

# Unraveling the Sociolinguistic Dynamics of Adolescent Slang Usage in Palu City's WhatsApp Social Media

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## ABSTRACT

This study examines the usage of slang in WhatsApp social media by teenagers in Palu, Indonesia, and aims to identify the forms of slang usage and the factors influencing Palu teenagers to use slang in their daily conversations on social media. By conducting observations and interviews, the study found unique uses of regional slang in social media. Teenagers tend to use inaccurate language that deviates from the rules of Indonesian language and mix Indonesian language with foreign languages, such as English, leading to disorganized language use. The development of digitalization has contributed to the emergence of new languages. Cultural and regional backgrounds are also influential factors that cause the shift towards using Bahasa Indonesia. This qualitative research provides insights into how the use of slang in social media affects language use among teenagers in Palu.

## KEYWORDS

Sociolinguistic;  
Slang Usage;  
WhatsApp;  
Adolescent.

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas penggunaan bahasa slang di media sosial WhatsApp oleh remaja di Palu, Indonesia, dan bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi bentuk penggunaan bahasa slang dan faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi remaja Palu untuk menggunakan bahasa slang dalam percakapan sehari-hari di media sosial. Dengan melakukan observasi dan wawancara, penelitian ini menemukan penggunaan bahasa slang yang unik di media sosial. Remaja cenderung menggunakan bahasa yang tidak akurat dan melanggar aturan bahasa Indonesia, serta mencampurkan bahasa Indonesia dengan bahasa asing, seperti bahasa Inggris, yang mengakibatkan penggunaan bahasa yang tidak terorganisir. Selain itu, perkembangan digitalisasi telah menyebabkan munculnya bahasa-bahasa baru. Latar belakang budaya dan regional juga menjadi faktor penting yang menyebabkan pergeseran penggunaan Bahasa Indonesia. Penelitian kualitatif ini memberikan wawasan tentang bagaimana penggunaan bahasa slang di media sosial mempengaruhi penggunaan bahasa di kalangan remaja di Palu.

## KATAKUNCI

Sosiolinguistik;  
Penggunaan Bahasa Gaul;  
WhatsApp;  
Remaja.

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## 1. Introduction

Language is a system of auditory symbols that humans use to socially communicate. It serves as a means to interact and express ideas, thoughts, opinions, and notions both individually and in groups. Communication can take various forms such as symbols, signals, and actions, since the primary function of language is to communicate and interact. The use of slang in social media among adolescents in Palu city has become a distinctive feature during inter-generational communication, where teenagers use slang to express themselves and establish intimacy in discussions.

Despite the consequences, many Palu city teenagers use slang in social media. Various means of communication exist, with social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and WhatsApp being the most popular among teenagers. In this digital era, individuals must have a grasp of technology, including social media. In Palu city, WhatsApp is widely used by teenagers as a communication tool to send messages, make calls, and upload daily activities in the form of stories. This has contributed to the emergence of slang or variations in language among the people of Palu city.

Slang is widely used on WhatsApp by adolescents in Palu, and it has become a common habit in their daily activities. The uncontrolled use of slang has resulted in its widespread usage among all segments of society in Palu. Many teenagers in Palu use slang as their primary language when communicating on WhatsApp. Some examples of slang that frequently appear in WhatsApp messages among Palu's teenagers are:

### 1. Use of the Term “Bucin”.

"Bucin" is a slang term that stands for "slave of love". It refers to someone who is crazily in love. Teenagers in Palu often use this term on WhatsApp to sound cool.

Example: “saya rasa kau ini “bucin” lee...”

### 2. Use of the Term “Gabut”.

"Gabut" is a slang term often used by Palu's teenagers when conveying messages via the WhatsApp application. It describes the feeling of being bored, unclear, and not knowing what to do.

Example: “ehh kau tau “gabut” saya rasa di rumah terus”

### 3. Use of the Term “Mantul”.

"Mantul" is a popular slang term used by Palu's teenagers when communicating directly or having conversations over the phone on WhatsApp. It is an abbreviation of "Mantap Betul" which means "very solid".

Example: “sudah keren pakaianmu itu.... “mantul” sudah itu”

### 4. Use of the Term “Alay”.

Teenagers in Palu city often use the term "Alay" when communicating on WhatsApp social media. This term is actually short for "Anak Layangan" which describes a person who is exaggerated and showy.

Example:

Aldi: "Panas betul kota Palu le."

Anto: "alay betul kau, macam langsung jadi hitam saja kau kena panas."

