

## ANALYSIS OF SLANG LANGUAGE TYPES IN "THE WOLF OF WALL STREET (2013)" MOVIE

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### ABSTRACT

*This study investigates the use of slang in the film The Wolf of Wall Street (2013) using Eric Partridge's classification of slang types. The objective is to identify and analyse the various slang terms employed by the film's characters to reflect social hierarchies, youth culture, and the stockbroker profession's competitive environment. Through qualitative analysis of the film's transcript, the research categorises the slang into 11 types: Cockney, Public House, Workmen's, Tradesmen's, Art, Publicity, Theatre, Public School and University, Society, Medical, and Soldier's slang. The study reveals that Society slang is the most prevalent, representing 17.07% of the total slang used, while Tradesmen's and Public School and University slang are the least common, each representing 2.44%. The findings highlight how slang functions as a sociolinguistic tool, reflecting both professional and cultural identities within the film.*

**Keywords:** *slang, sociolinguistics, The Wolf of Wall Street, youth culture*

### ABSTRAK

Studi ini menyelidiki penggunaan bahasa gaul dalam film The Wolf of Wall Street (2013) menggunakan klasifikasi jenis bahasa gaul Eric Partridge. Tujuannya adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis berbagai istilah bahasa gaul yang digunakan oleh karakter-karakter dalam film untuk mencerminkan hierarki sosial, budaya anak muda, dan lingkungan persaingan profesi pialang saham. Melalui analisis kualitatif transkrip film, penelitian ini mengkategorikan bahasa gaul menjadi 11 jenis: Cockney, Public House, Workmen's, Tradesmen's, Art, Publicity, Theatre, Public School and University, Society, Medical, dan Soldier's slang. Studi ini mengungkapkan bahwa bahasa gaul Society adalah yang paling umum, mewakili 17,07% dari total bahasa gaul yang digunakan, sementara bahasa gaul Tradesmen's dan Public School and University adalah yang paling jarang, masing-masing mewakili 2,44%. Temuan ini menyoroti bagaimana bahasa gaul berfungsi sebagai alat sosiolinguistik, yang mencerminkan identitas profesional dan budaya dalam film tersebut.

**Kata kunci:** bahasa gaul, sosiolinguistik, The Wolf of Wall Street, budaya anak muda

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As time goes on, language continues to evolve. New terms are emerging in the language that are closely related to everyday human language. Language serves as the primary tool for communication, allowing individuals to express thoughts, emotions, and ideas. According to Fromkin (1974), language is a dynamic and continuously evolving entity. Even in films, new slang often appears that can confuse some viewers with these new terms. However, the use of slang in films can help audiences relate to and understand the meaning of these new expressions.

English, which is a global language, appears in both standard and non-standard forms. Standard English is used in formal settings, while non-standard English, which includes slang, thrives in informal contexts within society. Colloquial language refers to a series of informal words and expressions. Usually, this slang tends to be funny, unique, or innovative,

used by certain groups. This reflects a shift in society, power relations, and particularly the youth culture that often uses slang to shape their distinct identities.

Slang itself is a part of sociolinguistics. According to Hudson (1980: 4-5), the difference between sociolinguistics and sociology is as follows: sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society, while sociology is the study of society in relation to language. According to Pei and Gaynor in Alwasilah (1985: 57), slang is a form of language that is commonly used, created through popular adaptation and the expansion of existing word meanings, and by forming new words without regard to scholarly standards and linguistic rules in word formation it is generally limited to certain social groups or age groups. Each of these forms has different social or professional functions, ranging from casual and humorous language to exclusive subcultural language.

For example, the slang of society commonly used in everyday conversations often contains certain vulgar elements, while the slang of a more cheerful and materialistic society avoids cynicism. The term “bull’s-eye” is considered slang used by workers, especially in finance and sales, to express hitting a target or achieving something successfully. For example, expressions like “piker” and “cocksucker” used in the film fall within the slang of the community and the jargon of workers, reflecting the rough and aggressive nature of the stockbroker world depicted in the film.

Slang language is not the same; it evolves rapidly and varies based on region, group, and context. As stated by Partridge (2004), there are 11 types of slang: Cockney slang, tradesmen’s slang, public house slang, workmen’s slang, slang in art, slang in publicity, slang in theatre, slang in school and university, society slang, slang in medicine, and soldier’s slang.

