Slang expressions as a representative of Social Identity of Baghdadi Community

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المصطلحات العامية كممثل للهوية الاجتماعية للمجتمع البغدادي

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Abstract:-

Language is a tool of communication and it is basically a means of expressing human's feeling, emotions and needs. Basically, the form of language use can be divided into formal and informal settings depending on the context of situation. Besides, slang expressions are considered as being nonsensical words. Hence, slang is an informal way of communication which is described as vulgar or colloquial. Slang is an innovation of language change formed by particular group of people to reflect their social and cultural identity. Studies on the sociolinguistic study of slang in Baghdad's community have not received the attention of researchers. The study aims to gain an in-depth understanding of slang as a manifestation of a person's cultural and social identity of Baghdadi community. That is, to investigate the relationship between the slang expressions and social identity. It also aims to find out which are the commonly slang expressions used among Baghdadi community and what are their social and pragmatic functions. It also sheds light on examining the various motivations behind using these slang expressions since there is no relationship between these linguistic expressions and standard language. The study followed a mixture of qualitative and quantitative research method, including questionnaires. More specifically, the data collected for this study is a survey that systematized as a questionnaire in which these expressions are classified into different types according to their functions, taking into consideration the importance of context in interpreting their pragmatic meaning. As a result, the present study found that Baghdadi community has uniqueness since they utilized different slang expressions in their interaction. The most commonly slang expressions used are to show intimacy. The findings of the study showed that the context has an important role in providing a full understanding of the intended meaning of slang words. Ultimately, this paper revealed how the choice of these expressions is utilized differently depending on certain social and pragmatic functions.

Key Words: Sociolinguistic variation, Dialect, Slang, Social identity and Pragmatic meaning.

الملخص:-

تعتبر اللغة أداة تواصل وفي الأساس هي وسيلة تستخدم للتعبير عن مشاعر الانسان وعواطفه واحتياجاته. بشكل عام يمكن تقسيم استخدام اللغة الى استخدام رسمي (اللغة الفصحى) وغير رسمي حسب سياق الموقف. فضلا عن ذلك تعتبر التعابير العامية المستخدمة بين الناس خلال تواصلهم كلمات لا معنى لها في اللغة الفصحى. بالتالي فأن العامية هي طريقة غير رسمية للتواصل والتي توصف بأنها مبتذلة واللغة العامية تعتبر ابتكار لتغيير اللغة تشكله مجموعة معينة من الناس لتعكس هويتهم الاجتماعية والثقافية. ولم تحظ الدراسة الاجتماعية اللغوية للتعابير العامية في المجتمع البغدادي باهتمام الباحثين. لذلك فان هذه الدراسة تهدف الى فهم استخدام التعابير العامية كمظهر من مظاهر الهوية الثقافية والاجتماعية لأفراد المجتمع البغدادي: أي استكشاف أهمية هذه التعابير العامية وعلاقتها بالهوية الاجتماعية للفرد. كما توضح ماهي التعابير الأكثر استخداما بين افراد المجتمع البغدادي وماهي وظائفها الاجتماعية والبراغماتية. كما تسلط هذه الدراسة الضوء على اللهجة البغدادية ومعرفة الدوافع المختلفة وراء استخدام هذه التعابير حيث لا توجد أي علاقة بين هذه الكلمات واللغة الفصحى. وقد اعتمدت هذه الدراسة مزيجا من أسلوب البحث النوعي والكمي وبيانات حقيقية عن طريق الاستبيانات، وقد تم تصنيف هذه البيانات التي تم جمعها لهذه الدراسة الى مجموعات حسب وظائفها الاجتماعية ومعانيها الدلالية. إضافة لذلك لم تغفل الدراسة عن أهمية المعنى البراغماتي وطريقة استخدامها وموقف المجتمع منها. ونتيجة لذلك فقد وجدت الدراسة ان المجتمع البغدادي يتمتع بتفرد لاستخدامه مجموعة من التعابير والكلمات الغير مرتبطة باللغة الفصحى تبعا لأغراض اجتماعية وثقافية. وأيضا أظهرت هذه الدراسة ان استخدام هذه التعابير يعكس الهوية الاجتماعية والثقافية لأفراد المجتمع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التباين الاجتماعي، اللهجة، العامية، الهوية الاجتماعية، المعنى التداولي

Introduction:-

People use language as a tool of interaction since it expresses their feelings, emotions and needs. Basically, the form of language use can be divided into formal and informal settings depending on the context. However, the informal use of language hasn't received an adequate attention. Moreover, Language is the cornerstone of human interaction. It is a means of exchanging ideas and thoughts, it allows human to read, write and interact in the wider world around them. Furthermore, it is through language, humans learn their culture habits, conventions and behaviors. Fishman (1972:250) described language socially as "who speaks, what language, to whom, when and where". Through language, people can share their ideas, thoughts and feelings. Similarly, Hudson (1996) argues that language with its social function are the focus of sociolinguistics, a branch of linguistics which studies the relationship between language and society. Wardhaugh, (2006:24). Points out that sociolinguistics is a field of linguistic which attempts to explore how people use different varieties of speech depending on their social group and social class to which they belong.

