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# An Analysis of Slang Word in Used on Titled “All The Small Things” and “What My Age Again” in Song Lyrics by Blink 182

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### ABSTRACT

The use of slang words among teenagers is currently very widespread so that almost all teenagers use slang words in everyday life and on social media Facebook. The use of slang words can make it difficult for the other person to understand, especially for people who are not used to slang. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with a data collection technique in the form of a lyric on titled “All the Small Things” and “What My Age Again” on Enema of the State Album (1999). The data collection technique was carried out by listening lyric on Youtube and Spotify. These slang words have as explained by the following experts Allan and Burrige (in Manurung et al, 2020) theory to divide slang words affirm that there are five types into Fresh and Creative, Flippant, Imitative, Acronym, Clipping and taken from Community Inggris Fabelia (2022), namely offensive slang, vulgar slang, and taboo slang, the results of the data analysis that the researcher successfully total 13 (thirteen) obtained slang word on lyric “All the Small Things” and “What My Age Agains”, there were at least 3 (three) slang words in the Fresh and Creative type (prank phone calls, cops, roses), 2 (two) slang words in the clipping type (ain't, you'll), 2 (two) slang words i- the acronym type (ADD, ID), 4 (four) slang words in the offensive slang type (Nobody likes you when you're twenty-three, My friends say I should act my age, And you still act like you're in freshman year, Work sucks, I know), and 2 (two) slang words in the vulgar slang type (sodomy, and she took off my pants). For the Flippant slang type, which is imitation slang, the researcher did not find any data. Therefore, to get criticism and also give other students the opportunity to find other slang words, both in the same song and in different songs. In addition, slang can also be used to convey messages more concisely, create group identity, or even as a form of humor in songs



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### INTRODUCTION

Language is an effective tool for conveying messages because it contains ideas and concepts, even emotional outbursts, happiness, sadness, hate, and joy, all of which can be expressed through language. Language has a variety of uses, both spoken and written, depending on the needs and purposes of communication. Language, as a communication tool, is used by humans to socialize, interact, and establish self-identity. Therefore, language is also a communication system that humans use to get to know one another and to understand one another. Consequently, a variety of

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languages with different patterns, dialects, and meanings exist in each region, creating a wide and diverse linguistic variety. And who knows, where does slang fall under study?

### **Concept of Languages**

According to Arif (2021) *“one of the most important aspects of language is the aspect of language function. In general, the function of language is as a communication tool, it can even be seen as the main function of language.”* The word communication or in English communication, comes from the Latin word communication, and comes from the word comunis, which means *“same”*. The meaning is the same. If two people are involved in communication, for example, in a conversation, then communication would occur if there is a shared understanding of what is being discussed.

The difference between the functions of language as a means of self-expression and as a means of communication lies in their purposes. The first is simply to express yourself so that others know you. As for when communicating, the use of language is adjusted to the person being spoken to, with the aim that the intent of the language is easily conveyed; 3) Language as a tool of social integration and adaptation, when adapting in a new social environment, everyone would choose the language used depending on the situation and conditions faced. This is so that he can easily adapt and integrate with the social environment; 4) Language as a tool of social control, language can be very effectively used as a tool of social control. Thus, the use of good language can be applied to individuals or communities, especially to high school students.

The development of communication and information technology, which has been present and is growing rapidly in Indonesia, has created a linguistic phenomenon. The language phenomenon that often appears in the lives of teenagers today is the use of slang. Basically, the use of slang has violated the rules of good and correct grammar. Slang is one of the various languages that have become characteristic of teenagers in communicating with their friends on social media such as Facebook.

### **Concept of Slang Words**

One of the language dynamics observed on social media today is the use of slang as a reflection of current language development. This phenomenon is interesting to discuss, especially regarding the purpose of using slang words and why they are widely used on social media.

