CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of the study, statement of the problems, purposes of the study, scope and limitation, significance of the study, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

This study is generally in the area of language used as a means of social interaction. Radford et al. (2005) noted that language varies based on the social characteristic of the speaker (such as his social class, ethnic group, age and sex) as well as on the social context in which the language is used. Many social factors can come into play in controlling which variety from this verbal language is actually to be used on a particular occasion. For example, if a speaker is talking to the people he works with, his language is likely different from the language he uses at home with his family. That kind of difference in speaking context makes language varies.

Language varieties can be defined as the different dialect of a language. Steward Jr. et al (2001:302) defines language varieties as different dialects of the same language. People use different dialects to communicate with others in the same situation even in the same context. It makes every speaker in different areas or different communities tend to have a language variety.
Nurhidayat (2009) concluded that the existence of language variety cannot be denied. Variation in language occurs because of the different communities within the same language, different areas, and different social levels. These language varieties are used to make their interaction communicative. Moreover, these varieties characterize where people come from. These language varieties include dialect, register, style, jargon, argot, colloquial, and slang.

This study is more specifically concerned with slang. Slang is a popular new words or phrases as an informal language come from the combination of old words. According to Heinle (2003), slang may be defined as the introduction of many new words into the language by recombining old words into new meaning. Slang often introduces entirely new words such as *barf*, *flub*, and *pooped* and it can consider new meaning to old word. He added that slangs are often ‘invented’ in keeping with new idea and custom. Those may be value in attitude better than the more conservative items of the vocabulary.

Slang is almost inevitably used in informal context. When we talk about slang, we usually mean words, not grammar or pronunciation. This is more and less the correct view. English is a language, but slang is not. Slang expresses human behavior, certain slang expressions have come and gone over the years, some seem to return again, but others not. It responds to a need in people to be creative in their language use and to show group membership through their language use.
Slang commonly figures a unique attitude of convenient people. It is used by a speaker or a writer in his language choice because it can express whatever they feel and think. It is not only used in conversation, but it is also used in novels. Mostly, the author uses slangs to picture the story that he or she wants to create.

There are some research findings regarding slang. The previous researches about slang were conducted by Wulandari (2005), Widyarani (2007), and Yani (2005). Wulandari (2005) found out two types of slang words used in “Last Picture Show.” Those kinds of slang were common slang and in-group slang which were used to describe the character and the situation of teenagers in the story. Also, Widyarani (2007) has found out 54 slangs in the short story “Just Like Lizzie”. In addition, the research related to slang was also conducted by Yani (2005). Yani (2005) found 48 slang words in “Ngalam” column of Malang Post published in October 2004. Out of the 48 slangs, 44 words were grouped as slang of reversion, one word was grouped as pure slang, and three words were grouped as slang of loan word. Furthermore, thirty five of them were adopted from Indonesian language and the rest were from Javanese.

Based on the above explanation, the researcher would like to investigate the slangs found in “Missing You” novel written by Meg Cabot. The writer chooses this novel as the object of this study because it contains slangs which are aimed at describing the story of American teenagers’ life. More specifically, the researcher needs to analyze the types of slangs which are found in the novel and their meanings.
1.2 Statements of the Problems

Based on the above background, the researcher formulates three research problems as follows:

1. What slangs are found in “Missing You” novel written by Meg Cabot?
2. What are the contextual meaning of the slangs found in “Missing You” novel written by Meg Cabot?
3. What kinds of slang are found in “Missing You” novel written by Meg Cabot?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

This study is intended to get the answers of the research problems, they are:

1. To describe the slang found in “Missing You” novel written by Meg Cabot.
2. To know the contextual meaning of the slangs found in “Missing You” novel written by Meg Cabot.
3. To describe the kinds of slang are found in “Missing You” novel written by Meg Cabot.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Hopefully, the result of the study will be beneficial for both sociolinguistics lecturers and English Department students. For the sociolinguistic lecturers, the result of this study can be used as a reference to teach about slang. So, this study can broaden the vision about slang including its meaning and kind. For the English Department students, the result this study can increase the knowledge about slang including its meaning and kind. Thus, the students will not be confused while encountering slang in their learning. Also, the result of this study will be beneficial for the next researchers who are going to conduct the research related to
sociolinguistics subject, especially focusing on slang which is found in different setting.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Sociolinguistics discusses a lot about language, such as speech community, language variation, and also speech style that is divided into pronunciation, syntax, and vocabulary. From vocabulary use, we can recognize speech styles in the form of register, cant, argot, jargon, and slang. The scope of this study is focused on the analysis of the slangs found in the “Missing You” novel by Meg Cabot, their meaning and their kinds. This study limits the investigation only in the slang found in “Missing You” novel by Meg Cabot.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

In this section, any ambiguity is tried to be avoided. As a guidance in understanding the key terms used in this study, the researcher gives the definition of the following key terms.

1. *Slang* is human creativity in language to express their idea in an attractive way, especially of young and lively persons who want fresh, original, or racy terms with which they can rename ideas, actions, and objects that they feel strongly about (Anderson, 2000).

3. *Missing You* is one of ‘Where R U’ novel series written by Meg Cabot. The novel tells about the life of Jessica Mastriani who tried to have an enjoyable work and life with her power as lightening girl and after being broke off with her boyfriend, Rob.

4. *Meg Cabot* or Meggin Patricia Cabot is an American author of romantic and paranormal fiction works for teens and adults. She has written and published over fifty books.