Obviously, this emphasizes the idea that language and society are mutually connected. In other words, sociolinguistics determines the kind of language's form used by people, social factors and their functions to convey their linguistic and social meaning (ibid). As it is clarified by Mu'in et al (2019) that the use of language is influenced by certain social features like culture, social variables, conventions and context. The geographical and social factors play an important role in signalling specific variation of language particularly gender differences. Gender is a major component of identity as it is expressed by Wodak (1997) "it is not a pool of attribute possessed by a person, but something a person does". In this turn, gender cannot be denied or avoided in studying any variation of language.

According to Eckert (1997:8) youth are considered as linguistic movers of the community and the basic source of information about linguistic change. He further states that slang usage is a global phenomenon which starts from the tradition medium to the contemporary depends on the complexity of each society. In such

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مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
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case, slang language becomes as a sophisticated form of communication among their society. Slang form of communication is utilized to serve different functions depending on the context. Thus, the development of slang usage caused by historical, cultural and social tendencies of certain societies. It is resulted from a game of playing with words to renaming thigs among teenagers (Zhou & Fan: 2013). Hence, the present study attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What are the most commonly slang words used among Baghdadi community?

2. How is the social identity represented through the use of slang expressions?

2. What are the social and pragmatic functions of using slang expressions?

3. To what extent the usage of slang expressions is influenced by the context?

Literature review

Anderson and Trudge (1990:42) clarify different features of slang, one of them is the stylistic scale of many slang words ranges from colloquial to vulgar, it is typically utilized in informal situations, it also regarded as a diversity in vocabulary and idioms instead of grammar and pronunciation. In most cases, slang is basically referred to as vernacular in the sense that slang can be associated with particular social group such as criminals, workers and teenagers. According to the above, slang form may fall under the concept of colloquialism.

Mattiello (2005:9) admits that slang phenomenon begins to appear in the lives of teenagers because of the changing nature of language. Therefore, teenagers generate certain types of slang to promote and convey particular meaning. Certain social factors influence the use of slang especially the age, it has a major role among teenagers and college students. Slang is changed over time according to the development of the situation. In other words, slang is a phenomenon that is found in many languages, and it is widely used by Iraqi people specifically Baghdadi community. Although many educated people consider slang as a lower form of language. Iraqi people particularly in Baghdad city are

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مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ أب ٢٠٢٥م

considered as makers of good slang terms and vocabularies created in the popular trades since they may not follow their customs and traditions, they also challenge their conventions through adopting specific types of slang idioms.

Slang is defined as a variety of language which is influenced by particular social factors like social status, age, gender and identity, the appearance of this variety in one community is called slang. It is described as complex, inevitable language phenomenon. The variety of informal language usually occurs in a variety of non-standard situations of casual matters (Zhou and Fan:2013). Besides, this variety of language can be generated from conversations and interactions among the society itself. Grzenia (2005) illustrates that slang and jargon are treated as synonymous. However, jargon is sometimes extended to all forms of socially- restricted language. Yule (2006:260) defines slang as ''words or phrases that are used instead of more everyday terms among younger speakers and other groups with special interest. In this case, it means that slang is a word used in everyday communication to serve different functions or meanings among language users. Slang is a form of language which concerned with idiosyncratic existence of the community, so various expressions can be used by speakers of particular community. Nowadays, new slang terms and words begin to appear because of the development of social and cultural factors. In addition, those social factors help to create new slang vocabularies. Slang may have certain

characteristics: First, it is not part of standard language, it is also associated with particular social group. Second it is used widely by teenagers as a marker of an in-group. With this interpretation, it is important to say that slang is a highly informal way of speech which involves not only new coined words, but also new or extended meanings (Linhua:2006:40).

In the same vain, Crystal (2008:195) states that there is a relationship between slang, neologism and code mixing as being a highly informal way of speaking since it includes a high range of colloquial words as well as being produced with a flabby structure. This obviously indicates that slang is informal way of language which contrasted with a high formal language since it is characterized by the extensive use of complex syntactic structures (ibid). Therefore,

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مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
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slang is characterized by specific features that can be established at lexical, phonological, morphological and syntactic levels. slang is constantly added and created over time and its contextual usage is changed (Johnes,2009:152). Similarly, Adams (2009:23) illustrates that speakers can make use of different slang expressions to achieve particular social dynamics with people whom they are speaking. It can be seen that slang is more preferable in conversations because of the brevity, capacity and the accuracy. Another definition is introduced by Holmes (2013) that special factors often need to be included in any intercultural interaction. So, a wide range of social dimensions may need to be considered.

