

Chapter 1: Introduction

This chapter intends to introduce the basic consideration in brief. It also presents the research question, objective of the study, scope and delimitation of study and also the significances of study in terms of theoretical and practical contribution.

Basic Consideration

It is universally known that sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society. Hudson (1980, p.3) argued that sociolinguistics is the study of effects of all various aspects to society, including cultural, norms, and contexts on the language used. People who are in the same trade, profession, age, hobby, or social position have a tendency to behave in the same way. This behavior impacts the clothes they wear as well as the language they use. Language plays an essential role in human interaction. Furthermore, human beings face many aspects in using language. Language can be used both in spoken and written forms based on their contexts. From its context, language can be used both in formal and informal situations. There are several kinds of language varieties that utilized in the informal context, one of them is slang.

Slang is unofficial or casual spoken English which created and used by people in a certain community. Dumas & Jonathan (2010, p.78) asserted “Slang is a very informal expression which is more common in spoken that owned by a particular social group for internal communication”. With the development of the society, slang tends to increase more obviously over the years because it is now accepted by both upper-classes and lower-classes, and specifically the college students who

tend to employ the up-to-date words style. Concerning the trend, slang is widely used by people from all walks of life and it plays an essential role in influencing everyday discourse of today's society.

Nowadays, it is necessary to understand slang because it is the product of society and reflects the culture in certain areas. If someone could not catch the slang, then it would commit errors when they are talking with foreigners. For instance, a tourist asks the guide "Anyone wants to take a leak, please?" (Does anybody want to go to the restroom, please?), and, obviously, what the tourist said would make the guide and other tourists shocked because the word *leak* has several meanings that refers to vulgarity expression. Furthermore, slang abuse would definitely lead to the misunderstanding in the communication. Therefore, people should keep in mind that it is very important to study slang language in a socio-cultural context since it has existed in a close contact with culture.

People nowadays assume that slang is no longer considered as a criminal language because it grows rapidly across generations. Fasola (2013, p.9) stated that the vocabulary of slang changes rapidly, usually new slang from one generation will be an old-fashioned for the next; it depends on their location, cultural and educational backgrounds. Old-fashioned or out-dated slang will not be used; it might be accepted into colloquialism or standard language. Fundamentally, if slang does not exist any longer or unpopular, then it will be forgotten nor be accepted into colloquialism or standard terminology. These make slang be not considered as criminal language recently.

Moreover, slang is different from colloquialism but colloquialism is commonly a piece of slang. The difference is colloquialism can be generally understood across ages, whereas slang is restricted only by people in specific social groups, like teenagers. When someone says “I’m not a gay but I’m a drama queen!”, the person is using a colloquial which the word *gay* is not only identified as a colloquial but also including slang, otherwise the word *gay* is an old-fashioned slang that widely accepted into colloquialism or standard terminology which has a literal meaning of *homosexual*. Meanwhile, the words *drama queen* is not included in colloquialism because it has a specific meaning instead of its literal meaning which alludes to someone who overly so passionate. Conclusively, slang is distinct and more informally than colloquialism.

The presence of slang words can be seen from various sources such as in movies, song lyrics, and more television programs. Mantulangi (2015, p.7) stated that the existence of various slangs in movies is due to the fact that using slang words are an appropriate way to express a strong feeling and emotion. It is also can be used to express hospitality, familiarity, or identity among communities. However, people need to interpret the slang words in order to understand the proper meaning of the slang language used. It is believed that language functions to convey a message through communication, thus the speaker and the listener should have the same interpretation in interpreting the slang words. If the listeners are difficult to interpret the slang, then the impact would be in the process of interpreting meaning thus it will literally affect the efficiency of language functions.

In recent years, movies turn out to be so recognizable in people life. It is an offline and online media for entertainment, learning new things, cultures, and knowledge. It includes one of the factors in creating and spreading of slang to worldwide. Through movies, people spontaneously tend to imitate the language style of their favorite actor or actress without knowing the proper meaning that can lead to misinterpretation. As a matter of fact, it is very hard to find the proper meaning of slang in the utterances because the words are ungrammatical and exist in informal occasions. Hence, people need to learn the slang used more deeply, so that the whole movie story will be easier to be understood.

