

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Referring to the in-depth analysis which is conducted to investigate the research questions stated in the first chapter, the researcher makes the following conclusion. The 3rd-semester students' perceptions reveal that slang within the ARMY fandom community is a multifunctional instrument that significantly shapes their experience as fans. This is because slang is seen as an information and communication accelerator, which enables them to get news and information about BTS more quickly and efficiently amidst the dynamic information flow on Twitter, creating a crucial linguistic 'shortcut'. Furthermore, slang functions as an indicator of K-Pop knowledge depth and fandom identity, with the majority of respondents agreeing that its use reflects their understanding of K-Pop. It serves as an 'internal marker' or 'secret code' that validates an individual's level of involvement and dedication, with proficiency in slang seen as validating their status as a knowledgeable fan. Slang is also strongly recognized as a social adhesive and a source of interaction enjoyment, strengthening relationships, fostering a sense of togetherness, and making communication more fun, relaxed, and confidence-boosting. However, students also recognize that slang can be a

potential barrier and challenge for new or less active members, causing confusion or feelings of alienation. Nonetheless, students demonstrated proactive adaptive strategies, such as seeking meaning from other members or the internet, to overcome these challenges and stay connected with community dynamics and important information about BTS.

This is supported by an analysis of 98 slang entries from the ARMY community's tweets on Twitter, which revealed a clear dominance of certain slang types. Fresh & Creative slang (37 data points) is the most prevalent, driven by the need for emotional expression and identity formation. Flippant slang (26 data points) comes in second, highlighting the role of humour and casual interaction. Furthermore, Clipping and Acronym types are equally prominent (16 data points each), and are essential for communication efficiency on Twitter and for building a shared identity. Lastly, the Imitative type (3 data points) was found in smaller numbers, indicating the adoption of terms from other languages. This distribution collectively reflects how Twitter's platform characteristics, emotional needs, humour, and social dynamics all shape the evolution of these informal language forms.

The use of slang in the ARMY community yields a range of significant and primarily constructive impacts. Positively, slang substantially enhances social cohesion and group affiliation, optimizes communication efficiency by acting as a 'linguistic shortcut,' and organically drives the acquisition of

English and Korean. It also enriches vocabulary, strengthens self-expression, and exponentially increases community interaction, fostering a strong sense of connection and shared understanding. Conversely, despite these dominant benefits, slang use also presents some negative implications. It can serve as an access barrier for new members, create a sense of exclusivity for outsiders, and pose code-switching challenges when transitioning to formal language styles, particularly in academic contexts. Nevertheless, the research also identified that the community has proactively developed community-based solutions to address these challenges.

B. Suggestion

Based on the conclusion above the researcher give some suggestions for other researchers, teachers and students. The suggestions are:

1. For other researchers, the researcher suggests to conduct more in-depth quantitative explorations of students' academic writing quality to directly measure the impact of slang use on their coherence, cohesion, grammar, and formal vocabulary. Additionally, longitudinal studies could be undertaken to understand the dynamics of language learning and slang adaptation over time, while cross-fandom or cross-platform comparisons could offer broader perspectives. It is also important to evaluate the

effectiveness of proposed community inclusion strategies and investigate the interaction between students' online and offline linguistic identities.

2. For teachers, the researcher suggests to leverage students' interest in K-Pop and fandom communities as an intrinsic motivation for English language learning, by explicitly teaching contextual awareness and code-switching skills between informal and formal registers through transformative exercises. It is also crucial for teachers to encourage students to build a broad formal vocabulary while creating a safe and supportive learning environment where students feel comfortable asking about unfamiliar terms, whether slang or formal language, and experimenting with language without fear of judgment.
3. For students, the researcher suggests to continue active participation in fandom communities with full awareness of how language use can vary across contexts, and to proactively develop their code-switching abilities through deliberate practice. Get accustomed to proactively finding the meaning of new slang emerging from the community, whether through interaction with other members or online searches, and regularly reflect on their own language use to ensure appropriateness for the audience and communication purpose in various situations, including academic and professional settings.