According to Chaer & Agustin (2018:195), *“slang is an unofficial language variation, not yet standard, seasonal and usually used by groups of teenagers.”* Then completed by Chaer & Agustin (2018:2), *“slang is created and used by certain social groups to interact internally so that others don’t know about it.”* Furthermore, Izmaylova et al, 2017 *“slang is usually used by teenagers who represent certain social groups who have the desire to express their aspirations as a form of self-affirmation, self-expression and self-realization.”*

There are several patterns of slang that we need to know, some of which are in the form of words (words), numbers (numbers), phrases (phrases), sentences (sentences), and abbreviations (Abbreviations). For more details, as shown in the table of slang patterns below. (Source: *Journal of English Educational Study (JEES), Vol. 4 Issue 1 May 2021. An Analysis of Tenth-Grade Students’ Difficulties In Comprehending Recount Text*)

Slang words is part of the language used by young people to communicate, often considered as a form of connection between generations, where parents feel they do not understand the language used by their children. *“However, slang terms can also be a form of self-expression for young people, who want to show that they are part of a particular community by using language that is in accordance with the latest trends in used on Facebook social media”* (Chaer & Agustin, 2018:2).

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employed a **qualitative descriptive method** to analyze the slang words used in the songs "All the Small Things" and "What's My Age Again?" by Blink-182. The qualitative descriptive approach was chosen because it allows the researcher to describe linguistic phenomena in a detailed, natural, and systematic manner without manipulating variables. According to Moleong (2019), qualitative research focuses on understanding phenomena from the perspective of the subject in a natural setting. Similarly, Tsegaw (2020) explains that qualitative descriptive research is effective for describing language features based on real data.

### Data Source

The primary data consisted of song lyrics taken from YouTube and Spotify (1999). These sources were selected because they provide verified lyrics from the official album *Enema of the State*. Secondary sources included books, theses, journals, and online linguistic references such as Allan and Burridge's (2006) categorization of taboo and slang, Fabelia English Community's (2022) slang classification, and Rymes's (2021) theory on youth language and identity.

### Data Collection Techniques

The data collection procedures followed common steps in qualitative linguistics, such as those outlined by Bungin (2017) and Johnson (2023). The steps were as follows:

1. **Reading the lyrics repeatedly** to identify potential slang words.
2. **Highlighting and recording slang expressions** based on linguistic characteristics.
3. **Classifying the slang words** using established frameworks (Allan & Burridge, 2006; Fabelia English Community, 2022).
4. **Interpreting the meaning** of each slang word through contextual analysis supported by sociolinguistic theory (Chaer & Agustina, 2018).

### Data Analysis Technique

The analysis was conducted using the following procedures:

1. **Identifying slang categories** using the theories of Allan and Burridge (2006) and the typology from Fabelia English Community (2022).
2. **Interpreting the meaning** of each slang expression using contextual clues and linguistic literature (Yule, 2016; Manurung et al., 2020).
3. **Analyzing the sociolinguistic functions** of slang based on Rymes (2021) and Izmaylova et al. (2017), who state that youth slang reflects identity, social belonging, and cultural expression.
4. **Triangulating the findings** using theory-based validation as recommended by Ridwan and Aslinda (2022).

Triangulation ensured that the results were accurate and credible by comparing multiple theoretical perspectives (Van Dijk, 2022). The general framework follows Moleong's (2019) view that qualitative research emphasizes depth over numerical generalization.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The researcher examines the songs entitled "All the Small Things" and "What's My Age Again?" Both songs are on the same album, *Enema of the State*, which was popularized by Blink 182. The two songs were chosen by the researcher, besides being hits and liked by the researcher, they also contain a lot of slang, as the researcher will examine the meaning of the use of slang and for what purpose the use of slang is used, along with the messages contained in the two songs.

