

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Humans use language as a tool or medium for communication because language can convey intentions and goals. In social life, there must be a language used. With the existence of diverse societies and the use of languages that are also different, varieties in languages emerge. In other words, the variety of languages is created by heterogeneous societies and their varied activities. Certain factors cause language diversity or language variation. Factors such as a large number of speakers, the prestige of language, literacy, and the literary status of a language are the factors that influence the diversity in languages (Crystal, 2000).

Language varies according to the speakers and the use. It continues to evolve as society develops. One example is slang, a variety of seasonal and spoken language in informal situations. This variation is used by certain circles, which is very limited and unknown for those who are not from that circle.

One of the circles that has its own language variations is the transwomen in Semarang City. They use slang that is only known by them. The language is unique and confidential because laypeople do not know the meaning. Since it is confidential, the vocabulary is constantly

changing. They create their own vocabularies only understood by the community. The aim is to prevent others in the community from understanding their conversation or can be said as a secret language.

The research conducted by Hardiyanto (2006), "The Analysis of Affixation Processes in Vocabulary Language," and this research are discussing the slang language by LGBT members. However, the previous study only discussed how to form the slang used by gays and transwomen related to the morphological linguistic branch, while this research focuses on the meaning of slang words only by transwomen. Another difference between these two studies lies in the participants. In the research conducted by Hardiyanto (2006), the participants are gays and transwomen aged 35-45 years while the participants in this research are only transwomen (regardless of their sexual orientation), not limited to their age-as long as they stay in Semarang and use a variety of transwomen languages. Furthermore, the study written by Hardiyanto (2006) discusses all of the affixation processes used in gay language, it includes prefix, infix, and suffix. He finds that the affixation process is influenced and attached to the affixes created by gays and transwomen, which are basically from Indonesian and Javanese roots. He also finds that the attachment of the affixes—prefix, infix, suffix, have changed the place of the original phonemes of Indonesian and Javanese words to be attached when converted into gay language.

The reason why the writer chose slang used by the transwomen community in Semarang as the object of this research is that they are a community that uses creative word forms. The vocabulary used is a pun and/or a combination of words that come from Indonesian, regional languages, the brand of an item, even the names of fruits and animals such as Sundari Sukoco which means *sundal* (whore) and Bodrex which means *bodoh* (stupid). Sundari Sukoco is the name of a famous Indonesian keroncong singer who had also taught as an art teacher at SMA N 38 Jakarta, while Bodrex is a brand of medicine. Therefore, this research gains relevance in finding out the slang words used by the transwomen community in Semarang.

## **1.2. FIELD OF THE STUDY**

This research is related to the field of Sociolinguistics.

## **1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The scope of the study is slang in society, which focuses on the language variety used by the transwomen in Semarang.

## **1.4. PROBLEM FORMULATION**

According to the background of the study above, the writer formulates problems related to this research:

1. What are the slang words used by the transwomen community in Semarang?
2. What are the meanings of the slang words used by the transwomen community in Semarang?

### **1.5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

With regards to the problems mentioned, this research is conducted to achieve the following objectives:

1. To explore the slang words used by the transwomen community in Semarang.
2. To analyze the meaning of the slang words used by the transwomen community in Semarang.

### **1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The writer hopes that the result of this research entitled *An Analysis of the Slang Words Used by the Transwomen Community in Semarang* can give advantages and helpful for English Department students, especially in the Faculty of Language and Arts, Soegijapranata Catholic University, Semarang who are interested in slang words so they can increase their knowledge in the field of linguistics, especially in studies regarding slang language specifically transwomen slang, and to provide knowledge and understanding which comprehensive information about transwomen slang

in Semarang for further research and as a basis for the preparation of a simple dictionary that contains a list of transwomen lexicon language.

## **1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

### **a. Jargon**

According to Southerland and Katamba (1997), jargon is a part of speech variety that is formal and only used by a group of people related to specific jobs or interests without any confidentiality.

### **b. Slang**

According to Southerland & Katamba (1997), slang is a label that is usually used to show certain informal or faddish usage of most people in the speech community.

### **c. Transgender**

Referring to Merriam Webster Dictionary (2004), is a term to describe a person who has a different gender identity or gender expression than the gender assigned to them.

### **d. Transsexual**

Referring to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010), transsexual is a person who feels emotionally that they want to live, dress, etc. as a member of the opposite sex and wants a medical assistance to change their sexual organs.

### **e. Transwoman**

Based on Merriam Webster Dictionary (2004), a transwoman is a term to define a transgender woman; they are assigned as a male at birth.

**f. Gay**

Referring to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2010), gay is a term to describe people (especially men) who are sexually attracted to other people of the same sex.

