



Exploring Gay Lingo in Some Selected OPM Songs

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed at investigating the selected Original Pinoy Music songs namely; (1)“Manhid ka” by Vice Ganda, (2)“Hindi ako Bakla” by Michael V., (3)“Modelong Charing” by Blackdyak, (4)“Chaka Nya” by Michael V., (5)“Boom Karakaraka” by Vice Ganda, (6)“Babae Po Ako” by Tuesday Vargas, (7)“Wag Kang Pabebe” by Vice Ganda, (8) “Gaya Gaya Puto Maya” by Pokwang, (9)“Bonggahan” by Sampaguita, (10)“Dodong Charing” by 1017, (11)“Bambambam” by Karencitta and (12) “Supah Papalicious” by Vhong Navarro. The study utilized the descriptive qualitative design which greatly focuses on understanding and involves discovering the Gay lingo terms that can be found in some selected OPM songs. Its objective is to bridge the understanding of the community towards gay lingo for it nowadays create an undeniably participation in the music industry as well as the movie and online world. It also aimed at providing explanations on the meanings underlying the gay lingo terms that have been used in the songs and had become trending expressions in the present community. The goal was to show the gay lingo terms that are present in the selected songs, the meanings underlying these terms, and how they are used in each song. To address these aspects, the gay lingo terms were identified and studied relying on the theory of semiotics that reveals the meaning of the terms and queer theory which explains that language alone provides the true identity of the gay community. The present study showed that there are various gay lingo terms utilized in some selected Original Pinoy Music songs and it also displayed some characteristics of the Gay lingo based on the uses of the terms in the selected OPM songs. Furthermore, the study present further revealed that the identified Gay lingo terms were utilized as creative description of things and were also used for concealment of property of the gays’ language.

Keywords : Gay Lingo; OPM; Songs

1 INTRODUCTION

Gay lingo or “Swardspeak” is an argot slang used commonly by homosexuals in the Philippines; it deliberately transforms or creates words that resemble words from other languages, particularly English and Filipino. This is wildly used by Gays particularly to have distinct meaning that only they can understand. It has different varieties of word depending on how the speaker constructs his sentence when communicating.

Today’s modern generation, many youth are engaged in different languages. Some of us have experienced being near to a group of gays who were talking in quite a different language and you were surprised that you could understand some of the words they were saying. That language is what we called gay lingo but in 1970s, it is Swardspeak.

Gay lingo can be considered as a linguistic phenomenon that has its own discourse (Baker, 2002). It has also been widely used in the entire country as for in only requires fast decoding of the word that has been scrambled, added more letters, adding “sh”, “s”, even other

genders are also interested and aware about it. Rafael (2010) stated that gay language is the most unstable and malleable of all language.

Gay lingo has really gone a long way since the start of the 21st century. The propagation of this language and form of communication is unstoppable. A once not- so- secret language used solely by gays is now infiltrating both worlds of the media and the academe. Its exclusivity to gays, much to our diva’s dismay, is now broken and gay lingo is being used by every girl, closet gays, young and old, and even straight guys in town. Almost everyone could speak and use this once hard to break “code of communication”. Everyone could not escape the alluring and colorful language used by gays. Funny, witty, creative yet irreverent all at the same time was how people describe this language.

Language is an art and it constantly changes, it embraces the new generation’s jargons. Languages evolve, new words are created others disappear. The freedom of the gay language allows it to be a good subject for a study on the grammatical rules involved with this be-

cause the language is free from the dictates of the society. The language's continuous update on words that also constantly reaches the masses that are exposed to the language. Gay language is also an influence not only to the youth but also to adults. Gay lingo is one of the jargons of new generation that sets the communication private especially to the homosexuals that is the main speaker of the language. Gay language is not just a language used to hide secrets of anyone but it can also be a creative ingredient for arts like music.

OPM or also known as "Music of the Philippines" are songs composed and sang by Filipino artists. This has no specific genre but instead it is composed of different various genre or styles, having been mixed with influences from the music of Asia, Latin America, and U.S. There are two types of OPM, first is the traditional OPM which is the songs used in "harana", folkdances and songs with the use of gongs and drums, and second is the Modern OPM which has produced a lot of recording artists that have become legends in the OPM industry. Say for example, Gary Valenciano who is known for his upbeat and religious songs, iconic band eraser heads for its catchy hits, and Aegis for their amazing rock performances.

Although very different when it comes to the tune and style, this traditional and modern Filipino music contribute to the culture that we have here in the Philippines as we make use of talent in the music industry.

Moreover, nowadays it is noticeable that the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) community has an active participation in the music industry. Hence, this piece of work wishes to reveal the presence of gay language in the numerous song lyrics by Filipino artists. This study is anchored with Queer Theory by Leap (1996). This theory is associated with the lavender linguistics which is a term used by linguistics and advanced by William Leap (1996) to describe the study of language as it is used by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) speakers. Lavender languages and linguistics, homosexuals communicate with each other in ways that are "different from the linguistic practices of non-lesbian/gay-identified persons".