### **1. Cockney Slang**

Cockney slang is a kind of English slang that evolved in the East End of England. Initially, cockney slang was primarily used by the working class in England. But nowadays cockney slang is now widely used in England, particularly in London. This term has gained popularity through movies, music, and literature. This slang has a strong accent, with consonantal variations such as the to f or v sounds. For example, “Airy-fairies” denotes huge feet.

### **2. Public House Slang**

The definition of public house slang is a public house group of words or phrases that compensates for the limited documented vocabulary due to the subject matter. It is cheerful, materialistic, yet neither gross nor cynical. The public house set of terms or phrases compensates for the limited documented vocabulary due to the nature of the subject. For example, “Booze-shunter” refers to a beer drinker.

### **3. Workmen’s Slang**

This sort of slang is similar to public house slang, although there are differences. The characteristics of the users of workmen’s slang do not mention the real “something,” but rather refer to it by another name that they are already familiar with and understand. This slang is related to public house slang; however, the users of workmen’s slang do not specify the actual “something” but instead refer to it by another name that is already widely used and understood among them. For example, “sling one’s hooks” is to be dismissed.

### **4. Tradesmen’s Slang**

Some words in tradesmen’s slang are similar to those in workmen’s slang, and the users are also workmen. The difference is that tradesmen’s slang is typically used by four groups: tailors, butchers, chemists, and builders. Tailors have the greatest number of slang

phrases. Some words refer to origin slang, and the users are also workers. The difference is that tradesmen's slang is typically used by four groups: tailors, butchers, chemists, and builders. For example, "turkey buyer" refers to a person of considerable importance.

### **5. Slang in Art**

Slang in art is still relevant to society. Although there are just a few words that may be classified as creative slang, they are swiftly embraced by society. Slang in art is still relevant to society. Slang words or phrases in art are rapidly accepted by society. Slang originally appeared in art in the seventeenth century, when Richard Brome's play *A Fovial Crew* introduced it to the theatre. For example, "Gamut" refers to a picture or feature that is in harmony with its surroundings.

### **6. Slang in Publicity**

This form of slang is frequently used for starting a business because much of modern commerce is based on advertising, and a company requires catchy phrases or rhymes to wow the audience. For example, worth a "guinea a box" refers to a little, inexpensive, yet desirable or useful item.

### **7. Slang in Theatre**

Slang in theatre is similar to slang in art because theatre is an art term. Theatre lingo emerged in the nineteenth century and gradually gained traction in everyday and informal spoken English. For example, "Acting lady" refers to an inept actress.

### **8. Slang in Public School and University**

The primary source of this lingo is students who are young and creative. Every school has a unique set of vocabulary that no other school has. University students utilise language to express who they are and what university they attend. For example, "Black and tame" refers to an Oxford undergraduate.

### **9. Society Slang**

Society slang is regularly used in everyday conversation and has a social context. Every society group utilises slang, and by association, certain words or phrases become group property. In the current world, slang has become such a defining characteristic of many groups that it is impossible to ignore its influence on Western civilization. For example, "silver pheasant" refers to a gorgeous society woman.

### **10. Medical Slang**

Medical slang is slang that is commonly used by doctors and nurses. There are several instances of this term. The word bone-clothes, port wine, which is now frequently replaced by "fatter" locum, is still very commonly used by doctors and priests pith, spine cords when broken to be scheduled, to die, or rather destined to die. For example, the term "Sciatic" refers to the sciatic nerve.

### **11. Soldier's Slang**

Soldier slang is a slang phrase that refers to regularly used community armies by soldiers. In English-speaking countries, it frequently takes the form of an acronym that mixes formal military phrases and concepts. Military slang is frequently used to strengthen or reflect inter-service rivalries. For example, "SNAFU" is thought to have originated in the United States Marine Corps during World War II.