##### 5. Use of the Term "Ping" as an opening message or starting a discussion.

The term "Ping" is frequently used by teenagers in Palu city to initiate conversations on WhatsApp social media. The prefix "Ping" is used in place of a greeting when sending messages to start chats with close friends.

Example:

A: "Ping"

B: "Ya, kenapa?"

The researcher is inspired to conduct a study titled "Unraveling the Sociolinguistic Dynamics of Adolescent Slang Usage in Palu City's WhatsApp Social Media" due to the prevalent use of slang in both direct and indirect communication through social media. The title was chosen to investigate the use of slang on WhatsApp social media among adolescents in Palu.

This study is connected to a prior study conducted by Nurjihan (2019) on "Slang Forms in Twitter Comment Status on Social Media". The aim of the previous study was to explain the forms of slang used in Twitter status comments and the factors that influence its usage. The findings revealed four forms of slang in Twitter accounts, namely abbreviation, decapitation, contraction, and acronym, and three factors that influence its usage, including teenage factors, environmental factors, and print and electronic media factors. The similarity between Nurjihan's research and the current study is that both focus on the use of slang on social media. However, the previous study uses qualitative methods to explore the form of slang and its influencing factors, while the current study is centered on WhatsApp social media and its use among adolescents in Palu city. Additionally, the prior research examined the use of slang in the K-popers community on Twitter status comments.

In addition, Istiqomah & Nugraha (2018) conducted research in the journal "Analysis of Prokem Language Use in Social Media". Their study aimed to analyze the use of slang on social media during a specific period of time. The researchers identified approximately 50 slang terms from social media sources such as Instagram, Facebook, Line, and WhatsApp, and analyzed them based on phonology. The similarity between Istiqomah and Nugraha's research and the current study is that they both explore the use of slang as a common language among communities, which is influenced by the development of technology and mass media. The difference between their study and the current one is that their research covers multiple social media platforms, including Instagram, WhatsApp, Line, and Facebook, while the present study only focuses on WhatsApp.

### 1.1. Definition of Language

Language can be defined as a system of symbols used for human verbal communication, including spoken and written language. Communication through language involves making sounds and using signs, and is considered a social behavior that is influenced by both individuals and society as a whole (Sumarsono, 2017). Language is a property of society that is also internalized by individuals.

Language can be seen as a communication system, according to (Sholihatin, 2019). It is a code that communicates meaning, similar to other communication systems such as animal sounds, morse code, traffic signals, human gestures, and computer source code. Language is used to facilitate interaction among social beings (Mantasiah R, 2020). Linguistics studies language as a communication tool used by speakers and their partners, which consists of sound symbols with meaning produced by human speech organs.

### 1.2. Slang

To put it in other words, slang is a deviation from the norm of language that arises intentionally or unintentionally and is influenced by social factors. Slang is considered as a branch of the Indonesian language and it started to emerge among the public in the 1980s, also known as "slang" (Azizah, 2019). It was commonly used by gangsters at that time and served as a code language used by specific groups, where the meaning of the slang language used by each group differs (Haeruddin, 2021). The purpose of using slang is to keep the contents of certain group chats private. The use of slang is closely related to the advancements in technology during the digital era, as it is explained in the journal "Slang (Jargon) Millennial Generation in Social Media" by Goziyah & Yusuf (2019), where the use of slang among millennials began with social media as a means of communication.

### 1.3. Social Media

The utilization of web-based technology in social media can enhance interpersonal relationships by transforming one-way communication into an interactive dialogue that facilitates user interaction (Afriani & Azmi, 2020). Anwar (2017) states that social media is among the fastest-growing media and about 70% of the world's internet users are active on social media, with Facebook and Twitter having a significant user base. The use of social media has led to several problems, including a cultural shift from traditional to digital culture. Individuals who grow up in a digital culture are inclined towards desocialization or isolation. However, social media is a double-edged sword that provides several benefits as well.

### 1.4. WhatsApp

The journal "Analysis of the use of WhatsApp application as a medium of information in learning: A literature review" describes WhatsApp as a widely used internet-based communication application that facilitates sharing of information and various content due to its user-friendly interface and features (Koten et al., 2022). Another Islamic education journal titled "The use of WhatsApp social media and its influence on student learning discipline in Islamic religious

education subjects" explains that WhatsApp is a chat communication medium available on smartphones, which allows users to send text messages, pictures, videos, and make phone calls, and requires an internet data package (Suryadi et al., 2018).