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Design

This study utilized the descriptive qualitative design which greatly focuses on identifying the gay lingo terms that can be found in some selected OPM songs, describing their meanings and discussing their usage in the songs. The analysis of the materials will be confined based on the principles of queer and semiotic theories.

2.2 Research Procedures

The researchers have observed, and abided some procedures in this literary study. The researchers had first gathered the literary pieces relevant for the study specifically the OPM songs with gay lingo terms as used.

Theories and approaches, or principle were applied to bring about the analysis and to made this study be realized

2.3 Research Materials

The researchers have chosen songs that are observed with the presence of gay lingo. The OPM songs that are part of the research are

discussed in the following:

The song "Manhid Ka" was sung and composed by the Pinoy "unkabogable star" Jose Marie Vicala or simply Vice Ganda. This song was released last 2013 a part of his self-titled album under Star Records. "Manhid Ka" had been throughout the country because it has been the theme song for the Filipino Dub of the Korean television program "Wish Upon A Star" that is aired on Abs-Cbn.

"Boom Karakarakaka" was also a part of the songs under the self-titled album of Vice Ganda that was released last 2013. This song was nominated on the Awit Awards for Best Dance Recording and used as theme song of the second highest grossing movie of June 2013 "Bromance" that garnered P72.6 million at the box office for 3 weeks. The song had gone too far in the entertainment and music industry as its official music video by Abs-Cbn Star Music had reached 1.2 million views on YouTube.

Karencitta, an outbreak female singer from Cebu City had released her song entitled "BamBamBam" as part of her album "Cebuana Persuasion" released last January 2019. The song shocked the online world as the "Cosmopolitan Philippines" reported that the song had hit 1.5 million viewers in two days, this proves the song's fame, the official music video was shoot and featured the famous Sinulog Festival and now, the song had reached almost 2M views on YouTube.

Part of the album released by Star Music entitled "Album Na May Puso" was the song "Gaya Gaya Puto Maya" that is sung by Pokwang and composed by Christian Martinez. This song was released last 2016 by Star Music.

"Boom Panes" was one of the best hit of Vice Ganda, this song was a part of the album titled "#trending" that is released last 2016 and nominated as Awit Award for Best Novelty Recording. This song was composed by the singer Vice Ganda inspired by his famous expression on the noontime show "Showtime" which is "Boom Panes". The song was the theme song of one of the highest grossing Pinoy movie of all time "The Amazing Praybeyt Benjamin" that has the top gross of P440 M, these is an evidence of the song's popularity.

After the viral video of the girls from Bulacan, Philippines that is named "Pabebe Warriors", Vice Ganda was motivated to compose a song entitled "Wag Kang Pabebe" that was released last 2015 by ABS-CBN Star Music and nominated as Best Novelty Recording on Awit Award. The song had reached its stardom as it reaches 12 million views on YouTube on its official music video.

Blackdyak that was also known as the "King of Pinoy Reggae" released an album "Noon at Ngayon" and one of the highlight songs in the album is "Modelong Charing" that led the album to a Platinum Record Award. This song has been noticeable in karaoke gatherings and concerts and surprisingly a recorded concert of Blackdyak that was uploaded in the YouTube had reached 3 million views.

The song "Chaka Nya" was part of the album "The Bubble G Anthology" that is sung and composed by Michael V., released last 2006 by GMA Music and nominated as Awit Award for Best Selling Album of the Year. The song was a part of the spoofs on the hit show "Bubble Gang".

"Hindi Ako Bakla" was also part of the album "The Bubble G Anthology" that was also composed and sung by Michael V., this song was renowned for two major award nomination specifically:

Best Award for Novelty Recording and Awit Award for Best Dance Recording in the year 2006.

Sampaguita or also known as Tessy Alfonso, is a pinay rock singer from the Philippines, active during the 1970's and 1980's. Sampaguita had released several albums and songs that went successful and now considered classics. She is also dubbed as the queen of Filipino rock music. The song "Bonggahan" released in the year 1978 thru Blackgold records in the Philippines, and this song was written by Garry Perez and produced by Nilo Santos.

"Babae Po Ako" one of the biggest novelty hit songs around the turn of the millennium, sung by Maricel Sarangelo Placido better known her stage name as Tuesday Vargas. Tuesday Vargas is a comedian, an actress and a singer and has been part of the music industry for far longer than most people know. And yes, she was also the one who replace the lead singer of the 90's sky band. Her album was being released on January 2014 and label as PolyEast records and received an Awit Awards for Novelty Album of the year. But Tuesday's musical career never really ended.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Out of the researchers' meticulous analysis of the selected OPM songs, the following summarized findings are arrived at:

In the song "Manhid Ka" by Vice Ganda, the gay lingo terms that are present in the song are *bet na bet* that means *extremely wanted* and *shonga* which means *stupid*. These terms are used in the song to express feelings of admiration as well as ironical statements of disappointment.

