

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an essential component of human life. Humans can express what they think through language so that communication can be well established. According to Wardhaugh (2015: 3) Language is a set of arbitrary vocal symbols that humans use to communicate. Along with the times, language began to develop, there were various kinds of research conducted regarding language and its use. The science that studied about language is called linguistics.

In linguistics there is a branch of science that studies language and its use in social life which is called sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics explains language related to the social context in which a person conveys and builds aspects of their social identity through the language they use (Holmes, 2013: 1). This social identity causes language diversity which in sociolinguistics is called language variation. Currently, the variations of the language used are growing, one of the variations of the language that has experienced a lot of development is slang. Many young people of today's generation use slang in everyday conversations.

Slang is non-standard language that is used in informal situations by people in certain groups. Slang is not limited by any social boundaries and exists in all cultures, social classes and in all languages. Every country has types of slang based

on the language they speak. Eble (1996) said that slang is a collection of spoken words and phrases used to strengthen social status in a group that can change constantly over time. People use slang in communication to look unique and trendy.

Apart from everyday conversations, slang is also used in many literary works, including songs, contemporary poetry, novels, and movies. People tend to imitate the speech styles and slang they hear from these literary works without knowing the meaning of the words they are saying. One of the literary works that is the focus of this research is a movie with the title *Senior Year*. *Senior Year*, an American comedy movie with Alex Hardcastle as its director, was made available on Netflix on May 13, 2022. This movie stars Rebel Wilson who plays the main character, Stephanie Conway.

This movie tells the story of Stephanie Conway, a cheerleader captain who has an accident and ends up in a coma. Then, after 20 years in a coma, Stephanie wakes up as a 37-year-old woman. She goes back to her high school and seeks to assume her position as the school's star. The *Senior Year* movie was chosen as the data source for this study because many of the characters in the movie used slang, particularly the main character. Research on slang is interesting to do because slang is limitless, slang can arise from new words or existing words that have new meanings.

## 1.2 Problems of the Study

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

The problems are:

- 1) What types of slang are found in *Senior Year* movie?
- 2) How the social factors influence the use of slang found in *Senior Year* movie?

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problems of the study, the objectives of this study are:

- 1) To identify the types of slang found in *Senior Year* movie.
- 2) To analyze the social factors that influence the use of slang found in *Senior Year* movie.

## 1.4 Limitation of the Study

This study focused on the slang words found in the *Senior Year* movie. The analysis of the study focused on finding the types and analyzing social factors influence the slang words found in the *Senior Year* movie. The theories used in this study proposed by Allan & Burrige (2006) about the types of slang and theory proposed by Holmes (2013) about social factors.

## 1.5 Significance of the Study

This study will provide new insights about the types and the social factors that influence slang, specifically those found in the *Senior Year* Movie. In this study there are two significance. The first one is theoretical significance that describes the benefits of research for the development of science that can be used by other researchers to develop science. The second one is practical significance which outlines the benefits of research for society. The two significances will be explained as follows:

### 1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

The study's findings will be an invaluable resource for future studies on the varieties of slang and the social factors that influence its use especially in the movie. Slang develops along with the times; therefore, this research is useful to increase knowledge about slang vocabulary. The writer hopes this study will be use full for the further research especially research in slang word.

### 1.5.2 Practical Significance

Through this research, people can increase their knowledge about English language, especially student of English Course regarding the types and the meaning of slang so that they can use it properly according to its meaning and context in daily conversations. As well as the social factors influence slang words is important to know because it can be used to identify the situation and the condition of the

conversation. The writer wishes that this study would be beneficial to anyone who are interested in learning the English language.



## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS AND THEORIES**

#### **2.1 Review of Related Literature**

From the phenomena described in the previous chapter, previous research is needed to enrich and support knowledge about slang. To support this study, there are several previous studies related to this topic, namely:

The first review is taken from a thesis written by Hafidh (2022) entitled "An Analysis of English Slang Words Used by Cinta Laura on Instagram." The study's objectives are to understand the many types of slang and the sociolinguistic and social aspects. The author drew on theories put forth by Eric Partridge and Allan & Burrige. Cinta Laura's Instagram caption served as the source of the data, which was then analyzed using a descriptive-qualitative approach. The results showed that Cinta Laura's Instagram caption has three different social elements in addition to two different types of slang, such as public house slang and society slang. The similarities between the previous study and the current study are in analyzing the types of slang. The differences between the previous study and the current study are: First, the current study used a movie as the data source, while the previous study used an Instagram caption as the data source. Second, the current study used the theory proposed by Allan and Burrige (2006) to identify the types of slang, while the previous study used the theory proposed by Eric Partridge.