### **1.5. Adolescent**

Adolescents are a group of individuals who are at a transitional stage from childhood to adulthood and are greatly impacted by their surroundings. According to Diananda (2019) in the journal of adolescent psychology and problems, this period involves rapid growth and development, both physically and mentally. As (Gainau, 2015) points out, the adolescent stage marks a transition from childhood to adulthood, during which individuals strive towards independence and maturity. However, adolescents require guidance as they lack understanding about themselves and their environment, as well as experience in determining the direction of their lives. The journey towards individual development is often hindered by various factors such as psychosocial and physical barriers, as well as the influence of the family, school and community environment.

## **2. Method**

The study employs a qualitative research method where the researcher serves as the main instrument, data collection is inductive, and the research outcome emphasizes generalization meaning. The subjects in this research are natural objects or natural settings, thus it is referred to as a naturalistic method. The research sample comprises teenagers who use slang on WhatsApp social media, and the respondents must meet the following criteria: 1) they are teenagers who use slang in Palu City, 2) their age is between 13 and 25, 3) they are physically and mentally fit, and 4) they can provide accurate and reliable data. The research data consists of words or slang language used on social media, particularly the WhatsApp application.

This study utilizes several data collection methods, including observation, interview, and document study. Observation is used to systematically record symptoms related to the research object, while interviews are conducted to obtain more detailed and valid data. The document study method is used to collect qualitative data from various sources, such as letters, diaries, photo archives, meeting results, and activity journals. These methods are employed to gather information about the use of slang in social media among adolescents in Palu (Sujarweni, 2014).

To analyze the data, the following steps are taken concurrently with the data collection process: Firstly, data reduction, where the collected data is summarized, selected, and focused on important points. Secondly, the data is presented in a categorized manner and arranged in a matrix form to identify patterns and relationships. Finally, inference and verification are performed. Inference involves drawing tentative conclusions based on the reduced and presented data. These conclusions are provisional and require verification through further stages to strengthen their foundation.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

After conducting research, the researchers have identified various forms of slang usage in WhatsApp social media among teenagers in Palu city. The collected data includes research evidence from WhatsApp social media, as well as interviews with slang users, academics, and the Central Sulawesi language center. The research findings will be discussed based on the different forms of slang usage, such as abbreviations, foreign languages, and regional language mixtures, that teenagers employ when communicating via WhatsApp social media.



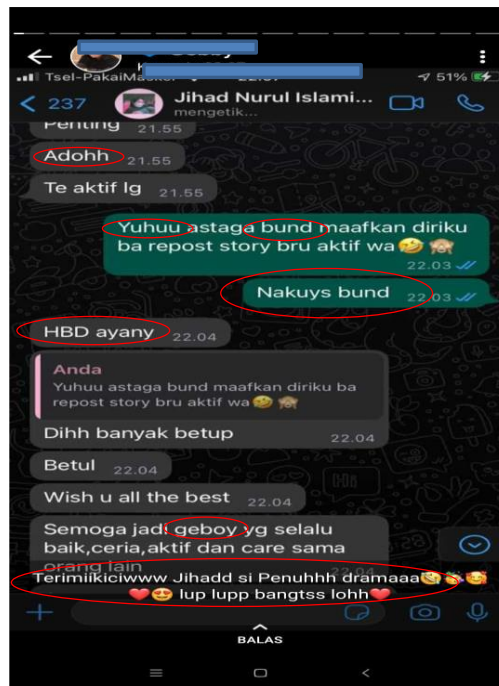
**Picture 1.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

The presentation in this chapter will describe in full the results of the research based on the formulation of the problem in the previous chapter, namely what forms of use of slang in whatsapp social media among adolescents in Palu and what factors influence the use of slang in whatsapp social media among Palu city youth. The results are referred to as follows:

**Table 1.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Gas	Ayo	Mixing Code
R2	Anj'ayy	Anjing	Jargon

This chapter presents a comprehensive description of the research results based on the problem formulation discussed in the previous chapter, which focuses on the forms of slang usage and the factors influencing its usage on WhatsApp social media among teenagers in Palu city. The results are presented as follows.



**Picture 2.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

The image displayed above exhibits a WhatsApp conversation that has been shared as a WhatsApp story status, and it includes various instances of slang use, as shown in the chat:

- The phrase "Te is active lg" is an example of slang, where "Te" is an abbreviation for "No" that has been shortened by WhatsApp users.
- The sentence "Yuhuu gosh, mom, I'm sorry, but the repost story just started wa" contains several slang words, such as "yuhuu," "bund," and the combination of non-standard language with English in "ba repost story." Essentially, the sentence means "Hello, gosh, mother, I'm sorry, I just reposted the story, then activated WhatsApp."
- The term "Nakuys bund" is a type of slang used by teenagers in Palu city, which combines regional language (kaili) with the substitution of /a/ with /y/ and the addition of /s/ at the end of the word, resulting in a change in form and pronunciation from the original word "nakuya." Additionally, "bund" is used instead of "mother."
- The phrase "HBD ayany" is a slang abbreviation from the English phrase "Happy Birthday," and "ayany" is a form of "dear" that has been modified to "ayany."
- "Geboy" is a person's name that has been altered by adding the letter /o/ to the username of their social media account. The original name is "Geby."
- The WhatsApp story caption includes several examples of slang use, such as "Terimikiciwww" for "Thank you," "lup lupp" for "love love," and "bangats" for "really." The caption actually means "Thank you jihad, full of drama (emoji) love love really."

