

UNDERSTANDING SLANG BY AMERICAN AND INDONESIAN STUDENTS

(A Cross-Cultural Studies at The University of Kansas and STAIN Palopo)



A THESIS

Submitted to the English Language Studies Program of S1 Tarbiyah Department of
State College for Islamic Studies of Palopo in Partial Fulfillment of
Requirement for the S.Pd Degree in English Teaching

By;

SUWANDI
Students ID. 07.16.3.0100

ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM OF TARBIYAH DEPARTMENT
THE STATE COLLEGE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES PALOPO
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ENGLISH STUDY PROGRAM OF TARBIYAH DEPARTMENT
THE STATE COLLEGE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES PALOPO

2011

THESIS APPROVAL

This thesis entitled “**Understanding Slang by American and Indonesian Students (A Cross-Cultural Studies at The University of Kansas and STAIN Palopo)**”, which is written by **SUWANDI**, students ID **07.16.3.0100**, **S1 English Study Program** of **Tarbiyah** Department of The State College For Islamic Studies, and has been examined and defended in MUNAQASYAH session which is carried out on **Friday, November 11th 2011**, coincided with **15 Dzulhijjah 1432 H**, it is authorized and acceptable as partial fulfillment for S.Pd degree in English language teaching.

Palopo, November 11th 2011 M
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Palopo, November 11th 2011

The Writer,

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DEDICATION

This thesis is especially dedicated to

My beloved parent

My beloved brothers and sisters

All the grantees of IELSP IX in the University of Kansas

All my classmate Big-B

All members of PalopoLOGI

All members of WM

‘You are my best partner in my life’

I Do Love You All

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Palopo, November 11th 2011

The Writer,

SUWANDI

Student ID 07.16.3.0100

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-------------|
| TITLE PAGE | i |
| APPROVAL PAGE | iii |
| CONSULTANT APPROVAL..... | iv |
| CERTIFICATE OF THESIS AUTHORSHIP | v |
| DEDICATION..... | vi |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT..... | vii |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | x |
| LIST OF TABLES, DIAGRAM, AND GRAPHS..... | xii |
| ABSTRACT..... | xiii |
| | |
| CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| A. Background..... | 1 |
| B. Problem Statement..... | 4 |
| C. Objectives of the Research | 4 |
| D. Significances of the Research..... | 5 |
| E. Scope of the Research..... | 5 |
| F. Definition of Terms..... | 5 |
| G. Sequence of the Research | 7 |
| | |
| CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE..... | 9 |
| A. Previous of Related Findings..... | 9 |
| B. The Relationship of Language and Culture | 12 |
| C. Sociolinguistic Analysis..... | 13 |
| D. Language Variation..... | 15 |
| 1. Dialect..... | 15 |
| 2. Register..... | 16 |
| 3. Jargon..... | 17 |
| 4. Style..... | 17 |
| 5. Slang..... | 18 |
| E. Conceptual Framework..... | 39 |
| | |
| CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD..... | 41 |
| A. Method of the Research | 41 |
| B. Population and Sample | 41 |
| C. Method in Data Collecting..... | 43 |

| | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------|
| | D. Procedures in Collecting Data | 44 |
| | E. Data Analysis Technique | 45 |
| CHAPTER IV | FINDING AND DISCUSSION | 47 |
| | A. Glance of Location of the Research..... | 47 |
| | B. Findings and Discussion | 51 |
| | 1. Producing graph Showing the Percentage of Understanding Slang Expressions..... | 53 |
| | 2. Producing of Similarities and Differences Reason Between American and Indonesian Students in Using Slang..... | 80 |
| CHAPTER V | CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS | 83 |
| | A. Conclusions..... | 83 |
| | B. Suggestions | 84 |
| | BIBLIOGRAPHY..... | 86 |
| | APPENDIXES | |
| | CURRICULUM VITAE | |

LIST OF TABLES, GRAPHS AND DIAGRAM

| | |
|--|----|
| 3. Diagram 2.1 Conceptual Framework of the Research..... | 40 |
| 4. Table 3.1 The University of Kansas (30 informants)..... | 42 |
| 5. Table 3.2 STAIN Palopo (30 informants) | 43 |
| 6. Table 3.3 Scale of Frequency..... | 46 |
| 7. Table 4.4 Total Review of All slang Words among American Students..... | 52 |
| 8. Graph 4.1 Total Review of All American Slang Words in Percentage..... | 52 |
| 9. Table 4.5 The Top American Slang Expression Domain of Proper Name..... | 53 |
| 10. Table 4.6. The Top Indonesian Slang expression Domain of Proper Name | 57 |
| 11. Graph 4.2 Percentage of the Top Slang Expression Domain of Proper Name Using by American and Indonesian Students | 58 |
| 12. Table 4.7The Top American Slang Expression Domain of Campus Activities | 60 |
| 13. Table 4.8 The Top Indonesian Slang Expression Domain of Campus Activities | 62 |
| 14. Graph 4.3 Percentage of the Top Slang Expression Domain of Campus activities Using by American and Indonesian Students | 63 |
| 15. Table 4.9 The Top American Slang Expression Domain out-of Campus Activities... | 65 |
| 16. Table 4.10 The Top Indonesian Slang Expression Domain out-of Campus Activities | 71 |
| 17. Graph 4.4 Percentage of the Top Slang Expression Domain out-of Campus activities Using by American and Indonesian Students..... | 73 |
| 18. Table 4.11 The Top American Slang Expression Domain of e-mail and SMS Acronyms..... | 76 |
| 19. Table 4.12 The Top American Slang Expression Domain of e-mail and SMS Acronyms..... | 77 |
| 20. Graph 4.5 Percentage of the Top Slang Expression Domain of e-mail & SMS Acronyms Using by American and Indonesian Students..... | 79 |

ABSTRACT

Suwandi, 2011. “Understanding Slang by American and Indonesia Students (A Cross-Cultural Studies at the University of Kansas and STAIN Palopo). Thesis. English Study Program of Tarbiyah Department of State College for Islamic Studies (STAIN) Palopo. Consultants (1) Dra. Jumharia Djamereng, M.Hum., (2) Syamsudarni, S.Pd.I.,M.Pd.

Key Word: *Understanding, Slang, American, Indonesian, Cross-Cultural Studies, The University of Kansas, STAIN Palopo.*

This thesis deals with a cross-cultural studies in using slang by American and Indonesian students. It aims to find out how is American and Indonesian students understood of slang and what is similarities and differences between American and Indonesian students in using slang in their daily communication.

The population of this research were students at the University of Kansas and STAIN Palopo, the sample was taken from the population by using purposive sampling. The number of sample was 30 American students and 30 Indonesian students. The method in collecting data namely observation, questionnaire and interviewed.

The result of this research shows that there was 240 slang terms which have been into four domain area namely proper name, campus activities, out-of campus activities, e-mail and SMS acronyms. The result of data analysis in graphs showed that there was 31 subcategories from all of domain area, which have percentage average 70 % as the top slang expression by American students. On the other hand, Indonesian students just have 13 subcategories from all of domain area, which have percentage average 70 % as the top slang expression. In addition, students in STAIN Palopo have point of view that they use slang just in certain situation, they did not use slang as the way to make a good communication to one another in English. Unlike, students in the University of Kansas use slang as the culture to make a good communication in their daily activities.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The rapid development of human society has a great influence on the most important tool of the communication language. The modern way of living goes faster and new trends are also reflected in the development of language in a form of various new words and expressions as well as the improvement and facilitation of grammar structure. Comparison of those two linguistic areas shows that vocabulary grows so rapidly that the communicative function of language claims more novel and concise expressions in the language terminology in order to keep pace with modern trends in human life.

Language is a system of sound used by a group to communicate and carry on their normal activities. There are some of the language variations which are created by people in specific community. The purposes is to express something using language. Yawkey in Supriyanto states that language is arbitrary system of articulated sound made of by a group of human as a means of carrying on their society.¹ Besides that, Iswahyuni states language is medium to express idea, opinion, and feeling in the science and education world. According to Crimmson English language can be divided into two categories, non-standard and Standard English. Non Standard English is a

¹ Supriyanto.” *Study of Slang Language in Gajayana University Students*”. Unpublished Thesis.(Malang: Gajayana University, 1991), p. 1.

dialect spoken by large section of non middle class and often heard to be ugly, corrupted or lazy. Most college-education people who fill position of social, financial, and professional that influence in the community use Standard English. Another statement from Crimmon , Standard English has two variants, formal and informal English. Formal English is usually used for formal condition, such as research, business, application letter, papers, thesis, seminar and so on. On the other hand, informal English is called colloquialism because it is often used in daily communication. Slang language is not an official language or it is informal language, although it is widely used for oral communication in many purposes, as many words quickly become outdated and obsolete because of trends. There is not formal classification in slang language, except perhaps that it is a subclass of the language.²

Slang seems to be one of the most important language formation having a great influence on the development of language. Slang speech is characterized by various linguistic features reflecting the users' way of living and using the language with emphasis on belonging to a particular group of language users. Student slang ranks the unique position among those groups characterized by specific features distinguished within the student environment. Student speech might be seen as a reaction to formalism and social conventions of literary language. Therefore, it contains a great number of slang expressions restricted to concrete time, place or even subject.

² Mc. Crimmon, James M. *Writing with a Purpose from Source to Statement*. (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1967), p. 170-175.

Otherwise, the urgency of slang term Hudson points out that slang is worth serious study of linguists because it reflects the relationship between language and society. The creation and development of American slang are closely related to the creators' imagination, attitude to social and sense of humor. What slang reflects is not only people's personality and inner world, but the social culture. Slang is also a symbol of American society and culture.³ So that, the statement as one standard rule to discuss slang in many aspects.

Besides that, culture is the set of attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviors, share by a group of people, communicated from one generation to the next via language or some other means of communication.⁴ From definition, it is noted that culture allows us to define who we are and what is meaningful, as well as to manage our physical and social milieu. Our culture have a tremendous influence on the way we think and feel, the way we view the world, the way we communicate, and the way we behave. At the very heart of the concept of culture is expectation that people brought up in different culture will process different values, beliefs, and motives reflected in numerous behaviors.⁵

³ Hudson R.A, <http://www.analysisonamericanslangfromculturalperspective.org> . Accessed on January 13th 2012.

⁴ Matsumoto. D . *People: Psychology from a Cultural Perspective*. (Pacific: Grove, CA: Brooks/ Cool Publishing, 1994), p. 4.

⁵ Kim.M.S. *Perspective on Human Communication*. In Milhouse, V.H., Asante, M.K., & Nwosu, P.O. (Eds). *Transcultural realities*. p 3.

The inclusion of culture in understanding is an important part of human life, based on researcher experience in two particular area namely America and Indonesia that a Western and Eastern culture is not entirely homogeneous. So that, the researcher have curiosity to investigate slang language as one of cross-cultural studies which is the most popular term using by students.

The results of pre-observation research found out that most of American students use slang to communicate in daily activities. Also, Indonesian students who are in English Department sometimes use slang in daily communication. However, they use slang but whether they understand the meaning of slang term. Although, This research try to find out comparison between American and Indonesian students understanding about slang term in daily communication. Considering of these statement, the researcher carry out the research under title “Understanding Slang by American and Indonesian Students” (A Cross-Culture Studies at the University of Kansas and STAIN Palopo).

B. Problem Statements

Concerning with the background above, the writer formulated the research question as follow:

1. How is slang understood by American students in daily communication at the University of Kansas?

2. How is slang understood by Indonesian students in daily communication at STAIN Palopo?

3. What are the similarities and the differences between American and Indonesian students in using slang in their daily communication?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the background and problems above, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To find out how is the understanding of slang by American students in daily communication at the University of Kansas.

2. To find out how is the understanding of slang by Indonesian students in daily communication at STAIN Palopo.

3. To find out the similarities and differences between American and Indonesian students in using slang in their daily communication.

D. Significances of the Research

The writer expects that the study will meaningfully contribute to sociolinguistics theoretically and practically to increase the understanding of slang and its meaning. Besides that, the research has many contributions in English language teaching (ELT) because using slang can build students' vocabulary and flexibility to communicate with other people. Practically, it can be used as a reference for the reader, especially the students of the English Education Department at STAIN Palopo.

E. Scope of the Research

In order to get focus in conducting this research, the researcher focused on the cross cultural studies of students in using slang at the University of Kansas and STAIN Palopo. So that, this research just discuss how far the students understanding about slang as one variety of language in their daily communication between American students in University of Kansas and Indonesian students in STAIN Palopo.

F. Definition of Term

To make the readers understand the terms used in this study easily, the researcher would like to presents several definitions of the key terms as follows:

1. Sociolinguistics is the study of ways people use language in social interaction.⁶
2. Language variation is a set of linguistic terms with the similar social distribution.
3. Understanding is is a relation between the knower and an object of understanding.⁷
4. Cross culture study is a specialization in *anthropology* and sister sciences (*sociology, psychology, economics, political science*) that uses field data from many

⁶ Elaine, Chaika. *Language the Social Mirror*. (Massachusetts: Melburry, 1982), p.23.

⁷ Carl Berieter. "*Education and mind in the Knowledge Age*". (New York: Random House Inc, 2008), p. 20.

societies to examine the scope of *human behavior* and test hypotheses about human behavior and culture.⁸

5. Standard English is a speeches of those enjoy of favored economic and social status in our society, and this class may be roughly described as the educated class.

6. Nonstandard English is the language of thus occupations which do not require “higher education” that naturally used by people whose schooling is limited and who perform unskilled labor in the country and city.

7. Slang is very casual speech or writing words, expressions, and usages that are casual, vivid, racy, or playful replacements for standard ones, are often short-lived, and are usually considered unsuitable for contexts.⁹

8. Students is person who is studying at a college or university.¹⁰

G. Sequence of the Presentation

Sequence of presentation consists of five chapters, which are followed by the sub-chapters.

Chapter one is an introduction which is followed by the sub-chapter namely background, problem statement, objective of the research , significant of the research,

⁸ Carol R, Ember., and Melvin Ember. *Cross-Cultural Research (Handbook of Methods in Cultural Anthropology)* / Ed. by H. R. Bernard, (Walnut Creek, CA: AltaMira Press, 1998), p.90.

