

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some topics. They are research background, research problems, research objectives, scope and limitation, research significance, and definition of key terms. Each section is elaborated below.

1.1 Research Background

Sociolinguistics is utilized to address the study about the relationship between language and society. Stockwell (2013) states that sociolinguistics is a science that discusses the relationship of language in the existent society contexts. Oktavia (2017) mentions that sociolinguistics criticizes the connection between language and society. Suhardianto and Ambalegin (2017) mention that sociolinguistics reckons with the social aspects in society.

Sociolinguistics has relative connection with culture thru the study of language and the role of language in the social group and institution. As Spolsky (2010) suggests that sociolinguistics investigates language and society, language variation, and attitude of language. Chaika (as cited in Suhardianto and Ambalegin, 2017) mentions that sociolinguistics is science that explores the language with varieties of existent social factors such as participant, setting, topic, function, and social status which influence the usage of language. Suhardianto and Ambalegin (2017) point out that sociolinguistics reckons the language relationship with social factors such as community, social culture, occupation, religion, and social status. Therefore, as sociolinguistics examines the relationship between

language application and society, it devises factors such as social background of addresser and addressee; gender, age, ethnic background, social class, context, and manner of communication.

Sociolinguists distinguish type of variations that cover many factors of language variation. Amir and Azisah (2017) associate that there are varieties of language which are usually employed by people or group in the daily conversations. Oktavia (2017) posits that there are many disparities of language, it depends on the area where the language is employed, social status, and level of education from the person who utilizes the language. One of the most popular language varieties is slang.

Slang is informal words and expressions that are not judged as a standard language. Wijaya (2014) mentions that slang can be investigated in informal speech. Zhou and Fan (2013) emphasize that slang is one of the speech types or language varieties that refer to the distinguishable form of speeches which are employed by a speaker or a group. Linhua (as cited in Zhou and Fan, 2013) mentions that slang is part of language but it is outside the standard usage, it composes new words and phrases or recent meaning to create terms.

Slang is created by society. Zhou And Fan (2013) mention that slang is unseparated aspect with social background and surrounding. Slang is utilized among close associations, so commonly slang is not understood by many people. Cook (2013) suggests that slang is utilized to communicate effectively, to provide recent words or new meanings, and to denote the part of certain group. Moreover, Suhardianto and Ambalegin (2017) mention that slang as a social phenomenon is

utilized in certain community, especially youth community. Slang terms from certain group are applied by other people, then it becomes the standard language. Zhou and Fan (2013) posit that slangs are produced by particular group that are adopted by people, then it becomes the common vocabularies. Young people utilize slang in the conversation to indicate their attitude against the society regarding their own way of thinking. Zhou (2013) suggests that slang belongs to developed language style which is employed by teenagers, they employ slang to convey their expressions and to satisfy their needs in utilizing language. Oktavia (2017) emphasizes that slang is nonstandard words which are established by modern community, it is employed by young people in certain situation. Wijaya (2014) suggests that slang symbolizes familiar relationship among youngsters. Moreover, Suhardianto and Ambalegin (2017) posit that slang are also utilized in adolescent life aspect.

Slang is quickly changing. Lantto (2014) mentions that slang is identified by the creativeness and its change. Eble (as cited in Trimastuti, 2017) emphasizes that slang is rapidly changing phrases and words that speakers employ to set up or to strengthen the cohesiveness or social identity in a group in the society. Ugot (2014) emphasizes that slang presents recent form of words and fresh vocabularies. Slang demands recent expressions and words in proceeding its presence because slangs are easily outdated. Besides, slang is no longer considered as slang if it is accepted as standard speech. The purposes of employing slang are to produce interesting, colored, and clear speech. As Andersson and Trudgill (1990) emphasize that advantages of utilizing slang are to

convey human behavior, to denote unique attitude, to establish funny situation, to exhibit style, to broaden language, to elude the boring conversation, to communicate the brief point, to capture attention, to simplify the social intercourse, and to express secret conversation. Moreover, Wijaya (2014) suggests that slang is employed especially by teenagers to express diverse communicative functions such as mocking, swearing, jesting, pointing, hiding secret, and advising. Besides that, slang is not only employed in the daily conversation, but also in literary work particularly novel. Oktavia (2017) suggests that slang words are not only discovered in the everyday conversation, but slangs are also uncovered in literary work like novel. The authors employ slang to point out the story or character that they desire to create.

