

Morphological Analysis of Gay's Spoken Discourse

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Abstract - The language of gays known as gayspeak has now earned respect from the community and observably been infused in the mainstream language of the society. Language is evolving and with its changing nature, existing language needs to be documented for posterity reasons. Gayspeak is not an exemption. It has to be analyzed especially its morphology. This study focused on the morphological analysis of the language of gays who were studying at SLSU-Tomas Oppus in SY 2009-2010. Specifically, it identified the common vocabulary of local gays and the corresponding meanings through a self-administered questionnaire and an informal conversation. Based from the information provided by 20 purposively selected college gays, it was learned that gayspeak is simply an adaptation of the mainstream language like English, Filipino, and Cebuano. For purposes of

shielding from the chasms of the heterosexuals, gays construct their language through simple reversal, syllabic reversal, simple reversal with affixation, clipping with affixation, straight words with affixation, and connotation through images. It was concluded that the spoken discourse of college gays in the campus violates the rules of English grammar yet used by gays for purposes of expressing themselves in a way unrecognizable by the discriminating straight men in highly patriarchal society.

INTRODUCTION

Centuries ago, Philippine culture openly projected bias against the gays. Biases are often manifested even within the family in which the father, more specifically, would even disown a child who is a gay (Casabal 2008). It was made evident then that during the times of our forefathers, gays were considered a cause of shame to the family (Daniels, 2010). However, in today's generation which recognizes changes in almost every aspect of man's life, gays' are no longer treated as such. Instead, they receive different treatment letting them realize they are unique with significant contribution to the society's economy. In fact, they are given recognition in the aesthetic fields exhibiting creativity and artistry particularly in cosmetics entertainment.

With the acceptance of the gays in the society comes the propagation of the gays' spoken discourse commonly known as gay lingo. Gay lingo is composed basically of terms derived from existing terminologies like **waz** from Cebuano word **wa** (meaning nothing); **bobokish** from the Tagalog term **bobob** (meaning dull); and **zerowena** from English term zero. Some other terms are perceived to have originated from part of the sound of a person's name like **TOM Jones** meaning **guTOM na ako**.

Languages evolve. New words are created and others disappear. The words or phrases currently used by gays, particularly in Southern Leyte State University-Tomas Oppus, may be short-lived. They may be used only by the present batch of gays and may be replaced by other terms in the next three or five years. According to Rafael

(2010), gayspeak is the most unstable and malleable of all languages. Documenting gay lingo, therefore, is deemed important for posterity reasons. They may be used as references or as aids in understanding the meaning of future literature material written today.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This study not only identified the meaning of common gay terms but also analyzed the morphological structure of the spoken discourse of gays in SLSU-Tomas Oppus in School Year 2010-2011.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Research Site

The study was conducted within the Tomas Oppus campus of Southern Leyte State University. The campus is located in Barangay San Isidro, Tomas Oppus, Southern Leyte. Tomas Oppus is a 5th class municipality and San Isidro is situated along the seashore. Being a teacher-training institution with almost a thousand enrollees, the flagship curricular offering of the campus is Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (BEE) and Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (BSE). These are courses attractive mostly to female and gay students.

Respondents and Sampling Procedure

This study involved 20 gay students who were selected purposively. They were overt gays, well-versed, and actually using gayspeak in their everyday conversations with members of their group and even with their straight classmates and friends. They were regular students enrolled during the conduct of this study.

Research Design and Data Gathering Procedure

The study employed a one-shot survey design in which all data needed were gathered at one time. Observing proper protocol, the gays were requested to provide necessary information being asked in the self-administered questionnaire. The identified gays answered the questionnaire during their vacant period while hanging out in their "Tambayan" (lounge) area.

To get data for unanswered items or for clarity of entries in the questionnaire, the researchers immediately conducted informal conversations with the respondents.

Research Instrument

A researcher-made and self-administered questionnaire was used in the study. This is a one-page questionnaire divided into two parts. Part I identified the demographic profile of the respondents which include their age, civil status, and year level. Part II provides two columns. In the 1st column the respondents will write the gay words/phrases as many as they could, and the corresponding meanings of each will be written in the 2nd column.

