

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the basic ideas related to the study being carried out. Those are the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, and the definition of key terms.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Language is used by human to express their thought or feeling. Language used by people to communicate with others. No matter the culture, language is a system implemented by people for the purpose of communication. Language serves many functions to giving and getting information, either spoken or written, and for a variety of formal and informal purposes. One of the functions of language is to connect someone with others. When we use language, we use it to communicate an idea from our mind to the mind of someone else. So, we can say that language as a means of communication. But, language has many variations. One of the language variations that will be discuss in this research is slang.

Recently, slang is used by people to communicate each other. Slang is a very informal kind of vocabulary, used mostly in speech by people who know each other well.<sup>1</sup> It is non-formal or casual spoken English which create and

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Swan, *Practical English Usage*, (United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2005), 526.

used by people in a certain community. It is a sprinkle of color in a language and slang is unusual and unique. Slang words change in meaning and they may also have varied meanings at any one time. It usually originates in small social groups. Slang is described as words or phrases that are used instead of more everyday terms among younger speakers and other groups with special interests.<sup>2</sup> It is specific word, phrase or utterance, which is commonly used by young people in their community. But also commonly used by everyone in their daily activity. Slang is also specialized language of a group of people who share a common interest. For these groups, it is a private code that embodies their particular values and behavior and reinforces their exclusivity. It can be used by the people inside a group who share ideas and attitudes as a way of distinguishing themselves from others. Slang expressions may escape the originating group and become more widely used. It refers to unconventional words, so it is not appropriate to be spoken in a formal situation.

Most of slang is the product of the youth. Slang plays several functions for these youth.<sup>3</sup> The first is to impress one another and any girls who might happen to be passing. Slang helps them to fit in with the group. The second is to exclude passers-by from their conversation. They use this kind of language in informal situation or place like home, school, university, market, and so on. Sometimes, they create new word from their own language and it can be understood only in their community. This kind of language variety is designed to make speech more casual and playful. Teenagers give the great contribution

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<sup>2</sup> George Yule, *The Study of Language*, (USA: Cambridge University Press, 2006), 211.

<sup>3</sup> Julie Coleman, *The Life of Slang*, (United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2012), 3.

of the forming of slang words. They form a new word which only understood by their community. It can be a characteristic of a certain group or community. When they feel bored to use the common language, they need something new in speaking with other, then slang is the answer of their need. They use slang to communicate freely. They create new word and they use it often and it becomes their daily language. Slang introduces the new word to enrich the language vocabularies as communicating the old word with the new meaning.

In this modern era, we can found the use of slang anywhere. From some journals that the researcher has found, there are some analysis in some objects like magazines, movies, and songs. The result shows that those objects contain many slang words. It shows that now slang has been commonly used anywhere. It makes the researcher interested to do the same analysis but in different object. And the researcher chooses novel as her object. Novel is one of the source of entertainment which popular for students, college students or teenager. There are many terms of slang in the novels. However, it is hard to find the meaning of slang in the dialog or statement because the words are unfamiliar.

In this research, the researcher analyzed the novel with the title "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" by Jeff Kinney. This novel is one of the best seller novel in 2007 in New York. The novel tells a story about a young boy, Greg Heffley who is generally dissatisfied with his lot in life, he is stuck between a spoiled younger brother and an older brother who regularly victimizes him with pranks, he is surrounded by "morons" at school his socially oblivious "best



friend" Rowley, he is not popular, his parents are clueless, and his passion for violent video games is frustrated at every turn.

Doing research about slang in the novel would give the positive contribution for the learner. Besides finding the slang words in the novel, the writer will also know how those slang words morphologically formed. That is why, the researcher can get entertainment and knowledge through the novel. Moreover, there are previous studies of the discussion used by the researcher as resources at doing this research. Ratna Perwita Sari (2010) did a research about slang in "*Rush Hour 2*" movie. She analyzed the types of slang and the meaning of those slang in that movie.<sup>4</sup> Then, Ina Rotul Mudrikah (2012) also did a research about slang in "*Save The Last Dance*" movie.<sup>5</sup> She analyzed the forms of slang and the aspects of sociolinguistic influencing slang in that movie. Those previous studies did the analysis of slang in the movie. Then, different with those previous studies, in this research the researcher will do a research about slang in the novel with the title "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" by Jeff Kinney. The writer will analyze the types of slang expressions found in that novel and how are those slang words or phrases morphologically formed. Based on the explanation above, the researcher decided to conduct an analysis entitled "**Slang Analysis on Jeff Kinney's Novel *Diary of a Wimpy Kid***".

