

How English Urban Slang has Affected Verbal and Written Communication among Youths in Selangor

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Abstract

Slang is defined as a set of colloquial words or phrases in a language that is frequently used by youths and constantly evolves. The changes that occur are based on geographic locations, past experiences, and levels of exposure to said slang. This study is not only beneficial to aspiring higher education educators, but also to the public, as well as sharing the awareness in language use in the sociolinguistics context. To identify the effects of English urban slang, an online quantitative survey was conducted with 154 respondents who were randomly selected. The only parameters set for the study were for youths aged 18–36 years old residing in Selangor. With that, eight (8) defined types of slang were determined along with others such as sources or said slang, perceptions towards its use, and effects in various contexts of communication. From the results, it was found that there is a predominant use and perceived need for English urban slang that it has become normalised.

Keywords: Urban Slangs, Internet

Introduction

How a person speaks can be considered a direct reflection of their geographic origins, experiences, and worldviews. Depending on the person's age, education level, or region in which they live, most people will know a slightly different set of words and constructions. In turn, this will make language a continuously evolving system that is constantly being reshaped by its speakers (Keidar et al., 2022). Language is the most basic need in human communication and daily living, which plays an important role in life to be able to bring forth people as one regardless of the country or culture (Maulidiya et al., 2021). A subsystem language known as "slang" is an example of the aforementioned reshaping. Slang is an informal language that is used in everyday interactions Elsherif & Nuseir (2015), and reflects the peculiarities of contemporary daily life in a unique way that is vivid and natural in speech (Saliyeva, 2018). It

challenges the rules and conventions on previously known features of formal and informal language (Yeo & Ting, 2017).

In Malaysia, the youth group make up the majority of slang language users as a result of being the largest internet community (Sabri et al., 2020). They do this to simplify and facilitate communication, communicate creatively to adhere to word limits on social media posts, explore and reinforce their identity, live what is perceived to be vibrant lifestyles and trends, and satisfy demands or expectations to be socially accepted (Abdullah & Ghazali, 2021; Namvar, 2014; Sabri et al., 2020). Although, many lexicographic and sociolinguistic researchers push forward their own agenda or perception as to the effects of the use of urban slang, some see it as a unifying factor while others are poised to outright discredit its use. The former has its merits as it genuinely seems to bring youths together as they mature into adulthood. The latter is based on the idea of urban slang being an “anti-language” or “counter-language” that opposes conventional communication methods (Namvar, 2014).

Background of the Study

Malaysian studies on slang, specifically English urban slang, remains scarce; leaving gaps in research to be fulfilled in more aspects. In this paper, we will address how English urban slang has affected verbal and written communication among youths in Selangor. It is of great interest for people to study English urban slang as the practical value of understanding it is highly important for successful communication in the digital era. Furthermore, for someone to study some of the most common urban slang words and idiomatic expressions can make someone sound closer to being a native English language speaker. It is also important to study English urban slang because we can no longer refer to slang as just “internet slang”; the use of slang has transcended the internet realm and is now frequently used in face-to-face communication and verbal communication. The designation of ‘*English urban slang*’ must also be emphasised especially in the Malaysian context so as to prevent confusion with the local slang and their geographical sub-types.

Problem Statement

Due to the rise in social media and media entertainment use among youths, it has led to the rise of English urban slang usage in verbal and written communication by them. This study attempts to answer the research gap from the past study, done similarly within this interest. The past study shown that the urban slangs are found among the Malaysian youth Instagram user, Maros and Taufek (2019). While the study suggested that all slangs are found as suggested by Allan and Burrige (2006), the study identified with an additional of two new types of slangs that as short form and non-standard spelling. Saputra and Marlina (2019) stated in their study, *An Analysis of Slang Words Used by Instagram Account Plesbol*, young people are more creative and have new ideas, they frequently use slang in their conversations, which affects their spoken language creativity. Venter (2017) on the other hand sees urban slangs create communication barriers because it can vary from community to community, as well as a communication gap between older and younger generations. Moreover, more attention should have been paid to the sociolinguistic aspects of slang words used by Malaysian youth on social media.

Hence, the effects of said urban slang on verbal and written communication among youths in Selangor need to be studied to understand why they use it.

To identify the effects of urban slang on verbal and written communication among the youths in Selangor, an online quantitative survey has been distributed among youths in Selangor aged 18 to 36 years old concerning the linguistic features of English urban slang, self-perception and effects towards English urban slang, sources of learning English urban slang, and the use of said urban slang in several proposed contexts.

Research Objective

The primary objective of this research was to study how English urban slang from has affected verbal and written communication among youths in Selangor. Therefore, the research had the following objectives

1. To study the linguistic features of the English urban slangs used in verbal and written communication among youths in Selangor.
2. To study the self-perception and effects of using English urban slangs in verbal and written communication among youths in Selangor.
3. To examine the sources of learning English urban slang among youths in Selangor.
4. To study the use of English urban slang in several proposed contexts among youths in Selangor.

Research Questions

The youth are often seen as avid users of urban slang. However, there are limited studies in the Malaysian context to understand how English urban slang has affected the verbal and written communication among youths. Thus, this study addresses the following research questions

1. What are the linguistic features of the English urban slang used in verbal and written communication among youths in Selangor?
2. What is the self-perception and effects towards using English urban slang in verbal and written communication among youths in Selangor?
3. What are the sources of learning English urban slang among youths in Selangor?
4. What are the contexts in which English urban slang is used among youths in Selangor?

Significance of the Study

The findings of this study deepens the current understanding of English urban slang used among youths in Selangor. Educators, linguists, and the older generations who are interested to know more about the language of the youth group can benefit from this study. This study makes several important contributions to the topic of English urban slang, in aspects of widely-occurring linguistic features, the perceptions towards and effects of English urban slang, the sources in which English urban slang are learned from, and the contexts in which English urban slang are used among the youths. Furthermore, the study brings awareness to how English urban slang is used by the youth to communicate their daily communication skills when they have normalised its usage. Not only that, the findings provide some level of insight into the social behaviours of the youth group because language and social interactions are shaped by each other. Lastly, the findings can broaden the field of sociolinguistics in the Malaysian context.

Literature Review

This chapter covers the various literatures reviewed that are related to the topics of English in Malaysia, Slang Language, Slang Language in Malaysia, Origins of Slang Language in Malaysia, and Usage/Context of Slang Language in Malaysia.

English in Malaysia

English has become the preferred language of choice within the international community in a variety of domains, having gained the status of a *lingua franca* (Lee & Heinz, 2016). Learning English as a second language is a common occurrence in Malaysia (Indera & Ali, 2021), as it is taught as a compulsory subject from Standard One to Form Five (Azmi, 2013). To compete with world demands, Malaysia has put forth a great deal of effort to make sure that young Malaysians are prepared to communicate using English as the primary medium (Misiran et al., 2018). The findings from Huey (2020) revealed that most students from the University of Tunku Abdul Rahman showed high levels of support in which English is an important and advantageous language. This is consistent with Lee et al (2010) who discussed several themes that occurred among Malaysian undergraduates, such as perceiving one's competency in the English language to positively impact their social position, its pragmatic nature due to both academic and social value, and paving the way for fluent speakers to be treated with greater respect. However, the data from Manty and Shah (2017) showed that 27% of the TESL students surveyed spoke more in their respective mother tongues instead of in English, which suggests that they perceive English to be purely an academic undertaking. This could be due to several factors, such as fear of making mistakes, low confidence, shyness, introversion and feeling anxious as found by Kaur (2022) who studied factors influencing Malaysian ESL learners' challenges in speaking English.

However, English in Malaysia is changing with the rise of slang language usage. These changes include forms of phonology, their morphology, semantics, and syntax. In addition, English and many other languages have been changed to be written and spoken in a simpler fashion. This is something that can frequently be observed in digital chat rooms through internet contacts such as Facebook and other types of online forums where many young people communicate with each other and stay up to date with current communication trends. As the youths expand their social circles, their styles of communication evolved into a form that we now know as slang.

Slang Language

Slang is defined as a set of colloquial words or phrases in a language, that is ever changing due to factors such as sociocultural changes and advancement, technological development and mass media (Namvar & Ibrahim, 2014). Ambarsari et al (2020) posits that media, such as the internet, social media, movies, and songs, influence learners into using slang. Aspects of slang include phonetic replacements, phrase abbreviations, word abbreviations, and inaneities (Sabri et al., 2020). As such, slang cannot be considered a standard in one's native language or dialect of that language as it is unique to a certain culture and literature, transferred from one culture to another, and particular to a certain area (RahmtAllah, 2020). There are also different types of slang, such as those listed by Allan & Burridge (2007), which are Fresh, Creative, Flippant, Imitative, Acronym, and Clipping respectively. Since slang is birthed from the youths' creativity to create or combine words, this makes slang more understandable to peers but unsightly to older generations (Abdullah

& Ghazali, 2021). However, Yeo & Ting (2017) posits that the forms of slangs used changes with maturity, age, or different generations.

