can usually be a fragment of the first letter, a fragment of a syllable from

a combination of lexemes, or it can also be random or irregular. There are some acronym words used as slang words.

The word *menfess* is an acronym for two words, namely (*men*)tion and con(*fess*). Literally the meaning of *menfess* is to mention and reveal. *Menfess* is often used to refer to the activity of anonymously sending messages through *menfess* accounts to reveal and ask for opinions from Twitter users. As in the following Twitter account, which is the kpop idol Haecan fanbase account, mentions in his tweet "*Haecan Full Black Outfit Cakep Banget*" and was revealed with comments by Twitter users who also like Haecan.

Opfol is an acronym for Open follow. Open follow is Twitter interaction to invite you to follow the account and will be followed back by the account in question. Usually carried out by big accounts that offer follow back for their followers or followers.

The word *2beer* is an acronym or a combination of two words, the first is 2/two and the second is beer, which when combined in Indonesian is read as two(*tu*) + beer(*bir*) and becomes *tubir* and when reversed it is read as *ribut*. This Twitter slang means "*noisy*" which is turned upside down and is a *tubeer twist*. Tweet by @dytyys "*azizi sama marsha lucu banget weh, pls jangan ada yang 2beer-in mereka liat aja sampe ada (with angry emoticon)*". The words 2beer-in *mereka* mean *ributin mereka*. The following is a table containing some acronym words used as slang words.

Table 3. Acronym Words and Meaning

No	Acronym words	Description and Its Meanings
1.	*menfess*	stands for *mention confess*. This term is often used by Twitter users when sending a message without disclosing the identity of the sender
2.	*opfol*	stands for open follow
3.	*2beer/tubir*	read *tubir*. If the edge is reversed, it means *"ribut"*.
4.	*mengcape*	a mixture of English and Indonesian affixes which means tired.
5.	*jujurly*	is an Indonesian absorption word that is spoofed with English style, derived from the word honest and added with the affix -*ly* which means *sejujurnya*
6.	*burjek*	It stands for *buronan jeki*. Usually, the word *burjek* is used as a term for people who are considered problematic and will get suspended from Jeki (Jack Dorsey, as CEO of Twitter).
7.	*mengsad*	a mixture of English and Indonesian affixes which means sad.
8.	*convokiller*	a mixture of English and Indonesian affixes which means sad.
9.	*kenawhy*	is a combination of two languages which are abbreviated from Indonesian and English, *kenapa* and *why*, which means *why*

d. Abbreviation

       Abbreviation is the result of the process of shortening or preserving the initial letters of a lexeme or the initial letters of a combination of lexemes. In communication habits, Twitter users usually use several abbreviated languages that are often used in interactions. There are some abbreviations used as slang.

       MJB is an abbreviation form of *maaf join bareng*, which means an expression of excuse me or asking for permission to join a chat or answer tweets on Twitter. This twitter account mentions one of the tweets with "*MJB, mudahan membantu*" to give the material of eleven grade.

       WTP is an abbreviation for *Want to Pamer*. Usually, the word WTP is used by Twitter users when they show or show off for something. The twitter account @kkaariiin *wtp alias want to pamer, gua abis belajar*. She tweets it to tell everyone that she already study.

       RL is an abbreviation of the word *Real Life* which does not have a different meaning from the acronym. The word *Real Life* or *RL* is usually used to compare real life and social media life on Twitter. There is tweet by twitter account @givin_work who emphasized in his tweet *No sir this RL "Real Life"* (with laugh emoticon). The following is a table containing some abbreviations used as slang.

Table 4. Abbreviations and Meanings

No	Abbreviations	Description and Its Meanings
1.	MJB	stands for "Maaf Join Bareng"
2.	WTP	Stands for "Want To Pamer"
3.	RL	Stands for "Real Life"
4.	SJW	Stands for "Social Justice Warior" which means warrior of social conditions.
5.	OOMF	Stands for "One Of My Followers"
6.	TL	Stands for "TimeLine"
7.	GC	Stands for "Group Chat"
8.	GA	Stands for "Give Away"
9.	OOT	Stands for "Out Of Topic"
10.	ACC	Stands for "Account"
11.	CMIIW	Stands for "Correct Me If I'm Wrong"
12.	WDYT	Stands for "What Do You Think?"
13.	SMH	Stand for "Shaking My Head". You can use it when you read something that you don't agree with, or something that disgusts you.
14.	ATM	Stands for "At The Moment"
15.	IRL	Stands for "In Real Life"
16.	PAP	Stands for "Post The Picture"
17.	OTS	Stands for "On The Spot"
18.	OA	Stands for "Official Account"

