

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This is a study about analyzing slang language in the lyric of songs by Nicki Minaj. In this part will be discussed about the background of the study, research problem, objective of the study, significant of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and the last definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Sociolinguistics is a very broad field, and it can be used to describe many different ways of studying language.¹ Sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society with the goal being a better understanding of the structure of language and of how languages function in communication.

Hudson has described the difference as follows: sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society.² In other words, in sociolinguistics we study language and society in order to find out as much as we can about what kind of thing language is. Any discussion of the relationship between language and society, or of the various functions of language in society, should begin with some attempt to define each of these terms. We may attempt an equally comprehensive definition of language: a language is what the members of a particular society speak.

¹Miriam Mayerhoff, *Introducing Sociolinguistics*, (London and New York: Routledge, 2006), 1.

²Ronald Wardhaugh, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics Fifth Edition*, (United Kingdom: Blackwell Publishing, 2006), 13.

Language is one of important thing that used by the people to communicate with other people. With communication language people can make a relationship with other people and it is important to maintain that relation. Language is not simply a means of communicating information but also very important means establishing and maintaining relationship with other people, like what Peter Trudgil said in his book *Sociolinguistics: An Introduction*. Alternatively, we say that language is a means of communication.³

Language touches every part of our lives: it gives word to our thoughts, voice to our ideas, and expression to our feeling. We perform different roles at different times in different situations in society. Consciously or subconsciously, we speak differently depending on where or we come from, whom we talk to, where the conversation is carried out, what purpose we have, etc. Language is the source of human life and power.⁴ With language, we can convey a message, expression of feelings, and thoughts.

According to Victoria Fromkin, language has a characteristic flexible and dynamic which will create new possibility in communication, so it is impossible that language just can stop in one word and one meaning because language can change as fast as the grown of human life itself. People usually use language both in oral and written forms based on the context. Language can be used in formal and informal situations. People usually use formal or

³William Downes, *Language and Society Second Edition*, (United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 1998), 2.

⁴Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman & Nina Hyams, *An Introduction to Language Seventh Edition*, (USA: Michael Rosenberg, 2003), 3.

standard language in formal context, and they usually use informal or non-standard language in informal context. There are some kinds of language varieties that are used in informal context, one of them is slang.

Slang is one of non-standard language that usually used in informal context by the people. The majority of people use slang as social and ethnic identifier to reinforce power or status. Slang can be found in lyric of song, conversation on movie, on TV, etc. Almost all people especially young people use slang from time to time. According to Fromkin and Rodman, slang is considered as a result of the development of the new words that happen as a creative expression from people to make the words more efficient and simpler to be uttered. Slang words vary from generation to generation and from one geographical area to others. Thus, the existence of slang is never constant.

Almost everyone uses slang in some occasions, but it is not easy to define the word. Slang has been defined as “one of those things that everybody can recognize and nobody can define.”⁵ Based on the oxford dictionaries online, slang is types of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as a very informal, are more common in speech than writing, and are typically restricted to a particular context or group of people.⁶

Slang language in the lyrics of song is also used in communication, because the singer is giving a message to the listener. There are many kinds of music such as pop, R&B, rock, jazz, classic, hip-hop, rap, etc. Song is a part of

⁵P. Roberts, *Understanding English*, (New York: Harper & Row, 1958), 342.

⁶www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/slang, accessed on November 6th, 2014.

music that contains some composition such as tones, lyrics and melody.⁷ The researcher is interested to analyze slang language that is found in the lyric of song. And the songs from Nicki Minaj in the album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded* are chosen by the researcher to be analyzed.

Nicki Minaj is a Trinidadian-born American rapper, singer, songwriter and actress. This singer has original name Onika Tanya Maraj. The reasons why analyzing the meaning of slang language that used in Nicki songs because there are many words that categorized as the slang language. Besides that, slang language within the lyric is also used in communication and some people who used English as a second of foreign language may get confused in comprehending the meaning of song lyric.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher conducts the research in title “**The Analysis of Slang Words Found in the Lyric of Nicki Minaj’s Second Studio Album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded***”.

B. Research Problem

Based on the statement in the background of the study above, the researcher finds the problems of this study. They are formulated as follows:

1. What are slang words found in the lyrics of Nicki Minaj’s second studio album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*?
2. What are the types of slang words found in the lyrics of Nicki Minaj’s second studio album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*?

⁷ <http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/songs>

3. What is the meaning of slang words found in the lyrics of Nicki Minaj's second studio album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*?

C. Objective of the Study

The objective of this research is to find the answer or conclusion the researcher wants to get after research activity is completely done. The objectives of the study in this research are:

1. To find slang words in the lyrics of Nicki Minaj's second studio album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*.
2. To find the types of slang words found in the lyrics of Nicki Minaj's second studio album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*.
3. To describe the meaning of slang words found in the lyrics of Nicki Minaj's studio album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*.

D. Significance of the Study

The significant of this study is to increase the study about linguistics, especially about slang language. The result of this study is expected will be useful for the English Department students, the teachers, and the readers.

For the English Department students, it can give explanation about slang language to them. With the explanation in this study, the students can get more understanding about slang and the meaning of the slang language. Besides that, they can get new vocabularies about slang used in the lyric of songs.

For the teachers, it also can give them more knowledge to teach their students. This study can be used as reference to teach the students in the class. Then, it can also be used as the material discussion in the class for the students to make them get more understanding.

For the readers, it will develop the readers' knowledge to study language. The readers' can get knowledge and vocabulary about slang language especially in the lyrics of songs. Besides that, the readers' can understand about the meaning of slang language. It can make them more interested to listen western songs when they know the meaning.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The researcher studied the slang words and the meaning of the slang words found in the lyric of Nicki Minaj's songs, especially in the second studio album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*. There are ten songs that the researcher takes from the twenty three songs in this studio album. They are *Automatic, Champion, I am Your Leader, Pound The Alarm, Right by My Side, Roman Holiday, Roman Reloaded, Starships, Beez in The Trap* and *Va Va Voom*.

F. Definition of Key Terms

The definition of key words, the researcher will define the key terms that related to the study. They are: slang, song lyrics, and Nicki Minaj.

1. Slang

Slang is considered as a result of the development of the new words that happen as a creative expression from people to make the words more efficient and simpler to be uttered.⁸ Slang usually used by group certain social to communicate internal order and make the other member of groups do not understand.

2. Song Lyric

From *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, song is short piece of music with words that you sing. Song is a part of music that contains some composition such as tones, lyrics and melody.⁹ While lyrics are a set of words that make up a song, usually consisting of verses and choruses.¹⁰ Lyric is simple word of song. The lyric or song texts do not only as a complement of the song, but also as an important part of the music elements which determine the theme, character and mission of the song.

3. Nicki Minaj

Onika Tanya Maraj (born December 8, 1982), better known by her stage name Nicki Minaj is a Trinidadian-born American rapper, singer, songwriter and actress.¹¹ There are some albums that she has released with so many songs, one of them are the songs in the second studio album *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*.

⁸ Victoria Fromkin & Robert Rodman, *An Introduction to Language*, (New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston Inc., 1983), 264.

⁹ <http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/songs>

¹⁰ <http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/lyrics>

¹¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nickiminaj>