**Table 2.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Te	Tidak	Clipping
R2	Yuhuu	Halo (sapaan)	Borrowing
R2	Bund	Bunda	Clipping

R2	Nakuys	Kenapa	Code Mixing (Kailinese)
R1	HBD ayany	Happy birthday sayang	Acronym
R1	Geboy	Geby	Graphological Alteration
R2	Terimikiww	Terimakasih	Graphological Alteration
R2	Lup lupp	Cinta	Graphological Alteration
R2	Bangatss	Banget	Graphological Alteration

Upon examining the use of slang in the examples above, there are various instances where slang is used such as shortening of words, abbreviation of words, blending of Indonesian and foreign languages (English and Kaili), and combining words with emoticons or emojis - which are visual representations used in electronic message.



**Picture 3.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

The WhatsApp group conversation above features two instances of slang usage, namely the word "Gaskan" which is a slang word used as an invitation, meaning "come on".

**Table 3.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Gaskan	Ayolah	Jargon
R2	PDKT	Pendekatan	Acronym

In the WhatsApp group discussion above, the term "PDKT" stands for "Approach" and is used to refer to the process of pursuing a partner, regardless of gender.





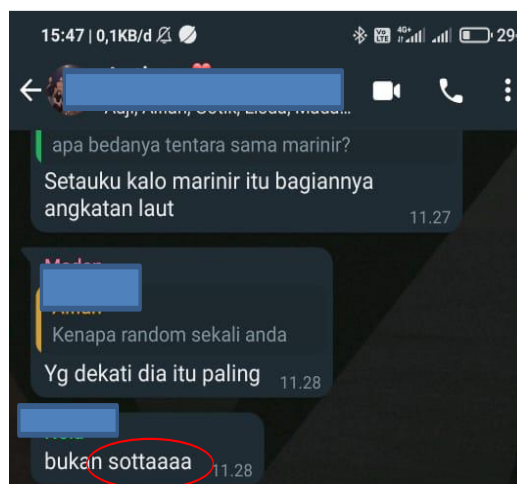
**Picture 4. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City**

The WhatsApp group conversation mentioned above showcases two sentences that use slang; one of which is "Otw secret", where "Otw" is an abbreviation for "on the way" in English, which means traveling or going somewhere, and "secret" refers to a gathering place for a community or organization.

**Table 4. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City**

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	OTW	Sedang dalam perjalanan	Acronym
R2	Gaess	Teman-teman	Code Mixing
R2	Posisi	Dimana	Jargon

In addition, the chat above includes the term "geez position" which is used to ask about the location of a friend. The term "gaes" is a modified version of the word "guys" in English, with the letters /u/ and /y/ replaced by /a/ and /e/, respectively. It refers to a friend. Additionally, there is a slang term used in the chat, which is "position". Teenagers in Palu City commonly use this word to inquire about the whereabouts of their friends.

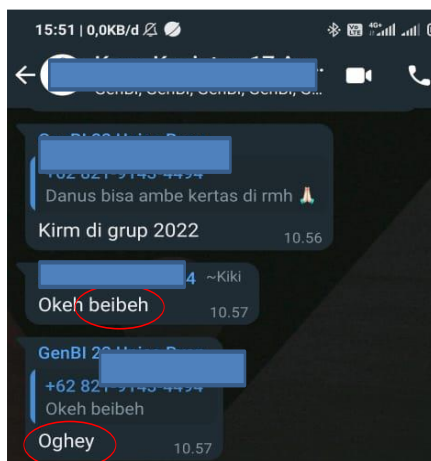


**Picture 5. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City**

The chat above features one instance of slang used on WhatsApp, which is the word "sottaaaa" that means "knowingly knows".

**Table 5. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City**

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Sottaaaa	Sok tahu	Blending



**Picture 6.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

There are two slang terms used on WhatsApp in the chat above, namely "beibeh" meaning "honey", and "oghey" meaning "okay" with a slight modification in its spelling.

