

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Slang

Slang is non-standard use of words in a language. These non-standard words might use among the conversations. Mish (2003, p.1170) mentions, “Slang is an informal nonstandard vocabulary composed typically of coinages, arbitrarily changed words, and extravagant, forced, or facetious figures of speech.” Munro cited in Fasola (2012, p.4) mentions that slang is included in non-standard language as the sort of words and expressions which anyone might use in conversation or a letter, but which is not used in a speech or formal essay.

“Slang words and expressions are characterized by a high degree of informality, familiarity, vocabulary richness. They are realized by a specific group of people whose members are connected with some particular link, such as territory (Californian), age (teenagers), subculture (students), and mainly occur in the spoken form of the language.” (Burdova, 2009, p.8)

There are four identifying criterias for slang according to Lighter cited in Eriksen (2010, p.12-13) :

1. Its presence will markedly lower, at least for the moment, the dignity of formal or serious speech or writing.
2. Its use implies the user’s familiarity either with the referent or with that less status full or less responsible class of people who have such familiarity and use the term.
3. It is a tabooed term in ordinary discourse with persons of higher social status or greater responsibility.
4. It is used in place of the well-known conventional synonym, especially in order (a) to protect the user from the discomfort caused by the conventional item or (b) to protect the user from the discomfort or annoyance of further elaboration.

Dalzell (2007) mentions the reasons of slang usage as follows :

- a. In sheer high spirits.
- b. As an exercise in wit or humour.
- c. To be 'different' – to be novel.
- d. To be picturesque.
- e. To be startling; to startle.
- f. To escape from cliché's and long-windedness.
- g. To enrich the language.
- h. To give solidity and concreteness to the abstract and the idealistic, and nearness to the distant scene or object.
- i. To reduce solemnity, pain, tragedy.
- j. To put oneself in tune with one's company.
- k. To induce friendliness or intimacy.
- l. To show that one belongs to a certain school, trade or profession, intellectual set or social class. In short to be in the fashion – or to prove that someone else isn't.
- m. To be secret; not understood by those around one.

2.2 The History of Slang

According to Patridge cited in Hanggoro (2011, p.8-10), slang has been introduced since sixteenth century, it is used to change the inelegant statement of being associated with foreigner or criminals, some people use it to make jokes and to keep the secret of the word's meaning and also because some people want another language besides the Standard English to express ideas. There are five decades of slang history and each of them has different characteristic. Below are some further explanations about the history of slang :

No.	Decades	Characteristics	Examples	Meaning
1.	Sixteenth Century	Slang is only used particular group. For instance; criminals;	<i>Patricos</i> <i>Doxies</i> <i>Priggers</i>	Strolling Beggars' trulls Thieves

		thieves; beggar.		
2.	Seventeenth Century	Slang is rich of figurative language and related to immoral action.	<i>Clap</i> <i>Crimp</i> <i>Buzzard</i> <i>A pun</i>	Clatter A game of card A simpleton Circling boy
3.	Eighteenth Century	Slang mostly used in comedy.	<i>Melt</i> <i>Tip</i> <i>Whiter-Go-Ye</i>	To spend To give or lend A wife
4.	Nineteenth Century	Slang rapidly grow, it is used for conversation in society.	<i>Bus</i> <i>Burra</i> <i>Burke</i> <i>Burry a Moll</i>	Public carriage A great man To kill To run a way from a mistress
5.	Twentieth Century	Slang becomes a part of spoken language not only used by criminals but also ordinary people.	<i>Tanked</i> <i>Cheero</i> <i>Birdcage</i>	Drunk Classy A prison

2.3 The Characteristic of Slang

Abadi (2009, p.17) explains some characteristics of slang are as follows :

a. **Creativity**

Creativity means that slang language has cleverness, imagination, productivity, and talent.

b. **Flippant**

Flippant means that slang language has irrelevant word of the contexts. For example : for these games and *stupid tricks*, these *bitches on my dick*, *fucking chicken* with no ribs.

c. **Fresh**

Fresh means that slang language has familiar words, different words, and up to date words. For example : *Dime* means small amount of money.

d. **Onomatopoeic**

Onomatopoeic means that slang language has imitation words. Example: *Buzz* like winds.

According to Spolsky cited in Rahmawaty (2012, p.10), here are some characteristics of slang :

1. Slang is a kind of jargon marked by its rejection of formal rules. It is comparative freshness and its common ephemerality and its marked use to claim solidarity.
2. Slang regularly transgresses other social norms, making free use of taboo expression.
3. Slang arises as vocabulary which is used by a particular social group with specific purpose, for example as a device for familiarizing a conversation.
4. Slang comes in the form of new words with new meaning or old words with new meaning.