Data Analysis Procedure

The data which were primarily qualitative were subjected to structural analysis. In here, the vocabulary or expressions of the gays were examined in terms of their structure and meaning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Words Comprising Gays’ Spoken Discourse and their Functional Meaning

With the researcher-constructed questionnaire, the list of words commonly used by gays of Southern Leyte State University – Tomas Oppus was derived. Table 1 contains the words/phrases embodied in the terminologies used by the gays in SLSU-TO.

Table 1. Words commonly used by gays of Southern Leyte State University- tomas oppus

GAY WORD	MEANING	GAY WORD	MEANING
atup	whore	tuyi	love making
otad	rich	yagal	pennis
toyab	gay	okad	huge
ikal	guy	talib	vagina

bayu	girlfriend/ boyfriend	apuch	oral sex
abas	noisy	ibal	lips
sagub	rice	ohab	foul odor
yatap	dead	yamag	small/little
ejab	girl	yobmot	lesbian
yohak	tree	arastuk	spoon
obom	petite	rodinit	fork
tilap	buy	asat	cup
sotapas	shoes	tobma	don't know
gab	bag	awasa	wife
ul-ol	masturbate	anab	husband
kilab-kilab	always repeating	daling	ugly
ngusib	vagina	ngowan	face
sagal	old	waki	you
kolu	pennis	aninag	a while ago
id	not	aninas	dress
eta	older sister	kohub	hair
ayuk	older brother	atam	eyes
nial	different	tobas	understand
waguh	dirty	moni	drink
tomoh	smells good	adsi	fish
gobuh	drunk/tipsy	imal ug sawal	nice body
yeko	okey	lec	cellphone
gabmus	punch	okus	angry
noak	eat	wajas	dance
yatat	father	nawu-an	it's raining
tingal	heaven	nap	bread
wabak	carabao	nadus	viand
asab	wet	aap	legs
abal	wash	tomak	hands
eko-c	coke	atab	child
aw	nothing	agus	light
wakal	walk	itup	white
asnik	who	moti	black

ayis	he/she	timag	use
dokil	back	ogil	take a bath
gosub	full	ngaob	crazy
alis	them	itnap	panty
anyar	queen	trosh	shorts
natawak	thief	alahab	I don't care
kabil	backbite	feirb	brief
nongi ayis	they said	tikas	painful
ocsid	disco	ladnas	sandals
sitnub	pregnant	otab	stone
yagabmunis	indulge in fight	yab	house
wanat	to see	bayu alis	they're in a relationship
nahgad	many	gatah	to give
noplis	cell phone	iibag	night
orapal	slap	sotna	suffer
yatnab	aware of	yawa	fight
yakas	ride	orihil	master
tawus	write	itlus-itlus	rumor
oyaak	very	ogud	blood
otul	cook	gawub	separate
saro	time	otda-at	let's go
wasap	food for pigs	yopaks	tired
norak	now	imalin	delicious
nial	others	kuh ledesma	underarm odor
nawu	rain	ngaobsing	crazy/insane
konam	chicken	aninash	dress
otda	go	anatsing	let's go
awatak	laugh	okush	mad
nimas	mirror	erbopia	poor
kali-h	cry	motogsing	hungry
rasap	pass	idoshi	no/not
aan	there is	yanansing	mother
takirob	whore	tilapsing	buy
irid	here	ngirevitz	cat

yopak	tired	labmatz	medicine
oat	people	alipya	how much
dayab	pay	ab-abels	mouth
kilab	return	yotots	breast
ilad	faster	nayitch	stomach
tini	hot	ohabi	foul odor
otad	rich	tomuh-etch	fragrant
amam	mother	rotome	motorcycle
apap	father	orio	dog
ayi	his/her	monica	drink
kana	son/daughter	kolobiya	dull
lepap	paper	tobash	understand
sawag	get out	tikash	painful
ori	dog	okush	angry
ngeri	cat	ikals	guy
ngilo	charcoal	ogobiya	dull
roloc	color	amards	drama
erbop	poor	donush	follow
rotom	motorcycle	alish	them
ahud	two	atnaks	sing
layas	skirt	atabengs	kid/child
ayus alis	they're insecure/ jealous	ohabengs	foul odor
nadush	viand	itabea	ugly
akush	vomit	lahamea	expensive
okams	I/me/my	ngatubels	debt
idso	no/not	dayabebang	pay
nopahags	yesterday	ikalishing	guy
gonuso	fire	motivation	black/dark
ngolich	nose	sotomea	sperm cell
abs-abs	mouth	talibyang	vagina
liitch	feet	agabea	shameless
kohubsina	hair	arkadabs	friends
ohabyang	foul odor	alipsing	how much
yamagi	small/little	watana	see

