

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Every person needs a media to interact with other people in daily life. That important media is called language. Language is an arbitrary system of vocal symbols which is used by a community to collaborate, interact, and identify (Kridalaksana, 1993, p.17). Language has a necessary role for all societies which use it because language is a tool to interact, in the sense as a medium of communication to convey thoughts, ideas, concepts or feelings.

Language has flexible and dynamic characteristics where the language will always be changing continuously in accordance with the times and the human life itself. In other words, it is impossible to say that language is stagnant. It is constantly changing and adapting to new phenomena in humanity (Parera, 2004, p.108).

There are many languages are spoken around the world. But based on what we know that English has become the global language since it holds a vital part of international media communication, society, economy, and entertainment. English has been divided into two parts, Standard English and Nonstandard English. Standard English is the variety of English which is usually normative for educated people. It is used in formal situation and includes speaking, writing, vocabulary, grammar, etc (Trudgill, as cited in Wardhaugh, 2006, p.35). On the other hand, Nonstandard English is the type of English that is used by a particular group of speakers and considered by convention to be sub-standard or not proper. It appears in informal situation and usually spoken by uneducated people (Spolsky, 1998, p.33). One of nonstandard English we usually find is slang.

Slang is an ever changing set of colloquial words and phrases that speakers use to establish or reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large (Eble, 1996, p.1). Slang is also a casual word, phrase, and expression which is commonly used in talking among friends or colleagues, but not proper for formal writing or occasions (Hornby, as cited in Rafika, 2010).

What distinguishes slang from other language categories is the reasons for using it. The reason of slang usage is the passion to be different, to enrich the language, to make speech more casual and playful, to identify one's self with the educational, economic or social class. Slang is always used self-consciously, with the desire to create a privileged identity. (Andersson & Trudgill, 1990, p.87)

Nowadays, the slang usage is getting more globalized in daily life. We can find the use of slang anywhere. It can be found in radio, social network, song, movie, and so on.

To remark on movie, it is the source of entertainment which slang is used extensively and popular with people. It is one of the factors in spreading slang in this modern era. Mostly people tend to imitate their favorite actor or actress on the movies by mimicking the style and the way the actor speak. Most of people imitate the slang words or phrases are which is spoken by their favorite actor, but they usually do not know the meaning of the words. It is difficult to find the slang meaning in the movie dialog because of the unfamiliar words. Therefore, it should be learned more for the writer as the student since it is hard to understand the movie if we do not know the slang words or phrases.

To study the slang, the writer chose the film "Shaun of the Dead" as a source of study material. The movie "Shaun of the Dead" is a British zombie comedy, concerns the misadventures of Shaun (Simon Pegg), a young man trapped in a rut, who is attempting to sort out his life, reconcile with his ex-girlfriend and settle his issues with his mother and stepfather, whilst simultaneously having to cope with an apocalyptic uprising of the undead that is

causing society to collapse. The writer was eager to analyze this film because it is a great movie and has an interesting storyline. It was nominated for 16 awards and won 11 including the International Horror Guild Award for Best Movie, the Empire Award for Best British Film, and Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films for Best Horror Film (www.imdb.com). In the movie conversation, the actors and actresses often use slang words or phrases which can be analyzed, for example:

SHAUN : He sells a bit of weed now and again. You've sold **puff**.

PETE : Yeah, once. At college. To you.

Based on *The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English*, **Puff** said in the text is another word for marijuana (Partridge, 2008, p.217).

LIZ : I'm going out with David and Di.

SHAUN : Let's go together.

LIZ : You hang out with my friends? "A failed actress and a **twat**"?

**Twat** said in the text means a promiscuous homosexual man (Partridge, 2008, p.671).

From the examples above, we can conclude that some of the slang words can be understood directly, and some are not. Slang often makes the audience cannot catch the true meaning of its word. Therefore it needs a slang dictionary or other references to find the right meaning of the slang.

According to the text above, this became the background for writer to choose a title "**The Study of Slang Used in Shaun of the Dead Movie**".

## 1.2 Problems

Based on the background of the study, the writer tried to get the answer of the following questions:

1. What are the meanings of slang used in *Shaun of the Dead* movie?
2. What types of slang are used in *Shaun of the Dead* movie?

## 1.3 Purposes

The goals of this study are:

1. To find out the meanings of slang used in *Shaun of the Dead* movie.
2. To find out the types of slang used in *Shaun of the Dead* movie

## 1.4 Benefits

The benefits of this study are:

1. To enrich the knowledge of the reader about slang, especially the type and meaning of slang used in *Shaun of the Dead* movie in order to increase vocabulary.
2. To be an additional reference that can help the students in studying further about slang.
3. To make easier to understand the slang spoken in this movie and the story of the movie itself.