Since online slang is not standardized and may differ depending on the community setting, it can create communication barriers and expand the gaps in communication between older and younger generations. The ever-increasing use of social media platforms among younger generations has not only led to the development of the largest online community, but also to the emergence of internet slang as a novel kind of language (Abdullah & Ghazali, 2021). This shows that slang language plays an important role in bringing forth people as one and merging them together, evolving into a language that is spoken informally and frequently by people of all ages, particularly younger people, in order to fit into social conventions and groupings (Maulidiya et al., 2021). Yet, the line between casual and formal language use grows increasingly blurry, and today's young people are confused about what constitutes appropriate language use and how it should be applied (St Kuraedah & Mar, 2016).

Slang Language in Malaysia

Slang language is typically restricted to a particular context or group of people (Adams, 2012, as cited in Izazi & Sepora, 2020). In Malaysia, there is scarcity with regards to research on the local history of English slang language. The available Malaysian-based studies look at the users of slang, where users may learn slang words from, why users may adopt slang, perceptions of slang, and effects of slang. Firstly, youths make up the majority of slang users as a result of being the largest Internet community (Sabri et al., 2020). According to Abdullah and Ghazali (2021) – who did a descriptive qualitative study to identify and analyse the various types and functions of slang words used among Malaysian youth – they discovered that slang words come from social media such as TikTok and Twitter. They also stated that slang words are not standardised, thus creating a communication barrier and a communication gap between the old and young. In line with this, due to certain social platforms having word limits when uploading a post, creativity is needed, and thus, slang is used (Sabri et al., 2020). Even so, there are negative perceptions towards slang language.

As conventional ways of communication keep changing due to the youths eagerly accepting new or changing trends, the general public, parents, educators and researchers are worried about the quality of the parent language being ruined (Maros & Taufek, 2019). Thurairaj et al (2015) claimed that it could worsen English language proficiency. This is supported by Indera and Ali (2021) who said that the eager adoption of slang degrades English proficiency levels significantly. The authors also claimed that the use of slang can even jeopardise career opportunities. According to Abdullah & Ghazali (2021), it is demonstrated that the use of slang is not exclusive to the English language, but can also be seen in other languages spoken in Malaysia, such as Malay, Mandarin, Tamil, and a variety of other dialects, with each holding a different form of slang, whether it be each language combining with said language to form a new slang or a slang that is used familiarly along with one's mother tongue. The findings of the study led the researchers to the conclusion that the usage of slang in the digital era has led to a change in the way language is used and understood in Malaysia, as well as how it is normalized among the youth.

Origins of Slang Language in Malaysia

Namvar (2014) asserted that Malaysian youths are very familiar with slang as a result of using electronic communications. This is because electronic communications exposes them

to internet slang, movies, and word-shortening. The author further mentions that using slangs from Western media such as Hollywood films and television shows makes one able to stand out and become the centre of attention among social groups and peers. In other aspects, Maros and Taufek (2019) stated that younger users on the social media platform Instagram were found to use slang words as a way to communicate with one another via their posts, captions and comments to express themselves and their own individuality. Maros and Taufek (2019) had further found that many of the slangs used by the users were often freshly and creatively formed based on how the users interacted and expressed themselves. It was also accounted that a new category was in place for the types of slang presented called “short-form” (e.g.; *pls, hw, lil*) and “non-standard spelling” (e.g.; *gorls, frenz, gewd,*).

Abdullah and Ghazali (2021) also expressed that many English speakers or people who speak English as their second language, particularly youths, have learned these new slang languages from songs, television shows, films and the internet because it is the current universal way of communicating with the rest of the world. Although, it is not only the youths who use slang language to communicate with others, but even older generations have the habit of using slang words in everyday communication. For instance, older Chinese men are referred to as *ching chongs* in this phrase, which is particularly common among street gangs and drug dealers. Therefore, the usage of this style of slang to suggest resourcefulness is a conscious stylistic decision. Just as the term *coke* is an abbreviation for cocaine, it adds more reasons as to why people only use slang phrases in private settings to communicate with others who also understand what they are saying to avoid confusion and misunderstandings.

Another common place where slang is learned where youths can also come into contact in Malaysia are the popular social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. On these platforms, individuals are able to post written (i.e.; types) messages on their accounts that can be seen by other users. Examples of these types of posts include status updates and tweets, which are bite-sized messages posted on Twitter. There are no constraints placed on the writing of users or the language they use, as users can even combine multiple languages in one tweet. While users are given unrestricted access to develop and publish their own content on the internet, the only restriction users must adhere to is posting content below a specified word count, which prompts youths to create and make up slang, be it as short forms or new slang, to express themselves in that limited word count (Zulkifli & Mahadi, 2020).

Similar to this, Nazman et al (2020) states that due to Twitter’s use of microblogging, users are expected to post to their microblogs in a brief and frequent manner. Microblogging on Twitter may include the use of hashtags (which allow for the automatic tagging of topics or terms), mentions (which allow for the mentioning of other Twitter users or links to those users’ profiles), or connections to other web pages, photos, or videos. Besides that, the research also showed that among Malaysian users, over 3.5 million are increasingly employing the use of slang terms and abbreviations which are becoming a common trend among the youth (Nazman et al., 2020). Additionally, YouTube nowadays is considered to be a form of social media allowing users to post their own videos according to their own interests. As such, among the Malaysian youths, the popular videos they often watch are also where new slangs as learned from (Riananda, 2022).

Usage and Context of Slang Language in Malaysia

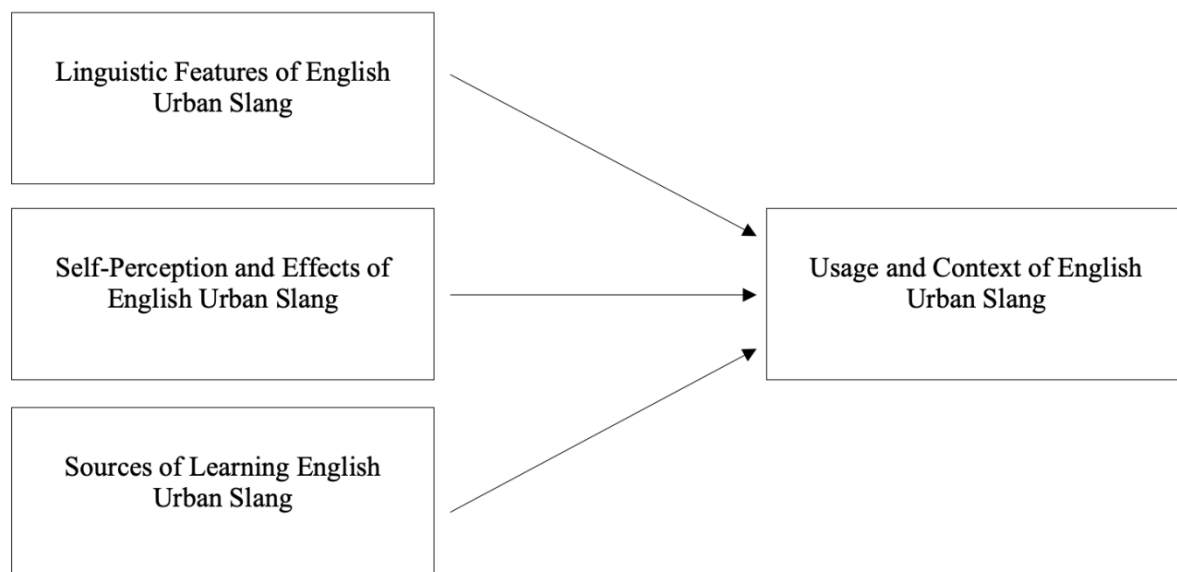
Slangs that are often used by Malaysians and made common are those that are from music videos or due to the rise in popularity in certain genre of music (e.g.; pop or hip hop) as

mentioned by Putri and Fauzia (2017). When slang is acquired and used, it is often done to be creative or to stand out from one's peers to make something more relatable. According to Muhartoyo and Wijaya (2014) who studied Malaysian uses of slang, the importance of communication is that language is said to have the "human essence"; a distinctive tool that can deliver emotions, thoughts, and opinions while communicating. As revealed in the study, expressing words through a text message nowadays can be tricky because one cannot sense what the sender is feeling when a text message is sent. This is the part where slang words or urban words come in to play their role. Muhartoyo and Wijaya (2014) also stated that the reason the respondents use slang words is because it is a fun way of saying new things and reduces communication time on social media. Even so, the existence of this can be a problem because some slang words are misinterpreted due to the lack of knowledge behind what type of slang words are in use, how these words are formed or when to use the suitable slang word for a specific context. Another study pointed out that because of the internet, certain words have taken on new meanings such as the word *friend*; it is now a noun and simultaneously a verb due to the existence of Facebook (Abdullah & Ghazali, 2021). This is due to Facebook users having become so accustomed to the word *friend* while using Facebook to agree or refuse to being your online friend.

