

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, a lot of new words are used by some people. The new words which are used can sometimes create confusion and misunderstanding when it is used to communicate with other people. Some of these new words can be called slang. Based on Oxford dictionary (1990), slang is very informal words, phrases, etc, commonly used in speech, especially between people from the same social group and those who work together, not considered suitable for formal contexts and often not in use for long. Slang is not usually acceptable in formal speech or writing and includes expressions that may be impolite or taboo in conversational communication.

Slang is associated with peer group and gang speech, intentionally used to obtain some degree of secrecy. It may be compared to secret languages found in some tribes. Slang usually uses informal words and expressions that are not considered standard in the speaker's language. The use of slang can show an identity of a particular group and to differentiate one group from another. It can be said that one of the slang functions is a sign of identity. Basically, slang functions as one of the chief markers of one special group's identity. As the language of that social group, the existence of slang occupies an important role as a means of communication in order to keep secrets between themselves only from being

known by outsiders (O'grady, Dobrovolsky, and Katamba, 1996). Slang can show familiarity with what is being referred to, or at least familiarity with the group that uses this term. For example in one Australian aboriginal language, there is a men's society with a secret language in which every word means its opposite. Pig Latin is a children's secret language in which a meaningless vowel is inserted after every syllable. *Canay uyay unayderaystanday thisay?* It means can you understand this? In southern Arizona, the Spanish – American young people developed a secret variety called *Pachuco* in which they used idioms translated literally from English to Spanish, which couldn't be understood by either their Spanish-speaking elders or their English-speaking fellow students. Cockney rhyming slang (for example, 'titfer' for 'hat,' abbreviated from 'tit for tat') has also been widely publicized (Spolsky, 1998). Slang identifies activities, events and objects that have become routines for those involved, and it has an important function in creating rapport in the work or recreational environment. In Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, slang is defined as nonstandard language that is temporary, used by the youth and certain social group to communicate between each other in order not to be understandable by the outer group person (Slang, 1995).

Every community or society has its own language as its symbol. The same meaning can be expressed in different ways. In the wide range of society, every person has a tendency to speak or express his or her idea differently in different environment or settings for there are many factors, which can influence their language style. Some of those factors are social factors such as who you are

talking to, the setting, the function and the topic of the discussion. The members of each community have their distinctive linguistic repertoires. It means that in every community there is a range of varieties from which people select according to the context they are involved in.

Every person does not speak the same way or words every time. Different social groups in different times have developed their own slang's. Mostly slang words are created by the youngsters but many slang words are replaced, as speakers get bored of using the old ones. New words or slang words are mostly used by youngsters when they communicate with their peers. Slang is often classified into as aspect of the language of youngsters because youngsters are considered to be the majority of slang's active speakers. More obviously, O'Grady, Dobrovolsky, Katamba (1996) state that, "it [slang] is often applied to aspect of the language of youngsters." Youngsters often used informal style to their peer such as slang, because they want to create their own code. According to Yule (1985), although many new words and terms emerge in a language, people can still understand the meaning of those new words of terms, because the development of new words is influenced by the media like televisions, radios, magazines, newspapers, and advertisements or commercial programs that popularize the use of new words in daily communication.

Slang regularly transgresses other social norms, make free use of taboo expressions. But slang also sets up its own norms, the norms of the in-group, so that the gang is easily able to recognize a *lame* or outsider, who does not understand or who misuses slang terms. Slang thus serves social functions, setting

and proclaiming social boundaries and permitting speakers to assert or claim membership of identity or solidarity groups. Slang is a feature of the speech of the young and the powerless. Its dynamic nature is partly an effect of the need to develop new in group terms are develop new in group terms when slang terms are adopted by other people (Spolsky, 1998)

According to Hodgson (2005) Slang is an important concept to explore partly because literature in this area confirms that language choices in medical settings can be of great significance to both patients and families. Studies have shown how language choices give impact on professional practice by, as one example, changing the intended meaning of medical information and affecting individual perception of risk and choice which, in turn, may affect individual or familial well-being. In addition, language choice has the power to affect how individuals perceive themselves and are viewed by others.

