CHAPTER II

Review of Literature

This chapter presents the theories that support the study. In this study, the researcher use lexical and contextual meaning and semantic change theory to analyze the slang found in *Paul* Movie Script. There are also previous studies about semantic analysis of slang done by a former student, which will be stated after the main theory and supporting theories.

2.1 Review of Literature

2.1.1 Semantics

Fromkin (1999:151) says that for thousands years, philosophers have been pondering the meaning of meaning, yet speakers of a language can understand what is said to them and can produce strings of words that are meaningful to other speakers. He also states that semantics is the study of the linguistic meaning of morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences. To understand language, people study semantics because they need to know the meaning of words and the morphemes that make the meaning of words combine into phrase and sentence meaning. They must interpret the meaning of utterances in the context in which they are made. The study of meaning is much needed for those who want to be good speaker or writer to communicate better in their daily life activities. Leech (1997:9) stated that semantics (as the study of meaning) is central to the study of communication becomes more and more a crucial factor in social organization, the need to understand it becomes more pressing. Semantics is not only the center of communication study, but also the center of the study of the human mind-though processes, cognition and
conceptualization all these are intricately bound up with the way in which people classify and convey people’s experiences of the world through language.

Palmer (1981:1) stated that semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning, and since meaning is a part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics. In addition, he stated that ‘meaning’ here covers a variety of aspects of language and there is no general agreement about the nature of meaning, what aspects of it may properly be included in semantics, or the way in which it should be described.

In conclusion, semantic is the study of meaning in language which is only concerned with the meaning, but also other relationships of meaning, including language and cultures.

2.1.2 Kind of Meaning

Semantics concerns with aspects of meaning in language. There are certain kinds of meaning, such as lexical meaning, philosophical meaning, contextual meaning, grammatical meaning, sentence meaning, descriptive meaning, expressive meaning and social meaning. In this study the writer focuses on the theory of meaning that is related with this study that is the lexical meaning and contextual meaning.

2.1.3Lexical meaning

The meaning of words or lexical meaning is a part of linguistic knowledge and is therefore a part of the grammar. Lexical meaning is usually considered as
being the meaning of word. Samsuri (1987:14) stated that “Lexical meaning is the meaning of word itself beyond the sentences composition. So the meaning of words will be changed when the words are put in the sentence”. According to Lyons (1984:140) lexical meaning is a meaning described in the lexicon or dictionary. In addition, he also said that lexical meanings are the meaning of a word or sentence which upon the meaning of its constituent lexemes.

2.1.4 Contextual Meaning

Contextual meaning is the meaning of words according to the situations in which they are used (Lyons: 1984:143). Different situations give different meaning. On the other hand, in the particular situations the sentences will be equal in meaning. In addition, contextual meaning is also defined as the information signaled about the kind of use a linguistic unit has in its social context (Crystal, 1991: 79).

Simon and Schuster (1982: 10) state that context is the interrelated condition in which something exists or occurs. Longman (1992: 275) says that “context means the part of speech of words and the things denote”. It can be said that contextual meaning have meaning according to the text. It involves the function of word in sentence formation since different arrangement of the same word can convey different context. So, we can conclude that the contextual meaning is the meaning of the words according to the situation in which they are used. Different situation may give different meaning in a sentence.

For example;

- Hair on my grandfather’s head is white
- As head officer, she has to be on time.
2.1.5 Semantic changes and types

According to Fromkin and Rodman (1983:297), semantic change is a change in one of the meanings of a word that may expand or replace the original meaning of words in the process by either elevating the value of the word or lowering it. The meaning of words can also be shifted as they are borrowed from one language into another as it happened in the term formulation (Palmer 1981:2-5).

There are many factors why semantic changes occur. Generally, the meaning of a word change when the context is altered .According to Palmer (1981:9-13), the meaning of a word can be changed because of the following factors:

1. Happening by chance.
   The meaning of a word is happening by chance and there is almost no meaning relation found between new and old words. For example, the word “money” in English refers to what you earn by working or selling things and use to buy things (Oxford Learner’s Dictionary 2002:172), while the word “moneo” in Latin refers to a warning.