Then the song "Hindi Ako Bakla" by Michael V. has the gay lingo terms *echos*, *chika*, *bruha* and *ching*. *Echos* is a term used by gays as rebuttal to an unbelievable situation, this is to avoid offensive remarks to the listener, rumors that is commonly false information is the meaning of the term *chika*, *bruha* describes image of an ugly person and *ching* is used as an expression to mean 'never mind'. The gay lingo present in this song are gay words that are commonly used to negatively describe the toxic rumor spreaders this is also a way of delivering indirect statements.

In the third song "Chaka Nya" by Michael V., the discovered gay lingo terms *chaka*, *gurang*, and *bading*. *Chaka* is associated with not so good looks or ugly personality. Oldies or old look is the hidden meaning of *gurang* and *bading* is a branch term for gays sometimes a subject or adjective used to bully gays. The gay terms evident in the song was used to intensify and exaggerate a negative descriptions to a certain person.

In the song "Karakaraka" by Vice Ganda the gay lingo words present in the song are *karakaraka* which means 'to hurry' and *pagpag* to order somebody to get ready. These terms were used in the song to add up energy and liveliness in the lyrics as the term *karakaraka* was repeatedly used in the song.

The song "Babae Po ako" by Tuesday Vargas contains the gay lingo terms *girlaloo* which is a word to describe a woman who is mistakenly called as gay because her gay attributes, and the second term is *shokla* which is a gay lingo slang for the word 'gay'. The terms were used in the song to bully and to conceal the description that might offend the described persona.

The song entitled "Wag Kang Pabebe" by Vice Ganda was spot-

ted with the gay lingo term *pabebe* that means *overacting* or this is commonly described a person with unrealistic reaction. The gay lingo term in the song was used to talk about the negative behavior of today's youth.

In the song "Gaya Gaya Puto Maya" by Pokwang the gay lingo terms that were noticed are *sinetch* - 'who', *etech* - 'him' or 'this', and *keri* - 'okay' or 'fine'. The set of gay words that are present in the song are used to conceal the statement towards the listener; this covers the negative effect of the message.

The song "Bonggahan" by Sampaguita was noted with the gay lingo term *bongga* which means impressive and has been widely used to describe a performance of an excellent person. This term was used in the song as a motivation to make oneself do its best and be impressive every time and erase the negativities around.

The song "Dodong Charing" by 1017 was sighted with the gay lingo term *charing* which denotes a joke or describing a statement which is a plain joke. This term was used in the song as a revelation to a big secret about a gay who had pretended to be a girl.

In the song "BamBamBam" by Karencitta the gay lingo that has been observed are *bayet*, *keri*, *maya*, *shudi*, and *mangelal*. *Bayet* was also a slang term of gays that is derived from the Cebuano term *bayot* (gay), *keri* is an expression and sometimes is used as a question if someone is okay, *maya* means 'short' that comes from the Cebuano term *gamay*, while *shudi* means 'not' is a slang term derived from the Cebuano term 'dili' and lastly is the word *mangelal* which means to find boys or boy-hunting. The terms were used in the song to describe, conceal, and flirt, and the terms were used for exclusivity of the information in the conversation.

Finally, in the song "Supahpapalicious" by Vhong Navarro, the gay lingo terms that are evident are *supahpapalicious* which means handsome, ideal guy, and *papah* that is used as a description to a boyfriend material man. The gay lingo terms were used in the song to creatively describe a person.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The gay lingo terms in selected OPM songs are used as a creative tool for literature especially for songs. The gay lingo expands a bigger world of arts towards different language in light with today's jargon.

In the 12 selected OPM songs, the lyrics commonly tackle about language exclusivity and concealment of a message that could greatly affect the others' emotions. In addition, the words are commonly derived from a specific mother language to form a creative word that can hide the true meaning of the word.

Gay lingo terms in the selected songs are commonly used to creatively describe a person or a thing; this adds to the song's interesting value, they are also used as power words to reveal a secret that tends to expel hurting the person. Gay lingo has been widely heard and used in today's generation so this can also be creative weapon to target the social issues of the modern youth but keeping the message indirect.

Behind the variety of gay words spreading is a message to everyone that gay language is more than just a language that bridges communication, it can also be a tool for reminder, lesson and understanding because it recreates a negative connotation to a flowering word reminder.

The undeniable participation of the LGBTQ community in the society specifically in the music industry, with the use of Gay lingo in the lyric composition, allows them to express their thoughts in their own way; the lingo can be used to discuss a topic that protects the sensitivity of it.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusion of the study, the researchers have pictured out some recommendations:

1. People who do not belong to the environment of LGBTQs must not feel negative to the gay lingo is not all about its negative connotations and it is also a trend tool for communication especially for the gay lingo speakers.
2. The present study recommends and encourages other researchers to conduct related study that focus more on the linguistic behavior of Gay Lingo from a general and local point of view.

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