

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter discusses about the theories which can support the analysis of this research. There are some theories which will be applied. As the basis of this study, the writer uses significant theories that are included in definition of slang, literal meaning and metaphor. Also in this chapter, several journal articles and previous theses are also provided. There are three articles studied about metaphors and slang. Each previous thesis studies different research.

2.1 Literal meaning

Literal meaning (literal language) is a distinction in traditional systems for analyzing language. Literal language refers to words that do not deviate from their defined meaning. According to (grammar-monster.com/glossary/literal_meaning.htm) “The term literal meaning denotes that all words are in strict accordance with their original meanings.” In other words, to apply the literal meaning is to take the words in their most basic sense without metaphor or exaggeration. For example: John managed to escape the wolves. In the literal meaning, John actually succeeded in getting away from some genuine wolves as opposed to, say, avoiding a verbal bashing at a meeting from aggressive colleagues.

According to Knowles and Moon (2005:7) “literal meaning is the most basic and physical meaning: the meaning that is most likely to occur to us if we were asked to explain what the word means, out of context.” So literal meaning is the real meaning, like the example below people usually know if someone said that the “girl such a fox” Has a metaphorical meaning that the girl is such a wily person. However, in literal meaning fox means an animal.

1.2 Slang

Slang is the term that is used to describe the informal or non official language which does not have any regulation in the usage and exists in the certain groups in society. Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary (8th Edition) defines the word 'slang' as a noun means "very informal words and expression that are more people common in spoken language, especially used by a particular group of people, for example: children, criminals, singers, etc".

According to Yule (2006:211-212), "Slang is more typically used among those who are outside established higher-status groups." It means that the users of slang usually do not have higher status. They could be a criminal, drug seller, and gangster. The use of slang words and phrases in daily speech exist among the group of young speakers with special interests as a marker of group identity. He also added that slang is moving like a fashion, such as clothing and music. The majority of native speakers do not use slang and many people consider it vulgar. Children or teens who seek social status usually create slang. It is understood primarily within that group. For the most part, they grew up in the similar neighborhoods, around the similar people, dealing with similar issues. They also share a commonality within taste of music, fashion, and other forms of entertainment.

According to Akmajian (2004:303-305) slang is something that everyone can recognize but no one can define. Speaker show creativity in their use of slang and it is often the source of a good deal of humor. Although a precise definition of slang seems extremely difficult, there are some features about slang:

1. Slang is part of casual, informal styles of language use. Further, the term slang has traditionally carried a negative connotation: it is often perceived as a "low" or "vulgar" form of language and is deemed to be out of place in formal styles of language.
2. Slang, like fashion in clothing and popular music, changes quite rapidly. Slang term can enter a language rapidly, then fall out of fashion in a matter of a few

years or even months. This rate of turnover is much greater than for other areas of the vocabulary of a language.

3. Specific areas of slang are often associated with a particular social group, and hence one can speak of teenage slang, underworld (criminal) slang, the slang of the drug culture, and so on. In this respect slang is a kind of jargon, and its use serves as a mark of membership and solidarity within a given social group.

As Holmes (2001:167) states, “people in a society may speak some varieties of language in accordance to different social climates they meet. It is true that people should know whether they are in informal or formal situation.” When people speak, they should understand well about situation around. It is important in choosing appropriate language that will be used, formal style, or non-formal one. The use of slang language can be affected by some social factors such as age, gender, status, etc. Slang is another area of words that reflects a person’s age.

Based on the definition above, we can conclude that slang is a non formal or casual spoken language which create and used by the member of a certain community and certain ages.

2.2.1Characteristic of slang

Slang starts in use among the writers, though many say that slang words are a sentence that is rough, vulgar and has no meaning. Moreover, usually used by black people, thief, smuggler and drugs seller. Now many writers used a slang words. Slang words can be found in song lyrics, movie, and daily expression. According to (<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~kemmer/Words/slang.html>) the following characteristic of slang language are:

1. Not a part of standard language

2. Informal, not likely to be used in formal contexts
3. Typically oral, rather than written
4. Creativity means that slang language has cleverness, imagination, productivity, and talent.
5. Fresh means that slang language has familiar words, different words, up to date words.
Example: “*Cipher*” means “*knowledge*”. E.g. *After school was over, I gained a lot of cipher.*”

2.3 Metaphors

Metaphor is the other theory which is used in the analysis of this research. According to Knowles and Moon (2005:3) metaphor is, “The use of language to refer to something other than what it was originally applied to, or what it literally means, in order to suggest some resemblance, or make a connection between two things.” In other words, metaphors has a function as a comparison between one thing to another. It has been commonly used by some people in their conversation when they compare one thing with another.