2. Needs of new meaning
   The meaning of a word is changed as it needs new meaning. Discoveries have caused human to be creative in giving names to new objects. The names are usually taken from available words whether from a language inside or outside community. For example, originally the word “close” in Oxford Learner’s Dictionary (2002:234) means to cover something over, to stop operating or near,
while the compound word “close up” in film making terms refers to a photograph or a picture in a film or taking a very close of something to show the detail.

3. Scientific words

The meaning of a word is changing when it is used as scientific words. Scientific words are indeed taken from everyday vocabularies but they are used to explain something a bit different from the common idea. For example, the word “lens” refers to a curve piece of glass that makes things look larger (Oxford Learner’s Dictionary 2002:768), while the word “lens” in film making term refers to a part of camera where light pass through before hitting the film stock (Kamus Istilah Film Populer 2009:55).

4. Taboo

The meaning of a word is changing when it is used as a taboo word. Some tabooed words can lead their replacing words to receive additional meaning. For example, the word “Rest Room” is not a place to take a rest, but it is euphemism of Water Closet a place to defecate or wash and arrange your hair (Oxford Learner’s Dictionary 2002:1422)

Some of linguists define several of semantic changes from their two perspectives. These are types of semantic changes that are stated by Palmer (1981:8-9):

1. Generalization

It happens when the meaning of a word is broadening to include new concepts. The range of its meaning increases, so that the word can be used in
various contexts with a broader meaning than its neutral one. Generalization often refers to all items in a class, rather than one specific item. For example, the original meaning of the word “take” means to carry or to move something from one place to another (Oxford Advanced Learner), while, the word “take” in film making term means the act of photographing a scene or a part of a scene without interruption.

2. Specialization

This is the opposite of generalization. It occurs when the meaning of word is narrowed into the same class. The range of its meaning is decreased, so that a word can be used only in fewer contexts than before is reshaped under the pressure of another word that had frequently co-occurred with it. For example, in the sentence “Legion is a good film that will be released on June 2010”, the word “film” refers to a series of moving pictures recorded with sound that tells a story. However, in the sentence “Be careful with this film”, it will be used to capture an image”, the word “film” in film making terms refers to a thin sheet or a strip of developed photographic negatives or transparencies.

3. Pejoration

It is a process by which a word meaning is worsens or degenerates, coming to represent something less favorable than it originally did. For example, the word “blue” refers to a kind of color and it has positive meaning., but when it is added with word “film” in final position, the
compound word “blue film” means porn or adult movie which has negative meaning.

4. Amelioration

It is a process by which the meaning of word improves or becomes elevated, coming to represent something more favorable than it originally refers to. For example, in the sentence “The police shoot three of robbers in front of bank”, the word “shoot” means to shoot something with a gun. It has terrifying sense of hurting or killing someone. However, in the sentence “The cameraman starts to shoot the object of film on medium long shot”, the word “shoot” in film making terms means making a film or photographing something. In this sentence, the word “shoot” does not has a terrible sense as it is in the former sentence.

2.1.6 Variety of Language

Some facts about languages are that they are always changing over time, different between one another, and have a lot of varieties. The language variation exist because of the use of single language which is different within a single community, such as men do not speak like women, and older people do not speak like younger people. Trudgill (1983:100) stated “Language, in other words, varies not only according to social characteristics of the speaker (such as his social class, ethnic group, age, and sex). The same speaker uses the different linguistics varieties in different situation and different purposes”.

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a) Dialect

Dialect is one variety of language. According to Trudgill (1983:17) dialect is defined as the differences between kinds of language in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. “Dialect refers to all the differences between varieties of language, those in pronunciation, word usage, and syntax” (Chaika, 1982:132). On the level of vocabulary or word usage, for example, American English called the underground railway as “subway” while British English use the term “underground”. And “corn” which means “maize” in the U.S., Canada, and Australia, “wheat” in England, and “oats” in Scotland. Even though dialects of the same language are different, it still has common point of features.

b) Register

Different professional and different group may develop distinctive vocabularies. Ferguson in Wardhaugh, (2002:51) says that people participating in recurrent communication situations tend to develop similar vocabularies, similar features of intonation, and characteristic bits of syntax and phonology that they use in this situation. Wardhaugh (2002:51) defines the term register as sets of language item related with discrete occupational or social group. By using register, people can express their identity at a specific time or place.

