

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Bros is a queer movie released in 2022. It tells the story of Bobby Lieber and Aaron Shepard, two gay men in Manhattan, who both avoid commitment yet find themselves irresistibly drawn to each other. They met at a nightclub and started flirting with each other. Despite this, they soon became aware of the differences in their worldviews.

Aaron believed Bobby was too influential in the gay community, while Bobby felt Aaron acted too straight. This would later become the root of the conflicts in their relationship. However, over time, they opened up to each other and began to understand each other. They eventually recognized how important they were in each other's lives, leading them to reconcile and begin a better relationship.

One of the interesting aspects of the movie is the portrayal of Bobby Lieber. Bobby is a figure from the queer community who is proud and open about his sexuality, concealing nothing about his sexual identity. Moreover, his role as curator for the upcoming national queer history museum makes him a figure with high social standing and a major representative within his community.

Bobby's talkative and joking character brings out a lot of variety in his speech, especially speech used by a particular group, which in this case is the gay community. Several of Bobby's utterances show words used specifically within the gay community, commonly referred to as gay slang. This raised the writers'

interest to study more closely the slang words used by Bobby, especially since this movie realistically reflects the gay community in New York.

In sociolinguistics, language is one of the media for asserting group identity, one of which is through slang words (Eble, 2006). Each particular social group has a specific style of language that may only be known to members of the group. Trimastuti (2017) agreed with this statement that slang cannot be fully understood by people outside the community, because slang also functions as a form of closeness and solidarity among members of a particular social group. One social group that often displays a specific language is the gay community.

In the gay community itself, there are certainly specific terms for referring to things, as Burgess in Kulick (2000) said that gay people have their own language that cannot be understood by outsiders. It functions as a tool to strengthen the sense of belonging so that members of the gay community feel closer to each other and can express what they are experiencing or need together (Sonenschein in Kulick, 2000).

In addition, due to conservative society, gay people choose not to use the same vocabulary as the norm, which is why the meaning of gay slang often differs from the literal meaning (Istighfarna, 2024). Therefore, Leech's (1981) theory of seven types of meaning is used in this research to analyze the underlying meaning of gay slang.

Research on slang words has been conducted in numerous works of literature and in real life. However, research specifically on gay language is often found in real-life data, with few studies applying this theory to literary works.

Previous studies have often examined gay language and its meaning in real life. In literary works such as novels or movies, the use of gay language from a linguistic perspective, especially in terms of lexical aspects such as slang and its meaning, has not been widely studied. In fact, language in movies has great potential to shape public perceptions of gay identity.

In principle, the use of gay slang can be seen in literary works, especially in movies. Literary works observe events in the real world, which are then transformed into fiction and presented to society as a reflection of their behavior (Keerthika, 2018). This shows that literature and society have an inseparable relationship. Literature is always connected to society, because literature is born, used, and understood in a social context (Wellek & Warren, 1956). Literature reflects society by depicting its values and weaknesses and serves as a corrective mirror for social improvement (Duhan, 2015). This also occurs in movies, which also reflect social phenomena in the real world. Therefore, movies can be analyzed to see whether they reflect language use in reality.

Considering this problem statement, it is important to conduct research that analyzes gay slang in movies and the meanings communicated through those slang expressions, which has not been widely done in previous studies. Furthermore, it is even more critical to compare the result with the use of gay slang in real-life contexts. This comparison aims to analyze whether literary work, especially movie, reflects the use of language by the gay community in reality. In this research, the writer used a movie entitled *Bros* (2022) as a data source with

Bobby's utterances as a reference to see how gay slang is represented through his speech in the movie.

The writer finds that no research has been conducted on the phenomenon of gay slang in literary works such as movies, which is the main reason for pursuing this study. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the meanings conveyed through gay slang expressions in literary work, as well as comparing the result with existing real-life data to know whether it reflects the usage found in real-life contexts.

1.2. Research Problem

In accordance with the background of the study above, there are two questions regarding the research.

1. What types of meaning are conveyed by the gay slang expressions used by Bobby in the film *Bros* (2022)?
2. How do the meanings of gay slang expressions in the film *Bros* (2022) reflect the meanings used in real-life?

1.3. Objectives

Based on the research problem above, the goals that are intended to be achieved in this research is as follows

1. To analyze the meanings conveyed by those gay slang expressions based on Leech's (1983) types of meaning
2. To examine whether the meaning of gay slang expressions in the film *Bros* (2022) reflects the meaning used in real-life.

