CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents background of the study, statement of the problems, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of the key terms. Each point is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of the Study

Human beings cannot live without making any communication with others because communication has an important role in the society. In order to have a good communication among society, people need a mean that can be used to express their ideas or feelings. Furthermore, in accordance with the use of language, it can be used in two conditions, formal and informal one. People use language in formal conditions, for example in the class, meeting, seminar and speech. While in daily talking or chatting they use informal language for their communication.

In addition, language also serves several functions. Firstly, language is as a medium of transferring information. Secondly, language is a very useful means of establishing and maintaining social relationship. Thirdly, language is as a tool to show one’s expression or feeling, such as anger, sadness, happiness, loneliness and others. In this case, the use of swearing can be included into the third function of language that people sometimes use. Defreitas (2007) states that swearing or cursing is universal because it conveys potent emotions that are otherwise inexpressible.
through day-to-day language: curse words convey pain, hatred, revulsion, disapproval, insult, frustration, shock, excitement, offense, and even camaraderie.

Ayto (2000) also defines swearing as a strong language: “Strong language denotes the use of frank, forceful, perhaps even taboo vocabulary, but probably not the most extreme obscenities.” Most people are swearing when they are upset, stress, angry, and hurt. Swearing is actually human and natural behavior. In case of the English swearing, it is commonly found and used in the daily life and daily communication. Even right now, the English swearing is not only used by the English native speakers, but also used by non native speakers of English in the entire world. Most of people use swearing to express their emotions. This thing can happen not only to low class or uneducated people but also to the high class or educated people. For example Joe Biden, the 47th and current Vice President of the United States, He showed his excitement over the passing of the health care legislation in March 24, 2010 to President Barack Obama. Joe Biden congratulated President Barack Obama with an outburst, “This is a big f***ing deal” (Brian: 2010). This sentence “This is a big fucking deal” did not the same with “this is the big deal which is fucking”.

Since swearing becomes more familiar day by day, as a result there are many educated people also use it to express their feelings such as anger, upset, stress, and hurt. It is the same as what Todd Philips tells in his movie “The Hangover”. This movie tells about four best friends, namely Phil Wenneck, Stu, Alan and Doug, who come to the Sin City (Las Vegas) to celebrate a bachelor party. In Las Vegas, they get a drunken debauchery. After they are awakening from their party, Dough is missing.
Finally, Phil Wenneck and his friends must attempt to retrace Dough to his family because he is waited for his wedding.

There are many swearings expressed by the characters in some scenes in this movie, so that is why “The Hangover” movie was chosen to be analyzed by the researcher. The researcher feels so interested to analyze swearing that are expressed in a movie rather than the other object such as a short story, a novel or a play since a movie can be watched for many times. In addition, through movie, the researcher is also able to look directly at the swearing expressions shown by the characters. These all make the researcher easier to investigate about swearing and know the context when the swearing is spoken.

One of the researchers who did the same research about swearing was Alfinawati (2009). In her research, she found the type and the characteristics of the swearing expressed in “The Velvet Rope Diaries” novel by Daniella Brodsky based on Steven Pinker’s theory. They were: 1) the characters in the novel were swearing by blurting taboo words and phrases related to Gods or religion, sexuality, disease, and filth or bodily effluvia; 2) the characters in the novel were swearing for some purposes, some of them spoke rudely, descriptively, idiomatically, abusively, emphatically, and cathartically.

In this research, the researcher chooses Phil Wenneck as the specific object of her research. She chooses him because of two reasons, first Phil Wenneck is a school teacher and he is truly categorized as an educated person but he often uses swearing to express his feeling without any fear and reluctance. Second, Phil Wenneck is the main character, so he is the most dominant actor who leads in every single scene.
From the phenomena, the researcher was interested to conduct the analysis of “The Hangover” movie under the title *The Swearing Expressed by Phil Wenneck in “The Hangover” Movie Directed by Todd Philips.*

### 1.2 Statement of the Problems

The problems which are going to be investigated in this study are formulated as follows:

1. What are the swearings expressed by Phil Wenneck in “The Hangover” movie directed by Todd Philips?
2. What are the types of swearings expressed by Phil Wenneck in “The Hangover” movie directed by Todd Philips?
3. What is the most dominant swearing expressed by Phil Wenneck in “The Hangover” movie directed by Todd Philips?

### 1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to find out answer of the problems that have been stated in the statement of problems. The purposes are:

1. To describe the swearings expressed by Phil Wenneck in “The Hangover” movie directed by Todd Philips.
2. To describe the types of swearings expressed by Phil Wenneck in “The Hangover” movie directed by Todd Philips.
3. To know the most dominant swearing expressed by Phil Wenneck in “The Hangover” movie directed by Todd Philips.
1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the result of this research can give more knowledge about swearing for the researcher herself and also becomes a reference to the students who are interested in the study of sociolinguistics especially in language variation, more specially in swearing. Practically, it is hoped that the result of this research can make people have a thought that swearing is also a phenomenon of sociolinguistics which should not be avoided but should be understood because it is used not only by low class or uneducated people but also by high class or educated people. To the next researchers, she hopes that they will research swearing in different aspects and contexts.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

In this study, the researcher analyzes the swearing expressed by Phil Wenneck (the character) in “The Hangover” movie directed by Todd Philips as the scope. And the researcher limited her analysis to the swearing, the types and the most dominant swearing expressed by Phil Wenneck in “The Hangover” movie directed by Todd Philips.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid some misunderstandings and misinterpretations of the key terms used, the researcher defines some terms, they are:
1. **Swearing** is an exclusively verbal practice, blasphemy, profanity, and obscenity cover a wide variety of modes, including violations of taboos through insulting signs or outrageous actions (Hughes, 2006: 16).

2. **Phil Wenneck** is a school teacher who is also the main character in “The Hangover” movie who used swearing for many times to express his anger, upset, stress, and hurt in every scene.

3. **The Hangover** is a Las Vegas-set movie centered around four best friends who lose one of their friends during their drunken debauchery, then must retrace him to his family for his wedding.

4. **Movie** is a story or series of events recorded by camera and shown as moving picture on a screen in a theatre or a television.

5. **Todd Philips** is the director of “The Hangover” movie.