CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

The word formation process is a crucial study in the field of morphology because it explains how new words are formed and how the structure and vocabulary of a language develop. The word formation process is the process of forming new words by modifying several different morphemes (Yule, 2010). Linguists divide the word formation process into several types, such as clipping, compounding, coinage, and others. Each of these processes serves to form new words that enrich the words of a language, which makes it easier for speakers of the language to convey their ideas. This process is frequently used in slang, which is acknowledged as a dynamic, nonstandard variety of language, to create words that appeal to particular social groups, particularly the younger generation.

Slang, usually studied in sociolinguistics, is an informal, creative, playful, dynamic, and sometimes abusive language variety used by a specific community. It is defined as a conscious, nonpermanent, creative, informal language with ancient roots used in groups of people (Andersson & Trudgill, 1992). Slang vocabularies are informal and used mainly by close friends and family members (Swan, 2005). Functionally, slang is the vocabulary used by certain subclusters or subgroups in society to keep their conversations private as well as identity and cohesiveness (Mattiello, 2008). For example, slang is used by groups of adolescents or college

students to distance themselves from the older generation. Slang in word forms like *cap, dope,* and *salty* may result from different word formation processes.

Movies are closely related to the development of language trends, especially the use of slang. This is because movies depict social and cultural life in society, including how people speak in a particular era. In addition, the use of slang in movies can also influence how people communicate because slang can be used in everyday communication. An example of this phenomenon can be found in the movie entitled *Jennifer's Body*, which was released in 2009. Most of the characters in this movie are teenagers who interact with one another in an informal, humorous, edgy dialogue filled with slang. The use of slang in Jennifer's Body movie reflects the speech patterns of its teenage characters, emphasizing their creativity and cultural identity. Slang is used extensively in this film for a variety of reasons, such as enhancing the mood of the film's darkness and irreverence, revealing the personalities of the characters, and making character communication seem natural.

Jennifer's Body is an American movie in the horror comedy genre. This movie combines dark humor and supernatural elements. This movie is written by Diablo Cody and directed by Karyn Kusama. It is about a high school girl who turns into a man-eating monster, after being sacrificed for a strange ritual. The movie is told from the point of view of the girl's best friend, Needy, who tries to stop her from killing their male schoolmates. The script is written with dialogues reflecting high school teenagers who tend to use slang when communicating.

Slang used by characters in the movie *Jennifer's Body,* who are mostly teenagers, such as *jailbait*, *hella*, *chick*, *lezzies*, *dillhole*, etc. are formed by various

word formation processes. Eble (1996), in Mattiello (2008), states that slang has the same word formation process as the formation of common vocabulary. For example, the slang *jailbait* is categorized as British slang in the online Collins Dictionary (www.collinsdictionary.com). The slang means "a girl who is under the legal age of consent and whose sexual contact is punishable as statutory rape." It is formed through a process called compounding, a process of combining two bases, roots, or stems to form a word (Lieber, 2009). It is the combination of two different nouns: *jail* and *bait*. *Jail* means "a place to detain criminals," while *bait* means "allurement." The combination of those two words creates a new term with a different meaning.

This research analyzes the word formation process in English slang in *Jennifer's Body* movie script. The script of *Jennifer's Body* movie is chosen because the characters' dialogues depict the authentic language of American teenagers, who use a lot of informal language, especially various slang. The dialogues illustrate the innovative nature of slang that evolves in a particular time and cultural setting. They also provide an authentic and diverse data set to analyze various word formation processes.

This study aims to investigate the types of word formation processes in slang that appear in *Jennifer's body* movie script and determine which of the word formations are productive in forming slang in this movie. Research on word formation processes offers valuable insights into how languages evolve and adapt to the needs of their speakers. It also highlights the linguistic creativity and cognitive processes involved in the formation of new words.

Research on word formation in English slang provides an understanding of the evolution of slang and how cultural identity is reflected in the creation of new words. As an example, the word *chick* originally meant "a young chicken." However, in slang contexts, it is used to refer to a woman, often with an informal or casual connotation, as in "You'd better find a Chinese chick to buff your situation!" (Cody, 2009). This change in meaning shows how language evolves to reflect how younger generations speak and interact in more casual social contexts.

1.2. Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework is a foundation that explains the main concepts used in the research and how they are connected. It helps the researcher understand, analyze, and explain the topic being studied in an organized way. The theoretical framework in this study is a guide for analyzing the word formation process in slang. Therefore, it explains the word formation process, the types of word formation process, morphological productivity, and slang.

