



## Transfiguration Of Characteristics Medan People Slang Into Formal Vocabulary Of Bahasa Indonesia

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### Abstract

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*This study aimed to describe the Transfiguration of Characteristics Medan People slang into formal vocabulary of Bahasa Indonesia. The objective of the study referred to identify the general language about language changes in Medan. This research was conducted used Descriptive qualitative method. The data of this study was a result of observation and interview, and the source of the data was taken from students at University Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara. The result of this research we found the differences in transfiguration in Indonesian on a daily language use of Medan people, this is influenced by culture, ethnicity, region, religion and gender. Slang language influences Indonesian itself.*

**Keywords:** Medan, Slang, Transfiguration

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## INTRODUCTION

The concepts "trans" and "figuration" are merged to create the word "transfiguration." Transfiguration encompasses the concepts of initiation and conclusion, the symbolic representation and the experience of transition that is associated with trans/trance. In simpler terms, transfiguration refers to the action or procedure of transforming someone or something (Gurevitch, 2002). Transfiguration refers to the alteration of an object's shape or outward manifestation. Linguistic evolution is a common occurrence, as demonstrated by the Medan language, which has a rich diversity and encompasses multiple interpretations. This study seeks to clarify the formal linguistic adaptations made to the Medan regional language, which is the native language of the area's residents, with regards to informal and slang usage. Transfiguration encompasses other synonymous terms, including transformation, transposition, and alteration. O'Sullivan observed Transformative refers to the process of undergoing a profound and fundamental change in the fundamental principles of one's thinking, emotions, and behaviors. It is a profound change in our awareness that significantly and enduringly transforms our manner of existing in the world. This transformation necessitates a reevaluation of our self-perception and our place in society, as well as our connections with other individuals and the environment. It also entails a reconsideration of power dynamics within intersecting systems of social class, race, and gender. Additionally, it involves cultivating an awareness of our physical bodies, envisioning alternative ways of living, and fostering a belief in the potential for social equality, harmony, and personal happiness (Goulah, 2006). The study of possible transpositions of linguistic units that are different pieces of speech is of major relevance in the transposition grammar of the Medan

language. The Medan language's transposition grammar emphasizes the examination of potential transpositions of linguistic units that are specific segments of speech. For instance, the phrase "how does he get home?" when translated into the Medan language remains unchanged in the subject category. In the Medan language, the use of gender-specific pronouns such as "he/she" is unnecessary, in contrast to English. All that is demanded of us is "dia". It is important to understand that the way space and place are organized and depicted, as well as the various relationships and identities that can occur in those areas, greatly influence how individuals utilize a language. The process by which space is transformed into a specific location, characterized by tangible and symbolic elements in which individuals establish a rich and intricate network of symbolic and physical activities, is diverse and manifold. The formation of place can be influenced by the language employed in signage and the public expressions, performances, and interactions of individuals, commonly referred to as linguistic landscapes (Stroud & Mpendukana, 2009).

Medan is a major urban center in Indonesia and serves as the administrative seat of the North Sumatra province. Medan is home to a diverse range of ethnic groups, including the Batak, Malay, Javanese, and Minang tribes. Medan City, the capital of North Sumatra province, is renowned for its multiculturalism and diverse tribal communities. These tribes encompass the Javanese Batak tribe, the Minang tribe, the Banten tribe, the Malay tribe, and numerous others. Currently, the Malay tribe constitutes the majority of the population of Medan, although the Malay tribe originally originated from the city. The inhabitants of Medan City and its surrounding areas are included by seven distinct cultural facets: science, language, kinship, organizational structures, technology, livelihoods, religion, and art. (Azzahra et al., 2023). In the Medan dialect of Indonesian, phonemic alterations may not alter the semantic meaning of a word. For instance, the word "tarik" may be pronounced as "tarek." These changes are influenced by environmental circumstances, as the bulk of the population in Medan City consists of Malay and Batak speakers. Indonesian is characterized by its lively nature. Meanings are subject to change regardless of the presence of consistent rules or patterns in a language, due to the heterogeneity of the language employed by speakers. Linguistic diversity arises from variations in social origins and cultures. (Zahra et al., 2023).

