CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents background of the study, statement of the problems, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and the definition of key terms. All of them are explained as follows.

1.1 Background of the Study

A study that learns about language is called linguistics. There are many branches of Linguistics, they are syntax, semantics, pragmatics, morphology, phonology, sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, and neurolinguistics. One of the linguistics branches which relates with society is called sociolinguistics. According to Trask (1999: 262), “Sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistics which studies the relationship between language and society.” Based on the theory, it shows that sociolinguistics discusses the aspects of language in society.

Sociolinguistics also discusses about language variation. There are some kinds of language variations such as colloquial, register, slang, code switching, etc. People use language variations in many purposes. For instance, they use it to communicate between specific communities and to express their feelings and thoughts. Therefore, most of them use informal language, such as colloquial. As stated by Trask, colloquial is ordinary, relaxed and informal speech such as using contractions, connecting words and phrases, abbreviated utterances, many words and expressions we would avoid in formal contexts (1999: 41).

The above theory can be summarized that colloquial can be formed by word formation processes. According to Trask (1999: 344), “Word formation is the
process of constructing new words from existing materials.” Therefore, word formation process is often used in informal context such as in SMS writing.

“SMS stands for short message service. SMS is also often referred to as texting, sending text messages or text messaging. The service allows for short text messages to be sent from one cell phone to another cell phone or from the Web to another cell phone.” (http://cellphones.about.com, accessed on December 01, 2011 at 7.18 p.m.). The purpose of SMS is to keep up good relation and effective work with families, friends, and colleagues. By sending SMS we can ask, promote, and advertise some important informations.

Based on the writer’s point of view about English department students’ SMS writing, she faced two phenomena. The first, SMS has been part of their daily activity. They use it to communicate with friends or family, so they do SMS every time and every where. They can ask or share many things by sending SMS. The second phenomenon which makes this study is more interesting to be analyzed is because of English Department students’ style of language in SMS writing. Most of them use informal language. They have their own language to communicate with others. Sometimes, the older people cannot understand what they mean.

Furthermore, both phenomena are also supported by two previous researches. The first study was conducted by Annisa (2007) entitled “A Study on Language Used by The Member of Friendster in Writing Testimonial in Internet: Analysis on Its Colloquial Words.” Based on her study, there were many language variations found in the internet, one of them was colloquial words in Friendster testimonial. The purpose of Friendster is to make the members keep in touch with their friends and families. It also has some features, such as searching and inviting
friends, messaging, blogging and also posting the bulletin. She conducted the research because the study on colloquial used in Friendster testimonial has never been researched before, so it could give new nuance for the field of linguistics. It would also give new insight about colloquial used in internet. She found many shorter words than the standard language. Sometimes, the members of Friendster combined the number and letter.

Another study was conducted by Prita (2010) entitled “An Analysis of Colloquial Language Found on English Writing Update Status by The Members of Facebook in Internet.” She stated that colloquial was used in Facebook update status. Similar with Friendster, Facebook is a media that is used to communicate each other, to meet new friends, to stay in touch with old ones, to share many things such as photos, videos, articles, etc. She conducted the research to avoid misunderstanding especially for new English learners. She also found many shorter words than the standard one. Some of them are combined by number.

Related to those phenomena, this study is used to show that SMS has been part of their life to communicate with people and most of them use informal language. Moreover, it is important to be analyzed in order to make people understand what the meanings of the colloquial used in SMS writing are. Besides, it is also important to describe what word formation processes used to form the colloquial in SMS writing. In addition, this study is conducted since English Department students’ SMS writing mostly use abbreviation and shorter than the standard one. Sometimes, it makes people who do not know abbreviation confuse and misunderstand.
Combining between those phenomena and some theories that have been described above, the writer interested in analyzing word formation processes that form colloquial in SMS writing. The object of this study is English Department students’ SMS writing. Thus, “A Study on Colloquial in Writing SMS Done by English Department Students: An Analysis on Its Words Formation Processes” is considered as the suitable title of this study.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the colloquials found in English Department students’ SMS writing?
2. What words formation processes used to form colloquials found in English Department students’ SMS writing?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the problems above, the purposes of the study are formulated as follows:

1. To know the colloquials found in English Department students’ SMS writing.
2. To describe the words formation processes used to form colloquials found in English Department students’ SMS writing.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study is expected has both theoretical and practical values. Theoretically, this study is expected to increase knowledge particularly the sociolinguistics studies in language variation and words formation processes.
Practically, for the English Department students, hopefully the result of this study can give additional knowledge in sociolinguistics study. It is also expected can increase students’ motivation in analyzing other studies related with language variation. Then, for the further researchers, the result of this study is expected to be one of additional references to conduct another study related with sociolinguistics. Another purpose is for the sociolinguistics lecturer, this study is expected to be able as an example of linguistics analysis especially on colloquial used in telecommunication and also as a source of teaching linguistics.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this study, the writer uses scope and limitation which is used to take a precaution from overlapping of this study. The scope of this study is English Department students’ SMS writing, specifically for the seventh semester students. It includes the whole aspects of colloquial, such as using contractions, connecting words and phrases, abbreviated utterances, and many words and expressions we would avoid in formal contexts. It is also limited on such aspects of word formation processes which form colloquial in English Department students’ SMS writing used in daily communication, namely clipping, blending, acronyms, prefixes and suffixes.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The writer uses some key terms in the title of this study. The key terms used in this study are formulated as follow:

- Colloquial is ordinary, relaxed, informal speech such as using contractions, connecting words and phrases, abbreviated utterances, many
words and expressions we would avoid in formal contexts (Trask, 1999: 41).

- Word formation is the process of constructing new words from existing materials (Trask, 1999: 344).

- SMS is also often referred to as texting, sending text messages or text messaging. The service allows for short text messages to be sent from one cell phone to another cell phone or from the Web to another cell phone (http://cellphones.about.com/od/phoneglossary/g/smstextmessage.htm).