

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses about the theories which can support the analysis of this research. There are some theories which will be applied. As the basis of this study, the researcher uses significant theories that are included in sociolinguistics, slang, semantics, and song.

A. Sociolinguistics

Sociolinguistics deal with quite a range of topics: small-group interaction and large-group membership, language use and language attitudes, language and behavior norms as well as changes in these norms.¹² Sociolinguistics argues that language exists in context, dependent on the speaker who is using it and dependent on where it is being used and why.¹³

Sociolinguistics is the study of the characteristics of language varieties, their functions, and their speakers as these three constantly interact, change and change one another within a speech community. It is concerned with the relationship between language and the context in which it is used. The study of language in operation, its purpose is to investigate how the convention of the language use relates to other aspects of social behavior.

¹²Joshua A. Fishman, *Sociolinguistics A Brief Introduction*, (USA: Newbury House Publisher, 1972), 21.

¹³Sali A Tagliamonte, *Analysing Sociolinguistics Variation*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), 3.

Sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to society.¹⁴

Sociolinguistics refers to the study of the relationship between language and society, and how language is used in multilingual speech communities. Sociolinguists are interested in explaining why people speak differently in different social contexts. And the effect of social factors such as (social distance, social status, age, gender, class) on language varieties (dialects, registers, genres, etc), and they are concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the way they are used to convey social meanings.¹⁵

B. Slang

Slang is a very informal kind of vocabulary, used mostly in speech by people who know each other.¹⁶ Slang is a secret language held by some community groups that are not owned by other groups. They create their own language structure that is different from the existing structure of language. Social factors and situational factors that influence the use of language cause variations in language.

Slang is one of language variation. Everyone use different language variation to communicate with other. Language and communication is related to language variation. The language will look higher and creative by making a variety in our communication. According to Wardhaugh, language variation is

¹⁴Ronald Wardhaugh, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics Fifth Edition*, 13.

¹⁵Janet Holmes, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, (Harlow: Pearson Education Limited, 2001), 1.

¹⁶Michael Swam, *Practical English Usage*, (United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2005), 526.

one way of characterizing in certain variations is to say that speakers of a particular language sometimes speak in different dialect of that language.¹⁷

Slang is the non-standard use of words in a language and it is categorized as a part of language in a society. According to Fromkin & Rodman, slang is something that nearly everyone uses and recognizes, but nobody can define precisely.¹⁸ It is more metaphorical, playful, elliptical, vivid, and shorter-lived than ordinary language. The use of slang has introduced many new words into the language by recombining old words into new meanings. They also state that there are several functions of slang, they are: slang is used as solidarity makes, and also it is used to identify people as those who belong to the group members. Then slang is used to show intimacy among users.

According to Akmajian, slang is something that everyone can recognize but no one can define.¹⁹ 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 (if not impossible), there are, nevertheless, some salient features of this form of language:

- a. Slang is part of casual, informal styles of language use. Further, the term slang has traditionally carried a negative connotation: it is often perceived

¹⁷Ronald Wardhaugh, *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics Fifth Edition*, 135.

¹⁸Victoria Fromkin & Robert Rodman, *An Introduction to Language Tenth Edition*, (New York: Holt Rinehart and Winston Inc., 2013), 319.

¹⁹Adrian Akmajian, *et al*, *LINGUISTICS: An Introduction to Language and Communication Sixth Edition*, (England: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2010), 301.

as a “low” or “vulgar” form of language and is deemed to be out of place in formal styles of language.

b. Slang, like fashions in clothing and popular music, changes quite rapidly.

Slang terms can enter a language rapidly, and then fall out of fashion in a matter of a few years or even months. This rate of turnover is much greater than for other areas of the vocabulary of a language.

c. Specific areas of slang are often associated with a particular social group, and hence one can speak of teenage slang, underworld (criminal) slang, the slang of the drug culture, and so on. In this respect slang is a kind of jargon, and its use serves as a mark of membership and solidarity within a given social group. To use outdated slang, or to use current slang inappropriately, is to be hopelessly “out of date” and to be excluded from an “in-group.”