While adapting to the new requirements of a more technologically-advanced world, the methods of communication among internet users have also changed. Internet users continue to feel pressured to adapt their use of language to these new dimensions with the increase internet-mediated communication (Sabri et al., 2018). As a result, internet slang is now commonly used on different social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and Twitter. Thus, it is crucial to comprehend how members of the electronic society use said slang. The elements of secrecy, time, and trends may be connected to the use of internet slang among users. For example, Twitter only allows 280 characters per tweet; users are compelled to make their writing simpler. As a result, Twitter users make the most of their so-called "writing abilities" to be as imaginative as possible so that their words, thoughts, or emotions can reach the intended audience exactly the way they want it to (Sabri et al., 2018).

Research Framework

Figure 1

Framework

As shown in Figure 1, the study's independent variables are on the left-hand side, namely; Linguistic Features of English Urban Slang, Self-Perception & Effects of English Urban Slang, and Source of Learning English Urban Slang. All three aforementioned independent variables point to the one dependent variable, namely; Usage and Context of English Urban Slang. This illustrates the relationship that Linguistic Features of English Urban Slang, Self-Perception & Effects of English Urban Slang, and Sources of Learning English Urban Slang may stand alone, however Usage and Context of English Urban Slang is unable to stand alone due to the need to determine its nature (i.e.; how English urban slang) is used in proposed contexts.

Hypothesis

As with any research study, one cannot be biased in making conclusions. One can only prove through due diligence and study that a certain idea is either right or wrong. This study will aim to either prove or discredit the following hypotheses:

1. There are very few types (i.e.; only four types) of English urban slangs available.
2. Youths in Selangor perceive English urban slang as a necessity to communicate with others.
3. Youths in Selangor only learn new English urban slangs from social media platforms.
4. Youths in Selangor use English urban slang more in informal communications as compared to formal communications.

Methodology

This chapter covers the research methodology, including research design, respondents, sampling procedure, establishing the methods during and after data collection, and data analysis.

Research Design

After selecting the theme of the research, relevant journal articles were reviewed to do a background study of the topic as well as search for research gaps to be identified and fulfilled.

The present study utilised a quantitative methodology by employing the use of a questionnaire as the primary research instrument. An online questionnaire was distributed to the youth population in Selangor via WhatsApp and an in-person approach in the fourth week of the semester. Data collection took four weeks and the data was processed using SPSS system.

Respondents

Prior to answering the survey questions, respondents completed a variety of demographic measures regarding gender, race, religion, most recent academic qualification, and English proficiency. Respondents were 105 females and 49 males. As per the dimensions of the study, respondents had to be aged between 18 and 36 years old to participate. Respondents comprised of Malays (77), Indians (36), Chinese (33), Sinhalese (2), Kadazan (1), Punjabi (1), Dusun (1), Eurasian (1), and Bumiputera Sabah (1). One respondent's race was uncertain.

Muslims (82) were the majority, followed by Christians (29), Buddhists (21), Hindus (18), Atheists (2), Sikh (1), and Taoist (1). For most recent academic qualifications, degree (80), diploma (27), SPM (11), STPM (10), foundation (11), master's (4), A-Levels (4), IGCSE (2), certificate (2) PhD (1), and matriculation (1). When asked if their English proficiency is advanced, 47 strongly agreed, 99 agreed, and 8 disagreed.

Population and Sampling Procedure

A simple random sampling technique was used to collect data from the target population. Simple random sampling is a probability sampling method which provides researchers with an opportunity to select participants for a study randomly without bias (Noor et al., 2022). Although, the few parameters chosen for the target population were the requirement of both male and female respondents aged between 18 to 36 years old for there to be relevance to the English urban slangs sought after. Respondents below the age of 18 were disqualified from participating. No incentives were provided to the respondents for participating in the survey. The number of respondents reached its final number of 154 people in two weeks during the month of February 2023. The response rate was 100% as 154 surveys were distributed and 154 surveys were completed in turn.

Instrumentation

A 29-question questionnaire that was mostly close-ended was used as the primary instruments to obtain information about the respondents' profiles, linguistic features of various types of English urban slangs, perceptions towards English urban slang, sources of having learnt English urban slang, and in what context English urban slang would be used by the respondents. Some questions were adapted from Chua et al (2014); Heng (2020); Huey (2020), while some questions were created by the researchers based on the scope of the study being carried out.

The questionnaire consisted of multiple-choice questions for *Section A: Respondent Profile*. Likert-scale statements (ranging from "Strongly agree" to "Strongly disagree") were used for the last question of *Section A* and the subsequent *Section B: Linguistic Features*, *Section C: Self-Perception/Effects*, *Section D: Source of Learning Urban Slang*, and *Section E: Usage/Context*. Question 14 in *Section B* required the respondents to provide five (5) English

urban slangs that they would regularly use or are familiar with; this was the only open-ended part of the questionnaire.

To prevent confusion with local Malaysian slang, examples of the urban slangs sought after by the researchers were given in *Section B* of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was created using the Google Forms platform and distributed via the social messaging application WhatsApp.

Data Analysis

The main purpose of the questionnaire was to analyse any significant changes or trends in the linguistic features of the English urban slang used, the self-perception and effects of English urban slang, the sources of learning English urban slang, and the usage or context in which English urban slang is used, as well as to research the definitions of the given English urban slangs. Once the data was extracted through the questionnaire, it was then processed using SPSS, a software regularly used for such purposes. From the responses given by the respondents in Question 14 of *Section B* in the questionnaire, the researchers moved on to the second half of the intended research which was a thorough analysis using the researchers' observations of the findings that are supported by secondary sources. The analysis provides the in-depth study that addresses the four main research objectives and questions.

Results

This chapter focuses on the results of the questionnaire.

Respondent Demographics

Table 1

Overview of demographic profiling responses

		Gender	Age	Race	Religion	Most recent academic qualification
N	Valid	154	154	153	154	154
	Missing	0	0	1	0	0

Table 2

Gender breakdown of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	49	31.8	31.8	31.8
	Female	105	68.2	68.2	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 2 shows that 49 of the respondents are males, making 31.8% of the total 154 respondents. On the other hand, 105 of the respondents (68.2%) are females.

Table 3

Age breakdown of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18-20 years	23	14.9	14.9	14.9
	21-23 years	53	34.4	34.4	49.4
	24-26 years	37	24.0	24.0	73.4
	27-30 years	14	9.1	9.1	82.5
	31-33 years	11	7.1	7.1	89.6
	34-35 years	16	10.4	10.4	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 3 shows that 23 of the respondents are between 18 to 20 years old (14.9%), 53 respondents are between 21 to 23 years old (34.4%), 37 respondents are between 24 to 26 years old (24.0%), 14 respondents are between 27 to 30 years old (9.1%), 11 respondents are between 31 to 33 years old (7.1%), and 16 respondents are between 34 to 35 years old (10.4%). The largest age range is those aged between 21 to 23 years old, whereas the smallest age range is those aged between 31 to 33 years old.

Table 4

Racial breakdown of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Malay	77	50.0	50.3	50.3
	Chinese	33	21.4	21.6	71.9
	Indian	36	23.4	23.5	95.4
	Kadazan	1	.6	.7	96.1
	Punjabi	1	.6	.7	96.7
	Sinhalese	2	1.3	1.3	98.0
	Dusun	1	.6	.7	98.7
	Bumiputera Sabah	1	.6	.7	99.3
	Eurasian	1	.6	.7	100.0
	Total	153	99.4	100.0	
Missing	System	1	.6		
Total		154	100.0		

Table 4 shows that the majority 77 respondents are Malay (50.0%), 33 respondents are Chinese (21.4%), 36 respondents are Indian (23.4%), 1 respondent is Kadazan (0.6%), 1 respondent is Punjabi (0.6%), 2 respondents are Sinhalese (1.3%), 1 respondent is Dusun (0.6%), 1 respondent is Bumiputera Sabah (0.6%), and 1 respondent is Eurasian (0.6%). The racial background of 1 respondent (0.6%) is unaccounted for due to that respondent declaring their race as "Malaysian". The 1 respondent who is classified as "Punjabi" had misunderstood race for religion; the **writers** of this study had to switch them.

Table 5

Breakdown of respondents' religious backgrounds

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Islam	82	53.2	53.2	53.2
	Christian	28	18.2	18.2	71.4
	Hindu	19	12.3	12.3	83.8
	Buddhism	21	13.6	13.6	97.4
	Sikhism	1	.6	.6	98.1
	Atheism	2	1.3	1.3	99.4
	Taoism	1	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 5 shows that the majority 82 respondents are Muslim (53.2%), 28 respondents are Christian (18.2%), 19 respondents are Hindu (12.3%), 21 respondents are Buddhist (13.6%), 2 respondents are atheist (1.3%), and 1 respondent is Taoist (0.6%). The 1 respondent who is classified as "Sikh" had misunderstood religion for race; the writers of this study had to switch them.