Slang refers to the informal language that is unique to a given social group and is predominantly employed by adolescents for interpersonal communication. Slang, in the context of language usage, refers to informal vocabulary and idiomatic expressions that are commonly used in informal written communication and spoken conversations, but are not typically employed in formal speeches or official written essays. Slang is a vernacular that is commonly employed by individuals of various age groups to express their uniqueness, spanning from youth to adulthood. Slang is known for its use of clever language, which causes the meaning of a symbol and its reference to differ greatly (Muthi'ah & Rangkuti, 2022). Adolescents commonly employ colloquial expressions in their daily interactions. The etymology of the slang term remains obscure. (Budiasa et al., 2021) defines slang as vernacular vocabulary or idiomatic expressions that are predominantly employed by youth or specific social groups in their daily conversations. Slang is a type of dialect, which refers to any distinct style of speech known as speech variety or language variation. A language can have special lexical, phonological, morphological, or syntactical characteristics that are unique to a particular speech variety (Izmaylova et al., 2017). Slang is an extremely casual type of language that is commonly used among certain social groups and is generally not utilized in formal written or spoken

communication. The text has both courteous and derogatory terms and connotations (Situmorong and Herman, 2021). Slang emerges from the innovative use of language, especially among young people who actively look for new, imaginative, and uncomplicated phrases to employ in conversation (Rosalina et al., 2020). Colloquial speech sometimes incorporates slang, which encompasses different forms of a same word, word family, or sentence. Slang is a highly informal form of language mostly used in spoken communication. This vocabulary segment is infrequently employed in everyday conversation and may consist of recently coined phrases and words, as well as newly expanded or formed terms (Ghazali & Abdullah, 2021). Slang refers to a constantly changing set of informal words and phrases that individuals use to establish or reinforce their social identity or connection with a popular trend or fashion, or within a certain group. Slang has likely been in languages since their inception, as it seems to be a feature of every language used in everyday conversations by a sufficiently large and diverse population, resulting in unique subgroups. (Trimastuti, 2017). Slang is commonly used by teenagers and young people in their daily conversations. It refers to informal language that is not officially recognized in dictionaries but is widely used across different social groups. Slang is a prominent linguistic variation particularly observed in interactions among teenagers in contemporary times. Adolescents utilize this linguistic variation for various intentions (Nuraeni & Pahamzah, 2021). Slang is a non-standard phrase that is used by community or youth organizations to interact with other groups that do not understand it. It is characterized by its seasonal and limited usage. Slang is distinguished by its concise, dynamic, and innovative characteristics. Lengthy terms will either be substituted with lengthier ones or abbreviated through morphological processes, while the majority of the words employed are concise and succinct. The categories of slang encompass lexical items, numerical expressions, idiomatic phrases, complete sentences, and abbreviated forms. (Inderasari et al., 2020) defines slang as any type of expression, whether it be derived words or simple words, phrases, clauses, or sentences in non-standard languages, that are utilized by a particular society for a specific purpose.

## **METHODS**

This research used a qualitative descriptive method. The researcher is the key instrument. This research data is the result of interviews and observations with students within the UMSU environment. Researchers prepare questions for analysis, such as community slang and general household slang, then collect data on slang and formal words commonly used in everyday life. The technique of data analysis used collecting data. Collecting data is crucial step in doing research. This method involves collecting data through interviews and observation to describe the transfiguration of the characteristics of Medanese slang into formal Indonesian vocabulary. Practically, before making observations at Muhammadiyah University North Sumatra researchers conducted non-formal interviews with students because the researchers wanted to describe the Transfiguration of the Characteristics of Medanese Slang into Formal Indonesian Vocabulary related to functional communication activities

## **RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

### ***Results***

Slang is particularly essential to the people of Medan; every person, regardless of gender has probably used it occasionally in everyday in daily conversation. Formal

language usage is not always appropriate in a certain environment, depending on where people are going and who they are talking to.

As a result, we found that there was a transfiguration between Indonesian slang and the formal vocabulary used by students at Muhammadiyah University, North Sumatra. In the analysis, which used interviews and observations, it can be seen that the use of slang by Medan people tends to be used more often in everyday life than native speakers. The original is the formal Indonesian language To be clear, informal Indonesian includes the colloquial or everyday language spoken by average Indonesians, as formal Indonesian refers to the standardized form of the language. In reality speakers of Indonesian do not limit themselves to speaking only formal or informal language; actually, they effectively mix both into their daily conversations. whereas written language and prepared speeches frequently use formal Indonesian, informal conversations among Indonesians usually mix both variations.

