

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter includes the discussion of the research background, problem identifications, problem limitations, research questions, research objectives and significance of the research.

1.1 Research Background

Language as a communication tool has an important role in human life. Language is used to express one's intentions, ideas, or wishes to others. According to Wibowo (2001:3), language is a system of symbols that are meaningful and articulate sound which are arbitrary and conventional, which is used as a means of communication by a group of human beings to deliver feelings and thoughts. This means that language is an effective communication tool for humans to share their thoughts with each other. Language also helps humans to socialize and build relationships with others.

Someone can communicate well if supported by good language skills so that the message conveyed can be understood by others. This reason makes language skills very important in order to communicate well. Language itself can be divided into two categories, formal language and informal language. Formal language is language that is more complex and structured, while informal language is language that is more casual and spontaneous. One form of informal language is slang.

Slang word first appeared in the sixteenth century, at the beginning of its appearance, it was associated with foreigners or criminals. Some people use it to express something like a joke or to hide the meaning of a word. Slang is one of the colloquial languages used by groups of people who know each other well, slang has its own meaning that can be understood by its users. According to Ellis (2005: 53), slang is a variety of language used in certain contexts by meaning of which people express their sense of belonging to a particular group within the community which is not specific to any geographic location.

Most people want a fresh and new way of communicating that is relaxed yet intimate. Slang is a language phenomenon created by the desire of those people. According to the great dictionary of Indonesia, slang is a kind of unofficial language that is seasonal. It is usually used by certain social groups for internal communication, so as not to be understood by people outside the group. This can be interpreted that some groups of people use slang as a secret language for their group exclusively.

According to Collin dictionary, Slang consists of words, expressions and meanings that are informal and are used by people who know each other very well or who have the forms of emotion such as anger, sadness and happiness. Besides everyday conversation, slang can be found in various types of media such as television, radio, films, novels and others. Conversations or dialogues in media with slang can create natural, relaxed and intimate conversations.

One form of media that has slang in it is movie, slang can be found in the title and dialogue of a movie. One of the movies that contains slang in its dialogue or conversation is *The Lorax*. *The Lorax* is an animated movie based on a children's storybook by Dr. Seuss. *The Lorax* is directed by Chris Renaud and Kyle Balda. The voice actors in this animated movie are filled with famous celebrities such as Taylor Swift, Zac Efron, Danny Devito, Betty White and Ed Helms. The movie was released in conjunction with Dr Seuss' 108th birthday celebration on March 2, 2012.

The Lorax is set in an artificial city called Thneed-Ville where everything looks perfect. Even though all the elements in this city are plastic, even the residents of this city have to buy bottled air to experience clean air. The main character is Ted, a 12 year old boy who is in love with a girl named Audrey. Audrey is very obsessed with the real extinct tree in Thneed-Ville and Ted wants to impress her and begins to explore why the earth has changed like this.

The Lorax will be used as the object in this study. The researcher feels excited to analyze this movie because it has an interesting, unique, and entertaining aspect yet it also contains a particular use of language which can be characterized as slang. One of the slang words that appears in the dialogue of this

movie is "Okay, Grammy, let's get you home." In this sentence, the word "Grammy" refers to grandmother. Thus, this research aims to examine the slang words used in The Lorax movie and what are the meanings of the slang words using Allan and Burridge theory, which classified slang into five types. These five types of slang are, fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym and clipping.

1.2 Identification of The Problem

In this study the researcher focus on analyzing of slang words in The Lorax movie. This research will analyze slang words and their meanings by using Allan and Burridge theory and their function by using Yanhong and Yanchun theory. Slang words are often used to communicate with friends and most of these words are used in everyday conversations. So researcher are interested because there is a lot of slang used, but sometimes people don't understand what it means.

1.3 Limitaion Of Study

Actually there are a lot of aspects that can be analyzed in The Lorax movie, instead of limitation of time and other reason, so the researcher limited it into; the types of slang words used in the movie, the meaning of the slangs and the meaning of each slang words uttered in The Lorax movie transcript.

1.4 Research Questions

From the statement in the background of study above the research problems of this study are formulated as follows:

1. What types of slang words are used in The Lorax movie?
2. What are the meanings of the slang words that are used in the movie?
3. What is the function of the slang words?

1.5 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the research will be adjusted to the research questions. As a result, the main objectives to be achieved in this research are fundamentally:

1. To identify types of slang in The lorax movie
2. To find out the meaning of slang words in The Lorax movie.
3. To find out the function of slang words in The Lorax movie.

1.6 Significances of the Study

In essence, this research was conducted to obtain an advantage. The advantages in this research are divided into two, theoretically and practically. These two advantages can be explained as follows:

- **Theoretical Advantages**

Theoretically, this research aims to increase sociolinguistic knowledge for the benefit of readers and students of English literature. This will facilitate the analysis of slang words and inspire further research from different perspectives.

- **Practical Advantages**

Practically, this research aims to enrich readers' understanding of sociolinguistics, especially those related to slang. This research can be a source for future researchers who conduct similar research.