Table 6

Breakdown of most recent academic qualification of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Degree	80	51.9	51.9	51.9
	Diploma	27	17.5	17.5	69.5
	PhD	1	.6	.6	70.1
	Foundation	11	7.1	7.1	77.3
	Matriculation	2	1.3	1.3	78.6
	SPM	11	7.1	7.1	85.7
	IGCSE	2	1.3	1.3	87.0
	A-Levels	4	2.6	2.6	89.6
	STPM	10	6.5	6.5	96.1
	Master's	4	2.6	2.6	98.7
	Certificate	2	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 6 shows that the majority 80 respondents (51.9%) have Bachelor's degrees as their most recent academic qualification, 27 respondents (17.5%) have Diplomas, 1 respondent (0.6%) has a PhD, 11 respondents (7.1%) have Foundation, 2 respondents (1.3%) have Matriculation, 11 respondents (7.1%) have SPM, 2 respondents (1.3%) have IGCSE, 4 respondents (2.6%) have A-Levels, 10 respondents (6.5%) have STPM, 4 respondents (2.6%) have Master's degree, and 2 respondents (1.3%) have a Certificate.

Table 7

Breakdown of respondents' perception towards their own English language proficiency

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	48	31.2	31.2	31.2
	Agree	98	63.6	63.6	94.8
	Disagree	8	5.2	5.2	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 7 shows that 48 respondents (31.2%) strongly agree that their own English language proficiency is advanced, whereas the majority 98 respondents (63.6%) agree that it is advanced. On the other hand, 8 respondents (5.2%) disagree that their English language proficiency is advanced. None of the respondents strongly disagree.

Linguistic Features of Urban Slangs Used

Table 8

Q.7: I use urban slang letter-number combinations when communicating. E.g.; gr8 (great), str8 (straight), m0b113 (mobile).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	14	9.1	9.1	9.1
	Agree	36	23.4	23.4	32.5
	Disagree	61	39.6	39.6	72.1
	Strongly Disagree	43	27.9	27.9	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 8 shows that 14 respondents (9.1%) strongly agree to using letter-number combination urban slang when communicating, whereas 36 respondents (23.4%) agree. On the other hand, the majority 61 respondents (39.6%) disagree to using letter-number combination urban slang when communicating, whereas 43 respondents (27.9%) strongly disagree.

Table 9

Q.8: I use urban slang words that have different meanings from conventional ones. E.g.; googling, tweeting, troll, owned, slay/ed.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	41	26.6	26.6	26.6
	Agree	84	54.5	54.5	81.2
	Disagree	22	14.3	14.3	95.5

Strongly Disagree	7	4.5	4.5	100.0
Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 9 shows that 41 respondents (26.6%) strongly agree to using urban slang words with different meanings from conventional ones, whereas the majority 84 respondents (54.5%) agree. On the other hand, 22 respondents (14.3%) disagree to using urban slang words that have different meanings from conventional ones, whereas 7 respondents (4.5%) strongly disagree.

Table 10

Q.9: I use urban slang abbreviations and acronyms in written and verbal communication. E.g.; rly (really), assig (assignment), lol (laugh out loud), rn (right now).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	63	40.9	40.9	40.9
	Agree	59	38.3	38.3	79.2
	Disagree	20	13.0	13.0	92.2
	Strongly Disagree	12	7.8	7.8	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 10 shows that the majority 63 respondents (40.9%) strongly agree to using abbreviations and acronyms in written and verbal communication, whereas 59 respondents (38.3%) agree. On the other hand, 20 respondents (13.0%) disagree to using abbreviations and acronyms in written and verbal communication, whereas 12 respondents (7.8%) strongly disagree.

Table 11

Q.10: I use urban slang single alphabets to replace an entire word. E.g.; K (Okay), U (You).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	50	32.5	32.5	32.5
	Agree	64	41.6	41.6	74.0
	Disagree	22	14.3	14.3	88.3
	Strongly Disagree	18	11.7	11.7	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 11 shows that 50 respondents (32.5%) strongly agree to using single alphabets to replace an entire word, whereas the majority 64 respondents (41.6%) agree. On the other hand, 22 respondents (14.3%) disagree to using single alphabets to replace an entire word, whereas 18 respondents (11.7%) strongly disagree.

Table 12

Q.11: I intentionally change/misspell the spelling of words I use to make them urban slang. E.g.; Dunno (Don't / Do not know), Gonna (Going to).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	62	40.3	40.3	40.3
	Agree	69	44.8	44.8	85.1
	Disagree	14	9.1	9.1	94.2
	Strongly Disagree	9	5.8	5.8	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 12 shows that 62 respondents (40.3%) strongly agree to intentionally changing or misspelling words to make them urban slang, whereas the majority 69 respondents (44.8%) agree. On the other hand, 14 respondents (9.1%) disagree to intentionally changing or misspelling words to make them urban slang, whereas 9 respondents (5.8%) strongly disagree.

Table 13

Q.12: I spell out urban slang verbal expressions (i.e.; onomatopoeia) when communicating. E.g.; huh, yay, hahahaha.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	78	50.6	50.6	50.6
	Agree	61	39.6	39.6	90.3
	Disagree	7	4.5	4.5	94.8
	Strongly Disagree	8	5.2	5.2	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 13 shows that the majority 78 respondents (50.6%) strongly agree to spelling out verbal expressions (i.e.; onomatopoeia) when communicating, whereas 61 respondents (39.6%) agree. On the other hand, 7 respondents (4.5%) disagree to spelling out verbal expressions (i.e.; onomatopoeia) when communicating, whereas 8 respondents (5.2%) strongly disagree.

Table 14

Q.13: I repeat a certain alphabet to add emphasis when communicating to make it urban slang.

E.g.; fineeeee, ooooookayyyyyy.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	79	51.3	51.3	51.3
	Agree	55	35.7	35.7	87.0
	Disagree	12	7.8	7.8	94.8
	Strongly Disagree	8	5.2	5.2	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 14 shows that the majority 79 respondents (51.3%) strongly agree to repeating a certain alphabet to add emphasis when communicating, whereas 55 respondents (35.7%) agree. On the other hand, 12 respondents (7.8%) disagree to repeating a certain alphabet to add emphasis when communicating to make it urban slang, whereas 8 respondents (5.2%) strongly disagree.

The following urban slangs that have been given by the respondents are taken from the questionnaire responses. Any urban slangs given by more than one respondent is likely to have varied spelling but has been compiled together if the meaning is the same.

Table 15

Q.14: My top five (5) urban slang words used are:

A. LEET / LETTER-NUMBER COMBINATIONS

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	gn8	1	3.	gr8	1
2.	gnr871on	1	4.	on9	1

B. RENEWED / UNUSUAL JARGONS

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	Ate that	1	39.	neways	1
2.	Bae	2	40.	no cap	1
3.	Based	2	41.	Ok Boomer	1
4.	bestie	1	42.	onz	1
5.	Bet	4	43.	period	1
6.	bing chilling	1	44.	Periodt	3
7.	bitter	1	45.	purr	1
8.	bop	1	46.	ratio	1
9.	burn	1	47.	rawr	1
10.	bussin	4	48.	Rent free	2
11.	cap	1	49.	ridiki donkey	1
12.	certified	1	50.	riz	1
13.	ciggy	1	51.	roast	1
14.	Cool	3	52.	Sadge	1
15.	coping	1	53.	salty	1
16.	crying	1	54.	savage	1
17.	das crazy	1	55.	sheesh	1
18.	dope	1	56.	shooketh	1
19.	drag	1	57.	sick	1
20.	Dub(W/ Win)	1	58.	slay	18
21.	dude	2	59.	Spill the tea	3
22.	factsss	1	60.	stan	1
23.	fire	1	61.	superlit	1
24.	Flex	1	62.	Tea	1
25.	Geez	1	63.	Troll	2
26.	geeze louizeee	1	64.	trolling	1
27.	ghost	1	65.	tweeting	1
28.	giving	1	66.	Vibe	1
29.	googling	2	67.	Vibin	1
30.	Hangry	2	68.	werddd	1
31.	holla	1	69.	werk it	1
32.	Homie	1	70.	woke	1
33.	it's giving	2	71.	Woke-ass b*tch	1
34.	Kappa	1	72.	yayerz	1
35.	lit	1	73.	Yeet	2
36.	literally me	1	74.	yo	1
37.	Low key	1	75.	yuh	1
38.	Mid	1	76.	zamn	1