“Life is a journey.”

The sentence above is the example of using metaphor. That sentence gives an example that there are always up and down, challenge, moment of success, and moment of failure... Just like a journey. In this sentence, life is compared to journey.

“This bag is killing me.”

The sentence above is the example of using metaphor. That sentence tells that his/her brings something heavy in his/her bag and needs someone to help him/her to bring the bag. The word “killing” cannot actually kill him/her; it just hurt him/her so much.

According to Lakoff & Johnson (1980: 5) Metaphor is an understanding and experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another process that involves the carrying over or crossing of one element of experience into another.

Simile is also another figure of speech which has the element of comparison. However, simile and metaphor are quite different. Metaphor compares two things implicitly; while the comparison in simile is explicit Knowles and Moon (2005:8) The explicit comparison could be seen from the use of several words, such as like, as, compare, resemble, etc. Thus, the use of both metaphor and simile could not be mistaken. For example: You eat like a bull. It means that you are compared with the bull because bull eats so much.

1.3.1 Vehicle, topic, and ground

Metaphor has three general terms. Those terms are vehicle, topic, and ground. These three terms are used to analyze and discuss the use of metaphor according to Knowles and Moon (2005:9). The vehicle is expression used as a metaphor itself. It could be in a form of one single word or phrase. The topic refers to the meaning. The meaning here is meant to be the intended meaning of the vehicle or metaphor instead of the literal meaning. The last one is the ground or connection. It aims to find out the connection or similarity between the vehicle and the topic. According to Knowles and Moon (2005:10), it is the key to learn how effective the metaphor is used in a sentence.

“Life is a journey”

The sentence above is the example of how to analyze the metaphor. First, the vehicle, topic, and ground needs to be identified. The vehicle or metaphor in the sentence is journey. Life is compared to the journey. The topic of the metaphor is life, and the ground between both vehicle and topic is life have a long and up and down moment. The literal meaning of the life is a

journey is that there are always up and down, challenge, moment of success, and moment of failure , just like a journey.

“Time is money”

The sentence above is another example to analyze the metaphor. First, the vehicle, topic, and ground needs to be identified. The vehicle or metaphor in the sentence is money. Time is compared to money. The topic of the metaphor is time, and the ground between both vehicle and topic is valuable and spendable. The metaphorical meaning of time is money is time is valuable so do not waste your time for doing something useless.

2.3.2 Conceptual metaphor

A conceptual metaphor has two conceptual domains. One is the thing that is to be understood, which is called the target domain, and the other is the thing that is used to understand the first one, and it is called the source domain (Kovecses, 2002:4). The source domain and the target domain interact in a set of systematic correspondences between the source and the target, which are often referred to as mappings. Kovecses uses an example metaphor Love is a Journey to explain what mapping is in his work.

Target domain is the one which is tried to be understood through source. The target domain of the example is Argument (Knowles and Moon, 2005:33). It is understood by using a metaphorical expression as the source domain, which is war.

“I attack the argument.”

The sentence above is the example of the concept Argument is war. The target in the sentence is argument. This target domain is understood by using the source domain, attacks. This is suitable for the concept because there is an argument happened where someone did not agree with other person’s statement or opinion. Moreover, the war in the concept could be seen from the term attacks. This term is usually occurred in the event of war.

According to Kovecses (2010:18-27), there are a number of source and target domains which are commonly used in conceptual metaphor. One of the common source domains is human body which involves body parts like hands, legs, head many others to understand the target domain. The example for this source domain is the heart of the problem. The source domain from this example is the heart, and it is used to feel something. The heart literally means one of the body parts which is on the middle of the body. Metaphorically, it is a person who have a heart who feels sensitive is a problem. The other source domains are health and illness, animals, plants, building and construction, machines and tools, games and sport, money and economic transactions, cooking and food, heat and cold, light and darkness, forces, and movement and direction.

