

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the introduction of research. It consists of background of the study, research questions, research objective, previous study, research significance, and clarification of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Basically, people usually use formal or standard language in formal context, such as at school, college, meeting seminar, etc. But when people got into society, people usually use non-standard language. One of non-standard language which often used by the people is slang. Slang is an informal style of language which may be a single word, phrases, or even a sentence. It is very informal and is often used in colloquial speech. Slang can appear as a brand new word, a new meaning for an existing word, an abbreviation for a word, or a word that becomes more generalized than its former.

Slang often used by many kinds of groups of people who share situations or interests. Slang tends to originate in subcultures within a society, it is usually created by a particular group in the community (for example: militaries, teenagers, Afro-Americans, sport groups, minorities, criminals, etc). Normally, the speakers use it as 'secret language' in communicating with others in their group.

Every word in language has its meaning, including slang. In linguistic, there are a study that relates to meaning called semantic. Semantic deals with the study of meaning of word without the context. Talking about meaning, meaning can be vary. In its application, slang, whether in the form of word, phrase, or sentence, slang has its own meaning. For example the word “*baby*” in slang has meaning “darling/honey”. In this case, slang sometimes cannot be understood by people who are not familiar with them. Also, slang is believed to give some functions for its users. Slang has some functions related to how it used in communication.

It can not be denied that slang become used globally. People often use slang in their daily conversation. Furthermore, slang also often used in American movie especially that focused on gangster or teenagers lives. The “*Barberhop: The Next Cut*” is one of movies that gave the reflection of phenomenon about the character who are directly involved used slang in the conversation.

Because of the slang’s popularity in a society and its unique distribution, the study concerns with investigating the literal and intentional meaning and the function of slangs that might appear in the movie of *Barbershop: The Next Cut* movie. Hence, the researcher is interested in studying the meaning and function of slang. However to limit the area of discussion, the researcher focusses on the language used of movie.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the research background above the researcher limits the analysis into two questions, they are:

1. What are the literal and intentional meanings of slangs based on Griffiths's theory used in *Barbershop: The Next Cut* movie?
2. What are the slang categories of functions based on Widawski's theory used in *Barbershop: The Next Cut* movie?

1.3 Research Objective

According to the explanation stated above, this research aim to:

1. To find and analyze the literal and intentional meanings of slangs based on Griffiths's theory used in *Barbershop: The Next Cut* movie.
2. To find and analyze the slang categories of functions based on Widawski's theory used in *Barbershop: The Next Cut* movie.

1.4 Previous Study

In accordance with the statement of problems in this research, there are some of the studies that concern with the topic. The studies related to the meaning of slang. Some of them are as follows:

First, *A Study of Meanings and Functions of Long Beach Slang in Freedom Writer Movie*, an unpublished thesis by Indrias Pratama from Sanata Dharma University (2015). The research investigated the meanings of slangs, how

the meanings of slangs formed and functions of slangs among American English society in Long Beach based on the Freedom Writers movie. The result of the research showed that there were 11 slang and 19 slang phrases of the movie. The research used the *NTC's Dictionary of American Slang and Colloquial Expressions* (2000), and some slang dictionary sites such as the *Urban Dictionary* (2015), the *Alpha Dictionary* (2015), and the *Slangcity Dictionary* (2002) in order to define the particular meanings of slang expression. Then the research used several theories to analyze the data which related to the word formation processes, they were O' Grady and Guzman (1996), Katamba (1993), Hatch and Brown (1995), Yule (2006) and Wagner (2010), also the theory of Holmes (2012) to analyze the function of slangs.

Second, *The Form, Function, and Meaning of English Slang Used by Members of Bali Hip-Hop Community*, an unpublished journal by Yeshivia from Udayana University. This study examines 3 subject, such as: analyze the form, function, and meaning of the slang used in everyday conversation. The study used several theories: Chapman (1988) and Leech (1974) and using data sources from selected conversations conducted by members of the youth communities in Kuta - Legian Bali (Bali Hip-Hop Community). The result of the study was found that primary and secondary slang were used by members of the Bali Hip-Hop Community in their conversations. They also use the five language functions proposed by Leech.

Third, *Semantic Analysis of Slang Used in "Paul" Movie Script*, an unpublished thesis by Wilda Rahmawati Manik from University of Sumatera Utara (2013). The research investigated lexical and contextual meanings of slangs

and classified it based on semantic change. The result of the research showed that the most commonly found of slang word is the word fuck, followed by the word shit, gonna, and damn. All the slang words found are classified to semantic change, there are generalization (67.9%), specialization (13.5%), pejoration (17.3%), and amelioration (1.2%). This study used the theory of Eble (1996) in explaining slang and using the theory of Lyons (1984).

Fourth, *Slang in Lyrics of Eminem's Selected Songs: A Semantic Analysis*, an unpublished thesis by Dian Rafika from University of Sumatera Utara (2008). The researcher took 10 sample of Eminem's song. The research analyzed the meaning of slangs, the most dominant slang words and classified the slangs on Eminem's song based on Partridge (1933) classification. The result of the research was found the most dominant slang used in the lyrics was "ass" which 6,13 % and based on Partridge's classification "Cockney Slang" is the majority existed or found in those lyric of songs.

Fifth, *An Analysis of Slang Term Used in Fast and Furious 7 Movie*, an unpublished thesis by Susanti from State Islamic Institute of Palangka Raya (2015). The research investigated the types and the meanings of slangs used in *Fast and Furious 7* movie. To find the meaning of slang, the research used several dictionary, such as NTC's Dictionary of American Slang, The Oxford Dictionary of Slang, The Random House Thesaurus of Slang, etc. The research also used Partridge (1950) theory to classified the types of slangs.

Different on the previous study above, the researcher is tend to do the research from different movie. The researcher tries to analyze the movie entitled

Barbershop: The Next Cut which is concerning to the use of slang. It consist about the lexical and contextual meaning in movie. Also, the researcher tries to analyze the function of slang.

1.5 Research Significance

The significance of this study can be viewed from both theoretical and practical aspects, as describe below:

1. Theoritically, the research is expected to expand or add the knowledge for student of language in terms of semantic and sociolinguistic, especially the meaning and function of slang which are used in movie.
2. Practically, the research hopes can be useful as a reference for the readers or the next researchers who will analyze about slang and they who are interested in learning semantic, sociolinguistic and its aspects.

1.6 Clarification of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, the researcher explains some terms that relate to this research, as follows:

1. Slang: Informal speech variety which often serves as an “in group” language (Richard and Smith, 1985).

2. Barbershop: The Next Cut: An American comedy film directed by Malcolm D. Lee and written by Kenya Barris and Tracy Oliver released on April 15, 2016.
3. Movie: A recording of moving images that tells a story and that people watch on a screen or television (Kirkpatrick, 1993).