Table 1. Lyric

ALL THE SMALL THINGS	WHAT'S MY AGE AGAIN?
All the small things	I took her out, it was a Friday night
True care, truth brings	I wore cologne to get the feeling right
I'll take one lift	We started making out
Your ride, best trip	And she took off my pants
Always, I know	But then I turned on the TV
You'll be at my show	And that's about the time she walked
Watching, waiting	away from me
Commiserating	Nobody likes you when you're 23
	And are still more amused by TV shows
Say it ain't so, I will not go	What the hell is ADD?
Turn the lights off, carry me home	My friends say I should act my age
	What's my age again?
Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na	What's my age again?
Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na	Then later on, on the drive home
Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na	I called her mom from a payphone
Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na	I said I was the cops and your husband's
	in jail
Late night, come home	This state looks down on sodomy
Work sucks, I know	And that's about the time that bitch
She left me roses by the stairs	hung up on me
Surprises let me know she cares	Nobody likes you when you're 23
See upcoming rock shows	And are still more amused by
Get tickets for your favorite artists	prank phone calls
	What the hell is call ID?
Just say it ain't so, I will not go	My friends say I should act my age
Turn the lights off, carry me home	What's my age again?
	What's my age again?
Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na	And that's about the time she walked
Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na	away from me
Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na	Nobody likes you when you're 23
Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na	And you still act like you're in freshman
	year
Say it ain't so, I will not go	What the hell is wrong with me?
Turn the lights off, carry me home	My friends say I should act my age
Keep your head still, I'll be your thrill	(What's my age again?)
The night will go on, my little windmill	No one should take themselves so
	seriously (please stay with me)
(Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na)	With many years ahead to fall in line
Say it ain't so, I will not go	(please stay with me)
(Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na)	Why would you wish that on me?
Turn the lights off, carry me home	I never wanna act my age (please stay
(Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na)	with me)
Keep your head still, I'll be your thrill	What's my age again?
(Na-na, na-na, na-na, na-na, na, na)	What's my age again?
The night will go on, the night will go on, my	What's my age again?
little windmill	

**Table 2. Table Analysis Slang Word and Function Slang**

No	ANALYSIS			FUNCTION SLANG
	Slang Word Types	Word	Slang Word Lyrics	
1	Fresh and Creative	and	<i><b>prank phone calls</b></i>	<p><i>And are still more amused by <b>prank phone calls</b></i></p> <p>This type shows that slang words have a distinct vocabulary to describe something in a casual setting. Many things that are common in our subconscious mind may be slang words that we don't know. The explanation for why these slang words are recognizable to our minds is because they have been around for a long time.</p> <p>This is an informal way to say a telephone call made with the intent of tricking or playing a joke on someone.</p>
			<i><b>cops</b></i>	<p><i>I said I was the cops and your husband's in jail</i></p> <p>The lyric <b>cops</b> uses a very informal form of the word "<b>Police</b>"</p> <p>The lyrics "<b>cops</b>" could be Blink-182's way of criticizing or satirizing the behavior of police or other law enforcement officials. This could relate to issues such as arbitrariness, abuse of power, or distrust of the legal system. Or it could be a form of resistance to rules or social norms perceived as restricting freedom. "Cops" in this context could symbolize parties trying to control or limit individual behavior. However, if viewed from the context of the phrase "I said I was the cops and your husband's in jail," this is only for comedic effect or to satirize a particular situation without any intention of personal attack. It's important to remember that Blink-182's lyrics are often based on the band members' personal experiences. Their experiences with law enforcement may have inspired these lyrics.</p>
			<i><b>roses</b></i>	<p><i>She left me <b>roses</b> by the stairs</i></p> <p>The word <b>roses</b> refers to a gesture of affection "She left me <b>roses</b> by the stairs" in Blink-182's song "All The Small Things" refers to a small but meaningful gesture by Mark Hoppus' girlfriend, Jennifer Jenkins. The lyrics describe how Jennifer left roses by the stairs as a surprise when Mark came home after recording an album, showing her care and affection. Overall, these lyrics emphasize the importance of the little</p>