Meanwhile, one of the common target domains is emotion (Kovecses, 2010:23). Emotion like anger, fear, happiness and others is a concept which is tried to be understood by the target domain. The example of this target domain is she was deeply moved. The metaphor in the sentence is moved, and it treats emotion as something movable. The other target domains are desire, morality, thought, society/nation, politics, economy, human relationship, communication, time, life and death, religion, and events and actions. It is necessary to remember that the target and source domains mentioned before are only the most common ones. There are still many things which could be included as a target or source domain.

There is a previous study entitle “Metaphorical conceptualization of anger, fear and sadness in English.” This study has a purpose to find emotion is an extremely subtle and complex phenomenon, and as such, it is system matically conceptualized via other, more tangible things. Metaphors have been identified and described by researchers. Their findings clearly show that conceptual system of emotions is organized metaphorically. The linguistic metaphor that contains this phrase can be found under the conceptual metaphor SADNESS IS A PLANT analysed in the thesis. One obvious advantage of this method is that it allows for quick retrieval of the metaphorical expressions that you are looking for. Its disadvantage is that it is not always possible to predict which words and expressions are likely to appear in the searched metaphorical expressions.

There are three journal articles which studies metaphor as their main concern. Firstly, *A McMaster Undergraduate Study of the Social Origins and Implications of Slang and Gendered Language* is written by Millee Yu Qing Zhou (2005:9). The research question is to investigate how gendered words are used in a Canadian university context, particularly in McMaster University of 2005. The goal of the research is to find out how slang made a differentiation between male and female by giving the questionnaires. The questionnaires are divided into five sections. The first section asks for participant information (gender, program, and level); the second section deals with situational uses of gendered terms. The third section involves listing complimentary and derogatory terms for each gender, and the fourth section asks for synonyms of common terms for characterizing men and women. The last section is comprised of short questions regarding the participant's opinions on and attitudes towards gendered words. The conclusion of the research survey reveals that the number of complimentary and derogatory terms used to describe men and women are almost equal, and that traditional stereotypes of men and women still exist but are more relaxed.

Second journal entitled a socio linguistic study of slang words used by Harry Potter in the movie entitled “Harry Potter and the half blood prince.” Written by Galang Persada (2013) *the research question is to* discuss about slang words that spoke by main character of the movie “Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince” the data of the analyses are utterances of the main character that is Harry potter that contain slang words in the movie. The goal of this research is to analyze the main character’s slang words used in the movie and to classify and find the meaning of the slang words used in the movie “Harry Potter and The Half Blood Prince.” The result of this study is there are 19 slang words by Harry Potter and the most dominant can be classified into acronym slang words, slang words spoken by Harry Potter are also dominated by denotative meaning.

The last journal article is about metaphor. The entailed of this journal is metaphors expressing emotions in Lisa kleypas’s rainshadow road. The research question is to examine the metaphorical sentences which expressed emotions found in Lisa Kleypas’s the Rainshadow Road. The data of the analysis are library research, to find the kinds of emotions, which were

expressed by the metaphorical sentences. It was also done to figure out what the metaphors referred to. The analysis used metaphor theory to compare the dictionary meaning and the metaphorical. The result shows that there are various emotions which are expressed through the metaphorical sentences. Happiness is found as the most dominant emotion which appears in the novel.

Besides the three journal articles, there is one previous study related to slang and metaphor. The first previous study is related to slang with theses entitled “*An Analysis of Slang Language Related to Race, Drugs, and Violence in D12 Rap Songs Lyrics.*” written by Nurjanah (2000). This research used the theory of Language Varieties by Holmes, theory of race and violence by Kernerman, and theory of slang by Menchen. This research describes the slang words and slang meanings used in D12 song’s lyrics related to race, drugs, and violence. She found out that that based on the result of the research, the terms, such as “white, fags” have slang meanings as the terms related to race. Meanwhile, the terms, such as “crack, weed, pop, and squeeze” have a slang meaning related to drugs and violence.

The second previous studies entitle “*A Semantic Analysis of Metaphors Found in Dream Theatre’s Selected Lyrics*” is written by Aldin Lukman Hakim (2009). This research has a purpose on finding out the number of metaphor, the most dominant type of metaphor, and the meaning of metaphors found the selected song lyrics from the musical band named *Dream Theatre* (Hakim, 2009:5). In the conclusion, it is revealed that there are 95 metaphors found in the selected lyrics, and 65 of them are considered to be conceptual metaphor (Hakim, 2009:54). Thus, conceptual metaphor is used the most in *Dream Theatre*’s selected lyrics.

