

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, the use of English shows various functions. The development of music lyric to amuse or entertain movie manuscript, novel and other productions of English have influenced many people. People need comfort to relax because of some activities every day. One of manners revelation is watching a movie. Rodman (2009: 176) states that movie controversies derive from their cultural power. Movies seem to promote violence, stereotyping, and unhealthy habits such as smoking; and they are often censored, which upset those who view them as artistic forms of free expression.

The movies are important “social institution”. Social institution refers to a group of social positions, connected by social relations and performing a social role. They are part of the development of modern society, and have helped to shape the way people live.

Movies always relate to the cultural power where they exist. Started from the turn of the century, movies are the ideal entertainment for the urban working class, but they also appeal to all class in society. The movies have some words but they have meaning shift. Sometimes in movie manuscript, the word of conversation consists of formal, vulgar, dirty or taboo. Like the movie manuscript entitled “*We Own The Night*”, it

tells about human activity and the criminality in society and those movie follow the reality of life. This movie mostly uses non-standard English, which tends to be vulgar, bad, incorrect and poor English pronunciation. Mostly some of the words in the movie manuscript are slang words. Example; in “*Step Father*” movie.

**Sean** : “Mom! Beth says I can't get these!”  
**Beth** : “Shut up, idiot!”  
**Sean** : “Mom! How come she always gets to pick what **kinda** cookies we get?”  
**Susan** : “Would you two please stop arguing!”

“**kinda**” in the utterance above has meaning “kind of”, it shows if Sean is angry because his brother snatches the kind of cookies out of his hand. It happened when he and his family shopping in supermarket. And in “*Fantastic Mr. Fox*” movie.

**Fox** : “I understand what you are saying, and your comments are valuable but I'm going to ignore your advice”  
**Badger** : “the cuss you are!”  
**Fox** : “don't **cussing point** at me!”

The word “**cussing point**” has meaning “to use profanity”. It shows if Fox dislike with Badger's saying and abuse him because he doesn't pay attention about Badger's advice. Both slang words are usually uttered in an informal situation or a daily conversation.

Some people consider slang to be an impolite language, which can be used in an informal situation only. Slang is not supposed to be spoken in school, holy places, law court, office and other official places. One of the main purposes of using slang words is to write one's identification with a group. Slang words usually appear in an arbitrary, and it is more

long live, more expressive than standardized words. The following are some examples of slang words taken from the scripts of *We Own the Night* movie:

Utterance	Slang	Meaning
1) ...you're so <b>fuckin'</b> beautiful, you know that...?	fuckin'	very
2) We <b>gotta</b> go anyway...	gotta	will
3) <b>C'mon</b> , Mr. Green!	C'mon	to convince

The word '**fuckin'**' in the example above is a slang word. The utterance (1) has the real meaning, to enclose gloss of meaning i.e. '**fuckin'**' has changed into new different meaning. Lexically or the real meaning of fuckin is "vulgar term for sexual intercourse", while in contextual meaning of *We Own the Night* movie above or the new meaning of fuckin is "very beautiful". Based on the change of meaning the new meaning of '**fuckin'**' is broader than its real meaning.

Katamba (1997: 167) states that slang is the term used to describe a variety of language with informal, often faddy, non-standard vocabulary. One of the main purposes of using slang word is to write one's identification with a group and to exclude outsiders. Slang word is also used by the majority to refer; usually in a derogatory manner or to minorities. The majority of people using slang words as social and ethnic identity is to reinforce power or status. Even within a single language

community, slang words and the extent to which it is used, tends to vary widely across social, ethnic, economic, and geographic strata.

Everyone has studied the aspects of language, such as grammar, pronunciation and cultural sides. If we can understand the aspect well, we can also communicate the language and know the varieties of slang words. Slang words may be a trouble for many learners. One of its causes is that sometimes one slang word term has several meanings, for example:

<b>Slang word</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Pants	load of old rubbish, horrible, useless or pointless stuff.

In the example above, there is a variation on use of the word **pants**. Each of the variety has different meaning, for example; that website is a pile of pants, this sentence has meaning “the website is useless or pointless stuff”, the weather is completely pants today, this sentence has meaning “the horrible weather”. The learners may find the meaning of these applications in the dictionary, but the meaning may not be appropriate for the context.

One use of slang is to circumvent social [taboos](#). Taboo is the prohibition or avoidance in society behavior to be harmful to its members that it would be cause them anxiety, embarrassment or shame.

