

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Sociolinguistics is a branch of linguistics that studies the relationship between language and society, as well as how language variation arises and develops due to social factors such as age, gender, social status, and social environment (Wardhaugh, 2010). Through sociolinguistics, we will understand that language functions not only as a communication tool but also as a marker of identity, solidarity, and distinction among social groups (Holmes, 2013). This study will be crucial for observing language variation used in daily life, especially among teenagers who tend to be creative and innovative in their language use.

In sociolinguistics, the study of language variation will be a main topic that discusses how language differs across various social contexts and groups. This variation will include differences in dialect, accent, grammar, and vocabulary, among which slang will be a particularly interesting form. One interesting aspect of language variation is slang. Slang is an informal form of language that is usually used by certain social groups, especially teenagers, as a means to strengthen group identity, build closeness, and express certain emotions and attitudes (Allan & Burridge, 2006). Slang is often temporary and changes following the development of the times and popular culture trends (Eble, 2012). Slang is typically found in informal spoken conversations, social media, text messages, songs, as well as films and television series. The use of slang in daily life will also be very common, for example, in everyday conversations.

For example, in everyday conversation, someone might say, "That party last night was lit!" The word *lit* means exciting or fun, so this sentence means that

the party was very exciting or fun. Among gamers, terms like "Don't be such a noob at the game" use the word *noob* to refer to beginners or those who are not yet skilled. There are also expressions like "She's so extra with her reactions," where the word *extra* describes someone who is excessive or dramatic in their reactions. Meanwhile, the sentence "I'm just gonna chill this weekend" uses the word *chill* to indicate an intention to relax. These examples of slang show how informal language can function as a marker of identity and social relationships among teenagers (Eble, 1996; Adams, 2010).

In communication media, especially films, slang will become an effective means to represent the real use of slang (Tagliamonte & Roberts, 2005). Films that focus on teenage life often feature dialogues filled with slang, allowing viewers to see how slang is used in various situations, such as joking, supporting friends, expressing excitement, or even during conflicts. Through films, studies will be able to observe teenage language phenomena in a contextual and authentic way.

One interesting film to be studied from the aspect of slang use will be *Inside Out 2*. This film centers on the life of Riley Andersen as she enters adolescence, along with her social interactions with his new friends, Grace, Bree, and Val (LeFauve & Mann, 2024). Through their dialogues, viewers will be able to directly observe how slang is used in everyday conversations among contemporary American teenagers, whether to build closeness, express feelings, or strengthen group identity. The animated film *Inside Out 2* will provide a highly relevant context for analyzing the use of slang as a sociolinguistic phenomenon. In the interactions between characters, informal language and slang will be used

effectively to express identity, emotions, and social relationships, thus providing an authentic portrayal of contemporary teenage communication (Roger Ebert, 2024).

Although slang is widely found in media aimed at young audiences, studies that specifically analyze how the functions of slang words are realized in the dialogues of animated film like *Inside Out 2* will remain very limited. Most previous studies focus more on translation techniques or classification without deeply examining how slang words are concretely used and realized contextually in character interactions (The Movie Spoiler, 2024; Crystal, 2010). For example, Azzahra (2023) categorized types of slang in *Turning Red* but did not explore how those slang words are actually realized in dialogue, while Bondarenko (2023) emphasized translation aspects rather than analyzing slang use in film dialogues.

This study was aimed to fill this gap by closely investigating how the functions of slang words are realized through the dialogues between Riley and her friends in *Inside Out 2*. The novelty of this study in its detailed focus on the actual realization of slang usage in the conversations of teenage characters in an animated film, an area still rarely explored in sociolinguistics and media studies. Tagliamonte and Roberts (2005) support this approach by stating that language in media, including films, reflects real spoken language patterns and contextual slang use, making films a valid source for sociolinguistic analysis of youth language variation.

Therefore, this study was expected to provide new insights into how slang words are genuinely used and realized in contemporary teenage communication through film dialogues. Drawing on Allan and Burridge's (2006) framework of

language variation, which highlights the connection between language use and social context, this study analyzed how slang in the film functions not only as informal speech but also as a meaningful element within character interactions and narrative development. The focus was the concrete ways slang is used by characters to convey meaning and enhance communication.

For these reasons, this study was “An Analysis of Slang Words in The Film *Inside Out 2*.” was expected to contribute significantly to understanding how slang was realized in contemporary teenage dialogue within popular media, while also offering practical insights for educators, parents, and content creators seeking to engage effectively with modern teenage language.

### **1.2 The Problems Of The Study**

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of the study are as follows:

1. What were the types of slang words used in the film *Inside Out 2*?
2. What were the functions of slang words in the characters’ conversations in the film *Inside Out 2*?
3. How were the functions of slang words realized in the dialogues of the characters’ in the film *Inside Out 2*?

### **1.3 The Objectives Of The Study**

Based on the problems of the study above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the types of slang words used in the film *Inside Out 2*.
2. To analyze the functions of slang words in the characters’ conversations in the film *Inside Out 2*.
3. To analyze how the functions of slang words are realized in the dialogues of

the characters' in the film Inside Out 2.

#### **1.4 Significances of the Study**

This study is expected to provide both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, the analysis of slang in Inside Out 2 contributes to the study of sociolinguistics by showing how informal language is used by adolescents in contemporary media. Since slang constantly evolves, the findings from this research may enrich the understanding of how current teenage speech patterns are represented in popular culture.

Practically, this study may benefit students and future researchers who are interested in analyzing slang or informal language in films, as Inside Out 2 offers recent and relatable examples of teenage communication. By focusing on a widely watched animated film, this research also helps educators and parents gain insight into the kind of language expressions that teenagers are exposed to through media..

#### **1.5 Limitation of The Study**

This study had some limitations. First, it focused only on slang used by Riley and her friends (Grace, Bree and Val) in Inside Out 2. Second, the analysis was based on the film as a whole, including dialogues and scenes, but it may still missed some non-verbal cues such as tone or gestures that influence the meaning of slang. Third, the interpretation depended on the researcher's perspective and the theoretical frameworks applied. Finally, since slang constantly evolved, some terms in the film may become outdated, which limited the long-term relevance of the findings.