In short, Burdova (2009, p.13) states that slang words are usually produced in a shortened, easier and more relax way. Others examples of slang are using weak forms: *What'm I going t'do now? Ah'm over here*. Consonant gemination: *innit?* (isn't it?), *wunnit* (wasn't it?), *dunno* (I do not), *lemme* (let me). Colloquial words: *dough* (money), *cool* (great), *come up for air* (take a break). Idioms: *The first game ever played* (to have sex), *Have a mind like a steel trap* (to learn easily). Using positive adjectives for expressing negative qualities: *He is phenomenal idiot*. Using negative adjectives such as *terrible*, *horrific*, and *tremendous* in order to exaggerate or overact.

2.4 Classifications of Slang

Classification of slang within non-standard varieties based on Mattiello cited in Burdova (2009, p.25) :

1. ***Specific slang***, a language used by members of a particular group to show their respect for that group and solidarity with other group members. It is also used in order to underline speakers' identity, social status, age,

education, special interests as well as their geographical belonging. Therefore, it is mainly spoken by people of similar age (teenagers: chick 'a girl', cool 'OK'), similar occupation (military: flak 'an aviator'); or by people sharing similar lifestyle (homosexuals, drug addicts: smack 'heroin') or the same living conditions (criminals: axe 'a knife').

2. **General slang**, a language used by speakers to avoid conventions, seriousness. It is used instead of clichés and standard language to change the level of formality (bevvie 'a drink', footy 'football'). Some words can be both specific and general according to context, for example the word grass is in specific drug slang 'marijuana' whereas in general slang it stands for green vegetables'.

Patridge cited in Hanggoro (2011, p.10-19) classified slang into some categories. The classifications are as follows :

1. **Cockney Slang**, refers to working-class people in London. It is often used in reference to the cockney accent. Cockney slang is the brightest spot in England because it has a very pronounced accent. In the society of England, cockney slang is very easy to be understood directly. There are two kinds of Cockney slang, at first, Cockney slang that spoken by educated and middle class people. At Second, Cockney slang that used by the semi literate and illiterate people, it is called as Cockney London of the street. Here are several examples of Cockney slang that commonly used in daily conversation by the educated and middle class people: '*See the breeze and taste the sun*' means an expression of summer enjoyment to escape from London to an open common; '*Eye in a sling*' means crushed or defeated.

Here are examples of Cockney slang that is commonly used in daily conversation by the semi literate and quite illiterate:

- a. *Up the pole*, means drunk.
- b. *Old gal* means general term of affection describing a wife.
- c. *Sky a chopper* means to make a disturbance.

2. **Public House Slang**, Public house group of words and phrases makes up for the smallness of the recorded vocabulary by the nature of the subject. It is genial, cheery, materialistic, but not gross nor cynical. Below are the examples:

- a. *Round the corner* means a drink.
- b. *Three out brush* means a glass shaped like an inverted cone.
- c. *Raven* means a two penny portion of bread and cheese.

3. **Workmen's Slang**, has a link with the public house slang. It is very closely allied to Tradesmen's slang and also considered to people's activity in working. Most of the users of workmen's slang are labourers either town and farm labourers. Moreover, there is a significant difference both of them that the town labourer is more ready with their tongues and fluent with their slang than the farm labourer which is not too modern instance. Here are examples of Workmen's slang for the town labourer :

- a. *Screw up* means without money, therefore unable to move about at will.
- b. *Matey* means a companion in labour.
- c. *Brass* means money, this is very general term seems to have originated the chopper and iron industries.

4. **Tradesmen's Slang**, some of the words are related to origin slang and the users are the worker too, but the difference is the Tradesmen's slang considers four as typical : tailors, butchers, chemist, and builders. The tailors have the largest number of slang terms.

Here are examples of Tradesmen's slang for tailors:

- a. *House of parliament* means a meeting of tailor's assistant and apprentices in the shop, especially for a serious purpose.
- b. Tradesmen's slang for butchers : '*Turkey buyer*' means a person of considerable importance.

- c. Tradesmen's for chemist : '*Syrup*' means money.
- d. Tradesmen's for builders : '*Flannel jacket*' means the navy on heavy work has so long and so unexceptionally worn flannel.

5. **Slang in Art**, emerges in seventeenth century, it is quickly adopted by society. Moreover, it is considerable more difficult than other slang terms, the meaning is hard to be guessed even in the present day. Here are several examples:

- a. *Walled* means same as hung, which, to some extent, it displaced.
- b. *Buniony* means showing, in one's painting, a very marked tendency to lumpiness of outline.
- c. *Crocks* mean ornamental China.

