

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Problem

People need to communicate with other people to fulfil the daily needs. In communicating with other people, language is usually used. Language is an effective tool to create communication. It also plays an important role to express what people want, need and feel. By using language, their aims in communication will be easy to be understood by the other people. Meyer (2009: 3) argues that language is one of many different communication systems, a system that is unique to humans and different from, for example, communication system used by animals, and used by society in different countries. Languages come in three modes: speech, writing, and signs. Speech is the power of expressing or communicating thoughts by speaking. Writing is the system of graphic symbols that can be used to convey meaning. Signs are to communicate a meaning that is not the sign itself to the interpreter of the sign.

Chaika (1994: 8) states that language cannot be fixed at any point. It develops based on the needs, wish, and want of speakers. Everyone has abilities to make up new words, use old words in a new way, compose sentences they have never heard before, and combine sentences into wholly new discourses. The study of language is called linguistics. Linguistics are the scientific study of language, and it involves an analysis of language form, language meaning, and language in context (Wardaugh. 2006: 1-2). Furthermore, the scope of linguistics that explain the variety of language is called Sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics are the study of language in relation to society. It is also the study of effects of various all aspects to society, including cultural, norms and contexts on the language is used (Hudson 1980). Sociolinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and society, (Janet Holmes (1992:1), but according to Dell Hymes (1974: vii) sociolinguistics could be taken to refer to use of linguistic data and analysis

in other discipline concerned with social life and conversely, to use of social data and analysis in linguistics. Cases occur when someone deals with the language variant related to language choice because he needs extra effort to figure out the meaning. In language choice, the speakers may choose two languages (involving code switching), mix the code, and use set of variant within the same language (Fasold, 1996: 9).

The variety of languages in a community can be grouped by level formality. The variety of languages that are often used in society in generally using casual variety and familiar variety. Relaxed variety and this familiar variety, is considered easy to understand when being used for communicate. One example of casual variety and familiar variety is slang. Hymes (1964) in Fishman (1975: 4) explains that each community has at least three levels of language style which is the official language of daily conversation and cannot be equated with slang, although it is characterized by the absence of official features and is manifested in oral and written form.

Holmes (2001: 183) states that slang belongs to vocabulary area and reflects person age. There is not formal classification in slang language, except perhaps that it is a subclass of the language (Holmes 2001: 167). Slang language is not an official language or it is informal language, although it is widely used for oral communication in many purposes, as many words quickly become outdated and obsolete because of trends. According to Chaer and Agustina (2010: 67), slang is a social variation that is special and secret. That is, this variation is used by certain very circles limited, and must not be known by outside groups. Vocabulary used in this slang is always changing. (Prayogi, 2007: 2) say that slang is an unofficial variety of languages used by adolescents and certain groups to communicate.

Slang is considered a familiar variety because the style of speech is characterized by use language codes that are personal and relatively fixed in his group. Familiarity and intimacy in communication are not requires complete grammar with clear articulation enough with brief or short utterances. This is due to because of mutual understanding and knowledge of each other. On variety familiar are also widely used forms or terms specific to a certain family or social group.

In the use of slang, there is a shortening or transfer of one or more letters in one word, sound changes, and meanings in order to facilitate those from certain groups. Words and phrases in slang may be new, but they can also be an extension of the meaning of a word (Adolof 2014: 4). Some slang words are considered inappropriate because they sometimes refer to sex, violence, crime, and drugs. Slang is sometimes used as an indicator to assess someone's social status. English slang can also be different depending on the race of the group of people who talk about it. Slang is often found in films, short stories, even in a song.