Apparently, these can be referred to as social distance, status and formality.   Accordingly, Colman (2014:3) describes slang as sloppy, ugly, trivial and vulgar despite the fact that users of slang form of language can be educated and uneducated individuals. Furthermore, Izmaylova et al. (2017) describe slang as one variety of language from sub culture which is adopted by speakers and it becomes a new vocabulary that would be used in daily communication. In this regard, slang is utilized not only to make conversation more diverse, attractive, but also it is difficult phenomenon since it has specific meaning and its meaning is embodied.

In sum, it is obviously noticed from the above definitions that slang is an aspect of sociolinguistics which is given a special attention according to its flexibility and dynamism. It also observed that the choice of slang expression is basically motivated by particular social factors and the contextual usage. In this case, it depends upon who uses it, in which community the user belongs to, and in what situation that occurs.

Slang and Social Identity

According to Tajfel & Turner's (1985) theory "Social Identity Theory", people try to classify themselves into different social categories like organizational membership of an organization, religious, gender, affiliation and age (Tajfel & Turner, 1985). In other words, slang contributes to the construction of different factors of social identity including gender, age and ethnicity. The relationship between slang and social identity is well established when the slang

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مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ آب ٢٠٢٥م

words are utilized by certain social group to reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within particular social group (Eble, 1996:11). Furthermore, slang expressions are employed to establish different social dimensions which are rarely related to particular social classes. In such case, slang serves not only as a marker of social identity, but also a cultural identity. In addition, it is adopted to denote various things like ethnicity, social status, gender and age. Hudson (2001:512) examined how the Asian American teens specified relationships between language, class, region and age. This study shows how Asian American identify themselves as "teachers and students of slang" where slang is used to create boundaries between all members of community not only teenagers and adults. The usage of slang is influenced by social and cultural norms, and people tend to use slang as a way of communication to differentiate themselves from others and to show their social identity (Adams 2009:410). This indicates that slang has a crucial role in shaping people's social interaction.

Another article by Leeman (2015:103) cited in (ibid) pointed out that "although identity has been long central in heritage language educational discourse, it is only recently that researchers have begun to investigate heritage learners' sense of themselves, as well as how identities are constructed, performed and represented in heritage language educational context".

Functions of Slang Expressions

Allan & Burridge (2006) suggest certain functions for using slang expressions in their conversation, it can be seen that slang is emerged and utilized by certain social group to indicate particular functions or meanings whether social or pragmatic functions and those functions are explained as the following:

1-To Formintmate atmosphere

Alternatively, slang can be utilized to relieve the relationship among strangers. In such case, it helps to reduce social distance and be more comfortable through their speech**.**

2.To Address

Speakers may use slang form of language to communicate with other speakers so that they can maintain their close relationship. The

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العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ أب ٢٠٢٥م

informal address is used here in order to make the relationship closed since there is no distance in their conversation.

3.Relax Conversation

One of the functions of adopting slang expression is to feel relax and free. Besides, speakers can use a lot of slang words and vocabularies especially those who have a close relationship. Thus they can feel more comfortable in their interaction.

4.Intimacy

As it is mentioned above slang can be used socially to serve different functions. In other words, language users tend to generate and adopt slang words with friends to indicate intimacy or solidarity of their social relationship. In most cases, slang language which is referred to as informal language used with friends contrary to formal language that is used widely with strangers.

5.Impression

Through conversations people may express feelings and thoughts. However, the speaker often tends to use slang expressions and idioms to show a good or bad impression about something and to reflect his/her style of speech. This function is considered as a reflection of impression.

6.Humiliate

One of the major functions of using slang expression among particular community specifically Baghdadi's community is mocking. With the association of sociolinguistic functions of slang, pragmatic also plays a major role in interpreting the meaning of slang expressions. The tendency to express disfavour or unpleasant feelings of the speakers towards someone or something can be represented obviously by employing certain slang vocabularies.

The Link between slang, Context and Culture

The choice of appropriate slang expression or rule is determined by particular context. Scholars have contributed significantly to the concept of slang, one of them is Samovar et.al (2007:280) argue that rules are "a followable perception that indicates what behaviour is obligated, preferred or prohibited in certain context". It is important here to mention the "context of culture" due to the fact that there is a

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August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

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مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ آب ٢٠٢٥م

relationship between the "context of culture" that is referred to as 'register' and the context of situation "genera". Halliday and Hasan (1985:41) describe register as a variation while genera as register plus purpose. Another view is introduced by Thompson by saying "it is something located at higher level than register'.' In other words, it is associated with context of culture rather than context of situation (Thompson, 1996:36). Halliday et.al (1985:42) argue that context of situation is part of what is called as context of culture.

