

## Exploring The Slang Word Formation Processes in *Girlboss* TV Series

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the formation of slang words used by Sophia, the main character of the *Girlboss* TV Series. The writer conducted this study to determine the types of word formations formed in Sophia's slang words in each episode and the morphological processes involved in the creation of those slang words. Additionally, this study was carried out in a qualitative approach. The writer used the theory of word formation and morphology by Yule (2020) in her study. The findings revealed that compounding, blending, clipping, coinage, acronyms, derivation, and multiple processes were all used in the formation of slang words used by the main character in the *Girlboss*. Meanwhile, borrowing, backformation, hypocorism, and conversion were not found in the data analysed. Based on their respective origin words and the theory of the types of word formation processes, the slang words that appear in these 11 episodes are divided into several different types of word formation. In short, it showed that the main character of *Girlboss* TV series often uses slang when communicating with their peers, some of which are in the form of abbreviations, modified elements from original words, and some use new words.

**Keywords:** slang; word formation; types; processes

### INTRODUCTION

Communication is an important component of human life. There are many different reasons why people communicate, and those reasons can vary greatly. They use language as their main tool in this communication process. Most people consider language to be a means of thought, an expressive system that enables the transfer of ideas from one person to another (Finegan, 2004). Language is made up of many different parts, including morphemes, words, phrases, and others. The group uses various types of languages in the present society. Languages are varied as a medium of communication since everyone has a different background and lives in a different setting. Languages must adapt to fit the new environment when speakers of one language interact with speakers of another when moving to new locations (Finegan, 2004). Language can be used in both formal and informal settings, depending on the circumstances. People usually use formal or standard language in formal settings, while they usually use informal language in informal settings.

One of many kinds of languages that are spoken in informal settings is **slang**. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), slang is a modern or colloquial kind of language that is frequently employed by people, especially teenagers, in casual or everyday conversation. Nowadays, numerous groups of people develop their own slang. In recent years, new terms have been developed because of people's creativity in attempting to make words more effective and easier to speak. Some slang is characterized by a change in sound and meaning, as well as the shortening or removal of one or more characters from a word. Every country has its own slang, in general. For instance, slang is frequently employed by teenagers and young adults in everyday conversations in America, such as gimme (give me) and LOL (laugh out loud). Slang is used in movies and TV series for several reasons, such as simplifying to prevent monotony,

which bores the audience. The slang used in the TV show is also widely used in daily life. People frequently use lots of slang terms to build sentences, yet they are unaware of its origins. Language users often fail to understand how a language is created. A word must go through multiple **processes** to become a word, including slang, thus it isn't the simplest component of the language. The process by which a word can be formed in a language is the topic in morphology that is known as **word formation**. As stated by Yule (2020), borrowing, compounding, blending, coinage, clipping, back-formation, conversion, acronyms, multiple processes, derivation (prefixes suffixes and infixes) are all examples of processes that can be used to create new words and new applications for old words. Therefore, the writer wants to examine the type of word formation of slang words and figure out how a term undergoes a process until it becomes slang words by applying Yule's theory on word formation and morphology (2020).

The *Girlboss* TV Series (2017), American comedy streaming television series produced by Kay Cannon is used as the source of data. Yule notes, slang is frequently used by young people, and the actors in *Girlboss* are primarily young individuals with specific interests who frequently use slang. The writer analyzes 1 (one) season, which has 13 (thirteen) episodes overall. The writer chose to focus on the slang words that the main character uses when speaking with others from the first episode to the last episode since she is the one who interacts with the other interlocutors the most throughout Season One of the *Girlboss* TV Series.

## METHODS

The data came from all utterances Sophia uttered as the main character of the first season of the *Girlboss* TV series, which had a total of 13 episodes. The main character, who interacts with the other interlocutors the most, is the only character that the writer specifically examined. The writer took a number of actions to get the data. The writer began by immediately watching the *Girlboss* TV series on Netflix. The writer downloaded every episode of the TV series after watching them. The writer then looked for the slang's original words. The writer used etymonline.com and collinsdictionary.com to help her know the origins of each slang term. This was done in order for the writer to analyse the morphological process that led directly to the slang words and identify the type of word formation. Finally, the writer identified each slang word's word formation and noted it on the table.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer presents the findings and the discussions to answer the research questions in chapter one. The writer divides this chapter into two parts: (1) The type of word formation in each episode of the first season of the *Girlboss* TV series, (2) Morphological process that can be identified in the formation process of slang words.