Some people may still not familiar with the meaning of the slang words, one of the reason is because slang expressions change and spread so quickly that many people have difficulty in determining which one is slang and which is not. And it may also be due to the fact that slang words are informal and are only used by certain communities for internal communication among themselves as a code so that other people cannot understand their speech.

Indonesian slang language is mainly spoken in urban areas. There are different variations of slang language depending on which city one lives, mainly characterized by derivatives of different local ethnic languages. For example, in Bandung, West Java, the slang language contains vocabulary from Sundanese

language, or in Surabaya, East Java, the slang language mostly contains of the swear words, etc. There are Pontianak slang, Jakarta slang, Malang slang, Manado slang, Medan slang, and so on (<http://www.global oneness/Indonesian slang/variation/slng01.html>). In this case, the writer wants to analyze slang words used in Malang. Among Javanese this slang is called as “boso wali’an” which is almost identical with reversed slang. In this kind of slang, the words are spelled backward and the new arrangement of the letters is given plausible pronunciation (Crystal, 1987). The example of Malang slang is “ayo makan oskab” in Indonesian it means “ayo makan bakso” or in English “let’s eat meat ball.” Sometimes when the speakers say something in Malang slang to the person from other cities, it will lead to confusion as the other speaker probably do not understand the words or may need some time to predict what the words really are. Malang slang has survived for over 40 years. So it means that the speakers range from various ages, from the young to the old ones. Recently, the phenomenon in Malang shows that the speakers of Malang slang are getting fewer and fewer. If this phenomenon continues to happen and Malang people no longer use Malang slang in their speech, it is possible that in the next few years, Malang slang will be lost. So the writer wants to know how this slang language is used by Malang people. The writer wants to know and worried with the phenomenon because Malang slang is a trade mark of Malang people, and it is one of the culture of Malang people and it is an important thing for a society to defend their culture.

Slang can be analyzed by using the theory of Sociolinguistics. According to Holmes, Sociolinguistics studies the relationship between language and society.

It is interesting to examine why everyone speak differently from one another in different social contexts. It is also concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning (Holmes, 2001). The way people talk is influenced by the social context in which they are talking. It is depending on the speaker, the addressee and the situation. The same message may be expressed very differently to different people. We use different styles in different social contexts. So, the writer would like to analyze Malang Slang by applying Hymes theory, which is known as SPEAKING (Setting, Participants, Ends, Act sequence, Key, Instrumentalities, Norms, Genre) in Malang Slang. Hymes offers a theoretical basis for language study that accounts for both linguistic variation from individual to individual and relative linguistic coherence across the social realm, while also offering a methodological heuristic for investigating communication, often represented in terms of the SPEAKING mnemonic (Barbara Johnstone and William M. Marcellino, 1999).

1.2 Statements of the Problem

By conducting this study, the writer would like to find the answer of the question:

“How is the use of slang by Malang people analyzed by using Hymes theory?”

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to find out the use of slang by Malang people which is analyzed by using Hymes theory.

1.4 Significance of the Study

In this study, the writer hopes to give valuable knowledge and linguistic understanding for all. The writer also hopes that, with this thesis, more people know the use of slang by Malang people, and she hopes that Malang slang will not be lost in Malang. For other people who don't know anything about Malang slang, the writer hopes they will get the idea about Malang slang. In general, this study is expected to be beneficial in improving the knowledge of the students of English Department about the existence of slang words. It is expected that they do not only use the slang but also know the meanings and the process of the formation.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- **Slang:**

Words and phrases used in casual speech, often invented and spread by close-knit social or age group and fast-changing .

(Fromkin, Rodman and Hyamse, 2003)

- **Malang slang:**

The slang used by Malang people. The greatest numbers of its words are derived from Ngoko Javanese and Indonesian.

- **Malang people:**

The citizens of Malang who live in Malang.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

