

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter contains the definition of slang, the theory of slang types, slang functions, and social factors. Type of research, data, data source, method of collecting data, and method of analysing data are also included in this chapter.

2.1. Theoretical Framework

The definition and theories used for this study are described in this section. These are as follows:

2.1.1. Slang

Slang is a modern, informal language that often uses metaphors and ellipses, is considered to be less formal than formal speech, and has vocabulary and grammar that are often new or recently developed (Allan & Burridge, 2006). Another definition of slang stated by Spears (2007), slang is a broad term that includes a variety of informal terms that individuals use when they are not engaged in the production of edited writing in the context of official conversation. Meanwhile, Finegan (2008) states that slang is the language that is spoken in highly informal circumstances.

Based on the definitions mentioned earlier, the writer concludes that slang involves informal language that is frequently newly created or derived from standard speech, usually used in highly informal contexts.

2.1.2. Type of Slang Words

According to Allan and Burridge (2006) in the book *Forbidden Words: Taboo and the Censoring of Language*, there are five types of slang words:

1. Fresh and Creative (FaC)

Fresh and Creative slang created from words that are previously existed, but have new or different meanings and forms. For example: *sloshed*, *smashed*, and *soaked* are other words for *drunk* (Allan and Burridge, 2006).

2. Flippant (F)

Flippant slang is made of two or more words that don't have any relation to their literal meanings. According to Oktiviani et al (2023), the example of this slang type is *badass*. Each of the two words has a different meaning, but when the two words are combined, it is used to refer to something or someone we look up to or find impressive.

3. Imitative (I)

Imitative slang usually imitates another word, or combines two different words into one word with different meanings.

4. Acronym (A)

Acronym slang is created by taking the initial letters to make a new word. For example, *LOL* means *laughing out loud*; it takes the initial letter but still keeps the actual meaning.

5. Clipping (C)

Clipping slang created a new word by shortening a longer word but still keeping its original meaning. In the book, Allan and Burridge (2006) mentioned a few examples of clipping: *rent* for *parents*, *sec* for *seconds*, *prob* for *probably*, *bro* for *brother*, and *awes* for *awesome*.

2.1.3. Function of Slang Words

According to Allan and Burridge (2006) in the book *Forbidden Words: Taboo and the Censoring of Language*, there are seven functions of slang words:

1. To Address (TA)

To address means to call someone and create a friendly situation. People used slang to address someone with *buddy*, *mate*, *sis*, or *bro* to maintain their ties and show closeness.

2. To Form Intimate Atmosphere (TFI)

Slang functioning to develops an intimate atmosphere and shows relationship by using appealing and familiar terms, therefore improving

closeness. Communication can proceed more naturally when people use slang terms instead of known grammar and vocabulary.

3. To Initiate Relaxed Conversation (TIR)

Slang makes interaction more enjoyable, so it makes conversation feels more relax. Additionally, it encourages openness and helps one avoid discomfort while meeting new people. Its use in casual conversations improves engagement and enjoyment of communication.

4. To Express Impression (TEI)

Slang is used to improve sayings, adding extra meaning beyond the regular vocabulary. For example, the term *awes* (an acronym of awesome) expresses not only praise but also excitement and enthusiasm. Additionally, terms such as *lit*, *fire*, or *dope* enhance the positive perception of something, making it more remarkable.

5. To Reveal Anger (TRA)

Slang words are common in casual conversation when expressing displeasure or anger since people may turn to forceful or disrespectful language to more effectively describe one's emotion.

6. To Humiliate (TH)

Slang functions as a way for humiliation, especially through insults or derogatory speech. Verbal insults frequently focus on someone's physical attributes, mental abilities, status in society, or behavior.

7. To Show Intimacy (TSI)

Slang significantly strengthens emotional bonds and social intimacy. Friends, family, and romantic partners can use specific terms or exclusive jokes to express their connection. This form of language conveys trust and develops a connection between persons, making encounters more significant and personal.

2.1.4. Social Factors

According to Holmes (2013), social factors have an important role in identifying a particular kind of interaction. This relate to the participants, who are the users of language, the use of the language, the social setting and the function of the interaction. It is important to know about who is talking to whom, what is the context and topic behind the interaction, and where are they talking. In the book *An Introduction to Sociolinguistics*, Holmes (2013) stated that there are four key social factors:

1. The participants

This means who is involved in the conversation, who is speaking, and who is listening. Speakers often adjust their language use based on their relationship with the listener.

2. The setting

The context or location where the conversation happens. The way people use language at a party is different from the language they use at home.

3. The topic

When the conversation context is different, speakers may use different vocabulary or styles of speaking.

4. The function

This refers to the purpose of the interaction. Whether it's to inform, persuade, entertain, or express emotions.

2.2. Research Methods

In this section, the writer explained the methods applied in the study. The writer divides this section into four parts; type of research, data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analysing data.

2.2.1. Type of Research

According to Creswell (2018), qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. Hence, this study used qualitative research to analyse the data, which is the slang used by the teen characters in *13 Reasons Why* that relates with mental health, by using slang word types and functions theory by Allan and Burridge (2006) and social factors theory by Holmes (2013) theories.

2.2.2. Data and Data Source

The data used for this study includes the slang used by the teen characters in *13 Reasons Why* that relates with mental health. The data were collected from the television series *13 Reasons Why* Season 1 by Brian Yorkey on the streaming platform *Netflix*. Additionally, the writer has obtained the script of the series, which was also used for analysis. The data consisted dialogue of the teen characters that includes slang and has a mental health context.

2.2.3. Method of Collecting Data

The data for this study were collected by using observation and document analysis as suggested by Creswell (2018). The observation method is a method where the researcher watches and records behaviors, interactions, or events in a natural setting. While the document analysis method is the process of reviewing and interpreting written, visual, or digital materials (Creswell, 2018). The writer watched the movie to find the utterances of slang words, as well as collecting the

timestamps and contextual details of the conversation. In addition, the script was also used to closely observe the utterances of slang words the teen characters used. The data were also identified by using *Green's Dictionary of Slang* to verify the meaning of the slang.

2.2.4. Method of Analysing Data

After the data is collected, the writer applies the qualitative data analysis procedures as suggested by Creswell (2018). The steps are as follows:

1. Data review: Once collected, the data were reviewed by the writer to make sure of the accuracy of the data that have been collected through listening to the interactions of the characters by watching the movie, cross-checking using the transcriptions, and then looking deeper into the context before categorizing it into its type and analysing the function and social factor using Allan and Burrige (2006) and Holmes (2013) theories.
2. Data classification: The result of data review were identified and categorized by its type using Allan and Burrige (2006) classifications of slang word types, and then the writer used slang dictionary to look for the meaning of the term.
3. Data analysis: The classified types were described and explained in detail by using Allan and Burrige (2006) slang word functions theory and Holmes (2013) social factors theory.

4. Result presentation and conclusion: Finally, the writer presented the result of the analysis and conclude the study.