

**SLANG TERMS USED IN THE EXPENDABLES 3 MOVIE  
DIRECTED BY PATRICK HUGES**

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**Abstract**

*Slang can not only be found in daily conversation but it also can be found in literary work such as movies, for example in The Expendables 3 Movie which the characters' use slang quite often in dialogues. The purpose of this paper is to study the function, type, and meaning of the slang terms used by the characters of The Expendables 3 movie. The researchers used descriptive qualitative method to analyze. After doing the analysis, the researchers found fifty-five slang terms and the details are as follows: (1) There are two types of slang, namely primary and secondary slang. The type which more often used is primary slang. (2) There are three types of functions: social, psychological and rhetorical functions (3) There are seven types of meaning of slang namely connotative, social, affective, collocative, conceptual, thematic and reflection meanings. Connotative meaning is the most common*

**Keywords:** *Slang, function, type, meaning, the expendables 3 movie.*

**INTRODUCTION**

In daily interaction, people often use a slang as a way to express themselves to become friendly to someone or to show that they belong to a certain group of people. Slang is the new language which appears in this society. People use certain signs, words, phrases or sentences to convey secrets that no one should know as (Yule, 2017) states, "Slang can be used by those inside a group who share ideas and attitudes as a way of distinguishing themselves from others." Slang is a kind of informal language commonly used in a daily conversation. As part of human language to interact with each other, mostly slang expressions happen naturally and without thinking (Umam, 2020). Slang is developing along with the cultural development in the society, so that it has no time limit, place or community background. The use of slang is really popular. In this era, slang can be easily found not only in a daily conversation but it also can be found in many literary works, such as books, articles, songs, movie and so on. In this case, the researchers choose a movie as an object to analyze, the movie entitled *The Expendables 3* to be exact. The reason for choosing *The Expendables 3* is because the researchers found many slang terms used quite

often in the dialogue among the characters of the movie. The researchers are interested in research because the researchers find often slang term literary works such as movies and it is hard to understand because the words are unfamiliar. The purpose of this study is to analyze slang such as the function, the type and the meaning of it and the result of the research is additional information about new English words.

In conducting this research, the researchers found several relevant underlying statements and theories about slang. The first statement is from (Aulia & Djatmika, 2018) state, "Slang is an informal style of speech, which may be a single word, phrases or sentences. It is created and used by a particular community. Slang is like any other part of languages; it is changing over time from one generation of the users of slang to the next generation" based on the statement slang is a term created and used by a particular community and it is changing over time. The statement is supported by (Jakob, 2018) he states, "Slang changes its identity along with who is speaking. What is slang to one person, to another is not, depending on the person's educational, economic, or social position, and even in relation to the location and generation. Slang also changes over time and can disappear rapidly" based on the statement, slang changes its identity depends on whose speaker and certain social variable of the speakers.

The third statement is from (Dewi & Suastra, 2018) who state, "Slang is considered a very informal word or expression that is commonly used in our everyday conversation. Even though the use of slang is really popular nowadays, in the past slang was often associated with vulgar words that were considered nonstandard language." based on the statement, the researchers points out slang is not appropriate to be spoken or written in a formal situation such as in the school, university, or in the office because of the informality and slang often conveys a sarcastic, even offensive, no-nonsense attitude.

From the three statements above, the researchers conclude that slang is an informal expression not appropriate to be spoken or written in a formal situation created and used by a particular community, commonly used in everyday conversation.

Slang is mostly used in speech rather than in writing, usually in a daily conversation. Slang is used in a different place, situation, every culture, and region have different slang language. Slang words spread worldwide due to many factors. Usually, people learn slang words from entertainment media such as songs, novels, and movies.

For the approach of the analysis, the researchers use three theories from the experts. The first theory is from (Leech, 1981) who distinguish the type of meaning into seven types:

1. Conceptual meaning which is the most basic of a word or the constant, literal meaning of a word and also dictionary definition that universally shared among society.
2. Connotative Meaning which the meaning of the word what it refers to depends on how the speaker uses and perceives a word. That can be said the meaning of a word depends on personal interpretations.
3. Social Meaning also called stylistic meaning. The social meaning is a conveyor of expression about certain social characteristics to establish and regulate social relations and to maintain social roles.
4. Affective Meaning conveys about personal feelings or the attitudes of the speaker or the researchers, it shows often through conceptual, connotative, and stylistic content of word used.
5. Reflected meaning is a meaning whereby the word has more than one meaning or it implies the word has multiple conceptual meanings.
6. Collocative Meaning occurs when a word collocates with another certain word.
7. Thematic Meaning is the meaning of expression by the speaker or the researchers by how they communicate the meaning or message in this context the arrangement, focus, and emphasize the word.

