CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the writer discusses background of the study, statement of the problems, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition and the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is interested to study because by knowing the language deeply, people can express their feelings using beautiful words, idioms, and sentences. Sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to the society where it is used (Jendra, 2010). It also refers to the study of language varieties, language functions, language creation, and cultural norms where they are used. There are some language varieties created and used by a particular group of a society such as register, jargon, colloquialism, argot, and slang. Each language variety has different characteristics. One of the most popular language varieties is slang.

Slang is words, phrases or expressions used especially in very informal situations among close association (Jendra, 2010). Since slang is used only among close association, not all of the people can use and understand this kind of language variety. There are a lot of slang words that are very hard to understand because the terms have their own meaning depending on the context. Therefore, it is not easy to comprehend slang if we are not familiar with them.

Slang as non-standard English is used in informal situations, not in formal ones. However, slang is like a mode or fashion, it comes and goes. Also, slang cannot endure or appears seasonally, but some of slang, whether words and
phrases, will exist depending on how unique the words or the phrases. Due to this uniqueness, people love to use slang while expressing something in order to make their speech to be more heterogeneous and allure.

There are some ways to express something that people are feeling, and one of them is by using song. Song is a piece of music performed by a single voice, with or without instrumental accompaniment (Britannica). The content of song is lyric. Lyric is the words or sentences, even expressions used in a song in order to make the song more interesting. Singers can express their idea through songs to tell or show their feeling to the listener. However, every singer have his/her own way and style in showing or expressing their feeling through their song, including the varieties of language that they use to make it more attractive for the listener.

The previous study conducted by Yuli (2011) about slang found in Akon’s song lyrics showed that slangs found in the song were in the form of codes, numbers, and in the form of phrases. There were some different slang found the in study, but they had the same meaning in one title. There were also some slang words that were considered rude.

In addition, Rahmawati conduct a study (2006) about slang found in 50 Cent’s song lyrics showed that there were slangs in the form of numbers or codes like 3 to 9, D’s or K. There were some different slang words found in the study, but they had the same meaning either in one title or others. For Example, head, paper, bread, and kid whose the meaning is money. The slang words are used based on the context of their song lyrics.
Knowing the result of the previous studies, the writer is interested in conducting a research with the title “A Study on Slang Used by Black Eyed Peas in “The Energy Never Dies” Album 2009”.

This study focuses on slang words, kinds of slang, and the meaning used in The Energy Never Dies Album 2009 of Black Eyed Peas vocal group from American. This group consists of 4 singers. The writer chooses the The Energy Never Dies album because this album became the most popular songs once it was launched. Moreover, the album was nominated for six Grammy Awards in 2010, including Album of the Year, and Record of the year, winning Bes Pop Vocal Album. This album was released on June 3, 2009 and became the fifth album of Black Eyed Peas. This album contains of 15 songs such as Boom Boom Pow, Rock that Body, Meet Me Halfway, Imma Be, I Gotta Feeling, Alive, Missing You, Ring-a-Ling, Party All the Time, Out of My Head, Electric City, Showdown, Now Generation, One Tribe and Rockin to the Beat.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on explanation above, the writer formulates the statements of the problems as follow:

1. What slang words are found in Black Eyed Peas’s song lyrics in The Energy Never Dies album 2009?

2. What kinds of slang words are found in Black Eyed Peas’s song lyrics in The Energy Never Dies Album 2009?

3. What are the meanings of slang words found in Black Eye Peas’s song lyrics in The Energy Never Dies album 2009?
1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of the study are to answer the statement of the problems, namely:

1. To find out the slang words used in Black Eyed Peas’s song lyrics.
2. To describe the kinds of slang words used in Black Eyed Peas’s song lyrics.
3. To describe the meaning of the slang words in Black Eyed Peas’s song lyrics.

1.4 Significance of Study

The result of the study is expected to give contribution to those are involved in academic field, especially English Department, as follows:

1) English Department Students

Hopefully, the result of this study will expand the students’ knowledge in sociolinguistics subject, especially in terms of slang words as one of language variations. Furthermore, the result of the study helps the students identify slang words not only in song but also in many kinds of literature.

2) Sociolinguistics Lecturers

The result of the study will beneficial for lecturers, especially those who teach sociolinguistics subject focusing on slang as one of language variation. The lecturers can enlarge their understanding about slang in terms of the kinds and the meaning of slang words.

3) Further writers

For the further writers, the result of this study is expected to assist them in conducting the research in contact with sociolinguistics subject, particularly slang as a language variation. Also, it can be used as a reference for the writers who are
interested to conduct a research related with sociolinguistics subject, especially about slang in different ways.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer has to minimize the scope of this study on the analysis of slang. More specifically, the writer analyzes the kinds and the meanings of slang. The study is limited only to the slang words found in Black Eyed Peas’s song lyrics from “The Energy Never Dies” Album 2009.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding about the terms used in this study, the definition of each term is provided below.

- Slang is now typically used to delineate a level of language more in formal than standard, less domestic than colloquial, and less official than jargon. Its defining features are its restrictions to social subgroups, whether defined by age, shared interest, or social circle. (Coleman, 2009). Based on the explanation, the writer may conclude that slang is such a kind of non-formal English or non-standard English used only in informal situation among social subgroups.

- Lyrics are related to a category of poetry that expresses subjective and feelings, often in a song like style or form (Pickett, 2006). Based on the explanation, the writer may conclude that lyrics are words used in a song and combined with music to express our feelings.
- *Album* is a collection of several songs or pieces of music recorded as an MP3 file, on CD etc. (Macmillan Online Dictionary, accessed 2014). Based on the explanation, the writer may conclude that album is a group of song as MP3 files combained in a CD.

- *Black Eyed Peas* is the name of the American vocal group with genre of their music is R&B.

- *The Energy Never Dies* is the fifth album name of Black Eyed Peas.