(1) Word Formation Process

Words are formed using several processes called word formation processes. Lieber (2009) explains that lexeme formation, also known as word formation, is the process of forming new lexemes out of already existing ones. According to Yule (2010), word formation is the principal study of generating new words through the modification of morphemes through a variety of processes. Hence, the word formation process is a process that indicates the formation of an existing word as a result of morpheme modification.

The creation of new words in English follows several word formation rules. For example, the word *class* (n) can be followed by the suffix *-ify* as a bound morpheme forming the word *classify* (v). One more bound morpheme can be added such as *-ation* to form the word *classification* (n). Most English speakers would find it simple to understand the meanings of those formed words even if they had never heard them before because they are already familiar with the base word.

(2) Types of Word Formation Process

Some experts in morphology and language have their own classification of word formation process. Katamba (1993) mentions 6 types of word formation process: inflection, derivation, affixation, conversion, compounding, and reduplication. Carstairs-McCarthy (2002) divides word formation process into 5 types: inflection, derivation, compounding, blending, and acronym. Bauer (2003) divided word formation process into affixation, reduplication, base modification, conversion, backformation, clipping, compounding, blending, acronym, unique morph, and suppletion. Lieber (2009) divides word formation process into 11 types: affixation, compounding, conversion, coinage, backformation, blending, acronyms and initialism, clipping, internal stem change, reduplication, and templatic morphology. From that various classification of the word formation processes, it can be seen that some experts have similar kinds in some processes. Of all the experts' classifications, this study uses Lieber's (2009) theory to classify word formation process.

a. Affixation

Affixation is a process when a new lexeme is formed by attaching affixes to a base. Prefixes, suffixes, and infixes are types of affixes. Prefixes are the bound morphemes before the base, suffixes after the base, and infixes are inserted inside the base. The base is the words' semantic center, where affixes are attached (Lieber, 2009). For example, in the word *unwipe*, *un-* is the prefix because it comes before *wipe* as the base. The word *unhappiness* consists of the prefix *un-* attached to the base *happy* (adj), creating *unhappy* (adj). Then, it is followed by the suffix *-ness* to form *happiness* (n). Infixes are not normally used in English, however it is still used in the colloquial form of English, such as *-fuckin-* in *abso-fuckin-lutely* and *-bloody-* in *fan-bloody-tastic*.

b. Compounding

The process of creating a word by merging two or more bases, roots, or stems is known as compounding. The results of compounding are called compounds. In English, compounds usually contain free bases (Lieber, 2009). The examples of compounds in English are *windmill* (n + n), *icy cold* (adj + adj), *greenhouse* (adj + noun), and *rock hard* (n + adj). The compounding process is recursive because the compounded result of two bases can be compounded with another base, and the result can also be compounded with another base. Thus, a complex compound can be created, such as *paper towel dispenser factory building*.

c. Conversion

Conversion, also known as the functional shift, is the process of creating a new lexeme by shifting an existing lexeme's category without attaching any affixes.

English allows for the creation of new verbs from nouns (n *table* → v *table*, n *bread* → v *bread*), verbs from nouns (v *throw* → n *throw*, v *kick* → n *kick*), and occasionally, adjectives can also produce new verbs (adj *cool* → v *cool*, (adj *yellow* → v *yellow*) (Lieber, 2009). When nouns are turned into new verbs, the meanings of the resulting verbs can be very diverse. "To butter" means to put butter on something, while "to water" means to pour water on a thing. Generally, the new word has a more predictable meaning. For example, *a walk* means 'an act of walking'.

d. Coinage

Coinage is a process of creating entirely new words from existing terms. Products are occasionally given invented names, such as *Kleenex*, *Xerox*, or *Kodak*, which later become common nouns (Lieber, 2009). For example, *Kodak* was once used exclusively for cameras, and some American English speakers still use *Kleenex* for facial tissue and *Xerox* for copiers. However, it is relatively rare to coin new words.

e. Backformation

Historically, some existing words that consist of only one morpheme (monomorphemic bases) end with a similar sound to a particular affix. The native speakers then recognize these words as complex words. Thus, the process of backformation occurs (Lieber, 2009). For example, *burglar* is a monomorphemic word. However, it is interpreted as a verb *burgle* followed by an agentive suffix, *-er*, by some English speakers. So, backformation reduces the part of a word to

change the type of that word. The examples of backformation are *edit* (v derived from n *editor*) and *peddle* (n derived from a n *peddler*).

f. Blending

Blending is the lexeme formation process of combining parts of lexemes that are not categorized as morphemes (Lieber, 2009). Blending is usually achieved by taking the first part of one word to the end part of another word. The common examples of blending are *brunch* and *smog*. Brunch is the blend of *breakfast* and *lunch* by combining *br-* from *breakfast* and *-unch* from *lunch*. Similar to brunch, s*mog* is also formed by blending process by combining *sm-* from *smoke* and *-og* from *fog*.

g. Acronyms and Initialism

An acronym or initialism is created by the combination of the initial letters of words to form a name or phrase (Lieber, 2009). The word formed with acronymy is spoken as a word, not a string of characters. For instance, AIDS (pronounced as [eidz]), is formed by taking the initial letters of "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome." The acronym process also forms scuba from "self-contained underwater breathing apparatus."