Table 4.1 Types of Word Formation Process of Slang Words in Each Episode Used by The Main Character

TWP \ Episode	BR	CMP	BL	CL	HY	BF	CV	CN	ACR	DR	MP
1		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓

2		✓	✓							✓	✓
3		✓		✓						✓	
4		✓								✓	✓
5								✓		✓	✓
6											
7		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
8		✓	✓	✓						✓	✓
9		✓									✓
10											
11								✓			
12		✓		✓						✓	✓
13		✓								✓	

The table shows that there are 7 (seven) types of word formation of slang words that occur in season one spoken by the main character in *Girlboss* TV Series. The 7 (seven) types found are compounding, blending, clipping, coinage, acronyms, derivation, and multiple processes. In the multiple processes, there were 8 (eight) different processes: clipping and substitution, clipping and derivation, compounding, and derivation, borrowing and clipping, borrowing and derivation, substitution, and derivation, borrowing, clipping, and substitution, and the last is borrowing, clipping and derivation. In addition, there is 1 (one) type that is found in many episodes of *Girlboss* TV Series, namely multiple processes, in episodes 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 12. Meanwhile, out of the total types, there are 4 types that are not filled with any data in this table, which are borrowing, backformation, hypocorism and conversion. In addition, there are two episodes that do not have slang words, namely in episodes 6 and 10.

These slang words are distributed into several different types of word formation according to their respective origin words and based on the theory of the types of word formation process. There are 11 episodes that have slang words, those can be found in episode 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 13. In the first episode there were 5 types of word formation found. In the second episode, there were 4 types found. In the third episode, there were 4 types found. Meanwhile in episode four, there were 3 types found. For episode five, there were also 3 types of word formation found. Next, in episode seven, there were 5 types of word formation found in the slang words. In episode eight, there were also 5 types of word formation found. Besides, in episode nine, there were only 2 types of word formation found. Next, in the tenth episode, no slang was found, because almost all the scenes in that episode only showed a formal discussion in the forum, which mostly used formal language. In episode eleven, there was only 1 type of word formation. In episode twelve, there were 4 types of word formation found in slang words.

In the last episode, there were 2 types of word formation found. Meanwhile, there are two episodes that have no slang, namely in episode 6 and 10. In episode six, there was no slang found because the conversation mostly used semi-formal to formal language. Next, in the tenth episode, no slang was found, because almost all the scenes in that episode only showed a formal discussion in the forum, which mostly used formal language.

### Morphological Process of the Formation of the Slang Words

Using the theory of word formation by Yule (2020) as a guideline to figure out how words are formed until they become slang words, the morphological process of each slang formation is presented in the following:

#### - **Compounding**

There are 14 slang words found in *Girlboss* uttered by the main character that undergoes the compounding process, which are Data 1.5.1, Data 2.6.2, Data 3.1.1, Data 3.2.1, Data 3.2.2, Data 4.1.1, Data 7.2.2, Data 8.3.1, Data 9.1.1, Data 9.1.2, Data 12.1.1, Data 13.1.1, Data 13.2.1, Data 13.3.1. The following is the example of the process applied in the compounding process:

**Data 2.6.2** “They never figured out what they were put on this **goddamn** planet to do.” The term “**goddamn**” consists of two separate forms “god” and “damn”. Since both words may stand alone and have their own meaning, they are classified as free morphemes. The word ‘god’ and ‘damn’ merged into one in a compounding process. As a result, they make a word ‘goddamn’. This word has a different meaning from its original meaning when each word stands alone, the meaning is used for emphasis or to express annoyance.