Does that mean that we have to speak in formal There is definitely no need to speak in formal ways when we converse with friends or the others The issue is whether or not speaking in a non-formal manner is suitable. Using rules in a non-formal way involves following correct grammar rules and making acceptable, precise word combinations. Saying anything like, "*Bang, saya bakso pake bihun.* (Bang, I meatballs with noodles)" is inappropriate while purchasing meatballs. The sentence in question is incorrect. I am a person, not a meatball. The phrase "*mau* (want—Ed.)" is all that is needed for this section to become "*Bang, saya mau bakso pake bihun.* (Bang, I want meatballs with noodles.. After conducting interviews and observations in the campus environment, researchers found transfiguration in Medan language. Based on the data findings, there are several slang languages used by North Sumatra Muhammadiyah University students. This slang can be seen in the following table:

***Tabel 1. Use of Slang***

<b>Slang</b>	<b>Formal</b>	<b>English</b>
Cemana	Bagaimana	How
Ecek-ecek	Pura-pura	Pretend
Tengok	Lihat	See
Kede	Kedai	Shop
Kereta	Motor	Motorcycle
Sengak	Ketus	Curt
Simpang	Perempatan	Intersection
Sikit	Sedikit	Little
Pajak	Pasar tradisional	Traditional market
Angek	Iri	Envy
Congok	Rakus	Greedy
Kongsi	Berbagi	Share
Genit	Gatal	Itchy
Teh putih	Air putih	Mineral water
Tarok	Letak	Take
Mentiko	Banyak Tingkah	Crotchety
Galon	SPBU	Gas station
Cak	Coba	Try
Kelen	Kalian	They

Recok	Berisik	Noisy
Gondok	Kesal	Annoyed
Ga Aci	Tidak Boleh	Should not
Bombon	Permen	Candy
Pasar	Jalan raya	Highway
Telekung	Mukena	Mukena
Celat	Cadel	Slurred
Bengak	Bego	Stupid
Enceng	Selesai	Finish
Baru	Lalu	Then
Ambik	Ambil	Take

“*Cemana*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Bagaimana (how)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*cemana*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) so the word “*cemana*” is only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Ecek-ecek*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Pura-pura (pretend)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*ecek-ecek*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) , then the word “*ecek-ecek*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Tengok*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Lihat (see)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*tengok*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) so the word “*tengok*” is only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Kede*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Kedai(shop)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*kede*” is not found in Indonesian (KBBI), so the word “*kede*” only applies in the slang of people in Medan.

The next statement, “*Kereta*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “sepeda motor (motorcycle)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*kereta*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*kereta*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Sengak*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Ketus (curt)” based on the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*sengak*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*sengak*” is only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Simpang*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Perempatan (intersection)” based on the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*simpang*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*simpang*” is only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Sikit*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Sedikit (little)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*sikit*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*sikit*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan.

The next statement, “*Pajak*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Pasar tradisional (traditional market)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) the word “*pajak*” is money that must be paid by residents as a mandatory contribution to the state, the word “*pajak*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan which is defined as a place of transaction between sellers and buyers. “*Angek*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Iri (envy)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*angek*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*angek*” only applies to people in Medan. “*Congok*” is a word used by Medan people in

slang form which means “Rakus (greedy)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*congok*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*congok*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “Kongsi” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Berbagi (share)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while “*kongsi*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*kongsi*” is only applies to the slang of people in Medan.

The next statement “*Genit*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Gatal (itchy)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*genit*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*genit*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Teh putih*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “air putih (mineral water)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*teh putih*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*teh putih*” only applies to slang for people in Medan. “*Tarok*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Letak (take)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*tarok*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*tarok*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Mentiko*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Banyak tingkah (crotchety)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*mentiko*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*mentiko*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan.

The next statement, “*Galon*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “SPBU (gas station)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) “*galon*” is a large bottle which is usually used as a container for store refillable mineral water, so the word “*galon*” only applies to people’s slang in Medan which means a place to refuel vehicles. “*Cak*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Coba (try)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*cak*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*cak*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Kelen*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Kalian (they)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*kelen*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*kelen*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Recok*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Berisik (noisy)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*recok*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*recok*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan.

The next statement, “*Gondok*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Kesal (annoyed)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) the word “*gondok*” means a swelling of the neck, hence the word “*gondok*” only applies to people in Medan. “*Ga aci*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Tidak boleh (should not)” based on the big Indonesian dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*ga aci*” is not found in the big Indonesian dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*ga aci*” only applies to people in Medan. “*Bombon*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Permen (candy)” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*bombon*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*bombon*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Pasar*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “Jalan raya (haighway)”, while according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) the

word “*pasar*” is a place where people buy and sell, so the word “*pasar*” only applies to slang people in Medan which is interpreted as a road passed by vehicles.