Initialism is similar to acronyms. The difference is the pronunciation of the word. Words formed with this process are mentioned based on the combination of initial letters. An example is ADHD (attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder) which is pronounced as [ˈeɪˌdiˈeɪtʃˌdi].

h. Clipping

Clipping is the process of creating new words by reducing the part of an existing word (Lieber, 2009). This process usually reduces words with more than one syllable by taking only the first syllable. For instance, the word *fridge* is created from the clipping process from the word *refrigerator*, *blog* is created from *web log*, and *info* is created from *information*.

i. Internal Stem Change

Internal stem change, also known as apophony, is a word formation process that modifies the vowel or consonant of a base, root, or stems. These internal changes can occur by themselves or in combination with other affixes (Lieber, 2009). Internal stem change is divided into vowel change and consonant mutation. In vowel change, the part of the base that undergoes modification is the vowel. Vowel change can be divided into two types, ablaut and umlaut. Manchu uses an example of an ablaut to create the feminine form of a masculine noun. *Haha* means 'man', and *hehe* means 'woman' resulting from the vowel change.

In English, this word formation can be seen in the past and past participle forms, such as *sang* and *sung,* which are obtained from changing the vowel of the base *sing*. Umlaut is characterized by a vowel change in the base accompanied by adding a suffix. One example of umlaut can be seen in German, such as in the word *Brüderlein*, from the base Bruder, which undergoes a vowel change (u → ü) and is followed by the suffix *-lein*. In consonant mutation, the base modification is on the consonant part. It can also appear followed by a suffix. An example can be seen in *Seereer-Siin* language (*odon* → $o^n don$).

j. Reduplication

In reduplication, the new word is formed by repeating a base. An example of this process can be seen in Hausa; *bāya* means 'behind,' and '*bāya bāya*' means a bit behind. Some reduplication only repeats the part of the base; lafo means 'plot of land', and *lalafo* means 'clear land' (Samoan language) (Lieber, 2009). In English, this process is usually followed by modifying the repeated base, such as *willy-nilly*, *hanky-panky*, and *handy-dandy*.

k. Templatic Morphology

This kind of word formation process can be seen in Arabic. Arabic words usually have a triliteral root, or root composed of three consonants (e.g., *ktb*), which provides the essential meaning of the word. The meaning of the root can be changed in a variety of ways by varying the placement of these three consonants relative to vowels. The exact arrangement of vowels and consonants, sometimes called the template, has symbolic meanings (Lieber, 2009). The examples of this word formation process are *katab* (meaning: wrote), *kattab* (meaning: caused to write) and *kaatab* (meaning: corresponded). They come from one triliteral root, *ktb*.

(3) Productivity

Productivity is defined as the ability to use lexeme formation processes to generate new words. A Lexeme formation is productive if native speakers can use it to form new lexemes. If native speakers no longer use it, then it can be considered unproductive (Lieber, 2009). The more general a lexeme formation, the more productive it is (Katamba, 1993). For instance, the morpheme *-th* in *warmth* is known as a suffix, but it is not used to form a new word. In the other hand, other

suffixes like *-ness* and *-ity* are still can be used to create new words by attaching them to another base. By this example, it can be sensed that some process of lexeme formation is more productive than others.

a. Factors of Productivity

According to Lieber (1993), three factors contributing to productivity are the process' phonological and semantic transparency, the size of the applicable base set, and its usability. Words that are created through transparent processes can be segmented easily. This indicates that the pronunciation of the base remains unchanged when an affix is added, and it is easy to understand what the new word means. For example, if affix *-ness* is attached to the base *hardy*, it does not change how *hardy* is pronounced, and the meaning is expected. While the suffix *-ity* sometimes changes the pronunciation of the base when it is attached. For example, *rustic* [ˈrʌs tɪk] becomes *rusticity* [rʌˈstɪs ɪ ti] (the sound k is replaced with s sound). Hence, the suffix *-ness* is more productive than *-ity*.