Numerous slang term are passing into informal speech, and sometimes into formal speech, though this may involve a change in meaning or usage. For this reason, slang vocabularies are particularly rich

in certain domains, such as [violence](#), [crime](#), [drugs](#), and [sex](#). Generally, slang words correlates with semantics, there are meaning that is connected with the language used in society. Some of them are contextual meanings that give the different meaning in certain community; sometimes the meaning of conversations has the deep meaning in those society.

The purpose of this research is to provide the description of American slang words. The description refers to the fact that slang word plays very important role in the daily written sentences or oral production of language of American slang words, so that they will be able to communicate with foreigners or other people better.

Based on the phenomena above the writer is interested in conducting a research concerning to the use of English slang in movie manuscript. His research entitles **A SOCIO-SEMANTICS ANALYSIS OF SLANG WORDS USED IN *WE OWN THE NIGHT* MOVIE MANUSCRIPT.**

## **B. Previous Study**

The writer deals with some researchers preview of related literature covering the previous study. Researchers have been done by graduated students of Teacher Training and education of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. They have the same topic or subject, that is slang word but it is different from work to the others in using theory to discuss it. The first one belongs to Sugih Hartati (UMS, 2002) entitled *American Slang Used in Some Eminem's Marshall Maters LP Lyrics*. She is interested in making

the research concerning the use of English slang and meaning of the words used in the lyric of songs and in understanding the meaning from the texts which use the English slang words on the songs. American slang words are such a powerful language. Based on those albums, it indicates that American slang words is another linguistics phenomenon correlated to certain culture of the whole cultural patterns of the American society, and in the whole as a world language. So, it can take strengthen to their society status.

The second is Sukatmo (UMS, 2002) entitled *Afro American Black language analysis of the novel: The Bluest Eye by Tony Morrison*. He describes the linguistics forms of the language used in conversation in the “Bluest Eye” by Tony Morrison. There are some dirty slang words in the novel. The dirty words related to the personal background, mental illness, and sex organ. He gives explanation to the meaning slang words in the conversations. He also identifies the aspect of contextual meaning.

The different between both previous studies that have done by Sugih Hartati and Sukatmo are in the language in American slang words is used. In Sugih Hartati’s research, the language often used in American society that mostly used is non Standard English, whereas Sukatmo’s research describes the linguistics forms used in conversations. The similarity of this research and the previous studies is in analyzing and describing the slang words which is used in society and American. On the other hand, in this study the writer focuses on a semantics analysis:

language form, lexical and contextual meaning of slang which are found in the “*We Own the Night*” movie manuscript.

### **C. Problem Statement**

In this research the writer formulates the research problems as follows:

1. What are the forms of slang words used in *We Own the Night* movie manuscript?
2. What are the meanings of slang words used in *We Own the Night* movie manuscript?

### **D. Objective of the Study**

In carrying this research, the writer formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To identify the forms of slang words used in *We Own the Night* movie manuscript.
2. To describe the meanings of slang words used in *We Own the Night* movie manuscript.

### **E. Limitation of the Study**

In conducting the research, the writer limits on both lexical and contextual meaning in *We Own the Night* movie and limits the scope of analysis based on a socio-semantics approach.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The writer really hopes that his research on the slang words has some benefits to the writer himself and to the readers in general, the research divided into theoretical and practical benefit, they are as follows.

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

- a. The result of the study becomes one of the references in studying of contextual meaning, particularly slang words.
- b. The result of the research hopefully can be useful input for the readers to enrich reader's knowledge especially in the socio-semantics analysis on slang words.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

#### **a. Teachers**

The writer hopes this study can be useful for additional information and suggestion that can be applied by the teacher in the process of teaching learning of semantics study and give some contributions to the enlargement of slang words.

#### **b. Students**

The writer hopes this result can be used as references and knowledge in semantics study used in slang words. He provides the student with rich information or references about slang words. And give more information about slang words to the students or the language.



## **G. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper organization is divided into five chapters.

Chapter I is introduction that consisting of background of the study, previous study, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory which presents notion of semantic, notion of socio-semantics, language variation as sociolinguistics, meaning, notion of slang, characteristic of slang, type of slang, slang and colloquialism, language form and notion of context.

Chapter III is research method. It presents type of research, object of research, data and data source, technique of collecting data and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is analysis of data. The research result elaborates the contextual meaning, lexical meaning and the forms of slang in movie manuscripts.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion, besides the last part is bibliography and appendix.