**Table 6.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Beibeh	Sayang	Code mixing/ Graphological Alteration
R2	Oghey	Oke	Paronomasia



**Picture 7.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

The picture above includes various instances of slang, such as "aman2" that stands for "safe-safe" but is abbreviated using the number "2", "aptucc" meaning "what is that", "jan" which is an alteration of the word "don't" by removing its letters /g/, /a/ and /n/, and "tagantung" meaning "curious".

**Table 7.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Aman2	Aman-aman	Graphological Alteration
R2	Aptucc	Apa itu	Blending
R2	Jan	Jangan	Clipping
R2	Tagantung	Penasaran	Jargon



**Picture 8.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

The WhatsApp status message above utilizes slang mixed with English, with the phrase "Gaes recommended" serving as a question asking the reader for advice. The term "Gaes" is a modification of the word "guys" in English, with the letters "u" and "y" being replaced by "a" and "e" respectively. This slang word, which means friend, is commonly used by teenagers in Palu city on the WhatsApp social media application.

**Table 8.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Gaes	Teman	Paronomasia

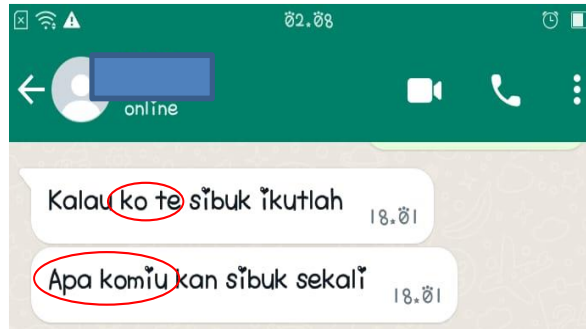


**Picture 9.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

The comments in the WhatsApp group message above feature the use of slang, specifically the word "sekeket" which is a slang term that means "agree" or "I agree."

**Table 9.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Sepakett	Sepakat	Paronomasia



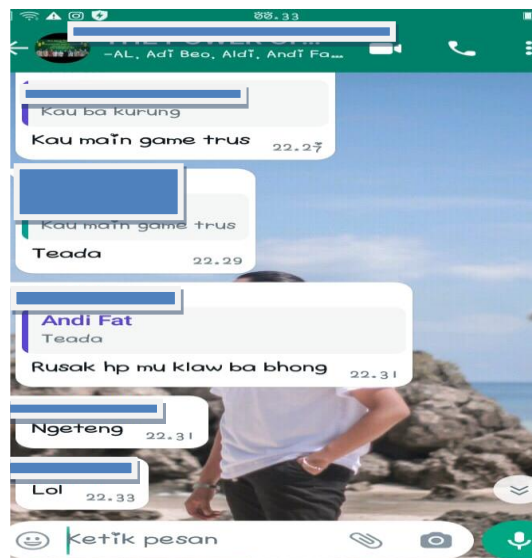
**Picture 10.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

The WhatsApp message above displays various examples of slang usage, ranging from word modification to combining Indonesian and regional languages. The word "ko" is a modification of the word "you," while "te" is a modification of the word "no." Both of these words have been shortened for brevity.

**Table 10.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Ko	Kau	Code Mixing (Kailinese)
R1	Te	Tidak	Code Mixing (Kailinese)
R1	Komiu	Kau / kamu	Code Mixing (Kailinese)

In the chat above, there is a blend of two languages where the word "apa komiu" means "what are you". The word "komiu" is a regional language spoken by the Kaili tribe in Palu city and means "you".



**Picture 11.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City Palu

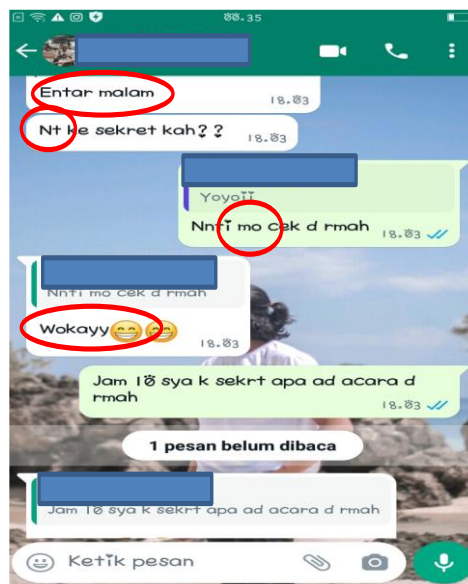
**Table 11.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Trus	Terus	Clipping
R2	Teada	Tidak ada	Blending
R3	Klaw	Kalau	Clipping
R3	Ba	Kata penghubung	Morphological Alteration

