CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents six topics related to the study, including: background of the research, statement of the research problems, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definitions of key terms.

A. Background of the Research

In the perspective of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), language is a form of social semiotics that is working in a situational context and cultural context, which is used both orally and in writing. According to Aristotle quoted by Larkin in her book '*Language in the Philosophy of Aristotle*' (1971), language is the combination of sounds called letters produced in voice by pharynx, lips, teeth, and tongue. Language is the expressions of meaning in words and is one of the ways for humans to communicate. Language has a great influence on culture and the fact that humans are social creatures who need each other to complement each other's needs by interacting, makes language is very important for human life.

According to the official Ethnologue website, in 2022, there are 1.453 billion English speakers in the world which includes speakers of English as a first language and a second language, which makes English the most spoken language today. '*Ethnologue: Languages of the World*' is a comprehensive reference work cataloging all of the world's known living languages. Since 1951, *Ethnologue* has been an active research project involving hundreds of linguists and other researchers around the world. It is widely regarded to be the most comprehensive source of information of its kind. Thus we cannot ignore the data from Ethnologue and it means that English has a

great influence on social life in the world as it become language with the most speakers.

There is a study of the relationship between language and society called sociolinguistic. Janet Holmes (2013) states that sociolinguistic examines why people speak differently in different social contexts and its also identify the social functions of language and the ways in which it is used to convey social meaning. Sociolinguistic comes from the words "socio" and "linguistic". Socio is the same as the word social, which is related to society. While linguistic is a field that studies and discusses language, especially the elements of language. Based on the previous understanding, sociolinguistic also studies and discusses aspects of social language, especially the differences in language related to social factors.

Slang word is a part of sociolinguistic that we often encounter in social life. Many people spontaneously use slang words to express their thoughts, especially teenagers. According to Allan and Burridge (2006), slang is contemporary or colloquial type of language, considered stylistically inferior to standard formal, and even polite informal. Slang is a number of words or terms that have special, unique, deviant or even contradictory meanings when used by people from certain subcultures. In addition, Janet Holmes (2013) state that slang is the typical language of teenagers (the words are changed in such a way, so that only understandable among them) which will sound strange when spoken by adults, and these words are constantly changing and increasing almost every day. The two definitions complement each other. The first definition only explains that slang is a language that has a unique term, while the second definition makes it clear that those who use the language are mostly teenagers and the language will continue to develop.

With the development of technology, everything can be accessed easily. Through this intermediary, the popularity of slang words has also increased. It can be found on social media, songs, books, magazines, webtoons, and also in movies, especially movies that use English as the language, such as American movies.

Movie or also called as film is a popular source of entertainment for all ages. It has a variety of story plots and genres that appeal to viewers while also helping the spread of slang words. Hornby (2006) states that movie is a series of moving picture recorderd with sound that tells a story and shown at television or at cinema. In addition, movie is a media in the form of videos that are started or produced in real ideas, so movies must support elements of entertainment and moral values. Because there is an element of entertainment in it, movie becomes a strong magnet for people to watch it, since movie provides various genres and story plots. Thus, movie is a good medium for the audience to know the culture from which the movie originates and also the slang words spoken in the movie.

People can learn a lot of slang words by watching movies, especially teenagers and children who tend to imitate the conversations of their favorite actor or actress in movies. Unfortunately, there are also movie lovers who do not understand the slang used in a movie. They often misunderstand that slang has no type and slang that sounds 'rude' is only used to express anger and nothing else, so that the true meaning of the film does not reach the audience. Therefore, in order to avoid misunderstandings, the researcher analyzes the slang words used in movies, especially its types and functions so that people know that slang consists of different types and that slang also has various functions.

In the movie, there are characterizations that are formed to make a plot more interesting. The character is the most influential role in a play because it plays a very important role. Without character there will be no story and without character there will be no plot. The dissimilarity of character will cause conflict which eventually creates a story. Richard Barsam (2004) divides story characters into major characters and minor characters. The major character is the most widely told character, both as the perpetrator of the incident and the subject of the incident. Because plots depend on conflict, major characters are often further described as: protagonist (the main character of a story) and antagonist (the primary opponent of the protagonist). While the minor character is a character who does not have a central position in the story and does not appear very often. Based on the explanation, we know that the main character has a very important role and appears most often in a play, such as in a movie. Because of its frequent appearances, no wonder that the main character sticks in the people's memory, whether it is their character or the words they said in the movie. According of this, the researcher focus more on searching for slang words spoken by the main characters in the movie. The movie that will be used to conduct this research is "*Avengers: Endgame*".