⁹ Soukhanov H, Anne and Kathy Rooney , *The Encarta World English Dictionary*, (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1999), p. 39.

¹⁰ Martin H. Manser, *Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), p. 429.

scope of problem, definition of term, and the outline of sequence of the presentation as the short explanation about the frame of this final project.

Then chapter two deals with the discussion review of related literature, which describe previous study, the concept of sociolinguistic , linguistic analysis of slang, classification of slang within non-standard varieties, student slang in modern technology, and theoretical framework .

There would also be the method of investigation in chapter three that the researcher use in analyzing the students' understanding of slang.

Next, would be the result of the study how far students understanding of slang in America and Indonesia and it would be concluded in chapter five.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In conducting the research, the writer has to collect and review the related review the literature related to the research. Literature is needed to give theoretical explanation. There are some related literatures that will be explained in this chapter.

A. Previous of Related Findings

There have been some researches dealing with slang and cross-cultural studies, Setyowati (2004) in her study entitled “The Use of Slang in American Popular Movies” states that slang also appears in the rap song. It is used to show the contents or topics of song that have many description of rough life, for example, politics, protest, dope, etc.¹

All those topics in the lyrics can influence the use of slang, for instance, *motherfucka*, *shit*, *damn*, *fuck*, *bit*, *gangsta*, and etc. The use of slang is not only meant for coarse words or under words, but can also used in talk among friends or college, for instance, *wanna*, (want to), *gonna* (going to), *thang* (thing), *baby* (sweat heart), etc.

While Hasanah (2003) in her study entitled A Sociolinguistics Study on Slang Used by Youngster in Batu states that the use of nonstandard in

¹ Rini Setyowati, *The Use of Slang in American Popular Movies*, Unpublished Thesis. (Malang: Gajayana University, 2004). p. 51.

slang and colloquialism appear in the coarse words, under words, taboo or vulgar, for instance fuck, shit, chick and the use of double negative. All those words are informal language because the language cannot be by formal situation.²

Yulianti (2000) wrote a research entitled “An Analysis of Black English Structure of Missy Eliot Songs Lyrics” as a Thesis. She found out that Black English Structure in Missy Eliot songs has certain distinctive grammatical feature. These Black English many differences from the Standard English Structure.³

Another researcher, Dewi Nurjanah (2002) *A study of the word formation processes of slang used by Arjosari-Tidar drivers in Tidar Station* states that slang is used in nonstandard English, because slang is nonstandard English words which are known and used by certain group of people that tries for quick, easy, and personal made of speech.⁴

Mukhtar Abadi in her thesis sum up that eminem’s song lyrics always use slang that has four characteristics with fresh, flippant, creativety or onomatopoeic.

² Hasanah. *A Sociolinguistics Study on Slang Used by Youngster in Batu*. (Malang: The State Islamic University of Maliki Malang, 2003), p. 50.

³ Yulianti. *An Analysis of Black English Structure of Missy Eliot Songs Lyrics*. (Semarang: University of Semarang, 2000). p. 38.

⁴ Dewi Nurjannah. *A Study of the Word Formation Processes of Slang used by Arjosari-Tidar drivers in Tidar Station*. (Bandung: UPI Bandung, 2002), p. 13.

Such as, *niggas* means Negro or black people, *bitch* means sacrifice, *crack* means marijuana, *pissed* means angry, *motherfuckin* means scoundrel.⁵

Suzanna Jeyanthi Ramos in her thesis about Cross-Cultural Studies of Implicit Theories of Creativity: A Comparative Analysis Between the United State and main Ethnic Group in Singapore, the data were analyzed and compared each other as nation cultures as well as amongst the three ethnic groups in Singapore. The results revealed that the participants had the implicit belief that high creativity was associated with Kirton's innovative style of creativity. Also, the words they believed were associated with creativity seemed to have an innovator bias.

Veronica Burdova summarized in her thesis was to chart the variability, richness, level and variety of current speech among Czech and American students in the field of different topics related to school and out of school activities. It must be borne in mind that student slang is not permanent, thus many expressions may differ soon. Despite of that fact, the most important aspect has to be remembered that student slang has always maintained the prime position in their communication and had a great influence on the development of language.

Based on the previous of findings above, this research has similarities with Suzanna and Veronica research's. But the researcher investigated the another topic which has related from the background of this study, namely how far students

⁵ Mukhtar Abadi, "*Analysis on the Use of Slang on Eminem's Lyrics*" (Malang: The State Islamic University of Maliki Malang, 2010), p. 98.

understood in using slang in daily communication between American and Indonesian students.

B. The Relationship of Language and Culture

The relationship between language and culture has long been an area of study within anthropology, one of the parent disciplines of sociolinguistic. To understand this relationship, it is necessary to tackle the anthropological concept of *cultural relativism* which gained currency at the beginning of this century in the discipline. According to this concept, each culture presented a unique, coherent system that shaped and molded individuality in its own special way. The American theories about cultural relativism were really an argument against contemporary ideas about racial and biological determinism. However, it proved very influential and over the years was applied to language, which was seen as playing a central role in cultural life.⁶

Language is the principal means whereby we conduct our social lives. When it is used in contexts of communication, it is bound up with culture in multiple and complex ways. To begin with, the words people utter refer to common experience. They express facts, ideas or events that are communicable because they refer to stock of knowledge about the world that other people share.⁷

⁶ Leo Loveday. *The Sociolinguistic of Learning and Using a Non-native language*. (England: Pergamon Press Ltd, 1982), p. 35.

⁷ Claire Kramsch. *Language and Culture*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998), p. 3.

But members of a community or social group do not only express experience, they also create experience through language. They give meaning to it through the medium they choose to communicate with one another, for example speaking on the telephone or face to face, writing a letter or sending an e-mail message, reading the newspaper or interpreting a graph or chart. The way in which people use the spoken, written, or visual medium itself creates meaning that are understandable to the group they belong to, for example, through a speaker's tone of voice, accent, conversational style, gestures and facial expressions. Through all its verbal and non-verbal aspects.

Finally, language is a system of signs that is seen as having itself a cultural value. Speakers identify themselves and others through their use of language, they view their language as a symbol of their social identity. The prohibition of its often perceived by its speakers as a rejection of their social group and their culture.

C. Sociolinguistics Analysis

Language emerged because of the human's need of each other. Besides, as means of communication, language also takes an important role to establish and maintain the relationship between people and the society. Language is the foundation of society, allowing people to live, work, and play together. By using language, people can also show their characteristics, their background, even their personal identity.

Because of language and society are related each other both it therefore to be important to study both phenomena (language and society). Moreover, there is a branch of linguistics that study about the relation of language and society, which is called sociolinguistics.

Sociolinguistics is the study of the effect of any and all aspects of society, including cultural norms, expectation, and context, on the way language is used. According to Chaika, “sociolinguistics is the study of ways people use language in social interaction”⁸ while Trudgill defines sociolinguistics as the part of linguistics which is concerned with language as social cultural phenomena.⁹

According to Wardaugh, sociolinguistics investigates the relationships between language and society with the goal of a better understanding of the structure of language function. It means that in sociolinguistics people will learn about the way of social structures influences how people talk and how language varieties and pattern of use correlate with social attributes such as class, sex, and age.¹⁰

Based on the definitions above, it can be concluded that sociolinguistics is the branch of linguistic which studies the relation between language and society, and

⁸ Elaine Chaika. *Language the Social Mirror*. (Massachusetts: Melburry, 1982), p. 2.

⁹ Peter Trudgil. *Sociolinguistic: An Introduction to Language and Society*. (Aylesbury: Hazel Watson and Viney, 1983), p. 32.

¹⁰ Ronald Wardaugh. *An Introduction to Sociolinguistic*. (Oxford: Black Well. Great Britain. MacMillan Press Ltd, 2002), p. 208.

it is also the study of the ways people use language in social interaction. Moreover, sociolinguistics is a study of language in relation to society.

D. Language Variation

There are some facts related to languages in which they are always change over time, different from one another, and have a lot of varieties. Language variation exists 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 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”.¹¹

According to Hudson, variety of language is a set of linguistics item with similar social distribution. Ferguson defined language variation as any speech pattern that is sufficiently homogeneous to be analyzed by available techniques of synchronic description and which has a sufficiently large repertory of elements and their arrangement or process with broad enough semantic scope to function in all normal context of communication.¹²

¹¹ Peter Trudgill, *op.cit.* p.100.

¹² Hudson, R. S. *Sociolinguistic.*(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980), p. 24.

1. Dialect

Dialect is one variety of language. According to Trudgill dialect is defined as the differences between kinds of language in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation.¹³ “Dialect refers to all the differences between varieties of language, those in pronunciation, word usage, and syntax”.¹⁴ 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.

2. Register

Different professional and different group may develop distinctive vocabularies. Ferguson in Wardhaugh, 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.¹⁵

¹³ Peter Trudgill, *op.cit.* p. 17.

¹⁴ Elaine Chaika, *op.cit.* p.132

¹⁵ Ronald Wardaugh, *op.cit.* 51.

Wardhaugh defines the term register as sets of language items related with discrete occupational or social group. By using register, people can express their identity at a specific time or place.¹⁶

3. 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.

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.

4. 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 require different style of speech.

Style refers to the selection of linguistics forms to convey social or artistic

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

effects. Style is also as set of instructions. The message it conveys are not normally conveyed in words.¹⁷

5. Slang

a. History of Slang

The different dialects and the different pronunciations represented slang was the main reason for the development of prescriptive language in an attempt to slow down the rate of change in both spoken and written language. Latin and French were the only two languages that maintained the use of prescriptive language in the 14th century. It was not until the early 15th century that scholars began pushing for a standard English language.

During the Middle Ages, certain writers such as Chaucer, William Caxton, and William of Malmesbury represented the regional differences in pronunciations and dialects the first meaning for the term “slang.” However, our present-day meaning for slang did not begin forming until the 16th or 17th century. The English Criminal Cant developed in the 16th century. The English Criminal Cant was a new kind of speech used by criminals and cheats, meaning it developed mostly in saloons and gambling houses. The English Criminal Cant was at first believed to be foreign, meaning scholars thought that it had either originated in Romania or had a relationship to French. The English Criminal Cant was slow developing. In fact, out of the four million people who spoke English, only about ten thousand spoke the

¹⁷ Elaine Chaika, *op.cit.* p.29

English Criminal Cant. By the end of the 16th century this new style of speaking was considered to be a language “without reason or order”. During the 18th century schoolmasters taught pupils to believe that the English Criminal Cant (which by this time had developed into slang) was not the correct usage of English and slang was considered to be taboo.

However, slang was beginning to be presented in popular plays. The first appearance of the slang was in a play by Richard Brome’s and later appeared in poems and songs by Copland. By the 1700’s the cultural differences in America had begun to influence the English-speaking population, and slang began to expand. Almost all of the slang words during this time were anatomical and well known all through Britain and in America due to the British colonists. Furthermore, certain events happened in the 18th century that helped the development of slang such as, Westward expansion, the Civil War, and the abolitionist movement . By this time scholars such as Walt Whitman, W. D. Whitney, and Brander Matthews all considered slang to be anything that sounded new, and that was not in the “glossaries of British dialects”. Walt Whitman consider slang to be the life of the language. Whitman wrote “that slang was a wholesome.....of common humanity to escape the form bald literalism, and express itself illimitably”. This was a turning point for slang it was starting to escape the harsh criticism of being associated with criminals or foreigners. It was not until the early 1920’s that slang had gained the interest of popular writers. It was during the post-World War I era that society gained new

attitudes about slang. There was now a demand for entertainment, mass media, and slangy fiction.¹⁸

Today modern American slang has been shaped and reshaped by the different cultures and the emergence of technology, which has left our society with varieties of slang from extremes like Street/Drug Slang to African-American Slang.

b. American Culture Reflected by American Slang

Language is the tool of communication and thinking, meanwhile, it is the carrier of culture. Human language is a mirror that gives a veritable image of the society and culture. So is slang. Slang is popular to English-spoken people because of its fresh, lifelike, humor and exaggeration. To American, slang can reflect their attitude towards the reality. Thus the people can make out some points of American character.

American is always vigorous and ready to innovate as well as easygoing. People use slang to activate atmosphere of their conversation, make the hearer feel relaxed and get closer to the hearer. There are so many intimate appellations, namely, buddy, my boy, my girl, old man, bean, tops etc. Just think that if a boss says to his man “Come along, my boy, cheer up! There is absolutely nothing to worry about!” In this case, the working atmosphere is certainly friendly and comfortable.

¹⁸ Tony Thorne. *The Dictionary of Contemporary Slang*. (New York: Pantheon Books: 1990), p.23-26.

Furthermore, their sense of humor cannot be ignored. These characteristics can be proved from the way they talk and the slang they choose. “Couch potato” is a widely known expression. As soon as we hear this phrase a picture comes into our mind: A fat man, with a big bag of potato chips in his arms, crouches in the sofa, his eyes gazing at the screen. When you see the following abbreviate expressions, NATO, SOS, and GASP, G-man, what means do you think they are. Government man, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Save Our Ship and Group against Smoker’s Pollution? Then you must be an old-fashioned person. Now American endows these expressions with new meanings. NATO has a totally different meaning—No action, talk only; the same is SOS, it now means “same old shit”; GASP is much more funny. It now means to breathe convulsively or laboriously. G-man referrers to the government men who are inaction.

Examples above-mentioned embody that American is creative. They are unwearied of pursuing novelty. They pooh-pooh the authorities, because they believe that “they are created equal”.¹⁹

c. The Reason of People Use Slang

Because most people are individuals who desire uniqueness, it stands to reason that slang has been in existence for as long as language has been in existence.

¹⁹ Hudson R.A, <http://www.analysisonamericanslangfromculturalperspective.org> Accessed on January 13th 2012.

Even so, the question of why slang develops within a language has been hotly debated. Most agree that the question is still unanswered, or perhaps it has many answers. Regardless, there is no doubt that we can better explain slang's existence by analyzing how and why it exists.

