Slang Variations in "Black Eyed Peas" Songs

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Abstract -This article explores the use of sociolinguistic slang in the lyrics of Black Eyed Peas songs. The study employs qualitative research methods to analyze the language variations and unconventional vocabulary present in the music text. By observing and recording the lyrics of several Black Eyed Peas songs, the researcher examines how slang contributes to the appeal and relatability of the group's music. Sociolinguistic slang is seen as a form of informal language that develops within specific social groups, often serving as a means of social identification and solidarity. The study reveals that the Black Eyed Peas incorporate slang to establish a contemporary and informal flavor in their songs, facilitating a connection with their audience. The findings contribute to our understanding of how slang can shape the cultural and linguistic aspects of music, highlighting its role in expressing identity and fostering social connections.

Keywords: Sociolinguistic Perspective, Slang Language, Black Eyed Peas Songs

I. INTRODUCTION

A fascinating and complex component of human communication is language. Language has been essential to our ability to interact with one another, share information and ideas, and create complex communities since the beginning of human history. Language development doesn't cease when people reach school age, nor, for that matter, adolescence or maturity ; language development continues throughout our lives (Gleason, J. B., & Ratner, N. B. 2022) . The power of language to express meaning through the use of abstract symbols is one of its most amazing features. This is true of all languages, spoken or written, and it enables us to express sophisticated ideas and concepts as well as talk about things that are not actually there. Because language is abstract, we may represent complicated feelings, experiences, and viewpoints through the use of words, metaphors, and other literary devices. This is why language is such a powerful instrument for creativity and expression. Language and control discusses questions which are the concern of lingustics, sociolinguistics, sociology and political theory (Fowler, R., Hodge, B., Kress, G., & Trew, T. 2018). Grammar,

syntax, and semantic norms help to guarantee that communication is straightforward and clear because language is also quite structured. These conventions may differ from language to language, but they are necessary for good communication and enable us to express our thoughts and ideas in a clear and concise manner. Beyond its function in communication, language also has a significant impact on how we think and see the world.

The investigation of language use in various circumstances as well as its structure, meaning, and scientific research are all covered by linguistics. Linguistics is thus descriptive rather than prescriptive : its primary goal Is to describe languages as they are actually spoken, indicating what they are like and how they are used, rather than prescribe how they ought to be spoken (McGregor, W. B. 2015). The study of language's phonetics (sounds), phonology (sound systems), morphology (word creation), syntax (sentence structure), semantics (meaning), and pragmatics (language use in context) is included in the large area of linguistics. Linguists explore how language is learned, processed, and used by people and communities as well as

how it evolves and changes over time using a variety of techniques and ideas. They also look at the historical, social, and cultural influences on language use and variance in various contexts and cultures. Linguistics is an interdisciplinary field that incorporates ideas from computer science, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, psychology, and other related fields.

Sociolinguistics is the study of the way language serves and is shaped by the social nature of human beings. Sociolinguistics Is a little bit of absolutely everything you already know about language (Meyerhoff, M. 2018) Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society. It is an interdisciplinary field that combines aspects of linguistics, sociology, anthropology, psychology, and other disciplines to examine how language is used in different social contexts and how it reflects and reinforces social norms, attitudes, and values. Sociolinguists study various aspects of language use, including the social and cultural factors that shape language variation and change, the ways in which language reflects and reinforces social identities and power dynamics, and the role of language in communication and social interaction.

Language variation is a central concept in sociolinguistics, which studies how language use varies across different social contexts, groups, and individuals. This variation can take many forms, including differences in pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and discourse patterns. Language variation refers to the way in which language use differs from one social group to another, or from one geographic location to another. (Holmes, J. 2013). Sociolinguists are interested in understanding how social factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, social class, and regional identity shape language variation and use. For example, they may study how people from different geographic regions use different dialects or accents, or how people of different social classes use language differently. One important aspect of language variation is the idea of a standard dialect, which is often seen as the correct or prestigious form of a language.