R4	Ngeteng	Menghitung	Jargon
R3	LoI	Lucu	Acronym

The group messages above display various instances of slang used by teenagers in Palu city, such as:

1. The use of the word "then" instead of "continue", where the former has been modified by removing the letter /e/ to make it shorter and faster to type.
2. The slang word "teada" which is an abbreviation of "nothing", commonly used by teenagers in Palu city.
3. The slang word "klaw", derived from "if", has been altered by removing the letter /a/ and changing the letter /u/ to /w/ at the end of the word.
4. The word "ba" is a common connector used by people in Palu city to link verbs in their discussions.
5. The word "ngeteng" means "to count" and is originally from Javanese language. It is known and used by some teenagers in Palu.
6. The word "lol" is another way of expressing laughter or amusement.



**Picture 12.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

The WhatsApp chat above contains some slang words, such as "entar" which is a shortened version of the word "briefly" and has lost the first letter /b/. The word "Nt" is a slang term commonly used by teenagers in Palu city, which comes from the word "ente" (Arabic) meaning "you", but has been shortened and changed in form.

**Table 12.** The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Entar	Bentar	Clipping
R1	Nt	Kau	Clipping
R2	Mo	Mau	Clipping
R1	Wokayy	Oke	Paronomasia

In addition to that, there are also slang words "mo" and "wokayy" frequently used by teenagers in Palu city in their WhatsApp messages. The word "mo" is a slang term for "want" but has changed its form by replacing the letter /u/ with the letter /o/ and removing the letter /a/, which also affects the sound of the spoken language. Another slang term used by teenagers is "wokayy", which is a modified version of "okay" with the addition of the letter /w/ at the beginning and the letter /y/ at the end, and the replacement of the letter /e/ with the letter /a/, also affecting the sound of the spoken language.



Picture 13. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Table 13. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Woles	Aman atau tenang	Paronomasia
R2	Gas	Jadi	Paronomasia

The conversation above contains two slang terms, namely "woles" and "gas". The slang term "woles" is commonly used by teenagers in Palu city, and it means "calm". Another slang term used in the message is "gas", which means "come on" in WhatsApp messages.



Picture 14. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City

The WhatsApp conversation above includes several slang words used by social media users, such as "yuhuu", which is often used as a greeting and means "hello".

**Table 14. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City**

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Yuhuuu	Halo	Code Mixing
R1	Samlekom	Assalamualaikum	Clipping
R1	Kaks	Kaka	Paronomasia

In addition to "yuhuu", there are other slang terms used in the conversation, namely "samlekom" and "kaks". "Samlekom" is a slang word for the greeting "assalamualaikum", while "kaks" is a nickname for "kaka" that has been changed in form by replacing the letter /a/ at the end of the word with the letter /s/. This also affects the pronunciation (phoneme) of the word.



**Picture 15. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City**

The WhatsApp message above contains language variations, such as the slang word "cemumut" which is frequently used by teenagers in Palu City. This word means "enthusiasm", but its form has been altered.

**Table 15. The Use of Slang and the Factors Affecting Its Usage on WhatsApp Social Media Among Teenagers in Palu City**

Respondents	Slangs	Indonesia Language	Linguistic Phenomena
R1	Cemumut	Semangat	Paronomasia

According to the data, deviations from proper Indonesian or slang are present in the communication of Palu City teenagers on WhatsApp, including non-standard spellings, combining Indonesian with foreign (English) or even regional languages, and using abbreviations and approximations. This is because teenagers in Palu City find it easier and more modern, in line with the rapid development of information technology. However, this usage of slang on WhatsApp may have an impact on the Indonesian language, potentially leading to a shift in the language's popularity away from proper usage towards slang.

**Table 16. The use of Slang among Palu City teenagers on WhatsApp**

No	Slang Forms	Indonesian forms
1	Gas	Ayo
2	Anjay	Anjing
3	Te	Tidak
4	Tagantung	Penasaran
5	Otw	Menuju perjalanan
6	Terimikiciwww	Terimakasih
7	Pdkt	Pendekatan
8	Sottaaa	Sok tahu
9	Beibeh	Sayang
10	Klaw	Kalau
11	Sepakett	Sepakat
12	Lol	Lucu
13	Ngeteng	Menghitung
14	Aptucc	Apa itu
15	Oghey	Oke
16	Nt	Kau
17	Mo	Mau
18	Wokayy	Oke
19	Entar	Sebentar
20	Yuhuuu	Halo
21	Samlekom	Assalamualaikum
22	Woles	Tenang
23	Aman2	Aman-aman
24	Lup lupp	Cinta
25	Bangatss	Banget
26	Kaks	Kaka
27	Nakuys	Kenapa
28	Cemumut	Semangat

