CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

The development of science and technology in Indonesia is increasing rapidly, as seen by the widespread use of social media. Moreover, most social media users are young because social media is becoming a new lifestyle for young people. Social media that is often used by young people today is Twitter. To Wikipedia, Twitter is a website owned and operated by Twitter Inc., which offers a social network that allows its users to send and read messages called tweets (tweets); Twitter is also used to share photos and videos by users as well as to take photos or videos and share them on various social networking services, including the social network Twitter itself. In the 21st century, social media Twitter has become a media that is in demand by many people, especially in Indonesia. Based on We Are Social data, there are 556 million Twitter users worldwide as of January 2023. Of these, 24 million Twitter users come from Indonesia. Indonesia ranks 5th out of the number of Twitter users, and the United States still occupies first place with 95.4 million users.

Thus, the influence of Twitter social media on society is enormous in Indonesia. Twitter's social media also greatly influences the use of language in it. Because besides photos and videos, users can also write text

as captions or write long text to upload or (tweet), so the use of language is also kept from social media Twitter. The more Twitter users, the more varied and growing the use of language will be. So, the use of language on social media is also not only seen from linguistic aspects but can be seen from the social interaction of the community. Therefore, theories or formulations regarding sociolinguistics from experts will be detached from the relationship between language and society.

Undeniably, there are always a variety of new languages commonly referred to as "current languages" that emerge from cyberspace communities or social media communities. However, the contemporary language in question is only the language used at a particular time, which can only be understood by certain groups, in this case, groups of social media users, mainly social media Twitter. Linguistic phenomena, as explained above, can be studied with sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics is a field of science that focuses on language in society, closely related to the use of language on Twitter and social media. It can be studied through language variations in sociolinguistics. Sociolinguistics pays attention to the use of language in a speaking community. Thus, sociolinguistics is an interdisciplinary field of science that studies language related to the use of language in society itself. (Chaer and Agustina 2010: 2). In sociolinguistics, linguistic phenomena on social media Twitter can be said to be a slang variation. According to Chaer and Agustina in Antoro (2018), slang variations are vocabulary created and used by particular social

groups to interact internally so that other people do not know about it. Words related to new ideas and habits of the people and one of these informal speech styles are used by almost everyone in the language. Its function is to keep conversations secret from outside the group, as well as to establish a close relationship between them (Prayogi, 2007: 2). Slang language is usually used by young people who still have a free spirit; this is because English slang has a non-binding form, seems simple and relaxed and not as stiff as formal English. Swandy (2017: 5) states that some people use slang in their daily lives to make communication more relaxed, easy, and not rigid, and it will affect intimacy in communication between friends.

In this study, language is studied in all activities, such as posts, comments, and messages uploaded or sent by users of Twitter social media accounts. The language used on Twitter social media is mostly one that is only understood by fellow users or in several groups contained in the application. As previously said, Twitter social media users globally reach 556 million, of which most users are teenagers or young people; almost all of the posts on the Twitter account are either in the form of images or only text in comments or messages containing slang.

The language used in Twitter social media also shows that the language is only used within a certain period. These Twitter account users show the development of the language of Twitter social media users and can only be understood by certain groups. The group of language users is a

group of Twitter social media users. Thus, variations of slang in the accounts of Twitter social media users can be studied using sociolinguistic studies by the language community, namely variations of slang, which will later be known as to the form and meaning of the slang used.

The word forms in this study were analysed based on the morphological or word-formation processes. It started from the form of the word clipping, blending, conversion, and others. Forming slang words is forming words derived from elemental forms, adding, subtracting, combining, shortening, and changing status. Such as the word "*lemme*" in slang is from the word "*let* and *me*" and then formed through a blending process by removing the last part of the first word and replacing the "*t*" letter with the '*m*' letter, and then combining it with the second word "*me*" and then become the word "*lemme*." And then, the word "mom" in slang results from the shortening process by removing the back part of the word "*mommy*" and has the same meaning as the literal word, and the word is included in the denotative meaning. Parena (2004) says that a language that lives and develops is a language that has denotative and connotative meanings. Communication between humans will be more meaningful with life and livelihood connotation meaning. The denotative meaning means natural and original meaning, and the connotative meaning means a natural meaning that gets different feelings, emotions, values, and certain stimuli. It is very relevant to the meaning of the word use of slang in all forms of posts, comments, and messages sent by Twitter social media

users, which are related to human communication and have individual or group sense of value. So, in this study, the meaning is analysed based on whether there is a practical value in a word/lexeme, namely denotative and connotative meanings.

