CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is essentially important in human life as a means of communication. By communication, people easily can share information, express their ideas and interact with others. Furthermore, we can understand a language by means of meaning. Everyone who knows a language can understand what is said to him or her, and can produce string of words that conveys meaning. In linguistic, the study that relates to meaning is called semantics. Fromkin (1983:166) states that semantics is the study of linguistics meaning. While according to Goddard, semantics is the study of meaning, stand at the very centre of the linguistic quest to understand the nature of language abilities. Semantics is one of the branches of linguistics studying about the meaning, and it is considered as a major branch of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning in language (Crystal, 1999:310). Semantics is also at the centre of the study of human mind-though process, cognition and conceptualization, all these are intricately bound up with the way which we classify and convey out experience of the words through language.

When we study language in school or college, teachers usually teach us the standard language. As we know, it is usually used in formal situation, for instance, in meeting seminar, etc. It is very different when we got into the society or the real community of the language. People usually use non standard language for the informal situation. One of non-standard language we usually find is slang.
Eble (1996:1) said that slang is an ever changing set of colloquial words and phrases that speakers use to establish or reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large. Hornby (1974:807) states that slang is words, phrases, meanings of words, commonly used in talk among friends or colleagues, but not suitable for good writing or formal occasions, especially the kind used by and typical of only one class of persons. The use of slang causes people to feel more intimate with one another while they are communicating.

Slang is usually popular among teenagers and adults. Slang is often used in daily life conversation. The phenomenon happened around us such as in chatting, direct conversation, or in other social network media. It is seen when teenagers try to use slang in talking to other people, some of them do not really understand the meaning of the slang word itself. They used it just because of hearing from other people or just get the influence of dialect action from movie or songs. This phenomenon has emerged because slang uses highly informal words and expressions that are not considered to be standard language. Thus, either adults or teenagers prefer to use it because it tends to be casual and does not have any grammatical rules. Slang is used only by particular group of people in certain territory for particular purposes. It can be seen from teenagers that use slang to create identity in order to be different from adult Afro-American people. They use slang to distinguish them from white people. Sometimes the slang words are not understood by people who are not familiar with them.

Nowadays, the use of slang is getting more globalized in reality, people often use slang words in instant messaging by using short-formed words when sending message. Moreover slang is also used in America or English movies especially
movies that focused on gangster or teenagers lives. The ‘Paul’ is one of movies that use slang words. In this movie, there can be found some slangs used by the characters in communication. It is viewed that the use of slang among the characters in this movie, beside easy to say it because it refers to simple forms but also reflects the intimate situation.

This study concerns with investigating the lexical and contextual meaning and the semantic change’s type of slang that might appear in the script of ‘Paul’ movie. The contextual meaning is the meaning it has in the situation in which it is used. Here the example of lexical and contextual meaning of slang used in Paul Movie Script;

A: They think they're so cool.

**GRAHAM**

B: Hey, are you excited about going to Area 51?

**CLIVE**

C: Hell yes.

The word ‘Hell’ in the utterance above is a slang word. Based on the context, the real meaning of ‘Hell’ has changed into new different meaning. Lexically ‘Hell’ means the place believed to be the home of devils and where bad people go after death. Meanwhile in the context of Paul movie script above ‘Hell’ means a phrase
indicating agreement or support. The new meaning of ‘Hell’ is broader than its real meaning.

By looking at the slang words of Paul movie script above, some people who use English as a second or foreign language may get confused in comprehending the meaning of the script, since the slang words have the specific meaning.

Departing from the argumentation above, the study of slang language in ‘Paul’ movie script is very interested how are the characters, especially the teenagers play the role in acting that reflected in their communication by using American slang.

1.2 Problem of the Study

The problems of this study are the contextual and lexical meaning and the less or more dominant type of semantic change of the slang words used “Paul” Movie Script.

1. What is the lexical and contextual meaning of slangs used in ‘Paul’ movie script?
2. What is the most dominant slang word used in ‘Paul’ movie script?
3. What is the type of semantic change that has less or more dominant for the slang used in ‘Paul’ movie script?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problems mentioned above the objective of the study are:
1. To identify the lexical and contextual meaning of slang found in ‘Paul’ movie script.
2. To identify the most dominant slang word used in ‘Paul’ movie script
3. To identify the type of semantic change of the slang in ‘Paul’ movie script.

1.4 Scope of the Study

According to Moleong (2001:65), the scope of the study is the most determining step in the qualitative research. It is important to restrict the problem because it helps the Researcher in analyzing the data. Therefore, the writer focuses on slang word found in “PAUL” movie script.

1.5 Significances of the Study

The writer chooses the topic relating to the analysis of slang word used in ‘Paul’ movie script. Through this study, the writer hopes that the readers, especially American English learners can get more understanding about American slang, and its meaning. Moreover, the writer hopes the readers can understand some American slang found in American movie. The writer also wants the readers to understand slang when they are with the users of American slang. This study is also aimed to encourage people to conduct more research on slang used by other communities and to collect more documents about slang. Besides that, this study can be used as an additional reference for other students who are interested in studying further about slang, especially American slang.