

**THE USE OF AUSTRALIAN SLANG RELATED TO THE
SOCIAL FUNCTION AS FOUND
IN *THE CASTLE* MOVIE**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini berjudul *The use of Australian Slang Related to the Social Function as found in The Castle Movie*. Penulis meneliti ragam bahasa tak resmi (*slang*) dalam bahasa Inggris Australia yang terdapat dalam film *The Castle* karya Rob Sitch. Film ini berjenis film keluarga yang para pemainnya banyak menggunakan *slang Australia* dalam kehidupan sehari-hari. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana *slang Australia* mewakili suatu grup tertentu dan peranan konteks situasi dalam penggunaannya dalam film tersebut.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode agih dan padan yang dikemukakan oleh Sudaryanto dan Stubbs yaitu metode pengumpulan data dengan teknik observasi dan rekam. Pada metode analisis data, penulis menggunakan teori *Slang* yang dikemukakan oleh Eble dan Partridge serta teori *Situational Context* yang dikemukakan oleh Hymes.

Dari hasil penelitian, penulis menemukan 110 data *slang Australia* dalam film *The Castle*. Data tersebut banyak mengalami pengulangan sehingga penulis hanya menganalisis 33 data. Dari hasil analisis, diketahui bahwa *slang Australia* dalam film *The Castle* dipengaruhi oleh ragam bahasa Inggris British dan Amerika. Dalam penggunaannya, orang Australia memiliki gaya bahasa yang sangat berbeda dari ragam bahasa Inggris lainnya dan telah menjadi bahasa sehari-hari. Sebagian besar *setting* film ini terjadi dalam situasi tidak resmi seperti di rumah. Hal yang membuat gaya *slang Australia* ini unik adalah karena tidak hanya dipakai pada situasi informal, tetapi juga pada situasi formal seperti di pengadilan.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language has influenced all of human aspects of life. In fact, language and society have a close relationship to each other. The relationship can be seen through the effects of social factors on language and the effects of language on society. Through everyday speech, people can express their ideas and feelings reflecting their social behavior in society. Wolfram (2002) says that language is one of the most powerful symbols of social behavior. The relationship between the way of social functions and its language is studied in Sociolinguistics. Hudson (1980:4) says that sociolinguistics is the study of the language and its relation to the society. It studies the variation of language and society.

Language variation is a language phenomenon in society. People do not use language in the same way with others in conveying information to each other. People tend to use different language in communication by creating certain or new word to make it easier. The different ways of using language are influenced by some factors such as social status, age, sex of the speaker and also educational background. The use of language varies on the user and the context of the conversation where the language is used. Hudson (1980:24) also states that every language has its own variation. One of language variations is slang. Certain people use slang in specific terms especially in informal situation.

Slang has spread everywhere; and it will probably never be abolished. It has been recognized that every culture has developed its own type of slang. This

means that no one would be able to translate a given slang from one language to another and expect it to have the same meaning or to be understood in the same way. Slang may disappear after a short period of time. Goshgarian (2001:542) says that slang is produced by living languages and the moment it stops being produced, the language in question is dead. Thus, slang will always be there as long as the language lives.

Slang is not only used in America, but also in Britain and Australia. Some people only know that the use of slang comes from America as known as American English. In fact, it is also used in other countries such as Britain and Australia. Slang often derives from foreign languages or a regional nature. The uses of slang in America, Britain, and Australia are different. It reflects the identity of the speakers. For example, the words *babe* means sweetheart and *loony* means crazy. These words are used by Black people in America. They use slang to describe the differences of spoken language in ethnic groups between whites and blacks in America. British also have slang such as in Cockney slang like *gerry* means an old person; it is a regional language in Britain. Slang is often derived from foreign languages or a regional nature. In Australia, people use slang in specific terms for specific people such as *Aussies*; this term is used to describe the whole of Australia population, and *mate*; friend and mainly for males. These terms are only used by Australians.

