

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 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 is an expression containing the intent to convey something to others, something that could be understood well by the listener.

Language includes two aspects; (1) the sound that is produced by speech organ which has no meaning but specific purpose. (2) Language as a tool of communication among people community which consists of two main parts that are the form and the meaning (Keraf, as cited in Massofa, 2009). It concludes that the language is the sound produced by the speech organ which is as a tool of communication among people that has form and meaning.

The primary function of language is as a communication tool (Chaer & Agustina, 1995, p.14). This statement is in line with Soeparno who stated the general function of language is as a tool for social communication (Soeparno, 1993, p.5) Sociolinguistics consider the language as social behavior used in social communication.

#### **2.2 The Varieties of Language**

In communication, people use different varieties of the same language. The variety can be included in the standard language and also the non-standard form. English has these two kinds of forms as well, standard and non-standard English. Below are further explanations about standard and nonstandard English:

### **2.2.1 Standard English**

Standard English is the variety of English which is usually used in printed form, is spoken by educated native speakers and which is normally taught in schools and to non native speaker learning the language (Trudgill, 1992, p.70). Based on the definition, it can be said that Standard English is usually used in printed media (such as newspaper and books) and formal situation. It also is considered as language that is properly used for educational and governmental purpose.

### **2.2.2 Nonstandard English**

In informal situation, people mostly speak nonstandard language. It is the language spoken by most people every day. While educated speakers retain their knowledge of formal rules, others are more relaxed about grammar and less concerned with vocabulary when they are engaged in ordinary conversation. Nonstandard English is naturally used by people who schooling is limited and who perform unskilled labor in the country and city. (Flexner, as cited in Abuandi, 2012, p.20). It is usually related to people having low status in society. Therefore, it is labeled as bad or vulgar language while Standard English is known as good English. Nonstandard English has greater variety than standard one. Various groups of nonstandard speaker such as fishermen, bakers, and labors have their own speech-forms. One of speech-forms in nonstandard language in English is slang.

## **2.3 Slang**

Slang is the variation of speech characterized by vocabulary that is newly discovered and quickly changed, used by young people or particular social groups and professionals for internal communication (Chaer & Agustina, 1995, p.57).

Slang is a form of nonstandard English which is often used by young people or particular societies in order to communicate privately, so the vocabulary in slang is constantly changed and renewed.

Slang shows the importance of language in creating social identity. This is special kinds of 'intimate' or in-group speech. It is a kind of jargon marked by its rejection of formal rules, conservatism, permanence, and used as a sign of solidarity that underlies common language usage and degree. As Spolsky said that the importance of language in establishing social identity is also shown in the case of slang. One way to characterize slang is as special kinds of “intimate” or in-group speech. Slang is a kind of jargon marked by its rejection of formal rules, its comparative freshness and its common ephemerality, and its marked use to claim solidarity (Spolsky, 1998, p.35).

Slang has some unique characteristics. It represents excitements and changes like a fashion. When it is trend, everyone will use it. Hotten said :

*“Slang represents that evanescent, vulgar language, ever changing with fashion and taste, spoken by persons in every grade of life, doesn't matter rich or poor, honest and dishonest. Slang in indulged in form a desire to appear familiar with life, gaiety, town-humour and with transient nick names and street jokes of the day. Slang is the language of street humor, of fast, high and low life, and it is become as old as speech and the congregating together of people in cities”* (Hotten, as cited in Green, 2000, p.5).

Nowadays, it evolves in daily conversation which is used by various ranks of society. Although people say that slang is vulgar language, but they unconsciously use it in daily conversation. They follow the modern fashion in speaking. People also use slang for simplicity, pleasure, and little humor of the day.

## 2.4 The History of Slang

Based on *Slang Today and Yesterday* (Partridge, as cited in Sari, 2010, p.22), there are five periods of slang history. The first period was in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Slang was first occurred in this century. It was a new kind of speech used by specific groups and people such as criminals and cheats. It developed mostly in nightclub and gambling houses.

By the 17<sup>th</sup> century, slang was fully contained with figurative language and related to immoral actions. However, slang was beginning to be presented in popular plays. The first appearance of the slang was in a comedy “*A Fovial Crew*” by Richard Brome and Henry Fielding’s novel “*Tom Jones*”.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century scholars such as Walt Whitman, W. D. Whitney, and Brander Matthews considered slang to be the new life of the language. This was a turning point for slang to escape from the harsh criticism of being associated with criminals, drugs, and other illegal actions.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, slang had grown well. It could be known that during the post-World War I British soldiers developed their slang which were adopted and adapted from languages that were in the area of combat zones. And also there were many requests to use slang in entertainment and mass media.