There are several reasons why the researcher chose "*Avengers: Endgame"* movie : first, this movie is a USA production which of course uses English as its language. Second, this movie has a very good storyline that it gets so much attention and a high rating of 8.4/10 on IMDb (Internet Movie Database) by 1,1 million people and rated 94% on Rotten Tomatoes (the world's most trusted recommended source for quality entertainment) by 555 people. Third, the film grossed $2.798 billion (about Rp 38,1 trillion) worldwide in eleven days and broke numerous box office records, including being the highest-

grossing film of all time from July 2019 to March 2021. It received a nomination for Best Visual Effects at the 92nd Academy Awards, in February 9th 2020. And the last reason, even though "*Avengers: Endgame*" was released in 2019, it is not the final movie from Marvel. There are still more movies to be produced and thus, it is possible that there will be new Marvel fans. As new fans, they will surely explore previous Marvel films such as "*Avengers: Endgame*". Not only new fans, there are also many old fans who re-watch Marvel films while waiting for the next film to be produced. So, it can be sure that "*Avengers: Endgame*" will still have viewers from time to time.

Apart from the background and problems that have been described, previous study is also an important thing that makes researcher conduct this research. Because slang words are often encountered nowadays in daily life, it is not surprising that other researchers are interested in this phenomenon so that several previous studies have been found by the researcher.

The first previous research was an article entitled "*Slang Words Used in Movie Script 'Harold and Kumar go to White Castle'*" by I Made Yudhi Putrawan, I Nengah Sudipa, and Ni Wayan Sukarini in 2020. They used descriptive qualitative method in their research, used movie as the research subject, and used theory from Allan & Burridge about the function of slang words which are also used in this study. The difference lies in one of the research problems where they look for types of meaning from slang words based on Leech's theory while researchers look for functions of slang based on Allan and Burridge's theory. In addition, the researcher focused more on finding slang words spoken only by the main characters. As the results of the research conducted by Putrawan et al., there are four types found in the movie, that are; *fresh and creative, imitative, flippant,* and *clipping*—with *flippant* being the most-used slang. Based on the

theory used by them, there are seven types of meaning but only six types are found in the research they are; *conceptual meaning*, *connotative meaning*, *social meaning*, *collocative meaning*, *reflected meaning*, and *affective meaning*. The most types of slang meaning found in the movie script is affective meaning type.

The second previous study was a thesis entitled "*An Analysis of Slang Words Used in Social Network Movie*" written by Fika Nurmamlu'atul Khoiriah in 2021. Khoiriah used descriptive qualitative method in her research, used movie as the research subject, and used theory from Allan & Burridge about the function of slang words which are also used in this study. The difference lies in the theory used about the types of slang words where Khoiriah uses the theory from Yule while the researcher uses the theory from Allan and Burridge. In addition, the researcher focused more on finding slang words spoken only by the main characters. As the results of the research conducted by Khoiriah, she observed twenty five slang words collected based on slang theory, regarding the kinds of word formation process found in The Social Network movie. Her study also identifies the function of slang words used by the character in The Social Network movie based on Allan and Burridge's theory, it can be concluded that there are five types functions of slang found in The Social Network movie.

The third research was previously conducted by Syariful Wahib with the title "*An Analysis Of Slang Words Used By Game Community On Comments Of Shroud's Youtube Channel*". Based on research conducted by Wahib, the similarities in this study are in the method used that is descriptive qualitative and also both use Allan and Burridge's theory to find types and functions of slang contains in the primary source. The difference lies in the research subject where he uses comment from a Youtubers

channel while the researcher uses movie. The result of the research that Wahib found there are five type of slang employed by game community in this YouTube channel. They are fresh and creative, flippant, imitative, acronym, and clipping. There are 12 Fresh and Creative, 7 Flippant, 15 Imitative, 37 Acronym, and 29 Clipping. He also found five functions of slang from seven functions. There are 9 slang words which have function to address, 57 slang words which have function to initiate relax conversation, 22 slang words which have function to show impression, 6 slang words which have function to humiliate, and 6 slang words which have function to reveal anger.