C. Semantics

Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning, and, since meaning is a part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics.²⁰ Semantics is a subfield of linguistics that studies linguistics meaning and how expressions convey meanings. Semantics study not only word meanings, but also how word meanings combine to produce the meaning of larger phrasal expressions.

²⁰F.R. Palmer, *Semantics Second Edition*, (Britain: Cambridge University Press, 1981), 1.

According to Leech, meaning distinguishes in seven types namely:²¹ conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning and thematic meaning.

1. Conceptual Meaning

Conceptual meaning (sometimes called 'denotative' meaning or 'cognitive' meaning) is widely assumed to be the central factor in verbal communication and it can be shown to be integral to the essential functioning of language in a way that other types of meaning are not.

2. Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content. The boundary between conceptual and connotative meaning is coincident with that nebulous but crucial distinction. This accounts for the feeling that connotation is somehow incidental to language rather than an essential part of it, and we may notice, in confirmation, that connotative meaning is not specific to language, but is shared by other communicative systems, such as visual art and music.

A second indicates that connotative meaning is peripheral compared with conceptual meaning is that connotations are relatively unstable: that is, they vary considerably according to culture, historical period, and the experience of the individual. Thirdly, connotative meaning is indeterminate and open-ended in a sense in which conceptual meaning is

²¹Geoffrey Leech, *Semantics: The Study of Meaning*, (Great Britain: The Chaucer Press Ltd., 1983), 9.

not. Connotative meaning is open-ended in the same way as our knowledge and beliefs about the universe are open-ended: any characteristic of the referent identified subjectively or objectively, may contribute to the connotative meaning of the expression which denotes it.

3. Social Meaning

Social meaning is also called stylistic meaning. Social meaning is that which a piece of language conveys about the social circumstances of its use. We know it from the dialects or the language usage of “status” as the category of its usage to differentiate between each dimension which shows something from the different style. The decoding the social meaning of a text is through the recognition of different dimensions and levels of style within the same language.

4. Affective Meaning

Affective meaning, as this sort of meaning can be called, is often explicitly conveyed through the conceptual or connotative content of the words used. Affective meaning is largely a parasitic category in the sense that to express our emotions we rely upon the mediation of other categories of meaning conceptual, connotative, or stylistic. For example the chiefly interjections, like *Aha!* and *Yippe!* whose chief function is to express emotion. When we use these, we communicate feelings and attitudes without the mediation of any other kind of semantic function.²²

²²Ibid., 16.

5. Reflected Meaning

Reflected meaning is the meaning which arises in cases of multiple conceptual meaning, when one sense of a word forms part of our response to another sense. The case where reflected meaning intrudes through the sheer strength of emotive suggestion is most strikingly illustrated by words which have a taboo meaning.

6. Collocative Meaning

Collocative meaning consists of the associations a word acquires on account of the meanings of words which tend to occur in its environment. *Pretty* and *handsome* share common ground in the meaning good-looking, but may be distinguished by the range of nouns with which they are likely to co-occur or (to use the linguist's term) collocate:

Pretty : girl, boy, woman, flower, garden, color, village, etc.

Handsome : boy, man, car, vessel, overcoat, airliner, typewriter, etc.

The ranges may well, of course, overlap: handsome woman and pretty woman are both acceptable, although they suggest a different kind of attractiveness because of the collocative associations of the two adjectives.

7. Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning is communicated by the way in which a speaker or writer organizes the message, in terms of ordering, focus, and emphasis. It is often felt, that an active sentence such as has a different meaning from

its passive equivalent, although in conceptual content they seem to be the same.

D. Song

In music, a song is a composition for voice performed by singing or alongside musical instruments. A choral or vocal song may be accompanied by musical instruments, or it may be unaccompanied, as in the case of a cappella songs. The lyrics (words) of songs are typically of a poetic, rhyming nature, though they may be religious verses or free prose.²³ Song is a short musical work set a poetic text with equal importance given to music and to the words. It may be written for one or several voices and it is generally performed with instrument accompaniment. Song is an interesting media that offers the high imagination. The language of song usually is easy to be understood.