abasing	keep quiet	awu	shy
nets	ten	ngulob	burial
motilyom	dark/black	Award	scolded
gibutch	water	Awarding Ceremony	scolded
otuliyang	cook	Famas Awards	scolded
tomuhitchis	fragrant	nota	cock/pennis
yatapasing	dead	nota bells	cock/pennis
atame	eyes	notavells	cock/pennis
soka	me/I	notation	cock/pennis
iroopi	poor	go to hell	erection
222. juninams	a while ago	Teri Aunor	mad/angry
julditams	strict	luba	Criticize
jumpnoms	hell	Tassel.	cock/pennies
juestrams	teacher	Chaka doll	Ugly
jusketeroms	mosquito net	Chaka	Ugly
juntanams	window	Backstage	looser/defeated
jamong	all of you	tombalata	I don't know
jokoy	me/my/I	shomalin	Delicious
yuyots	gay	zerowena	Nothing
kikiro	guy	jokejakjinis	Joke
ngo	face	waz	Nothing
shung-agiya	to cook	yesterday	Yes
junun-unan	paksiw	bobokish	Dull
junina	clothes	lugaritus	Place
jugpa	slap	tuseran forte	sperm cell
jumbag	punch	singing bee	Sing
jugsak	stab	Palawan island	expecting something that did not happened
jupit	putting the pennies between upper thighs	shudi	no/not
wawe	shy	ibajelyn	Girl
kiki	guy	chonle	Lechon
tomjones	hungry	yabyabon	Seashore
wanggitz	old		
yots	gay		

sagovey	rice	
itufyang	White or fair complexion	
kawuv	flower	
lisuf	gun	
afmar	go anywhere	
tilaf	buy	
a-as	where	
kanabu	companion	
gatae	give	
okang	mine	

Morphological structures of the gays' spoken discourse

As language is dynamic, changes ranging from languages' phonological up to the discourse level can be expected. In the morphological level of language, several morphological processes gave way to the creation or coinage of new terminologies.

The gays' spoken discourse is composed of words or phrases coined or formed following different linguistic morphological processes.

The morphological process very commonly used in the formulation or coinage of the gay lingo is simple reversal of the letters/sounds within the word as evident in the gay words otad, yamag, yohak, which were formed from the words dato (rich), gamay (small), and kahoy (tree), respectively. The process is merely showing reversal of the letters or graphical element of the word.

The table that follows shows the list of words formed by simple reversal. Contained also in the table (third column) is the meaning of the gay words to facilitate understanding of the terminologies.

Table 2. Simple reversal

GAY WORDS	Word gay words are derived from	MEANING
atup	puta	Whore
otad	dato	Rich
toyab	bayot	Gay

ikal	Laki	Guy
bayu	uyab	girlfriend/boyfriend
tuyi	iyut	love making
yagal	lagay	Pennies
okad	dako	Huge
talib	bilat	Vagina
abas	saba	Noisy
sagub	bugas	Rice
yatap	patay	Dead
ejab	baje	Girl
apuch	chupa	oral sex
ibal	labi	Lips
ohab	baho	foul odor
yamag	gamay	small/little
yobmot	tomboy	Lesbian
yohak	kahoy	Tree
obom	mobo	Petite
tilap	palit	Buy
sotapas	sapatos	Shoes
gab	bag	Bag
arastuk	kutsara	Spoon
rodinit	tnidor	Fork
asat	tasa	Cup
tobma	ambot	don't know
awasa	asawa	Wife
ul-ol	lo-lu	Masturbate
kilab-kilab	balik-balik	always repeating
ngusib	bisung	Vagina
sagal	lagas	Old
ko <u>l</u> u	ulok	Pennies
id	di	Not
anab	bana	Husband
daling	ngil-ad	Ugly
ngowan	nawong	Face

