

## BAB II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses several theories relates to the research. It tries to approach the theory in detail, such as Slang, Type of slang, Morphology, Word Formation Processes and *Akeelah and The Bee*.

#### A. Slang

Slang is words and phrases that are not considered part of the standard vocabulary of language and used in casual speech often invented and spread by groups. According to Chaer and Agustina slang is a secret and special social variation, slang can only be understood by certain people in a limited area and may not be known by people outside the group.<sup>12</sup> It means that slang is often related with a particular social group in specific areas. They are creates their own language structure that is different from the existing structure of language.

Slang word almost used in oral language to express people feeling and creativity toward language. According Fromkin said that slang is considered as a result of the rapid growth of the new words that was happening as a creative expressing from people to make the words more efficient and simpler to be utterance.<sup>13</sup> Slang is commonly used to get easier and simple in communication or used as solidarity, fun, humor, intimacy among users and used as a mark of the identity group members.

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<sup>12</sup>Siti Asiyah, *Transgender Community and Its Slang Word*, Salatiga(IPI Journal, 2014), Vol 7

<sup>13</sup>Victoria Fromkin, *An Introduction to Language*, page 264.

The use of slang can be influenced by social factors such as age, gender, status. According to Akmajian, slang is something that everyone can recognize but no one defines. Speakers show enormous creativity in their use of slang (it is, indeed, one of the most creative areas of language use), and it is often the source of a good deal of humor. Although a precise definition of slang seems extremely difficult, there are some features about slang<sup>14</sup>:

- a. Slang is a part of casual informal style of language use.
- b. Slang like fashions in clothing and popular music, change quite rapidly.
- c. Specific areas of slang are often associated with a particular social group and hence one speaks of teenager slang.

Based on the definition above, the writer can conclude that slang is non-formal or casual spoken language, which is created and used by the members of a certain community. It is a secret language which is only understood by their community. Besides, they want to show their creativity toward language and they use it like a symbol in their group to make themselves different from other groups. People use slang language because they want it to be easier, simple, and colorful in conversation. Nowadays, the popularity of slang makes it an interesting object to study. It will be interesting to find out what types of slang words there are. To more understand about types of slang, it will be discussed in the following part.

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<sup>14</sup>Adrian Akmajian, *An Introduction to Language and Communication fifth edition*, (London: The MIT Press, 2001) page.304

## B. Type of Slang

According to Mihalick and Wilson in their book, slang is like jargon has to do more with stylistic choices in vocabulary than systematic lexical differences between varieties. Unlike jargon, words that are considered “slang” are often less formal than other equivalent words. There are two basic type of slang:<sup>15</sup>

### 1. Common Slang

Common slang is nearly neutral everyday language that most people consider just a little too informal for letters of application and the like is known as common slang. This includes words like fridge for refrigerator or TV for television. The vocabulary in common slang is generally show in this life. Common slang connected with society often used in daily conversation with unique vocabulary that rapidly change with the changing as fashion. It makes more attractive in their daily conversation.

This kind of slang is often hear and used by people in their activity. It means that people does not strange with the vocabulary in common slang type. This type of slang is used as a general expression used by people in daily conversation and almost all people understand about the meaning. Besides, it is not related to someone attitude or something secret. So, common slang is very familiar in this life.

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<sup>15</sup>Verdana Mihalicek and Christian Wilson, *Language File: Materials for an Introduction to Language and Linguistics*, (Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 2011), 412.

## 2. In-group Slang

In-group slang is more specialized slang of a particular group at a particular time. In-group slang, like technical language, can be used to keep insiders together and to exclude outsiders. Learning the appropriate in-group slang can thus be a key to entrance into a particular group. This kind of slang is unfamiliar word in daily conversation. This type is usually used by people in a group to express something secretly, so people in the outside group do not know with the meaning. This type is usually used by people in member of street gang or criminal and a drug to express their attitude.

Some slang is very short-lived like *Twenty-three skidoo*, but some last long enough to become accepted in even the stiffest circles. *Fan* appeared as a slangy shortening of *fanatic* in the late sixteenth century and today we have *fan letters*, *fan magazine* and *fan (web)sites* for all kinds of things from baseball stars to rock group. Similarly, the fact that slang often injects a bit of color into otherwise ordinary language means that as the color fades, so to speak, new expressions will be needed.

From the explanation above that there are two kind of slang type they are common slang type and in-group slang type. Common slang type is usually used by people in their activity, and almost of people knowing the meaning and in-group slang is use to expression something secretly in order to keep their conversation. In other hand, there are

another definition about types of slang but the writer only focus on types of slang by Mihalick and Wilson.

