

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Language is a basic tool in society. It is used to make communication. Language allows some people to say thing to each other and express their communicative needs. Language is the cement of the society, allowing people to live, working and playing together. Sometimes it is used to merely keep communication channels open so that if any need arises to say something of importance a suitable channel is suitable.

The correlation between language and society is learned in sociolinguistics. Wardhaugh (2000:12) states that sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationship between language and society with the goal of being a better understanding of the structure of language and how language function in communication. The definition above can be inferred that language and society is so closely related.

By using language to communicate, people use many ways to make communication run well. Sometimes, many people use their own language with their own ways to interact each other. They choose words that they want in communicating. Thus, a language changes because many people use their own styles in using language. It is not strange if at the end there are differences in language use.

The variations of language also happen in English. English is the most known language in the world. It is not surprising if English obtain great contributions in developing vocabulary from the background history of the language itself. It is because of its flexibility in absorbing words from outside. English has its own way to develop its vocabulary. One of them is the accepting of slang words.

Nowadays, many American people tend to use slang in their daily conversation. They even create new words every day. They use the language which represents their emotions and styles in many kinds of situation. There is no limitation or law, which controls the use of slang. People often use slang because it is the unique one.

From the statement above, it can be concluded that slang is a variety of language that is used to make something different as usual in using words. It means that slang is the changing of the meaning of words in communication. Slang is often used by certain classes of age. In this case, people speak without grammar and the original meanings of words. They create new meaning from the old words that are joined with the conditions when they speak. They only want the hearer to understand about their intension without giving intention to the other by standers.

Usually, in the informal utterances, young people choose a language variety which they want, they want to show intimacy in their group, In addition, Willis (in Alwasilah 1985:57) says:

For the most part, slang is the result of linguistic inventiveness, especially of young and lively persons who want fresh, original pungent, or racy terms which they can rename ideas, actions, and objects that they feel strongly about. In effect, slang is the result of combination of linguistic irreverence and a reaction against staid, stuffy, pompous, pretentious, or colorless diction.

Thus, young people use slang to make interesting communication without paying attention to the rule of language in grammar. They want to be relaxed and make informal situation in daily conversation. They want to show their styles in their group by using the words that they want based on their activities. They use slang words for secrecy to avoid being understood by standers or one's companions. Thus, they can be relax in their conversations.

Slang is often used in western film especially film made in Hollywood. One of them is *8-mile* film. This film tells about a white skin young rapper (Eminem) in Detroit. He struggles with his anger and social status through music. Scott Silver, the writer of the script as well as the director of the film, makes the film to show an event of controversial rapper in that time, that is Eminem. In this film, Eminem plays as Jimmy Smith who is the main character of the film.

There are commits or juries who made polling and questioner to choose the nomination of the film. Obviously, a film that is included as the nomination must be chosen by filmgoers, so did *8-mile* film. This film was nominated and won many awards such as *Chicago Film Critics Association Award* in 2003 in *Most Promising Performer*, *Canadian Network* of makeup Artist in 2003 in best makeup artist for a feature film category, and Academy

Award in USA (OSCAR) in 2003 in the best song category. It proves that the film is one of good and considerable films. So many part of this film are interesting to be analyzed, including the language in the film. Besides, it has good moral teaching. It tells about someone's life which in discrimination because of race. He has white skin but he lives in black society. Many black people hate him even though there are some black people who receive him as friend. So he struggles to be received by all black people there. At the end, because of his patience and his struggles he is received in that state.

The *8-Mile* itself was considered as the biography of Eminem. He is one of outstanding and controversial rap singer. He was born on October 17, 1972, at Kansas City, Missouri, USA, but he is growing up at Detroit. He already has 76 albums. Most of his album got platinum, no wonder if Curtis Hanson made *8-mile* based on Eminem's Biography.

Because of Eminem's biography, he is growing up at Detroit so language that is used in the film is language which is used in Detroit. Detroit is one of the cities in USA. According to Americana Encyclopedia, "Detroit is a city in south east of Michigan, seat of Wayne country which is the most popular city in the United States (1990:24). Most of the populations in Detroit are black people. Language which is used by them is the mother language in America that is English, so it can be said American- English that is Black-English.

The Characters of this film are Jimmy Smith, Stephanie Smith, David 'future' Porter, Alex, Cheddar Bob, Sol George, DJ Iz, Wink, Janeane,

Bouncer, Lil'tic, Shorty Mike, Battle DJ, Greg Beuhl, and Lily Smith. In this Film, The character utters many slang words. To clarify the background of the research, below is the example:

In the club, Jimmy who should show his talent in rapping, suddenly went to bathroom. When Jimmy hustled up some stair, future right on his back. Cheddar Bob and Future confused him.

