

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Sociolinguistics studies how linguistic norms and attitudes affect how people communicate and how language may be used to promote social change. Sociolinguistics is the study of how people use language differently in different contexts and from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015). This field specifies which language forms are suitable based on who is being addressed, the setting, and the goal of the conversation. Holmes & Janet (2013) affirmed that languages can be delivered in multiple ways, including greetings, compliments, or description. The choice of variety or style of language is very important in communicating in society because when people choose the inappropriate one, they consequently will be considered impolite.

Language always changes and keeps developing from time to time, as a result, the language becomes varied. This variation emerges due to interactions between individuals or groups which are then influenced by social factors such as gender, ethnicity, age, and stratification in the community (Holmes & Janet, 2013). Humans are able to learn language by creating new words, repurposing old ones (Chomsky, 1957).

Language variations illustrate that people do not always communicate in the same way, they unknowingly express their individuality or group identity. There are differences at different levels, including lexicon, grammar, and pronunciation

(Holmes & Janet, 2013). At the lexicon level, for example, the variation manifests as idiom, register, jargon, slang, and argot. Among them, slang is one of the most widespread and commonly used types.

Language variation not only reflects social identity, but it also serves as a tool for fostering group unity and distinguishing insiders from outsiders. People often use non-standard forms of language, such as slang, in informal communication to foster a sense of connection and closeness, particularly among close friends or peers. These language variances contribute to a shared knowledge that may be inaccessible to individuals outside the group. As a result, slang has become an important aspect of how people show familiarity, group membership, and shared experiences in their communities, especially in informal situation (Alawiyah et al., 2021; Anjani et al., 2025).

Slang is a more casual than conventional informal language, consisting of ungrammatical words or phrases (Allan & Burridge, 2006). Every language includes slang, and since there are no written sources that explain its origins, nobody is aware of where particular words or phrases came from. Slang develops from an idea or habit in social interaction within a group. Slang is becoming more common as time goes on. No one knows exactly where the word “slang” comes from, but it was first written down around the year 1800. However, people were likely using it much earlier. According to BridgeEnglish, slang was mainly used by criminals in England during the 16th and 17th centuries, especially in bars and gambling places. Over time, slang lost its bad reputation and started appearing in

plays and books. By the 1920s, it had become popular among well-known writers. Today, slang is still widely used by young, adult, and old generations.

Many language experts have shared their views and conducted research on slang. One of them is Claire in 1998, who, as cited in Abidin (2021), defined that slang frequently appears in relaxed setting where people feel comfortable among peers. Slang exists in every language, and in many cases, its exact origins are difficult to trace. It emerges from social interactions within a group, where new words are created to express ideas or habits. When people encounter something new that lacks an existing term, they invent slang to make communication easier. This process highlights human creativity in shaping and evolving language. Slang is mostly used in informal context, especially by young people, as a way to build intimacy. In addition to building intimacy, people use slang for various reasons, such as wanting to stand out, identifying with a specific group or social class, enriching the language, or maintaining secrecy. However, slang is generally considered inappropriate in formal situations, as it can be seen as impolite (Holmes & Janet, 2013). Despite this, slang has become a natural part of everyday communication, often used with family, friends, or loved ones (Alawiyah et al., 2021). In some cases, slang can be more effective than standard English, particularly when discussing topics like sports, relationships, and partying. Interestingly, many people use slang unconsciously, without realizing they are incorporating it into their speech.

Teenagers in their group's everyday conversations typically employ informal language in a spontaneous and natural way. Language use in such social

interactions reflects how meaning is constructed through daily communication practices within a community. This phenomenon shows that language is not merely a structural system, but also a social activity shaped by interactions and shared understanding among peers without realizing it, and occasionally they add a new phrase to improve their communication (Siregar, 2021). It is evidence of how inventive people can be when using language. Occasionally, speakers are unaware that they are employing slang (Green, 2015).