waki	ikaw	You
aninag	ganina	a while ago
aninas	sanina	Dress
eta	ate	olde sister
ayuk	kuya	older brother
nial	lain	Different
waguh	hugaw	Dirty
tomoh	homot	smells good
gobuh	hubog	drunk/tipsy
yeko	okey	Okey
gabmus	sumbag	Punch
noak	kaon	Eat
yatat	tatay	Father
kohub	buhok	Hair
atam	mata	Eyes
tobas	sabot	Understand
moni	inom	Drink
adsi	isda	Fish
imal ug sawal	lami ug lawas	nice body
lec	cel	Cellphone
okus	suko	Angry
wajas	sajaw	Dance
nawu-an	uwan na	it's raining
tingal	langit	Heaven
wabak	kabaw	Carabao
asab	basa	Wet
abal	laba	Wash
eko-c	coke	Coke
aw	wa	Nothing
wakal	lakaw	Walk
asnik	kinsa	Who
ayis	siya	he/she
dokil	likod	Back
nap	pan	Bread

nadus	sud-an	Viand
aap	paa	Legs
tomak	kamot	Hands
atab	bata	Child
agus	suga	Light
itup	puti	White
moti	itom	Black
timag	gamit	use
ogil	ligo	take a bath
gосub	busog	Full
alis	silа	Them
anyar	rayna	Queen
natawak	kawatan	Thief
kabil	libak	Backbite
nongі ayis	ingon silа	they said
ocsid	disco	Disco
sitnub	buntis	Pregnant
yagabmunis	sinumbagay	indulge in fight
wanat	tan-aw	to see
nahgad	daghan	Many
noplis	silpon	cell phone
orapal	laparo	Slap
yatnab	bantay	aware of
yakas	sakay	Ride
tawus	suwat	Write
oyaak	kayo	Very
otul	luto	Cook
saro	oras	Time
ngaob	boang	Crazy
itnap	panti	Panty
trosh	short	Shorts
alahab	bahala	I don't care
feirb	brief	Brief
tikas	sakit	Painful

ladnas	sanda	Sandals
otab	bato	Stone
yab	bay	House
bayu alis	uyab sila	they're in a relationship
gatah	hatag	to give
iibag	gabii	Night
sotna	antos	Suffer
yawa	away	Fight
orihil	lihiro	Master
itlus-itlus	sulti-sulti	Rumor
ogud	dugo	Blood
gawub	buwag	Separate
otda-at	adto ta	let's go
wasap	pasaw	food for pigs
norak	karon	Now
nial	lain	Others
nawu	uwan	Rain
konam	manok	Chicken
otda	adto	go
awatak	katawa	Laugh
nimas	samin	Mirror
kali-h	hilak	Cry
rasap	pasar	Pass
aan	naa	there is
takirob	borikat	Whore
irid	diri	Here
yopak	kapoy	Tired
oats	tao	People
dayab	bayad	Pay
kilab	balik	Return
ilad	dali	Faster
tini	init	Hot
otad	dato	Rich
amam	mama	Mother

apap	papa	Father
ayi	iya	his/her
kana	anak	son/daughter
lepap	papel	Paper
sawag	gawas	get out
ori	iro	Dog
ngeri	ireng	Cat
ngilo	oling	Charcoal
roloc	color	Color
erbop	pobre	Poor
rotom	motor	Motorcycle
ahud	duha	Two
layas	sayal	Skirt
ayus alis	suya sila	they're insecure/jealous

Syllabic reversal is another morphological process employed by gays in their terminologies. The gay terms such as aas (asa which means where), gatae (tagae which means give), and okang are some of the terms derived by gays through syllabic reverse. In this process reversal of existing words comes by syllables. Table 3 shows the word-formation process which is syllabic reverse.

