CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter discusses slang, types of slang words, and the Dangerous Woman album by Ariana Grande.

2.1 Slang

Slang is defined as a deviated language. This ideology may exist because of the standard deviation of language use and its categories, as Partridge (1933) stated that slang has its class. The slang words used among teenagers in each region might have different particular terms to be characterized as slang. It is supported by Agha's argument (2015) that the more widely social standards are and the more natural language that is used, the more distorted language will be more interesting to discuss.

Slang is a language that is simple and easy to understand by most people nowadays. However, in the use of slang, it is not easy to explain in detail the meaning of the word, as stated by Partridge (1933). The slang words are divided into two types (Dhuliawala, et al., 2016). The first one is newly created words that cannot be found in the English dictionary. The words are entirely new, for example, bae that represents the phrase before anyone else, a term of endearment and trust that refers to one’s the boyfriend, girlfriend or a potential date. The other category of slang words is newly created senses. The words do exist in the dictionary but they are used for different meaning purposes, for example, tea that means gossip; goat as the acronym for greatest of all time.
The term slang is defined as language collections in social groups. In the matter of age-graded slangs, different thoughts of slang usually can be obtained from different persons. A group of teenagers typically use slang, but as they grow older, they tend to disapprove of it. According to Agha (2015), historically, slang words are used in an appreciably wider sense than usual these days. The slang speakers or users are not only based on age, but are also associated with certain social groups and jobs, such as particular registers used or convinced used by criminals. Agha (2015) also stated that the positive and negative evaluations for each slang are usually conducted by different evaluators. The case of negative slang evaluation is the perception of it as a vulgar language. When the subdivision of a social group uses slang, the permitted use in that group is in the form of positive evaluation in social rights.

Conclusively, it is clear that slang is the simplest form of language and can be used by certain groups of people, especially teenagers. Slang language is easy to use though the words are hard to explain. The vocabularies of slang generally exist as registers. Moreover, language collections that tend to be in the domains of a highly limited lexical range are differentiated by slang, particularly words that are pointing to persons and their interests.

2.2 Types of Slang

Slang is an informal language used to express the speakers’ thoughts or feelings. O’Grady, et al. (1996) stated that slang is a label used in the speech community to show informal usage. Therefore, there are several
types of slang words based on Allan and Burridge (2006) which are elaborated as follows:

2.2.1 Fresh and Creative

The fresh and creative is the form of an entirely new slang vocabulary that can also be up-to-date words as stated by Allan (2006). They also clarified that some of slang words are familiar and used by people in daily language without realizing it because the slang words have actually existed since the 18th century. Furthermore, it is also supported by many slang dictionaries that also contain slang words from the 1800s, such as The Routledge Dictionary of Historical Slang by Partridge and Simpson (1973). Meanwhile, Rezeki (2019) stated that the fresh and creative type has new vocabularies to describe something in an informal situation. An example of a fresh and creative word is “mom” which is used to address a woman, especially an elder one.

2.2.2 Flippant

Flippant means that the slang language is made from two words or more in which the words composed are not correlated with the denotative meaning (Allan, 2006), for example, break a leg. The slang word break a leg means good luck. It is theatrical superstition that considers a wish of good luck to be tempting fate.

2.2.3 Imitative

According to Allan (2006), the imitative is a slang word that is formed by imitating the standard English word, specifically using
different words with different meanings or combining two or more different words. For instance, the word wanna is derived from the phrase want to. Additionally, Spears (2000) stated that the slang word of wanna is also widely used in spoken English. Another instance is gonna which is derived from the phrase going to, and imma that is derived from the phrase word I am going to.

2.2.4 Acronym

The acronym is the type of slang whereby a new word is formed from the first letter of each word in a phrase or using the initials group of words or syllables (Allan, 2006). According to Yule (2014), a term that is formed from the first letters in a phrase is called an acronym. Moreover, as stated by O’Grady (1996), acronyms are formed from the initial letters, beginning segments of a set of words, phrases, or titles and then reading them as a word. Those help people to shorten longer word formation into a smaller form that is generally consisting of few letters. The acronym is commonly used for the name of organizations and explicit terminology. For instance, NASA is the acronym that stands for National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The other acronym examples are found in daily language and the internet particularly social media. For example, according to Georgalou (2019), the word ‘LOL’ is the acronym for laughing out loud and ‘ASAP’ is the acronym for as soon as possible. Yule (2014) also clarified that there are cases where the speakers do not recognize the words that they use as an acronym, such as SIM card where the ‘SIM’ is the
acronym of *Subscriber Identification Module*, and ZIP codes which ‘ZIP’ is the acronym for *Zone Improvement Plan*.