#### - **Blending**

There are 8 slang words found in forming slang words in *Girlboss* uttered by the main character, which are Data 1.1.1, Data 1.2.1, Data 1.4.1, Data 1.6.1, Data 2.2.2, Data 7.1.2, Data 7.1.5, Data 8.2.2. The following is the example of the process applied in the blending process:

**Data 2.2.2** “Boom! Dollar, dollar bills, **y’all**”

The term **y’all** is made up of two morphemes: ‘you’ and ‘all.’ ‘You’ and all are free morphemes that can stand and be used alone. The word ‘you’ and ‘all’ merged into one to make the term “*you all*” and it is a blending process." This term means all people.

#### - **Clipping**

There are 6 words that undergo the clipping process found in *Girlboss* uttered by the main character, Sophia, which are Data 1.9.4, Data 3.1.2, Data 7.1.4, Data 8.2.1, Data 12.2.1. The following is the example of the process applied in the clipping process:

**Data 1.9.4** “because you know what? I.. You’ve never given any indication to me... that you have **‘em**.”

The term ‘em is a shorter form of the word “them”. The word “them” is considered as a free morpheme as they can stand alone and have their own meaning. ‘Em is classified into a clipping type. The word ‘them’ is clipped into ‘em by clipping the consonants ‘th’, so it is shorter and easier to pronounce. They still have the same meaning, which refers to people or things.

- **Coinage**

There are 3 slang words found in *Girlboss* uttered by the main character that undergo this coinage process, which are data 5.1.1 and data 11.1.1. The following is the example of the process applied in the coinage process:

**Data 5.1.1** “You know, I don’t deserve to be lumped in here with all these drunks and a slut who flashed her **yabos** all over the Jumbotron”.

Yabbos (women’s boobs) carries approximately the same meaning and emotional connotations as the American slang term, "hooters." The term ‘yabos’ is a coinage type because it is totally a new term.

- **Acronym**

There is one slang word that is included as this type found in episode 7, data 7.1.1. The following is the example of the process applied in the acronym process:

**Data 7.1.1** “**OMG**, my sleeveless dress just got here, and it’s purrfect.”

The term “OMG” comes from an abbreviation of “Oh My God”. In the process of word formation, it is included in the type of acronym because it takes the initial letters of each word, which are O, M and G.

- **Derivation**

There are 12 slang words found in this type in *Girlboss* TV series uttered by the main character, which are data 1.9.3, data 2.1.2, data 2.2.1, data 2.4.1, data 2.6.1, data 3.2.3, data 5.2.1, data 7.2.1, data 7.2.3, data 8.3.2, data 12.3.1, and data 13.1.2. The following is the example of the process applied in the derivation process:

**Data 2.1.2** “Ha-ha-ha-ha! **Sucker!**”

The term 'sucker' is made up of two morphemes: 'suck' and '-er.' 'Suck' is a free morpheme that can be used alone, whereas '-er' is a suffix that is regarded as a bound morpheme that cannot be used alone to form a word. This term is formed by combining the words "suck" and "-er" to form the word "sucker in a derivation process." This term means a person who is easily deceived or swindled.

- **Multiple process**

There are 16 slang words in total found in this type in the *Girlboss* TV series uttered by the main character. The multiple processes are divided into 8 different processes, which are:

- Clipping and substitution
- Clipping and derivation
- Compounding and Derivation
- Borrowing and clipping
- Borrowing and derivation
- Substitution and derivation
- Borrowing, clipping, and substitution
- Borrowing, clipping and derivation

The following are the examples of each process applied in the multiple processes:

- **Clipping and substitution**

**Data 1.3.1** “Who’s that **dude?**”

The term "dude" may have derived from the 18th-century word "doodle". This term is included in the multiple processes type. ‘Dude’ is a shorter form from ‘doodle’, the pronunciation of the 3 letters in front is the same. The letter "oo"

in "doodle" is removed and changed with the letter 'u'. Then, letter 'L' is omitted to form a new word form "dude". The term 'dude' means a man used especially by young people.

- Clipping and derivation

**Data 1.4.2** "Oh, **shit!**"

The term 'shit' undergoes multiple processes. It comes from 'Scitte' is an Old English word that means "purging, diarrhea." The letter 'e' in the word 'scitte' is cut off and the letter 'c' is replaced by the letter 'h' to make the term 'shit'. The literal meaning of shit is feces. The slang term "shit" refers to an expression of disgust, anger, or annoyance.