				things in a relationship, such as the attention and small surprises that can make a big difference.
2	Clipping	<i>ain't</i>	Say it <b>ain't</b> so, I will not go	<p>This type refers to slang words created by removing parts of longer words to create shorter forms with the same meaning.</p> <p>The word "ain't" in English is used as an informal (non-standard) form of several auxiliary verbs in the negative form, namely: am not, is not, are not, has not, and have not. In addition, in some dialects, "ain't" can also be used for do not, does not, and did not. Its use is often considered informal and is more common in everyday conversation or informal situations.</p>
		<i>You'll</i>	<i>You'll</i> be at my show	<p>"You'll be at my show" literally means "You'll be at my show." However, in the context of the lyrics, this phrase is more about the support and presence of a loved one in the singer's life.</p> <p>This phrase refers to someone's physical presence at a concert or musical performance.</p> <p>In this song, "show" can also be interpreted as the singer's life, journey, or experiences. So, "You'll be at my show" could mean "You'll always be there for me, supporting me, and being a part of my life." The lyrics of "All the Small Things" generally discuss the importance of small things in relationships, one of which is the presence of a loved one. This phrase demonstrates the singer's confidence that her loved one will always be there for her, no matter how small or simple the thing she's doing or experiencing. So, "You'll be at my show" isn't just about being physically present at the concert, but also about emotional support and presence in life in general.</p>
3	Flippant	-	-	-
4	Acronym	<i>ADD</i>	What the hell is <b>ADD</b> ?	<p>Made from the combination of words formed from the first letter of each word in a phrase or made from the initials of a group of words or syllables and pronounced as a new word.</p> <p>In Blink-182's song "What's My Age Again?", the lyric "ADD" is not an</p>

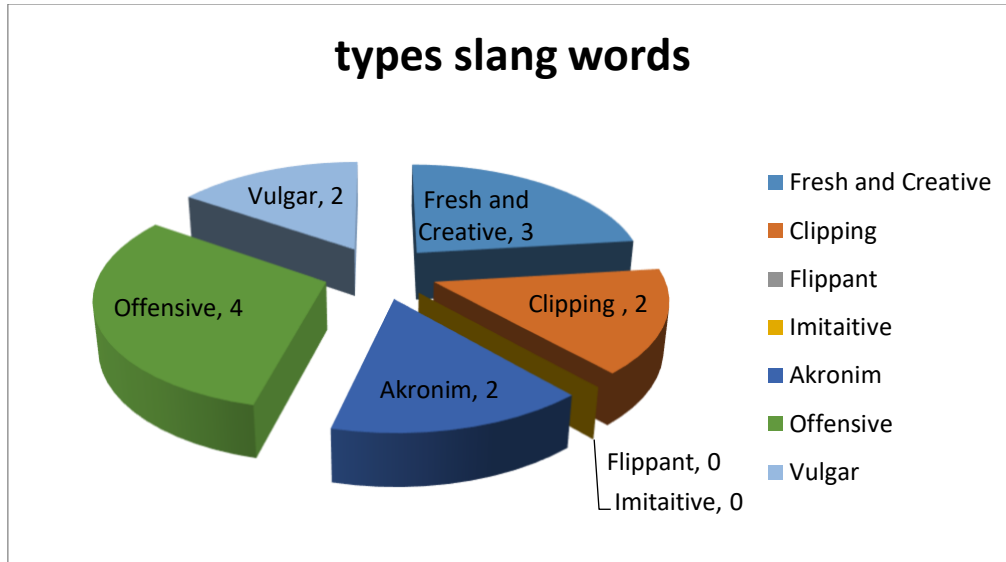
				<p>abbreviation for Attention Deficit Disorder, but rather refers to "Another Dumb Dude." This lyric is used to describe the often childish and reckless behavior of the characters in the song, who seem to have no regard for the consequences of their actions.</p> <p>Therefore, in the context of this song, "ADD" is not a medical diagnosis, but rather an informal term used to express immaturity and sleaziness.</p>
	<i>ID</i>	<i>"What the Hell is Call ID,"</i>		<p>Blink-182's "What's My Age Again?", also known as "What the Hell is Call ID," is about a reluctance to grow up and the problems in romantic relationships associated with this immaturity. The song expresses frustration and confusion about how to behave in relationships, and how childish behavior can negatively impact them.</p> <p><b>Immaturity:</b> The lyrics of this song clearly demonstrate the immaturity of the members of Blink-182, reflecting their lifestyle at the time. They refused to grow up and preferred to have fun and act impulsively.</p> <p><b>Relationship Problems:</b> The song also highlights how their immaturity impacts romantic relationships. They may struggle with commitment, responsibility, or even simply understanding what is expected of them in a relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Frustration and Confusion:</b> The lyrics of this song are filled with frustration and confusion about how to behave in relationships. They don't know how to fix their troubled relationships and feel trapped in a cycle of the same behavior.</li> </ul>
4	Imitative	-	-	-
5	Offensive		<p>Nobody likes you when you're twenty-three</p> <hr/> <p>My friends say I should act my age</p>	<p>the use of phrases such as "Nobody likes you when you're twenty-three" suggests that 23-year-olds may feel unloved or unappreciated.</p> <hr/> <p>The phrase "My friends say I should act my age" describes a person who receives criticism from friends for behavior or attitudes considered inappropriate for their age</p>