The last period was 20<sup>th</sup> century where slang became a part of spoken language. It was not only used by burglars and cheats but also used by ordinary people, and slang was used in daily conversation because it was simpler and easier to speak.

## 2.5 The Characteristics of Slang

According to Kemmer (2013), there are some characteristics that define a slang word or expression. They are divided into five kinds of characteristic which are:

### 2.5.1 Register Characteristics

There are levels of language included in slang characteristics, they are:

- not part of the Standard language
- used in informal context.
- typically oral
- The words can be taboo. It means words that many people consider offensive or shocking like words *crap*, *shit*, etc.

### 2.5.2 Group Characteristics

It consists of two or more persons who use slang in social interaction both verbally and non verbal. Here are some group characteristics in slang:

- associated with certain social groups that are not part of "establishment"
- favored by the young
- often found with groups disapproved by society or at least mainstream society such as criminals; minority ethnic groups; drug addicts, etc.
- typically used as a marker of an 'in-group'.

### 2.5.3 Semantic Characteristics

These characteristics are related to the meanings of words which contained in slang. Below are some semantic characteristics in slang:

- Often found in taboo semantic domains such as sex, alcohol (*shit-faced*, *hammered*), illicit drugs, violence, bodily elimination (including *vomiting*, *burping*, etc.), body parts associated with sex and elimination, and death.
- often vividly metaphorical e.g. *He's on a trip* means *He's using drugs*
- often involve exaggeration like *shit a brick* means kill someone or something.
- often used for negative references to people particularly body parts such as *dickhead*, *cunt*, etc.

### 2.5.4 Formal Characteristics

They have some typical types of form and also used in advertising/marketing. Below are some formal characteristics in slang:

- often short, punchy words e.g. *smack*, *dope*, *screw* or compounds of these e.g. *blow job*, *jerk-off*, *pizza-face*.
- certain sounds favored e.g. *no* becomes *nah*, *kind of* becomes *kinda*
- involve creative respellings e.g. *doughnut* as *donut*, *high* as *hi*, etc

### 2.5.5 Other Characteristics

Here are other characteristics in using slang which are:

- Often conventionalized only in a subgroup
- can be regional (e.g. Cockney Rhyming Slang) but more often spread out geographically and associated with a subculture.
- can rapidly happen in fashion (groovy means awesome, originated from jazz music)

## 2.6 The Types of Slang

According to *Slang Today and Yesterday* book (Partridge, as cited in Wahyuni, 2008, p.21), there are some types of slang. They can be seen as follows:

### 2.6.1 Cockney Slang

Cockney slang is a form of English slang which originated in the East End of London. The term Cockney is often used to refer to working-class Londoners in that area and the slang used by these people. Linguistically, cockney slang is the brightest spot in England because it has a very pronounced accent.

Cockney slang is usually used by middle class people. It is also used by the semi literate and illiterate people that recognized as Cockney London of Street. Linguistically, Cockney speakers have a distinctive accent and dialect.

Here are a few of the most common examples of Cockney slang:

- Eye in a sling means crushed or defeated.
- Chickalery cove means a very smart fellow, “perfect” in dress, able in business, and of a dashing deportment.
- Old gay, general term of affection describing a wife.

### **2.6.2 Public House slang**

Public house slang group of words and phrases make up for the smallness of the recorded vocabulary by the nature of the subject. This slang type has characteristics which are genial, cheery, materialistic, but not gross nor cynical.

Here are some examples of public house slang:

- Boozer means a public-house
- Shed a tear means to make water.
- Balloon-juice means soda-water

### **2.6.3 Workmen’s Slang**

The type that has a link with the public house slang is Workmen’s slang. It is also regarded as the tradesmen’s slang, because it takes word from the people’s activity in their job. They use this slang to ease them in communication, since they are pushed to communicate each other. Most of speakers of workmen’s slang are town laborers and farm laborers. In addition, there is a little difference both of them that the town laborers are more fluent and developed with their slang than the farm laborers that are old-fashioned.

Below are some examples of Workmen’s slang for the town labors:

- Screw means salary
- Matey means a companion in labor.
- Feather means money

#### **2.6.4 Tradesmen's Slang**

In Tradesmen's slang as in Workmen's slang, some words of this type are now associated with jargon in their origin slang and used by the worker, but the difference is the Tradesmen's slang considers four as typical: tailors, butchers, chemist, and builders.