C. ACRONYMS

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	af	1	35.	Ofc	1
2.	asap	2	36.	oic	1
3.	atm	1	37.	Ok/ok/OK/Okkk	11
4.	brb	6	38.	omfl	1
5.	BTW	3	39.	Omg/OMG/omg	9
6.	dnf	1	40.	omw	1
7.	fr	5	41.	ong	1
8.	fyi	1	42.	Ong frfr	1
9.	gg	2	43.	ootd	1
10.	Ggwp	1	44.	otw	6
11.	GM	1	45.	rn	15
12.	gn	1	46.	rofl	1
13.	GOAT	1	47.	smh	2
14.	hbu	1	48.	Tba	1
15.	icu	1	49.	TBH	2
16.	idc	1	50.	tbr	1
17.	idek	1	51.	tc	1
18.	idgaf	1	52.	tk	1
19.	IDK	14	53.	tq	1
20.	iirc	2	54.	Tqvm	2
21.	ik	1	55.	ttyl	3
22.	ikr	3	56.	Ty	1
23.	IMOA	1	57.	tysm	1
24.	istg	1	58.	ur	3
25.	iykyk	1	59.	uwu	1
26.	jk	1	60.	W/L	1
27.	lmao	31	61.	wb	1
28.	lmk	1	62.	wc	1
29.	LOL	47	63.	wtf	5
30.	Loml	1	64.	wya	3
31.	mb	1	65.	Wyd	2
32.	ngl	4	66.	yk	1
33.	Np	1	67.	ykwim	1
34.	np	1	68.	ynwa	1

D. Abbreviations

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	aight	2	14.	lma	1
2.	aite	3	15.	ltr	1
3.	asgn	1	16.	Mid	1
4.	bfr	1	17.	Ntg	1
5.	bro	5	18.	orite	3
6.	Bruh	5	19.	prolly	2
7.	ciggy	1	20.	smthng	1
8.	defo	1	21.	soz	1
9.	dnf	1	22.	sus	7
10.	fam	1	23.	tbr	1
11.	fav	1	24.	Thx	1
12.	fk	1	25.	tmr / tmrw	3
13.	Homie	1	26.	wasup	1

E. Letter Homophones

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	K	17	4.	u	25
2.	r	2	5.	y	13
3.	S	1			

F. Misspelling

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	ady	1	40.	nite	1
2.	aite / Aight	4	41.	noice / naiceuuuuu	3
3.	alrighty	2	42.	ny	1
4.	Anot	1	43.	okey	3
5.	asgn	1	44.	okie / Kays / wokay	18
6.	Bae	2	45.	oky	1
7.	bestie	1	46.	onz	1
8.	Bruh	5	47.	orite	3
9.	ciggy	1	48.	Orly	1
10.	da	1	49.	Oso	1
11.	Daa	1	50.	Periodt	3
12.	dam	1	51.	Prewty	1
13.	das crazy	1	52.	prolly	2
14.	dat	1	53.	ridiki donkey	1
15.	ded	2	54.	rite	1
16.	defo	1	55.	shooketh	1
17.	den	1	56.	sis	2
18.	dis	1	57.	smthng	1
19.	dunno / Donno	18	58.	soz	1
20.	gawd	2	59.	sum	1
21.	Geez	1	60.	Sus	7
22.	geeze louizeee	1	61.	Tengkiu / thankie	2
23.	gimme	1	62.	thingy	1
24.	gonna	18	63.	tho	1
25.	goodnite	1	64.	Vibin	1
26.	Gotta	1	65.	wanna	11
27.	gud	1	66.	wasup	1
28.	Gurl	3	67.	WAZZUPP	1
29.	Hangry	2	68.	werddd	1
30.	hawty	1	69.	werk it	1
31.	Heyo	2	70.	Whutt / wat	3
32.	Ima / imma	2	71.	wokay	1
33.	kay	4	72.	y'all	1
34.	lemme	1	73.	Yas	4
35.	lesgo	1	74.	yayerz	1
36.	LUL	1	75.	yeayyy, yesh, yeh	3
37.	luv	1	76.	yknow	1
38.	naurrr / nuuuu	2	77.	zamn	1
39.	neways	1			

G. Onomatopoeia

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	Awww	1	8.	rawr	1
2.	duh	1	9.	sheesh	1
3.	hahaha	32	10.	sjsjskshdjdh	1
4.	heh heh heh	1	11.	Uuuuuuu	1
5.	hihi	1	12.	uwu	1
6.	Hmm	2	13.	woww	1
7.	Huh	5	14.	Yay / yeay	13

H. Lengthened Spelling

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	Aitee	1	22.	okieee	2
2.	alrightyyyy	1	23.	okieppp	1
3.	Awww	1	24.	okiesss	2
4.	Ayeee	1	25.	okiii	1
5.	dunnooo	1	26.	okkkkk	2
6.	factsss	1	27.	omgggg	1
7.	fineee	3	28.	reallyyyyyy	1
8.	geeze louizeee	1	29.	slayyy	5
9.	Gurlll	1	30.	thank youuuuu	1
10.	Happyyyyyyy	1	31.	thanksssss	1
11.	heyyyy	1	32.	Uuuuuuu	1
12.	hiiii	2	33.	Wannaaaa	1
13.	hmmmm	1	34.	WAZZUPP	1
14.	huhh	1	35.	werddd	1
15.	kayy	1	36.	whaaaat	2
16.	loooooool	1	37.	Whutt	1
17.	naurrr	1	38.	woww	1
18.	noiceee / naiceuuuuu	2	39.	Yass	5
19.	Nooo / nuuuu	2	40.	Yayyyy	2
20.	Okayyy	19	41.	Yeayyyy	1
21.	Okeyy	1	42.	youu	1

I. No Answer

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	.	1	2.	None	2

J. Uncertain *

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	???	1	3.	三小, why要这样, サンキュー	1
2.	ai	1			

K. Malaysian-Based **

Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency	Num.	Urban Slang	Frequency
1.	cun	1	3.	Ong frfr	1
2.	ong	1	4.	weh	1

Self-Perception / Effects

Table 16

Q.15: I believe that urban slang can enhance or improve my English language proficiency.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	10	6.5	6.5	6.5
	Agree	63	40.9	40.9	47.4
	Disagree	70	45.5	45.5	92.9
	Strongly Disagree	11	7.1	7.1	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 16 shows that 10 respondents (6.5%) strongly agree to believing that urban slang can enhance or improve their English language proficiency, whereas 63 respondents (40.9%) agree. On the other hand, the majority 70 respondents (45.5%) disagree to believing that urban slang can enhance or improve their English language proficiency, whereas 11 respondents (7.1%) strongly disagree.

Table 17

Q.16: I believe that urban slang can negatively affect the English language proficiency of other users.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	19	12.3	12.3	12.3
	Agree	102	66.2	66.2	78.6
	Disagree	29	18.8	18.8	97.4
	Strongly Disagree	4	2.6	2.6	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 17 shows 19 respondents (12.3%) strongly agreeing to believing that urban slang can negatively affect the English language proficiency of other users, whereas the majority 102 respondents (66.2%) agree. On the other hand, 29 respondents (18.8%) disagree to believing that urban slang can negatively affect the English language proficiency of other users, whereas 4 respondents (2.6%) strongly disagree.

Table 18

Q.17: I use urban slang to communicate better.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	26	16.9	16.9	16.9
	Agree	92	59.7	59.7	76.6
	Disagree	29	18.8	18.8	95.5
	Strongly Disagree	7	4.5	4.5	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table _ shows 26 respondents (16.9%) strongly agreeing to using urban slang to communicate better, whereas the majority 92 respondents (59.7%) agree. On the other hand, 29 respondents (18.8%) disagree to using urban slang to communicate better, whereas 7 respondents (4.5%) strongly disagree.

Table 19

Q.18: If I have firmer background knowledge in English, my success in the English language will be higher.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	66	42.9	42.9	42.9
	Agree	79	51.3	51.3	94.2
	Disagree	8	5.2	5.2	99.4
	Strongly Disagree	1	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 19 shows 66 respondents (42.9%) agreeing to believing that their success in the English language will be higher if they have firmer background knowledge in the language, whereas the majority 79 respondents (51.3%) agree. On the other hand, 8 respondents (5.2%) disagree to believing that their success in the English language will be higher if they have firmer background knowledge in the language, whereas 1 respondent (0.6%) strongly disagrees.

Table 20

Q.19: I learnt urban slang from using social media for more than 3 hours.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	40	26.0	26.0	26.0
	Agree	87	56.5	56.5	82.5
	Disagree	22	14.3	14.3	96.8
	Strongly Disagree	5	3.2	3.2	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 20 shows 40 respondents (26.0%) strongly agreeing to having learnt urban slang from using social media for more than 3 hours, whereas the majority 87 respondents (56.5%) agree. On the other hand, 22 respondents (14.3%) disagree to having learnt urban slang from using social media for more than 3 hours, whereas 5 respondents (3.2%) strongly disagree.

Sources of Learning Urban Slang

Table 21

Q.20: I learnt urban slang from media entertainment. (e.g.; movies and tv series).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	50	32.5	32.5	32.5
	Agree	75	48.7	48.7	81.2
	Disagree	26	16.9	16.9	98.1
	Strongly Disagree	3	1.9	1.9	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 21 shows 50 respondents (32.5%) strongly agreeing to having learnt urban slang from media entertainment, whereas the majority 75 respondents (48.7%) agree. On the other hand, 26 respondents (16.9%) disagree to having learnt urban slang from media entertainment, whereas 3 respondents (1.9%) strongly.