The second review is taken from an article entitled "Analysis of Slang Language in the Song Lyric "Damn, I Love You" by Agnes Monica" by



Siringoringo & Marpaung (2022). The study's objectives are to identify the slang's type and ascertain its meaning. Data from the Agnes Monica song "Damn, I Love You" lyrics were used to examine the descriptive-qualitative approach. The author referenced Yule's (2010) theory. The analysis revealed that the song's lyrics contain three different types of slang, including coinage, blending, and clipping. The similarities between the previous study and the current study are in analyzing the types of slang. The differences between the previous study and the current study are: First, the current study used the theory proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) to identify the types of slang, while the previous study used the theory proposed by Yule (2010). Second, the current study used the *Senior Year* movie as the data source, while the previous study used song lyrics as the data source.

The third review was derived from an article by Cristiana et al. (2021) titled "Slang Words in Bird of Prey Movie." The study's objectives are to identify the slang's category, social context, and meaning. The data were extracted from the main characters' statements in the movie *Birds of Prey*. The writer referenced theories put forth by Holmes (2013) and Chapman (2007). The research revealed that there are two types of slang used in the movie. The similarities between the previous study and the current study are in analyzing the types of slang found in a movie. The differences between the previous study and the current study are: First, the current study used the *Senior Year* movie as the data source, while the previous study used *Birds of Prey* as the data source. Second, the current study used the theory proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) to identify the types of slang, while the previous study used the theory proposed by Chapman (1998).

The fourth review is drawn from Kalakmabin's (2022) thesis, "Analysis of Slang Words Found in Hidden Figure Movie." The study's objectives are to categorize different slang word types and examine the characteristics of slang words. The data were derived from the script for the Hidden Figure movie. The author used theories put forth by Sumarsono (2007) and Chapman (1998). In order to analyze the data, the writer employed a qualitative descriptive method. The research revealed that the slang words in the Hidden Figure movie fall into two types, and six characteristics of slang words were discovered. The similarities between the previous study and the current study are in analyzing the types of slang. The differences between the previous study and this study are: This study used the *Senior Year* Movie as a data source, while the previous study used a script from the Hidden Figure Movie. And the current study used the theory proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) to identify the types of slang, while the previous study used the theory proposed by Chapman (1998).

The fifth review is taken from an article entitled "An analysis of Slang Geek Charming Movie" by Lumendang et al. (2020). The study tries to define the categories of slang and identify the slangs. The data were taken from the conversations of the main characters in the Geek Charming movie and analyzed using the descriptive-qualitative method. The author applied a theory put forward by Eric Partridge (1950). The research found that the major characters in the movie Geek Charming used three different types of slang. The similarities between the previous study and the current study are: First, analyze the types of slang. Second, use a movie as the data source. The differences between the previous study and the



current study are: First, the current study used the theory proposed by Allan and Burridge (2006) to identify the types of slang, while the previous study used the theory proposed by Eric Partridge (1950). Second, the current study used the *Senior Year* movie as the data source, while the previous study used the *Geek Charming* movie as the data source.

## 2.2 Concepts

In this study there are several topics were discussed as a concept. There are slang, *Senior Year*, and movie. In providing a better understanding of the types and social factors that influence slang words in *Senior Year* movie, the keywords need to be explained further, namely:

### 2.2.1 Slang

According to Leech and Svartvik (1975: 26), slang has importance in demonstrating the closeness of a social group because it is typically unintelligible to those outside that group. Teenage slang, army slang, and theatrical slang are examples of slang that is very familiar in style and is typically only used by members of a certain social group. Slang is typically transient and frequently associated with a particular generation or social group, similar to how fashion is used to define in-groups and out-groups (Coleman, 2004:2).

