CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Sociolinguistics investigates the relationship between language and society. It is one of the branches of macro linguistics. Sociolinguistics is the study of the interaction between language and the context in which it is used (Holmes, 2001). Wardhaugh (1986) claimed that his research focused on the interaction between language and society in order to have a better knowledge of the structure of languages and how they work in communication. Sociolinguistics concerns with the variation of language. One variation of language is slang. This variation of language exists in a group of speakers of a language.

Slang can be said as an informal word that is used in an informal situation. Recently, slang word is very common. Many people can use it from generation to generation, but mostly used by younger speakers. Younger speakers influence the creation of slang. They develop new vocabulary in their communication; therefore, their community can only understand them, and many younger speakers are fascinated with using slang. Users of slang can make speech more casual and playful, and it may not always be acceptable and appropriate for formal situations because sometimes slang may refer to sex, violence, crime, and drugs. Especially for students who learn or get in touch with English. They can learn American Slang from a movie or song.

A song, according to Richard (2002), is a little musical composition for the human voice that includes words or lyrics. When the audience listens to a song, it is accompanied by musical instruments that beautify and bring it to life. Every song has its own style and is sung in a variety of tones, speeds, rhymes, and styles. Hip-hop or rap song are well known as genre song that uses many slang words. It is the type of music in which almost all the lyrics have to be spoken in a rhythmic way of rap song slightly harsh, rude, frankly, and sassy. Therefore, people can find many slang words in hip-hop or rap song genres rather than in pop, jazz, country, and any other genre. Song is a combination of music and lyrics therefore song can play an important role to develop our vocabulary.

One of the popular rappers is Montero Lamar Hill, Montero Lamar Hill is an American Rapper, songwriter, and singer. He is known professionally as Lil Nas X. Lil Nas X is known worldwide with the song "Old Town Road" in early 2019. The album entitled *Montero* won several Awards. Billboard Music Award for Top Streaming Song (2020), Billboard Music Award for Best Rap Song (2020), 2021 MTV Video Music Awards (VMA) for Montero (Call Me by Your Name), Lil Nas X won two awards for Category Best Music Video and Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, for the song "Old Town Road" in collaboration with Billy Ray Cyrus. This award is the first Grammy Award for Lil Nas X.

Based on the above phenomenon, one of the famous rappers, Lil Nas X in his album *Montero* is very interesting to study because there are many slang words in the lyrics. The intention of the writer is to make the readers more understand sociolinguistics It is hoped that the readers find out the type or the process of

creating slang and the meaning of the slang word that they noticed in the hip-hop song and know the prohibition or when the right situation to sing or hear the song that contains slang words, for example: *"I ain't lose since I began"* (In song Industry Baby line 9) In the lyric above there is slang word used in the form 'ain't'. This word is a shortened form of 'am not'. The use of 'ain't' in the song lyric is very common. This slang word has a conceptual meaning which is the negative form of to be 'am not'. This example proves that the existence of slang in the song lyrics is worth to be analyzed. The meaning conveyed is the conceptual meaning, namely the actual meaning based on the dictionary.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, there are two problems on the study. Those problems are:

1. What types of slang words are used in song lyrics by Lil Nas X on *Montero* album?
2. What is the meaning of slang words found in song lyrics by Lil Nas X on *Montero* album?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research problems above, the objective of the study is formulated into two research answers, they are:

1. To find out the types of slang words in song lyrics by Lil Nas X on *Montero* album

2. To analyze the meaning of slang words in song lyrics by Lil Nas X on *Montero* album

1.4 Limitation of the Study

This study is limited to analyze the slang word found in the song lyric by Lil Nas X on *Montero* Album. In this study, the researcher only focused on analyzing the types of slang words and their meanings. In analyzing slang word, the researcher used the theory from Kipfer and Chapman (2007:8) to analyze the types of slang word and the theory from Leech (1981:9) to analyze the meaning of slang word.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be useful in terms of academic purposes as well as beneficial to society. The study's relevance is divided into theoretical and practical significance.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This study is expected to enrich the knowledge of English learners about types of English slang words and their meanings. This study also can be used as a reference to the next researcher especially students who study in English Literature Department and are interested in researching English slang words.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

In practice, this study offered a wealth of information regarding the slang words in song lyrics that were recognized and examined. This study aims to provide feedback to the writer in order to improve their understanding of slang words, as well as to inspire English literature students to conduct new research or learn more about slang words.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPT, AND THEORIES

2.1 Review of Related Literature

A review of the literature is necessary in order to learn about other researchers who have studied and investigated the same subject. Two theses and one article are presented in relation to the study's subject.