### 3.1. The Effect of Utilizing Slang on Whatsapp Social Media by Adolescents in the City of Palu

#### 3.1.1. Positive Effect

Whether or not the use of slang is accepted by the people of Palu City, it is not a problem as long as it is used appropriately and in the right context. Slang has become a creative language innovation in communication via WhatsApp social media and is widely used by teenagers and various groups in Palu City. According to Dr. Syamsudin, an Indonesian language expert and lecturer in Palu:

“Pengaruh positif dalam hal ini bisa menciptakan nuansa kedekatan antara penuturnya nuansa kekeluargaan antar penuturnya mereka semakin dekat yang artinya ini bisa mendukung juga kegiatan kegiatan mereka seperti itu.”

“In a positive way, slang can create a sense of closeness and kinship between speakers, bringing them closer together and supporting their activities.”

The use of slang by Palu City youth in social media, including chat and status updates on WhatsApp, has an impact on the Indonesian language. Dr. Syamsudin explained:

“Sebenarnya kalau menurut saya itu bahasa gaul dia bisa jadi faktor pendukung dan sekaligus bisa menjadi faktor penghambat dari sisi faktor pendukung bahasa gaul itu dia bisa menambah perbendaharaan kosa kata bahasa Indonesia diakalangan penutur bahasa Indonesia.”



"In my opinion, slang can be both a supporting and inhibiting factor. As a supporting factor, it can add to the vocabulary of Indonesian speakers."

### 3.1.2. Negative Effect

The use of slang in daily life has negative effects, particularly hindering the use of proper and correct Indonesian language. Palu city teenagers tend to use slang on WhatsApp social media as it is easier and more efficient, and they take pride in what they communicate to their partners. The use of slang on WhatsApp social media among Palu city teenagers ranges from using foreign languages, mixing Indonesian and local languages, abbreviating words, and even using terms and vocabulary that only certain groups understand. Dr. Syamsudin, a lecturer and Indonesian language expert in Palu city, said that youth groups tend to display their characteristics, and the use of slang has a negative impact.

"Secara psikologis memang kelompok remaja itu selalu menampilkan ciri khas karakteristik kelompoknya, karena ada keinginan untuk menampilkan karakteristik kelompoknya maka dia cenderung untuk mencari sesuatu yang berbeda dari yang lain serta menunjukkan ciri khasnya dia seperti itu. Dampak negatif jika ada kelompok lain lapisan lain orang lain luar yang tidak memahami istilah istilah itu atau kosa kata yang digunakan bisa mengakibatkan misunderstanding antara penuturnya bisa terjadi kesalahpahaman tuturan makna tutur pada setiap penutur bahasa."

"Psychologically, the youth group always displays the characteristics of the group, because there is a desire to display the characteristics of the group, they tend to look for something different from others and show their characteristics like that. The negative impact is that other groups, other layers, and outsiders who do not understand the vocabulary used can lead to misunderstandings between speakers, causing misunderstandings in the meaning of speech for every speaker of that language."

Moreover, there are several negative consequences resulting from the prevalence of slang in society, which include:

- a. Diminished interest among young people in learning proper and correct Indonesian due to the prevalence of slang, particularly those that are popular on social media and considered to be in line with the latest trends.
- b. Producing unclear or ambiguous effects on good and proper Indonesian vocabulary. This is because most social media users, particularly those on WhatsApp, tend to employ slang terms and mix Indonesian with foreign languages as well as regional or local languages.
- c. Potentially undermining the position of Indonesian as a unifying language or the official language of the State, given the widespread use of slang among teenagers.

### 3.2. The Factors that Affect the Use of Slang on WhatsApp by Teenagers in Palu City

Various factors contribute to the emergence of slang among the youth in Palu city, including social, environmental, and technological developments in the digital age. According to Dr. Asrif M.Hum, the head of the Central Sulawesi provincial language center, the use of slang is not solely due to social media but rather because millennials now have a wider platform to express themselves. He added that slang existed before the widespread use of social media.