Below are some examples of the Tradesmen's slang:

- Turkey buyer means a person of considerable importance.
- Syrup means money
- Coal up means to feed
- Curly means troublesome. Presumably from a cloth curling.

#### **2.6.5 The Slang of Commerce**

This type is used in trade. The words are closely associated with the market or commerce. It is usually used when a marketer has to make an agreement or engagement with their client in trade. Commerce here also can be interpreted as business transaction. They are usually doing business in the stock exchange in the money market.

The writer would give some example of this type, there are:

- To axe means to cut down expenses, sometimes by dismissing employees, in the effort to economize.
- Go on the dole means to receive unemployment benefit.
- Shunt means to buy and sell securities between two home exchanges.



### **2.6.6 Slang in Publicity**

This type of slang is often used for marketing, because most of modern commerce is successful because of good publicity. A company needs the catchy phrase and rhymes that can attract the public.

Here are some examples of slang in publicity:

- Don't worry, use Sunlight (soap)
- That's Kruschen feeling (Kruschen Salts)
- Glaxo baby means a plump and healthy child.

### **2.6.7 Slang in the Public School and University**

It is one of the important sources of slang. Mostly because students seem to feel an urgency to avoid everyday vocabularies like throw, put, run, etc. They would rather to use words and phrases such as bashed, give a biff, swatted, etc. This type is characterized by the addition of a nonsense syllable either to the beginning or the end of every word. Another characteristic is the addition of suffix -er to every sort of word. The other kind of slang is almost impossible to generalize, for every school or university has its special words known to no others.

However, slang language in the university is a bit different from the slang used in public schools. They mind to leave and replace their old school slang and change it with the slang in the university. They grow into adults and choose to do new things or ways of thinking in and created their own words and rules of alma mater. Now they are accustomed to speak bluntly in their conversation with friends in university.

Below are some examples of the slang that used in school and universities, which are:

- What's the mat? from word what is the matter?
- Bung means a lie
- Leccer means a lecture
- Sweetie from word sweet

### **2.6.8 Society Slang**

Society slang is concerned the spirit of universe and the world life. It is also joyful or jaunty over objects with the difference which jargon treats solemnity and respect the avocation it serves, but slang seldom retains respect toward it, treats that avocation with the detached amusement that, viewed from a far, every human activity seems to invite.

Society slang is kind of a novelty that is used as leisure of society in daily life. There arises a sort of special vocabulary, which is constantly changing with the changing of fashions. But this fashionable kind of slang can be understood easily.

Below are some examples of the society slang:

- Thou means a thousand, especially of currency
- Rothschild means a very rich man
- Flapper means an immoral young girl

### **2.6.9 Slang in Art**

Slang in art is still associated with the society slang. It is quickly adopted by society. Society feels interested to use it because the slang is artistic and fun. This type, however, is more difficult than the other slang words. The meaning is hard to be guessed even in the present day.

Below are some examples of slang in art:

- Artistic merit means a satirical way of saying that a portrait is flattering
- Walled means same as hung, which, to some extent, it displaced.
- Put the value on means to sign a picture.

#### **2.6.10 Slang in the Church**

Slang can be found in a holy place like church. Slang has long since penetrated into the forum, and now it can be met in the senate, and even the pulpit itself is no longer free from intrusion. On the contrary, and in justice to the clergy, it must be said that the principal disseminators of pure English throughout the countries are the ministers of established Church.

Here are the examples of Slang in the church:

- Candle shop means A Broad Church term for either a Roman Catholic chapel.
- Liea at the Pool of Bethesda means of theological candidates to be waiting for a benefice.
- Holy Joe means the shallow, circular-crowed hat worn by clergymen

#### **2.7 The Reasons of Using Slang**

Based on The Concise New Partridge Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English (Partridge, 2008, p.16), people use slang for any of at least 15 reasons:

1. In sheer high spirits, by the young in heart as well as by the young in years; 'just for the fun of the thing'; in playfulness or waggishness.
2. As an exercise either in wit and ingenuity or in humour. The motive behind this is usually self-display or snobbishness, emulation or responsiveness, delight in virtuosity.