Table 3. Syllabic reversal

	GAY WORDS	MEANING	JUSTIFICATION
1.	a-as	where	Asa
2.	kanabu	companion	Kauban
3.	gatae	give	Tagae
4.	chonle	lechon	Lechon
5.	yabyabon	seashore	Baybayon
6.	watana	see	tan-awa
7.	ngulob	burial	Lubong

Another word formation process is the simple reversal with affixation. This process employs an addition of a phoneme and / or a

syllable before (prefix), after (suffix) or within (infex) the word to the reversed word. The table that follows presents gays' terms which are derived through simple reversal with affixes attached.

Table 4. Simple reversal with affixation

GAY WORDS	MEANING	JUSTIFICATION
nadush	viand	sud-an + suffix h
akush	vomit	suka + suffix h
okams	I/me/my	ako + suffix ms
idso	no/not	di + suffix so
nopahags	yesterday	gahapon + suffix s
gonuso	fire	sunog + suffix o
ngolich	nose	ilong + suffix ch
abs-abs	mouth	ba-ba + suffix s
liitch	feet	tiil + suffix ch
kohubsina	hair	buhok+ suffix sina
ohabyang	foul odor	baho+ suffix yang
yopaks	tired	kapoy + suffix s
imalin	delicious	lami + suffix in
ngaobsing	crazy/insane	boang + suffix sing
aninash	dress	sanina + suffix h
anatsing	let's go	tana + suffix sing
okush	mad	suko + suffix h
erbopia	poor	poor + suffix ia
motogsing	hungry	gotom + suffix sing
idoshi	no/not	di + suffix oshi
yanansing	mother	nanay + suffix sing
tilapsing	buy	palit + suffix sing
ngirevitz	cat	erring + suffix vitz
labmatz	medicine	tambal + suffix z
alipya	how much	pila + suffix ya
ab-abels	mouth	ba-ba + suffix els
yotots	breast	totoy + suffix s

nayitch	stomach	tiyan + suffix ch
ohabi	foul odor	baho + suffix i
tomuh-etch	fragrant	humot + suffix etch
rotome	motorcycle	motor + suffix e
orio	dog	iro + suffix o
monica	drink	inom + suffix ca
kolobiya	dull	bolok + suffix iya
tobash	understand	sabot + suffix h
tikash	painful	sakit + suffix h
okush	angry	suko + suffix h
ikals	guy	laki + suffix s
ogobiya	dull	bogo + suffix iya
amards	drama	dram,a + suffix s
donush	follow	sunod + suffix h
alish	them	silu + suffix h
atnaks	sing	kanta + suffix s
atabengs	kid/child	bata + suffix engs
ohabengs	foul odor	baho + suffix engs
itabea	ugly	bati + suffix ea
lahamea	expensive	mahal + suffix ea
ngatubels	debt	utang + suffix bels
dayabebang	pay	bayad + suffix ebang
ikalishing	guy	laki + suffix ishing
motivation	black/dark	itom + suffix vation
sotomea	sperm cell	tos + suffix omea
talibyang	vagina	bilat + suffix yang
agabea	shameless	baga + suffix ea
arkadabs	friends	barkada + suffix s
alipsing	how much	pila + suffix sing
yamagi	small/little	gamay + suffix i
abasing	keep quiet	saba + suffix ing
nets	ten	ten + suffix s
motilyom	dark/black	itom + siffix lyom
gibutch	water	tubig + suffix ch

otuliyang	cook	luto + suffix iyang
tomuhitchis	fragrant	humot + suffix itchis
yatapsing	dead	patay + suffix sing
atame	eyes	mata + suffix e
soka	me/I	ako + prefix s
iroopi	poor	poor + prefix I and suffix i

In the addition of the phoneme or syllable to the reversed words, no definite pattern is seen; however, very common phonemes or affixes are identified which include : sh, ms, so, s, ch, sina, yang, s, in, h, sing, iyang, bels, ea (eya). These addition also projects gays' creativity which gave the word a different sound.

Another morphological process reflected in the formation of terminologies in gays' spoken discourse is clipping with affixation. The new term is derived from existing words which are clipped or cut (some syllables are omitted). The words like judtoy, juninams, and kikiro are some of the words derived from this process. The table that follows shows words employing clipping with affixation and on the third column is the justification on the derived words.