1. 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. Born in Saint James, Trinidad and Tobago and raised in Jamaica, Queens, New York, Minaj earned public attention after releasing three mixtapes between 2007 – 2009. Her parents are Robert Maraj, a financial executive of half Indo-Trinidadian and half Afro-Trinidadian ancestry, and Carol Maraj, who is of Afro-Trinidadian

²³<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Song>

heritage, and held a variety of jobs including an accounting clerk, foreign-exchange teller and gospel singer.²⁴

Minaj's father was addicted to alcohol and other drugs, had a violent temper; he attempted to kill her mother by setting their house on fire. She has two siblings. As a small child, Minaj lived with her grandmother in Saint James and was occasionally visited by her mother, with whom she moved to Queens, New York, at age five.

She attended PS 45 (the Clarence Witherspoon School) and Elizabeth Blackwell Middle School 210, where she played the clarinet, for her elementary education. Minaj successfully auditioned for admission to LaGuardia High School in Manhattan, which focuses on visual and performing arts, where she studied acting. After graduation, Minaj wanted to become an actress, and she was cast in the Off-Broadway play *In Case You Forget* in 2001. When her acting career failed to take off, at age 19 she worked as a waitress at Red Lobster in the Bronx, but was fired for courtesy to customers. She said she was fired from "at least fifteen jobs" for similar reasons. She also worked as an administrative assistant, in customer service and as an office manager for a Wall Street business.

She signed a recording contract with Young Money Entertainment in 2009. Minaj's debut studio album, *Pink Friday* (2010), peaked at number one on the U.S. *Billboard 200* and spawned the top- three single "Super Bass". During that time, Minaj became the first female solo artist

²⁴http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicki_minaj, accessed on June 9th, 2015.

to have seven singles simultaneously charting on the U.S. Billboard Hot 100. Her second studio album, *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded* (2012), also topped the chart. Minaj's third studio album, *The Pink print* (2014), was preceded by its second single, "Anaconda", which peaked at number two on the Hot 100 and is her highest-charting single in the United States to date. Minaj made her film debut in the 2012 animated film *Ice Age: Continental Drift*, and also had a supporting role in the 2014 film *The Other Woman*. In 2013, she was a main judge on the twelfth season of *American Idol*.

2. *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded*

Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded is the second studio album by American recording artist Nicki Minaj. It was released on April 2, 2012, by Young Money, Cash Money and Universal Republic. Stylistically, the album is divided by a first half of hip hop tracks and a second half of dance-pop songs. As its executive producer, Minaj enlisted collaborators including Dr. Luke, Ester Dean, Hit-Boy and RedOne.²⁵

Upon its release, *Pink Friday: Roman Reloaded* debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 selling 253,000 copies in its first week. It became Minaj's second number-one album in the country, and was additionally her first to debut in the peak position. The album was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) for exceeding shipments of one million units. Internationally, the album

²⁵http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink_Friday:_Roman_Reloaded, accessed on June 9th, 2015.

peaked at number one in Canada and the United Kingdom, and reached the top five in Australia, Ireland, and New Zealand.

The album was promoted with five singles. Its lead single "Starships" peaked at number five on the US Billboard Hot 100. Follow-up singles "Right by My Side" and "Beez in the Trap" experienced moderate success on the Hot R&B/ Hip-Hop Songs component chart. "Pound the Alarm" and "Va Va Voom" peaked at numbers fifteen and twenty-two on the Billboard Hot 100, respectively.

E. Previous Study

The first study that is used by the researcher is *Slangs in the Songs of Black Eyed Peas* by Kheren Kezia Adolof (2014). In her study, Kheren analyzed the types of slang in the lyric of song based on Bloomfield theory. There are four types of slang; abbreviation, facetious mispronunciation, shortened form, and interjection. Besides, Kheren also categorized slang according to Guth (1961:95), there two types of slang; figurative expression, and nick name (calling person).

The second is *The Meaning Analysis of Slang Used in Notorious B.I.G's Song "Love No Ho"* by Silvia Laura Langga. The study done to describe the type of slang and classified them into two parts based on theory from Chapman, primary and secondary slang. It is followed by describing the meaning of slang in the song into seven types of meaning based on Geoffrey Leech theory.