The first related literature is a thesis written by Saputra (2015) entitled "Study of Slang Word in *Ride Along* Movie". The purpose of this thesis was to look at the different varieties of slang, how they functioned, and how they affected the movie plot "Ride Along". The researcher has employed Partidge's (2004) theory, followed by Yanchan and Yanhong's theory, to analyze the different sorts of slang words (2013) to answer the function of slang and the theory Swanson and Golden (2010) who offered a proposal to explain the impact of using a slang term. Saputra's thesis analyzed the data in this thesis using the descriptive qualitative approach. As a result of this research, it was discovered 13 data that were divided into three categories, such as 10 data of society slangs, 1 data of public house slangs, and 2 data categorized as medicine slangs. There were three functions of slang found, such as pursuit of achieving politeness, emotive feeling of the slang users, self-identity. In terms of the effect of employing slang, the researcher has discovered two effects; a good effect with 5 data and a negative effect with 8 data.

The similarity between this research and the previous research is that both researches used the types and meanings of slang words as research problems.

Another similarity can also be seen from the method used in these two studies, namely using qualitative research methods. The difference between this study and previous research can be seen from the source of the data taken. The previous research took the data from the film *Ride Along*, while this research used data from the lyrics of the Lil Nas X song *"Montero"* album. Another difference can be found in the theory used to analyze slang. Saputra (2015) used the theory proposed by Partidge's (2004) to identify slang while this study used the theory proposed by Kipfer and Chapman (2007).

The second related literature is a thesis written by Mahnunik (2015) entitled "Analysis of Slang Language in Song Lyrics Used by Justin Bieber". Using a qualitative descriptive method, this previous study analyzed the types of slang words found in Justin Bieber's song lyrics. The theory used in Mahnunik's thesis was the theory of the process of forming slang words by Yule (2006: 211-212) and the theory of meaning by Leech (1981). The results of this thesis found that there were many slang words used in Justin Bieber's lyrics, such as *bigga*, coz, em, want, and gotta. Those were included in (10) clipping, (9) blending, (3) coinage, (1) acronyms.

Mahnunik's thesis has similarities and differences with this research. The method, which is qualitative, is the similarity between Mahnunik's thesis and this research. The difference between Mahnunik's thesis and this research is that it employs a different theory and relies on data from Lil Nas X. Mahnunik's thesis focused on the types of slang in Justin Bieber's song lyrics using the word formation theory by Yule (2006: 211-212) focused on their meanings and the types of slang

words. The slang words in the song "Lil Nas X" were analyzed using two theories: Kipfer and Chapman's (2007) theory of types of slang words and Leech's (1981) theory of types of meaning. The lyrics of Justin Bieber's song were used as the data source for Mahnunik's thesis, while the song "Lil Nas X" was used as the data source for this study.

The third research was taken from an article written by Ambhasary's (2018) entitled "Translation of Slang Word Found in The Subtitle of Despicable Me Movie into Indonesian". This study found out the types of slang, varieties of slang, and their equivalency in the Despicable Me movie's title translation. Ambhasary's has used the theory proposed by Matiello (2008) to analyze the types of slang words and used the theory of Nida and Taber (1961) to analyze the two meanings of equivalence (formal and dynamic equivalence). The method used by Ambhasary was the documentation method in data collection. Previous research identified 34 data sets that were similar (formal equivalence was 11 data and dynamic equivalence was 23 data). The most popular data in the dynamic equivalence type, which is 23 data.

The similarity between this research and previous research is that they both used the same topic, namely slang words. The difference in this study can be seen in the source of the data. Previous research used data sources from the film Despicable Me while this study used song lyrics from the album Lil Nas X. There were also differences in the theory used to analyze slang. Ambhasary has used the theory from Elsa Matiello (2008) while this study used the theory from Kipfer and Chapman (2007). These two studies also have different research problems, previous

research had three problems, namely to find an analysis of slang, varieties of slang, and their equivalency while this research had two problems, namely to find types of slang and meaning of slang.

2.2 Concepts

The themes that are obviously relevant to this study and discussed in this research are listed below. Slang words, meaning, and song lyrics are all examples.

2.2.1 Slang Word

Slang is a type of casual vocabulary that can be found in movies, songs, and conversations. Slang is a term that has been increasingly popular in recent years. It can be used by individuals of all generations, although it is most commonly used by teenagers and the younger generation. Slang is a term used in social society to describe a daily language that can be used verbally or nonverbally. Slang can also allude to sex, violence, crime, and drugs. Slang is a collection of relatively casual terms used by a group of individuals in discussion. According to Richard (1985), slang is a type of casual communication that is frequently employed in group settings, such as among teens.

