

# Female vs Male Characters: Who Produced More Slang? (A Case of Wednesday Series Season One)

Tri Wulandari<sup>1\*</sup>, Elysa Hartati<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> English Education Study Program, Universitas Mercu Buana Yogyakarta

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**Abstract:** This study was motivated by the lack of research that discussed in detail the types of slang words used in popular media, one of which was the Wednesday series. The study aimed to identify and analyze the types of slang words spoken by teenage characters. This study used descriptive qualitative analysis of adolescent dialogues that used slang and then analyzed them using the theory of Allan and Burridge (2006). The data analysis technique follows Spradley's method. The results of the study showed 89 types of slang were found, with the most frequently appearing type being flippant slang. These findings not only reveal slang in general but also reveal differences in the use of slang between female and male teenage characters. The results showed that overall, female characters used slang more often than male characters. There is a difference in the types of slang used by each gender, male characters tending to use flippant slang more often, while female characters use fresh and creative slang more often, and other types. These findings indicate that the use of slang was influenced not only by frequency of occurrence but also by different preferences for types of slang between female and male characters.

**Keywords:** slang type, teenagers, series, communication

## INTRODUCTION

Teenagers in this generation grew up alongside technology in their daily lives. Digital platforms such as social media, television series, and audio-visual content are quite familiar to teenagers, so their communication patterns are formed more quickly, flexibly, and creatively. This is in line with what Sari (2019) stated in her research that the characteristics of teenagers are closely related to technology and the internet, which are linked to other digital media. Teenagers have the opportunity to learn more effectively in accordance with how they receive information. Amidst the instantaneous flow of digital communication, the use of slang has become part of the language style of teenagers.

\*Corresponding author: [lanwulandari12@gmail.com](mailto:lanwulandari12@gmail.com)

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Slang is an informal language that is commonly used in everyday life. Allan and Burridge (2006) stated that slang is an everyday language that is considered informal, where the current language has a special meaning, and its vocabulary is classified as new or newly created language. Slang is a form of language variation that developed within a particular group and is informal. Informal language usually appears in various non-standard languages, situations, and casual or informal contexts (Hanifah & Anggraeni, 2024). Slang often reflects creativity, group identity, and developing socio-cultural dynamics. Variations in language used, including slang, are frequently influenced by social factors such as gender.

There is a tendency for differences in language usage patterns, especially slang, between females and males. As stated by Jihan (2024), due to the socialization process and communication needs, females and males had different preferences and levels of slang usage. Therefore, it can be said that gender plays an important role in language variation, especially slang. According to Teibowei (2024), gender in a social environment plays an important role in language, so the communication style between females and males can be different. The slang used in communication also indicates differences due to language differences between females and males. Slang not only functioned as a means of self-expression but also as a marker of social group membership, a marker of closeness, and a means of building a modern identity that is in harmony with digital culture. Research conducted by Apriliani et al. (2024) reveals that slang functions as a means of communication that reflects identity and solidarity without regard to time period.

Therefore, slang is closely related to digital media, which is also influenced by the gender of the users. Digital platforms and slang had a dynamic relationship that influenced how groups interact, express their identities, and drive cultural innovation around them (Yuldashaliyevna, 2025). One form of digital media that can influence teenagers to use slang is film series. According to Nuraeni & Pahamzah (2021), in the modern era, slang is found in many young people's conversations because they contribute to the spread of slang to make conversations more familiar to each other, especially in informal situations.

Young people often follow popular trends such as film series, one of which is the Wednesday series. The Wednesday series, season one, released by Netflix in 2022, told the story of Wednesday Addams, who had supernatural powers and moved to Nevermore Academy, a school for outcasts. This series offered a unique presentation through a combination of youth culture and interactions between groups of students at Nevermore Academy. Although this series is not categorized as a teen comedy series, it combines several examples of informal language, especially slang, through communication between teenage characters.

Previous studies had analyzed various functions and types of slang. For example, research conducted by Sudiyanti et al. (2018) found types of slang in films and presented them in a more concise manner, particularly how types of slang relate to everyday life. The study by Mendrofa et al. (2025) found that slang is widely used in pop music and that short, informal language is more appealing to young audiences. Another study was conducted by Mulyantini et al. (2023), which found various types of slang used in conversation and created interesting videos to watch. Research conducted by Dewi & Widiastuti (2020) analyzed the types of slang and colloquial meanings commonly found in song lyrics. Similar research was

also conducted by Yusuf et al. (2023), who analyzed the types of slang used by Generation Z to communicate on social media. Despite previous studies, there is still a research gap. Most existing studies focus broadly on the types of slang in social media, novels, songs, and other media. However, there is still little research that provides a systematic classification of the types of slang in a culture based on the lives of teenagers, especially the influence of gender on the production of slang, such as in the series *Wednesday*, season one.