To convey its meaning and functions, slang expressions should be used in utterances and the meaning of the utterance is being recognized in the context of situation. Linguists have become increasingly aware of the importance of the context in the interpretation of sentences. In addition, slang terms may influence the social relations when it is used in particular context (Firth, 1957) Accordingly, Coleman (2014:42) emphasizes the importance of the context in interpreting the meaning of the individual slang expressions. Another view is introduced by Adams (2009:6) says that certain fields may influence the use of slang in particular context like the social, biological, cultural and aesthetic elements of human experience. Thus, it is clear from the mentioned views that context of situation plays a major role in interpreting and constructing the choice of slang expressions, it is also seen that usage of slang terms and vocabularies is influenced by the social experience and linguistic behavior.

Methodology

After a survey conducted on a group of Baghdadi informants numbered (70), aged between 16 and 23 years old using data collecting samples and the results have been obtained. An important point should be highlighted here is that, informants are chosen randomly. They do not represent any type of linguistic, social or membership group. More importantly, the questions in the survey focused on four main points: first, what are the most common slang expressions among those informants? Second, where and when these expressions are used? In such case, it suggests that these expressions are definitely influenced by the context. Three, how these slang words serve a role to show their social identity? Fourthly, what are the motivations behind using these expressions? Finally,

The Islamic University College Journal
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مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ _ أب ٢٠٢٥م

the survey will show the social and pragmatic functions of using them.

The survey is based on oral questions to clarify Baghdadi informants use of slang in their real life situations. Moreover, the questions obtained serve the goal of seeking information about the use of this phenomenon and the main cause of using them. Furthermore, informants are also questioned about the community acceptance or rejection and their awareness or unawareness towards slang expression. Slang expressions and their functions will be analyzed and interpreted according to Allan & Burridge's theory (2006) "the classification of slang" in which slang is classified into five main groups according to its social functions including: slang expressions to formintmate atmosphere, slang expressions to address, slang expressions to show relax, slang expressions to show intimacy and slang expressions to show impression. All these types show distinct types of pragmatic functions based on the intended meaning of the speaker and the interpretation of the listener as well as the role of context in identifying the pragmatic meaning of these expressions.

Data Analysis

As earlier illustrated under methodology, a total of (70), aged between 16 and 23 years old (males and females) using data collecting samples. Informants were randomly chosen to clarify their usage of slang expressions in their real life situations. The data is shown in tables as follows:

Table: (1) Slang expressions to formintmate atamosphere

Slang expression	Literal meaning	Pragmatic function
بوساتي	My kisses	To show love
بعد جبدي	meaningless	To praise
فدوة	meaningless	To express preference
عادي	Normal	To show relief
ميخالف	It's ok	Agreement
حباب /حبابة	Meaningless	Mince matters
حبيبي/حبيبتي	My love	To show love
سباعية	Strong woman	To praise\ to encourage

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مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ آب ٢٠٢٥م

In this table slang expressions are all used to express formintmate atmosphere, yet they differ in their function and the way in which they are used. To start with,   examine the word بوساتي is used just between friends to show love and cannot be used with people from different social classes. Another slang expression which is used to praise a member of a family or a friend is جبدي بعد. فدوة is a slang expression which can be used between friends, family members and even with strangers to praise or to ask for a help. The word عادي is highly workable slang expression between friends, among family members and with strangers. This word is used mostly to relief others by saying what happened is normal and don't worry. ميخالف is a slang expression that expresses the idea of agreement and it is used by friends, family members and strangers. The expressions حباب/ حبابة حبيبي/ حبيبتي are so close in meaning in a matter, when they are used between friends mainly and among family members but rarely with strangers. The last expression is سباعية this expression has double meanings. To praise (she did well in a work or an exam so she is praised). To encourage (she didn't do well in an exam or some works for instance so she is called. سباعية to be encouraged.

Table: (2) Slang expressions to address

Slang expression	Literal meaning	Pragmatic function
قلبي	My heart	To address and attract attention
هي	Hey	To attract attention
اكَلَك/ اكَلِچ	I ask you	To start a conversation
باوع /باوعي	Look at me	Attracting attention
فدوة	meaningless	Praise
تخيل/ تخيلي	Just imagine	To describe something
حبيبة	My lovely girl	Addressing with praise
حباب/ حبابة	Kind	To order kindly
خالي\خالة	My uncle/ my aunt	To address
حجية	An old woman(a nick name)	To address

In the above table most of the slangs are used to address, but they all differ in their meaning, to whom they uttered and the degree of intimacy with the listener. At the first glance you may be deceived of the word قلبي by saying it to show love and intimacy. In fact, the word قلبي is used by Baghdadi informants to address or to call someone and attract his/her attention it is used mainly between

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August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

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مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ آب ٢٠٢٥م

friends. Another slang هيwhich is used mainly between friends and sometimes between sisters but cannot be used with strangers at all because it is considered as an insult. The word اكلج is used between friends and family members to seek information from other participants but informants are not able to use it with strangers. The expression فدوة has a special meaning which is different from its meaning in table(1), here the expression is used to praise a participant(s) for doing something. The expression اتخيل/ تخيلي is used most of the time between Baghdadi girls to describe a situation with attracting attention. The expression حبيبية is also used widely by friends, family members and strangers. With strangers, this expression is used to attract attention. Meanwhile, Baghdadi girls use the wordحبابة to order a friend for doing something and it is used between sisters in the family, and not for strangers or old people. Baghdadi boys utilized the wordحباب for the same function mentioned earlier. The last slang expressions خالي/خاله،حجية are all used between friends only to address.

