CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of Study

Language is an important means of social life. It has many functions; to communicate each other, to show the one’s mind, and to express the human needs. By the language, people can transfer and show their feelings, thoughts, ideas, emotion to another and they use a language to get information from others. Trudgill has stated that language is also related to act of starting or creating and keeping relationship with other people. It is not only important to a communication verbally and a tool of informing something (1983). So, it can be imagined how necessary language is.

When humans are born, they will have their own language, become a part of the society, and they will interact and communicate with their society. It shows that language and society cannot be separated. The study about the relationship between language and society is called sociolinguistic. In other words, sociolinguistic is the study of language deeply by knowing more about the society.

Language variation is one of the main discussions in the study of sociolinguistics. Language variations are not only as a sign of differentiating its speech community but also as a reflection of purposes, topics, norms, and mode of
language. Language has many variations, because every country and district has their own language. Then, it becomes larger by the new generation who creates a new language. Besides, there are formal and informal languages in every society. One of language variations that is classified as an informal language in society is bad language.

Bad language is sounds, words, phrases or terms, that are used for certain purposes that may be dangerous to be used (Andersson and Trudgill, 1990). Bad language is usually used to express the strong emotion, disappointed, anger, dislike, and etc. It is also used to abuse somebody else. But, bad language is natural and common language for some community or society which usually uses that language. Sometimes it can be amusing and friendly. Slang and swearing as the kinds of bad language can be used to make closer relationship. Swearing is a type of language that is used: (a) refer to something taboo in a given culture, (b) to be interpreted non-literally and (c) used to express strong emotions and attitudes (Andersson and Trudgill, 1990:53). For example, a boss uses swearing when he is talking to a young employee who often goes to the bathroom with the sentence, “get your ass in gear!” to make a joke. It is often taken as a friendly gesture to be one of many ways to show solidarity. Then, slang is a part of casual and informal styles of language (Sari, 1988). As well as the following example of slang, “Dinosaur” that means too old, someone uses the words to tell his friend who not excited so make laughs and amuses him. Other kinds of language variation that can be categorized as bad language are taboo and vulgar. According to Anderson and Trudgill (1990), taboo is defined as the words that are related to sex, religion, parts of body, body functions, ethnic groups, food,
dirt and death. Afterwards, Jay (in Doyle, 2006:3) classifies that vulgar is coarse; morally crude, lacking in cultivation, unsophisticated, under-educated, or relating to common people, not necessarily obscene, taboo, bad or evil, but they just reflect the crudeness of “street language”.

Some of bad languages have already existed from long time ago. Then the development occurs when the new generations create it. Every language in society will develop larger and some of them are included in bad language. One of the ways to know about the real language used by society is by reading a novel which shows about the real language, activity, culture and habits of a society. Actually, the language that is used by the author also describes the character and the situation in the story.

“Novel is a book - length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read our experience will actual life” (Kennedy, 1983:180). As an imaginative literature, novel has long been the favorite of the writers and readers. In fact, novel is presented to give entertainment and information about daily life to the reader.

“12 Steps” novel is written by Darren R. Hawkins in 2008. It is a novel about addiction, recovery, and the social cost of substance abuse treatment. This novel tells about a man named Ray who is drug addicts and alcoholics. Ray had done a number of things for which he was not proud, he gets many failures and he must do redemption to his mistakes. This is a story about the time when Ray must face “The Federal Law” and pass an abuse treatment. He met to other characters in the story. This is an emotion novel. In this novel, the conversations are using informal diction
and many bad languages. By reading that novel will be known how “bad language” used by the “12 Steps” novel characters. The writer choose this novel because it used a lot of bad language that are used by the characters to communicate each others. Besides, the characters used bad language in most of their conversation to express their feeling.

1.2 Statements of Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher formulates the statements of problems as follow:

1. What kinds of bad languages are found in “12 Steps” novel?
2. What are the meanings of bad languages found in “12 Steps” novel?

1.3 Purposes of Study

Related to the problems above, the researcher has purposes as follows:

1. To find out kinds of bad languages found in “12 Steps” novel.
2. To know the meaning of the slang found in “12 Steps” novel.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope this study is focused on bad languages in Novel. Moreover, this study limits the investigation only in bad languages used by the characters in “12 Steps” novel.
1.5 Significance of Study

First, the result of the study is expected to give contribution to the readers to develop their knowledge about bad language and its meaning. This is also important for the students who learn about sociolinguistic especially on the bad language. Second, the result of this study is expected to be used as reference for the teachers who want to teach their students about bad language. Finally, the result of this study is also expected to give contribution to the next researchers who want to analyze about bad language from the novel.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

There are several key terms, which are clarified in this study. The researcher defines the key terms as follows:

1. **Analysis** is examination of something by dividing into parts (Longman Dictionary, 2000:14)

2. **Bad language** is sounds, words, phrases or terms, that are used for certain purposes that may be dangerous to be used (Andersson and Trudgill, 1990:4).

3. **Novel** is a book - length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read our experience will actual life (Kennedy, 1983:180).

4. **12 Steps** is the title of novel that uses bad languages in its writing of language styles. This story is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are a product of the author’s imagination. [http://asonia12-soniaa.blogspot.com](http://asonia12-soniaa.blogspot.com)