Previously, a similar study was conducted by Munthe et al. (2023), titled "An Analysis of Slang Words in the It Movie." They examined the film "It" using Partridge's theory to identify the types of slang present in the film. Secondly, the research conducted by Hutabarat et al. (2020) titled "An Analysis of Slang Words in Star Wars Jedi Academy: The Force Oversleep" examines the types of slang in the storybook Star Wars Jedi Academy: The Force

Oversleep, successfully identifying two types of slang: Public School and University slang, and society slang. Thirdly, still regarding slang in the research conducted by Yudhistira, M. R. (2022), "Slang Words in 'The Warriors' Movie," in this study, he investigates the types present in the film using Partridge's theory as well. Then, Manurung et al. (2020) in their research titled "An Analysis Of Slang Terms In The 'Deadpool' Movie," also examined the types of slang present in the film. However, they used a different theory, namely Allan and Burrige. Lastly, Sitorus et al. (2024), in "An Analysis of the American Slang Used in 'The Fast and Furious X' Movie," also conducted similar research on a film to identify types of slang according to Partridge. From previous research, no one has studied the slang in the film "The Wolf of Wall Street." This research will enhance the readers' understanding of the slang present in this film.

This research focuses on the use of slang in the film *The Wolf of Wall Street* (2013), directed by Martin Scorsese. Based on the true story of Jordan Belfort, the film depicts the rise and fall of a stockbroker involved in corruption and crime. By analysing the types of slang used by its characters, this study aims to understand how the language in the film reflects societal attitudes, youth culture, and power dynamics. The research also seeks to identify the various types of slang present in *The Wolf of Wall Street* and to examine the meaning of the slang.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is ideal for understanding phenomena in their context, identifying connections between concepts and behaviours, and developing and refining theory (Miles 2014; Huberman 2014; Saldana 2014). The researcher picked this way to examine the data because it is more appropriate for the data, as *The Wolf of Wall Street* does not utilise a numerical or counting process to assess it. The data comes from a movie transcript named "The Wolf of Wall Street 2013." The material is gathered from entire pages, from page 2 to page 138, and it represents the dialogue between the characters utilised in this transcript. According to Miles (2014), Huberman (2014), and Saldana (2014), data gathering is classified into four types: observation, questionnaire, interview, and document analysis. The steps in collecting the data were as follows: Reading the movie transcript of *The Wolf of Wall Street* to find the slang words, assessing which dialogue contains slang phrases, and noticing and marking the words that contain slang words. The data for this study were analysed using the steps outlined by Miles and Huberman, who divide data analysis into multiple components. This includes data collection, reduction, display, and conclusion. The steps taken to analyse this research were as follows: Writing down the marked slang terms on *The Wolf of Wall Street*, classifying and identifying the types of - slang words on *The Wolf of Wall Street* based on Eric Partridge's notion of slang types. Next step is to identify each dialogue in the drama that contains the types of metaphors, then Classify the data and analyse them contextually and theoretically.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

According to Claire (1998), slang is a term used by people in social situations where they feel at ease with their peers. Slang is generally used in non-formal settings. It can make a conversation feel more personal. Slang terms are used in practically every conversational language and are typically used to communicate people's emotions and creativity. Slang is a type of language used by a small percentage of the population, usually younger or "less respectable" than the majority, and is based on a very casual or very inventive lexicon that

frequently replaces other words in the mainstream lexicon. The movie *The Wolf of Wall Street* contains numerous varieties of slang in the speech, which can be classified into eleven types.

**Table 1 The Number of Slang**

No	Types of Slang	Number	Percentage (%)
1	Cockney Slang	5	12,20%
2	Public House Slang	4	9,76%
3	Workmen's Slang	6	14,63%
4	Tradesmen's Slang	1	2,44%
5	Slang In Art	3	7,32%
6	Slang in Publicity	5	12,20%
7	Slang in Theatre	3	7,32%
8	Slang in Public School and University	1	2,44%
9	Society Slang	7	17,07%
10	Medical Slang	3	7,32%
11	Soldier's Slang	3	7,32%

## 1. Cockney Slang

*"Feinberg, you worthless twerp!"*

Cockney slang is a type of English slang that originated in the East End of England. Nowadays, practically everyone in England uses cockney slang, particularly in London. Partridge (2004) claims that Cockney slang is the most prominent in England due to its distinct accent. The term "twerp" in the context of Cockney slang in the movie *The Wolf of Wall Street* can be understood as part of the vernacular used to show contempt or disparage someone. In the dialogue, the person who speaks character referred to Feinberg as a "worthless twerp," expressing displeasure or scorn toward him. Its use among Londoners and in casual settings is consistent with Cockney features, which frequently contain phrases conveying a sense of humour or sarcasm. Furthermore, the bright and colourful speaking style of Cockney slang usually includes terms that may appear comical or strange, such as "twerp."