Foreign words are a common resource for the development of slang, as are regional variations of standard words. David Crystal, author of *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, calls the introduction of foreign words into a language "borrowings." Likewise, slang may incorporate "elements of the jargons of special-interest groups (e.g., professional, sport, regional, criminal, and drug subcultures)."²⁰ The *Historical Dictionary of American Slang* says that "Slang is lexical innovation within a particular cultural context."²¹ Sometimes these foreign words and regional variations become part of the standard language. The *Historical Dictionary of American Slang* points out that many groups "use slang largely because they lack political power." It is simply a safe and effective way that people rebel against the establishment. Often, however, it appears that slang is ever present and exists even in complacent times. It is created by individuals and perpetuated based upon its usefulness and applicability.

²⁰ David Crystal. *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), p.20.

²¹ Jonathan Lighter E., ed. *Historical Dictionary of American Slang*. (New York: Random House, Inc., 1994). p.302.

The Columbia Encyclopedia notes that slang is often "well developed in the speaking vocabularies of cultured, sophisticated, linguistically rich languages."²² Whereas slang was once considered as the lowest form of communication, many now consider slang to be an intelligent and insightful variation to the blandness of the standard language. Gerald Parshall, in a 1994 article for *U.S. News & World Report*, describes this as "proletarian poetry." *The Oxford English Dictionary* points out that George Eliot's character in *Middlemarch*, written in 1871, says that "Correct English is the slang of prigs who write history and essays."²³ For some, it is enough that Shakespeare often used slang.

However, condemn the use of slang, believing that it undermines the standard language and reflects poorly upon its users. Parshall notes that Ambrose Bierce, in his dictionary, called slang "the grunt of the human hog." Even *The Oxford English Dictionary's* 1989 edition defines slang as "the special vocabulary used by any set of persons of a low or disreputable character; language of a low and vulgar type." In fact, both Crystal and *The Historical Dictionary of American Slang* point out that Samuel Johnson and Jonathan Swift produced the very first dictionaries partly out of great concern for the corruption of the standard English language.

²² Allee, Ph.D., John Gage. *The Columbia Encyclopedia of Dictionaries*. (New York: Ottenheimer Publishers, Inc., 1978), p.442.

²³ GERAL Parshall. *U.S. News & World Report*, 06/27/94, v116:n25, p61(5),

Whatever the reason(s), slang is here to stay, and its longevity demands attention and explication. Below is an excerpt from David Crystal's book. Crystal cites examples from Eric Partridge's *Slang, Today and Yesterday* to illustrate the many uses of slang.

d. Slang by Definition

Slang is nonstandard use of word in a language of a part social group. Slang terms are often particular to a certain subculture, such as: musicians, skate boarders and drugs users. Another theory of slang by Menchen, slang is expressions that do not belong to Standard English. For example: “what’s up?” is an example of term for asking about people or greeting a person. The articles by Kelly fox “Some Thoughts on Slang”, she described some statements or people thoughts of term “slang”.

People speak differently in formal contexts and in formal contexts, especially when speaking informally, people often use slang: an informal but colorful words and expressions. Slang is an unconventional words or phrases that express something new or something old in a new way. Slang words sometimes flippant, impolite, and improper. Since slang is a wide concept and it is used in different and rather confusing ways, there is not fixed definition about it. Lighter defined slang as informal, non-standard, non-technical vocabulary composed chiefly of novel sounding

synonyms for standard word and phrases.²⁴ As the sum up of this case, slang is one of trend term to speak in informal situation.

Slang is the non-standard or non-dialectal use of words in a language of a particular social group, and sometimes the creation of a new words or importation of words from another language.²⁵ Another definition of slang is very casual speech or writing words, expression, and usages that are casual, vivid, racy, or playful replacements for standards ones, are often short-lived, and are usually considered unsuitable for formal contexts.²⁶ To look out the interpreted of slang definition above, slang is communication tool usually used by particular social group to express their expression in social life.

When an individual applies language in a new way to express hostility, or ridicule, he may be creating slang, but the new expression will vanish unless it is used by another. A new slang term is usually widely used in a subculture before it appears in the dominant culture.

Anderson and Trudgill in *Bad Language* mention the typical of slang, some of them are:

- 1). Slang is typical of informal situation

²⁴ Lighter, J. E. *Dictionary of American Slang*. Volume I & II. (New York: Random House, 1994), p. 10.

²⁵ Adapted from <http://www.Slang Dictionary.com>. Accessed on June 29th 2011.

²⁶ Adams, Michael. *SLANG "The People's Poetry"*, (Indianapolis: Oxford University Press, 2009), p.7.

The formality of language is tied to the situation: in formal situation people expect formal language and in formal situation they expect informal language. Slang will be the last choice for anyone attempting to use language for formal, persuasive or business purposes since they will be considered as a rude people. More slang words will be found in the conversation between friends if compared with the conversation between employer and employee.

2). Slang is typical of spoken language

Since the situation in which we write is more formal than the situations in which we talk, as stated above that slang is typical of formal situation, automatically slang belong to typical of spoken language. The example is like when go and watch soccer, they will hear a lot of slang from the crowd but the next morning when people read about the match in the newspaper, there will be far less slang in the paper's coverage of the game.

3). Slang is not cant, argot or jargon

For the first time, the term slang was used by British criminal to refer to their own special language. Cant, a private language of the underworld (criminal) which still used as a term for language of criminals. Thus, slang has moved a long way from its origin. Argot is a name for the language criminals which origin is French and has been used for several centuries with this meaning. Jargon refers to special or technical words used by particular group of people.

4). Slang is creative

Creativity took an important part in the invention of many slang words. The

point of slang words is often to be startling, amusing or shocking. Slang expressions- for example, the apple of one's eye (one favorite), square heads (stupid person), for the first time they are used they are truly creative. Those words attract other people's attention but when it is used over and over again, its freshness is lost and it turns into rather ordinary lexical items. This then creates a need for few expression and new expression and new metaphors. Since slang is another way to express either something new or something old in a new way, there is constant desire to create new and dramatic expression. Slang words changed continually, it is very unusual for slang words to live on the language for thousand years. By those reasons, creativity is very important in the development of slang words.

5). Slang is short-lived

As stated before that is unusual for slang words to stay on the language for thousand years. Most of slang words are accepted into neutral style or else die out rather quickly. Many slang words, such as phone, bike, bus, pub, etc, have become standard or neutral language. There are also many slang words which have been lost.

Slang changes through time. What is slang for one person, generation or situation may not be slang for another. This change is directly connected with the creativity of slang. The enormous number of new slang words may trigger the replacement of the old ones.²⁷

²⁷ Anderson, Lars and Trudgill, Peter. *Bad Language*. (Massachusetts: Basil Blackwell, 1990), p. 67-68.

e. The View of Slang in Indonesia

Indonesian slang is the informal version of Indonesian. Despite its direct origins, Indonesian slang often differs quite significantly in both vocabulary and grammatical structure from the most standard form of Indonesia's national language. Its native name, *bahasa gaul* (the 'social language'), was a term coined in the late 1990s where *bahasa* means 'language' and *gaul* means 'social', 'cool' or 'trendy'. Similarly, the term *bahasa prokém* (a more out-dated name for Indonesian slang) created in the early 1980s means 'the language of gangsters'. *Prokém* is a slang form of the word *préman* and was derived from the Dutch word *vrijman* (English: *freeman*; lit. gangster).

Indonesian slang is predominantly used in everyday conversation, social milieus, among popular media and, to a certain extent, in teen publications or pop culture magazines. For those living in more urbanized regions of Indonesia, Indonesian slang language often functions as the primary language medium for communication in daily life. While it would be unusual to communicate orally with people on a casual basis with very formal Indonesian, the use of proper or 'good and correct' Indonesian ("*bahasa Indonesia yang baik dan benar*") is abundant in the media, government bodies, schools, universities, workplaces, amongst some members of the Indonesian upper-class or nobility and also in many other more formal situations.²⁸

Indonesian slang is an ever-evolving language phenomenon. This is, in part, due to its vocabulary that is often so different from that of standard Indonesian and Malaysian and also because so many new words (both original and foreign) are quite easily incorporated into its increasingly wide vocabulary list. However, as with any language, the constant changing of the times means that some words become rarely used or are rendered obsolete as they are considered to be outdated or no longer follow modern day trends.

f. Classification of Slang within Non-standard Varieties

1). Specific, general slang

The classification of slang is as ambiguous as its definition. Comparison of classification of other similar language varieties, e.g. jargon, argot, dialect, shows that classification of slang seems to be more implicit due to its conceptual and terminological overlap. Slang, as a social variety, is associated with a particular group (e.g. student slang, military slang, drug slang), as a regional variety with an area or district (American slang, Cockney slang). It must be remembered that the nature of slang is characterized by extent and it is all-encompassing. In consequence, it allows further sub-distinction between specific and general slang terminology.

Specific slang is language used by members of a particular group to show their respect for that group and solidarity with other group members. It is also used

²⁸ Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indonesian_slang. Accessed on September 2nd 2011.

in order to underline speakers' identity, social status, age, education, special interests as well as their geographical belonging. Therefore, it is mainly spoken by people of similar age (teenagers: chick 'a girl', cool 'OK'), similar occupation (military: flak 'an aviator'); or by people sharing similar lifestyle (homosexuals, drug addicts: smack 'heroin') or the same living conditions (criminals: axe 'a knife'). General slang, on the other hand, is language used by speakers to avoid conventions, seriousness. It is used instead of clichés and standard language to change the level of formality (bevvy 'a drink', footy 'football'). Some words can be both specific and general according to context, e.g. the word grass is in specific drug slang 'marijuana' whereas in general slang it stands for 'green vegetables'.²⁹

2). Slang versus dialect

Like slang, several similar language varieties can be distinguished within language register depending on their social, regional and temporal factors as well as their function and purpose of their usage. Therefore, nonstandard English comprises varieties of language such as dialect, colloquial language, vernacular, etc. featuring characteristics common for all of them. Distinctions between slang and other varieties are discussed in this chapter. Specific examples of texts written in slang, dialect and vernacular are given in the final subchapter, as well.

²⁹ Mattiello, E. *An Instruction to English Slang*. (Milano: Polimetrica, 2008), p. 35,39,40.

Wolfram and Estes define dialect as a variety of language referring to a given group of speakers.³⁰ It may be said that classification of dialect is quite similar to slang classification and three categories are given:

- a) Geographical (region in which the dialect is spoken, e.g. Australian, Southern England, African American).
- b) Temporal (dialect used at different periods or by members of different age, sex groups, e.g. Old English, Middle English).
- c) Social (dialect spoken by members of different social class, e.g. upper class, middle class).³¹

Mattiello refers to Chambers, Trudgill and Romaine who claim that dialect is geographically restricted, unlike slang, in spite of the fact that slang may vary from region to region. Slang does not strictly associate with one place or social group, but its use and understanding is more general. Mattiello also points out that a word in British English slang may be standard in American English and vice versa, or it may be of different meaning within the two regional varieties. The concrete example is given, as well. British vulgar slang word *fanny* refers to 'female genitals, but in American English it means 'posterior'.³²

³⁰ Wolfram, W., Este, N. *American English: Dialects & Variation*. (Malden: Wiley-Blackwell, 1998.), p. 2.

³¹ Vogel, R. *Basics of Lexicology*. (Brno: Masarykova Univerzita, 2007), p. 10.

³² Mattiello, E. *Op.cit.* p. 32.

3). Slang versus vernacular language

It may be said that slang is characterized by common linguistic features as vernacular. Comparison of their properties shows that both slang and vernacular are languages realized mainly in a spoken form. Though there are certain similarities within slang and vernacular, there is still a little difference. The origin of the word vernacular comes from Latin *vernaculus* meaning 'native'. Thus, unlike slang, vernacular rather indicates indigenous language referring to inhabitants of a certain locality or region and is defined as "the native speech of a particular country or district frequently includes variation of sounds or mispronunciation of words which are typical of a limited area." While slang, as a hybrid language, often cooperates with foreign lexical background as it can be given in the example of word smack meaning 'heroin' derived from Yiddish schmeck.³³

4). Slang versus colloquial language

Colloquial language does not correspond to slang, and although it is characterized by similar features of informality and realized in ordinary spoken or written form, it is still considered as a part of Standard English. Colloquial language may be used when talking to friends as well as in the newspaper or during informal business meetings. Slang is regarded more informal and covers words and expressions that are not considered part of the

³³ *Ibid*, p. 38.

standard language. As mentioned above, slang is informally used by members of some particular social or ethnic groups, e.g. teenagers, thus purpose of its using is slightly different from colloquial familiarity. Mattiello points out the sociological properties of slang, such as secrecy, vulgarity, privacy producing various effects of humorous, aggressiveness, etc. which do not display within colloquial language. As an example she compares expressions belly and beer belly. Colloquial word belly indicates 'stomach', whereas beer belly as a slang word stands for 'a person having an overhanging stomach due to often drinking large quantities of it'. Another example is given comparing colloquial word nana derived from banana with exactly the same meaning of 'yellow fruit' with slang word nana referring to a 'silly person'.³⁴

g. Student slang in modern technology

1). Web slang

Slang is for most part attributed to speech of young generation which is closely associated with modern trends in the way of its life, thinking, clothing, acting as well as speaking. Slang is considered as a one of the most important tools of students' realization, thus it contributes to all forms of their communication and it is highly represented in a written informal form of various web chats, discussions, emails or text messaging. Just as values of young people change rapidly and their way of living goes faster, their communication is adapted, as well. There is

³⁴ *Ibid*, p.39.

no doubt that slang expressions are those of no long persistency in the field of speaking but innovative, fresh and rapidly growing as a reflection of user's way of living. Slang is represented in virtual communication enormously. Slang words are expressed by many acronyms, lingos or symbols, called emoticons³⁵, used to display one's emotions and feelings. Those symbols may vary according to user's geographical or culture factors, e.g. Asian style, European style, South American style, etc. The more acronyms and symbols are used the quicker communication is. Nevertheless, frequent use of such a communication form affects every day speech acts so much, thus the boundary between standard and nonstandard language seems to be ambiguous.