Future : Where you running to?  
Jimmy : I  fucking  pocked on my shirt.  
Future : ( Laughs) first time is always crazy.  
You know what I am saying? Didn't  fucking   
marry calm, You down?  
Cheddar Bob : Hey  Rabbit  – Where you?

The conversation above takes place at stair of club. Domain of the conversation is friendship. The participants are Jimmy, Future and Cheddar Bob. They are friends. They use slang to show their close distance. The slang that are used by them are  *fucking*  and  *rabbit* . The first slang that is used is  *fucking*  by Jimmy. He used this word to show his anger expression because when he went to show his talent, he gets some pock on his shirt, he is angry with himself. The second slang that is used in the conversation above is  *fucking*  by future. He used this word to give understanding to Jimmy so that Jimmy is not nervous in his first time of rapping. In this case both of the words  *fucking*  is not taboo word. Based on Spears (2007:132) the meaning of the  *fucking*  is “exclamation, absolutely, totally absolutely; (usually objectionable)”. It means that  *fucking*  word can be as slang and  *rabbit* .  *Rabbit*  here is not an animal. It is a nick name for person who has a nose that is like plane, Jimmy has a nose that

is like plane so people in his surrounding especially people who have close relation to him always call him “rabbit”.

From the example above, it can be seen that the occurrence of language choice in the speaker’s utterances depends on social contexts and the motivation of the speaker himself. Thus, the researcher felt fully encouraged to analyze the phenomena in the research paper entitled **AN ANALYSIS ON SLANG IN THE SCRIPT OF *8-MILE* FILM: A SOCIOLINGUISTIC APPROACH.**

## **B. Previous Study**

The writer realizes that this research is not the first study in analyzing slang word. To prove the originality of the research, the writer will show the previous study that deals with this research. The first research by Astriyani (2000). The title of her research is *an analysis of slang language related to sex in Eminem’s rap songs’ lyrics*. She analyzed the slang words and slang meanings in Eminem’s rap song’ lyric. The result of her analysis was that are 9 data of words which classifies into 3 data of sexual perversion, 3 data of gender identity sexuality and 3 data of sexual attraction.

The second research by Laila Oksiana (2005). The title of her research is *An Analysis of Slang Language Related to Race, Drugs, and Violence in D12 Rap Songs Lyrics*. She analyzed slang words and slang meanings used in D12 song’s lyrics related to race, drugs, and violence in the data. The result of her research showed that terms such as white, fags have slang meanings as the

terms related to race. The term crack, weed, pop and squeeze have a slang meaning related to drugs and violence.

From the previous research, the writer is sure that this study has not been analyzed yet. Therefore, he is going to analyze on slang used in the script of *8-mile* film and to continue the previous research on slang. In this research, the writer is going to do the similar research but in different scope in which the subject is sociolinguistics study on slang used in the script of *8-mile* film. The researcher analyzes slang expressions that used by the characters in the script of *8-mile* film and the researcher wants to analyze the language form, contextual meaning and the reasons of using slang expressions.

### **C. Problem Statement**

In the dialogues of the *8-mile* film, there are many slang words that are used by the characters. Thus, the researcher identifies the problems as follows:

1. What are the syntactic forms of slang expressions in the script of *8-mile* film?
2. What is the kind of meanings of slang expression in the script of *8-mile* film?
3. What are the reasons of using slang expressions in the script of *8-mile* film?

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

The research is conducted to find out the answers of the problem statements. There are the research objectives:

1. To find out the Syntactic forms of slang expression in the script of *8-mile* film.
2. To clarify the kind of meanings of slang expression in the script *8-mile* film.
3. To describe the reasons of using slang expressions in the script *8-mile* film.

#### **E. Benefit of the Study**

The results of this study is hoped to give contribution on:

##### 1. Theoretical Benefits

This research will give more contribution for the progress in the science of sociolinguistic especially on slang expressions.

##### 2. Practical Benefit.

###### a. For lecturers

This research might be useful for lecturer in giving additional input and reference about slang expressions in teaching sociolinguistic.

###### b. For other researchers

For the next analysis wish that other researchers will analyze on slang with a different aspects and an attractive write to attract other researcher to do better than previous.

c. For movie watchers

This research will be able to help for movie watchers to understand the slang expressions in *8-mile* movie.

## **F. Research Paper Organization**

In order to give the guidance for the researcher and the readers in reading research paper, the researcher makes an outline about the contents of the research as follows:

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

Chapter II is underlying theory including language variety, notion of slang, ethnography of communication, and *8-mile* film.

Chapter III is research method which deals with type of research, object of the data, data and source of data, technique of data collection, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is the data analysis and discussion. The data analysis is elaborated into the syntactic forms of slang, the kinds of meaning, and the reasons of using slang expressions in the script of *8-mile* film.

Chapter V is conclusion including implication and suggestion.