This provides room for a comprehensive exploration of how slang is used by teenage characters in the *Wednesday* series. The urgency of this research lies in the fact that slang is a rapidly growing phenomenon that coexists with teenagers, and its representation in globally consumed media, such as the *Wednesday* series, influences how society understands and adopts slang for communication. This research is important because it focuses on the type of slang used by teenage characters in the series. This study aims to identify and classify the types of slang used in the first season of the *Wednesday* series using Allan and Burrridge's (2006) theory.

## METHOD

This study used a qualitative approach with a descriptive qualitative method that recognizes the dialogue of teenage characters to explore and identify the types of slang words that exist in the *Wednesday* series in depth. The instruments of this study consist of episode transcripts that include slang words, their context, and their classification based on predetermined categories. The results of testing the instruments from all episodes produced 89 slang words dominated by female teenage characters. The data collection technique was carried out by directly observing the episodes repeatedly and noting the use of slang words spoken by teenage characters.

The data analysis technique employed Spradley's Analysis method, where the initial step was used. The analysis domain deals with the object being studied, which in this study was a series that had male and female characters. Furthermore, a taxonomy analysis was conducted to investigate the type of slang produced by male and female characters, as it was the focus of the study. Then, a correlation between domain and taxonomy analysis was discussed more in the componential analysis. In this context, it would be seen how the male and female characters used the type of slang with their distribution. As a final point, the correlation in the componential analysis was further discussed in terms of the cultural aspects of how and why both female and male characters produced those expressions of slang.

## RESULTS

This section presents a detailed description of the findings regarding the types of slang used in the Netflix series *Wednesday*, season one, based on Allan and Burrridge's (2006) theory and classified by gender. The analysis was conducted across eight episodes of the series, focusing on dialogue using slang produced by teenage female and male characters. Then, the data obtained was compared with the frequency of slang words used by female and male characters in the first season of the *Wednesday* series.



The results can be seen in *the table. 1 Distribution of Slang Used by Teenage Characters based on Gender*, below, which shows the results of the data collected and differentiated based on the gender of the teenage characters who use slang in the first season of Wednesday.

*Table. 1 Distribution of Slang Used by Teenage Character based on Gender*

No	Gender of Teenage Character	Frequency of Slang	Percentage
1.	Female	52	58.4%
2.	Male	37	41.6%
<b>Total</b>		<b>89</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Table 1. Distribution of Slang Used by Teenage Characters based on Gender* shows that female teenage characters in the Wednesday series used slang more often than male characters. Female characters produced 52 slang data, while male characters produced 37 data, with a total of 89 slang word appearances. The slang used by female teenage characters in the Wednesday series showed that slang is not just ordinary informal language, but it is also a style of communication influenced by gender.

Further analysis was conducted by classifying the slang data obtained from conversations between teenage characters into several types of slang based on Allan and Burridge's (2006) theory. The findings not only reveal slang as a whole but also reveal differences in the use of slang between female and male teenage characters. The distribution can be seen in *Table 2. The Types of Slang used by Teenage Characters*

*Table 2. The Types of Slang used by Teenage Character*

No	Types of Slang word	Female Occurrence	Male Occurrence	Female Percentage	Male Percentage
1.	Flippant	18	23	20.2%	25.8%
2.	Fresh and creative	17	5	19.1%	5.6%
3.	Imitative	7	4	7.9%	4.6%
4.	Clipping	5	3	5.6%	3.4%
5	Acronym	5	2	5.6%	2.2%
<b>Total</b>		<b>89</b>		<b>100%</b>	

Based on *Table 2. The Types of Slang used by Teenage Characters*: The results classify the language used by teenage characters in conversations in the first season of the Wednesday series. The results of the study found that in the Flippant categories, the highest score was female characters, which contributed 20.2% of the total, while male characters contributed 25.8% of the total, so in the Flippant slang categories, male characters

dominated. The flippant type represents one of the slang categories that frequently appear for both genders in the Wednesday series. In the Fresh and Creative category, both female and male characters produced approximately 19.1% and 5.6%, respectively, indicating that female characters use more Fresh and Creative slang than male characters. These results showed a clear dominance of female characters in using fresh and creative slang expressions.

Acronym slang was recorded at around 5.6% for female characters and around 2.2% for male characters, indicating that acronym slang is relatively low for each character compared to other types of slang, but it is used more by female characters. For clipping slang, female characters produced about 5.6%, while male characters produced about 3.4%, meaning that the use of clipping slang is also not very prominent in the data. The last type, imitative slang, appeared 7.9% in female data, while male data was about 4.6%. This category includes forms of slang that imitate widely used sounds, expressions, or speech patterns; hence, this category occupies a smaller portion compared to fresh, creative, and flippant slang.