Slang is a very interesting topic since it is always changing, resulting in new varieties. Despite its widespread use, slang is rarely introduced by a teacher. Slang should be introduced to the students to give insight into this informal type of language. The Audiolingual (AL) system only teaches students how to use language by using proper grammar (Ellis, 2006). In fact, this can be challenging, as slang expressions are not always literal. Although slang is categorized as an informal language variation, it must also be learned. The reason is, in the real world, when conducting daily communication with native speakers, slang is very often used. They prefer to use slang, so that the conversation does not seem stiff (Holmes & Janet, 2013). As students who are just learning a foreign language, they are often confused because frequently slang cannot be interpreted literally. Therefore, learning slang is crucial for good communication because it allows students to interact more readily with native speakers and comprehend cultural subtleties.

The movie “Anyone but You” (2023) provides a good example of slang being utilized in ordinary life. The film depicts folks utilizing slang as a natural

part of their daily interactions, particularly in informal and amusing settings.

Characters regularly utilize modern terms such as *literally*, *nope*, *hell yeah*, and *vibe*, demonstrating how contemporary is woven throughout their social interactions. For example, the main characters, Bea and Ben, frequently exchange clever banter using casual language, demonstrating that slang is important for expressing emotion, irony, and personality. This example demonstrates how slang is still an important element of everyday communication, especially in modern romantic comedies, where it blends seamlessly into informal, real-life discussions.

A movie is chosen as a data source because it provides a clear example of how a foreign language, like English, is used in real-life situations. Through movies, viewers can observe the natural use of slang and informal expressions by native speakers, helping them understand everyday conversations. According to Elsaesser & Buckland (2002), movie is seen as a potent cultural medium that shapes and reflects a society's social ideals, language, and identity, in addition to telling its tales. Additionally, movies serve as an enjoyable and effective tool for learning foreign languages. They allow viewers to pick up new words and phrases while watching, making the learning process more engaging. Since movies combine spoken dialogue with facial expressions and gestures, they help clarify the meaning of words, making it easier to understand both direct and implied messages. This combination of audio and visual elements enhances language comprehension and retention.

“Anyone but You” (2023) was chosen as the data source for its detailed depiction of casual, modern-day conversations among young adults. The movie,

which is a romantic comedy about relationships, social interactions, and amusing misunderstandings, includes a number of slang phrases that are commonly used in casual contexts. Characters regularly utilize terms like *literally*, *vibe*, *hell no*, and *what the hell*, which are commonly encountered in contemporary spoken English. The movie also shows how slang is used to express personality, convey sarcasm, and establish relationships, emphasizing its importance beyond language. “Anyone but You” (2023), with its popularity, relatability, and accurate usage of modern slang, is a relevant and accessible source for studying the role of slang in contemporary informal discourse.

The aims of this study are to examine the types of slang terms used in “Anyone but You” (2023) and how their function within the characters’ conversations. Additionally, analysing the purposes of slang will shed light on the reasons behind the characters’ preference for informal language. Understanding these slang expressions can help English learners in handling everyday communication with native speakers more effectively.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the description that has been elucidated in the background above, there are two research questions formulated as follows:

1. What types of slang are used by the characters in “Anyone but You” (2023) movie script?
2. What are the functions of slang used by the characters in the “Anyone but You” (2023) movie script?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on research questions formulated above, the objective of this study are:

1. To classify the types of slang used by the characters in the “Anyone but You” (2023) movie script.
2. To explain the functions of the slang used by the characters in the “Anyone but You” (2023) movie script.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

This study applies a sociolinguistics approach because this study will analyse the types and functions in “Anyone but You” (2023) which are closely related to the language used and society. This study will identify the slang words that are used by all characters in “Anyone but You” (2023). In analysing the slang, the framework of Allan & Burridge (2006) will be employed, which classifies slang into five categories; fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping and seven functions of slang; to address, to initiate relaxed conversation, to humiliate, to form an intimate atmosphere, to express impression, to reveal anger, and to show intimacy.