The researchers use online dictionary such as [urbandictionary.com](http://urbandictionary.com) and [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com) or the offline dictionary such as *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English*, *The Oxford Dictionary of*

Slang and Dictionary of American Slang based on the context of the dialogues and the movie scenes of *The Expendables 3* movie.

The second theory is from (Chapman, 2007) who divide slang into two types:

a. Primary Slang

Primary slang is the speech of subcultural members. it sounds very natural to its speakers; it seems the speakers might be mute without it. This type is found often in teenage talks or speech of urban street gangs and it is used as a general expression by people in daily communication.

b. Secondary Slang

Secondary slang is chosen not so much to fix one group as to express one's attitude agreement or disagreement and resourcefulness. Secondary slang used as a matter of stylistic choice and it also used to express something secretly because it is only used by restricted people who understand the meaning of the word. For example, ching chong, coke. And the last theory is from (Widawski, 2015), according to him the function of slang is divided into four main functions:

a. Social Functions

The social functions of slang include: Identification, slang is used to distinguish specific groups within society and to identify members of these groups. Rebellion, slang is used to oppose the established authority or to distance oneself from it. Interaction, slang is used for purely social interaction, it occurs in conversation to establish a mood and maintain or ending social contact rather than for the mere exchange of information. Secrecy, Slang is used by such groups as criminals or teenagers who often find a shared vocabulary unknown to outsiders an effective way to keep information secret.

b. Psychological Functions

The choice of a slang expression is often motivated by psychological processes in people's minds. It includes: the expression of emotions states and reactions such as satisfaction, anger or annoyance, indifference, surprise, positive or negative emotive categorization. Humor which can instantly reduce the solemnity, haughtiness, or excessive seriousness of a conversation and also function to make

sarcastic or ironic comments. Toughness, the natural manifestations of which include vulgarisms and swearwords, which by their nature strengthen the swearer's image; epithets function in a similar manner.

c. Rhetorical functions

Slang can be functioned as the manipulation for the desired effect. There are four functions of slang that includes as rhetorical function: Informality, the use of slang always diminishes the formality of communication. Stylization, slang serves to create one's image: it becomes an outward characteristic of the users and reflects their personalities. Conciseness, slang is used to communicate more quickly, easily, and effectively than standard ones. Forcefulness, slang is used often to make conversation more direct, vivid, personal and expressive, and thus more forceful than are words from the standard lexicon. It usually avoids sentimentality, diplomacy, and formality which are often carried by standard words.

d. Cultural functions

The use of certain expressions often carries with it specific information which is culture-specific or culture-creative, here are parts of cultural functions: wordplay, slang is sometimes created and used for the mere pleasure of novelty and freshness derived from verbal experimentation. Word battle, another function of slang is the tradition of verbal battle which quasi-mocking exchanges of verbal communication between two or more participants, frequently involving ritual insults. Assimilation that slang from another community or even country can be assimilated into another community or country.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The researchers use the descriptive qualitative method for the analysis. According to (Creswell & Creswell, 2018), "Qualitative approaches to data collection, analysis, interpretation, and report writing differ from the traditional, quantitative approaches. Purposeful sampling, collection of open-ended data, analysis of text or images (e.g., pictures), representation of information in figures and tables, and personal interpretation of the findings all inform qualitative methods." According to (Dewi & Suastra, 2018) "Descriptive means that the data were analyzed in words or sentences descriptively." The statement from (Creswell & Creswell, 2018) and (Dewi

& Suastra, 2018) is the reason why the researchers use descriptive qualitative method because the problem is solved through collecting, classifying and interpreting data in words and sentences descriptively.

To create this paper, the researchers do some procedures with the following steps. First, the researchers find the movie which is perfect to be used as the object of the paper and the researchers choose *The Expendables 3* movie. Second, the researchers set limitations to the research. In this case, the researchers decide to use a movie script. Third, the researchers focus on the main source of data which is the script in *The Expendables 3* movie. Then, the researchers download the movie, watch it, listen to the script intently, and write down the slang term which can be found in the movie. To double-check, the researchers also download the English movie subtitle. Lastly, after finishing all the data-collecting, the researchers find other supported sources such as books, journals or articles to sustain my research logically and rationally.

## FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Based on the data analysis of *The Expendables 3* movie, the researchers found 51 slang terms used on the dialogue among the characters of the movie which is divided into two types of slang: Primary and Secondary slang. Below is a discussion of the slang that can be found on the dialogue among the characters of the *Expendables 3* movie:

### 1. The Type of slang

#### a. Primary Slang

The terms below identified as a primary slang because the terms can be found and commonly used as a general expression in a daily communication. Here are the example of slang terms that identified as primary slang:

##### 1. What's the hold up

“Barney : What's the hold up?

Christmas: Nothing, we're on our way.” (0:03:59.06-0:04:02.09)

##### 2. Gonna

“Barney : Don't worry about it. I'll handle it.

Drummer: Relax. You're gonna give yourself a stroke.” (0:29:10.86-0:29:21.27)

3. Damn

a. "Doc: They've gone?

Barney: Yeah.

Doc: Damn!" (0:06:56.24-0:07:05.68)

b. "Doc : Thank you for this, man. What a waste of life! You make one damn mistake.

Barney: It wasn't a mistake. It was stupid. You'd done that to me, I would've chopped you into pieces." (0:06:36.32-0:06:47.20)

c. "John : If I don't know what they are, yeah. I know you don't give a damn. about us. I get that, but just tell me why you want to take out this guy so bad. (0:51:17.02-0:51:30.85)

4. 'bout

"Road: Heard you killed more people than the plague!

Doc: How 'bout that?

Road: That why they called you "Doctor Death"?"

(0:07:20.28-0:07:25.33)

5. Ass

"Barney: Think you'd die for the money? Maybe you like getting your ass kicked in front of strangers. (0:44:06.11-0:44:12.15)

"Mars: Bunch of ass has been's still trying to be hard. (0:49:34.30-0:49:36.33)

"Road: It's gonna be a long-ass flight fella. (1:21:20.43-1:21:23.52)

6. Shit

Doc: Well, you know, I'd love to party with you boys but, uh, I don't have my shit.

Barney: It is your shit." (0:10:52.55-0:11:20.57)

"Stonebanks: I mean what is this? Just some paint, brushes, some cheap canvas, what's the big deal? It's shit." (0:30:04.51- 0:30:09.79)

"Bonaparte : Actually, shit, you were born in 1984?

Galgo : Of course not. But I feel like that I was born in 1984."

(0:40:22.96-0:40:35:55)

7. Shithole

"Caesar: So, you're the reason I've been stuck down here in this shithole.

Doc: Shithole? Brother, you have no idea.

Caesar: Oh yeah, hahahaha (0:13:24.79-0:13:26.75)

8. Brother

"Caesar: So, you're the reason I've been stuck down here in this shithole.

Doc: Shithole? Brother you have no idea. (0:13:24.79-0:13:26.75)

9. The Hell

“Bonaparte: Shut down the whole city for 3 days.

Barney: Why the hell would he do that?

Bonaparte: Because he can.” (0:35:46.70-0:35:51.38)

“Barney: Galgo, get the hell out.

Galgo: Yes, sir.” (1:20:22.24-1:20:30.70)

“Drummer : What the hell! You owe me, Barney.” (1:49:46.45-1:49:59.60)

10. Bitch

“Doc: What the hell is that?

Caesar: This bitch will solve all your problems.

Gunner: Yeah, maybe for 10 seconds.” (0:13:35.21-0:13:40.00)

**b. Secondary Slang**

The terms below some of the examples belong to secondary slang because the terms are restricted and only used by some people or community such the military, airline parlance which makes the term rarely used in daily conversation and some of the term used because a matter of stylistic choice.

1. Booze

“Barney: Gimme the booze.” (0:37:03.04-0:37:04.10)

2. Off

“Christmas: I think your friend is little off.

Barney: Come on Christmas, he's been in a hole for eight years.”  
(00:08:45,694-00:08:50,250)

3. Hole

“Christmas: I think your friend is a little off.

Barney: Come on Christmas, he's been in a hole for eight years.  
(00:08:45,694-00:08:50,250)

4. Medical genius

“Christmas: I mean why do you take me off halfway around the planet? To save this medical genius, as you describe. For what?

Barney: He's an Expendable.” (09:12.63-0:09:20.61)

5. Nerd

“Barney: I'm not looking for weapons nerd.” (0:42:05.29-0:42:07.05)

6. Flock

“Christmas: I mean why do you take me off halfway around the planet? To



save this medical genius, as you describe. For what?