In this study, several slang were found in the Wednesday series season one by following Allan & Burrige (2006) theory, accompanied by explanations:

### 1. Flippant Slang

Flippant slang is a word or phrase that is formed from two or more words that form a new meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the word that forms it. Flippant Slang was found in 18 data points for female characters and 23 data points for male characters. As an illustration of flippant slang, the conversation below is an example of how teenagers use it.

#### Datum 076/eps 08

*Wednesday: "Don't ask stupid questions."*

*Tyler: Wednesday, this is crazy. I'm a **normie**."*

The word "**normie**" is flippant slang that means someone who is considered ordinary or mainstream. The use of "**normie**" reflects the social differences between Nevermore students and ordinary people. Flippant slang can be described as a new meaning that is different from the original meaning and is usually used to categorize social identities. In this episode, Tyler uses the word "**normie**" to convince others that he is an ordinary person with no supernatural powers. The use of "**normie**" reflects how minority or majority groups can create new terms for identity relations.

### 2. Fresh and Creative

This type of slang word is classified as vocabulary that did not exist before, which was formed as a result of imagination, creativity, informal forms, and contemporary words. In this study, fresh and creative slang was found in 17 data points for female and 5 data points for male characters. To illustrate the fresh and creative type of slang in the Wednesday series, one of the dialogues below provides an example of slang expressions used.

### Datum 011/eps 1

Tyler: *“Look, I know Nevermore is ground zero for all things weird, but this is **next-level**.”*

This type of slang is classified as fresh and creative because it has never been found before. The word *“next-level”* spoken by Tyler comes from a combination of metaphors about something that has a certain level or stage, but can be used to describe a quality or situation that is considered extraordinary or different from others. This finding shows that the characters in Wednesday, who are mainly teenagers, use slang to express expressive and hyperbolic assessments. The use of *“next-level”* confirms that slang develops through creativity and the creation of new meanings.

### 3. Imitative Slang

Imitative slang words that fall into this type are words that have already existed before, but their meaning has expanded and is even very different from the original one. Imitative Slang was found in 7 data points for female and 4 data points for male Characters. To provide a clearer understanding of imitative slang, one example can be found in the dialogue below.

### Datum 68/ eps 6

Tyler: *“**Jezz!**”*

Wednesday: *“Let's go!”*

*“Jezz”* is an imitative form. Analysis shows that *“jezz,”* which originally had a religious meaning as a form of the word *“Jesus,”* is now used as an expression that shows surprise or annoyance. This type of slang is very familiar to teenagers because they tend to use imitative slang as a form of spontaneous, flexible, and informal emotional expression. Imitative slang shows how standard words can be simplified because they demonstrate creativity and are easy to pronounce.

### 4. Clipping

Clipping involves shortening longer words. Clipping slang was found in 5 data points for female and 3 data points for male characters. To illustrate how clipping works in the Wednesday series, below is an example of a conversation commonly used by teenage characters.

### Datum 45/eps 4

Wednesday: *“What kind of dystopian hellscape is this?”*

Enid: *“Our first **roomie** shopping spree!”*

The word *“roomie”* is a form of clipping because it is shortened from the word roommate. This term is commonly used in informal language to refer to a roommate or someone who lives in the same room. Word shortening is a practical form of slang. Compared to the full form, the word *“roomie”* sounds more familiar. This shows that slang not only serves to simplify pronunciation but can also build a sense of familiarity and social solidarity in teenage interactions.

## 5. Acronyms

These are slang words formed from the initial letters of other words. Acronyms Slang was found in 5 data points for female and 2 data points for male characters. As a practical example of slang that uses acronyms, the dialogue below is one example of how acronym slang is used in communication.

### Datum 49/eps 4

*Enid: “OMG! I love the look! Interesting choice of date though.”*

*Wednesday: “I could say the same.”*

The acronym “**OMG**” is one form of slang that is most influenced by digital communication because of the way it is used. In that scene, Enid uses OMG not just as a substitute for “*Oh My God*” but as a marker of an expressive personality. Thus, the acronym slang in this series not only facilitates communication but also illustrates the relationships between characters.

The results of the study showed that female characters dominate the use of slang, but one type of slang, namely flippant, is used by male characters. These findings indicate that gender differences in the use of slang in the Wednesday series are not only in frequency but also in the selection of slang types.

