CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   The Background of the Research

Language is used as a medium of communication. In daily conversation, when two or more people communicate with each other, they must use the same language to get the message or information that the speaker intended to say. For example, an English speaker should speak with someone who also speak English to reach an effective communication.

However, the speakers sometimes might use certain variation of languages in conveying their message even though the communication runs using one language. The aspects of language that become the subject of the variation could be phonemes, morphemes, syntactic, lexemes, etc. (Penny, 2012, p.5). In the lexical aspect, the language variation can be seen in an interaction when people (mostly in the same social group) use certain lexicon or words which usually known only by the member of the group. This kind of variation of the use of a certain word can be referred as *slang*.

Slang can be defined informal and unofficial language variations and is mostly used in spoken language in informal situations. It is usually used by certain social groups to communicate in everyday conversation. For example, American hobos at the beginning of the 20th-century use *C and A pocket* (a pocket cut into the back lining of a coat to hold parcels of food), *C.H. and D.* (cold, hungry and dry), and *L.S. and M.S.* (less sleep, more speed), which might not be understood by other groups such as farmers, doctors, etc (Gonzalez, 1992, p.40).

According to Partridge in his book, *Slang Today an Yesterday,* slang is quite easy to use but it is very difficult to understand its true meaning and function, although at first it seems simple (1954, p.1). It will always grow because slang is used to communicate with people around us in public (Umam and Purnianda, 2016, p.177). Yule (2006) adds that slang is an aspect of social life that is subject to trend, especially among adolescents. Every generation might use different words and expressions to convey certain meaning since language is constantly changing. Words or expressions in slang quickly grow old as they are replaced by new ones (p.211). For instance, the use of *rat, wicked, super, groovy,* and *hip*, which all mean really good have been replaced by *dope, kickass* and *phat* (p.260).

The complexity of slang also lies in its function. Since slang is arguably privileged and confidential (Chaer in Muzayyanah, 2015, p.18), answering questions such as "why is slang used at all?" or in other word, the function of the use of the slang itself might be not as simple as it seems like the intention of the speaker in using slang might vary. According to Yanchun and Yanhong (2013), the most important point lies in that language is for communication between people in the perspective of the social functions of slang (p.2212). Hence, analyzing the interpersonal function of slang is necessary to have a better understanding about the use of slang.

One of the English slangs that are commonly found is the American slang due to the popularity of American language by its widespread in cultural products (Xue, 2013, p.2264). The American slang is frequently found in the American media such as in the American movies, novels, and song lyrics. However, non-native English speakers around the world especially young people often use these words

inappropriately since they do not completely understand the meaning and function or condition when using the word. The use of the word 'Nigga', for instance. According to Urban Dictionary, 'Nigga' is a word that offends blacks, but should only offend blacks that fit the description of it. The reason why non-Nigger blacks get offended is because they hate to be associated with their race's "bad apples," not because of whatever slavery-related nonsense that other people confuse it with.

As mentioned before, slang is not only found in daily conversation but also media, including in the song. It usually serves as a response to the phenomena that occur in social life. A song is created to have a specific purpose and has its characteristics. Rap songs, for example usually contain vulgar, ungrammatical, and sarcastic sentences to protest or criticize the government or the system of the country where they live. The composers often insert some slang words in their song lyrics for some reasons. One of the singers who uses a lot of slang in his song lyrics is Chris Brown.

Chris Brown is a singer, songwriter, and famous American actor. He was born on May 5, 1989, in Tappahannock, United States. He started his career in the music and film industry in 2005 and begin to get successful when Brown's self-titled album was released in November 2005 and quickly found its way into the charts. Working with established producers and songwriters, he had a No. 1 hit with "Run It!" peaking atop the US Billboard Hot 100. The album brought Brown two Grammy Award nominations, for Best New Artist and Best R&B Contemporary Album.

Instead of analyzing the whole songs, 5 Chris Brown's songs are selected for the sake of accuracy in data analysis. The selected songs are *No Guidance, With You,*

Freaky Friday, Ayo, and Loyal. These 5 songs are chosen due to their popularity selected from the most view songs, because the most view song is considered useful to be analyzed since many people listen to the songs which contained a lot of slang that are mostly difficult to comprehend.

The study of slang is necessary due to its figurative meaning that sometimes confuses the listeners. The use of slang in the song lyrics is analyzed because songs are inseparable and popular where people mostly get about new things, including language and expressions in songs, and on the other hand, composers frequently use slang to express their message(s). This study then aims to analyze the forms of slang, identify the types of slang in Chris Brown's songs and explain the function of the use of slang in the songs. The types of slang are analyzed by using Eric Partridge's (1954) theory and the meaning of the slang words is given by referring to Oxford dictionary, Urban dictionary, and Dictionary of American slang and Colloquial Expressions to help the reader have a better understanding of the slang words. Furthermore, Yanchun and Yanhong (2013) functions of language theory is also used in analyzing the function of the use of slang. By identifying the types of slang and analyzing the function of its use, this research can be used to give some insight in understanding the meaning of the use of slang, not only in songs but also in other media. Learning slang in a language allows you to stay current in your speaking skills, and helps you communicate with people in different regions of a country.