Barney: He's an Expendable.

Christmas: So, he's one of the flock? (0:09:09-0:09:30.40)

#### 7. Don't Pop the Bottles Yet

“Doc: Don't pop the bottles yet, we still got trouble.

Barney: What?

Doc: Big trouble.” (1:31:39.94-1:31:44.16)

#### 8. Dropped

“Barney: What's this guy's story?

Bonaparte: Actually, I feel a little sorry for him. His last team dropped him”  
(0:41:17.71-0:41:20.53)

#### 9. Window

“Barney: You find him yet?

Drummer: He's in Bucharest putting together a deal with some Albanian  
mobster. You got 36 hours, that's your window.” (0:46:38.91-0:46:43.79)

#### 10. Pulled the plug

“Christmas: Where are you going, Barney? Hey, you think you just pulled  
the plug and that's it?

Barney: Just did.” (0:32:39.49-0:32:35.09)

## 2. The Function of Slang

The researchers uses (Widawski, 2015) theory to identify the function of slang terms used by the characters of *The Expendables 3* movie based on the context of the dialogue and the movie scene. The result is as follows:

### a. Social functions

Social functions of slang include identification, rebellion, interaction and secrecy but the researchers found some slang terms in *The Expendables 3* movie only used as identification and interaction not as rebellion and secrecy. Here the explanation,

#### 1. Identification

The slang term has a function as identification because the term is used to address someone. The slang term that found in *The Expendables 3* movie with this function are brother, man, medical genius, pal.

#### 2. Interaction

Slang has a function to facilitate social interaction for establishing a mood and maintaining or ending social contact rather than for the mere

exchange of information. The researchers found slang terms with this function in *The Expendables 3* movie such as what's the hold up, wheels up, yo,

#### **b. Psychological functions**

Slang language serves a social function, but it is also linked with people thoughts and feeling. It indicates slang term has psychological functions include to express people's emotions, humor and toughness. The researchers found some slang terms in *The Expendables 3* movie as an expression of emotions and humor but the researchers do not find slang term that shown toughness, as analyzed below.

##### **1. Emotions**

One of the functions of slang is to express people's emotions such as anger or annoyance, Indifference, surprise and positive or negative emotive categorization the terms with this function can be found in *The Expendables 3* movie, the terms are ass, assholes, badass, damn, don't give a fuck, fucked up, goddammit, grandpa, pussies, shit, shitheads, the hell.

##### **2. Humor**

Slang can also be used to express humor including making sarcastic or ironic comments. The researchers found one slang term with this function in *The Expendables 3* movie such as sucking on your daddy's titty.

#### **c. Rhetorical functions**

Slang can be functioned as the manipulation for the desired effect. The rhetorical motives behind the use of slang include informality, stylization, conciseness and forcefulness of expression. The researchers found some slang terms have this function, as analyzed below.

##### **1. Informality**

The use of slang always diminishes the formality of communication. Slang lends a vivid color to content matter which may be serious or contrite. The researchers found some slang terms with this function in *The Expendables 3* movie such as bullshit, dropped, got you, shitstorm, tags, trippin', shot, window.

##### **2. Stylization**

Stylization is another function of slang. Slang often use to identify with a style or an attitude and to create one's image. There are some slang terms found as a stylization in *The Expendables 3* movie such as bitch, booze, eyes in the sky, flock, nerd, shithole, the knife, don't pop the bottles yet, hole, pulled the plug.

##### **3. Conciseness**

Slang expressions are used not only because they are concise but also because it makes people communicate more quickly, easily, and effectively than standard ones. The slang terms found in *The Expendables 3* movie with this function are 'bout, 'em, creds, gimme, givin', gonna, gotta, next-gen, and wanna.

4. Forcefulness

Slang is often more direct, vivid, personal and expressive, and thus more forceful than are words from the standard lexicon. There are three of slang terms used in *The Expendables 3* movie shown forcefulness such as arse, ass, and son of a bitch.

**d. Cultural functions**

The use of certain expressions often carries with it specific information which is culture-specific or culture-creative. Cultural functions consist of three functions there are word play, word battle and assimilation. The researchers did not find any slang term with cultural functions used in *The Expendables 3* movie.