### 2.2.2 Movie

Movie is a collection of moving images and sound that can be viewed in a theater, on television, or on another media (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). These days, movies are hugely popular. In addition to seeing movies in theaters, people can also watch movies on a variety of digital media, such as Netflix. People can learn new things and acquire a lot of information by viewing movies, including new languages, motivation, and wisdom. It is simpler for people to emulate the culture or language of the movies they watch because most people watch movies to entertain themselves.

### 2.2.3 Senior Year

*Senior Year* is an American comedy movie directed by Alex Hardcastle (in his feature movie directorial debut) from a screenplay by Andrew Knauer, Arthur Pielli, and Brandon Scott Jones (*Senior Year*, 2022). The movie stars Rebel Wilson, who plays the main character, Stephanie Conway. This movie tells the story of Stephanie Conway, a cheerleader captain who has an accident and ends up in a coma. Then, after 20 years in a coma, Stephanie wakes up as a 37-year-old woman. She attempts to assume her position as the school's star when she returns to her high school. There are a lot of slang found in this movie because this movie is set in the modern era where slang is used to communicate informally with other people.

## 2.3 Theories

This section focused on discussing the theories that will be used to analyze the formulation of the specified problems. The first problem is about types of slang which was analyzed using the theory by Allan & Burridge (2006). The second problem is about social factors that affect the use of slang, it was analyzed using theory by Holmes (2013) about social factors. Those theories are:

### 2.3.1 Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics explains language related to the social context in which a person conveys and builds aspects of their social identity through the language they use (Holmes, 2013: 1). In order to accurately describe how one language system compares to another, sociolinguistics is primarily a branch of linguistics in which social realities play a significant role. In sociolinguistics there is language variation. Language variations can be interpreted as predictions of changes that may start to occur, but have not yet reached the level of social awareness. One of example of the language variation is slang.

### 2.3.2 Theory of Slang

Partridge (1934: 2) mentions that slang is a strange kind of vagrant language. Slang is defined as informal language that may contain offensive words or meanings and that is typically only in use for a brief period of time. It is typically spoken rather than written and is only utilized by specific, familiar groups of individuals. Slang is often used for amusement purposes, used by teenager to play

games and interact with their friends, as a test of wit and creativity or humor. The motivation for this is typically a demonstration of one's self-worth or arrogance, competitiveness or reactivity, or joy in one's craft. To establish contact with others or to demonstrate membership in a certain group, including a particular school, trade, profession, creative or intellectual movement, or social class.

### 2.3.3 The History of Slang

As stated by Allan & Burridge (2006), slang words were first used in the eighteenth century. At that time, slang was frequently used to alter the satirical expression "connected to a stranger or a suspect." Some people employ languages other than Standard English to express their emotions, while others use terms to create jokes or obscure the meaning of the term they are considering. Partridge (1934) really divided the history of slang into five eras in his book "Slang: Today and Yesterday." The sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries are the five periods. Slang began to spread throughout culture in the sixteenth century and developed into a bizarre language that was only used by a select few such as thieves, begging people, and criminals.

Slang started to appear in popular plays in the seventeenth century, including William Shakespeare's poetry *The Hick* and Richard Brome's comedy *A Jovial Crew*, which first used the slang vocabulary on stage (Manurung et al, 2020). Additionally, slang was initially used by students and classmates in the eighteenth century, which played a significant role in the way that slang was seen by the general public. In the twenty-first century slang has even become a recognized as

element of English Language. The first slang dictionary was undoubtedly written by an academic during nineteenth century, when slang first began to emerge. Slang terms like G. I., Pissed off, and brass have been affected by both World Wars I and II (Manurung et al, 2020). Last but not least, slang was a component of spoken language in the 20th century, and it wasn't just used by criminals or other bad people, it was also used by regular people, who did it because it made discussion simpler.

### **2.3.4 Types of Slang**

Slang can encompass lengthy statements and idioms but typically pertains to specific words and meanings, according to Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.). There are five different varieties of slang according to Allan & Burridge (2006: 69). The following will be clarified regarding slang types:

#### **2.3.4.1 Fresh and Creative**

This type denotes the use of a different vocabulary in slang to describe something in a casual context. According to Allan & Burridge (2006: 69) slang is new and inventive because it often uses words that are currently in use as well as terms with completely different vocabularies, loose variants, and inventive wordplay. Slang words have been around since the 18th century, which explains why we are familiar with them. Example of fresh and creative slang is the word “dude” that usually used to call a man to greet them.