The next statement, “*Telekung*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “*Mukena (mukena)*” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*telekung*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*telekung*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Celat*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “*Cedal (slurred)*”, while according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) the word “*celat*” is a long jump, so the word “*celat*” only applies to the people in Medan. “*Bengak*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “*Bego (stupid)*” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*bengak*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*bengak*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan. “*Enceng*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “*Selesai (finish)*” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*enceng*” cannot be found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), hence the word “*enceng*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan.

And next statement, “*Baru*” is a word used by Medan people in the form of “*Lalu (then)*” slang, while according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) the word “*baru*” is something that has never existed, so “*baru*” only applies to people slang who are in Medan to say something then or next. “*Ambik*” is a word used by Medan people in slang form which means “*Ambil (take)*” based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), while the word “*ambik*” is not found in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), so the word “*ambik*” only applies to the slang of people in Medan.

No	Question	Percentage of People	
		Slang	Formal
1	Where was the interviewees born and lives?		
2	How often do interviewees use slang?		
3	When interviewees hang out with friends, do you use formal or slang language?		
4	Apakah pewawancara menggunakan bahasa slang di lingkungan masyarakat?		
5	Bahasa yang digunakan ketika berbicara dengan yang lebih tua atau yang dihormati?		

The first question is, "Where was the interviewer born and lives?" Based on the results of the interview, most interviewers answered formally 80%, while the use of slang was 20% because some interviewers answered using the words "simpang" and "pasar" to describe the place of residence.

The second question is, "How often does the interviewer use Medan slang language?" Based on the results of the interviews, interviewers use slang 75% of the time, while formal is around 25%, depending on the conditions and situation and who they are talking to.

The third question is, "When the interviewer hang out with friends, do you use formal or slang language?" Based on the results of the interviews, some interviewers

answered casually; for example, one interview answered with the phrase "bahasa kek gini lah" which means "slang," so the use of slang is 80% more than formal 20%.

The fourth question is, "When the interviewer in a community environment, the interviewer uses Medan slang or formal language? Based on the results of the interviews, The interview used 75% Medan slang and 25% formal language. This is because the community environment is a place for the general public. One example from the interviewer when talking to neighbors is "mau ke pajak." From this phrase "Pajak" is slang with the meaning Pasar (market), but in formal language it means Pajak (tax).

The Fifth question is, "What language does the interviewer use when talking to an elder or respected person?" Based On the result of the interview, 75% of interviewers use Medan slang and 25% use formal language when talking to older and respected people, because slang is something that is commonly used, so older people accept it for everyday conversation

No	Question	Percentage of People		Description
		Slang	Formal	
1	Where the interviewer was born and lives?	20%	80%	The above statement indicates that the average interviewer comes from the city.
2	How often does the interviewer use Medan slang?	75%	25%	The statement above shows that the interviewer adapts to the situation when using Medan slang language
3	When the interviewer hang out with friends, do you use formal or Medan slang language?	80%	20%	The statement above shows that the interviewer uses Medan slang more often than formal language
4	When the interviewer in a community environment, the interviewer uses Medan slang or formal language?	75%	25%	The statement above shows that the interviewer more often uses Medan slang language when in the community
5	What language does the interviewer use when talking to an elder or respected person?	75%	25%	The statement above shows that the interviewer predominantly uses Medan slang rather than formal language

### **Discussion**

Based on the results of interview sessions and observations from various sources, it is revealed that the change from Medan slang to formal language generally occurs among young people. This is seen in the situation and with whom they communicate. Interviewers on campus often use slang for fellow students, but this changes to formal because the lecturer is someone who is respected. While interviewers who are outside the campus environment, also known as gathering places such as basecamps or hangout

places, slang is widely used. A gathering place is a suitable place to gather with other friends or close people who are free to communicate and express themselves without feeling embarrassed, considering that they are only surrounded by familiar people. Overall, interviewees who were on campus had a change in the use of slang to formal language of around 70%, while interviewees who were in an off-campus environment had a change in the use of slang to formal language of around 30%. It can be concluded that many people who use formal language are in a different campus environment than those outside campus who use slang more often.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis it shows that slang in Medan, especially among students at the Muhammadiyah University of North Sumatra, often changes from formal language to slang in everyday communication. These changes, such as replacing the words “bagaimana” to “*cemana*”, “kedai” to “*kede*”, “kalian” to “*kelen*”, and “sedikt” to “*sikit*”. 30 terms were discovered to be slang in Bahasa Indonesia, and 75% of Medan residents use slang in Bahasa Indonesia, compared to 25% who use formal language. These changes occur due to environmental factors where the majority of the population of Medan City are located Malay and Batak, so the slang language emerged.

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