## 2. Public House Slang

*"Y'know, we really should hit it, there's two other parties we're s'posed to get to -"*

Public house slang is defined as words and phrases that compensate for the subject's limited recorded vocabulary. It is often cheerful, materialistic, and not vulgar or cynical. The word "Y'know" in the dialogue "Y'know, we really should hit it, there's two other

parties we're s'posed to get to -" in the film "The Wolf of Wall Street" depicts public house lingo. This expression denotes a casual and familiar speaking style, which is frequently used in informal interactions in social contexts such as bars. The use of "Y'know" provides a more personal and friendly ambiance, consistent with the cheerful and happy tone of pub slang. It also shows familiarity between the speaker and the listener, which fosters a pleasant atmosphere typical of bar interactions. Furthermore, this phrase captures the listener's attention and emphasises the argument being conveyed, fostering the sense of connection that is characteristic of social situations.

### 3. Workmen's Slang

*"Twenty Five grand to the first cocksucker to nail a **bull's-eye!**"*

The phrase "bull's-eye" in the sentence "Twenty Five grand to the first cocksucker to nail a bull's-eye!" falls into the category of workman's slang because it specifically refers to achieving a desired target or goal, which is very relevant in the context of work, especially in the financial and sales sectors. This term reflects real and concrete success, whereas "bull's-eye" describes a state in which someone succeeds in meeting the set goals, such as an archer who successfully hits the centre point of the target. In a competitive work atmosphere, the use of this phrase emphasises the importance of results and efficiency, while creating a spirit of competition among colleagues. This term also strengthens social relationships among workers who have the same experience and jargon, thus forming a unique communication culture within their community. Thus, "bull's-eye" functions not only as a technical term but also as a symbol of success that can motivate and encourage workers to achieve higher goals.

### 4. Tradesmen's Slang

*"I uh, I'd like to start by telling you about my background in the **shoe industry.**"*

This sentence refers to jargon that is most likely used in conversations among professionals from a particular trade or industry. In this dialogue what is meant is the "shoe industry". While this particular sentence does not appear to use unique trader slang, it sets the tone for any professional discussion related to trading. Terms in trade often use special language that identifies them in their group. These phrases open up conversations within a trade that may be followed by more specific slang terms indicating an association with a particular craft or industry. The association with the "shoe industry" suggests that these speakers signify expertise in a specific field of expertise, which is often accompanied by the use of specialized jargon in the world of trade.

### 5. Slang in Art

*"**giant-headed** girls with **bug eyes** wearing those **big clunky shoes**"*

This sentence is categorised as slang in art because it uses creative and casual descriptions to describe the characters visually and interestingly. The terms "giant-headed" and "bug eyes" create striking images, reflecting a style of language that is typical in the context of art and culture, while the phrase "big clunky shoes" refers to a fashion characteristic that is relevant in a social context. The use of this language not only provides physical descriptions but also reflects the subculture and values that exist in the financial world depicted in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, adding depth to the story and enhancing the aesthetic experience for the audience.

## 6. Slang in Publicity

*“No, no, no, My Ferrari was white like Don Johnson’s in Miami Vice. Not Red.”*

This statement from the dialogue refers to Don Johnson, a well-known pop culture personality, and his white Ferrari from Miami Vice. These cultural allusions improve communication by using identifiable imagery from the world of television, which makes the phrase exciting and engaging while also identifying a certain meaning accepted by society. The Ferrari itself represents riches, luxury, and prominence. Associating a product or statement with such an automobile implies rarity and prestige, which attracts attention in public settings. The phrase that the “Ferrari was white” conveys a more sophisticated, cool vibe rather than a flamboyant or bold one. This appeals to a sophisticated target demographic. Similar to commercial slogans, publicity slang is frequently derived from relevant cultural allusions in order to captivate an audience. The dialogue establishes a personable, conversational tone. This resembles common lingo or discourse, making it more accessible and engaging in advertising circumstances. It demonstrates how brands frequently personify their products or services to connect emotionally with their target audience. The mention of ‘Miami Vice’ connects the speaker to a sense of wealth, nostalgia, and style, making it a powerful attention-grabbing strategy.