Another factor of productivity is the size of the applicable set or frequency of base. It refers to the number of possible base affixes that could be attached to form new words. An affix will be less productive if it only attaches to a small range of bases because it will have less potential to generate many new words. For example, the suffix *-esque* is only attached to nouns (mostly the concrete ones), and sometimes it attaches to names, but only with more than one syllable. Thus, it is less productive than other suffixes that can be attached to nouns.

The third factor of productivity is usefulness. When speakers of a language require new words of a specific kind, the process of lexeme formation is called

useful. The suffixes *-ness* and *-ity* are very useful because, for example, it is always helpful to turn an adjective into a noun that means "the state of being X," regardless of what X means.

b. Measuring productivity

Several experts have proposed ways to measure morphological productivity. Aronoff (1976), as cited by Lieber (2009), divides the total number of words formed with an affix by the total number of bases to which the affix could potentially be attached in order to measure productivity. Nevertheless, according to Lieber (2009), this approach is not effective because it is impossible to determine the number of possible bases for a certain lexeme formation process.

Another way to measure productivity is by counting the hapax (also known as *hapax legomenon*) in a corpus. This method was proposed by Baayen (1989) in Lieber (2009). Hapax is a word that appears only once in a corpus (a collection of written text). This method is done by taking a corpus, counting the token frequency of all words formed by a certain word formation process, and determining the number of times those words occur only once in the corpus. This method is based on the observation that the words formed with a less common word formation process often have more fixed meanings and appear more frequently in a text or corpus. In contrast, more productive word-formation processes create many new words, but these words usually appear less often, sometimes only once, in a corpus (Lieber, 2009).

(4) Slang

Slang is classified by Kirszner and Mandell (1978) in Sinaga et al. (2020) as one of the language styles. Slang is defined as an extremely informal language which typically not used in formal writing or speech. It is frequently used by specific social circles. It has modern terminology with occasionally offensive meanings. Mattiello (2008) defines slang as a variety that contains profanity, conveys familiarity, and creates group limitations. Slang is characterized as a creative, intentional, non-permanent, informal language with historical roots that is spoken in social groups (Andersson & Trudgill, 1992). Therefore, slang is a language style used in informal situations that can be rude, creative, and temporal, and it is used in certain social groups to show their identity and familiarity.

Slang is especially common among teenagers and college students in general, according to Finegan (2008). Teenagers use slang to create their own identity, which makes them different from adults and kids. This way of speaking helps them feel like part of their group while often confusing older people. Teen slang changes quickly because they grow up and stop using the words they once did.

1.3. Review of Previous studies

Many researchers had studied the word formation process of English slang words with various objects and theories. One of the studies was a journal by Sopiah and Yulianisha (2023) entitled "An Analysis of Word Formation Process of English Slang Used in *Camp Rock* Movie Script." The aims were to analyze the forming process of the slang words used in this movie script and to determine the dominant

type of word formation process. Descriptive research methodology was applied, which entails gathering data and descriptively analyzing it. The research used Yule's (2014) theory of the types of word formation processes. In this movie script, the researcher discovered five different forms of slang word formation: acronym, blending, compounding, derivation, and clipping. According to this analysis, clipping was the most common word formation utilized in this movie. The strength of this research is the detailed analysis of the word formation process. The weakness of this research is that it does not focus on the field of morphology because the researcher also analyzes the type of slang in a sociolinguistic way.

Another research about the word formation processes of English slang was conducted by Prastikawati et al. in 2021, titled "Word Formation Analysis Found in English Slangs Used by Justin Bieber on Instagram." The purpose of the study was to find out the types of word formation process of slang words used by a well-known singer, Justin Bieber, in his captions for Instagram posts from June 2020 to June 2021. The theory used in this study is the types word formation process by Yule (2010). This study used the descriptive qualitative method and observation method to collect the data. Researchers found 87 data for 7 out of 10 types of word formation processes. They were clipping, blending, acronym, borrowing, derivation, coinage, and multiple processes, with clipping appearing the most (54%). The strength of this research is that it explains the word formation process clearly; the analysis of the word formation process in slang is also presented in detail. The weakness of this research is that it does not include how the researcher identifies slang words as data from data sources.