19.	PA	Stands for "Personal Account"
20.	CA	Stands for "Cyber Account"
21.	FA	Stands for "Fan Account"
22.	BA	Stands for "Bussiness Account"
23.	RP	Stands for "RolePlayer". This account does not post real life information at all and uses photos of idols that are liked
24.	ISTG	Stands for "I Swear To God"
25.	ICYMI	Stands for "In Case You Missed It"
26.	BUB	Stands for "Block UnBlock"
27.	AU	Stands for "Alternate Universe", a story that is made with a different dimension from the true story.
28.	TIA	Stands for "Thanks In Advance"

2. The functions of slang words used on Twitter in the Millennial era

Slang is not a language that suddenly appears out of nowhere, but slang appears through certain processes so that the speaker and the interlocutor can understand each other's meaning. Slang has certain functions and has several differences in its use in the communication process. Slang also has its own meaning and way of conveying it to a certain group, that is why the use of slang is also not arbitrary. As stated by (Patridge, 1950) slang has 15 functions in communication. Some of the slang functions found on social media Twitter are as follows.

a. to joke or just for fun

Slang words can serve as just a punch line, as well as to break the ice so that it can be fun. From the slang words used on social media Twitter, several words were found that function as a joke or for fun. As an example of the words on the Twitter account @ItsNathanielar *yaudah hyung aku gak jadi culik, gak tega soalnya kamu lucu banget*. The word *hyung* usually creates a funny impression and is usually used for fun.

b. to look different and contemporary

The most common function of slang, why Twitter social media users use slang, is to make it look different and up to date. They usually often use trending Twitter slang words with the intention of not being said to be outdated, going with the flow, and giving the impression of being up to date. Most of the slang words found have this function,

c. to look more beautiful and readable

Some slang words are used to make the sentences more beautiful and easier to pronounce or read, so people create words that are often used in Twitter conversations but are different from the original sentence forms, such as the words *jujurly, mengcape* etc. The word *jujurly* is a very popular word that is often used on social media Twitter. This word is often used by adding elements from other languages, namely bound morphemes at the end of the word *-ly* from English.

d. to avoid pleasantries and to the point

This function is possessed by slang words such as OOT, FA, ISTG and so on which are abbreviations or abbreviations of several phrases, so just writing the abbreviation, we do not need to mince words anymore and the other person immediately understands what

it means.This term is one of the terms commonly found on social media Twitter as a reciprocal action or a tweet uttered by someone to explain something that is outside the topic discussed without further ado.

e. to enrich vocabularies

Some slang words can also be used to enrich vocabulary, especially by absorbing other language vocabulary into slang. The word *misuh* is a word that comes from the Javanese language which means cursing and is often used by Twitter users as a slang word on Twitter. This is due to the limited number of words that can be typed in the tweet column. Compared to the various slang forms of interjection, this form is rarely used by account users because the use of interjection forms can be expressed using emoticons and this form is also rarely used to interact on Twitter social media.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

There are many types of slang words found on Twitter. There are four kinds that can be classified from Twitter. Based on the results of the analysis in the millennial era, it is found a total of 65 data of slang words that were frequently used, including basic words, derivative words, acronyms, and abbreviations and there are also at least five functions why millennials use slang in Twitter. They are to joke or just for fun; to look different and contemporary; to look more beautiful and readable; to avoid pleasantries and to the point; and to enrich vocabularies.

A suggestion for English Literature students, especially those who are interested in conducting research in the linguistics section, is to develop slang word research on various social media such as Instagram, Facebook, Telegram, etc. The social life of the media has been very close to humans, and it is undeniable that many language developments must be studied and explored in linguistic development. There are still many varieties of slang words that must be researched and discovered; because language is always developing and increasing in diversity based on generations, nations, and even the world of real life and cyberspace (social media).

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