“Karena media sosial merupakan ruang yang efektif, orang tidak harus menulis dikoran orang tidak harus mencetakan Koran karena biaya yang mahal. Media sosial adalah salah satu ruang mengungkapkan perasaan yang paling efektif. Maka tidak bisa dihindari dan pasti bahwa media sosial adalah saluran paling nomor satu karena dia sudah berada digenggaman mereka. Sekarang dunia dalam genggamannya bahkan sambil baring sekalipun bisa mengungkapkan ekspresi dengan berbagai bentuk. Bukan disebabkan oleh media sosial sekali lagi bukan disebabkan oleh media sosial tetapi adalah remaja, mahasiswa, ataupun pelajar mendapatkan satu ruang ekspresi yang sangat efektif yaitu media sosial, media sosial menjadi satu panggung maha spektakuler mereka mengeksplorasi bahasa mereka. Jadi bukan disebabkan oleh media sosial tetapi munculnya satu ruang ekspresi yang maha luas maha efektif. Media sosial menjadi rumah besar untuk orang berekspresi.”

“Social media has become an effective space for people to express their feelings, which is why it has become the number one channel for communication. He emphasized that social media did not cause the emergence of slang, but rather provided teenagers, students, and young people with a spectacular stage to explore their language. Social media has become a big home for people to express themselves, which has enabled them to use slang more frequently and creatively.”

Dr. Syamsudin, a lecturer and Indonesian language expert in Palu city, shared the same view that slang has been around for a long time and with the advent of digitalization, social media has made the use of slang more widespread and accepted by the public.

“Sebelum ada media sosial kelompok-kelompok itu sudah ada, bahasa prokem sudah ada sejak dulu dan dengan adanya media sosial ini justru lebih marak lagi. Secara psikologis memang kelompok remaja itu selalu menampilkan ciri khas karakteristik kelompoknya, karena ada keinginan untuk menampilkan karakteristik kelompoknya maka dia cenderung untuk mencari sesuatu yang berbeda dengan dari yang lain menunjukkan ciri khasnya dia seperti itu.”

“The youth group tends to display their unique characteristics, and slang has become one way to differentiate themselves from others.”

Afriansyah, a Palu city teenager, also believes that the times and digitalization are factors that contribute to the use of slang.

“Zaman berpengaruh terhadap bahasa gaul, apalagi adanya media sosial, tiap tahun bahasa gaul selalu muncul dan menggantikan bahasa gaul yang lama”.

“Slang is constantly evolving and being replaced every year, especially with the influence of social media.”

Nurlaela, another teenager from Palu city, shares the same sentiment. She believes that technology and the times play a significant role in the use of slang, particularly on social media platforms like WhatsApp.

“Adanya media sosial apalagi zaman modern seperti sekarang, kita mengikuti apa yang muncul di media sosial, apa yang populer sekarang ini”.

“People tend to follow what is popular on social media, especially in today's modern times.”

Additionally, according to M. Rosdiansyah, a teenager from Palu City, the reasons behind the use of slang among teenagers are closely related to both social media and their immediate environment.

“Lingkungan juga berpengaruh terhadap bahasa gaul, ada bahasa dicampur dengan bahasa daerah, bahasa Indonesia dicampur dengan bahasa Inggris, sudah tidak betul bahasa yang muncul belum lagi bahasa-bahasa yang muncul di media sosial”.

“The environment also plays a role in slang usage, as it involves mixing regional languages with Indonesian and even English. The language used is often incorrect, particularly on social media.”

#### 4. Conclusion

Based on collected data, it appears that the use of slang on WhatsApp social media by teenagers in Palu City is on the rise. This trend is not limited to teenagers, as adults and even children also use slang in their communication through WhatsApp. While social media is not the main reason for the widespread use of slang among teenagers in Palu City, it is a very popular and effective platform for communicating with slang. However, the rapid use of slang on WhatsApp has created communication problems as not everyone in Palu City understands the meaning of the slang used by certain groups. The use of slang in communication can lead to misunderstandings and confusion. From a sociolinguistic perspective, the use of slang has an impact on language and society in Palu City, as it influences language variations and communication patterns. Slang words and sentences have their own meanings and interpretations, which may not be fully understood by all recipients. Therefore, the use of slang on WhatsApp social media by teenagers in Palu City requires further study and analysis based on sociolinguistic principles.

The use of slang in WhatsApp social media among adolescents in Palu city is continuously increasing, and as a result, new and evolving slang emerge from year to year. The number of social media users, especially in the WhatsApp application, is also increasing, leading to more diverse forms and types of communication based on the era. The use of slang among Palu city adolescents is combined with Indonesian language to make communication faster and simpler. This study suggests several areas for further investigation regarding the use of slang and language in social media, particularly in the WhatsApp application. These areas include analyzing the use of slang in the youth community in Palu city, the influence of Palu city youth in using slang on WhatsApp social media, and the impact of slang on the proper use of Indonesian language. Furthermore, this study recommends analyzing the negative impacts of using slang among teenagers in Palu city on the Indonesian language.

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