2. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SLANG

2.1 What is Slang

Slang is casual spoken language which differs from dialectical speech and jargon as well as formal speech. Some linguists think of it as the sprinkles of color in a language, since it is often unique, unusual, and sometimes startling. As a general rule, slang is not used in formal spoken language, or in writing, unless the speaker is attempting to achieve a deliberate effect.

Kis (1997: 241) states that slang is a linguistic universal because presumably it is found in every language and in every area of the languages. One of the basic conditions of its birth perhaps the most important one is a community the members which are in a daily relationship of intensive verbal communication. If this relationship of intensive verbal communication exists, slang phenomena occurs in the language.

Few linguists have endeavored to clearly define what constitutes slang. Hornby (1974: 807), Slang is words, phrases, meanings of words, etc. commonly used in talk among friends or colleagues, but not suitable for good writing or formal occasions, esp. the kind used by and typical of only one class of persons.

Slang a kind of code, the use of words with unexpected meanings known only by those in on it. Although slang is associated with youth culture, especially youth music culture, you find it in many other segments of society—racing slang, sports slang, group usually defined in terms of age.

According to Alphadictionary (2013), Slang is crucial part of a young person's 'coming of age', one of the first detectable signs of a their breaking away
from their parents and their parents' values. It is a cheap second language that expresses the differences between a young person who is about to enter adulthood from his or her parents' generation.

Generally, slang diffuses through a group of people, and it may spread out across an entire region or class. People who are not in that group may pick up the terminology as well, causing the usage to spread, or the words may remain isolated to a smaller subgroup. College students, for example, often develop complex slang terms, with words from different regions diffusing on a college campus. As these students leave, they carry these terms to other young people in various parts of the world, often making the speech of the younger generation incomprehensible to those outside of it.

Dumas and Lighter (1978: 14-15) argued that an expression should be considered “true slang” if it meets at least two of the following criteria:

a. It lowers, if temporarily, “the dignity of formal or serious speech or writing”; in other words, it is likely to be seen in such contexts as a “glaring misuse of register.”

b. Its use implies that the user is familiar with whatever is referred to, or with a group of people that are familiar with it and use the term.

c. It is a taboo term in ordinary discourse with people of a higher social status or greater responsibility.

d. It replaces “a well know conventional synonym.” This is done primarily to avoid “the discomfort caused by the conventional item (or by) further elaboration.
Slang is actually not a language or a dialect at all, however. It is more a code in which one vaguely related or unrelated word or phrase is substituted for a more common one. The words that are replaced in slang are the most common ones: good (*cherry, boss, phat, da bomb*), bad (*icky, yucky, jankety*), crazy (*nuts, bananas, crackers, bonkers*), smart (*brainy, savvy, sharp*), fast (*scream, tear out, fly, like greased lightning*), slow (*dragging, poky, crawling, creeping*).

Slang is not profanity or bad grammar. There are slang words for drugs and sex but that is only because these are subjects young people breaking away and criminals take interest in. "Yo, man, say what you is thinkin'"? is simply bad grammar and articulation. That has nothing to do with slang.

Slang does favor various grammatical means of forming new words. Clipping is one of them, removing syllables from words, like teach for teacher or phys and for physical education and van for caravan. This is a common means of creating new words.

Slang is not at all the same as accent. Your accent is a regional dialect that can be measured by instruments. Slang is time sensitive, it comes and goes over varying stretches of time. Speakers tend to update their slang with the latest making it is impossible to pinpoint someone's age by the slang they use. However, we can ascertain the general era in which an expression was most popular and let you know how up-to-date your slang is.

According to Rafika (2010), There are still many definitions of slang, and none of them define in the same as another. Because what makes different source has different, definition depends on from which angle is viewed. However, one
important point, which is always mentioned, is that slang is informal language, informal for it has not been widely and fully accepted by a society from all level because it is mostly spoken by young people.
2.2 Type of Slang

Partridge (1933: 27-30) as divides slang according to the field where the slang is used. It can be seen as follows:

a. **Cockney Slang**, well known as the slang of Londoners. The term 'Cockney' rhyming slang is generally applied to the expansions to indicate the rhyming style; though arguably the term only applies to phrases used in the East End of London. This slang is characterized by a very pronounced accent. For example: the change of *th* to *f* or *v*, as in *fing* for *thing, farver* for *farther*; the vowel-sound change from *ou* to *ah* as in *abhat* for *about*; and the most marked change of vowel sound is that for *ei* for *ai* or *ay* as in *dyly* for *daily*. In this type, words are written in they way they are pronounced, like *wassap*? for *what’s up?*

b. **Public-House Slang**, the characteristics of slang terms on this type are cheery, materialistic, but not gross nor cynical, for example, *boozer* (a public-house), *second liker* (another drink, the same as the first), *balloon-juice* (soda-water), and *pot o’bliss* (a fine tall woman).