Table (3) Slang expressions to show Relax

Slang expression	literal meaning	Pragmatic meaning
كعدي راحة	Be comfortable	Relax and do nothing
من صدك	Reality	To conclude
تمام	Ok	To accept with relaxation
افصلي	Separate	Leave everything aside and relax
يمعود	Meaningless	To relax
بنيتي	My daughter	Strong intimacy
ضلعي/ضلعتي	My rib	Strong intimacy
صاكه	Frozen	A beautiful girl
حقيرة	Despicable	Disfavor

This table gathers the most common relaxing expressions used among

Baghdadi informants. To start with, the expressionكعدي،راحة is used to make other parties stop doing something. It might be understood as caution or advice mainly between friends and never be used with strangers. Yet, this slang expression express relation function. To clarify more, this expression من صدكis another slang expression whose meaning based essentially on the context. It is used between friends, family members and with strangers. If

The Islamic University College Journal
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August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

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مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ آب ٢٠٢٥م

someone utters من صدك to someone else, it means he/she concludes something.

The expressionتمـام is used to between friends, family members and with strangers. This expression shows nearer in meaning to the expression نعم (yes). Since it can be used formally. The expression افصـليis a slang expression that serves as relaxation function among friend who share a high degree of intimacy. This expression is mainly used to calm other parties in a group of friends. The expressionيمعودis used among friends to relax someone in a group that he/she is nervous or in a bad mode. Yet, it can be used with strangers to ask them to change their mind concerning something. The expressionsبنيتي،ضلعي/ضلعتيare used among friends to show a high degree of intimacy, but cannot be used with strangers. Eventually, the last two expressionsصاكه،حقيرة are both used to describe but they both carry different denotations. On one hand, the wordصاكهis used to describe a beautiful girl, be a friend, a family member or a stranger. It has good denotation. On the other hand, the wordحقيرهis used to describe a despicable person. It has bad denotation.

Table (4) Slang expressions to show Intimacy

Slang expression	Literal meaning	Pragmatic function
ولي	Go away	Disagreement with mocking
انجبي	Shut up	Disagreement
عرمة	Rude	Strong woman
رعنة	Thoughtless	Disfavor
عيارة	Meaningless	Description
وجه الجوب	A plastic face	Description
حبابة	Kind	To praise
خالي\خالة	My uncle\ my aunt	To show intimate relationship
سجاج	A person who is studying most of the time	To praise
توأمي	My twin	To show intimate relationship
ضلعي	My rib	To show strong intimate relation
رفيجتي	My close friend	To show love and intimacy

There are specific words used among informants which show a high degree of   intimacy. To begin with, the wordوليis used mostly among friends to show disagreement with mocking and at the same time it shows intimacy and it cannot be uttered among strangers. The expressionانجبيis used among friends only to express disagreement,

The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D ــ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلّة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ أب ٢٠٢٥م

despite this expression expresses intimacy among friends, yet it can be understood as an insult. The word عرمة is used to show intimacy and to describe a strong woman. For example, this expression shows intimacy between friend and it may be used to describe a strange woman to express strengths and independency.

The expression رعنة describes a thoughtless girl and used mainly among friends and to express disfavor towards an opinion or behavior committed by someone. It can be said, it is used to criticize a strange person and to show intimacy among friends. The two expressions وجه الجوب and عيارة are both used for description but one of them describes physical shape and the other describes behavior. On the one hand, the expression عيارة describes a girl whose behavior is silly or shows the opposite of what is common in a situation. On the other hand, وجه الجوب describes someone whose's face is disfavored . It shows intimacy among friends, a friend can describe another friend by saying   وجه الجوب , but it cannot be used among strangers. An expression can be used among friends to show intimacy and at the same-time to praise is the expression حبابة. This expression is also used to praise a stranger. The expression خالي/خالة are both used to call a friend, which expresses intimate relationship among friends. The expression جاسم is used to praise a person who is studying most of the time which reflect intimate relationship among friends. Yet both of them cannot be used with strangers. The last slang expression in this table is تؤامي, in reality this expression shows a high degree of intimacy between friends and cannot be used among other group of Baghdadi informants in general or strangers in particular. In addition, there is a repletion for the word (ضلعي) as showing relax and also intimacy relationship, this shows how the role of context is important in using slang to serve different social and pragmatic functions. The last expression is (رفيجتي) which is adopted to show a strong and close friendly relationship.