c) Jargon

Jargon is special or technical words used by a particular group or people. What “Jargon” then appears to mean is: it is technical, in-group
language as seen by non-technical out-group members. One person’s jargon seems to be another person’s technical vocabulary. Many jargon terms pass into standard language. Jargon, like slang, spreads from narrow group until it is used and understood by large segment of the population.

d) Style

People speak in different ways, formally or informally, according to the situation and the circumstances. Ceremonial occasions require very formal speech, public lectures somewhat less formal, casual conversation quite informal, and conversation between friends may be extremely informal and casual. Speech varies with the situation; different situation requires different style of speech. Style refers to the selection of linguistics forms to convey social or artistic effects. Style is also as set of instructions. The message it conveys is not normally conveyed in words (Chaika, 1982:29).

e) Slang

Slang is an ever changing set of colloquial words and phrases that speaker use to establish or reinforce social identity or cohesiveness within a group or with a trend or fashion in society at large. The existence of vocabulary of this short within a language is possibly as old as language itself, for slang seems to be part of any language used in ordinary interaction by a community large enough and diverse enough to have identifiable subgroups.

The origin of word slang is unknown. It’s resemblance in sound and figurative meaning. Slang as linguistic phenomenon is universal. It can be
found in any language. It is a kind of very colloquial and extremely word style (Fengjian, 1987: 43), therefore slang is used in informal environments and avoided in formal setting, like in the work or the classroom. This is because the use of slang in such circumstances (in the formal situation) could result that the speaker will be evaluated negatively.

Although slang is for informal situations and environments, it can be used for many purposes. In writing, it possesses characteristic such as novel conception, rich image and lively humor (Zhongshouman, 1995: 120). Generally slang expresses a certain emotional attitude, the same term may express different attitude when it is used by different people. Some slang words are primarily derogatory, although they may also be ambivalent when they are used in intimacy or affection. Because slang is in the area of fundamental emotions, slang become the most changeable and most productive language (Britanica, 1959: 767). Slangs are often invented to fit particular situation at a given moment, such as wetback and flop. In American English wetback describes a Mexican agricultural worker who enters the united states illegally by swimming across the Rio Grande, and flop has meaning “to flap around loosely”. Some slang words are essential because there are no word in standard language which express the exact meaning, such as rubberneck that refers to the people who are curious to go where the crowds are. Besides it can be used to express emotions, slang can be used to give identification for definite social group. People belonging to the same social group of the same trade, profession, hobby, age, or social position-tend to behave in the same way. This behavior influences not only the clothes they wear, but also the language they use. The language of a social group,
particularly slang, is one of several forms of behavior that keeps the ground distinct from other groups (Britanica, 1959: 766). One of the commonest social grouping is that of people who work together, like student have *lab* (the clipped form of laboratory) and *gym* (the clipped form of gymnasium), and the second hand car dealers have *creampuffs* (excellent car).

At the same time, slang is being seriously studied by linguist and other social scientist as a revealing index to the culture that produces and uses it. According to the scientific view, slang is part of natural growth of language. A living language must continually change, and some of the changes first appear as slang. Some slangs make the language capable of giving new and delicate shades of meaning to words or add vividness, clarity, and directness to everyday expression (Britanica, 1959: 767). Slang has probably always existed and probably always will exist, in all languages at all times (Pei, 1967: 189).

This thesis is used Eble’s theory to explain about the slang word and phrase. The theory of Lyons is used to find the lexical and contextual meaning. Palmer’s theory is used to explain about the semantic problem especially about the type of semantic change.

### 2.2 Relevant Studies

Actually the writer is not the first who analyze English or American slang word. First, the study of American English slang word has been conducted by graduated students of English literature faculty of Petra Christian University. The first research belongs to Handayani Wangi (2004) in her research “*The Study of the English slangs*
and the processes that form them in “sugar & and spice” movie”. She describes the formation process of the slang words and found out the most frequent process used in those slang. Second, the study of American slang word has been conducted by graduated students of Humanities Faculty of Diponegoro University, Semarang. They have the same topic but it is different in using theory and has different object to discuss it. This second research belongs to Septika. S. Tobing (2010) in her research “Semantic change and meaning shift analysis on film making terms”. She describe the types of semantic change in film-making terms.

Based on the previous study above, the writer is interested in doing the same research concerning to the use of American slangs words in Movie Script, but is different. This study is meant to develop the absence of the topic. It is to identify the characteristic of slang and to describe the lexical meaning of slang word used in movie script.