Language variety refers to the different forms that language can take in different social contexts, regions, and communities. As most people recognize, language varies from place to place, with speakers in different locales exhibiting phonological, lexical, syntactic, morphological, and pragmatic variation (Leeman, J., & Serafini, E. J. 2016). There are several parts or dimensions of language variety that sociolinguists study, including: First, Phonological variation is governed by a network of interacting preferences that include the surrounding linguistic context (Tamminga, M. 2016). This refers to differences in pronunciation or accent. Second, Morphological variation refers to the way in which the units of meaning that make up words (morphemes) are pronounced or combined differently across dialects or other social or regional groupings (Walt Wolfram, 2016). This refers to differences in the way words are formed, such as adding suffixes or changing the spelling of a word to reflect tense or plurality. Third, Syntactic variation is the study of the ways in which speakers use different structures to convey the same meaning, or use the same structure to convey different meanings, across different social, regional, and situational contexts (Penelope Eckert, 2013). Different dialects or varieties of a language may have different syntactic rules, such as the placement of adjectives or the use of double negatives. Fourth, Lexical variation is the study of how the vocabulary of a language varies across different regions, social groups, and historical periods. It encompasses both the differences in vocabulary choice that serve to distinguish one dialect from another, as well as the words and expressions that are shared across dialects but have different

meanings or connotations (Walt Wolfram, 2016). This refers to differences in vocabulary, including slang, jargon, or regionalisms. Different dialects or varieties of a language may have different words for the same concept, or different meanings for the same word. Fifth, Discourse variation is the study of how speakers use language to construct and interpret meaning in different communicative contexts.

Language variations from the user's point of view : First, Idiolect is a form of language that is typically used by an individual. These varieties are all personal characteristics in the pattern of choice of vocabulary or idioms, grammar, and pronunciation. Second, Dialect is a variation of language from a group of speakers whose number is relatively, who are in one place, region or certain area (Chaer and Agustina, 2014). Third, chronolect is a variety of languages based on differences (order) of time. Fourth, Sociolect or social dialect is a variety of languages related to the status, class, and social class of the speakers (Chaer and Agustina, 2014). Fifth, Acrolect is a language realization that is seen as more prestigious or higher than other varieties. Sixth, Basilek is a language variation that is considered less prestigious or considered inferior. Seventh, Slang is a social variation that is only used by certain groups of people that are unknown to other groups (Chaer and Agustian, 2014). Eighth, Vulgar is a social variation used by those who are less educated, or from among those who are not educated and cannot be known by people outside that group. Ninth, colloquial is a social variation used by speakers in everyday conversations. Tenth, according to (Chaer and Agustina 2014) jargón is a social variation that is used in a limited way by certain social groups. Eleventh, Argot is a social variation that is used in a limited way in certain professions and is confidential. Argot's specificity lies in its vocabulary. Twelfth, Ken is a particular social variety whose tone is "pitiful" made to whiny, full

of affectation. This variation is usually used by beggars.

Slang is a type of informal language that is often used in everyday conversations, particularly among younger generations. It can be defined as a set of words or phrases that deviate from standard language, often incorporating new words or changing the meanings of existing words. Slang is a type of language that consists of words and phrases that are used in informal and often subcultural contexts. Slang is characterized by its novelty, informality, and often taboo or controversial nature, and is frequently associated with youth culture and nonstandard varieties of English (Tony Thorne, 2014). The origins of slang can be traced back to the early 16th century, when it was used by criminals and other marginalized groups as a way to communicate secretly. Slang was also used by soldiers, sailors and other groups who needed to communicate in a way that was not understood by outsiders. Over time, slang has evolved and become more widely used in everyday language. Slang is often used to express group identity and social status. It can also be used to express humor, irony or sarcasm. Slang words and phrases can spread quickly through social media and other forms of digital communication, making them a key part of contemporary language use. Slang is not typically used in formal settings, such as business or academic environments, as it is considered inappropriate or unprofessional. However, it is widely used in popular culture, including music, movies, and TV shows. One of the most interesting aspects of slang is that it is constantly evolving, with new words and phrases emerging and existing ones falling out of use. This reflects the dynamic nature of language and the way in which it is shaped by social and cultural factors.

The Song of Songs posed two interrelated problems for the Fathers of the early church, both of which were articulated and addressed in Origen's voluminous

third-century commentary. The first problem arises from what the Song leaves unstated; the second from what it actually says (Astell, A. W. 2018).A song is a musical composition typically consisting of lyrics (words) and melody (tune), often accompanied by harmony and rhythm. It is typically created for the purpose of entertainment or expression of emotion, and can be performed by a soloist or a group of musicians. Songs can take many forms and genres, including pop, rock, country, hip hop, jazz, blues, and classical music, among others. The lyrics of a song can be in any language, and may convey a range of emotions and themes such as love, heartbreak, politics, social commentary, and spirituality. Songs can be composed and performed using a variety of instruments, including guitar, piano, drums, bass, and brass and wind instruments, among others. In addition, with the advancements in technology, songs can also be created using digital tools and software. Songs can have a powerful impact on individuals and society as a whole, often serving as a reflection of the cultural and societal values of the time in which they were created.