			And you still act like you're in freshman year	The phrase you still act like you're in freshman year illustrates that someone is still behaving or acting like a freshman in college
		<i>sucks</i>	<i>Work sucks, I know</i>	The word " <b>sucks</b> " is indicate dissatisfaction or displeasure. The word fuckin is used in these lyrics to express negative feelings and dissatisfaction towards someone Blink-182's "Work sucks, I know," despite its simple lyrics, carries a profound message about the frustration and boredom of a monotonous and tedious work routine. This phrase reflects the feelings of many people who are dissatisfied with their jobs and long for freedom or something more exciting.
6	Vulgar	<i>sodomy</i>	This state looks down on <i>sodomy</i>	The term sodomy refers to certain sexual acts, especially sexual intercourse involving anal penetration The lyrics "This state looks down on sodomy" in Blink-182's song "What's My Age Again?" refer to negative views or laws against sodomy in a region or country. In the context of the song, these lyrics appear after the main character calls his girlfriend's mother and pretends to be a police officer, informing her that her husband has been arrested for sodomy. These lyrics then serve as a satirical statement about how a place or legal system can have harsh views on certain acts, even if those acts are not clearly defined or understood. However, when viewed as statements about laws or social norms, these lyrics highlight how a place or country may have laws or social norms prohibiting or punishing sodomy, which in this context might simply be considered a joke or harmless act by the characters in the song.
			<i>And she took off my pants</i>	The lyrics "and she took off my pants" in Blink-182's song don't have an explicit or universal meaning. Their meaning depends heavily on the song's context and the listener's interpretation. However, generally, the lyrics can refer to intimate moments or sexual scenes in a relationship, or they can be used metaphorically to describe situations

that leave someone feeling vulnerable or emotionally exposed.

Taboo - - -

Figure 1: Diagram Types of Slang Words



Based on the diagram above, the results of the data analysis that the researcher successfully total 13 (thirteen) obtained slang word on lyric "All the Small Things" and "What My Age Agains", there were at least 3 (three) slang words in the Fresh and Creative type (*prank phone calls, cops, roses*), 2 (two) slang words in the clipping type (*ain't, you'll*), 2 (two) slang words in the acronym type (*ADD, ID*), 4 (four) slang words in the offensive slang type (*Nobody likes you when you're twenty-three, My friends say I should act my age, And you still act like you're in freshman year, Work sucks, I know*), and 2 (two) slang words in the vulgar slang type (*sodomy, and she took off my pants*). For the Flippant slang type, which is imitation slang, the researcher found no data. Therefore, to get criticism and give other students the opportunity to find other slang words, both in the same song and in different songs. The use of slang by Blink 182 in the lyrics of "All the Small Things" and "What's My Age Again?" serves several purposes, including creating familiarity with listeners, enriching the song's language, and giving a more relaxed or contemporary impression. In addition, slang can also be used to convey messages more concisely, create group identity, or even as a form of humor in songs.