1.5 Significances of the Study

The purpose of this study is to enrich sociolinguistics studies by examining slang words found in “Anyone but You” (2023), particularly their types and its

function. The importance of this study can be divided into theoretical and practical aspects as follows:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

The goal of this study is to theoretically deepen the understanding of slang terms by examining how they are used in the casual environment portrayed in “Anyone but You” (2023). Through the identification of slang categories and their purposes, this study offers important insights into the ways in which slang promotes linguistic innovation, variation, and communication. Additionally, the results can contribute to current slang theories by providing a more thorough understanding of its function in casual conversation and its implications for language instruction and learning.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

Practically, the study’s finding will be beneficial for students, researchers, and educators who are interested in exploring slang in films and its influence on language learning. Investigating the use of slang in “Anyone but You” (2023), this study can serve as a valuable resource for understanding informal language in media and its role in everyday communication. Furthermore, it can provide useful insights for those studying English linguistics, sociolinguistics, or media studies by analysing how slang is used in daily conversations.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, AND THEORIES

This chapter presents the review of related literature, defines the key concepts, and describes the theoretical basis used in analysing the data. The conceptual foundation of this study focuses on examining the use of slang words found in the “Anyone but You” (2023) movie script. For the analysis, theory from Allan & Burridge (2006) will be applied to identify and classify the types and functions of slang words used by the characters. In addition, five previous studies related to the topic of slang were reviewed to provide relevant comparisons and highlight research gaps. These studies were conducted by Tanamal et al. (2020), Nugraha & Sulatra (2023), Dewi et al., (2018), Putri (2020), and Chairiyah (2022), which are further discussed in detail in the following section.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The review of related literature is useful for getting gaps between previous studies and this study. The literature review was conducted on three articles and two undergraduate thesis that were relevant to slang words to get a better understanding of the topic, therefore facilitating the completion of this study.

First, an article by Tanamal et al. (2020) entitled “An Analysis of Slang Words in Song Lyrics by Travis Scott on Astroworld Album” aimed to identify the sorts of slang phrases contained in three selected songs from Travis Scott’s Astroworld album. To identify slang, the study used Yule’s (1986) theory of word production processes, which included coinage, compounding, blending, clipping,

and others. The researchers used a descriptive qualitative method to examine lyrics from “Yosemite,” “Stargazing,” and “Butterfly Effect,” discovering 20 occurrences of slang. Clipping was discovered to be the most common type, while borrowing, derivation, and back formation were not included in the data. Although this research is pertinent to the current study because it focuses on slang words, it takes a different theoretical approach, utilizing Yule’s (1986) word formation theory, whereas the current study uses Allan & Burridge (2006) classification of slang types and functions. Furthermore, the data source differs that this study employs rap song lyrics, whereas the current study examines a movie script.

Second, an article by Nugraha & Sulatra (2023) entitled “Slang Words Found on To All the Boys: Always and Forever Movie” examine slang in the movie “To All the Boys: Always and Forever”. The researchers employed a descriptive qualitative method and used Kipfer and Chapman’s (2007) theory, which classifies slang into two categories; primary slang and secondary slang. The data were collected by observing the movie and identifying slang expressions spoken by the main characters, Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky. The study found a total of 11 slang words, with 10 categorized as primary slang and only 1 as secondary slang. This research is relevant to the present study as both explore the use of slang in spoken media. However, the two studies differ in the theoretical approach and analytical focus. Nugraha & Sulatra (2023) adopted the classification by Kipfer & Chapman (2007), while the current study applies the framework proposed by Allan & Burridge (2006). Furthermore, Nugraha and

Sulatra's in 2023 study concentrated on identifying types of slang, whereas the present research may extend the analysis to include the functions of slang words within the dialogue.