1.4. Previous Study

Several studies have already been conducted by previous researchers on slang and gay language, especially in the real world. However, the study of gay slang in literary works such as movies and its connection with the real world has not yet been found. The writer identified nine studies to aid in the development of this research. The first study discusses gay language register, two studies focus on identifying and analyzing gay slang, and two other studies focus on lavender language. The other study discussed slang in general, and the two final studies examined the type of meaning using Leech's (1981) type of meaning.

The first study examines the register in gay language by Istighfarna (2024). The study by Istighfarna (2024) analyzes gay registers on online dating apps and discusses its type of meaning. The method of this study uses case study method in obtaining the data. The findings show that gay register by gay people mostly in connotative meaning serves to protect the identity of gay people as a minority.

The next two studies focus on gay slang. The first study by Farahdila (2024) analyzes linguistic feature derivation and language used by homosexuals in Bali with data obtained from respondents. The results of this study provide a list of gay words, and it shows that gay language has various functions, such as secret language and community identity.

The second study that also focuses on gay slang is conducted by Putra (2019), which aims to identify slang used by gays in Padang, analyzes its social context and the reasons behind it. The data was obtained from interviews with

eight gay informants in Padang, with the results finding 104 data points with three types of gay slang used. In the social context, respondents mostly used gay slang when dealing with close friends, for the reason of distinguishing themselves as exclusive from other communities and to show solidarity among gay people.

Two other studies focus on lavender language. Those are the studies by Cantina (2020) and Renaldy (2021). The study by Cantina (2020) aims to analyze the features and functions of the language used by gay men on social media, especially from a morphological perspective. The data was obtained from Facebook posts by gay students at one of the universities in the Philippines. The results of this study show the morphological and linguistic function analysis of the gay language found.

On the other hand, the study by Renaldy (2021) takes a different approach by using Yule's (2010) speech function theory. The purpose of this study is to find the lavender lexicon and its meaning and function among gay people in Bali by interviewing five gay informants in Bali. The results of this study found ten lavender lexicon words that are influenced by the participant, topic, and function based on Yule's (2010) speech varieties theory.

Another study analyzed slang out of gay context but within the context of slang theory. Two relevant studies were found that discussed slang and its meaning using Leech's type of meaning theory, from Putra (2018) and Niswa et al. (2023). In Putra (2018), the data was obtained from movie scripts, while in Niswa et al. (2023) the data was obtained from online advertisements. Putra's (2018) results found 50 slang data, five types of slang were identified, along with

six types of meaning, with connotative meaning dominating. In Niswa et al. (2023), 5 types of meaning appeared, with denotative meaning dominating.

The final study the writer uses analyzes Leech's type of meaning theory. There are two studies from Martinius (2023) and Swarniti (2021). Martinius (2023) identifies the semantic meaning type in Emma Watson's speech taken from the United Nations YouTube channel, while Swarniti (2021) obtains data from comments on one of the Instagram posts on the @denpasarinfo account. Martinius (2023) found five types of meaning, with connotative meaning dominating, while Swarniti (2021) found six types, with connotative meaning dominating.

Based on the nine studies that have been found above and other studies that are not mentioned, since this study was written, no study has been found that analyzes specifically on gay slang in literary work. Most of the previous studies examined gay slang in the real world. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to fill that gap by analyzing the representation of gay slang in a movie and examine whether these meanings reflect the use of gay slang in real-life contexts. The other studies above were also used to help the writer in the preparation of this research.

1.5. Scope of the Study

Research studies that use sociolinguistics as a topic have been carried out a lot. This study also uses sociolinguistic topics, but to avoid widening the discussion, this study limits its analysis to language variation in relation to identity, particularly on the use of slang within the gay community.

In this study, the topic focuses on gay slang in *Bros (2022)*, as the movie centers on an openly gay main character who is very talkative and holds a

significant role in representing the gay community. Therefore, this study is limited to the utterances of Bobby as the main character of the movie *Bros* (2022).

1.6. Writing Organization

In this research, there are four parts used to explain woman's language analysis as follows

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This section divided into six sub-chapters, including the background of the study, research problems, objectives of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II: THEORY AND RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter describes the theory used in this research, including slang definition, Leech's (1981) types of meaning and literature and society theory. This chapter also explains the types of research, data and data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.

CHAPTER III: RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter explains the result by showing tables and describes the analysis of the data found. It also discussed the result found to answer the research question.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This chapter includes the complete summary of the entire research explained in the previous chapter.