#### 2.3.4.2 Flippant

This form shows that slang is composed of two or more terms, where the written term does not have the same meaning as the term's denotative counterpart (Allan & Burridge, 2006: 69). Example of this type is the phrase "break a leg" that means "good luck". The notion that hoping for luck is a tempting fate is a product of theatrical superstition. The colloquial term, whose origins can be traced to folk etymology.

#### 2.3.4.3 Imitative

Imitative refers to a slang term that mimics or borrows from the Standard English Language by combining two different terms or using Standard English vocabulary in different contexts (Allan & Burridge, 2006: 69). It implies that the slang term was derived from a Standard English term, it may also combine two different words with different meanings. Example of this type is "wanna" that derived from "want to".

#### 2.3.4.4 Acronym

An acronym, also known as an abbreviation or as it is more often known, is a type of slang created by combining the initials of a group of words or syllables with the results of each word's primary letters (Allan & Burridge, 2006: 69). Acronym can be created by combining the first letters of all the words in a phrase, or it can be made by pronouncing the initials of numerous words or syllables as a single word. The example of this type is "NATO" acronym from North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

#### 2.3.4.4 Clipping

Clipping or cutting short is a slang type that is made by removing some of the longer words to create a structure that is shorter and has the same meaning. A slang term according to this type is created by cutting out certain components of a lengthier term to create a shorter term with the same meaning. The word "till," which comes from the verb "until," is an example of it. It is possible to shorten words that are often used. Furthermore, it's improper to utilize clipping form in professional conversations.

#### 2.3.5 Social Factors

Holmes (2013: 9) asserts that the fundamentals aspects of sociolinguistics are social factors. According to her, there are a few variables that influence how language is used by people as well as the causes of why people do not always speak in the same way. Four social factors are asserted by Holmes' theory: participants, setting, topic, and function of interaction. The following social factors are the main factors that determine whether people choose to speak a language or not:

##### 2.3.5.1 Participants

Participants or individuals are those who are involved in the activity of speaking, such as who is speaking and who they are speaking to (Holmes 2013: 9). Participants have control over the language they use. Participants can be a combination of different roles, including speaker and audience, addressor and recipient, sender and receiver. They generally fulfill specific social roles, such as

gender, status, age, or profession of the individuals involved. There are various types of participants, such as family members (father-son, brother-sister), work colleagues (supervisor-employee, director-staff), and social acquaintances (friend, stranger, neighbor).

### **2.3.5.2 Setting**

According to Holmes (2013: 9) setting or social context of interaction refers to the typical location or actual places and situations where a conversation take place such as house, school, and workplace. Setting refers to the time and spot, the cements actual conditions in which the speech event has a spot. Scene alludes to the conceptual mental context or the social significance of the action. There are many social and environmental factors that influence the choice of language to use in a particular environment. When speaking language that depends on the social context or environment, speakers must use appropriate words. People should be aware of different language choices and language suitability.

### **2.3.5.3 Topic**

The topic refers to the subject or what is being talked about in conversation or discussion (Holmes, 2013: 9). In relation to the topic being discussed, each participant in the interaction may have a different perspective from the other participants. People attempt to establish a primary topic in order for the communication to proceed smoothly. They connect discourses thematically, syntactically, or logically.

#### 2.3.5.4 Function

The purpose of language processing is the function of interaction. The function of a language focuses on the reasons why the language is used. Holmes (2013: 275) suggests that there are various methods to categorize speech functions, such as:

- a. Expressive are utterances used to convey emotions or speaker's feelings, such as anger, sadness, and excitement, for example: I feel very sad now.
- b. Directive expressions invite someone to do something or make a request, such as "Please close the door."
- c. Referential expressions are those that express information, such as "At the third stroke, it will be precisely three o'clock."
- d. Metalinguistic expressions are comment on language itself, such as "Hegemony is not a common word."
- e. Phatic expressions are used to keep up social bonds and demonstrate empathy and sympathy with others, such as "How are you,"
- f. Poetic expressions include rhymes, mottos, and poems are utterances used to express aesthetic of language features. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers is an example of a poetic expression.