Blink-182, the American pop-punk band, with their legendary hit "All the Small Things"? This song became a 90s anthem with its catchy melody and simple yet captivating lyrics. In this song, Blink-182 expresses the importance of appreciating the small things in life that are often overlooked. The simple lyrics can touch the hearts of anyone who listens to it. Likewise, the song "What My Age Agains" tells the story of a grown man who still acts like a teenager, especially at the age of 23.

"All the Small Things" and "What My Age Again" were released in 1999 and included on the album "Enema of the State." These songs were written by all three members of Blink-182: Mark Hoppus, Tom DeLonge, and Travis Barker. Together with producer Jerry Finn, they created songs that exploded onto the music scene at the time.

Overall, "What's My Age Again?" is a fun song but also has a relevant message about development and self-identity in young adulthood. The song explores themes of growth, responsibility, and how adults can still feel immature or struggle to adapt to social expectations. Lyrically, "All the small things" addresses the themes of love and sacrifice. Blink-182 brilliantly illustrates how love in a

healthy relationship is about caring for the little things, not just the big, spectacular moments. "All the small things, True care, truth brings, I'll take one lift, Your ride, best trip" ..."

These lyrics are simple, but they hold profound meaning. Blink-182 teaches that paying attention to the little things in a relationship is the key to success. Spending time together, providing support, or even just paying attention to the little details can make a big difference. Some might consider this song a bit cliché, but Blink-182 manages to capture it beautifully. They recognize that in life, happiness often comes from simple things like a kiss on the forehead, a warm hug, or simply gathering under the night sky.

*"All the small things,  
She left me roses by the stairs,  
Surprises let me know she cares."*

These lyrics also reveal that caring in a relationship isn't just about actions, but also about knowing your partner's wants and needs. Receiving unexpected gifts, like roses on the stairs or other surprises, is a way for a partner to show how much they care.

*"All the small things"  
Small things..., Small things..., Small things"*

So, when you listen to this song, allow yourself to understand the message contained in the lyrics. Don't miss the opportunity to appreciate the little things that often make life more meaningful. Because, in these lyrics, Blink-182 reminds us that happiness is in our own hands, and often begins with small, unseen things. Blink-182 reminds us to look again at the small things we've taken for granted. They remind us that happiness doesn't always need to be sought far away; it's all around us.

## CONCLUSION

From the results of the data analysis that the researcher successfully obtained, there were at least 3 (three) slang words in the Fresh and Creative type, 2 (two) slang words in the acronym type, 4 (four) slang words in the offensive slang type, and 2 (two) slang words in the vulgar slang type. For the Flippant slang type, which is imitation slang, the researcher found no data. Therefore, to get criticism and give other students the opportunity to find other slang words, both in the same song and in different songs. The use of slang by Blink 182 in the lyrics of "All the Small Things" and "What's My Age Again?" serves several purposes, including creating familiarity with listeners, enriching the song's language, and giving a more relaxed or contemporary impression. In addition, slang can also be used to convey messages more concisely, create group identity, or even as a form of humor in songs. The moral message conveyed in Blink-182's song "All the Small Things" is to appreciate the little things in relationships and love. The song highlights how small things, like sending a text message or simply calling, can be very meaningful in a relationship. It also conveys that love can be joyful and make us feel alive, even in situations that might feel boring or frustrating.

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