Web communication has become a part of students' everyday life. Its role is to communicate rapidly, briefly, usually with a lot of slang words and no grammar rules. Therefore, it demands to be skilled and educated in various acronyms and symbols which help to make communication easier and quicker. Typical examples of web communications are writing emails or messages containing series of letters expressing the meaning in abbreviated forms.

³⁵ Adapted from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emoticon>, p. 71. Accessed on September 10th 2011.

b4 – Before, BAK Back at the Keyboard, BBS Be Back Soon , bf Boyfriend , BTW By The Way , DIKU Do I Know You?, F2F Face To Face , FAQ Frequently Asked Question, fu f*** you, GR or GTR Gotta Run, H&K Hugs and Kisses, HAGD Have A Good Day, JK Just Kidding, KIT Keep In Touch, L8R – Later, LOL - Laughing Out Loud, SOL- Shit Out Of Luck, SPST- Same Place, Same Time, SYL See You Later, TC Take Care, TTYL Talk To You Later, US You Suck.

**The list of emails and SMS acronyms³⁶.*

Like abbreviations, replaced letters frequently occur in web slang words and we speak about letter saving quality. It usually happens within letters producing the same sound, e.g. *rox* (rocks), *thanx* (thanks), *Xmas* (Christmas); single letter might replace whole words as *b* (be), *c* (see) *r* (are), *y* (you); ing form is in most cases replaced by shorten *-in* such as in words *comin*, *eatin*, *havin*, etc. As was mentioned above, web slang words are accompanied by various emoticons (smileys or smiley faces) to convey user's intonation and emotional statement to avoid possible misinterpretation. To see the difference an emoticon can make, look at those two statements:

Hey buddy, you look like a real geek!

Hey buddy, you look like a real geek!:)

³⁶ Adapted from <http://www.allacronyms.com/tag/sms>. Accessed on July 21st 2011

2). Short Message Service (SMS) in Slang

Concerning student slang, specific attention must be drawn to texting short messages via mobile phones. Writing a short message (the abbreviation refers to short message service) centers on student slang realization in a form of short messages sent via mobile. Crystal sees texting as “just another variety of language, which has arisen as a result of a particular technology.”³⁷ It takes its place alongside the other mediums of electronic communication which have resulted from the internet revolution.” As the abbreviation of SMS prompts, the more needs to be written the shorter language has to be used. Thus, the user usually treats as much letter saving quality as possible. Acronyms occur even in a shorter way than in emails. Like replaced letters and acronyms, using numbers, instead of some letters, is also frequently used while writing text messages. E.g. *4Y* (for you), *U2* (you too), *Gr8* (great), *Gt2gthr* (get together), *NE1* (anyone), *rUf2t?* (Are you free to talk?), *Il b l8 cuz cRs bin im£ed.* (I’ll be late because my car has been impounded.), *fanC gOn clubn 2nite?* (Fancy going clubbing tonight?), *hve I told U l8tly that I luv u?* (Have I told you lately that I love you?)³⁸, etc. Messages are linguistically and stylistically obvious and transparent for the users of such a communication so that the process is made quicker and clear. To

³⁷ Crystal, D. *Txtng: The Gr8 Db8*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008), p. 164.

³⁸ Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SMS_language, on May 25th 2011.

successfully achieve this, it is necessary to be aware of all acronyms, symbols and abbreviations.

h. The Characteristic of Students Slang

Slang began to creep into English literature although many writers and schools were fiercely against it, saying that it was vulgar, corrupted, uncultured, secret and false, the dialect of the rabble, of beggars, of gypsies and of thieves.

As regards student slang, definition of the term will have to be given more in detail. It may be said that student slang is non-literary style of communication among students characterized by several specific features mentioned above. Comparison of various slangs shows that student slang is remarkable for particular features resulting from specificity of student surrounding. Hubáček notices the variability of student surrounding which corresponds to variability of slang itself. Slang is usually restricted to concrete place, time or even to particular school and studying branch. Therefore, it is not noted for long persistency but it covers some invariable expressions passing through time, as well. Another specific feature of student slang, its users or originators, refers to students creativeness, originality, freshness, informality, nonstandard way of expressing full of emotions. Users of student slang are mainly young people with not so many social inhibitions depreciating formalism

and groaning for new immediate knowledge. Thus, student slang is seen as one of the most important tools of students' realization.³⁹

Besides specific vocabulary student slang is characterized by some features produced in sound realization such as intonation, rhythm, stress underlined by purposely lax way of speaking, inaccurate or omitted pronunciation of some sounds or even group of sounds. The words are usually produced in a shortened, easier and more relax way. Others examples of students' speech are using **weak forms**: *What'm I going t'do now? Ah'm over here. Consonant gemination: innit?* (isn't it?), *wunnit* (wasn't it?), *dunno* (I do not), *lemme* (let me). **Colloquial words**: *dough* (money), *cool* (great), *come up for air* (take a break). **Idioms**: *The first game ever played* (to have sex), *Have a mind like a steel trap* (to learn easily). **Using positive adjectives for expressing negative** qualities: He is phenomenal idiot. Using **negative adjectives** such as terrible, horrific, tremendous in order **to exaggerate or overact**. Slang is often associated with dirty language related to various **taboo** topics, e.g. sex and names of male and female genitalia: *cock, dick, cunt fanny*, sexual intercourse: *fuck, screw, shag*. The vulgar word *fuck* in slang is often used for emphasize its meaning: *fucking crap*. **Vulgarity** and **obscenity** are typical features of slang. In consequence of using wide range of pejorative expressions, student slang might be overviewed critically mostly from members of elderly generation.

³⁹ Hubáček, J. *O českých slanzích*. (Ostrava: Profil, 1979), p. 83-84.

E. Conceptual Framework

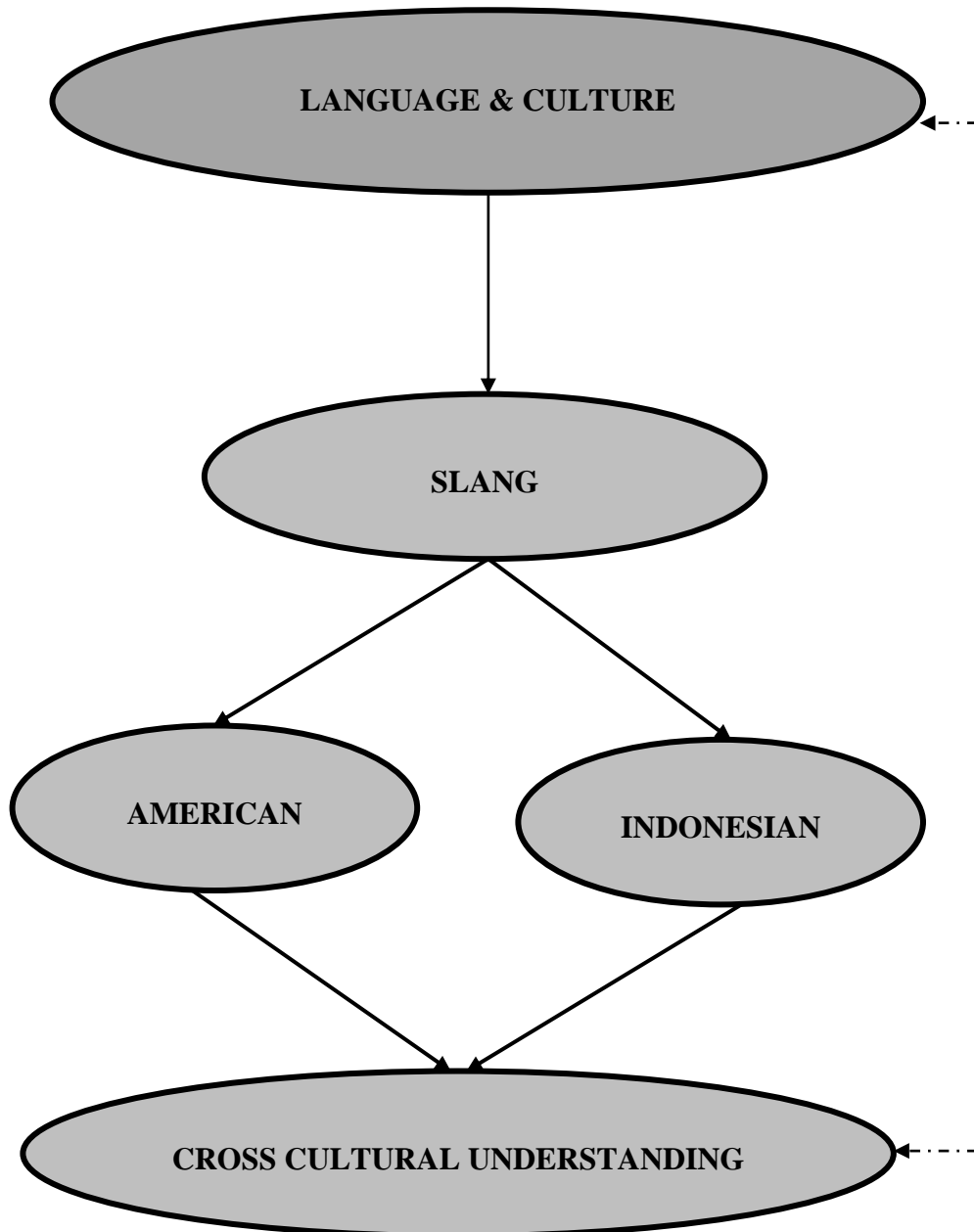
Language is the principal means whereby the people conduct their social lives. When it is used in contexts of communication, it is bound up with culture in multiple and complex ways. Besides that, Language is the foundation of society, allowing people to live, work, and play together. By using language, people can also show their characteristics, their background, even their personal identity.

Slang expressions often embody attitudes and values of group members. In order for an expression to become slang, it must be widely accepted and adopted by members of the subculture or group. Slang has no societal boundaries or limitations as it can exist in all cultures and classes of society as well as in all languages.

Here, slangs are perceived by American and Indonesian students based on their cultural background and cultural knowledge of Indonesian students. Certainly, Indonesia students have a limited knowledge about western cultural as most of them have not yet visited abroad and lived together with the native speakers.

Understanding culture is not simply perceived by getting inform from some source, but it more than live together with them in certain time. The explanation above written on the diagram as follow:

Diagram 2.1 Conceptual Framework of Research



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presented the method of the research, population and sample, methods in data collecting, procedure of collecting data, and technique of analysis.

A. Method of the Research

The method used to analyze the data is descriptive comparative. It describes the data comparative between American and Indonesian students in understanding slang. As stated by Gay descriptive research involves collecting data in order to test hypotheses or answer question relates to the current status of the object of the study. A descriptive study determines and reports the thing. It means that descriptive study, the research happen naturally, and the research has no control over the condition and the situation, and can only measure what already exist.¹

B. Population and Sample

1. Population

The population of this research was the students at The University of Kansas in summer semester 2011 and the students of English Education Department at STAIN Palopo 2011.

¹ Gay, L.R, and Airasian, Peter, *Education Research*. (New Jersey: Merrill Prentice Hall, 1992), p. 11.

2. Sample

Sample is part of population that can be representative for all of the population. In this case the sample teaching that researcher will use is purposive sample, based on students' characteristic, cost, and allocated time that researcher needed to finish the research.² The researcher takes 30 students to be sample to compare between two countries.

a. American Informants

30 American students, 18 females and 12 males, attending in The University of Kansas. Those students are at the age of 22 to 24.

Table 3.1

The University of Kansas (30 informants)

| No | Years of birth | The number of informants | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 1987 | 12 | 40 % |
| 2 | 1988 | 7 | 23 % |
| 3 | 1989 | 8 | 27 % |
| 4 | 1990 | 3 | 10 % |
| Total | | 30 | 100 % |

² Suharsimi Arikunto, *Prosedur Penelitian*, (cet.IV; R Cipta, 1997) p.126-127.

b. Indonesian Informants

30 students of English Education at STAIN Palopo. The informants were 24 females and 6 males from the age of 20 to 24.

Table 3.2

STAIN Palopo (30 informants)

| No | Years of birth | The number of informants | Percentage (%) |
|--------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 1987 | 4 | 13 % |
| 2 | 1988 | 8 | 27 % |
| 3 | 1989 | 9 | 30 % |
| 4 | 1990 | 5 | 17 % |
| 5 | 1991 | 4 | 13 % |
| Total | | 30 | 100 % |

C. Methods in Data Collecting

In order to collect the data from the students, the researcher used three kinds of instruments, namely;

1. Observation

The observation was aimed at finding out the students' culture between two countries in daily communication by using slang.

2. Questionnaire

The research was done in a form of open questionnaire based on student slang vocabulary. The researcher divided words into five main categories such as, to greet a person, names of people, school activities, out of school activities which are further subdivided into several subcategories. The questionnaire is meant to find out which the top slang expression is used by students.

3. Interview

Interview is one of the ways in research to find out directly the objective results. To this way the researcher asks some students about their understanding of slang. Also, why they are using slang in daily communication.

D. Procedure of Collecting Data

When defining the procedure of using possible methods the researcher started from the given goal of my final thesis. At first, the researcher devoted attention to specialized linguistic bibliography concerning the given topic, and gained appropriate pieces of knowledge suitable for setting further research techniques. The researcher carried out some kind of pre-research in order to elicit some information about specific student slang expressions. The aim of this pre-research was:

1. To give students basic information about the research process and its goal.
2. To find out the scale of used slang expressions.
3. To divide those expressions into several groups.

Secondly, the researcher prepared the questionnaire, drawing on pre-research, for gathering appropriate linguistic material according to given criteria using qualitative and quantitative evaluation. The results served for:

1. Making the list of the most used slang words.
2. Creating graphs showing the top American slang word representing each sub category compared with American slang expressions using by Indonesian students.
3. Producing graphs showing the percentage of all used slang words in each category.
4. Creating dictionary of all used slang words among American and Indonesian students.

E. Data Analysis Technique

After collecting the data, the writer analysis them the step of processing the data are as follows: (1) tabulating the slang words that have been found in American slang dictionary; (2) counting the rate percentage of realization the most slang using in daily communication based on questionnaire;(3) and drawing conclusion.