2.2.2 Meaning

According to Ogden and Richards (1923), the terms meaning and its correlating verb to mean are among the most controversial in the English language, and semanticists have regularly appeared to spend a great deal of time making to decipher the meanings of meaning as a supposedly necessary preface to studying their subject. In order to convey his own opinion that meaning is intrinsically

personal and that any mean depends on whom mean sits, he finds it necessary to traverse Mr. Rusel's statement that the problem of the meaning of words is reduced to a problem of the meaning of pictures. Mr. Rusel responded by attempting to establish a more exact definition of meaning by proposing the concept of mnemic causality, and then going on to build an illuminating metaphysical account. He explained that a word that seeks for total generality, such as entity, must have no mnemic effect and so no meaning. This is not the case in practice: such words have reciprocity, and learning is the study of metaphysics.

2.2.3 Song Lyrics

Lyrics communicate a direct personal emotion for singing or the word of a song, according to the Oxford dictionary (2022). A lyricist is a person who writes lyrics. When looking at the lyrics, people can make an implicit or explicit interpretation. Some of the lyrics are nearly incomprehensible and abstract. The emphasis in such circumstances is on form, meter, articulation, and symmetry of expression. Many songs express feelings or love and rappers can use a variety of rhyming terms to produce lyrics that are supposed to be recited rhythmically rather than sung. People can be entertained by listening to music of many genres such as pop, rock, R&B, jazz, hip-hop, and so on. People usually listen to music based on their moods, such as unhappy, pleased, bewildered, and so on.

2.3 Theories

This research used two theories. The first is the theory of slang that is taken from Kipfer and Chapman (2007:8) to analyze the types of slang words. The second is Leech's theory (1981:9) to analyze the meanings of slang words.

2.3.1 Types of Slang

According to Kipfer and Chapman (2007:8), there are two types of slang, namely primary slang and secondary slang.

2.3.1.1 Primary Slang

According to Kipfer and Chapman (2007:8), primary slang is the pristine speech of subculture members, so very natural to its speakers that it seems they might be mute without it. Of course, they would not be, since some people know that slang is by definition always an alternative idiom, to be chosen rather than required. Primary slang is commonly used, heard or known by many people in daily life. Much of teenage talk, and the speech of urban street gangs.

Primary slang can be detected by contrast, their oral language is often rich, complex, and powerful, and they live by using it effectively. Kipfer and Chapman (2007:8), calls the specialized social vocabulary of subcultures primary slang. The primary slang of groups is often appropriated into general slang. It strikes members of the mainstream as novel, rich, and imaginative. It suggests a way of life with greater fun and excitement than the well-regulated lives of most. Adopting the vocabulary is a way of sharing vicariously in the daring while remaining apart from what is unsafe or objectionable about the way of life in the subculture.

There are some examples of slang words and phrases were identified as primary slang. They were *Yo, fuckin bitch, ain't, 'sposed, hoes, back, "bout, dis, stole, I-L-Y, fuck ya, Crib, cryin " up a storm, hit, sleepin, tryna,* and *baby*. The slang words and phrases are identified as a primary slang because this kind of slang used as a general expression by many people on their daily communication, or it is an alternative pronunciation to shorten, alter, or change the sound of a word. In the sentence *"His mama's on the crack pipe and he ain't got nobody".* The slang word *ain't* can be stated as primary because this slang used in an informal daily conversation by teenage boys and girls. This slang word used means "is not; am not; are not; do not; have not;will not; etc"

2.3.1.2 Secondary Slang

According to Kipfer and Chapman (2007:8), secondary slang is used, heard and known by some people in their social interaction. The word is chosen not so much to fix one group as to express one's attitudes and resourcefulness by pretending momentarily, in a little stick of guerilla theatre, to be the member of street gang or criminal or gambler or a drug user or a professional football player, and hence to express someone's contempt, superiority, cleverness by borrowing someone else verbal dress.

The example of secondary slang is the word "bankroll". The word "bankroll" is commonly used to name money. This slang word is used to express something in secret way where just restricts people who understand the meaning of that words. It is a reason the slang word "bankroll" classifies as secondary slang. Eventually, the user of slang is not limited only for underworld people but spreading

out through certain groups of people in the society. Most of slang is metaphoric, in determining the meaning of slang given cannot be directly found through its literary meaning.