3. To be 'different', to be novel.
4. To be picturesque either positively or negatively. This could be found from songs or poems.
5. To be unmistakably arresting, even startling.
6. To escape from clichés, or to be brief and concise.
7. To enrich the language by inventing new words
8. To lend an air of solidity, concreteness, to the abstract; of earthiness to the idealistic; of immediacy and appositeness to the remote.
9. To reduce seriousness of a conversation
10. To speak or write down to an inferior, or to amuse a superior public. This can be seen by the slang that children use towards their parents.
11. For ease of social intercourse.
12. To induce either friendliness or intimacy of a deep or a durable kind.
13. To show that one belongs to a certain school, trade, or profession, artistic or intellectual set, or social class
14. To show or prove that someone does not belong to a certain group.
15. To be secret, not understood by those around one. (Children, students, lovers, members of political secret societies, and criminals in or out of prison, innocent persons in prison, are the chief exponents)

## **2.8 Introduction to Movie**

Movie is truly a motion picture which is a flowing, ever changing stream of images and sounds sparkling with a freshness and vitality all its own, a fluid blend of image, sound, and motion possessed by a restless compulsion to be vibrantly alive, to avoid the quiet and the static (Joseph & Dennis, 2000, p.112).

Movie is a kind of an entertainment to convey a variety of messages to the audience through audio, visual, and story media. It is also a medium of artistic expression as a tool for artists and film makers in order to explicate the ideas and story ideas.

Movie can be categorized in many genres. Some movies sometimes mix together two or more genres (<http://simple.wikipedia.org>). Below are some genres of movie:

1. Action movies typically include films that have lots of physical activities, fight scenes, violence, and exciting effects like car chases and gun fights, involving stuntmen.
2. Adventure films are usually exciting stories, with new experiences or exotic locales. They involve a character who must overcome great adversity and challenges while on a journey.
3. Animated movies use artificial images like talking pigs to tell a story. These movies used to be drawn by hand, one frame at a time, but are now made on computers.
4. Musical films are cinematic forms that emphasize full-scale scores or song and dance routines in a significant way. They are films that are centered on combinations of music, dance, song or choreography.
5. Comedies are funny movies about people being silly or doing unusual things that make the audience laugh.
6. Documentaries are movies that are about real people and real events. They are nearly always serious and may involve strongly emotional subjects, for example cruelty.
7. Dramas are serious, and often about people falling in love or needing to make a big decision in their life. The stories involve intense character development and interaction. Emotion is a big part of the movie and the audience may get upset and even cry.
8. Sci-fi films are often scientific, visionary and imaginative. They are complete with heroes, aliens, planets, impossible quests, fantastic places, great dark and shadowy villains, futuristic technology, and extraordinary things or creatures from space, either created by mad scientists or by nuclear havoc.

9. Family movies are made to be good for the entire family. They are mainly made for children but often entertaining for adults as well.
10. Horror movies use fear to excite the audience, often in a terrifying, shocking finale. Music, lighting and sets are also all designed to add to the feeling.

## **2.9 Plot Summary of Shaun of the Dead Movie**

Shaun is an appliance salesman who is going nowhere in life; he follows a mundane routine, and his girlfriend Liz is dissatisfied with their relationship, primarily because it revolves around going to The Winchester, Shaun's favorite pub. He also has issues with his hated stepfather Phillip, his increasingly unhappy flatmate Pete, and a dissatisfying job where his younger co-workers show him no respect. Following a broken promise to do something special for their anniversary, Liz dumps Shaun. Shaun decides to drown his sorrows at the pub with his other flatmate Ed, his best friend. After a night of drinking, he has an epiphany and resolves to sort his life out.

Unfortunately, this revelation comes at the same time as an uprising of the undead, who begin to attack and devour the living. Shaun comes to realize the gravity of the situation after having a close shave with a zombie. Shaun, along with Ed, proceeds to rescue his loved ones. Shaun and Ed decide to take Liz, along with Barbara, Phillip, and Liz's friends David and Dianne, to the Winchester Pub to survive the plague.

During their journey, Phillip is mortally wounded but manages to make his peace with Shaun before turning into a zombie, forcing the group to abandon him, and their car, and go the rest of the way on foot. The remaining group find the Winchester surrounded by zombies, but Shaun manages to draw the undead away while the others barricade themselves inside. Shaun returns to the pub thinking that he gave the zombies the slip, but the zombies followed him, and soon break in. Barbara is shot by Shaun after becoming a zombie, David is torn apart and

eaten, Dianne charges outside in a vain attempt to save David, Ed decides to stay behind after being bitten, and Shaun has a final confrontation with a zombified Pete. Shaun and Liz, who have reconciled over the course of the day, survive and are saved by the British Army.

Six months after the zombie outbreak, society has returned to normal, and zombies have now become a part of everyday life, being used as cheap labour and game show participants. Shaun and Liz move in together, along with undead Ed, who 'lives' in the garden shed, and has been trained not to bite Shaun (<http://zombie.wikia.com>).