To find out the percentage of students in questionnaire assessment by using the formula bellow:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100 \%$$

Where : P = the percentage from the student's response

F = the frequency
 N = number of students.³

Descriptive analysis by using *Likert scale* to know frequency the students use slang in daily communication.⁴ This is scale offered in four categories namely:

Tabel 3.3 Scale of Frequency

| | | |
|------------|------------|---|
| Frequently | with score | 4 |
| Sometimes | with score | 3 |
| Seldom | with score | 2 |
| Never | with score | 1 |

³ Husaini Usman and R. Purnomo Setiadi Akbar, *Pengantar Statistik* in Indar Susanti Thesis “*the influence of attending English course toward English speaking skill at the eight year students of SLTPN 8 Palopo*”, (Palopo: Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri, 2007), p. 30.

⁴ Hadi, S. *Metode Research I*. (Yogyakarta: Fakultas Psikologi UGM, 1986), p.47.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter consists of three sections. The first section with the description of the University of Kansas and STAIN Palopo, the second is findings of the research. The findings of the research cover the description of the result of the data analysis through questionnaires and observation. The third section deals with discussion.

A. Glance of Location of The Research

1. History of The University of Kansas



*USA Map¹

¹ Adapted from <http://www.mapsofworld.com/usa/usa-state-and-capital-map.html>

On September 12, 1866, the University of Kansas became the first university on the Great Plains. When KU opened its doors that day fifty-five students were enrolled in classes taught by three professor. The university was located in North College Hall, a three-story building on the north end of Mount Oread that had a spectacular view of the Kaw and Wakarusa river valley that surrounded the growing town of Lawrence.

The University's original curriculum was traditional to colleges of its day. Latin, Greek, mathematics and philosophy were taught to the twenty-nine men and twenty-six women in the student body. The Legislative act that established the university stated that it was to provide the state's inhabitants the opportunity to acquire a "thorough knowledge of the various branches of literature, science, and arts." When the first class enrolled in 1866, not one student was ready for college work. Hence, adapting itself to the times and circumstances. For that reason, the first commencement was not held until 1873.²

2. Description of The University of Kansas

The University of Kansas (KU) is a public research university and the largest university in the state of Kansas. KU campuses are located in Lawrence, Wichita, Overland Park, and Kansas City, Kansas with the main campus being located in Lawrence on Mount Oread, the highest point in Lawrence. The University was

² Marlesa A. Roney. *KU Heritage and Traditions*. (Lawrence: The Office the Vice Provost for Students Success, 2010), p. 21.

opened in 1866, under a charter granted by the Kansas Legislature in 1864. It claims to be the flagship university of the state of Kansas.³

The University's Medical Center and Hospital are located in Kansas City, Kansas. The Edwards Campus is in Overland Park, Kansas in the Kansas City, Missouri metro area. There are also educational/research sites in Parsons, Topeka and branches of the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita and Salina.

Enrollment at the Lawrence and Edwards campuses at 26,826 students for the 2009–2010 academic year; an additional 3,178 students were enrolled at the KU Medical Center for a total enrollment of 30,004 students across the three campuses. The Lawrence campus and KU Medical Center combined employ 2,460 faculty members.

The 2011 U.S. News & World Report ranked KU 101st in the category "national universities". In addition, the 2008 report stated that the University of Kansas ranked as the 18th most popular university in the United States. It also ranks 11th in the nation for study abroad involvement with nearly one-third of students participating.

KU is home to the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, the Beach Center on Disability, and radio station KJHK and KANU FM, 91.5. The university is host to several notable museums including the University of Kansas Natural History

³ The Status of Black Faculty at the Flagship State Universities. *The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* (Ch II Publishers, Inc) Summer 1996), p. 14-16.

Museum, the KU Museum of Anthropology, and the Spencer Museum of Art. The libraries of the University include the Kenneth Spencer Research Library which commemorates the businessman Kenneth A. Spencer, an alumnus of the University. The University is one of 63 members of the Association of American Universities.⁴

3. History of STAIN Palopo



**Indonesia Map*

On 27th March 1968, Ushuluddin Faculty of IAIN Alauddin Palopo was established with the status as Filial, which was branch from IAIN Alauddin in Ujung Pandang. In improvement processing, in 1982 it's status increased become Madya Faculty. In 1988, based on PP No.3 tahun 1985 about IAIN organization fundamental and Kepres RI No.9 Tahun 1987, about IAIN organization formation. Also, Kepmen Agama RI No.18 Tahun 1988 about organization formation and working system of

⁴ Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Kansas on October 14th, 2011.

IAIN Alauddin. Therefore, Ushuluddin Faculty of IAIN Alauddin had have law position as the same as the others Faculty of IAIN Alauddin in Palopo was changed status became Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri (STAIN) and Drs. H. Syarifuddin was selected as the first chief in STAIN Palopo.

STAIN Palopo which has perspective to become dynamic Islamic High College, excellent and competitive, which has giving quality of Islamic scholar. Besides that, mission of STAIN Palopo are conducting and improving education and teaching which oriented in competence basic curriculum that was supported by good medium and infrastructure. Conducting and improving quality and quantity of Islamic research. In addition, Conducting and improving competitive resource.⁵

B. Findings and Discussion

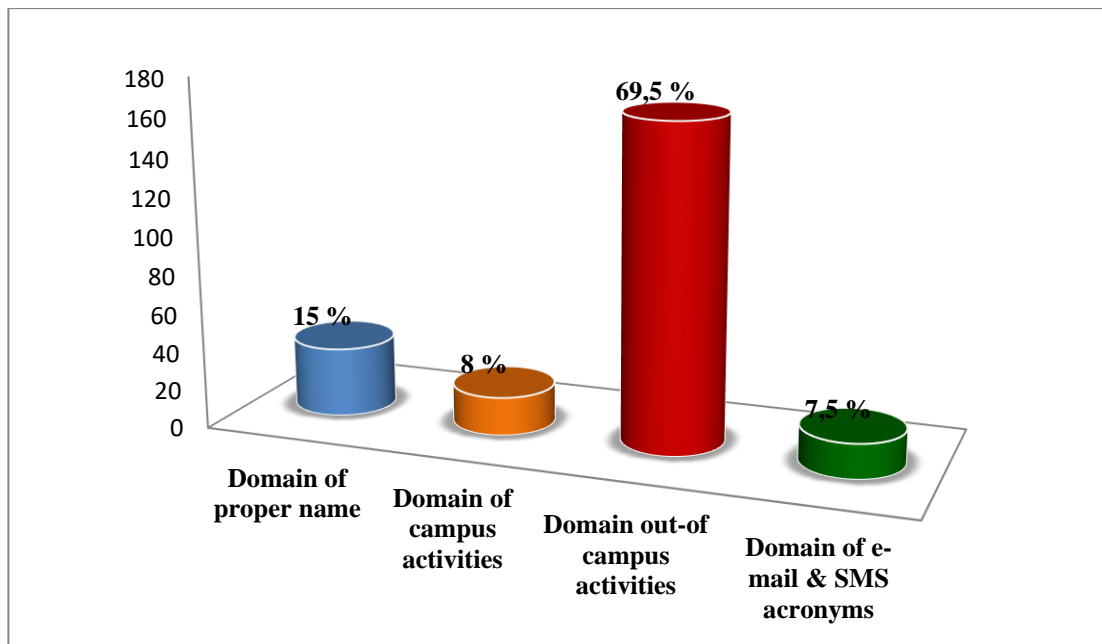
The results of data analysis collected by using questionnaire, observation, and interviewed in this part cover three field, namely the findings about understanding slang by American and Indonesian students in daily communication. Also, the similarities and differences between American and Indonesian students in using slang.

Table 4.4 and graph 4.1 show the number of given words in each category and its percentage with respect to overall number of words.

⁵ Adapted from *slide_login theme*, © 2011 STAIN Palopo on October 25th, 2011.

Table 4.4. Total review of all slang words among American students

| | | |
|--|------------|-------------|
| Total review of all slang words | 240 | 100% |
| Domain of proper name | 36 | 15 % |
| Domain of campus activities | 20 | 8 % |
| Domain out-of campus activities | 166 | 69,5 % |
| Domain of e-mail & SMS acronyms | 18 | 7,5 % |

Graph 4.1 Total review of all American slang words in percentage

Overall assessment shows that 240 student slang expressions were used in the questionnaire. The largest number of words, 166 (69,5 %), was used in the

category of Out-of campus activities. Domain name of people 36 (15 %), domain campus activities 20 (8 %), and domain of e-mail and SMS acronyms 18 (7,5 %).

1. Producing graph Showing the Percentage of Understanding Slang Expressions

a. Understanding in Domain of Proper Name

Table 4.5. The Top American Slang Expression Domain of Proper Name

| No | Domain of Proper name | Top Slang Expression | Frequently (4) | Sometimes (3) | Seldom (2) | Never (1) | Total F |
|----|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| 1 | Headmaster | Principal | 20 | 7 | 3 | - | 30 |
| 2 | Teacher | Teach | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 3 | Cleaning lady | Maid | 25 | 3 | 2 | - | 30 |
| 4 | School porter | Janitor | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 5 | Very intelligent students | Nerd | 12 | 10 | 6 | 2 | 30 |
| 6 | Student without knowledge | Drifter | 11 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 30 |
| 7 | Lazy student | Couch Potato | 25 | 5 | - | - | 30 |

Concerning the names of people, students were less creative in the names of school persons. Headmaster is for most students *principal* with the meaning of the head administrator of school, *boss* as someone who manages the

school and generally, he holds the top position. The slang word *top banana*⁶ denotes an important person occupying a leading post. This compound consists of two nouns in which banana might stand for an allusion to a comedian Frank Lebowitz who used bananas in his acts; on the other hand *banana* may work as a general substitute, such as *dog* or *guy* in *top dog*, *top guy*, etc.

Like abbreviated subjects, *teach* is a reduced word from a teacher created in the process of clipping. Slang expressions for a cleaning lady were mostly *maid* a clipped form of chambermaid, in which a final part of the unabbreviated word is preserved, or cleaner created by adding *-er* suffix to the verb *to clean*. Thus, school porter is same of *janitor*.

Concerning the personal qualities of the classmates, students were more creative and many expressions were given. In this case there was some students type:

1) Student who is very intelligent and prepares carefully for each lesson: although approximately 12 different terms for that student were mentioned, two words *geek* and *nerd* were common for 12 informants. The Etymology of the word *nerd*⁷ comes from children's book *If I Ran the Zoo* written by Dr. Seuss "in which the narrator Gerald McGrew claims that he would collect "a Nerkle, a Nerd, and a Seersucker too" for his imaginary zoo." As

⁶ <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/top%20banana>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

⁷ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nerd>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

a slang word, it has been used since 1951 with a meaning of a highly intellectual person not much socially skilled and not popular. Similarly mentioned word *geek*⁸ with an ambiguous origin of either an English dialect of *geck* (fool) or a Low-German dialect *geck* (to croak), still survives in Dutch *gek* (crazy). Further examples are *dweeb* (with unknown origin), *poindexter* (based on similarity of a cartoon character Felix the Cat), *brain* (metaphoric expression based on linkage between the part of human body necessary required for the process of thinking and its

successful result) and *brainy* (adding -y suffix to *brain*), *smart-ass* (pejorative denoting for smart person created in the process of compounding of the adjective and the noun in which *smart* means clever and *ass* stands for a human part of body that is usually obscenely associated with a smart student, *ass-sucker*, who tries to catch the fancy of a teacher), *studious*⁹ (originated in Latin language is a name for student gathering too much information from books), *teacher's pet* (metaphoric expression relating to teacher's favorite student), *overachiever* (derived by prefixation from the agent noun itself, which is further derived from the verb *to achieve* by adding -er suffix).

⁸ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geek>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

⁹ <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/studious>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

2) Student who attends school just to be there with no knowledge:

this type of student was characterized by 7 distinct expressions. The top slang word is *drifter*. This word was created in the process of adding *-er* suffix to the verb *to drift* (to move). Thus *drifter* is someone who does not stay in the same place for a long time. Another word, highly represented in the questionnaire, is *jerk* possibly originated in the ME word *yerk* with a meaning of a sudden motion. Further slang word denoting such a student was *flake* derived in the process of back formation from the word *flaky* (odd). *Loser* and *floater* are created by adding *er* suffix to verbs *to lose* (to miss) and *to float* (to move slowly). *Average*¹⁰, with the meaning of neither good nor bad, modification of Middle French word *avarie* (cargo) or Old Italian *avaria* or Arabic *awārīya* (damaged merchandise).

3) Student who is lazy: 8 different terms were used for being lazy, e.g. *slacker* created by adding *-er* suffix to the verb *to slack* (to hang around). Similarly made, in the process of suffixation is *loafer* abbreviated from *a landloafer*, the compound of two nouns derived from the verb *to loaf* (to hang around) by particular suffix. The slang expression *couch potato* is based on compounding of two nouns *couch* + *potato* in which the first noun comes from the old French word *la couche* (a bed) and it is forced by a figurative expression of *potato*, that may refer either to such a kind of vegetable that only “sits” or potato chips that are

¹⁰ <http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/average>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

usually eaten while watching TV and doing nothing. *Deadbeat* is the slang compound consists of the adjective dead (not alive) and the noun beat (pulsation) figuratively expressing a lazy person who is almost dead to do something. *Bum* is another term related to a lazy student probably derived in the process of back formation from *bummer* (poor). *Slouch*¹¹ originated in Old Norse *slókr* (a lazy fellow). Further examples of such a student are *underachiever* the opposite of overachiever mentioned above or *daft*¹² from Old English *dæfte* (silly).