- Compounding and Derivation

**Data 9.1.3** "Motherfucking bar graphs!"

The term "motherfucking" consists of three separate forms: "mother", "fuck" and '-ing'. Both 'mother' and 'fuck' may stand alone as a word, as they are classified as free morphemes. Meanwhile the suffix '-ing' is a bound morpheme because it cannot stand alone. The word 'mother' and 'fuck' merged into one in a compounding process. Then, a suffix '-ing' is added. As a result, they form the word 'motherfucking'. This word is used for emphasis or to express anger, annoyance, contempt, or surprise.

- Borrowing and clipping

**Data 2.1.1** "Keep that to your **damn** self! People are trying to sleep."

The term 'damn' can be formed through multiple processes. The first is borrowed from 'damper' (Old French) meaning loss, damage. Second, it changes into 'damnāre' (Latin). It's modified again to become 'damnum'. Then, the word 'damnum' is clipped and becomes the term 'damn' by clipping the letter 'um'. The meaning of damn is to express anger, surprise, or frustration.

- Borrowing and derivation

**Data Data 5.3.1** "Gross. You're disgusting."

The term 'gross' is included in a borrowing type. The term 'gross' is borrowed from Old French 'gros' and then the suffix -s is added at the end of the word 'gros' to make the term 'gross'. Meaning "glaring, flagrant, monstrous" is from the 1580s; modern meaning "disgusting" is first recorded 1958 in U.S. student slang, from earlier use as an intensifier of unpleasant things (gross stupidity, etc.).

- Substitution and derivation

**Data 7.1.3** "I am Sophia. They're in **lurve** with me!"

It is included in the type of multiple processes. Love becomes lurve through a process of the letter 'o' becoming 'u' + 'r' and making the word 'lurve'. An informal, humorous, and non-standard spelling of 'love', used especially to refer to romantic love.

- Borrowing, clipping, and substitution

**Data Data 1.7.1** "Oh, **fuck!**"

The term 'fuck' is considered as a multiple processes type in word formation. It can be 'fuck' is most likely borrowed from Middle Dutch 'fokken.' First, 'o' in 'fokken' is replaced with 'u', then the '-en' at the end of the word 'fokken' is clipped, to form the slang word "fuck".

- Borrowing, clipping and derivation

**Data 12.2.1** “Your art will find its own audience. My mouth is so dry. My tongue is like a **mitten**.”

The term ‘mitten’ can be formed through multiple processes. The first one is borrowing, ‘mitten’ is borrowed from old French ‘mitaine’ and then the letters ‘ai’ are changed into ‘e’ and double ‘t’ is added in the middle and suffix -en at the end to make the word ‘mitten’. The term ‘mitten’ means a glove having one section for the thumb and a single section for the other fingers.

To conclude, there are 60 slang words found in the *Girlboss* TV series with different types of word formation. Some slang words also go through more than one process to form a word.

## CONCLUSION

This study is about word formation of slang words used by Sophia as the main character in the *Girlboss* TV Series. In this study, the writer analyzed the types of word formation in slang words that are used by the main character in each episode, as well as the formation process occurring in forming the slang words. In doing this study, the writer used Yule's theory (2020) about word formation and the theory about morphology also by Yule (2020). This study was done using a qualitative approach. The source of this data was a TV series in 1 (one) full season consisting of 13 (thirteen) episodes named *Girlboss*, and the writer chose Sophia, the main character as her subject. The finding of this study revealed the types of word formation occurring in the slang words in each episode and the formation process in forming the slang words. The writer found out that the slang words uttered by the main character had 7 (seven) different word formations, and those types of word formation were: compounding, blending, clipping, acronyms, coinage, derivation, multiple processes. Meanwhile, the remaining four types; borrowing, hypocorisms, backformation, and conversion were not found in this TV series. The multiple processes were also divided into 8 different processes. In each episode, there are slang words formed from different types of word formation. In short, the findings show the main character of *Girlboss* TV series often uses slang when communicating with their peers, some of which are in the form of abbreviations, modified elements from original words, and some use new words. It also showed that each slang word undergoes a different morphological process.

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