Presently, western movies which are imported to Indonesia ordinarily come from America. A standout amongst the most well-known movie nowadays is *Friends with Benefits* (2011). Released on July 22, 2011, in North America, *Friends with Benefits* is an American romantic comedy film directed by Will Gluck starring by Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis. It was triumphantly well received by film critics and became a commercial success at the top-selling box office over \$149.5 million in worldwide.

Compared to other movies, *Friends with Benefits* is quite unique related to the language used. The entire characters in the movie usually use slang in their conversation to show off their attitude and their way of thinking against the society. Besides, the movie title gives the researcher at least a clue that this movie mostly uses slang. A phrase *Friends with Benefits* refers to “A common American slang which means friends by day and sex partners by night” (Dalzell & Victor, 2010, p. 278). Furthermore, another definition of *Friends with Benefits* in

view of Urban Slangs Application by Daniel Bolivar (2014) is friends who are not officially together as a couple, yet they are engaging in sexual relations in any case. It can be concluded that the language used in the movie *Friends with Benefits* plays an important role because it has unique characteristics and functions that cannot be separated from its social backgrounds and social surroundings.

Therefore, this study is eager to analyze this movie because this movie does not only have an interesting storyline but also a unique language used. The researcher believes that this movie is hard to be interpreted by viewers. This is because the movie mostly contains many slang words so that the viewers must interpret the context and the social background precisely to get the proper meaning of the utterances. Hence, here are the trimmed utterances:

*Dylan : **Let's play tennis.***

*Jamie : **I suck at tennis. And it's kinda gay.***

*Dylan : **No I mean, "let's play tennis".***

*Jamie : **What?.***

*Dylan : **Let's have sex like it's tennis.***

*Jamie : **Get the hell outta here!***

In this case, Dylan creates a slang phrase *let's play tennis* which signifies *let's have sex*; while in the same time Jamie seems confused about what Dylan intended to say those words. By analyzing the example, it can be inferred that the words *let's play tennis* is a slang phrase which simply restricted by both of them.

Concerning the case above, the researcher realizes that the movie *Friends with Benefits* by Will Gluck contains many slang words. Hence, having an enthusiasm in sociolinguistic study, this study is encouraged to conduct a study entitled; Slang in *Friends with Benefits* Movie Directed by Will Gluck.

Research Question

The problem of this study to be answered is proposed as follows.

What are the types of slang and its appropriate meanings found in the movie entitled *Friends with Benefits*?

Objective of the Study

Based on the research question, this study intends to investigate the types of slang and its appropriate meanings found in the movie entitled *Friends with Benefits*.

Scope and Delimitation of the Study

This study has limited the discussion by focusing only on the selected slang words, phrases and clauses that found in *Friends with Benefits* movie.

Subsequently, this study does not only try to investigate the types of slang but also to find out both the literal and figurative meaning of every slang used in the movie by applying some related theories and dictionaries of slang.

Significances of the Study

In accordance with the basic consideration and objective of this study, thus this study expects to contribute an essential significance both the theoretical and practical contribution.

In terms of theoretical contribution, this study is expected to be a guideline for lecturers and students to avoid misunderstanding while interpreting the meaning of the slang. They can understand the suitable meaning and the appropriate use of slang by reading this study as a source of references.

On the practical contribution, the crucial purpose of this study is to contribute the use of slang language in sociolinguistic object. Since slang is not being taught specifically in the learning process so that this study can be used as a deliberation for the lecturers to increase students' ability in understanding slang by adding the specific material to the lesson plan of some subjects such as Sociolinguistics, and Semantics and Pragmatics. Even the lecturers themselves can improve their knowledge and awareness of slang.

More importantly, as the language aspect which does not exist in the curriculum, the researcher as the future English teacher has a responsibility to apply the researcher's knowledge about slang to the students particularly in the Listening subject, where students sometimes are asked to listen to pop English song which contains many slang. However, students are possibly facing slang not only in pop English songs but also in short conversation which contains slang.