### C. Characteristic of Slang

According to Dumas and Jonathan Lightner, in their article suggest four characteristics for slang:<sup>16</sup>

- 1) Its presence will markedly lower, at least for moment, the dignity of formal or serious speech or writing.
- 2) Its use implies the user's special familiarity either with the referent or with that less satisfied or less responsible class of people who have such special familiarty and use the term. It use to intimacy among user and used as a mark of the identity group members.
- 3) It is taboo term in ordinary discource with persons of higher social status or greater responsibility. It is usually used by people in business.
- 4) It is used in place of the well-known conventional synonym, especially in order (a) to protec the user from the discomfort caused by conventional item or (b) to protect the user from the discomfort or annoyance of further elaboration. It is usually used in group people to keep their conversation.

Besides, in the thesis of Ina Rotul Mudrikah (2012) with the title "*The Analysis of Sociolinguistic Aspects of Slang in "Save the Last Dance" Movie*", According to Wishnubroto, he mentions some

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<sup>16</sup> Edwin L Bettistella, *Bad language: are some words better than others*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005) page 85

characteristics of slang. There are five characteristic of slang according Wishnubroto as cited by Ina:<sup>17</sup>

- 1) Slang is usually created arbitrarily such as “*money*” in the dictionary of slang it is the same as with *cabbage* and *dough*.
- 2) Slang is like a mode, many people like when it comes, used everywhere and thrown away quickly, such as “*yahud*” this word not heard anymore, young people in this era, young people do not know this word, but in 1960 era they used it. In the dictionary of slang, such as “*girl*” it is like *chick*, the word used in 1935 bby jazz community.
- 3) Slang is more attarctive and expressive than standard language, such as slang of standard word “*cemetary*” is *boneyard*, then slang of “*clerk*” is *pensil pusher*. In the dictionary of slang, such as “*doctor*” it is similar with *bonebender*.
- 4) Slang sometimes has specific aim at the condition so it is difficult to know the standart meaning, such as “*drunk*” it is like *boiled* and *fried*. In the dictionary of slang, such as “*unfriendly*” it is the same as *coldfish*.
- 5) Slang is only used by particular group.

#### **D. Morphology**

Morphology refers to the study of words, their internal structure and the mental process that are involved in word formation.<sup>18</sup>Some

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<sup>17</sup> Ina Rotul Mudrikah, *The Analyis of Sociolinguistic Aspects of Slang in “Save the Last Dance” Movie*, (Salatiga: State Institute for Islamic Satudies (STAIN),2012),26

observations about words and their structure: 1. some words can be divided into parts which still have meaning. 2. any words have meaning by themselves. But some words have meaning only when used with other words. 3. some of the parts into which words can be divided can stand alone as words. But others cannot. 4. these word-parts that can occur only in combination must be combined in the correct way. 5. languages create new words systematically. Lieber stated that morphological process is a process in linguistics which results a new lexeme.<sup>19</sup> That means a morphological process is a linguistic process that creates words form. It may occur in all existing languages in the world.

Morphology is the study of morphemes and their arrangements in forming words.<sup>20</sup> Morpheme are the minimal meaningful units which may constitute word or parts of words. The morpheme arrangements which are treated under the morphology of a language include all combinations that form words or parts of words.

Morphology is the component of mental grammar that deals with types of words and how words are formed out of smaller meaningful pieces and other words.<sup>21</sup> So, morphology is the study about how the words are formed.

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<sup>18</sup>Leong & Parkinson, *Processing of English Morphological Structure by Poor Readers: Developmental and Acquired Dyslexia*. (The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1995). Page 237

<sup>19</sup>Rochelle Lieber. *Introducing morphology*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2010). Page 61

<sup>20</sup>Eugene A. Nida, *Morphology (The descriptive Analysis of Words)*. (USA: University of Michigan Press, 1949), page 1.

<sup>21</sup>Mihalick and Wilson, *Language*, 148.

## E. Word Formation Processes

Word formation is the study of the basic processes to create new words. It means that a word has the smaller element that is a morpheme which shapes up the word then the process to make the morpheme into the word are called word formation processes. There are some ways of creating new words, those are coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, acronyms, derivation, and multiple processes.<sup>22</sup>

### 1. Coinage

Coinage is the invention of totally new terms. Coinage is a new word or expression which has come into a language. Words like *aspirin* and *nylon*, originally invented trade names, are others. Familiar recent examples are *kleenex* and *Xerox*, which also began as invented trade names, and which have quickly become everyday words in the language.

### 2. Borrowing

One of the most common sources of new words in English is the process simply labeled borrowing. Borrowing is taking over of words from other languages. English has adopted a vast number of loan-words from other languages. Examples of borrowing words in English include, *alcohol* (from Arabic), *boss* (from Dutch), *croissant* (from French), *lilac* (from Persian), *piano* (from Italian), *pretzel* (from German), *robot* (from

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<sup>22</sup>Yule, *The Study of Language*. Page 52-56



Czech), *tyoon* (from Japanese), *yogurt* (from Turkish), and *zebra* (from Bantu).