The songs from "Black Eyed Peas" are included in the pop genre.The Black Eyed Peas were remembered as the musical artists they most often listened to in and around the year 2006 (Griffith, J. 2017). A pop song is a genre of popular music characterized by its focus on catchy melodies, simple structures, and easily relatable lyrics. Pop songs often feature a combination of acoustic and electronic instruments, and are typically produced to achieve a clear, polished sound that is intended to appeal to a broad audience. The Black Eyed Peas are an American musical group known for their mix of hip hop, pop, and electronic dance music. The group consists of members will.i.am, apl.de.ap, Taboo, and Fergie (who left the group in 2017). The Black Eyed Peas have also been known for their use of technology in their music and performances.

They have incorporated futuristic themes and visuals into their music videos, and their live performances have featured innovative stage setups and interactive technology. Slang variations are often used to add personality, humor, and authenticity to lyrics, and the Black Eyed Peas have used this technique in many of their songs.

The Black Eyed Peas have a huge following and their songs are well liked. The Black Eyed Peas are renowned for incorporating technology into their music and live performances. Their live shows incorporate cutting-edge stage design and interactive technology, and their music videos integrate future-proof themes and graphics. The Black Eyed Peas' use of slang in their music became an important aspect of their popularity, helping to make them relatable and appealing to a wide range of listeners.

II. METHOD

The research that has been done is qualitative data. Qualitative research methods are a robust tool for chaplaincy research questions. Similar to much of chaplaincy clinical care, qualitative research generally works with written texts, often transcriptions of individual interviews or focus group conversations and seeks to understand the meaning of experience in a study sample (Grossoehme, D. H. 2014). The data source used in this study is the music text of several Black Eyed Peas pop songs. The data source used is in the form of language variations or a few words from the lyrics of the song expressing slang language variations. The data collection technique used in this study uses observation techniques, namely by observing and recording. Observation is a systematic method for collecting data by directly observing and documenting behavior, actions, and social interactions in real life. This allows researchers to understand natural contexts, uncover patterns, and gain insight into the meanings associated with

actions and events (Marshall and Rossman 2016). This observation method is embodied in a technique for obtaining data, the author makes observations by viewing and listening to several songs from Black Eyed Peas. Furthermore, data collection was carried out using the technique of recording parts of song lyrics which contained variations of slang found in several Black Eyed Peas songs. Descriptive data obtained from the findings of observations that have been made. Data is collected from the words sung in the lyrics of the song. The theory used in this research is language variation. Variety of language is a variation of language according to different uses according to the topic being discussed, according to the relationship between the speaker, the person he is talking to, the person being talked about, and according to the medium of the speaker. The method of presenting the results of the data analysis used is informal, where the presentation has used ordinary words or descriptions.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Sociolinguistic slang refers to the use of informal language or unconventional vocabulary within a specific social group or community. It is a type of slang that develops and is understood within a particular sociocultural context, often serving as a form of social identification and solidarity among its speakers. Sociolinguistic slang is shaped by various factors, including age, ethnicity, region, subculture, and shared experiences. It evolves as a way for individuals to express their identity, establish social connections, and differentiate themselves from other groups. It can include unique vocabulary, phrases, or even modifications of standard language. Slang does not have a precise and definite definition, because in slang there are always words new words are created. That is why slang seems relaxed among young people, and the meaning of slang can only be understood by the speaker and the
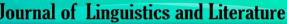
other person.Slang plays a significant role in the lyrics of Black Eyed Peas songs, as it adds a contemporary and informal flavor to their music. The use of slang helps to connect with their audience and create a sense of relatability.

Based on the results of the analysis, slang words were found in several songs by Black Eyed Peas. The findings are explained in the following description.