The occurrence of slang can be found in the three Transformers Movies: “*The Transformers*,” “*Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen*,” and “*Transformers: Dark of the Moon*”. The reason why those three movies are chosen as the object because those the three films have slang in the dialogues of the characters. Furthermore as the research’s references, the three previous researches about slang from three students of English Department of UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung are described. The first research is Hendi’s paper *Slang of Jack Sheridan’s on Thunderclap* (2011). The result of the research is that in novel of Thunderclap has five types of slang based on David Burke (2001) theory. They are type of slang using the shortened phrase, suffix of –a, prefix apostrophe, suffix apostrophe, and infix apostrophe. The suggestions are given to the readers to travel about slang because it is not found in Standard English. Beside, slang words also are given contribution to enrich vocabularies for informal communication.

The second research is from Nurhasanah entitled *Slang Language Used in Sausage Party Movie* (2018). The result of her paper is that the use of slang in emotional situation but it is slang words usually are used in the informal situation, dialogue with closer friend, and the critical situation but from this research slang words are mostly used when talking with closer friends. Place in each slang often use in a supermarket because the care of this film is in the supermarket. For meaning, there are slang word which not appropriated lexically, for example, the word “Fucked up” means usually

vulgar its meaning from Merriam Webster dictionary, but in this context its word means confused.

The third research is from Yuliana entitled *Analysis of Social Context and Function of Language Utterance with Slang Words in Baby Driver Movie Script* (2018). This study has two focuses first to analyze the social context, and the second to analyze the function of language used in the movie script. Out of 256 slang words data, only 25 slang words are analyzed because of their.

In this study the writer will explain about slang Language, the data source of this analysis is the English subtitle of three *The Transformers* movies. Therefore, the title of this research is ***“Slang Expressions in Subtitle Text of the Three Transformers Movies: The Transformers, Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen, and Transformers: Dark of the Moon”***

## **1.2 Statements of Problem**

The problems of this paper are the there are many slangs found in three Transformers' English subtitles and those slangs have many functions that can be categorized and described based on Allan and Burridge's Theory. Therefore, from the statement background above can be formulate the two research questions:

1. What types of slang are used by the characters on the three Transformers Movies: “The Transformers,” “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,” and “Transformers: Dark of the Moon” ?
2. What the functions of each slang type are employed by the characters on the three Transformers Movies: “The Transformers,” “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,” and “Transformers: Dark of the Moon” ?

### **1.3 Purpose of Research**

Based on the statement of problem above, here are the purposes of the research:

1. To know the types of slang used by the characters of the three Transformers Movies: “The Transformers,” “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,” and “Transformers: Dark of the Moon”.
2. To find out the functions of each slang type employed by the characters of the three Transformers Movies: “The Transformers,” “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,” and “Transformers: Dark of the Moon”.

### **1.4 Significance of Research**

This research is expected to give significance first, to the lecturers and students, particularly in English Department. The finding of this study is expected to give a contribution in the development of sociolinguistics study. This research is also expected to give better understanding for the reader about the types and functions of slang. Second, for other researchers in related areas. This research is expected to be a useful reference and also help to determine research gaps that will be useful for further research, especially in sociolinguistics field.