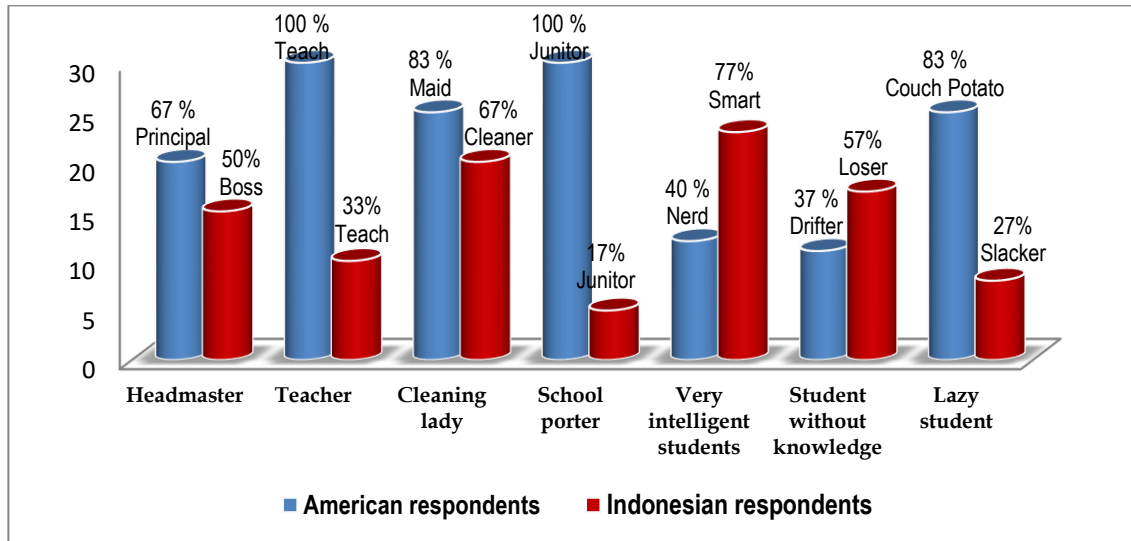
Table 4.6 The Top Indonesian Slang Expression Domain of Proper Name

| No | Domain name of People | Top Slang Expression | Frequently (4) | Sometimes (3) | Seldom (2) | Never (1) | Total <i>f</i> |
|----|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Headmaster | Boss | 15 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 30 |
| 2 | Teacher | Teach | 10 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 30 |
| 3 | Cleaning lady | Cleaner | 20 | - | - | 10 | 30 |
| 4 | School porter | Janitor | 5 | - | - | 25 | 30 |
| 5 | Very intelligent students | Smart | 23 | 3 | 4 | - | 30 |
| 6 | Student without knowledge | Loser | 17 | 3 | - | 10 | 30 |
| 7 | Lazy student | Slucker | 8 | 5 | 2 | 5 | 30 |

¹¹ <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/slouch>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

¹² <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/daft>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

Graph 4.2 Percentage of the Top Slang Expression Domain of Proper Name Using by American and Indonesian Students



Based on the tables and graph above out of 7 categories domain in proper name. First, proper name of *headmaster* which has five slang terms. There was 20 American students (67%) chose “*principle*” as the top slang expression. The other hand, there was 15 (50%) Indonesian students chose “*boss*” as the top slang expression. It means that American students frequently use “*principle*” as the same meaning of the head administrator of school. Different of Indonesian students in this category most of them use “*boss*” to interpreted as the people who manage at the school.

Second, proper name of *teacher* which has one slang term. All of American students 30 (100%) chose “*teach*” as the top slang expression. It means that “*teach*” is a reduced word from a teacher created in the process of clipping. But

in graph of Indonesian students just 10 (33%) chose “*teach*” as the top slang in category of teacher. It means that most of Indonesian students still use *teacher* as the people who teach at school.

Third, proper name of *cleaning lady* which has two slang terms. There was 25 (83%) American students chose “*maid*” as the top slang expression. It means American students use this term for the people who is working at home or hotel, the word clipped from chambermaid. Mostly of Indonesian respondents 20 (67%) chose “*cleaner*” as the top slang expression. It means that *cleaning lady* has same meaning of “*cleaner*” and the function as objective. Beside that, interpreted of “*Cleaner*” is the people who always be assistant at the house.

Fourth, proper name of *school porter* which has one slang term. In this category, all American students 30 (100%) chose *janitor* as the top slang expression which has the same meaning of *school porter*. The other hand, just 5 (17%) Indonesian students chose *janitor* as the slang which has same meaning of *school porter*. In additionally, Indonesian students have another term of this category, cleaning service as the popular term which has same meaning of school porter.

Fifth, proper name of *very intelligent student* which has twelve slang terms. There was 12 (40%) American students chose “*nerd*” as the top slang expression. In this category percentage of Indonesian students higher than American students, there was 23 (77%) chose “*smart*” as the top slang expression. It means clever students.

Sixth, proper name of *student without knowledge* which has seven slang terms. There was 11 (37%) American students chose “*drifter*” as the top slang

expression. It means “*drifter*” attends school just to be there with no knowledge. Another hand, there was Indonesian students 17 (57%) chose “*loser*” as the top slang expression.

And the last, proper name of “*lazy students*” which has eight slang expression. There was 25 (83 %) American students chose “*couch potato*” as the top slang expression. Different of Indonesian students 8 (27%) chose “*slacker*” as the top slang expression. Mostly of Indonesian students never use some slang terms of this category.

b. Understanding in Domain of Campus Activities

Table 4.7 The Top American Slang Expression Domain of Campus Activities

| No | Domain of campus activities | Top Slang Expression | Frequently (4) | Sometimes (3) | Seldom (2) | Never (1) | Total F |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|---------|
| 1 | To pass the exam | Make the grade | 15 | 10 | 5 | - | 30 |
| 2 | To fail the exam | Be bombed | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 30 |
| 3 | To truant | Skip | 23 | 5 | 3 | - | 30 |
| 4 | To learn | Learn* | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 5 | Final thesis | Final paper* | 26 | 4 | - | - | 30 |
| 6 | Holiday/Vocation | Vaca | 24 | 4 | 2 | - | 30 |

(* not slang words)

1) To pass the exam

This subcategory includes four different slang expressions mostly consisting of more than one word. The top slang, which was mentioned by 15 informants, is *to make the grade* as a synonym for this activity. Further examples were *to breeze through*, *to sail through* expressing the fact 'to achieve something without any strong effort'. Similarly meant *to coast*¹³, created by the functional shift from the noun to the verb, originated in Old French noun *coste* (a shore) or Latin *costa* (a rib), figuratively expressing 'to pass' coming from 'to sail along the coast'.

2) To fail the exam

Concerning this subcategory, the researcher find American top slang verb. It is figurative meaning reflects the matter of 'to be failed'. Further given examples used in the same meaning are *to flunk*¹⁴ considered as American college slang regarded as an alteration of British slang *funk* (to be frightened), *to blow* (to explode), *to crash* (probably onomatopoeic word in the sense of 'break into pieces') and *to burn*.

3) To truant

The top slang word is *to skip* mentioned by 77% of American informants. This word, as well as *to cut class*, figuratively means 'be absent'. The noun *hooky*

¹³ <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?search=coast>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

¹⁴ <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?search=flunk>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

derived from the verb to hook (to escape) by adding -y suffix occurs mainly in the phrase *to play hooky* (to be absent).

4) To learn

No specific slang terms used for this subcategory. *To learn* was mentioned almost by each student. Another term *to get gnosis*¹⁵ originated in Ancient Greek word *gnósis* (knowledge).

5) Final thesis

No slang terms in this category: *final paper* , *last test*.

6) Holidays/vacation

Vacay (term derived from *vacation* in the process of clipping adapted by adding -y suffix), *vaca* (clipped word *vaca* < *vacation* when the initial part occurs), *FTO* (the acronym pronounced as a sequence of letters with the meaning of *flexible time off*).

Table 4.8 The Top Indonesian Slang Expression Domain of Campus Activities

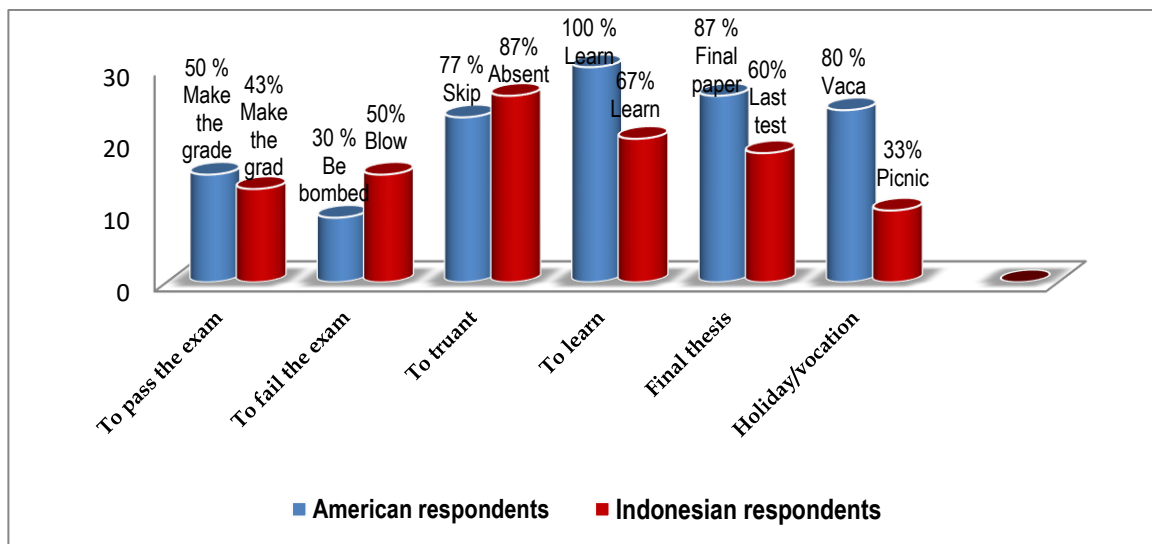
| No | Domain of campus activities | Top Slang Expression | Frequently (4) | Sometimes (3) | Seldom (2) | Never (1) | Total <i>f</i> |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | To pass the exam | Make the grade | 13 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 30 |
| 2 | To fail the exam | Blow | 15 | 5 | - | 10 | 30 |
| 2 | To truant | Absent | 26 | 4 | - | - | 30 |

¹⁵ <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/gnosis>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|---------|----|---|---|---|----|
| 4 | To learn | Learn* | 20 | 6 | - | 4 | 30 |
| 5 | Final thesis | Thesis* | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 6 | Holiday/ Vocation | Picnic | 10 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 30 |

*not slang words

Graph 4.3 Percentage of the Top Slang Expression Domain of Campus Activities Using by American and Indonesian Students



Based on the tables and graph above out of 6 categories domain in campus activities. First, *to pass the exam* which has four slang terms. There was 15 (50%) American students chose “*make the grade*” as the top slang expression. On the other hand, there was 13 (43%) Indonesian students chose “*make the grade*” as the top slang expression. In this category most of Indonesian student just use pass as the synonym of this activity.

Second, to fail the exam which has five slang terms. There was 9 (30%) American students chose *“be bombed”* as the top slang expression. It is figurative meaning reflects the matter of to be failed. On the other hand, there was 15 (50%) Indonesian students chose *“blow”* as the top slang expression. The meaning of the word as the same of suffer in exam. Third, *to truant* which has four slang term in this subcategory. There was 23 (77%) American students chose *“skip”* as the top slang expression. Different of Indonesian students, in this category 26 (87%) chose *“absent”* as the top slang expression. It means that the word has similar meaning of *to truant*.

Fourth, *to learn* which has not specific slang term but mostly of American respondent 30 (100%) chose “learn” as the top expression. In additionally, based on the result of interviewed term of *“learn”* is not part of slang. Also, 20 (67%) Indonesia students chose “learn” as the top slang of this subcategory. Fifth, *final thesis* which has not slang terms of this category. There was 26 (87%) American students chose *“final paper”* as the top expression. Different of Indonesian students 30 (100%) added *“thesis”* as the top expression term which has same meaning of final thesis. In this subcategory, respondents interpreted *final thesis* as the term which always the students do to graduate at the college. Unfortunately, in this category no specific slang term so that the respondents just chose the term above as the same meaning of *final thesis*.

Sixth, *holiday/vocation* which has three slang terms. There was 24 (80%) American students chose *“vaca”* as the top slang expression. Different of Indonesian

students in this subcategory no one students chose slang term which was in questionnaire, but there was Indonesian students added “*picnic*” as the synonym of holiday.

c. Understanding in Domain out-of Campus Activities

Table 4.9 The Top American Slang Expression Domain out-of Campus Activities

| No | Domain out-of campus activities | Top Slang Expression | Frequently (4) | Sometimes (3) | Seldom (2) | Never (1) | Total <i>F</i> |
|----|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Funny situation | Hilarious | 14 | 10 | 6 | - | 30 |
| 2 | Great situation | Awesome | 24 | 6 | - | - | 30 |
| 3 | Terrible situation | Shitty | 18 | 10 | 2 | - | 30 |
| 4 | Hand phone/ cell phone | Celly | 20 | 8 | 2 | - | 30 |
| 5 | Internet | Web | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 6 | To go for beer | Have some drinks | 14 | 9 | 7 | - | 30 |
| 7 | To get drunk | Be trashed | 28 | 2 | - | - | 30 |
| 8 | Marijuana | Pot | 26 | 3 | 1 | - | 30 |
| 9 | Party | Party | 29 | 1 | - | - | 30 |
| 10 | Boyfriend | Boo | 25 | 3 | 2 | - | 30 |
| 11 | Girlfriend | Boo | 25 | 5 | - | - | 30 |
| 12 | To have sex | Fuck | 22 | 6 | 2 | - | 30 |
| 13 | To break up | Dump | 18 | 10 | 2 | - | 30 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|------|----|----|---|---|----|
| 14 | Attractive/ sexy boy | Boo | 25 | 5 | - | - | 30 |
| 15 | Attractive/ Sexy girl | Boo | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 16 | Homosexual | Gay | 28 | 2 | - | - | 30 |
| 17 | Silly person | Goof | 14 | 10 | 6 | - | 30 |

Several different slang expressions can be distinguished within this category. This is apparently caused by closeness of terms offered in the questionnaire to student's personal way of living and things they use a lot. Therefore, this group is represented by the highest number of slangs.

1) Funny situation

If something seems to be funny it is regarded as *hilarious*¹⁶ or *hilarity* for most of the students. The adjective comes from Latin *hilaris* (cheerful). *Goofy* (the adjective derived from the noun *a goof* (silly person) by adding y suffix), hysterical (very funny) or *silly*.