There are several previous studies which had done related to the topic of the research. The first research was conducted by Rumagit (2019); the purpose of this study was to analyse the type of use of the English language by young people in Malang City using the Bloomfield theory, namely Abbreviations, Funny Misspelling, Shortened Form, and Interjection. The second research was conducted by Savitri (2021); in his research, researcher focused on the purpose of using slang. Researcher explained that slang could be used for several purposes, such as joking, relaxation, and contemporary, reducing the seriousness in communication or conversation and encouraging the inhibition of intimacy. The Third Research conducted by Arisandi ET, Al. (2021). This study explains the use of slang on Twitter, which focuses on the types of slang and the use of slang in addition to the English slang language in social media, namely the Indonesian slang language. The Fourth Research was conducted by Trimastuti (2017), which explains the use of slang in social media communication. Researcher explained that the social media that is often used is Facebook; this is because Facebook is a social media that is easy to communicate in the field of buying and selling (shop) or communicating with buyers online. Further research is conducted by Munawaroh (2019);

this study aims to analyse the relationship between the slang language used by American teenagers with age and the criteria for using slang. Then the next is research from Raditya (2021). This research focuses on the use of slang or *Alay* language on Twitter. This study found that slang is a more particular attraction, and the number of slang users by young people today, especially social media. Then, this research uses the Descriptive Qualitative method. Moreover, the latest research is research conducted by Chairiyah (2022). This research focuses on or aims to analyse the use of the hose on Twitter from a Gender Perspective. Namely, male users use the acronym slang more often, while female users use the imitative type more often. The difference between the Previous Study and this research is that First Previous Study only focused on the types of slang used in Malang City, not in social media, and displayed the data without more explanation. The second previous research focuses on the purpose of using slang only. Then the Third Previous Research focuses on the types of enslaved people contained in Twitter; this study found that the slang used was not only English slang, but there was also slang in Indonesian. Then the Fourth Previous Study focuses on using slang on social media, especially Facebook. Moreover, slang uses to facilitate communication between sellers and buyers (Online shop). Further research or previous research focused on the relationship between slang language used by US adolescents with age and criteria in the use of slang. Furthermore, the Sixth Previous Research focuses on using slang on Social Twitter only

without explaining the type or shape of the slang language. Then the last previous research focuses on gender perspective in using Twitter slang. Then from the entire previous study above, it was found that they used the qualitative research design with the descriptive qualitative. Moreover, the data was taken from observation, but there is no documentation that slang users use slang in their communication, especially slang language users on social media.

While researcher chose to examine the use of slang on Social Twitter by analysing the forms of the slang and the meaning of the slang words used by young people, and the meaning of each slang word based on the verbal context of the text and categories in connotative or denotative meaning. Then the researcher also explained a little about sociolinguistics, which should have been mentioned or explained in previous studies. Then in this study, researcher chose to use a qualitative research approach to collect data; with the data collection method, this study was included in the type of content analysis research that was different from previous studies.

Therefore, with the background that researcher write above, "*The Use of English Slang by The Youth on Twitter*." Moreover, researcher will analyse the use of slang by young people on social media Twitter. It will undoubtedly be a good point for all audiences because it is related to language variations that continue to develop so that researcher and readers can also know the meaning of the slang language that users use to

communicate daily on Twitter. And hopefully useful for English language lecturers, students, readers, and especially for researcher themselves.

B. Statement of Research Problem

1. What forms of slang do young people use on Twitter?

2. What is the meaning of the English slang words used by young people on Twitter?

C. Objectives of the Research

1. To know the slang forms used by young people on Twitter

2. To find out the meaning of slang words used by young people on Twitter

D. Significance of the Research

The researcher hopes that this study can contribute both theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretical

   The results of this study are expected to provide positive input or benefits to determine linguistic development. The author believes this research is helpful for sociolinguistics, in which the author discusses the forms of slang used by young people on Twitter and the meaning of the slang.

2. Practically

a. For readers

This research can provide readers with an understanding of the forms of English slang in social media, and the authors also hope that this writing can motivate other readers and writers to write further.

b. For others researcher

With these findings, the authors hope this research can be a reference in further research.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

This research focuses on the forms of slang used by young people on Twitter, then the meaning of the slang. Because the research uses a content analysis research design, the limitations of this study are that researcher only carry out the documentation to collect the data and refrain from conducting interviews with Twitter users who use slang to communicate. So, for data collection, the author will attach transcripts or documentation from the results of observations that researcher do.

F. Definitions of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding the terms and content of this research topic, the author must define the keywords contained in this research as follows:

1. *Slang* is an informal language used by members of specific communities. Here the communities are Twitter social media users

2. Twitter is a social networking service or can also be called an online microblogging that allows users to send, read and reply to text messages of up to 280 characters or what is known as a tweet.

3. Twitter social media users are Twitter users who upload and send messages, pictures, and videos.

4. Language variations are different forms of a language that still have patterns from their parent language.