2.3.2 Theory of Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 9), the study of meaning in a wide sense of "all that is communicated by language" and he breaks down the meaning in its widest sense into seven types, which are:

2.3.2.1 Conceptual Meaning

According to Leech (1981:9), the most important factor in linguistic communication is conceptual meaning (denotative or cognitive meaning). The meaning suggested by a word when used alone is known as conceptual meaning, also known as primary meaning. It is the common dictionary definition of a word or expression. Words in conceptual usage refer to things and indicate a factually variable situation. This implies that conceptual meaning, as opposed to the constant and literal meaning of words, can be regarded as universal. 1981, p. 9. The following words are classified as having conceptual meaning: Cop: a member of the police force, Sleepin': derived from the word sleeping and Cougar: a big cat.

2.3.2.2 Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning, according to Leech (1981: 12), is a word's communication value as a result of what it refers to, as opposed to its merely

conceptual content. The concept of reference overlaps with conceptual meaning to a great extent. If the word woman is conceptually defined by three attributes (+ human − male + adult), the three traits human, adult, and female must provide a condition for its correct use. These diametrically opposite characteristics are referred to as referent features in real-world English (that which the word refers to).

2.3.2.3 Social Meaning

Social meaning can be defined as the meaning which shows that an expression conveys about the contexts of social circumstances in which it is used. It primarily includes an utterance's stylistic meaning. It is the expression's formality. A few words or their pronunciations are recognized as dialectical, i.e., they reveal information about the geographic and social origin of the speaker. The social meaning of an utterance is related to the context in which it is used. It is concerned with the social context in which a linguistic expression is used. Some dialectic words, for example, tell us about the speaker's regional and social background. Similarly, some stylistic usages reveal information about the speaker's and hearer's social relationship (1981 14). For example, according to Leech (1981: 14), the word "home" generally refers to where people live with their families. Nevertheless, under other circumstances the expression "home" may be replaced with "dwelling" to make it formal, "domisile" to make the meaning very formal, or in the poetic language it is written by "adobe".

2.3.2.4 Affective Meaning

When delivering the meaning to the listener or reader, affective meaning refers to the speaker's or writer's personal sentiments and attitude. Affective meaning is a parasitic category of emotion that is rarely mediated by other categories of meaning, such as connotative, conceptual, or stylistic meaning. A Leech is a parasitic creature (1981). For example, a measured phrase like *"I am terrible so interrupt,"* but *"I wonder if you would be so kind as to lower your voice a little"* is more courteous in urging people to be quiet. Those words are designed to convey politeness. If the intonation is emphasized, however, it is sarcasm (Leech, 1981: 15).

2.3.2.5 Reflective Meaning

When a term has more than one or numerous conceptual meanings, it is said to have reflected meaning. In such a circumstance, one responds to the concept of a word, while another responds to the same word in a different way. For example, the words "The Comforter and the Holy Ghost" (Leech, 1981) are said to be said at a church service, according to the assertion. Those phrases have religious connotations, but there is an unspoken reaction to their non-religious connotations as well. "Comforter" sounds warm and inviting, while "Ghost" is thrilling.

2.3.2.6 Collocative Meaning

Collocative meanings are usually associated with the use of certain words in the same context. The associations that a word can be obtained as a result of the meaning of a word that is often spoken in its environment is called a collocative

meaning. In other words, it is the portion of a word's meaning that is suggested by the words that come before or after the word in question. The meaning of a word produced in a specific context is referred to as collocative meaning. Because of the conventions of collocation, a word will produce different meanings when collocates with other words (1981: 16). The following are examples of words classified as having collocative meaning:

a) Fuck all: nothing at all

b) Fuck off: go away

c) Heavy news: a piece of sad news

d) Fast woman: a lady of easy virtue

e) Fast friend: a reliable friend

f) Handsome: good looking

2.3.2.7 Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning is expressed through a speaker's or writer's structure of a message in terms of ordering and emphasis, but the meaning remains the same (Leech, 1981: 19). The active and passive voice sentences below, for example, have identical logical meanings but different communicative implications.

1) *Mrs. Bessie Smith* donated the first prize.

2) *The first prize* was donated by Mrs. Bessie Smith.

The meaning of the sentences above is the same, but the emphasis is different. The first phrase focused on *"who contributed the first prize,"* whereas the second sentence focused on *"what Mrs. Bessie Smith donated."* (Leech, 1981: 19). As a

result, thematic meaning has the ability to alter the main focus and meaning of sentences or utterances.