Table (5) Slang expressions to show Impression

Slang expression	Literal meaning	Pragmatic function
صوجك/ صوجچ	Your fault	To blame
طرگاعة	Big problem	To blame
مستحيل	Impossible	To express shock
شتگول/شتكولين	What do you say	To ask for an opinion
حرفياً	Exactly	Agreement

The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ آب ٢٠٢٥م

ميخالف	It's Ok	Agreement
معليك/ معليچ	Don't interfere	Disagreement
مچكنم	A small thing	Description
يجنن /تجنن	So nice/so beautiful	Description
قفاص/ قفاصة	Hustler	Description

As it is seen in the above table which is concerned with the impression that someone has toward others. For instance, the word صوجك/صوجچ expresses a high degree of disappointment toward others and it is most commonly used among friends to blame. At the same time the word طرگاعة shows the same denotation, and also used among friends to describe a difficult situation caused by someone of them. It is worthy to note that both slangs are not used among strangers. Another slang expression is مستحيل this expression is used among Baghdadi informants to express shock during the course of the conversation. The expressions شتگول/شتگولين are used to ask for an opinion and also advice. To clarify more friends use these expressions if they are in need for advice concerning something or if they ask their parents opinion. Two contrastive expressions described in the above table are حرفيا/ميخالف which are used to express agreement. The other group involve the expressions معليك/معليچ which expresses disagreement. These two contrastive groups are generally used among Baghdadi informants between friends, yet only the agreement expressions can be used with strangers. The last group of expression demonstrate the descriptive function. On one hand, the expressions يجنن/تجنن,مچكنم are used among informants to refer to a good denotation which is describing a small or cute thing, a beautiful girl or a handsome boy. On the other hand, the expressions قفاص/قفاصة refers to bad description. These expressions are used among friends to describe strangers without been knowing.

Table (6) Slang expressions to show Humiliation

Slang expression	Literal meaning	Pragmatic function
لئيمة	Stupid	Description
شلونك انت/شلونج انتي	How are you	Disagreement
كلاوات	Lies	Mocking
ملطلط / ملطلطة	Flatter person	Mocking
قشمر	Misled easily	Mocking
كرنج	Cringe	Mocking
نحيسة	Meaningless	Unpleasant feeling
تتگنگ	Choosey	Unpleasant feeling

The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ آب ٢٠٢٥م

تس	Evil / snake	Unpleasant feeling
كافي	Stop	Disfavor
يهمبل	Exaggerating	Disfavor

The above table of slang expression usage encompasses a various types of functions. The first slang expressions areالئيم/الئيمة which are in general used to describe someone and in particular to express humiliation. It is used among friends only. The second slang expressionsشلونك انت/شلونج انتي that seem at the first sight to be used in order to ask about the manner of a person. In fact, theses phrases are used to describe disagreement among friends and to ask about the person's manner among strangers. The rest of slang expressions are divided into three main groups. The first group comprises those slang expressions which shows mocking. كرنج،قشمر،ملطلطة/ملطلط،كلاواتare all used among Baghdadi informants between friends only and never be used with strangers. The second group includes expressions which create unpleasant feeling towards another participant. The slangs تس،تنگنگ،نحيسةare used among friends to describe another one which in fact reflects unpleasant feeling toward others. The last group involves the expressions that reveal disfavor toward others كافيis mainly used to stop a disfavored conversation.

يهمبلis used among Baghdadi informants to describe a person who is exaggerating in his speech which in turn reflects disfavor toward other people. All of the expressions in this table if and only if they are used among friends to describe each other, they are used for joking.

Motivations	Percentage
Build a cohesive identity	60%
Social media	20%
Secret code between friends	13%
Creates a secret group	7%

Table (7): The percentage of different motivations for the usage of slang expressions of Baghdadi informants

After examining the responses of Baghdadi informants, it is obviously noted that informants used various and different motivations behind using slang expressions as it is shown in table (7).