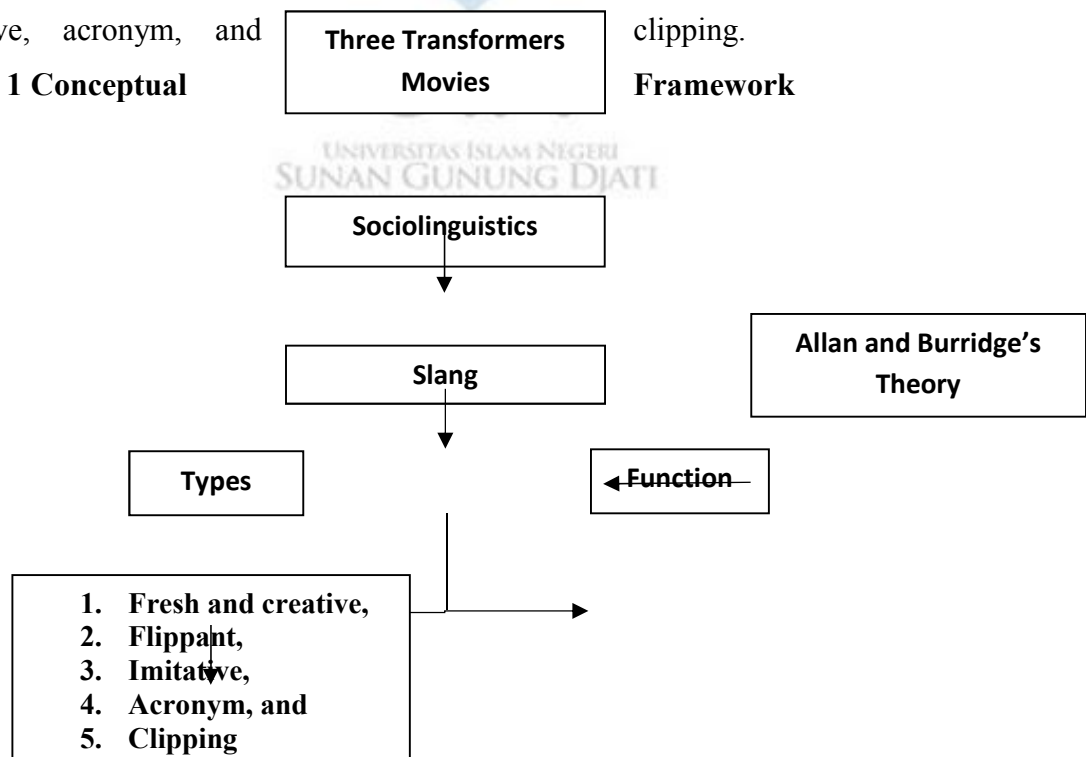
### **1.5 Conceptual Framework**

This research attempts to analyze slang expression of the three American science fiction movies: “The Transformers,” “Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen,” and “Transformers: Dark of the Moon” using sociolinguistics approach. According to Wardaugh (2006: 45), sociolinguistics investigates the relationships between language and society with the goal of a better understanding of the structure of language function. This becomes the appropriate approach to use since this research indeed focuses on how language is maintained in the research objects. Specifically, it is the expression of slang use in movies that becomes the main attention of this research.

In the analysis of the slang expression in the three Transformers movies, there are two elements composing a text that must be considered – *the linguistic* and *types of slang*. *Linguistics categories* cover lexical categories like lexical categories, such as nouns, adverbs, and adjectives, and grammatical categories like sentence types, clauses, and sentence complexities. *Types of slang* cover the areas of specific word, phrases, or utterances, which are commonly used by people in their community. Slang language refers to unconventional word, so it is not appropriate to be spoken in a formal situation, such as in the school, university, or in the office. Walter (2004) defines that slang is words used in very informal conversation, unsuitable for the formal situation. The use of specific word, phrases, or utterance which are commonly used by people in community becomes the focus of analysis of this research.

As being concerned, there are some types of slang that exist. This research relies on Keith Allan and Kate Burridge’s theory with they book *Forbidden Words: Taboo and the Censoring of Language* (2006), J. Holmes’ *An introduction to sociolinguistics* (1995), and D. Hymes, *Foundation in Sociolinguistic an ethnographic approach* (1989). They deals with five types of slang expression: fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping.

**Figure 1 Conceptual**



## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to clarify the key terms used in this study, some definitions are put forward:

Language:

- **Language:** Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbol used for human communication (Wardough. 1977:3).
- **Sociolinguistics:** Sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistic which studies the relationship between language and society, and it is also the study of the ways people use language in social interaction. There are interested in explaining why we speak differently in different social context, and they are concerned with identifying the social functions of language and the ways it is used to convey social meaning. (Janet Holmes 1992.1)
- **Slang Language:** Slang is the non-standard language variety is seasonal, used by young people or a particular social group for internal communications that are not members of the group do not understand. While the idiom is a series of words whose meaning is not the same as the combined meanings of its constituent words. In this page slang language often used at this time, usually by young people.



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