Third, an article entitled "The Analysis of American Slang in Movie Script the Wolf of Wall Street" by Dewi et al., (2018) focused on identifying slang words in the movie "The Wolf of Wall Street". The main aims of the study were to identify the different types of slang and analyse their meanings as used by various characters in the movie script. The researchers utilized a documentation method to gather the data, which was then examined using a descriptive qualitative approach. The analysis was guided by Chapman's (1988) classification of slang into primary and secondary types, and Leech's (1981) theory of meaning, which outlines seven types: conceptual, connotative, social, affective, reflected, collocative, and thematic meaning. The findings revealed 36 slang words, with primary slang being as the most dominant. Of the seven meaning types, only conceptual, reflected, and affective meanings were identified. In terms of similarity, both this research and the present study focus on slang in movie scripts, however, the data sources and data collection are different. Dewi et al., (2018) analysed "The Wolf of Wall Street", while the current study analyses "Anyone but You" (2023). Additionally, the previous study used documentation while present study uses observation. The theoretical framework also differs, Previous study relying on Chapman's (1988) classification, while this study applies the theory by Allan and Burridge (2006).

Fourth, a relevant study is an undergraduate thesis written by Putri (2020), entitled “A Sociolinguistics Analysis of Slang Used by Cher Horowitz in the Movie Clueless”. The study focused on identifying the contextual meanings and functions of slang expressions used by the main character, Cher Horowitz. Employing a qualitative method and population study approach, Putri (2020) analysed the data using Holmes’s (2013) theory to explore the social context particularly the participants, setting, and topic of interaction. To examine the function of slang, the study referred to the framework proposed by Zhou & Fan (2013), which outlines three functions; the pursuit of self-identity, conveying emotional expression, and achieving politeness. The findings revealed 29 slang words used by Cher Horowitz, with the majority 24 spoken to individuals with whom she had a close relationship, and only five addressed to those less familiar. The analysis indicated that the slang served two primary functions, expressing self-identity and the speaker’s emotions, while the function of politeness was not observed. A key strength of this research lies in its inclusion of visual data from the film, such as movie stills that accompany the analysed utterances, which enhance the clarity and appeal of the presentation.

The fifth is an undergraduate thesis by Chairiyah (2022) titled “An Analysis of Slang Words in Twitter: Gender Perspective”. Chairiyah (2022) used Allan & Burridges’s (2006) classification by focusing on identifying the types of slang words most commonly used by male and female Twitter users. Slang types, includes; fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. Chairiyah used a descriptive qualitative method and collected her data through purposive

sampling. The researcher analyses tweets from 30 users, 15 males and 15 females. The results show that male users mostly use acronym slang, while female users tend to use more imitative slang. Chairiyah (2022) also provides key terms in her thesis, which help readers understand her research clearly and avoid confusion. Her use of Allan & Burridge (2006) theory has inspired the writer to apply the same theory in analysing slang in the “Anyone but You” (2023) movie script.

In conclusion, this study and the previous studies above are relevant because they all focus on slang. However, the current study reveals significant gaps. Previous study that reviewed above used different theory, such as Yule (1986), Kipfer and Chapman (2007), Chapman (1988), and Holmes (2013), also a variety of data sources and methodologies, ranging from identifying slang kinds to assessing contextual meanings. One study by Chairiyah (2022) employed the same theory as the current study, Allan & Burridge (2006), but focused on gender-based slang usage on Twitter. Although the theoretical underpinning is same, the approach and subject of study differ. The current study expands on past applications of Allan & Burridge (2006) theory, but it makes a new contribution by examining both the varieties and functions of slang in “Anyone but You” (2023), a topic not previously addressed using this method.

2.2 Concepts

Concepts are technical terms that must be briefly described to provide the reader with understanding into this study. This study will employ operational

concepts, which are related to titles and research questions. Thus, there are two concepts in this study: slang words and movie script.

2.2.1 Slang

Experts provide many meanings of slang. Both definitions are often in agreement. According to Richards and Schmidt (2010), slang refers to casual, informal discourse that uses expressive yet informal language. Allan & Burridge (2006) support this statement. As an informal variety, Slang is viewed as contemporary and colloquial, but it is frequently regarded as having lower status than standard or polite forms of expression. Slang is a language that usually used by young people to communicate inside their social groups. According to Matiello (2008), slang is often used inside a group to connect people of similar ages and experiences, to promoting solidarity. It demonstrates how slang may represent an individual's age. New-fashioned slang is typically used by young people and may seem weird to other people (Holmes & Janet, 2013). Experts provide multiple definitions of slang, which support one another as explained above. This study employed Allan & Burridge (2006) definition of slang to effectively comprehend its findings.