The fourth and the last previous study was conducted by Gabrielle Sarah Maria Tanamal, I Wayan Juniartha, Ni Nyoman Deni Ariyaningsih entitled "*An Analysis of Slang Words in Song Lyrics by Travis Scott on Astroworld Album*". There is a similarity and several differences in their research and this research. Descriptive qualitative are both used as research methods. While the differences lies in the research problem and theory used where Tanamal et al., only identify types of slang words using Yule's theory. The data collection technique is observation while this study uses the documentation method. In addition, the primary resource used is different, namely song lyrics from Travis Scott on the Astroworld album. The result of Tanamal et al. research is that the researcher found 20 types of slang words such as 2 of coinage, 0 data of borrowing, 3 data of compounding, 4 data of blending, 5 data of clipping, 0 data of back formation, 2 data conversion, 1 data of acronym, 0 data derivation, and 4 data for the multiply process. The most used type is clipping and the least used type are borrowing, back formation, and derivation.

The previous studies share differences and similiarities with this study, whether in terms of theory, method, problem formulation, or the primary data used. In this study, the researcher encouraged to analyze the phenomena in the final project entitled ***Slang Words Used by Main Characters in "Avengers: Endgame" Movie***.

B. Statement of Research Problems

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher defined the research question as follows:

1. What types of slang words are used by the main characters in "*Avengers: Endgame*" movie?
2. What functions of slang words that used by the main characters in "*Avengers: Endgame*" movie?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the focus of the study above, the purpose of the research will be focused on:

1. To identify the types of slang words that used by the main characters in "*Avengers: Endgame*" movie.
2. To identify the functions of slang words that used by the main characters in "*Avengers: Endgame*" movie.

D. Significance of the Research

The result of this study is expected can be useful for English teaching and learning process theoretically and practically.

- **Theoretical**

  This research is to enrich the reader knowledge about slang language, especially reader can understand the meaning of slang because it can improve their vocabulary, and to help the next researcher who analyze about slang.

- **Practical**
    a. Readers

    This research is research based on film from a country with different culture from Indonesia, so the researcher hope that readers can increase their knowledge about foreign cultures and become more culturally aware after reading this research. The researcher also hopes that this research can be useful for readers to provide knowledge about slang words and can be used as additional knowledge in sociolinguistic.

    b. Teachers

    This research is intended to help lecturers who teach about sociolinguistics, especially slang.

    c. Students

    This research is expected to be able to increase students' knowledge about vocabulary other than Standard English, namely slang words.

    d. Researchers

    This research is expected to give references for further study about sociolinguistic especially slang words.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

Every analysis needs limitation in order to make the analysis not go far from the topic of discussion and make the analysis focus on what being discussed. There are many kind of sociolinguistic used in daily lives. The thesis is going to focus on one of them, that is slang words. To make the discussion more specific, the topic will be limited about slang words types and functions stated by Allan & Burridge (2006) that used by main characters in "*Avengers: Endgame*" (2019) movie.

F. Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity of terms which will be used, the researchers give the definition of key term, as follows :

1. Sociolinguistic

    The researcher hopes that this research would be useful for the readers to give them new knowledge about slang word and it can be used as additional knowledge in sociolinguistics.

2. Slang

    Slang is the typical language of teenagers that can be understood by almost all of them who are reached by the mass media, even though the terms are developing, changing and increasing almost every day. It is often used nowdays through social media or even daily lives.

3. Movie

    Movie has a definition as an audio-visual communication medium that not only provides entertainment, but also offers information, and can even touch the emotions of the audience. Film is an audio-visual media that combines narrative and cinematic. The narrative element itself is related to the theme, while the cinematic element is the plot or story line that runs from the beginning to the end.

4. Main Character

    The main character is a character who has an important role in a story. This character is the character who is told the most, both as the perpetrator of the incident and the subject of the incident.

5. *Avengers: Endgame* Movie

    Avengers: Endgame is a 2019 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics superhero team the Avengers. This superhero film is a blend of several genres, including: action, adventure, fantasy, and sci-fi. Produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures in 2019.