**3. The Meaning of Slang**

**Table 1 Meaning of Slang**

No	Slang Term	Meaning	Type Of Meaning
1.	We're coming in hot	come in with guns blazing, or ready to attack.	Connotative Meaning
2.	Trippin'	what is the delay?	Connotative Meaning
3.	Tag	necklaces as symbols.	Connotative Meaning
4.	Off	unfriendly, hostile.	Connotative Meaning
5.	Hole	prison.	Connotative Meaning
6.	The knife	someone who have special skills at using knives.	Connotative Meaning
7.	Man	to address any man or a close friend.	Connotative Meaning
8.	Ride	vehicle or mode of transportation.	Connotative Meaning
9.	Shot	An opportunity	Connotative Meaning
10.	Pulled the plug	To do something that preventing an activity from continuing	Connotative Meaning
11.	Pussies	Weak or effeminate men, a coward	Connotative Meaning
12.	Dropped	To dismiss	Connotative Meaning
13.	Wheels up	To depart from or leave	Connotative Meaning
14.	Eyes in the sky	Overhead surveillance of some kind such as camera, drone, police helicopter	Connotative Meaning
15.	Window	Time or opportunity	Connotative Meaning

16.	Don't pop the bottle yet	Don't celebrate a victory prematurely or do not get happy too early	Connotative Meaning
17.	Gonna	Going to	Social Meaning
18.	Yo	Hey	Social Meaning
19.	Shitstorm	An extremely serious situation	Social Meaning
20.	Pal	To address someone or friend	Social Meaning
21.	Brother	a fellow American-African man	Social Meaning
22.	Bitch	a remarkable thing	Social Meaning
23.	Fucked up	Fail	Social Meaning
24.	Arse	a stupid irritating person	Social Meaning
25.	Gotta	Have to	Social Meaning
26.	Booze	Alcoholic beverage	Social Meaning
27.	Bullshit	Nonsense	Social Meaning
28.	Asshole	Stupid, irritating, or contemptible person	Affective Meaning
29.	Don't give a fuck	Do not care	Affective Meaning
30.	Shitheads	Stupid or blundering people	Affective Meaning
31.	Goddammit	An expression of annoyance	Affective Meaning
32.	Badass	Something cool, impressive, excellent	Affective Meaning
33.	Still sucking on your daddy's titty	Still a baby	Collocative Meaning
34.	Shithole	a bad or disreputable place	Collocative Meaning
35.	Son of a bitch	a despicable person	Collocative Meaning
36.	What's the hold up?	What is the delay?	Collocative Meaning
37.	Wanna	Want to	Conceptual Meaning
38.	Creds	Credit	Conceptual Meaning
39.	Next-gen	Next-generation	Conceptual Meaning
40.	Nerd	An expert in a particular technical field	Conceptual Meaning
41.	Grandpa'	Old man	Conceptual Meaning
42.	Bout'	About	Conceptual Meaning
43.	Medical genius	a medical practitioner	Conceptual Meaning
44.	Flock	a group of best friends who also work as a team	Conceptual Meaning
45.	'em	Them	Conceptual Meaning
46.	Givin'	Giving	Conceptual

		Meaning
47. Gimme	Give me	Conceptual Meaning
48. The hell	To emphasize and to express anger.	Affective And Thematic Meaning
49. Shit	Noun things; possessions, bad; rubbish, an exclamation of disbelief, disappointment and astonishment	Social And Affective Meaning
50. Ass	The self, a fool, an intensifier for the preceding adjective or adverb	Social, Thematic And Affective Meaning
51. Damn	An expression of anger, to emphasize, not care at all	Social, Thematic And Affective Meaning

Based on the table above, the 51 slang terms that found in *The Expendables 3* movie have 6 types of meanings: there are 16 slang terms that have connotative meaning, 14 slang terms with social meaning, 9 slang terms have affective meaning, 4 slang terms have collocative meaning, 11 slang terms have conceptual meaning, and 3 slang terms have thematic meaning.

## CONCLUSION

From the analysis that has been done about slang terms used by the characters of *The Expendables 3* movie, the researchers conclude that there are 51 slang terms found in *The Expendables 3* movie. The slang terms divided into two types: primary slang and secondary slang. Besides the type of slang, the researchers also found three out of four types of functions of slang terms used in the movie using (Widawski, 2015) theory. The first type is the social function which means the slang terms used as identification and interaction. Second, psychological functions, the slang terms used as an expression of emotion and humor. Third, Rhetorical functions which mean the slang terms used as informality, stylization, conciseness, and forcefulness. Each slang term has a meaning or some of the terms that used multiple times have more than one meaning depends on the context of the dialogue and the movie scene.

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