

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Sociolinguistics is the study of language in relation to social contexts. It connects the function of language as a tool of general communication to society. As well, sociolinguistics is studying the link between language and society, attempting to explain why individuals talk differently in different social situations, as well as characterizing the social roles of language and how it is used to communicate social meaning (Holmes, 2013). Examining how individuals use language in different social contexts gives a lot of information about how language works, social relationships within a group, and how people interact and establish parts of their social identity through their own words. The goal is to explain how language changes across geographical boundaries and how individuals from one community in an environment converse with those from another. It means that the use of language for community involvement has existed for a long time. Such a language's usage is still evolving to this day. Languages used in an informal environment will change from standard to nonstandard, but there will be no change in form when people are in an informal environment. The existence of society, conventions, rules, and laws that debate language are all examples of sociolinguistics work. It means that it is influenced by factors such as the speaker's and listener's social backgrounds, the relationship in the context, and the manner of interaction, so it is critical to understand the structure and function

of the language used in each situation. One of the sociolinguistics phenomena that exists in society is slang. It is an informal language that is used in society.

Zhou & Fan (2013) defined that the complexity of slang is immediately apparent when we examine its function. There are three parts of social functions in slang words: Pursuit of Self-identity, Emotive Feeling of the Slang Users, and Achieving Politeness. It indicates that slang is indeed the “secret” language, or something that everyone recognizes but no one can define. The originality of slang varies by style when something is popular, everybody uses it. It may be used to distinguish oneself from others by members of a community who exchange ideas and attitudes. It implies that slang is used in an informal way, and people usually use it to communicate with their friends or society, but it is not polite to converse with elders in this way. Then, it is typically limited to specific circles and is only used temporarily. Slang is a social feature that is subject to trend, particularly among teens. It may be utilized by members of a group to share ideas and attitudes to differentiate themselves from others. Slang can become outdated fast as a symbol of group identification within a restricted time of life, such as early adolescence. In the past, slang was originally a code used by specific groups. As time goes on, slang becomes more than just a code, it is also a popular language used in everyday life. Many younger speakers are fascinated using slang. They develop new words in their communication so that their community will only understand them. It indicates that slang is a completely different language from the slang's original languages. The meaning is frequently understood solely by people who use the word. Teenagers actively develop slang.

Slang terminology is used in speech to show dissatisfaction with society or to adapt one's language to one's own way of thinking. It is indicating that the speaker may adjust when interacting, for example, if someone interacts with someone they don't know, it will be different than if they engage with their family or friends, who will be more comfortable and use colloquial as slang language. It is a component of a language that is generally outside of conventional or regular usage and may include both freshly formed words and phrases as well as new or extended meanings connected to established terms.

Slang is inappropriate for professional situations yet ideal for casual situations. In formal contexts, most individuals talk carefully, yet in many informal interactions, a more easygoing manner of speaking gives a better impression. It expresses that slang is the secret language of the English or something that everybody can recognize but nobody can define. The uniqueness of slang changes like fashion when it is trend, everyone will use it. Slang is considered a product of society since it is generated by individuals who live in society. It is one of the language variants that can reflect a society's social tendencies now as well as how its people perceive the world. However, there are so many places where people can find slang language phenomenon because slang is informal language, many people often use it, and every slang is not just about a word but there is any slang more than one word. Slang is used not only in the community, but also in media entertainment such as social media, movies, song lyrics, and so on. Slang is now employed not just in conversation but has also inspired music lyrics. There are many singers who write songs using slang words

in their lyrics and slang words are frequently used by singers as a genuine expression. One of the most singers that used slang words is Megan Thee Stallion. Megan Thee Stallion is a woman rapper from America and has get awards Grammy Award for Best Rap Song (2021), Grammy Award for Best New Artist (2021), Grammy Award for Best Rap Performance (2021) and many more. Many slang words can be found in the lyrics of Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics. The lyrics are a person's expression of how they feel and what they have experienced. In expressing feelings, the songwriter uses words and languages that have appeal and uniqueness to the lyrics themselves. It carries a message (whatever it may be) with the intention of stimulating the listeners to think about it. Such a goal and manner of engagement are ingrained in these people's cultural environment, according to their musical tastes, time, and so on. Sometimes songwriters convey a message to motivate listeners. It denotes a relationship between the songwriter and the listener, in which the songwriter should use relaxed and easy to understand language in the lyrics and convey a message to the listener through the song lyrics itself. In short, using slang words in song lyrics to make it more interesting and easily accepted by the listener.