2.2.5 **Clipping**

The clipping is slang words that is formed through the deletion process at some part of longer words, whereby it produces shorten words as stated by Allan (2006). On the other hand, according to O’Grady (1996), the process of reducing or shortening a word with more than three syllables, or well-known as a polysyllabic word, without changing the meaning, is called clipping. For instance, *flu* from influenza, *lab* from laboratory, *exam* for examination, etc. On the other hand, Yule (2014) stated that clipping occurs when a word is made from a shortened word with more than one syllable. However, the shortened word form is usually only taken from the beginning part of the word, for example *gym* (gymnasium), *exam* (examination), and *typo* (typographical error). Otherwise, the shortened word form is also taken from the end or the middle of a word with more than one syllable, for example *phone* (hand phone) and *’till* (until).

2.3 **Types of Meaning**

As a branch of linguistics, semantics is mainly related to how the meaning is conveyed by the linguistics system, consisting of different unit structures, such as sentence, phrases, words, morphemes etc. Leech (1981) divided meaning into seven types which are elaborated as follows:
2.3.1 **Conceptual Meaning**

Conceptual meaning is the core sense of a word. The meaning is certainly literal, clear, logical, and it is also the dictionary definition of the word. Conceptual meaning is also known as denotative or cognitive meaning. For instance, the word ‘needle’ is defined as a thin and sharp piece of metal used in sewing.

2.3.2 **Connotative Meaning**

Connotation is a word or phrase that is associated with cultural or emotional understanding. Connotative meaning is indeterminate and open-ended because it is related to the real-world experiences is associated with linguistic expressions that are used or heard. For instance, the word ‘woman’ is generally defined as human, adult, and female, but in connotative meaning, the word ‘woman’ is widely defined as a person who is experienced in cooking, inconstant, or prone to tears.

2.3.3 **Social Meaning**

The social meaning conveys the social circumstances of the speaker. Social meaning is understood through the recognition of different dimensions and levels of style within the same language. The aspect of socio-stylistic variation includes the dialect, time, province, status, modality, and singularity.

2.3.4 **Affective Meaning**

Affective meaning refers to what is conveyed about the personal feeling and attitude of the speaker. Affective meaning is largely a parasitic category in the sense of expressing emotions that rely on the mediation of
other categories of meaning, such as conceptual or connotative meaning. The emotional expression involves with the speaker who adopts an impolite tone to express displeasure or a casual tone to express friendliness.

2.3.5 Reflected Meaning

Reflected meaning is defined as the multiple conceptual meaning. Essentially, reflected meaning occurs when a single word or phrase is related to more than one meaning. One of the cases is when the reflected meaning interrupts through the sheer strength of emotive suggestion that is most outstandingly illustrated by words with taboo meaning. For instance, the word ‘intercourse’ which means communication or dealings between individuals or groups, or ‘cock’ which means rooster in the farmyard, is influenced by the taboo contamination.

2.3.6 Collocative Meaning

Collocative means that the meaning of a word or phrase is associated with the environment. Collocative is simply a characteristic property of individual words. For example, the word ‘pretty’ and ‘handsome’ are commonly related to the meaning of good-looking. However, in a wider sense the word ‘pretty’ can refer to a girl, boy, woman, flower, color, village, or etc. Meanwhile, the word ‘handsome’ can refer to a man, car, overcoat, airliner, or etc.

2.3.7 Thematic Meaning

Thematical meaning is a sentence or message that has the same meaning although it is organized differently in terms of order, focus and emphasis. Furthermore, it is mainly a matter of choice in alternative
grammatical construction. For instance, the sentence ‘I like Danish cheese best’ can also be written as ‘It’s Danish cheese that I like best.’

2.4 **Dangerous Woman Album**

*Dangerous Woman* is the third album of an American singer, Ariana Grande. It was released by Republic Records in 2016. The album, with its pop and R&B sound, contains four singles, namely *Dangerous Woman*, *Into You*, *Side to Side*, and *Let Me Love You*.

The album name, essentially, was modified from its first name, Moonlight. In one of the American talk shows, Grande revealed that she was ambivalent about the title and would possibly retitle the album. *Dangerous Woman* as the album’s name, was announced via Grande’s social media accounts. Following the announcement, Grande posted a photo on her Instagram account with the caption of a quote from the novel *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El Saadawi, an Egyptian feminist writer. The title *Dangerous Woman* was chosen as the official name as it represents Grande as a stronger person as well as her wish.

The Dangerous Woman album has four singles. The first one, *Dangerous Woman*, is about a valiant woman. The song is lyrically telling that she meets a person who changes her life by empowering her and making her realize that she has the right to be brave and fearless. The second single in the album is *Into You*. Lyrically, the song is about a woman who falls for a man, and she desires him to make the first move with tranquility. *Side to Side* is the third single with lyrics that describe something risky and a woman who is feeling unwell due to copulation activity. The final single in
the album, *Let Me Love You*, is a song about getting over an ex and laying on the chest of someone new. (Genius, 2016).