2.2.2 Movie Script

A movie script, often known as a screenplay, is a written document that describes the overall structure of a film, including the plot, scene sequence, character exchanges, and stage directions. It acts as a blueprint for directors,

directing performers and the production staff as they bring the story to life. A script is often formatted in Courier 12-point typeface to guarantee consistency and readability throughout the film industry. Beyond its technical role, a script reflects the film's tone, themes, and style, making it a crucial component of cinematic storytelling. In "Anyone but you" (2023), the movie script used slang or informal language to reflect modern social interactions, making the characters and setting feel more authentic and relatable.

2.3 Theories

Since slang will be the subject of this study, the theories proposed by Allan & Burrige (2006) is employed for this study. These theories are chosen because it provides a clear and comprehensive explanation for analysing slang. It is used to answer both research questions in this study. First the theory classified slang into five types, which helps to identify the types of slang found in the data source. Second, it explains the seven functions of slang, allowing the researcher to analyse how slang is used in different context.

2.3.1 Slang

According to Allan & Burrige (2006), slang is believed to be stylistically inferior to conventional formal, and even polite informal speech. It is a highly colloquial and modern sort of language. Slang is a variety of languages that young people commonly used to communicate within their social group. Slang serves as a symbol of solidarity and can be used to denote membership of close-knit social

groups. Slang can reflect a someone's age. Young people typically use new-fashioned language, which might sound weird to older people. The crucial characteristic of slang is a symbol of in-group solidarity and a correlation between human groups with similar experiences, for instance, belonging to a specific social group as jazz musicians, prostitutes, drug addicts, or professional crooks. Slang cannot be used in a certain situation due to it being an informal form of language because a lot of it contains obscene and offensive words.

2.3.1.1 Types of Slang

According to Allan & Burridge (2006), slang is classified into five types, namely Fresh and Creative, Flippant, Imitative, Acronym, and Clipping.

1) Fresh and Creative

Slang is classified as fresh and creative when it is a completely new vocabulary created by brilliant imagination and used to describe anything in casual conditions (Allan & Burridge, 2006). For example, *buddy* is a new and unique slang word because it is not the result of blending, abbreviation, imitation, or cutting. It originated as an informal way to refer to a friend and gradually gained popularity (Murthi et al., 2023: 2530).

2) Flippant

Allan & Burridge, (2006) stated that the flippant kind is slang consist up of two or more words that have no denotative meanings. For example, *Tongue-in-cheek*. This term is classified as flippant slang because it combines three words, *tongue*, *in*, and *cheek*, to form a phrase with a completely different meaning than

the original word (Mulyantini et al., 2023: 141). The meaning of that slang is something that is not serious, joking, or slightly sarcastic. The term is used when someone says something ironic or funny, but can be taken literally if you are unaware or joke.

3) Imitative

According to Allan & Burridge, (2006), Imitative slang is taken from Standard English. Standard English words have several meanings or are combined with other Standard English words to create new meanings. For example, *Peeps* is a slang term for a group of individuals, usually relatives or close friends (Sulaiman & Syafitri, 2022: 49). It is derived from the term people and plays on its pronunciation. This is an example of imitative slang, according to Allan & Burridge (2006), in which a term imitates its original form but is altered for informal or social purposes.

4) Acronym

Acronym is the type of slang that is built from the initial letter of several words to form an acronym used in informal (Allan & Burridge, 2006). For example, *DUI*. This acronym stands for driving under the influence (of alcohol or drugs). This refers to someone getting arrested for driving after drinking alcohol. In general, those who have a *DUI* are typically not inebriated. Based on that statement, it is clear that *DUI* is part of an acronym type slang (Mulyantini et al., 2023: 141).