## DISCUSSION

This study found that, in general, females use slang the most in the Wednesday Series. This is also in line with research by Kristy (2022), which revealed that every word spoken has its own characteristics for both females and males; however, females tend to use words with their own characteristics more than males. Therefore, it can be said that females tend to use a more varied range of language in everyday communication, and the opportunity to use slang words is also greater. This is in line with what Jihan (2024) stated in her research that females and males used slang differently because males tend to use slang to assert dominance and friendship in informal settings, while females use slang to navigate social interactions. However, the use of slang between females and males is also influenced by the situation and circumstances.

In this study, the use of flippant slang was more prevalent among males. The dominance of males in the use of flippant slang can be attributed to the fact that males tend to use sarcastic words to show toughness, as seen in the dialogues. In addition to all that, several factors also influence how females and males use slang words. This is in line with the research by Amir & Azisah (2017) that the number of males and females who use different slang is due to several factors, including conditions, mood, or who they are talking to. This showed that gender also has a considerable influence on how often slang is used. Interestingly, although female characters use slang more often overall, male characters rely more on this type of slang than other types in their conversations.

In contrast, female characters show strong dominance in the fresh and creative type of slang, which shows the active involvement of female characters in creating innovative words. From the fresh and creative kinds of slang, this type of slang is mostly used by female characters. Some examples of slang used by female characters here are “*howdy*,” “*gossip*

*queen*,” “*a wiki*,” and others. The pronunciation sounds like a new word, in line with the name fresh and creative, which females widely use, because they are known to be more expressive when chatting than males in creating slang words that sound new. According to the research findings of Schirmer et al. (2002), it was discovered that females exhibit more emotional processing of words compared to males, resulting in a greater number of words produced. Therefore, slang is easier to form due to the expressive nature of the speakers. Permata and Putra (2023) stated that slang allows speakers to express their feelings or recognize new language, as slang is a popular form of communication among certain groups. The dominance of female characters in this type of slang contradicts the assumption that females tend to use more standard language. Instead, this study shows that females play a role in shaping and spreading slang, especially among young people and in the media. Because females tend to be active and expressive in their communication, the chances of new slang being created and spread are also higher.

Another type is imitative. In this study, imitation was used more by females than by males. In this series, there was only a slight difference between males and females in their use of slang words containing imitative elements, such as “*Jezz*,” “*yahtzee*,” “*swing*,” and “*hummers*.” “*Imitative*” was used because it is simple and quick to pronounce. In this context, imitative slang, which is a form of imitation, can refer to commonly understood expressions that can strengthen social bonds in dialogue and explain why female characters tend to use it more than male characters. Slang is used to initiate casual conversations because it can be used comfortably and adds to the impression of those who use it (Achmad et al., 2023). Next is the clipping type, where female characters in this series use slang the most often, with a data acquisition of 5 points, and male characters with 6 points. Because the pronunciation is shorter than the previous words, this type tends to be used more by females. They are more comfortable using slang clippings because they are shorter and easier to pronounce. Pongsapan (2022) stated that people use slang because it facilitates communication as conversations become more relaxed and comfortable. However, it is important to consider who they are talking to, as not everyone accepts the use of slang.

Acronyms, a type of slang in the Wednesday series, are most commonly used by females. This study found slang such as “*OMG*,” “*Creepy AF*,” “*BS*,” and other words. In social life, this type of slang is used because it is quick to say, and teenagers tend to use it when communicating on social media. This is also revealed in the research by Jeresano & Carretero (2022) that slang used by teenagers can convey something quickly and easily to show their digital culture in communication. Slang is used more by female in this series to express their emotions. Among teenagers, slang serves as a means of expression and facilitates social connections in the digital age, easily reflecting their identity (Bahar et al., 2025). The greater use of acronyms by female characters indicates that they are portrayed as adaptable and responsive in their communication style.

These findings indicate that the teenage characters in the Wednesday series not only used slang more frequently but also demonstrated diversity and creativity in their use of slang in communication. Therefore, this illustrates that slang is dynamic and in line with gender based language used. Slang describes a dynamic nature that will continue to evolve from its use in various contexts (Indra & Marhamah, 2024). In addition, it shows that

television series such as Wednesday can serve as a valuable source of data for researching the language of a particular group, especially young people and gender representation.

## CONCLUSION

This study showed that slang can be used by both teenage females and males. The results of this study showed that overall, females used slang more than males. They used various types of slang. There is a difference in the types of slang used by each gender, with male characters tending to use flippant slang more often, while female characters use fresh and creative slang more often, as well as other types such as imitative, clipping, and acronyms. However, slang can be used according to the context and situation. This study is not only useful for linguistic studies but also for cultural and digital communication. This study not only answers questions about slang types in general but also considers gender as a factor in slang usage and contributes new insights into language for communication. Practically, the results can be integrated to train young people's understanding of slang variations for effective communication. Further research is recommended to involve other analyses discussing the evolution of slang and cross-cultural comparisons with other countries.

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