Australia is a multicultural nation with a unique language that is called Australian slang. They have their own style of English in colloquial expression, slang terms. Here are the examples of Some Australian slangs such as *ding* means

an Italian immigrant, *good onya* (good on you) means well-done, *owyer gommate or right?* means how're you going mate, alright? and *dinkum* means true. Australian slang is the variety of Australian English that influences the way they speak in individual or social expression. As a note in the Macquarie Dictionary (1991:807), the term *slang* is described as a characteristic of speech (writing) in which a speaker (writer) is free to express himself informally and whether grammatically correct or not. Slang expression is usually cheeky, personal and amusing. The slang terms are difficult to understand and often humorous for the other speakers of English especially visitors.

Even though Australians speak English, they have differences in vocabulary and meaning. They have considered Australian slang as a part of their daily lives. For example in this expression, 'a bottle of beer' in America, but in Australia it is called 'a stubby of piss'. In Australia, piss means beer, but in America, piss means urine. Therefore, when someone says that they are going to drink a lot of piss, it means that they are going to drink a lot of beer. It sounds funny to someone who is not from Australia to hear normal, everyday Australian conversations.

Australian slang is a reflection of the ideas and values or attitude of the Australians. It can be seen that the way of Australians develop their character is through language. Australians use slang to cover up their language. As the result, no one will know what they are talking about. This is the impact of prison system that is brought by convicts. Australian has slang that will be different from the mother country. As Baker (1978:59) says, there is no other class of society

adapting and making up the slang more expertly to their new environment. Australian slang develops in soldier's environment where everything is under pressure. They use slang words to make conversation casual and relax in an informal situation.

Based on the fact, the writer is interested in analyzing Australian slang because it is very different from other slangs in America and Britain. Therefore, the writer wants to know about Australian slang and take the data from an Australian movie entitled *The Castle* that takes place in informal situations among the family, friends and colleagues. In this movie, the writer picks up Australian slang uttered by the characters and the use of Australian slang based on the style of Australian language that shows their identity and social background in society.

1.2 Identification of the Study

Slang is an informal style of a language and a colloquial language. It is usually used and understood by certain social group. However, it can be changed, anytime and anywhere. Fromkin and Rodman (1996:300) say that slang is often associated with a particular social group. Slang is never constant; therefore it develops based on the user of language itself. Australians have their own life styles and the way of speaking that reflect them. For instance, a cab driver might say, "no worries, love!" to a customer and an employer might end a business meeting with "see ya later". In other English nations, these speaking might be considered inappropriate because of lack formality, but in Australia it is acceptable because it usually occurs in their social behavior. Therefore, the writer

focuses on Australian slang because it is different from Standard English. In line with this, the writer wants to identify Australian slang through some research questions as follow:

1. How do slang words represent a certain social group in *The Castle* movie?
2. What are the roles of contextual situation in using slang in *The Castle* movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study is aimed to describe the slang that represents a certain social group especially Australian slang as seen as in *The Castle* movie. Then, the writer wants to analyze the roles of contextual situation where the speech events occur in order to know Australians' reasons in using slang words in their daily life in *The Castle* movie.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study deals with Sociolinguistic studies that describe language and society, particularly slang. In this writing, the writer will focus on Australian slang used in *The Castle* movie as the source of data because through the movie, the speaker and his social group can be seen clearly. It will discuss about the use of Australian slang and its function based on the context or situation. Thus, it can also be seen how frequent and widespread the use and recognition of Australian slang in society.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, the writer found that the characters in *The Castle* movie directed by Rob Sitch often use Australian slang. It is also as the representation of the character's social class in which they are mostly from working class. In the movie, lacks of education makes the characters do not have any special rules in using slang. They use it in any situation they want to without considering that it is in informal or formal situation. It can be seen when they use the same language both speaking to their friends and to the judge.

This movie contains of the contextual situation with the following roles:

1. To show the setting of movie, which in Melbourne.
2. To show the social situation such as formal and informal situation.
3. To describe the interactional events among the participants.
4. To explain the purpose or function of interaction of the participants.

The contextual situations are really important to get the meaning of the slang because Australian slang is different from the standard language. Without fully understanding of the context, the slang meaning will be considered weird. Finally, it will be difficult to decide what the meaning is.

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