One of the novels that employs slang is “Muallaf” novel which is written by John Michaelson and published in Indonesia on 2014 by Gramedia Pustaka Utama publisher. There are some reasons why “Muallaf” novel is taken as analysis. Firstly, the novel employs slang to show the accent of the author as British people. Secondly, this novel delivers the story about the author’s struggles in his life before he recognized Islam till becoming a moslem and living in Indonesia. Thirdly, this novel tells about Islam in the Westerner’s perspective. Fourthly, this novel contains the valuable messages about hard condition in life that can lead human to find their identities. Fifthly, the language in the novel is comprehensible, so that the readers can understand the story easily.

There are previous researches regarding slang that were conducted by Prihayuniati (2013), Fitriati (2014), and Sari (2014). Prihayuniati (2013) found out

that there were 31 slangs in the novel “A Streetcar Named Desire” by Tennessee Williams. The meanings of slang were varied according the situation and context. The researcher discovered that mostly the slangs were employed in informal situation. Furthermore, there were 11 slangs including as non-grammatical slang and 20 slangs involving as creative slang.

Fitriati (2014) investigated slang in “Missing You” novel which was written by Meg Cabot. The researcher encountered that there were 45 slangs belong to informal context. Besides, the meaning of slangs were divided into general and specific slang. Based on the result, 44 slangs were classified as general slang and only 1 slang was categorized as specific slang.

Sari (2014) intended to dig out the slangs in “All American Girl 01” novel by Meg Cabot. The researcher uncovered that there were 34 slangs in the novel. The slangs were employed in informal situation. From 34 slangs within the novel, 31 slangs were classified as total disorganization and 3 slangs were categorized as partial disorganization.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher would like to investigate the slangs which were found in “Muallaf” novel which was written by John Michaelson. In this research, the use of the slang within the novel is the object of discussion, because the author of the novel mentioned about slangs within the conversations and statements in the novel. Specifically, the researcher demanded to analyze the slangs within the novel, meaning, and kind of slangs which in the novel.

1.2 Research Problems

In clarifying the slangs, the researcher limits the discussion of this topic by providing the following problems.

1. What are the slangs discovered in “Muallaf” novel?
2. What kinds of slangs are investigated in the novel?
3. What are the meaning of the slangs located within the novel?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objectives of analyzing slang in “Muallaf” novel can be elaborated as follows.

1. To detect the slangs which are discovered in the novel.
2. To reveal the kinds of slangs which are investigated in the novel.
3. To investigate the meaning of slangs which are uncovered within the novel.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope in this research is the slangs, its meaning, and its kinds which are found within the conversations of the characters within chapter I and chapter II in “Muallaf” novel. This research is limited to the slangs which are discovered in “Muallaf” novel that is written by John Michaelson and published by Gramedia Pustaka Utama in 2014.

1.5 Research Significances

This research embodies theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the researcher provides the recent information and knowledge about the slangs in novel since the University of Muhammadiyah Malang organizes

Sociolinguistics class that discusses slang in its material. Moreover, studying denotative meaning and connotative meaning words are beneficial for students to develop their writing style and comprehending the literature.

Practically, it is intended that this research sheds benefits to students, lectures, and prospective researchers. For students, this research is anticipated to be beneficial for the students of English Language Education Department, especially Sociolinguistics students in advancing their knowledge about slang. Furthermore, students are expected to conceive the meaning and the purpose of utilizing slangs. For lectures, this research is hoped to be worthwhile as source and empirical data in teaching Sociolinguistics major, particularly about slang, its kind, and its meaning. For prospective researcher, this research can be employed to provoke other researchers for organizing other research which is related to this research, but in a specified discussion or unsimilar point of view.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Analysis is a process of verifying and modifying data with the purpose to dig out beneficial information, to draw conclusions, and to bolster the decision (Beaney, 2012).
2. Slang is informal words and phrases that is utilized by younger or certain group of people under the similar interest (Mihalicek and Wilson, 2011).
3. Novel is a narrative prose that has substantial length and a specific complexity regarding human experience, usually by means of related events implicating group of people in a certain setting (Burgess, 2018).

4. Muallaf is a novel which was written by John Michaelson that was published in Indonesia on 2014 by Gramedia Pustaka Utama publisher. This novel depicts about the life journey of John Michaelson before embracing Islam until become a Muslim and an Indonesian citizen.