By Understanding slang is the same as you will understand the variations in the language, and different dialects from all over the country. Understanding and studying slang will open up our opportunities to learn about local history. When we learn our

language and are taught about slang, we will improve our ability to speak the language. To understand how slang works, we must first understand the context. When you discover new slang words, we will increase our understanding of local people at the same time.

1.2   Identification of the Problem

There are some phenomena of slang found in 5 Chris Brown's songs. Sometimes, the meaning of the slang words in the lyrics is very hard to understand, especially for the non-native speaker. For the example; **tryna** is an extremely versatile word used to express one of the following: "**trying** to", "trying the", or "trying a", and the word **ain't** means of "is not", "are not", "am not", "do not" or "does not". As in the case for Chris Brown's songs, the example of slang can be seen as bellow:

*You the only one I'm **tryna** make love to, **pickin'** and **choosin'***

*They **ain't**really love you, **runnin'** games,**usin'***

*All your stupid **exes**, they **gon'** call again*

*Tell **'em** that a real **nigga steppin'** in*

*Don't let them **niggas** try you, test your patience*

*Tell **'em** that it's over, **ain't**no **debatin'** (Uh)*

*All you need is me **playin'** on your playlist*

*You **ain't**tgotta be frustrated.*

Based on the example above, it is clear that Chris Brown's songs contain a lot of slangs. Due to the deviation of its formal form which causes ambiguity for the listener, slang in Chris Brown's songs is an interesting topic to discuss. In order to

understand clearly about the use of slang in Chris Brown's songs, this study would discuss the forms, types of slang, the meanings, as well as the social function of the use of slang in song lyrics of Chris Brown. Therefore, this study would answer these following questions:

1. What are forms, types, and meanings of slang words found in the selected Chris Brown's   song lyrics?

2. What are the social functions of slang words found in the selected tChris Brown's   songs?

1.3   Objective of the Research

The objective of this research is to study the slang used in the lyrics of 5 selected Chris Brown's Songs. This research aims to find out the form, the type, the meaning of slang words used Chris Brown's in lyrics and the functions of those slang words.

The objective of the research is related to the research questions. So, the aims of this research are:

1. To identify and describe forms, types, and meanings of slang words found in the selected Chris Brown's song lyric

2. To describe the social functions of slang words found in the selected Chris Brown's song lyric

1.4   Scope of the Research

Slang is a language variety that are used by certain groups of people. In this research, the writer focuses on slang used by singers. The study is limited to one singer, that is Chris Brown. The use of slangs is observed in the lyric of 5 of his songs, which

are the 5 most popular song   with the highest number of viewers on YouTube compared to other song.

Slangs can be studied from different approaches using different theories. Here, the writer applies Eric Partridge's (1954) theory to study the types of slang. The meaning of the slangs is determined by referring some dictionaries, Oxford dictionary, Urban dictionary, and Dictionary of American slang and Colloquial. Meanwhile the social functions of slangs use Yanchun and Yanhong's theory.

1.5   Method and Technique of the Research

There are several steps in conducting this research, they are collecting the data, analyzing the data and presenting the result of the analysis.

1.5.1. Data and Source of Data

The data of this research is all sentences that contain words that are considered slangs. The source of data are five lyrics of Christ Brown's songs, which are selected based on degree of poplarity and number of Youtube viewers. The selected songs are '*No Guidance', 'With You', 'Freaky Friday', 'Ayo', and 'Loyal'*.

1.5.2 Data Collection

The data are collected through observation. The songs are downloaded from a website and the lyrics are taken from http://www.azlyrics.com. The lyrics are read while listening to the songs several times to understand the whole meaning of the songs Note-taking techniques is used in identifying slang words. All the slang words are grouped into forms, types, function categories and written in tables.

1.5.2. Analyzing the Data

The forms of slang are divided into word or phrasal forms and are put on a table based on their types. The meanings are analyzed by using the referential identity method (Sudaryanto, 1993), where the determinant of the analysis are outside the language, that is Oxford Dictionary, Urban Dictionary, Dictionary of American slang and Colloquial Expressions. The function of the slang are determined based on Yanchun and Yanhong's theory.

1.5.3. Presenting the Result of Analysis

The result of the analysis is presented on tables. This is particularly useful as it enables the readers read the result easily. The finding are also described descriptively to discuss the forms, types, meanings, types, and the social functions of the slang from the theories used.