Table 5. Clipping with affixation

Gay words	Meaning	Justification
judtoy	went	adto clipped into to + prefix jud and suffix y
juninams	a while ago	ganina clipped into nina + prefix ju and suffix ms
julditams	strict	maldita clipped into ldita + prefix ju and suffix ms
jumpernoms	hell	imperno clipped into mperno + prefix ju and suffix ms
juestrams	teacher	maestra clipped into estra + prefix ju and suffix ms
jusketeroms	mosquito net	musketero clipped into usketero + prefix j and suffix ms
juntanams	window	bintana clipped into ntana + prefix ju and suffix ms
jamong	all of you	kamo clipped into amo + prefix j and suffix ng
jokoy	me/my/I	ako clipped into ko + prefix jo and suffix y
yuyots	gay	bayot clipped into yot + prefix yu and suffix s
kikiro	guy	laki clipped into ki + prefix ki and suffix ro
ngo	face	nawng clipped into ng + suffix o

shung-agiya	to cook	Dung-ag clipped into ung-ag + prefix d and suffix iya
junun-unan	paksiw	inun-unan clipped into nun-unan + prefix ju
junina	clothes	sinina clipped into nina + suffix ju
jugpa	slap	sagpa clipped into pa + prefix jug
jumbag	punch	sumbag clipped into umbag + prefix j
jugsak	stab	dugsak clipped into gsak + prefix ju
jupit	putting the pennies between upper thighs	ipit clipped into pit + prefix j
wawe	shy	uwaw is clipped into waw + suffix e
kiki	guy	laki is clipped into kiki + suffix ki
tomjones	hungry	gutom is clipped into tom + suffix jones
wanggitz	old	tiguwang is clipped into wang + suffix gitz
yots	gay	bayot is clipped into yot + suffix s

Some gay terms are derived by straightly using the existing terms but with affixes attached. Words as zerowena, and yesterday are some of the words employing this process. Table 7 contains gay terms by using word straight with affixation.

Table 7. Straight words with affixation

Gay words	Meaning	Justification
1. zerowena	nothing	zero + suffix wena
2. jokejakjinis	joke	joke + suffix jakjinis
3. waz	nothing	wa + suffix z
4. yesterday	yes	yes + suffix terday
5. bobokish	dull	bobo + suffix kish
6. lugaritmus	place	lugar + suffix itmus
7. tuseran forte	sperm cell	tus + suffix eran + forte
8. singing bee	sing	sing + suffix ing + bee
9. Palawan island	expecting something that did not happened	palaw + suffix an + island
10. shudi	no/not	di + prefix shu
11. ibajelyn	girl	baje + prefix I + lyn

Another interesting process in which gay terms are formed is the use of the existing terms or existing terms with affixes added but is given another meaning which is based on the connotation derived through images. The gay term *nota* for instance is used by the gays to mean the penis since the image of the penis resembles that of the musical note.

Table 8. Connotation through Images

GAY WORDS	MEANING	JUSTIFICATION
nota	cock/penis	the image of a note is like the image of a penis
nota bells	cock/penis	nota evolves into nota bells
notavells	cock/penis	nota bells evolves into notavells
notation	cock/penis	notavells evolves into notation
luba	Criticize	A person who's been stabbed experiences pain. It is just the same with a person being criticized.
Tassel	cock/penis	the image of a tassel is
Chaka doll	ugly	The image of Chaka doll in the movie Bride of Chucky is ugly.
Chaka	ugly	Chaka doll is shortened into Chaka.
Backstage	looser/defeated	The image of a backstage is at the back of a stage. It is just the same with a person who is a looser, he/she is always at the back.

CONCLUSION

Gay lingo defies the rules of the English grammar. Structurally, gays would ungrammatically construct their utterances so that only members of their group could understand. They would attach affixes to familiar words creating meanings that do not coincide with the actual meanings of the root. Gays were creative enough to express themselves in a different way such that the discriminating heterosexuals would not comprehend. Homosexuals use gayspeak as their shield from the disapproving patriarchal society.

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