## 7. Slang in Theatre

*“You gotta get ‘em fired up so they’ll push the shit out of this stock.”*

Based on the dialogue above, this sentence shows the need to inspire excitement and urgency as in a theatre performance, where involving the audience is the key to success. The phrase "fired up" is metaphorical, referring to theatrical slang meaning to energise or motivate, similar to how actors need to energise a performance. In theatre, slang is used to describe actions and circumstances that are important to the performance for example "fired up" the audience. The sales context borrows from the motivational language used in theatre that generating enthusiasm is critical to success. The dialogue reflects how slang from the performing arts has permeated everyday informal conversation as well as in business or sales environments where generating energy and excitement is essential.

## 8. Slang in Public School and University

*“I could only imagine what a **douchebag** that guy must be.”*

This statement is classified as Public School and University Slang because the epithet "douchebag" is a widespread insult used by students and young adults in school or at university. It emphasises how slang in these settings is frequently informal, inventive, and occasionally derogatory, used to criticise or diminish someone's character. This sort of slang enables students to create their social identity and openly express their emotions or thoughts in a non-academic setting. The use of this term demonstrates the dynamic and frequently funny nature of student slang, in which various words become popular among a specific generation or group.

## 9. Society Slang

*“I’m the **senior broker** here. He’s just a worthless **piker**”*

This sentence is considered society slang because the word "piker" is used to refer to individuals who are considered worthless or have no status in society. In this situation, the speaker who calls himself a "senior broker" uses the term to emphasise the difference in social status and hierarchy between himself and others considered less important. The word "piker" specifically describes someone considered unambitious, inactive, or socially undervalued, thus indicating a negative evaluation of the person. This slang serves to

reinforce social differences and assert a higher position in social interactions, especially in professional settings. Therefore, Society Slang is used to categorise and evaluate individuals based on prevailing social norms, while clarifying status differences within a group of people.

#### 10. Medical Slang

*"You'd get a **penicillin** shot the next day and pray your dick didn't fall off."*

This statement is called medical slang since it refers to a medical treatment, "penicillin shot," in a very informal and amusing way. The term refers to a standard medical technique for treating bacterial infections, particularly sexually transmitted illnesses. Despite being a medical phrase, the vocabulary around it is fairly casual, with a filthy saying, "pray your dick didn't fall off," adding a humorous tone to the talk. This type of slang exemplifies how medical terminology may be integrated into ordinary conversation, particularly when addressing health issues in a casual, non-professional setting. It displays the use of official medical terminology combined with vulgar humour to make the subject more approachable or enjoyable.

#### 11. Soldier's Slang

*"In military terms, it's like **carpet-bombing** -- noisy, menacing, and only marginally effective. As Stratton brokers, you will be **laser-guided smart-bombs** aimed at high-priority targets."*

This line is classified as soldier's slang because it describes business methods using military vocabulary such as "carpet-bombing" and "laser-guided smart-bombs". The military words are employed metaphorically in the business world, with "carpet-bombing" referring to a broad, unfocused effort and "laser-guided smart-bombs" implying precise, targeted operations. By employing military references, the speaker emphasises an aggressive and strategic approach to business, similar to the precision and intensity of military operations. This form of slang demonstrates how military terminology may be used to describe non-military operations, especially in competitive and high-stakes contexts such as business, where tactics and precision are highly valued. These analyses demonstrate the various uses of slang in different circumstances, demonstrating how informal language can reflect distinct cultural or professional environments.

## 4. CONCLUSION

The study on the usage of slang in the film *The Wolf of Wall Street* includes a thorough examination of the many varieties of slang as defined by Partridge's theory. The study analyses eleven forms of slang used in the film and shows how each one reflects different cultural, social, and professional contexts. From Cockney slang to soldier's slang, the language used by the characters in the film exemplifies the casual and innovative ways slang is used to transmit emotions, construct social hierarchies, and stress group identity. The film's slang-laden dialogue not only reflects the rough and combative nature of the stockbroker world, but also provides insight into broader social attitudes, notably those related to power, status, and young culture. The findings highlight the dynamic character of slang, which evolves quickly and adapts to its users' individual demands, whether in casual social settings or high-pressure professional workplaces.

Finally, this study adds to our understanding of how slang acts as a sociolinguistic tool, moulding and reflecting its users' identities while also providing a greater grasp of the cultural and linguistic intricacies contained in *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

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