Table 22

Q.21: I learnt urban slang from using the following social media platforms. (e.g.; Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp).

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	80	51.9	51.9	51.9
	Agree	69	44.8	44.8	96.8
	Disagree	2	1.3	1.3	98.1
	Strongly Disagree	3	1.9	1.9	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 22 shows the majority 80 respondents (51.9%) strongly agreeing to having learnt urban slang from using social media platforms, whereas 69 respondents (44.8%) agree. On the other hand, 2 respondents (1.3%) disagree to having learnt urban slang from using social media platforms, whereas 3 respondents (1.9%) strongly disagree.

Table 23

Q.22: I use social media platforms for more than 5 hours a day.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	42	27.3	27.3	27.3
	Agree	61	39.6	39.6	66.9
	Disagree	43	27.9	27.9	94.8
	Strongly Disagree	8	5.2	5.2	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 23 shows 42 respondents (27.3%) strongly agreeing to using social media platforms for more than 5 hours a day, whereas the majority 61 respondents (36.9%). On the other hand, 43 respondents (27.9%) disagree to using social media platforms for more than 5 hours a day, whereas 8 respondents (5.2%) strongly disagree.

Usage / Context

Table 24

Q.23: I often use urban slang when communicating in general.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	30	19.5	19.5	19.5
	Agree	84	54.5	54.5	74.0
	Disagree	29	18.8	18.8	92.9
	Strongly Disagree	11	7.1	7.1	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 17 shows 30 respondents (19.5%) strongly agreeing to often using urban slang when communicating in general, whereas the majority 84 respondents (54.5%) agree. On the other hand, 29 respondents (18.8%) disagree to often using urban slang when communicating in general, whereas 11 respondents (7.1%) strongly disagree.

Table 25

Q.24: I often use urban slang every day.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	37	24.0	24.0	24.0
	Agree	87	56.5	56.5	80.5
	Disagree	21	13.6	13.6	94.2
	Strongly Disagree	9	5.8	5.8	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 25 shows 37 respondents (24.0%) strongly agreeing using urban slang every day, whereas the majority 87 respondents (56.5%) agree. On the other hand, 21 respondents (13.6%) disagree using urban slang every day, whereas 9 respondents (5.8%) strongly.

Table 26

Q.25: *I use urban slang when verbally communicating. (E.g.; face-to-face, phone calls).*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	28	18.2	18.2	18.2
	Agree	66	42.9	42.9	61.0
	Disagree	45	29.2	29.2	90.3
	Strongly Disagree	15	9.7	9.7	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 26 shows 28 respondents (18.2%) strongly agreeing to using urban slang when verbally communicating, whereas the majority 66 respondents (42.9%) agree. On the other hand, 45 respondents (29.2%) disagree to using urban slang when verbally communicating, whereas 15 respondents (9.7%) strongly disagree.

Table 27

Q.26: *I use urban slang in written communication. (E.g.; social media, texting).*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	63	40.9	40.9	40.9
	Agree	67	43.5	43.5	84.4
	Disagree	18	11.7	11.7	96.1
	Strongly Disagree	6	3.9	3.9	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 27 shows 63 respondents (40.9%) strongly agreeing to using urban slang in written communication, whereas the majority 67 respondents (43.5%) agree. On the other hand, 18 respondents (11.7%) disagree to using urban slang in written communication, whereas 6 respondents (3.9%) strongly disagree.

Table 28

Q. 27: *I use urban slang when communicating informally.*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	54	35.1	35.1	35.1
	Agree	85	55.2	55.2	90.3
	Disagree	9	5.8	5.8	96.1
	Strongly Disagree	6	3.9	3.9	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 21 shows 54 respondents (35.1%) strongly agreeing to using urban slang when communicating informally, whereas the majority 85 respondents (55.2%) agree. On the other hand, 9 respondents (5.8%) disagree to using urban slang when communicating informally, whereas 6 respondents (3.9%) strongly disagree.

Table 29

Q.28: I use urban slang when communicating formally.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	3	1.9	1.9	1.9
	Agree	27	17.5	17.5	19.5
	Disagree	68	44.2	44.2	63.6
	Strongly Disagree	56	36.4	36.4	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 29 shows 3 respondents (1.9%) strongly agreeing to using urban slang when communicating formally, whereas 27 respondents (17.5%) agree. On the other hand, the majority 68 respondents (44.2%) disagree to using urban slang when communicating formally, whereas 56 respondents (36.4%) strongly disagree.

Table 30

Q.29: I use urban slang when communicating with family/friends and colleagues.

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Agree	29	18.8	18.8	18.8
	Agree	107	69.5	69.5	88.3
	Disagree	11	7.1	7.1	95.5
	Strongly Disagree	7	4.5	4.5	100.0
	Total	154	100.0	100.0	

Table 23 shows 29 respondents (18.8%) strongly agreeing to using urban slang when communicating with family/friends and colleagues, whereas the majority 107 respondents (69.5%) agree. On the other hand, 11 respondents (7.1%) disagree to using urban slang when communicating with family/friends and colleagues, whereas 7 respondents (4.5%) strongly disagree.

Reliability			
Scale: ALL VARIABLES			
Case Processing Summary			
		N	%
Cases	Valid	154	100.0
	Excluded ^a	0	.0
	Total	154	100.0
a. Listwise deletion based on all variables in the procedure.			
Reliability Statistics			
Cronbach's Alpha		N of Items	
.909		22	

Figure 2
Reliability Test Using Cronbach’s Alpha

Upon processing the data derived from the questionnaire on SPSS, Cronbach’s alpha reliability test was conducted to determine whether the results truly represent the intended variables to measure. The alpha coefficient for the 22 items is .909, suggesting that the items have relatively high consistency. Cronbach’s alpha is commonly used in studies to indicate an instrument’s reliability, with many authors following a rule-of-thumb that the alpha should be 0.70 or higher for an instrument to have an acceptable level of self-consistency (Taber, 2018).

Discussion

Part I: Types of English Urban Slang and Their Definitions

The definitions of the following slangs given have been extracted from UrbanDictionary.com and Slang.net.

Table 31
Leet / letter-number combinations

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	gn8	<i>good night</i>	3.	gr8	<i>great</i>
2.	gnr871on	<i>generation</i>	4.	on9	<i>online</i>

Table 32
Acronyms

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	ai	1) <i>as if</i> 2) <i>artificial intelligence</i>	36.	Ofc	<i>of course</i>
2.		af	37.		

3.	asap	<i>as soon as possible</i>	38.	Ok/ok/OK/Okkk	<i>okay</i>
4.	atm	<i>at the moment</i>	39.	omfl	<i>oh my fucking lag</i>
5.	brb	<i>be right back</i>	40.	Omg/OMG/omg	<i>oh my god</i>
6.	BTW	<i>by the way</i>	41.	omw	<i>on my way</i>
7.	dnf	<i>do not follow,</i>	42.	ong	<i>on god</i>
8.	fr	<i>for real</i>	43.	Ong frfr	<i>on god, for real, for real</i>
9.	fyi	<i>for your information</i>	44.	ootd	<i>outfit for the day</i>
10.	gg	<i>good game</i>	45.	otw	<i>on the way</i>
11.	Ggwp	<i>good game well played</i>	46.	rn	<i>right now</i>
12.	GM	<i>game master/ good morning</i>	47.	rofl	<i>rolling on the floor laughing</i>
13.	gn	<i>good night</i>	48.	smh	<i>shaking/ shake my head</i>
14.	GOAT	<i>greatest of all time</i>	49.	Tba	<i>to be announced</i>
15.	hbu	<i>how 'bout (about) you</i>	50.	TBH	<i>to be honest</i>
16.	icv	<i>I see you</i>	51.	tbr	<i>to be released</i>
17.	idc	<i>I don't care</i>	52.	tc	<i>1) take care 2) total chances 3) that's cool</i>
18.	idek	<i>I don't even know</i>	53.	tk	<i>1) team kill 2) to come</i>
19.	idgaf	<i>I don't give a fuck</i>	54.	tq	<i>thank goodness</i>
20.	IDK	<i>I don't know</i>	55.	Tqvm	<i>thank you very much</i>
21.	iirc	<i>if I remember correctly</i>	56.	ttyl	<i>talk to you later</i>
22.	ik	<i>I know</i>	57.	Ty	<i>thank you</i>
23.	ikr	<i>I know right</i>	58.	tysm	<i>thank you so much</i>
24.	IMOA	<i>in my arrogant opinion</i>	59.	ur	<i>your</i>
25.	istg	<i>I swear to god</i>	60.	uwu	<i>cute / emoticon to express something cute</i>
26.	iykyk	<i>if you know, you know</i>	61.	W/L	<i>whatta loser (what a loser)</i>