The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ أب ٢٠٢٥م

Accordingly, this table shows that the highest range of statistics is 60% for showing their identity . This means that most Baghdadi informants are frequently using slang expressions to express their identity. Social media has the second highest percentage shown by the number 20%. Of course, social media plays a role in the process of changing slang expressions. Baghdadi informants often imitate persons they follow on their social media like facebook, Instagram, twitter….etc, that's why new slang expressions are used to be just like a trend. During their harmony with others, 13% of Baghdadi informants adopt a limited number of slang expressions to be a secret code among them and it cannot be shared with others. The lowest percentage that forms 7% of the total number is related to those informants who share a group of slang expressions which are not allowed to be shared with the common society. To clarify more, this group of informants may use words that carry bad denotations to show intimacy. In this case, the social identity of Baghdadi informants appears clearly through their use of these expressions and because of their wide use of these expressions, it is considered as a language which can be communicated among the group. It also reveals that females used slang words more than males in their interaction.
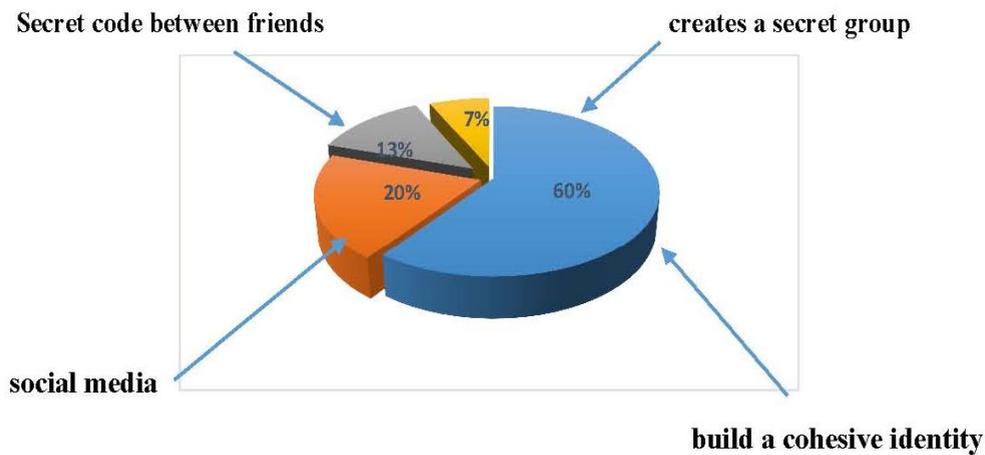

Figure (1): Rates of Appearance of different motivations for the usage of slang expressions of Baghdadi informants

The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
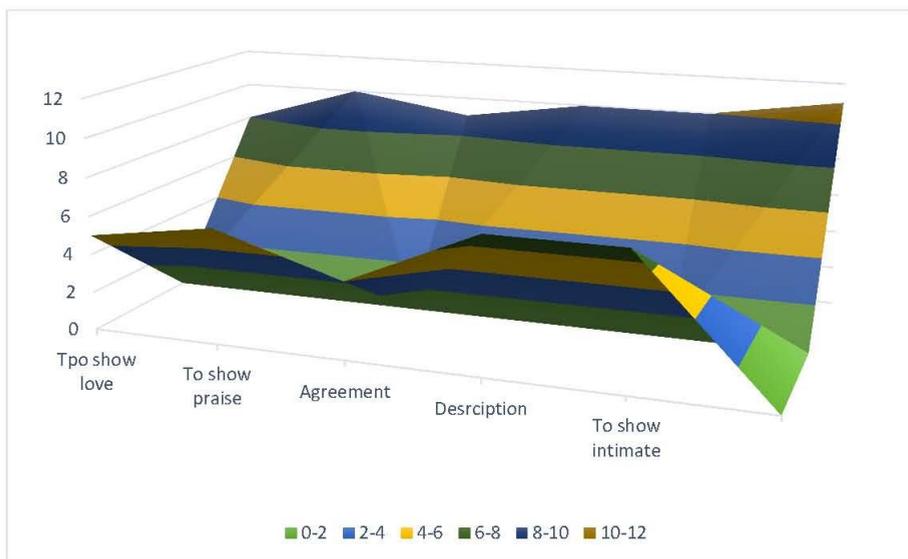ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ أب ٢٠٢٥م

Figure (2): Rates of Appearance of the most pragmatic functions of slang

As it is observed in the above figure that percentage of the most pragmatic functions for using slang expressions among Baghdadi people which are (to show love, to show praise, agreement, description and to show intimacy). Most people employ different slang expressions to serve these functions, don't forget that the interpretation of these expressions depends on the context and certain cultural and social factors. It is not only these functions are obtained, but also various functions are achieved through using different slang expressions like blame, encouragement, relax, disfavor, etc. The below table shows the frequency and percentage of the social functions of slang usage between males and females.

Social functions of slang	Frequencies	Percentages
Formintmate atmosphere	8	13%.33
To address	10	16%.66
Relax conversation	9	15%.0
Intimacy	12	20%.0
Impression	10	16%.66
Humiliation	11	18%.33
Total	60	100%

Table (8): The Frequencies and Percentages of Slang usage between Males and Females

The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D ــ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
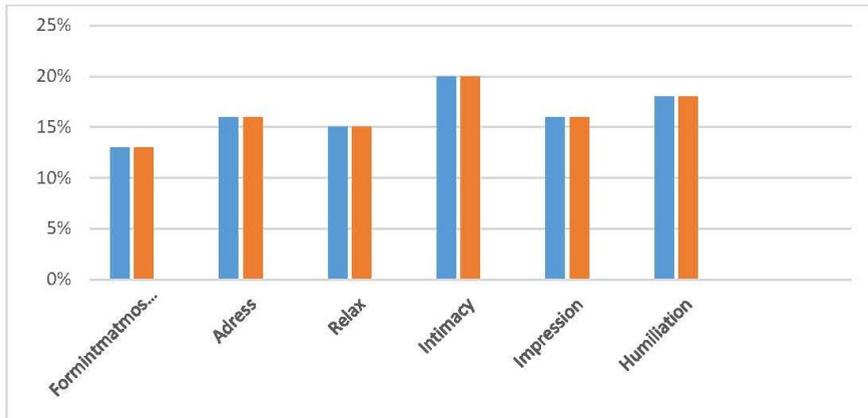ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ أب ٢٠٢٥م