No	Title	Slang Words	Meanings
1	Boom Boom Pow	Gotta	"Gotta" is a contraction of "got to" or "have to." It is a colloquial expression used to indicate a necessity or obligation. In the song, it conveys a sense of urgency or determination.
		Wanna	"Wanna" is an abbreviation of "want to" which means "want" or want a which means "want one"
		Boom Pow	This phrase is a repetition of the onomatopoeic words "boom" and "pow," emphasizing the energetic and powerful nature of the music and lyrics.
		Yo	"Yo" is a funny misspelling, the actual pronunciation of which comes

No	Song	Word	Explanation
			from the word "you". Used on people who want to show others
		Y'all	"Y'all" means "You" or "All of You". The word "Y'all" comes from "you all" which is the form of the pronunciation for the second person plural.
2	Imma Be	Imma	"Imma" is a contraction of "I'm going to" or "I'm going to be." It is a colloquial and informal way of expressing future actions or intentions.
		Rockin'	"Rockin'" is an informal term meaning something that is exciting, impressive, or enjoyable. In this context, it refers to the energetic and engaging nature of the beats in the song.
3	My Humps	Whatcha	"Whatcha" is a colloquial and informal contraction of the phrase "What are you" or "What do you." It is commonly used in casual speech and informal settings, particularly in spoken conversations or informal writing like text messages or social media posts.
		Humps	In this song, "humps" is a slang term used to refer to a person's attractive physical features, particularly their curves or assets. It is a metaphorical expression for the appealing aspects of an individual's body.
		I'ma	"I'ma" is a colloquial contraction of "I'm going to" or "I'm going to be." It is a slang term commonly used in informal speech and written communication, particularly in casual conversations or social media posts. "I'ma" is often used as a shorthand way of expressing intentions or future actions.
		Junk	The lyrics

			include the phrase "all that junk inside your trunk," which uses "junk" as a slang term for a person's intimate or private body parts. It is a playful and euphemistic way of referring to those areas. n	dab	the song, they are encouraging the listeners to perform the dab dance move as a part of their dance routine. It's a way of engaging the audience and getting them to participate in the energetic atmosphere of the song.	
4	Rock That Body	Groovy	"groovy" refers to having a cool, enjoyable, or rhythmic quality. It's used to describe the atmosphere or vibe o, song, suggesting that it's upbeat, lively, and engaging. "Groovy" is often associated with music and dance, particularly genres like funk, disco, and soul that have a catchy rhythm and make you want to move.	Swag	"swag" is used to refer to a sense of style, confidence, and coolness. It is often associated with being fashionable, charismatic, and having a unique sense of personal flair. When the Black Eyed Peas mention "do it with some swag" in the song, they are encouraging the listeners to carry themselves with confidence and style while dancing.	
		Ignite	"ignite" is used metaphorically to mean to start or intensify something, particularly in reference to the energy and excitement of the party or dance floor.			
		Hit the	"hit the dab" in			

Slang words are commonly used in songs to add personality, cultural relevance, and a sense of informality. In the context of pop music, artists often incorporate slang terms to connect with their audience and create a specific atmosphere. The meanings of these slang words can vary depending on the context and the song lyrics. In the song "Boom Boom Pow," terms like "gotta" and

"wanna" are used as contractions to express necessity or desire. "Boom" and "pow" are onomatopoeic words that emphasize the energetic nature of the music. Similarly, in "Imma Be," "Imma" is a contraction meaning "I'm going to," while "rockin'" denotes excitement and enjoyment. "My Humps" includes slang terms like "whatcha," "humps," and "I'ma." "Whatcha" is a contraction of "what are you" and is used in informal speech. "Humps" is a metaphorical term for attractive physical features, and "I'ma" is a contraction of "I'm going to." In "Rock That Body," "groovy" describes a cool and rhythmic quality, "ignite" refers to intensifying energy, "hit the dab" encourages the audience to perform a dance move, and "swag" signifies style and confidence. These slang words in pop songs reflect the contemporary language and cultural references of their time, creating a connection between the artist and the listeners while adding an element of familiarity and fun to the music.

IV. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, language and its variations, including slang, play crucial roles in human communication and society.

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Language development continues throughout our lives, allowing us to express complex ideas and concepts. Linguistics is a field that explores language's structure, meaning, and scientific research, while sociolinguistics examines the relationship between language and society, studying how language reflects and reinforces social norms and identities. Language variation, including phonological, morphological, syntactic, lexical, and discourse variation, is a key focus of sociolinguistics, highlighting how language use differs across social contexts, regions, and social groups. Slang, as a type of informal language, adds personality, humor, and authenticity to communication, and the Black Eyed Peas' use of slang in their pop songs has contributed to their popularity and appeal. Qualitative research methods, such as observation and data collection from song lyrics, provide valuable insights into language variations and their sociocultural contexts. Overall, language and its variations are dynamic and ever-changing, reflecting the diverse nature of human communication and expression.

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