27.	jk	<i>joking</i>	62.	wb	<i>welcome back</i>
28.	lmao	<i>laughing my ass off</i>	63.	wc	1) <i>world cup</i> 2) <i>wrong chat</i> 3) <i>who cares</i> 4) <i>welcome</i>
29.	lmk	<i>let me know</i>	64.	wtf	<i>what the fuck</i>
30.	LOL	<i>laughing out loud</i>	65.	wya	<i>where you at</i>
31.	Loml	<i>love of my life</i>	66.	Wyd	<i>what (are) you doing</i>
32.	mb	<i>my bad</i>	67.	yk	<i>you know</i>
33.	ngl	<i>not gonna lie</i>	68.	ykwim	<i>you know what I mean</i>
34.	Np	<i>no problem</i>	69.	ynwa	<i>you never walk alone</i>
35.	np	<i>no problem</i>			

Table 33
Abbreviations

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	aight	<i>alright</i>	14.	lma	<i>I'm gonna</i>
2.	aite	<i>alright</i>	15.	ltr	<i>later</i>
3.	asgn	1) <i>assign</i> 2) <i>assignment</i>	16.	Mid	1) <i>middle</i> 2) <i>insult a person</i>
4.	bfr	1) <i>be fucking for real</i> 2) <i>big freaking rock</i> 3) <i>before</i>	17.	Ntg	1) <i>need to go</i> 2) <i>nothing</i> 3) <i>no tag game</i>
5.	bro	<i>brother</i>	18.	orite	1) <i>oh, right</i> 2) <i>oh alright</i> 3) <i>alright</i>
6.	Bruh	<i>brother</i>	19.	prolly	<i>probably</i>
7.	ciggy	<i>cigarette</i>	20.	smthng	<i>something</i>
8.	defo	<i>definitely</i>	21.	soz	<i>sorry</i>
9.	dnf	<i>do not follow</i>	22.	sus	1) <i>suspicion</i> 2) <i>suspect</i>
10.	fam	<i>family</i>	23.	tbr	1) <i>to be real</i> 2) <i>to be released</i> 3) <i>to be read</i> 4) <i>to be rude</i> 5) <i>to be revised</i> 6) <i>to be resolved</i>

11.	fav	<i>favorite</i>	24.	Thx	<i>thanks</i>
12.	fk	1) <i>fuck</i> 2) <i>fuck knows</i>	25.	tmr / tmrw	<i>tomorrow</i>
13.	Homie	<i>friend</i>	26.	wasup	<i>what's up</i>

Table 34

Letter homophones

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	K	<i>okay</i>	4.	u	<i>you</i>
2.	r	<i>are</i>	5.	y	<i>why</i>
3.	S	Uncertain			

Table 35

Misspelling

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	ady	<i>already</i>	40.	nite	<i>night</i>
2.	aite / Aight	<i>alright</i>	41.	noice / naiceuuuuu	<i>nice</i>
3.	alrighty	<i>alright</i>	42.	ny	<i>only</i>
4.	Anot	<i>or not</i>	43.	okey	<i>okay</i>
5.	asgn	1) <i>assign</i> 2) <i>assignment</i>	44.	okie / Kays / wokay	<i>okay</i>
6.	Bae	<i>baby</i>	45.	oky	<i>okay</i>
7.	bestie	<i>best friend</i>	46.	onz	<i>on (in an enthusiastic manner)</i>
8.	Bruh	<i>brother</i>	47.	orite	<i>alright</i>
9.	ciggy	<i>cigarette</i>	48.	Orly	<i>oh really</i>
10.	da	<i>the</i>	49.	Oso	<i>also</i>
11.	Daa	<i>the</i>	50.	Periodt	1) <i>period</i> 2) <i>end of sentence</i>
12.	dam	<i>damn</i>	51.	Prewty	<i>pretty</i>
13.	das crazy	<i>that's crazy</i>	52.	prolly	<i>probably</i>
14.	dat	<i>that's</i>	53.	ridiki donkey	<i>ridiculous donkey</i>
15.	ded 2	<i>dead too</i>	54.	rite	<i>right</i>
16.	defo	<i>definitely</i>	55.	shooketh	1) <i>shocked</i> 2) <i>shaken up</i> 3) <i>unbelievable</i>
17.	den	<i>then</i>	56.	sis	<i>sister</i>
18.	dis	<i>this</i>	57.	smthng	<i>something</i>
19.	dunno / Donno	1) <i>don't (do not) know</i>	58.	soz	<i>sorry</i>
20.	gawd	<i>god</i>	59.	sum	<i>some</i>

21.	Geez	<i>jeez</i>	60.	Sus	<i>suspicious</i>
22.	geeze louizeee	<i>1) to show surprise and shock</i>	61.	Tengkiu / thankie	<i>thank you</i>
23.	gimme	<i>give me</i>	62.	thingy	<i>thing</i>
24.	gonna	<i>going to</i>	63.	tho	<i>though</i>
25.	goodnite	<i>good night</i>	64.	Vibin	<i>1) vibe 2) hanging out, 3) chilling 4) listening to music</i>
26.	Gotta	<i>got to</i>	65.	wanna	<i>want to</i>
27.	gud	<i>good</i>	66.	wasup	<i>what's up</i>
28.	Gurl	<i>girl</i>	67.	WAZZUPP	<i>what's up</i>
29.	Hangry	<i>angrily hungry</i>	68.	werddd	<i>weird</i>
30.	hawty	<i>1) hot 2) attractive</i>	69.	werk it	<i>work it</i>
31.	Heyo	<i>hello</i>	70.	Whutt / wat	<i>what</i>
32.	Ima / imma	<i>I'm going to</i>	71.	wokay	<i>1) oh okay 2) okay</i>
33.	kay	<i>okay</i>	72.	y'all	<i>you all</i>
34.	lemme	<i>let me</i>	73.	Yas	<i>yes</i>
35.	lesgo	<i>let's go</i>	74.	yayerz	<i>1) yes sir 2) to express satisfaction</i>
36.	LUL	<i>laugh out loud</i>	75.	yeayyy, yesh, yeh	<i>yeah</i>
37.	luv	<i>love</i>	76.	yknow	<i>you know</i>
38.	naurrr / nuuuu	<i>no</i>	77.	zamn	<i>damn</i>
39.	neways	<i>anyways</i>			

Table 36
Onomatopoeia

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	Awww	<i>expression of endearment</i>	8.	rawr	<i>1) roar 2) to playfully show attraction</i>
2.	duh	<i>obviously</i>	9.	sheesh	<i>1) disbelief 2) to express shock or amazement</i>
3.	hahaha	<i>laughing</i>	10.	sjsjskshdjdh	<i>laughing</i>
4.	heh heh heh	<i>laughing</i>	11.	Uuuuuuu	<i>1) suspicious noise 2) excitement</i>

					3) you
5.	hihi	laughing	12.	uwu	cute/ emoticon to express something cute.
6.	Hmm	1) thinking 2) contemplating	13.	wowww	wow
7.	Huh	1) confused 2) uncertain	14.	Yay / yeay	1) yeah 2) exclamation of pleasure, approval, victory

Table 37
Lengthened spelling

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	Aitee	alright	22.	okieee	okay
2.	alrightyyyy	alright	23.	okieppp	okay
3.	Awww	expression of endearment	24.	okiesss	okay
4.	Ayeee	yes	25.	okiii	okay
5.	dunnooo	don't know	26.	okkkkk	okay
6.	factsss	1) facts 2) to be in agreement	27.	omggggg	oh my god
7.	fineee	fine	28.	reallyyyyyyy	really
8.	geeze louizeee	1) to express surprise and shock	29.	slayyy	1) slay 2) to overcome a challenge
9.	Gurlll	girl	30.	thank youuuuu	thank you
10.	Happyyyyyyy	happy	31.	thanksssss	thanks
11.	heyyyy	1) hey 2) hello	32.	Uuuuuuu	1) you 2) suspicious noise 3) excitement
12.	hiiii	1) hi 2) hello	33.	Wannaaaa	want to
13.	hmhhh	1) thinking 2) contemplating	34.	WAZZUPP	what's up
14.	huhh	1) confused 2) uncertain	35.	werddd	weird
15.	kayy	okay	36.	whaaaat	what
16.	loooooool	laughing out loud	37.	Whutt	what

17.	naurrr	<i>no</i>	38.	wow	<i>wow</i>
18.	noiceee / naiceuuuuu	<i>nice</i>	39.	Yass	<i>yes</i>
19.	Nooo / nuuuu	<i>no</i>	40.	Yayyyy	1) <i>yeah</i> 2) <i>to express pleasure, approval, victory</i>
20.	Okayyy	<i>okay</i>	41.	Yeayyyy	<i>yeah</i>
21.	Okeyy	<i>okay</i>	42.	youu	<i>you</i>

Table 38

No answer

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	.	–	2.	None	–

Table 39

Uncertain

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	???	1) <i>to express confusion</i> 2) <i>to express uncertainty</i>	2.	三小, why要这样, サンキュー	Uncertain