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<sup>4</sup> Ratna Perwita Sari, *An Analysis of Slang Language Types in Rush Hour 2 Movie*, (Jakarta: Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah, 2010), 1.

<sup>5</sup> Ina Rotul Mudrikah, *The Analysis of Sociolinguistic Aspects of Slang in "Save The Last Dance" Movie*, (Salatiga: State Institute for Islamic Studies (STAIN), 2012), 1.

## **B. Problem of the Study**

Based on the description of background of the study above, the research problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of slang expressions found in the Novel "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" by Jeff Kinney?
2. How are those slang words and phrases in the Novel "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" by Jeff Kinney morphologically formed?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the research problem above, the researcher has the objectives as follows:

1. To find the types of slang expressions in the novel "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" by Jeff Kinney.
2. To describe those slang words and phrases in the Novel "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" by Jeff Kinney morphologically formed.

## **D. Significance of the Study**

The significance of this study is to understand more about slang expressions used in the novel "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" by Jeff Kinney, in order will be valuable for the English Department students, the readers and the other researchers.

For the English Department students, they are expected to get new vocabulary and knowledge about slang used in the novel especially in "*Diary*

of a *Wimpy Kid*" by Jeff Kinney. Besides, this study will be useful to help them in understanding slang language in other media, like when they are watching movie or listening to the music.

For the readers, they would get new information about slang language in the novel. It would enlarge the readers' knowledge and vocabulary. Besides, it can entertain the readers that feel bored to use the common language and hide the real meaning of the words. It will make them more interested in slang and enjoy the story which uses slang language.

For other researchers, they may get ideas in doing research especially in the same area. They can do more complete analysis and choose the other object of slang. Then the result of this study can be the resources for them in doing a research.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation**

The researcher established the scope and limitation of the study in order to avoid too broad explanation regarding the study. The scope refers to range of things that a subject, an organization, and so forth deal with. Therefore the scope of this study is one of bestseller novel in New York that is written by Jeff Kinney with the title "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*".

On the other hand, limitation is rule, fact or condition limiting something or somebody. The limitation of this study is to find the types of slang expressions in the novel "*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*" that used by all of the characters in the novel like Greg Heffley, Mom, Dad, Rowley Jefferson,

Rodrick, Manny, Patty Farrell, and Fregley. This study also to describe those slang words morphologically formed.

## **F. Definition of Key Terms**

Definition of key terms is very important in order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation in the next discussion of this study. The terms are necessary defined as follows:

### **1. Slang**

Slang is specific word, phrase or utterance, which is commonly used by young people in their community. Slang is a very informal kind of vocabulary, used mostly in speech by people who know each other well.<sup>6</sup> Slang introduces the new word to enrich the language vocabularies as communicating the old word with the new meaning.

### **2. Novel**

Novel is a long narrative, normally in prose which describes fictional characters and events, usually in the form of a sequential story.<sup>7</sup> Novel is a work of fiction that the story is drawn out of the writer's imagination. Fiction means story or something made up, but is not made up of actual events, happenings or people. The novel is fiction where it depicts imaginary characters and situations.

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<sup>6</sup> Swan, *Practical.*, 526.

<sup>7</sup> [www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel](http://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel), accessed on 12 November, 2014.



### **3. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid***

*"Diary of a Wimpy Kid"* is a novel written by author Jeff Kinney. It published in 2007 by Amulet Books in New York, an imprint of ABRAMS. It has 217 pages with red of cover. This novel has been turned into a movie with the same title *"Diary of a Wimpy Kid"* in 2010. This novel tells about a story of a young boy, Greg Heffley in a year of his new middle school.

### **4. Expression of Annoyance**

Expression of annoyance is expression that is used to express the feeling of being annoyed.<sup>8</sup> Expression of annoyance is used to show that someone is annoyed, it can be with someone or something.

### **5. Expression of Anger**

Expression of anger is expression that is used to express a strong feeling which makes you want to hurt someone because of something unfair happened. Expression of anger is used to show that someone is angry.

### **6. Expression of Happiness**

Expression of happiness is expression that is used to express an excited feeling which makes you want to shout because of something glad happened. Expression of happiness is used to show that someone is happy.

### **7. Expression of Joke**

Expression of joke is expression that is used to express the feeling of being humor. Expression of joke is used to show that someone is in a good humor and wants to laugh because of someone or something.

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<sup>8</sup> [www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annoyance](http://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annoyance), accessed on 12 May, 2015.