c. **Workmen’s Slang**, for example: *brass, chips, dust, feathers, brads* (money); *sheep’s foot* (an iron hammer); *Saint Monday* (the favorite day of the week); *out of collar, want an apron* (out of work); *screw* (salary); *get a sack* (to be discharge), *noisily talkative woman* (church bell).
d. **Tradesmen’s Slang**, many of this type are now jargon, for example:  
   *bread basket* (belly), *coal up* (to feed), *take a trip* (giving up a job), *chuck a dummy* (to faint), *kick* (to seek), *real Kate* (a kind matron).

e. **The Slang of Commerce**, the characteristic of this kind is to abbreviate the words, for example: *deb.* (debentures), *ex div.* (without the dividend), *pref.* (preference stock), *circs.* (circumstances), *com.* (commercial traveler), *sec.* (second), *pod.* (the Post Office Directory).

f. **Publicity**, characterized by catchy phrases and rhymes, for example:  
   *Don’t worry, use Sunlight* (soap), *That’s Kruschen feeling* (Kruschen Salts), *Grateful and comporting* (Epp’s cocoa).

g. **Journalism**, a little humor is desired here, for example: *The thunderer* (The Times), *Mrs. Gamp* (The Standard), *fiery cross* (warning of danger), *jolly utter* (intolerable), *penny gush* (exaggerated writing).

h. **Literary Critics**, for example: *Balaam-box* (to fill up spaces in newspaper), *blue roses* (something unobtainable), *forest of fools* (the world), *lamartinism* (goody-goody writing), *not enough written* (insufficiently polished in style), *scripturience* (the itch or rage for writing), *sun-clear* (obvious).

i. **Publishers and Printers**, for example: *mag* (a magazine), *O.P.* (out of print), *permanent pug* (the door-porter), *yellowbacks* (cheap two shilling editions of novels), *to ghost* (to write), *to vet* (to revise), *bitched* (ruined),
bridges and no grasses (secret), codocity (stupidity), cod. (a fool), grasses (shouted, said), T.O. (turn over).

j. The Law, for example: six and eight pence (a solicitor-whose fee used often to amount to that sum), ambidexter (one that take fees from both plaintiff and defendant), petitfogger (a little dirty attorney), crump (false witnesses), trounce (to punish by course of law).

k. Medicine, initials, abbreviations, and euphemism are the characteristics of this type, as the tendency of medical persons to clothe their actions, words, and prescriptions in mystery, for example: D.D.A. (the Dangerous Drug Act), C.S.M. (Cerebrospinal Meningitis), TB (tuberculosis), med.lab.

l. The Church, for example: candle shop (a broad church), dolly worship (Roman Catholic religion), holy joe (the shallow, circular-crowed hat worn by clergymen), taits (moderate clergymen).

m. Parliament and Politics, for example: cabbage garden patriots (cowards), dish (to overcome), disguised public house (a workmen’s political club), make all right (by promising to pay for a vote), old gang (uncompromising), free breakfast table (free of duties), go on the dole (to receive unemployment benefit), to axe (to cut down expenses).

n. Public Schools and Universities, schools and universities are the important source of slang. Mostly because students seem to feel an
imperative necessity to avoid everyday vocabularies like *throw, put, run*,
etc. Rather, they will use *we bashed, give a biff, we swatted*, etc. This
type of slang is characterized by the addition of a hocus pocus syllable
either to the beginning or the end of every word like *cutie* from *cute* and
*sweetie* from *sweet*. Another characteristic is the addition of suffix –er to
every set of word, as in *fresher* (freshman), *Deaner* (the Dean),
*brekker* (breakfast), *leccer* (lecture), *eccer* (exercise), *canoe* (cano), etc.

o. **Society**, novelty as leisure of society is the characteristics of this type.
There arises a kind of special vocabulary, which is constantly changing
with the changing of fashions. But this fashionable kind of slang can be
understood easily. For example: *jolly* (cheer), *dressed to kill* (wearing).

p. **Art**, the artistic slang is fun. For example: *artistic merit* (a satirical way
of saying that a portrait is flattering), *signed all over* (said of a good
picture which instantly reveal its creator in every inch).

q. **The Theater**, characterized by apt and striking passage, for example:
*acting lady* (an incapable actress), *Early Turner* (an inferior music-hall
artist), *tabs* (an ageing woman).

r. **Sports and Games**, many slang words from this type have already
incorporated in standard speech, for example: *bally* (very large), *do in* (to
risk), *rot-funk* (panic), *sitter* (an extremely easy catch), *tapped* (hit),
*heavily grassed* (felled).
s. **The Turf**, this type is mostly about horse racing, for example: *get right* (trod cure horse), *lifter* (a horse much given to kicking), *tinman* (a millionaire), *up* (riding), *two-buckle horses* (tubercular horses).