5) Clipping

Clipping is a type of slang word formed by removing portions of a longer word to make a shorter version. Even when certain portions are removed, the word retains its meaning (Allan & Burridge, 2006). For example, consider the term *c'mon*. *C'mon* serves as an informal representation of come on and it is typically employed in writing to portray the sound of the phrase when spoken swiftly (Mulyantini et al., 2023: 140). Based on the definition of clipping, this expression is considered as clipped slang because the word itself is the most basic manner of writing or saying the actual phrase come on becomes *c'mon*.

2.3.1.2 Functions of Slang

Slang serves social purposes, such as changing the tone of a conversation to make the interlocutor feel more at ease or identifying a member of a specific group. Allan & Burridge (2006) discovered and explained seven roles of slang words as follows:

1) To Address

People often prefer to use slang words as address terms to show closeness and solidarity in their relationships (Allan & Burridge, 2006). These informal expressions help create a sense of intimacy and familiarity between speakers. Words like *babe*, *daddy*, *darling*, and *buddy* are commonly used to address family members, friends, or loved ones (Murthi et al., 2023: 2531). By using such slang, speakers signal that there is little to no social distance, and that the relationship is built on affection, friendship, or trust.

2) To Initiate Relax Conversation

Some people choose to employ informal language variations, such as slang, to make the communication between the two parties more relaxed and pleasant, preventing it from appearing rigid. Speakers and listeners who already have close relationships tend to employ certain jargon to make conversation more comfortable.

According to Ayu et al., (2020), the slang phrase *darn* serves to start a comfortable discourse, as observed by Allan & Burrridge (2006). It is a gentle replacement for damn allowing speakers to communicate their feelings informally without seeming harsh, resulting in a warm and informal tone.

3) To Humiliate

Another function of slang is to convey anger or contempt frequently use by using mocking or harsh express dislike or hatred for something or someone by mocking. For instance, “You *asshole*, you’re a *fucking* tight-assed cunt.” “Get fucked,” *asshole*, and *fucking* are instances of slang used to insult and berate someone (Allan & Burrridge, 2006). Such slang represents the use of crude language in emotionally charged settings, particularly when people intend to humiliate or attack another verbally.

4) To Form Intimate Atmosphere

Conversations with new people are always awkward because there is a difference between their relationships, thus some people utilize slang to bridge that gap. Slang can be used as an alternative to make interactions more private and comfortable for both speakers and listeners. According to Ayu et al., (2020), the

slang word *gotta* serves to create an intimate atmosphere, as classified by using Allan & Burridge (2006) theory. These slang forms contribute to a sense of intimacy and familiarity in casual conversations. In contrast to starting a casual conversation, this function emphasizes creating a sense of ongoing closeness throughout the interaction, not just at the beginning.

5) To Express Impression

People frequently use slang to attack or show their contempt and hatred for someone or something, sometimes through ridicule. These idioms are typically rude and meant to annoy or provoke. According to Ayu et al., (2020), the slang phrase *friggin* is to expresses impression, as defined by using Allan & Burridge (2006) theory. It is a softer version of a louder profanity that is used to amplify emotion or highlight a point. This allows you to express strong feelings in a more socially acceptable manner during informal conversations.

6) To Reveal Anger

Everyone expresses their anger in numerous ways, one of which is through the use of slang. Some people like to use slang to express their rage, annoyance, or hate of something or someone. For example, like *fuck!* and *shit!* are frequently used to express extreme annoyance or fury (Murthi et al., 2023: 2531). These words allow speakers to express how strongly they feel, even if the language used is considered unpleasant or insulting.

7) To Show Intimacy

People who are already in a close relationship prefer to utilize slang words to express their intimacy. People in intimate relationships frequently utilize non-

standard vocabulary. For example, *no prob, bro!*. The phrase *no prob* is an example of slang with a casual and welcoming tone, which is frequently used in informal settings (Murthi et al., 2023: 2534). *Bro* is an example that usually use to show intimacy and show the closeness between speaker. Less people use this slang on the first meeting, but sometimes can be used to warmer situations. that's why it's different with to initiate relax conversation and Intimate Atmosphere. This differs with to initiate relax conversation and to form intimate Atmosphere functions because it reflects an already established closeness between speakers, rather than an attempt to start or build a comfortable atmosphere.