There was also research about the word formation process in slang words held by Magria et al., entitled "Word Formation Process of Slang Word Used by Gamers in The Game Online Mobile Legend" in 2021. The data was taken from the slang word in the game chat feature of a community consisting of 6 people. The aim was to classify and analyze the types of word formation processes and the meaning of slang words used by Mobile Legend players. This research used 3 theories: the theory of the word formation type by Yule (2010), the theory of meaning by Katamba (2005), and Leech (1981). The researcher used descriptive qualitative methods, participant observational methods for collecting the data, Sudaryanto's (2015) *agih* method to analyze the data, and the informal method to present the data. The result showed that from 12 data, six of ten types of word formation were used by players. They were abbreviations, acronyms, borrowings, compounding, multiple processes, and clippings, and compounding is the dominant type. Based on Leech's theory of meaning, two types of meaning emerged in this study: social meaning and connotative meaning. The strength of this research is that there is much information about slang, which helps researchers who want to analyze slang. The word formation process analysis is explained in detail. The weakness of this research is that it does not focus on the scope of morphology because it also analyzes the type of meaning of slang. In addition, the data limit is too small because only 6 samples are obtained, so it can not represent the entire mobile legend player.

The next research about word formation was by Lihawa (2021) et al. with "Word Formation Process of Gen Z Slang in Callahan's Generation Z Dictionary"

as the title. This study aimed to identify the types of word formation process of Gen Z slang with the Callahan Dictionary as the data source. The Corpus-based approach and qualitative analysis were used in this study. The researchers used the combination of the word formation process theory types by Yule (2010) and Mattiello (2008). Based on that theory combination, the types of word formation process consisted of etymology, coinage and fanciful formation, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, back-formation, conversion, acronyms and initialism, prefixation, infixation, suffixation, multiple processes, reduplicatives, and reversed forms. As the result, out of the 33 slang terms that are examined, eight different word formation processes were found. The process that occurred most was compounding, with a total of 10 times. The strength of this research is the detailed explanation of the word formation process analysis. The weakness of this research is that it does not include the reason why the researcher combined the two theories and how the researcher combined Yule's 10 types of word formation process and Mattiello's 15 types of slang word formation into 15 types.

Lastly, the research on the same topic was also done by Hidayat and Mu'man (2020) titled "The Word Formation Process of Slang Words in Rich Brian's Song Titled *Dat Stick*." The research aimed to identify the word formation type of slang words in Rich Brian's *Dat Stick* song lyrics using Yule's (2010) theory. The writers used the documentation method to collect the data and the descriptive qualitative method to describe the findings. As the result, the researchers discovered sixteen slang terms with five types of word formation. There are two from the blending process, three from the acronym process, one from the coinage process, nine from

the clipping process, and one from the multiple processes. The process that appears the most was clipping. The strength of this research is that the explanation of the word formation analysis of the slang process is described in detail. However, this research also has some weaknesses. The explanation of word formation process types is available only on five types appeared, while the other five are not included. Furthermore, it is not mentioned how the researcher identifies slang words as the data in the song lyrics as the data source.

From those previous studies, it is obvious that the topic of the word formation processes of English slang words has been studied by several researchers. However, *Jennifer's Body* movie script is chosen as the data source to differentiate this study from the previous ones. The analysis of the word formation process in slang in this movie script has never been done before. Moreover, most of the previous studies use the word formation process theory by Yule (2010); one used Yule's (2014) theory and a combination of Yule's (2010) and Mattiello's (2008) theories. This research employs Lieber's (2009) theory on word formation process as the main theory. Moreover, this research also analyzes the productivity of slang in *Jennifer's Body* movie script.

1.4. Research Questions

The researcher identified several problems based on the background of study. This study analyzes the word formation process and the productivity of word formation processes. The analysis is in slang in the *Jennifer's Body* movie script. The word formation process and productivity theory are employed by the researcher to address this problem and provide a response to the following research question.

(1) What are the types of word formation processes in English slang in *Jenniffer's Body* movie script?

(2) What type of word formation process is productive in forming English slang in *Jenniffer's Body* movie script

1.5. Objectives

Based on the research questions above, two points as the aim of this study are finding out the word formation process and productivity in slang in *Jennifer's Body* movie script. The researcher takes these two points of objectives of the analysis.

(1) To find out the types of word formation processes in English slang in *Jenniffer's Body* movie script.

(2) To find out the productive word formation process in forming English slang in *Jenniffer's Body* movie script.

1.6. Scope of Study

Scope of study defines the scope and limitations of the study; it explains what the study includes and does not include. This study is a linguistic study that focuses on analyzing the word formation process in slang. Slang is actually studied in the field of sociolinguistics. The use of slang when communicating can express the identity of the speaker. However, this study examines slang only morphologically by analyzing its word formation processes and productivity. To limit the study, the analysis is only on English slang in the word form found in *Jennifer's Body* Movie script. The theory of word formation process and morphological productivity by Lieber (2009) is applied in this study.