### 3. Compounding

Compounding is joining two separate words to produce a single form. It is very common in languages like German and English, but much less common in languages like French and Spanish. Obvious English examples would be *bookcase*, *fingerprint*, *sunburn*, *wallpaper*, *doorknob*, *textbook*, *wastebasket*, and *waterbed*. We can create compound adjectives, example are *sky blue*, *colour-blind*, *rock hard*, *praise worthy*, and we can create compound of two adjectives, for instance: *icy-cold*, *red hot*, etc.

### 4. Blending

Blending is combining two separate forms to produce a single new term. Blending is typically accomplished by taking only the beginning of one word and joining it to the end of the other word. Example of blends formed this way are English *smog* (formed from smoke and fog), *vog* (Volcano and fog). Some other commonly used example of blending are *brunch* (breakfast and lunch), *motel* (motor and hotel) and *telecast* (television and broadcast)

### 5. Clipping

Clipping is creating new words by shortening a polysyllabic word. This occurs when a word of more than one syllable is reduced to a shorter form often in casual speech. The term *gasoline* is still in use, but

occurs much less frequently than *gas* the clipped form. Other common examples are *ad* (advertisement), *fan* (fanatic), *bus*, *plane*, *prof*, *lab* and *flv*.

#### 6. Backformation

Backformation is reducing a word, it is typically a word of one type (usually noun) is reduced to form another word of a different type (usually a verb). A good of example of backformation is the process whereby the noun television first came into use and then the verb is televise was created from it. The common examples of backformation are, *edit* (from editor), *donate* (from donation), *opt* (from option), *emote* (from emotion), and *enthuse* (from enthusiasm).

#### 7. Conversion

Conversion is a change the function of a word, as for example when a noun comes to be used as a verb (without any reduction). Other labels for this very common process are category change and functional shift. For the example, noun changing into verb such as *paper*, *butter*, *bottle*, *vacation*, *can*, via the process of conversion come to be used as verbs, as in the following sentences: *He's papering the bedroom walls;* *have you buttered the toast?;* *We bottled the home-brew last night;* *they're vacationing in France.*

#### 8. Acronym

Acronym is forming some new words from the initial letters of a set of other words. Acronym often consist of capital letters as in

*NATONASA* or *UNESCO*, but can lose their capitals to become everyday term such as *laser* (light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation), *radar* (radio detecting and ranging), and *scuba* (self contained underwater breathing apparatus).

#### 9. Derivation

Derivation is a process of adding and affix to base to show the difference in meaning and/or lexical category. A few example are the element of affixes are *un-*, *mis-*, *pre-*, *-ful*, *-less*, *-ish*, *-ism*, *-ness* which appear in word like *unhappy*, *misrepresent*, *prejudge*, *joyful*, *careless*, *boyish*, *terrorism*, and *sadness*.

#### 10. Multiple Processes

Multiple processes when one word might be produced through more than one process in the creation of particular word. For example, the term *deli* seems to have become a common American English expression via a process of first borrowing *delicatessen* (from German) and clipping that borrowed form. If you hear someone complain that problems with the project have *snowballed*, whereby snow and ball have been combined to form the noun *snowball*, which has then undergone conversion to be used as a verb. From which begin as acronyms can also undergo other processes, as in the use of *lase* as a verb, the result of backformation from *laser*.

#### 11. Inflection

Inflection is the creation of different grammatical form of word. Inflection uses the same sort of pieces, such as stems and affixes, that derivation does, but the important difference is the linguistic entity that inflection creates forms of words, rather than entirely new words. Typically, in contrast to derivational affixes, inflection affixes such as -s do not change the lexical category of the word, for example child and child's, both child and child's are nouns.

#### ***E. Akeelah and The Bee***

"Akeelah and the bee" is a movie written by Doug Atchison and produced by Laurence Fishburne. It released in the United States on April 28, 2006 and duration of time this movie around 112 minutes. This movie tells of Akeelah Anderson, an 11 year old girl spelling enthusiast, attends Crenshaw Middle School, a predominantly black school in South Los Angeles. Her principal, Mr. Welch suggests that she sign up for the Crenshaw Schoolwide Spelling Bee. She follows his advice and ends up winning. Soon after, Dr. Joshua Larabee, a visiting English professor and Mr. Welch's friend from college, tests Akeelah and decide that she is good to compete in the National Spelling Bee. Akeelah studies on her own to prepare for the district spelling bee. During the competition, Akeelah becomes a crowd favorite. This movie has an interesting story and gives some moral values. This movie is suitable for children until adult and will

never make them get bored. And this movie received positively critic from audiences.

From the explanation above the researcher concludes that slang is informal language. Slang responds to a need in people to be creative in their language use and to show group membership. Slang is secret language only be understood by certain people in a limited area. Teenager is often used slang word because they want a refreshes language in communication. Teenager used this word to mark of the identity of the teenager, humor, fun, and to show intimacy among users. Sometimes, they use this word without understanding more deeply about how this word are formed because they just follow these word from movie, song lyric, magazine, and TV. One of language development is creating word by using word formation processes.