2) Great situation

If something is great it is usually *awesome* (some suffix is added to the noun *awe*), *cool*¹⁷ (Old English derivation of *cōl*, *cōlian*), *mega* (from the prefix *mega-*), *da*

¹⁶ <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/hilarious>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

¹⁷ <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/cool>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

*bomb*¹⁸ (African-American slang word in which *da* stands for the definite article *the* and *bomb* for 'an explosive'), *phat*¹⁹ (from Black English Vernacular or misspelled word *fat* figuratively means 'the best part' = *great*), *a blast*²⁰ (from Old English *blæft* 'an explosive').

3) Terrible situation

Shitty is the top slang denoting a terrible situation. The word is derived from the noun *shit* adding by *-y* suffix. Further examples are *fucked up* (characterised by vulgarity), *lame* (the opposite of funny), *gross* (disgusting), etc. Quite a lot of terms are made up by adding *-un* prefix to words bearing the positive qualities, e.g. *unfunny*, *uncool*.

4) Mobile phone/Cell phone

The most given expression are mostly clipped words, such as *celly* (morphologically adapted by adding *-y* suffix), *cell*, *mobile*, *mob* or *handy* made up by adding *y* suffix to the noun.

5) Internet

The term itself is abbreviated in the process of compound clipping (*internet* <*international network*). Top slang among Americans is *web*²¹

¹⁸ <http://www.englishdaily626.com/slang.php?034>. Accessed on 24 July 2011. .

¹⁹ <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/phat>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

²⁰ <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/blast>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

²¹ <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/web>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

based on the resemblance between the silken structure and virtual structure. Further examples are *world wide web*, *intranet*, the *set* or *online*.

6) To go for beer

Nine different American slang and idiomatic expressions can be found for this subcategory, such as *to have some drinks*, which is the top one, *to do beverages*, *hang out* (doing nothing), *hit the bar*, *to go for a pint* (metonymy for a beer), *goof off* (idiom for 'doing nothing'), *put a few back* (idiom for to 'drink fast'), *to do brewski* (slang denoting beer derived from the verb 'to brew'), *beer run*.

7) To get drunk

To most represented group by 12 different slang idioms, such as *to be trashed*, *to be crashed*, *to be wasted*, *to be bent*, *to be blasted*, *to be bombed*, *to be stone*, etc.

8) Marijuana

Pot (shortened Mexican Spanish word *potiguaya* which referred to marijuana leaves), *weed*, *grass*, *herb* (all terms are metaphorical expressions using domestic words-tock), *joint* (originally 'hypodermic outfit' in earlier drug slang or the meaning relates to French word *joint* = connected > 'to smoke in common'), *Maryjane* (adapted from Spanish proper name *Maria Juana*), *bud*

(uncertain origin), *blunt* (it is said to be derived from a 'Phillies Blunt' brand cigars).

9) Party

Despite of a few slangs on party, the top one remains the same. Quite a lot of Americans pointed out the fact that it depends on the concrete type of the party. A *bash* with the meaning of 'a large party' is used, as well.

10) Boyfriend/girlfriend

Concerning those two groups, some words seem to be common for both male and female and occur simultaneously in those categories, such as *boo* (probably distortion of French word *beau* > 'nice'), *beau* (the French loan), *darling*, *sweetie* (derived from the adjective by adding *y* suffix), *cutie* (derived from *cute*), *darling*. Further examples are represented in each group separately, e.g. *my boy/my girl*, *bf* (the acronym of boyfriend)/*gf* (acronym of girlfriend), *my man/my woman*. Further examples, included only in the group of female, are *my bitch* (with sociological properties of vulgarity), *my shorty* (derived from the adjective by adding *y* suffix), *baby mama* (with sociological properties of offensiveness), *my squeeze* (uncertain origin) or idiom expression *ball and chain* (denotes marriage; it can have negative connotations, but it is not always the case).

11) To have sex

Common features for that group is: vulgarity and obscenity: (*to fuck*, *to hook up*, *to get it on*, *to screw*, *to get some ass*, *to roll in the hay*), typical shortened *-ing*

form: (*doin' it, baggin', bumpin' uglies*), verbs shifted from nouns imitating sounds: (*to bang, to boink, to smash, to boff*), verbs expressing the movement: (*to poke, to get laid*), another expression *to make love*.

12) To break up

To dump (shifted verb from the noun expressing 'the garbage' transferred into the meaning of 'to leave sb.' > *to get dumped*), *to be over*, *to split*, *to cut the chord* (idiom).

13) Attractive/sexy boy and girl

Some expressions are common for both male and female, such as *hot* > *hottie*, *sexy* (derived by adding -y suffix). Concerning sexy girls, more words were given, such as *foxy* (derived by adding y suffix), *chick* (abbreviation of chicken), *biddy*, *jiggy* (y suffix), *betty* (slightly pejorative), *slammin'*, *smokin'* (reduced -ing form).

14) Homosexual

Homo (clipped word), *gay*²² (colloquial based on stereotypical sense of homosexual appearance and behavior), *lezzy*, *lesbo* (on the basis of back formation process in *lesbian*), *gayer than mayer* (sociological property of musicality). American slangs for this group shows that most words and idioms

²² <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/gay>. Accessed on 24 July 2011.

are characterized by strong offensiveness or even vulgarity, such as *queer*, *butt pirate*, *light in the loafer*, *shit stabbler*, *fag*, *marmite miner*, *fudge packer* etc.

15) Silly person

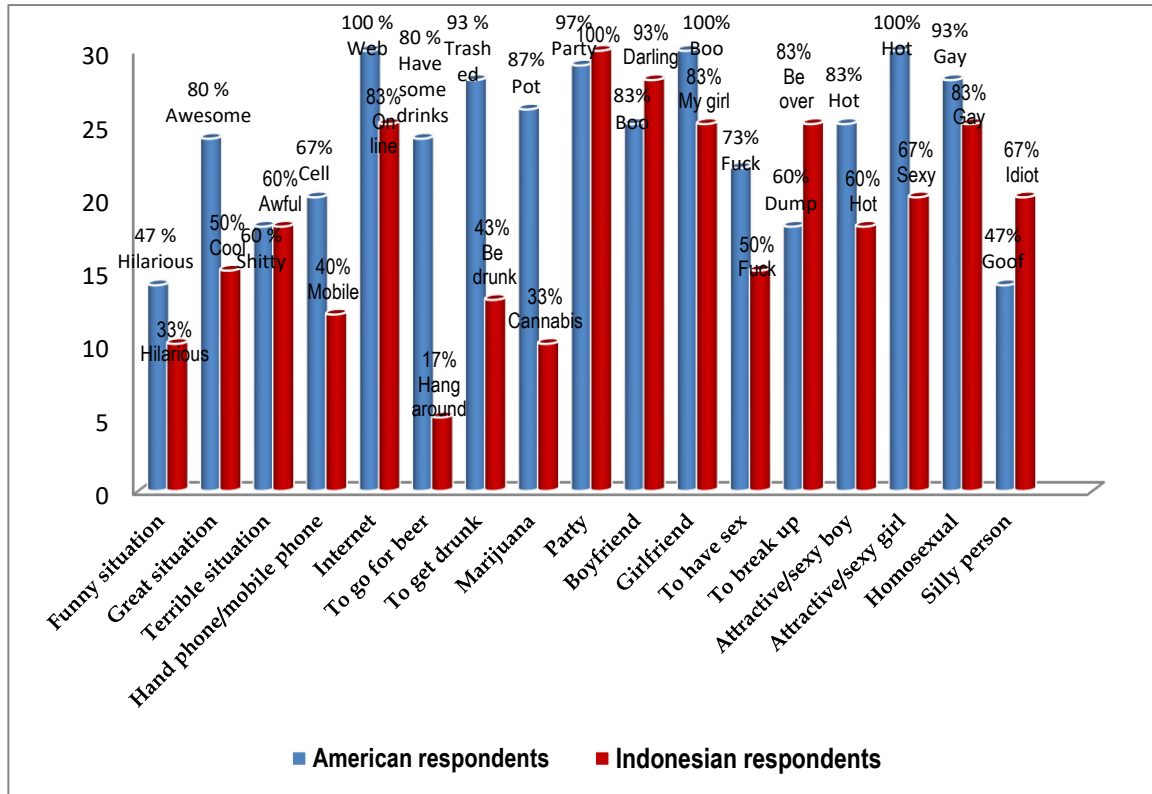
Goof (denoting a foolish person with a little bit of offensiveness), *clown* (on the basis of resemblance to person acting in a silly way), *jerk* (mentioned above), *dork* (pejorative word), *airhead* (compound of two nouns air + head, fig. means 'to have nothing in the head'), *asshole* (vulgar compound of *ass* + *hole*, fig. means 'to have shit in the head'), *blockhead* (compound of block + head), *klutz*²³ (from Yiddish *klots* = wooden beam, pejoratively transferred to indicate 'a stupid person'), *ditz* (back formation of the adjective *ditzy* = stupid), *dumbass* (compound of *dump* + *ass*), *meathead* (compound of meat + head), *goofball* (compound of *goof* + *ball*), *donkey* (allusion to the animal), *moron* (the Greek loan), etc.

Table 4.10 The Top Indonesian Slang Expression Domain out-of Campus Activities

| No | Domain out-of campus activities | Top Slang Expression | Frequently (4) | Sometimes (3) | Seldom (2) | Never (1) | Total <i>f</i> |
|----|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Funny situation | Hilarious | 10 | 8 | 12 | - | 30 |
| 2 | Great situation | Cool | 15 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 30 |
| 3 | Terrible situation | Awful | 18 | 10 | 2 | - | 30 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----------------|----|----|---|----|----|
| 4 | Hand phone/ cell phone | Mobile | 24 | 6 | - | - | 30 |
| 5 | Internet | Online | 25 | 5 | - | - | 30 |
| 6 | To go for beer | Hang around | 5 | - | 5 | 20 | 30 |
| 7 | To get drunk | Be drunk | 13 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 30 |
| 8 | Marijuana | Cannabis | 10 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 30 |
| 9 | Party | Party | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 10 | Boyfriend | Darling | 28 | 2 | - | - | |
| 11 | Girlfriend | My girl | 25 | 5 | - | - | 30 |
| 12 | To have sex | Fuck | 15 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 30 |
| 13 | To break up | Be over | 25 | 2 | | 3 | 30 |
| 14 | Attractive/ sexy boy | Hot | 18 | 7 | - | 5 | 30 |
| 15 | Attractive/ Sexy girl | Sexy | 20 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 16 | Homosexual | Homo | 25 | 2 | - | - | 30 |
| 17 | Silly person | Idiot | 20 | 10 | 6 | - | 30 |

Graph 4.4 Percentage of the Top Slang Expression Domain out-of Campus Activities Using by American and Indonesian Students



Based on tables and graph above out of 17 categories domain in out-of campus activities. First, *funny situation* which has five slang terms. There was 14 (47%) American students chose “*hilarious*” as the top slang expression. And 10 (33%) Indonesian students chose “*hilarious*” as the top slang expression.

Second, *great situation* which has twelve slang terms. There was 24 (80%) American students chose “*awesome*” as the top slang expression. Different of Indonesian students for this subcategory 15 (50%) chose “*cool*” as the top slang expression. Both of the top slang terms denoting a great situation. Third, *terrible situation* which has nine slang terms. There was 18 (60%) American students chose

“shitty” as the top slang expression. Also, in this subcategory 18 (60%) Indonesian students chose **“awful”** as the top slang expression.

Fourth, **hand phone/mobile phone** which has five slang terms. There was 20 (67%) American students chose **“cell”** as the top slang expression. Besides that, Indonesian students 12 (40%) chose **“mobile”** as the top slang expression. To this subcategory most of Indonesian students used **“HP”** which is acronym of **“hand phone”**. Fifth, **internet** which has five slang terms. There was 26 (86%) American students chose **“web”** as the top slang expression. On the other hand, Indonesian students 25 (83%) chose **“online”** as the top slang expression.

Sixth, **to go for beer** which has nine slang terms. There was 24 (80%) American students chose **“have some drink”** as the top slang expression. Different of Indonesian students for this subcategory only 5 (17%) students use **“hang around”** as the top slang expression. In additional, for Indonesian students most of them never use slang for this subcategory. Seventh, **to get drunk** which has twelve slang terms. There was 28 (93%) American students chose **“trashed”** as the top slang expression. On the other hand, for Indonesian students just 13 (43%) chose **“be drunk”** as the top slang expression. It means that Indonesian students used the slang terms as the same meaning to drink.

Eight, **marijuana** which has nine slang terms. There was 26 (87%) American students chose **“pot”** as the top slang expression. Besides that, Indonesian respondents 10 (33%) chose **“cannabis”** as the top slang expression. Ninth, **party** which has three slang terms. In this subcategory, there was 29 (97%) American

students chose **“party”** as the top slang expression. Also, in the same case all of Indonesian respondents 30 (100%) chose **“party”** as the top slang expression.

Tenth, **boyfriend** which has eight slang terms. There was 25 (82%) American students chose **“boo”** as the top slang expression. Different of Indonesian students 28 (93%) chose **“darling”** as the top slang expression. Another subcategory, **girlfriend** which has thirteen slang terms. There was 30 (100%) American students chose **“boo”** as the top slang expression. This case, mostly American students use **“boo”** to interpreted **boyfriend** and **girlfriend**. Different of Indonesian students 25 (83%) chose **“my girl”** as the top slang expression.

Twelve, **to have sex** which has sixteen slang terms. There was 22 (73%) American students chose **“fuck”** as the top slang expression. Also, 15 (50%) Indonesian students chose **“fuck”** as the top slang expression. In this case, there was another term which has different interpreted namely get some ass. For Indonesian students **“ass”** always use as a greeting word in *Short Message Service* (SMS), it is acronym of **“Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatu”**. However, American students interpreted **“ass”** as the same meaning of to have sex. Thirteen, **to break up** which has five slang terms. There was 18 (60%) American students chose **“dump”** as the top slang expression. On the other hand, Indonesian students 25 (85%) chose **“be over”** as the top slang expression.

