

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Language is linked with culture and social system of certain communities who use the language. This case may allow the differentiation of expression between one with another. Besides, the complex community, the different areas, social status, level of education, and the different types of social interaction will produce variations of language. One of those variations is slang.

In social life, there are always certain groups of people who have a specific language. It is a symbol of their group which is marked by their creativity toward language. It will make them different from others. This characteristic is only understood by their groups. One of those groups is teenager. A teenager is a creative and productive human being in producing new vocabularies in communication and interaction. Slang, therefore, has something to do with teenagers' creativity.

In daily communication, the teenagers often use the slang language rather than the standard language because the function of slang is not only used as a mark of identity of the teenagers, but also to show the solidarity, humor, fun and intimacy. Another motive is to simplify the word so it easy to be delivered. This case happens because the young generation wants to be different and have creativity even though it carries a negative connotation.

Akmajian *et al* (2001) state that the speakers show big creativity in their use of slang. Slang is one of the most creative areas of language use. The

development of slang language itself always changes from time to time. It makes people especially the old ones get confused when they hear the slang words uttered by the teenagers.

Liaw *et al* (2013) concluded that when older slang words have become overused and lose their power, new vivid ones are introduced in their place. Social needs can cause a more widespread change than the simple addition of new vocabulary items.

It is certainly true that slang items are short-lived, but this does not mean that their creation and renewal is random. Otherwise, their formation patterns are not really different from how standard words are formed. The patterns enable the possibility to spot the sensitive parts of the linguistic system that is renewed again and again by slang users.

Today's slang originates from hip-hop music. Hip-hop music or African-American music, in many ways, has played an important role in this development of music. Through the years, many of the words and phrases from hip-hop music became combined and used by outside communities who had figured out the context and definitions of these rappers' words. This adaptation process happened in many of the ethnic communities and areas within America and their language containing much from this language.

The Black Eyed Peas is an American hip hop group. The group mainly includes rappers with the names of "Will.i.am, Apl.de.ap, Taboo, and singer Fergie". Most words in the lyric are slang words.

Rap artists often use new words such as maggot means a worthless person, juvies means a teenager under age eighteen, dizzy means stupid. They also often creating new words by shortening parts of long word or few words such as LOL means Laugh Out Loud, wanna means want to, XOXOXO means hugs and kisses.

By looking at some slang words above, some people who use English as a second or a foreign language may get confused in comprehending the theme and the meanings of song lyrics when hearing hip-hop music, because slang words have the specific meanings and misunderstandings about the origins of a word can cause changes in meaning.

There are some reasons why people use slang such as slang can represent the certain sub-social group's identity and it is cool. It seems like a fashion when everybody likes it, and it will be often used by people.

Slang is subset of language used by particular group in informal situation that consists word and expression which could not be found in dictionary because its changed and it created new terms.

There is so many new slang words that we could find in daily conversation especially when hearing Hip-Hop songs. Sometimes native speakers and non-native speakers get confused with that new slang words, because they did not know the meaning of that words, especially nowadays there is so many media that occurs that new slang words spread quickly.

Departing from the phenomenon above the writer is interested in conducting a research concerning the use of slang words in Hip-hop music. The writer can identify that in fact there is another code used by particular people

besides national language and local language regarded as a typical language of a particular group.

B. Problems of the study

The problems of study are formulated as follows:

1. What are the socio-semantic meanings of slang used in *Black Eyed Peas'* *The Beginning* album?
2. What is the implication of socio-semantic meaning in *Black Eyed Peas'* *The Beginning* album?
3. What is the dominant type of slang used in *Black Eyed Peas'* *The Beginning* album?

C. Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problems, the objectives of the study are devoted to:

1. analyze the socio-semantic meanings of slang used in *Black Eyed Peas'* *The Beginning* album
2. find out the implication of socio-semantic meaning in *Black Eyed Peas'* *The Beginning* album
3. find out the dominant type of slang used in *Black Eyed Peas'* *The Beginning* album

D. Scope of the study

To avoid overlapping and misleading understanding in analyzing a certain problem, it is important to limit the study itself to find out slang words used in Black Eyed Peas' *The Beginning* album.

E. Significances of the Study

The results of this research will be useful for:

1. For English Department students, the writer is expected that the students have better understanding about slang especially used in hip-hop songs as in *Black Eyed Peas' The Beginning* album
2. For the listeners, it will give benefits to them who are interested in this field to obtain deeper understanding in slang language
3. For other researchers, this thesis can be used as reference when they decide to discuss the same topic for their thesis.