The object of this research is Megan Thee Stallion's slang words in an album *Good News* consisting of 17 songs lyrics. Then, to find out the meaning of the slang words in her lyrics, this research used *The Routledge Dictionary of Modern American Slang and Unconventional English* and to find out types of social functions of the slang words this research used theory Zhou & Fan (2013). For examples slang words in Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics:

Firstly, “*Imagine **niggas** lyin' 'bout shootin' a real bitch (huh?)*”

An unpleasant incident happened to Megan Thee Stallion in July 2020. Her leg was shot by a black Canadian rapper named Tory Lanez, he intentionally shot both of her legs after they were involved in an argument in the car, she asked to get out of the car, and she saw him point a gun at her and open fire. But at that time, he apologized to herself and offered 1 million USD (Rp. 14 billion) so that she would not report it to the police. Therefore, the definition of slang word **nigga/niggas** in the lyrics is black persons or in these lyrics what is meant is Tory Lanez and his friends that black skin tried to cover up the shooting case he committed against Megan Thee Stallion by giving money to her to lie when asked by the police and not report the case to the police.

Secondly, slang word from the lyrics “*Talkin' shit, I'll slide on you, thinkin' that you **slick***”

After the incident, both Megan Thee Stallion's legs were shot by Tory Lanez due to an argument, resulting in Megan having to undergo treatment, she really hates it and he thinks is not speak up about that case. So, she wrote lyrics for Tory Lanez. So, the meaning of slang word **slick** which means admired person, in these lyrics means that he was talking trash and she will come after him, he thought he admired person can free from punishment.

Thirdly, “*Imagine me givin' a **fuck** it was your fuckin' birthday (fuck you)*”

Relationship Megan Thee Stallion and Tory Lanez before the shooting incident was fine and often together. After he shot incident against her that almost

made her life disappear due to his brutal action against her, she wrote lyrics for him when they were still together, she imagines the event that occurred in their relationship. So, the lyrics contain a slang word **fuck**, it means the act of sex and in these lyrics tell the listeners that Megan Thee Stallion is giving act of sex on his birthday.

Fourthly, *“He talkin' 'bout his followers, dollars, and **goofy** shit”*

Before the shooting incident, Megan Thee Stallion and Tory Lanez were in the same car, they argued about the closeness of their relationship and at that time He talked about his life as a rapper. Hence, the definition of slang word **goofy** in the lyrics is foolish and in these lyrics she conveys to her listeners that he is talking his fans, finance, and foolish nonsense of his story.

Fifthly, *“A bitch who he fuckin' or a **ho** that he payin', uh”*

Megan Thee Stallion and Tory Lanez were lovers, and a love triangle involving her closest friend, Kelsey Harris, was revealed. Kelsey Harris is Megan Thee Stallion's former best friend, personal assistant, and fall in love to Tory Lanez too. Therefore, in the lyrics has slang word **ho** which means a sexually available woman, and, in these lyrics, she is telling that there is someone he fucks or sexually available woman that he pays. The slang words **nigga**, **slick**, **fuck**, **goofy**, and **ho** are indicating as a symbol of emotive feeling that she is telling her feelings.

As explanation above, there are many listeners listen Megan Thee Stallion's songs, she has received many prizes from the events that have been held

and a lot of slang words in her lyrics. Therefore, the researcher is interested in doing this study.

### **B. Problems of the Study**

The Following problems of this research:

1. What are the social functions of slang words that used in the Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics?
2. How are the slang words realized into social functions used in Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics?
3. Why are the slang words in Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics used in the way they are?

### **C. Objectives of the Study**

1. To investigate the social functions of slang words that used in Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics.
2. To elucidate how the social functions of slang words used in Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics.
3. To explain the reason of using the slang words in Megan Thee Stallion's lyrics.

### **D. Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study focuses on the use of slang words in an album *Good News* which contains 17 Megan Thee Stallion's songs that entitled: Shots Fire, Circles, Cry Baby, Do It On The Tip, Sugar Baby, Movie, Freaky Girls, Body, What's New, Work That, Intercourse, Go Crazy, Don't Rock Me To Sleep,

Outside, Savage Remix, Girls in the Hood, and Don't Stop. The theory that is used in this study is using theory Zhou & Fan (2013) explained that slang words have social functions divided into three parts which are Pursuit of Self-identity, Emotive Feeling of the slang Users, and Achieving Politeness.

### **E. Significance of the Study**

The researcher hopes that all students get benefit from learning about slang and using it. Furthermore, students can apply their knowledge and understand slang words in appropriate daily conversation, particularly in informal situations, and hope benefit for to others:

1. Learners: hope all learners get benefit when learning and practice how the slang words are used when talking in informal situations.
2. Readers: hopes for all readers get benefit when the readers want to know what the meaning the slang words and adding the vocabularies of slang words.
3. Other Researchers: hope other researchers get interested in researching slang words. because there are a lot of words added in society including slang words.

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