Fourteen, **attractive/sexy boy** which has eight slang terms. There was 25 (83%) American students chose **“hot”** as the top slang expression. Also, Indonesian students 18 (60%) chose **“hot”** as the top slang expression. The opposite of **sexy boy**

is *sexy girl*, which has fourteen slang terms. In this case, 30 (100%) Americans students chose “*hot*” as the top slang expression.

Fifteen, *homosexual* which has sixteen slang terms. There was 28 (93%) American students chose “*gay*” as the top slang expression. Also, Indonesian students 25 (83%) chose “*gay*” the top slang expression. In addition, for *silly person* which has seventeen slang terms. There was 14 (47%) American students chose “*goof*” as the top slang expression. Different of Indonesian students for this subcategory, there was 20 (67%) chose “*idiot*” as the top slang expression. For American students, “*goof*” denoting a foolish person with a little bit of offensiveness. And Indonesian students “*idiot*” is one of the popular term to interpreted *silly person*.

Table 4.11 The Top American Slang Expression Domain of e—mail and SMS Acronyms

| No | Domain of e-mail & SMS acronyms | Top Slang Expression | Frequently (4) | Sometimes (3) | Seldom (2) | Never (1) | Total <i>F</i> |
|----|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Before | b4 | 20 | 8 | 2 | - | 30 |
| 2 | Back at the keyboard | BAK | 12 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 30 |
| 3 | Be back soon | BBS | 25 | 5 | - | - | 30 |
| 4 | Boyfriend | Bf | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 5 | By the way | BTW | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 6 | Do I know | DIKU | 27 | 3 | - | - | 30 |

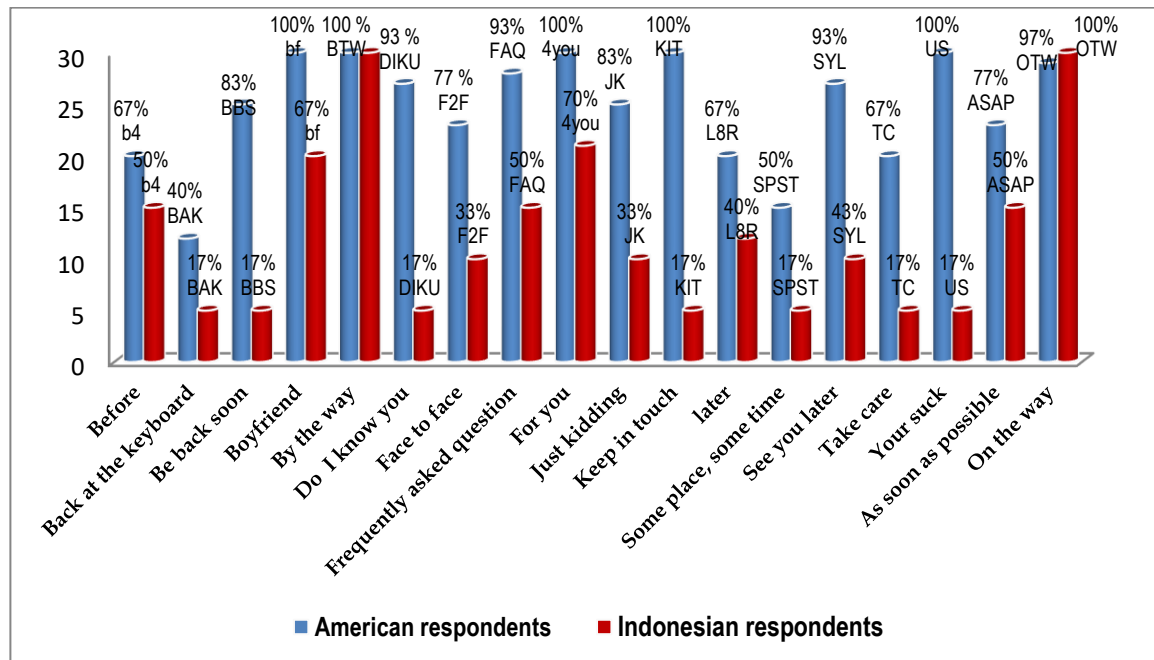
| you | | | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|------|----|---|---|---|----|
| 7 | Face to face | F2F | 23 | 5 | 3 | - | 30 |
| 8 | Frequently asked question | FAQ | 28 | 2 | - | - | 30 |
| 9 | For you | 4you | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 10 | Just kidding | JK | 25 | 4 | 1 | - | 30 |
| 11 | Keep in touch | KIT | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 12 | later | L8R | 20 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 30 |
| 13 | Some palace, some time | SPST | 15 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 30 |
| 14 | See you later | SYL | 27 | 3 | - | - | 30 |
| 15 | Take care | TC | 20 | 5 | 5 | - | 30 |
| 16 | You suck | US | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 17 | As soon as possible | ASAP | 23 | 5 | 2 | - | 30 |
| 18 | On the way | OTW | 29 | 1 | - | - | 30 |

Table 4.12 The Top Indonesian Slang Expression Domain of e—mail and SMS Acronyms

| No | Domain of e-mail & SMS acronyms | Top Slang Expression | Frequently (4) | Sometimes (3) | Seldom (2) | Never (1) | Total <i>F</i> |
|----|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Before | b4 | 15 | 10 | - | 5 | 30 |
| 2 | Back at the keyboard | BAK | 5 | 4 | - | 21 | 30 |
| 3 | Be back soon | BBS | 5 | 4 | - | 21 | 30 |

| | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|------|----|----|---|----|----|
| 4 | Boyfriend | Bf | 20 | 5 | - | 5 | 30 |
| 5 | By the way | BTW | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |
| 6 | Do I know you | DIKU | 5 | 4 | - | 21 | 30 |
| 7 | Face to face | F2F | 10 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 30 |
| 8 | Frequently asked question | FAQ | 15 | 10 | - | 5 | 30 |
| 9 | For you | 4you | 21 | 5 | - | 4 | 30 |
| 10 | Just kidding | JK | 10 | - | - | 20 | 30 |
| 11 | Keep in touch | KIT | 5 | - | - | 25 | 30 |
| 12 | later | L8R | 12 | 3 | 5 | 10 | 30 |
| 13 | Some palace, some time | SPST | 5 | - | 5 | 20 | 30 |
| 14 | See you later | SYL | 13 | 2 | - | 15 | 30 |
| 15 | Take care | TC | 5 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 30 |
| 16 | You suck | US | 5 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 30 |
| 17 | As soon as possible | ASAP | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 30 |
| 18 | On the way | OTW | 30 | - | - | - | 30 |

Graph 4.5. Percentage of the Top Slang Expression Domain e-mail & SMS Acronyms Using by American and Indonesian Students



Based on the tables and graph above out of 18 categories domain of *e-mail and SMS acronyms*. In this case, there was 12 subcategories which has percentage average of 70%, it was become the popular e-mail and SMS acronyms used by American students. *Be back soon (BAK)* 25 (83%), *Boyfriend (bf)* 30 (100%), *Did I know you (DIKU)* 2 (93%), *Face to face (F2F)* 23 (77%), *Frequently ask question (FAQ)* 28 (93%), *For u (4you)* 30 (100%), *Just kidding (JK)* 25 (83%), *Keep in touch (KIT)* 30 (100%), *See you later (SYL)* 27 (93%), *Your suck (US)* 30 (100%), *As soon as possible (ASAP)* 23 (77%), *On the way (OTW)* 29 (97%). Different of Indonesian respondents just 3 subcategories which has chose percentage average

70 % namely *By the way (BTW)* 30 (100%), *For You (4you)* 21 (70%), and *On the way (OTW)* 30 (100%).

2. Producing of Similarities and Differences Reason between American and Indonesian Students in Using Slang

Based on the result of data analysis and interviewed, the researcher found out that there was many reasons student use slang in daily communication, namely:

a. In sheer high spirits, by the young in heart as well as by the young in years, just for the fun of the thing, in playfulness or waggishness.

b. As an exercise either in wit and ingenuity or in humor. (The motive behind this is usually self-display or snobbishness, emulation or responsiveness, delight in virtuosity).

c. To be 'different', to be novel.

d. To be picturesque (either positively or - as in the wish to avoid insipidity - negatively).

e. To be unmistakably arresting, even startling.

f. To escape from clichés, or to be brief and concise. (Actuated by impatience with existing terms.)

g. To enrich the language. (This deliberateness is rare save among the well-educated, Cockneys forming the most notable exception; it is literary rather than spontaneous.)

h. To lend an air of solidity, concreteness, to the abstract; of earthiness to the idealistic; of immediacy and appositeness to the remote. (In the cultured the effort is usually premeditated, while in the uncultured it is almost always unconscious when it is not rather subconscious.)

i. To lessen the sting of, or on the other hand to give additional point to, a refusal, a rejection, a recantation.

j. To reduce, perhaps also to disperse, the solemnity, the pomposity, the excessive seriousness of a conversation (or of a piece of writing).

k. To soften the tragedy, to lighten or to 'prettify' the inevitability of death or madness, or to mask the ugliness or the pity of profound turpitude (e.g. treachery, ingratitude); and/or thus to enable the speaker or his auditor or both to endure, to 'carry on'.

l. To speak or write down to an inferior, or to amuse a superior public; or merely to be on a colloquial level with either one's audience or one's subject matter.

m. For ease of social intercourse. (Not to be confused or merged with the preceding.)

n. To induce either friendliness or intimacy of a deep or a durable kind. (Same remark.)

o. To show that one belongs to a certain school, trade, or profession, artistic or intellectual set, or social class; in brief, to be 'in the swim' or to establish contact.

p. Hence, to show or prove that someone is *not* 'in the swim'.

q. To be secret - not understood by those around one. (Children, students, lovers, members of political secret societies, and criminals in or out of prison, innocent persons in prison, are the chief exponents.)

Some of reasons above were different of Indonesian students perception because most of them have point of view that to understand American slang need a long time. When they interpreted the slangs in real meaning sometimes they found out opposite meaning of their costume even vulgarity. Also, Indonesian students have difficulties to understand some slang terms because most of them just knew one or two meaning of domain area of slang terms, but infect American slang has many similar words in each domain area. In addition, Indonesian students specially of English study program, they learning English just based on the standard English.

Overall analysis from the data, Indonesian students can be understood of the slang if it has become a popular word, which has spoken by their friends in around. Also, they have not self confidence to communicate by using slang expression with their friends. In this case, it can be event if the listener did not understand what the speaker said. Another thing, Indonesian student when the fill out the questionnaire they found out some new vocabulary. The researcher indeed, that culture in using slang between American and Indonesian students have similarities and differences.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

Based on the result of the study, the researcher concludes that:

1. Creativeness, innovativeness, freshness and imaginativeness, as well as vulgarity, obscenity, offensiveness and unconventionality, etc. are characteristic features referring to student slang terminology. Student slang is created on the basis of students' need to be cool at all points of their life, i.e. acting, clothing, thinking and speaking, as well. Slang is trendy and fashionable and it must be remembered that following the students speech means to be open to new terms existing in language and creating them.

2. Based on the research findings, there was 240 slang terms which have been into four domain area namely proper name, campus activities, out-of campus activities, e-mail and SMS acronyms. The result of data analysis in graphs showed that there was 31 subcategories from all of domain area, which have percentage average 70 % as the top slang expression by American students. On the other hand, Indonesian students just have 13 subcategories from all of domain area, which have percentage average 70 % as the top slang expression.

3. In addition, students in STAIN Palopo have point of view that they use slang just in certain situation, they did not use slang as the way to make a good communication to one another in English. Unlike, students in the University of Kansas use slang as the culture to make a good communication in their daily activities.

B. Suggestions

Based on the result of the research, the researcher proposes some suggestions in concerning the research findings.

1. The most important aspect has to be remembered that student slang has always maintained the prime position in their communication and had a great influence on the development of language.

2. Student slang can be used as an additional educational material for classes of English language devoting attention to the given style or as a school slang dictionary summarizing some of student slang expressions.

3. Slang terms in *Short Message Service* (SMS) can help the people how to manage the words or sentences in simple message.

4. For future researcher can use this thesis as a literature to guide them when they want to do the similar research in another aspects. Although, this research has been done but of limited time it still has many weakness.

5. Finally, the researcher hopes that the information in this research become useful for the all of readers, especially in cross-cultural studies.

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APPENDIXES

KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
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CURRICULUM VITAE



Personal Data

Full Name : Suwandi
Nick Name : Wandu
Place & Date of Birth : Salobongko, November 4th 1988
Sex : Male
Nationality : Indonesia

Educational Background

- 1995/1996–2000/2001 : SDN No. 161 Salobongko (Elementary School)
- 2001/2002 – 2003/2004 : SMPN 1 Malangke Barat (Junior High School)
- 2004/2005– 2006/2007 : SMAN 2 Palopo (Senior High School, Focusing on Exact Sciences)
- 2007/2008–2010/2011 : English Study Program., Faculty of Tarbiyah (Education and Teaching), STAIN Palopo (Undergraduate/S1)

Experiences

- 2006-2007 : Secretary of The Youth Science Club of SMAN 2 Palopo
- 2008-2010 : Secretary of HMPS-BIG STAIN Palopo
- 2007-2011 : Member of SIBOLA STAIN Palopo
- 2010-2011 : Member of PalopoLOGI
- 2006 : The 2nd winner of student research competition UNISMU Makassar
- 2009 : The winner of group favorite of FTMI Sul-Sel-Bar SIBOLA STAIN Palopo
- 2010 : The 3rd winner of student research competition Sul-Sel-Bar UIN Alauddin Makassar
- 2011 : The Grantee of DIKTIS competitive research
- 2011 : Grantee of Indonesian English Language Study Program (IELSP) international student exchange at the University of Kansas.

In addition, the writer always involve his self in many even organizer and social activities during his study at STAIN Palopo.

GLANCE IN COLLECTING DATA



Doc Picture 1: *Found out the questionnaire answered by American students at The KU*



Doc Picture 2: *Found out the questionnaire answered by Indonesian students at STAIN Palopo*



Doc Picture 3: *Slang Used by American Students at KU in Daily Communication*



Doc Picture 4: *Slang Used by Indonesian Students at STAIN Palopo in Daily Communication*



Doc Picture 5: *Understanding slang in communication between American and Indonesian Students*



Doc Picture 6: *Location of the Research*