Table 40

Malaysian-based

Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning	Num.	Urban Slang	Meaning
1.	cun	1) <i>hot</i> 2) <i>attractive</i> 3) <i>beautiful</i>	3.	Ong frfr	1) <i>lucky for real, for real</i>
2.	ong	<i>lucky</i>	4.	weh	1) <i>really</i> 2) <i>come on</i> 3) <i>to get someone's attention</i>

Part II: Analysis**1. Linguistic features of the English urban slangs used in verbal and written communication among youths in Selangor**

In regards to the linguistic features of English urban slang used in verbal and written communication, most of the respondents use leet / letter-number combinations; words that have meanings different from conventional ones, abbreviations and acronyms, single alphabets to replace an entire word, misspellings, onomatopoeia, and alphabet repetition. However, the most widely observed occurrences is that of using acronyms and misspellings. As seen from what was provided by the respondents, acronyms are shortened versions of a phrase. For example, “*istg*” which stands for “I swear to god” and “*ong frfr*” which is short for

“On god, for real, for real”. Firstly, it can be speculated that the reason for using such acronyms could be attributed to keeping conversations short and simple, while still appearing upbeat and lively, due to living in a fast-paced modern world. By taking less time to say or write a word, it can make hasten simple daily communications. This is supported by Abdullah and Ghazali (2021) who stated that the Malaysian youths frequently use the acronym “*lmao*”, which is “laugh my ass off”, to label a funny situation or as a response to something humorous. This is because it is more convenient and allows today’s youths to text faster while still conveying the same meaning as the original phrase in full. On the other hand, misspellings are, as the term implies, misspellings of a word or phrase. For instance, “*periodt*” is period or end of sentence, and “*noice*” is nice. Judging by the nature of the spellings, this could possibly take place for rhetorical effect. In other words, respondents may use misspellings to focus on *how* something is said, rather than *what* is said.

Two other widely occurring linguistic features are onomatopoeia and lengthened spelling. A term that sounds like the noise it describes is known as an onomatopoeia; it is not actually a word with a definition in standard English. For example, “*hahahaha*” imitates the sound of laughter which can be a better way of expressing humour in text messaging. The aforementioned onomatopoeia “*hahahaha*”, in particular, is popular among the youths, with 32 frequencies appearing in the data collected. As for lengthened spelling, it can be assumed that respondents use it to add effect in text messaging. To be more precise, it is inanity in writing. Writing that is inane is thought to be lacking sense and clear meaning. In writing, inanity is frequently used to convey foolishness and exaggeration (Sabri et al., 2018). The respondents provided several inane words such as “*fineee*”, “*slayyy*”, “*werddd*”, and “*hiiiiii*”, where the last letter of every word is repeated several times. Linguistically, it serves no purpose other than add emphasis when communicating in writing because it does not change the literal meaning of the words.

2. *The self-perception and effects towards using urban slang in verbal and written communication among youths in Selangor*

Although the majority of respondents use urban slang in verbal and written communication, most of them disagreed with the notion that using English urban slang can improve their English language proficiency, and most of them agreed that using urban slang can negatively affect the English proficiency of others. This could be due to the loose meaning and spelling of urban slang words that are – by conventional English language standards – grammatically incorrect or not recognized. As a result, improving one’s English language proficiency could potentially be hindered as a result of possible misunderstandings when speaking to people who are unfamiliar with English urban slang. Likewise, Ujang et al. (2018) who studied the relationship between texting slang and misinterpretation among students in a public university in the east coast of Malaysia, found that most of the users are, in fact, bothered by the impact of slang towards their language skill.

However, despite how they believe English urban slang can negatively impact English language proficiency, most of the respondents strongly agreed to using said urban slang to communicate better. Considering that the respondents are all part of the youth category, there are a two possible reasons for this. To start, speaking with English urban slang can act as a way for people to identify themselves as members of the same generation, which allows other members know that the person speaking can understand their vocabulary. For example, only the youth would be familiar with the slang words “*vibin*” or “*sus*”. When these words are

used, it tells the listener that the speaker is a fellow youth, and thus the choice of words used may change for both parties to be equal. This is similar to an observation by Ambarsari et al. (2020) who said that the use of slang words can show the identity and solidarity of a group towards another individual. Another reason why respondents may use urban slang to communicate better is for secrecy. Harared (2018) claimed that slang is used in order for a certain recipient understand what is being said but not another. For instance, “*lom!*” which is “love of my life”, may not be immediately understood as describing one’s romantic interest.

Moreover, the majority of respondents agree that their success in the English language is tied to having a firmer knowledge of the language, whilst some do not have this view. With this idea of having a firmer knowledge of English to have higher success rates in the English language, a deeper understanding can be formed as to why the respondents believe that using English urban slang can negatively affect the English language proficiency of others. They may associate proper and formal English using words that exist in the dictionary to be that of high-quality language standards. This is opposed to English urban slang that are usually created from for fun and enlightenment among youth partaking in casual discussions and gossip (Namvar, 2014). Such discourses, such as gossip, are facilitated on social media (Brooks, 2021), which reflects the findings in which the majority of respondents agreed to learning urban slang words as a result of using social media for more than 3 hours in the span of a day. This can imply that it is a primary source of learning English urban slang.

3. Sources of learning urban slang among youths in Selangor

Based on the results of the survey, it can be deduced that most respondents acquire knowledge of English urban slang from various sources such as media entertainment (e.g.; television shows and movies), social media platforms (e.g.; Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp), and from using social media platforms for more than 5 hours a day. Although, there were some respondents who disagreed with having learnt urban slang from the sources mentioned. It is common knowledge that media entertainment and social media play a major role in the lives of youths, but more so the latter. It can even be said that social media has been embedded into the lives of today’s younger generations (Maulidiya et al., 2020). This should surprise no one. Since social media is filled with everything relating to popular trends and culture that the youth can easily access and consume on a daily basis, it is safe to imply that social media instigates the emergence of slang words that youths learn from and adopt into their communication patterns due to the rate of exposure. This is supported by the conclusion drawn by Ambarsari et al. (2020) who asserted that social media and movies influenced their study’s respondents in using slang words.

4. Usage/context of urban slang used among youths in Selangor

In combining the results of seven (7) questions relating to the usage and contexts of English urban slang used among youths in Selangor, the consensus is that the youths use urban slang in their verbal and written communication daily. This is regardless of whether they are speaking to their friends, family, or colleagues. As urban slang is used in every day communication for a vast majority of the respondents, urban slang can be considered a now normal way communicating for the youth. In relation to verbal communication, using urban slang in this context can be a fun way of communicating because it involves a more creative way of expressing oneself. On the other hand, for written communication, it can be a direct consequence of respondents having to adhere to word limits that have been set on social

media posts. By using English urban slang, it shortens the length of posts while still allowing them to write content. This practice can bleed into their everyday writing habits on messaging platforms which can also explain why they agree to using it in general. Albeit, respondents are in agreement that English urban slang is used more in informal contexts instead of formal. English urban slang has always been seen as the language of the youth. For the most part, discourse between youth members are done informally. In most scenarios, formal contexts will include members of older generations, therefore it would not be suitable for the youth to employ English urban slang as it can cause misunderstanding and make the youth seem unprofessional or disrespectful. Taking that into account, it illustrates that said urban slang is a more intimate way of communicating considered to be appropriate only for the youths due to their familiarity with it.

Limitations of the Study

While this study does provide significant insight on how English urban slang has affected verbal and written communication, there are several limitations to it. The first pertains to difficulties in establishing a strong research foundation due to the lack of previous studies on the topic of English urban slang, specifically in the Malaysian context. The researchers could only locate a small number of Malaysian-based studies and were forced to also look at those conducted outside of the country. This prompts the need for further developments in the field of Malaysian-based English language and linguistics. The second limitation would be the time constraint. As this paper was written for a course, the researchers had to hasten the research process to meet the deadline, which meant that a proper pilot test of the questionnaire and thorough analysis of the results could not be done optimally.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Overall, the results of this study brings several conclusions. The first being that acronyms and misspellings are considered to be the most widely observed linguistic English urban slang features occurring in verbal and written communication. Secondly, the respondents' self-perception and effects toward using English urban slang in verbal and written communication is that while they disagree with using English urban slang to improve their English language proficiency and that it can negatively affect the English proficiency of others, they still use English urban slang to communicate better. Moreover, the sources of learning English urban slang among youths is media entertainment and social media platforms. Lastly, it is found that the respondents use English urban slang in their verbal and written communication every day, be it with friends, family or colleagues, with the understanding that it should be used in informal contexts only and not formal ones.

English urban slang is a language that is constantly evolving. This study only stresses the analysis of current English urban slangs among youths in Selangor. There are also many aspects to English urban slang that can be researched more deeply. Thus, for further exploration of this topic, future researchers may consider conducting individual and thorough investigations into other components such as the phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, or pragmatics of English urban slang. Future researchers should also consider studying a larger and more diversified population to reap more substantial findings.

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