Figure (3): Rates of Appearance of slang expression distributed between Males and Females

As it is seen that the most social function obtained through adopting different slang expressions is intimacy which scored (20%), these expressions are widely used by females than males. The second heights range represents expressions that reflect humiliation which scored more than 15%. However, these expressions are also used by females more than males. More importantly, social functions of impression and address seem to be at the same scale. These two functions score more than 15% but less than 20%. The slang expressions that are used to make impression and to address are commonly used by males and females at approximately the same range. In essence, females are superior to females in using slang expressions which reflect relaxing mode. The other social function is address which scored 15%. The lowest range scored among these six functions is attached with formintmate atmosphere which scored less than 15% but more than 10% and are commonly used among females rather than males.

Discussion:-

After the analysis of data, it is found that language is variable and ever-changing. As a result, language is not uniform or constant in its usage. Rather, it is inconsistent and varied for individuals within particular group of society or even with groups of speakers who use the same language. Hence, the usage of slang is truly influenced by the context and certain social factors. Slang is an innovation of

The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D ــ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هــ ــ أب ٢٠٢٥م

language change which is influenced by particular social factors like social status, age, gender and identity. It is also important to mention here the forming of slang terms, after analyzing slang expressions according to semantic, pragmatic and social functions. It has been observed that some slang expressions follow word formation processes. Apparently, the first word formation process is **coinage**, for example the words ملطلط\ملطلط are slang expressions used by Baghdadi informants to refer to a flatter person, this none exist slang expressions seem to be currently used among informants that's why it is described as coinage. Another word formation process is **borrowing** for example, the Arabic slang expression كرنج is borrowed from English language and used for the same purpose. Moreover, the slang expression تس echoes a snake sound whereby Baghdadi informants use this slang expression to describe evil. Besides, morphological processes are also gained within slang expressions. The first one is derivation, slang expressions like قفاص\قفاصة undergo affixation process to form a feminine out of masculine by adding (ة) to signify "a flatter girl" and "a flatter boy". This is also applicable to the slang expressions حباب\حبابة whereby the word حبابة has undergoes the morphological process of derivation to form feminine out of masculine to relief a relationship among strangers or to address someone. Syntactic structure has also taken their role in forming slang expressions this can be exemplified by the phrase كعدي راحة, the phrase is formed by compounding two parts of speech (verb+noun) to signify relaxation. In addition, the expression من صدك, is formed by combining (preposition+adjective) which also serves relaxation function.

Conclusions:-

The study has arrived at a better understanding of the usage of slang as a socio-pragmatic phenomenon used among Baghdadi dialect. To summaries the important findings of this study, the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the data elaborated the following points:

1. Slang is a means of communication, interaction and having fun among Baghdadi informants.

2. Informant often use slang expressions as secret code between friends.

The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ـ آب ٢٠٢٥م

3. Baghdadi informants build a cohesive identity and separate social group from the community through the use of slang expressions.

4. Context plays an important role in interpreting the meaning of slang expressions since some slang words has good denotation or bad denotation relating to the context in which it is uttered.

5. Most of slang words cannot be used in dialogue with some who is old aged, has high rank in society or even the parents.

6. Social media is a great support for continually new slang words among informants. Friends spend most of their time chatting or commenting, or watching the latest hit (trend) on social media for this reason slang expressions become part of Baghdadi informants competence.

7. Baghdadi informants use of slang expressions make them reflect a social identity which is different from the social identity of other groups among another community. Shortly, slang expressions identify the social identity.

8. Slang expressions seem to express double meanings depending on the situation and the circumstances in which they uttered.

9. Slang expressions that describe humiliation seems to reflect a bad feeling unless these are used among friends. To clarify more, Baghdadi informants use these slang expressions for joking or as a secret code between them which could not reflect disfavor among one another.

10. Examining the responses of Baghdadi informants shows different motivations behind using slang expressions as it is illustrated in table (7).

11. According to these findings, slang is considered as a language nowadays and communicated through particular social group, specifically females, they used slang words widely than males in their communication.

The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ أب ٢٠٢٥م

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The Islamic University College Journal
No. 84 : Part 3
August 2025 A.D _ Rabii1 1447 A.H

ISSN 1997-6208 Print
ISSN 2664 - 4355 Online

مجلة الكلية الإسلامية الجامعة
العدد ٨٤ : الجزء ٣
ربيع الأول ١٤٤٧هـ ــ أب ٢٠٢٥م

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