6. **Slang in Publicity**, is often used for commerce, because much of modern commerce depends on publicity, a firm needs the catchy phrase or rhymes that can impress the public. Here are several examples:

- a. *Sunlight* means soap.
- b. *Worth a guinea a box* means Beecham's pills.
- c. *Glaxo baby* means a plump and healthy child.

7. **Society Slang**, In society, there arises a kind of special vocabulary, which is constantly changing with changing fashion. There is much slang in the colloquial speech of society, most of words soon disappear, but a considerable number of them make good their place in ordinary speech. Moreover, slang in society shows a joyously or jauntily over the object and the practice of the slangster's calling. Here are examples of the society slang:

- a. *Cyrano* means a huge nose.
- b. *Rothschild* means a very rich man.
- c. *Get the morbs* means to become temporarily melancholic.
- d. *Thou'* means a thousands poundsterling.

8. **Slang of Commerce**, used in trade and the words are closely related to the trade or commerce. It is often used by businessman, mostly used in stock exchange. Here are examples of the slang of commerce:
 - a. *Take the rate* means to borrow stock, likewise give the rate is to lend stock.
 - b. *Rig* means a combined effort to rise the price of stock artificially and without regard to its merits.
 - c. *Shunt* means to buy and sell securities between two home exchanges.

9. **Slang in Public School and University**, the user of this slang is student, in public house, as in board and private schools. Here are examples of public school slang : '*Wrux*' means a rotter or humbug; '*Bung*' means lie; '*What's a mat?*' means what is the matter. The slang that used in university is considerable different with public school slang, when boys leave school and go to university, they tend to drop the old slang and to mould themselves to the slang of the university. Here are examples of the university slang:
 - a. *Wine* means a wine party.
 - b. *Leccer* means a lecture.
 - c. *Tea-pot* means a tea party.
 - d. *Rugger* means football, played to rugby rules, soccer being association football.

10. **Slang in Theatre**, in nineteenth century, the theatre began to exercise a powerful influence on ordinary and informal spoken English and theatrical slang gradually gained a status in the first part. Here are examples of the slang in theatre:

- a. *Paper house* means a theatre that, at a given performance has an audience consisting of mainly of those who have come with “paper” complimentary ticket.
- b. *Tabbs* means an ageing woman; from tabby.
- c. *Toga Play* means a play on classical theme.

11. **Medicine Slang**, is, from the very nature of the case, more interesting to laymen than is law slang, but we will confine ourselves to example current in the present century. Below are examples of medicine slang:

- a. *Dope* means an anesthetic; to dope, to give an anesthetic to.
- b. *Drinks* mean medicine, at the four-hourly occasions for medicine in the wards hospital.
- c. *Dippy* means delirious.

12. **Slang in Church**, Slang has long since penetrated into forum, and now we meet in the Senate and even the pulpit itself is no longer free from its intrusion. On contrary, and justice to clergy, it must be said that principal disseminators of pure English throughout the contrary are the ministers of established Church. Below are the examples of Church slang:

- a. *The Three B's* means bright, brief, and brotherly. A protest against the soporific nature of so many Church services.
- b. *Workus* means a Church of England pleasantry at the expense of the Methodist chapels, usually very plain, often whitewashed. In short, one is forced to notice that slang of the cloth is neither very witty nor very tolerant.

13. **Soldiers' Slang**, is slang terms that come from around the army community that is commonly used by the soldiers' slang. They are divided in a several characteristics as follows:

- a. “Old soldier words”, such as *pawny* means water, *rooty* means bread, *swing the lead* means to malingering, *come the old soldier* means to attempt.
- b. Officers’ and instructors, words of command, such as *carry on*.
- c. Nicknames, such as; *aussies* or *canucks* means Canadian, *daughboys* means Americans, a *hun* means a German.
- d. Words connected with:
 - 1) Drinking, such as; *chin-chin* means a toasts
 - 2) Companionship with women, such as; *square-pushing* means going out with a woman, *ring-money* means a soldier’s wife allowance.
 - 3) The soldiers’ name for his punishments, such as; *clink* means prison.
 - 4) Guns and shells, such as; *dud* means a bomb.
 - 5) Borrowings from outside England, such as; *dinkum* means good (come from Australian).
- e. Words connected with civilian activities, such as; *Cutthbert* means a slacker, *funk-hole* means a government office, *comb out* means to send to the front.
- f. Naval words, such as; *chew the fat* means to grumble, *hush-hush* means ships.
- g. Words connected with aviation, such as; *to pancake* means drop flat, *to zoom* soar vertically.