

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Research Background

Language always plays important roles in human beings. It becomes the tool of communication between individuals to express their feeling. Harmer (2007:12) stated that English as a language will become a language that widely used for communication among people in the different backgrounds at the end of the twentieth century.

According to Meyer (2009) language is one of many different systems of communication, a system that unique to human beings and different from, in short, the systems of communication carried by the animal. Language exists in three modes: speech, writing, and signs (used by deaf people). Even though all languages exist in spoken form, only some of them have written forms. In order to know deeper about language, linguists focus on two levels of description: pragmatics, the study of the speaker's meaning, and grammar, the description of how humans form linguistics structure, from the basic up to the higher level.

Without any doubt, it is generally known that language is related to the culture and social system of certain communities who use the language. Although living in the same region, each person will have a different way to speak the language based on the education and economic status. These differences might be the reason why there are many speech communities or social groups are formed. A speech community is a group of people who a set of norms and expectations considering the use of language. The study of how language relates to social groups is called sociolinguistics.

Based on Yule (2006) sociolinguistics refers to the study of the relationship between language and society. In this case, the use of language in one community is influenced by social status, level of education, and the different types of social interaction. Wardaugh (1992) stated that sociolinguistics is concerned with investigating the relationships between language and society in order to have a better understanding of the language's structure and the function of language in the community. It shows that sociolinguistics not only about the connection but also about how language can be understood and the role plays by language in a social group in order to reach successful communication.

Since there are many different social groups, sociolinguistics then divided into some variations, such as dialect, social markers, speech style, and style-shifting, prestige, speech accommodation, register and jargon, and slang (Yule, 2006). One of these variations that often found is slang. Katamba (2015) stated that slang is the term used to describe a variety of the language with informal, often fashionable and non-standard vocabulary.

Nowadays, the used of slang is increasingly high and gives an idea to linguistics researchers to make research on slang. Based on Frommer and Finegan (2004), slang words are usually found in movies and music reviews, lifestyle pieces, and people columns. Slang is used in certain community or particular group for internal communication, people who are not the member of that group will not understand the meaning or the idea that has been spoken. However, slang words today are often used by young people. It is in line with what had been stated by Holmes (2001: 167) that slang is the linguistics privilege of young people and mostly sounds unusual in the mouth of older people. Moreover, slang is also an aspect of social life that is subject to fashion, especially among adolescents.

Although slang is a non-standard language or it is informal language, this kind of word is widely used for oral communication for many purposes, since many words become out-of-date and disused because of trends. Moreover, Partridge in Katamba (2015) stated that there are at least fifteen good reasons why slang is used. The reasons include the desire to experiment with using language 'poetically' or creatively, for pleasure; the desire to be secretive; the desire to be expressive; the desire to use language as a badge of group membership so as to express intimacy with those inside the group and to exclude those who are not (technical jargon also does this job); to indicate that one is casual and relaxed etc.

As stated by Frommer and Finegan (2004), slang words are easy to found in song lyrics, especially songs by Afro and American singers or rappers. One of them is a song by Post Malone, "Wow." Post Malone is a professional rapper, singer, songwriter, and record producer from America. He released his debut single "White Iverson" in 2015 which was included on top 20 of US Billboard Hot 100. Post Malone had received many awards such as Top Rap Song for "Rockstar" in 2018 and Song of The Year for "Rockstar" in 2018.

Slang words that are mentioned in song lyrics usually used to show poetic and expressive language. However, sometimes people still do not get the idea of why this

kind of language is utilized. The reason is not that they do not know why it is used, but because they do not understand the meaning of slang words mentioned in the song lyrics.

One sentence of the lyrics that consists of slang words is, “Said she tired little money, need a big boy”. For people who know the exact meaning of this sentence will not see it as a problem, but for those who do not know about might guess that the girl needs a big a boy in the term of body. However, the lyrics tell about a girl who wants a boy that can give her much money than she had now.

The misinterpretation of any kinds of sentence can lead to misunderstanding and might create the unsuccessful communication. In order to avoid that case, the song “WOW” by Post Malone is chosen to be analyzed. Not only for music matters, but also for the used in education where students can create their own language in groups to improve the use of English itself.

## **1.2 Research Question**

In line with the background of the study described, this research is intended to analyze slang words in song lyrics “WOW” by Post Malone. More specifically the main questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of slang words found in song lyrics “WOW” by Post Malone?
2. What are the function of slang words found in song lyrics “WOW” by Post Malone?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

1. To find out the types of slang words found in song lyrics “WOW” by Post Malone.
2. To find out what are functions of the slang words in song lyrics “WOW” by Post Malone.

## **1.4 Scope of the Research**

The scope of this research are limited by subject and object analyzed. The subject is the lyrics of song’s by Post Malone. While the object is an analysis of slang used in Post Malone song’s lyrics.

### **1.5 Research Benefit**

The result of this research is expected to give contributions to the related study both theoretically and practically.

#### 1. Theoretically

The result of this research is expected can be a contribution for sociolinguistics study especially on slang.

#### 2. Practically

The result of this research is expected can be a practical contribution. For the students, this research helps the students to know and understand about slang as a sociolinguistics study. For the teachers, the result of this research is expected to be the additional material for linguistics course. Besides that, the writer hopes this research can be useful for others writers as a reference for further research.