WORD FORMATION ON TRANSGENDER SLANG WORDS IN THEIR COMMUNITY IN PADANG

THESIS

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Indah Shintia Masni Ari
18248/2010

ADVISORS:

Prof. Dr. Hermawati Syarif, M.Hum.
Fitrawati, S.S., M.Pd.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
STATE UNIVERSITY OF PADANG
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HALAMAN PERSETUJUAN SKRIPSI

Judul	:	**Word Formation on Transgender Slang Words in Their Community in Padang**
Nama	:	**Indah Shintia Masni Ari**
NIM/BP	:	**18248/2010**
Program Studi	:	**Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris**
Jurusan	:	**Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris**
Fakultas	:	**Bahasa dan Seni**

Padang, Februari 2015

Disetujui Oleh:

Dosen Pembimbing I	**Dosen Pembimbing II**
Prof. Dr. Hermawati Syarif, M.Hum	**Fitrawati, S.S., M.Pd**
NIP. 19510721 197503 2 001	**NIP. 19801119 200812 2 002**

Diketahui oleh:
Ketua Jurusan

Dr. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A.
NIP. 19540626 198203 2 001

HALAMAN PENGESAHAN LULUS UJIAN SKRIPSI

Dinyatakan Lulus Setelah Dipertahankan di Depan Tim Penguji Skripsi
Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni
Universitas Negeri Padang

Word Formation on Transgender Slang Words in Their Community in Padang

Nama	**: Indah Shintia Masni Ari**
NIM/BP	**: 18248/2010**
Program Studi	**: Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris**
Jurusan	**: Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris**
Fakultas	**: Bahasa dan Seni**

Padang, Februari 2015

Tim Penguji

Nama		**Tanda Tangan**
1. Ketua	**: Prof. Dr. Hermawati Syarif, M.Hum**	( )
2. Sekretaris	**: Fitrawati, S.S., M.Pd**	( )
3. Anggota	**: 1. Prof. Dr. Jufrizal, M.Hum**	( )
	2. Dr. Hamzah, M.A, M.M.	( )
	3. Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd, M.Litt.	( )

KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN DAN KEBUDAYAAN RI
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG
FAKULTAS BAHASA DAN SENI
JURUSAN BAHASA DAN SASTRA INGGRIS
Kampus Selatan UNP Air Tawar Padang

SURAT KETERANGAN TIDAK PLAGIAT

Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama	: Indah Shintia Masni Ari
Nim/TM	: 18248/2010
Program Studi	: Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Jurusan	: Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas	: FBS UNP

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Diketahui oleh,
Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris,

Dr. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A.
NIP. 19540626 198203 2 001

Saya yang menyatakan,

Indah Shintia Masni Ari

ABSTRAK

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Penelitian in bertujuan untuk menemukan kata-kata dan juga makna dari bahasa prokem yang digunakan oleh kaum transgender (waria). Selain itu penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk menemukan macam-macam karakteristik yang dimiliki tiap kata prokem dan juga tipe formasi pembentukan yang digunakan komunitas transgender di kota Padang dalam menciptakan bahasa mereka tersebut. Penelitan ini termasuk dalam kajian sosiolinguistik dan morphologi. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif. Data yang ada didalam penelitian ini adalah semua kata-kata prokem yang diperoleh dari komunitas transgender (waria) di kota Padang.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 136 kata prokem dan 128 kata berasal dari bahasa Indonesia sedangkan 8 kata lainnya berasal dari bahasa Minangkabau. Dari 10 karakteristik prokem, seluruhnya dapat ditemukan di dalam penelitan ini. Sedangkan untuk tipe formasi pembentukan kata yang digunakan kaum trangender (waria) dalam menciptakan bahasanya, hanya 3 tipe yang dapat ditemukan dalam 4 kata prokem. Sedangkan 132 data yang tersisa tidak dapat dikelompokkan kedalam tipe formasi pembentukan kata.

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Language is totally bound up with human life. According to Kramsch (2001) language is the principal means whereby we conduct our social lives. Language has become an important thing that cannot be separated with human life. People use language to communicate in order to express feelings, emotions, thoughts, ideas, arguments and others. Therefore, language is the base of human life; no one lives without language and no language without human. As humans are constantly evolving, the language also develops from time to time. By using human creativity, human beings do not only develop their advancement of life but also develop their language whether it is intentionally or unintentionally.

Variations of language around the world are the result of the development of languages. Wardaugh (1986) claims that there are two major causes of language variation; regional variation, social variation. In regional variation, the varieties of language are caused by geographical factors. In social variation, the varieties of language are caused by social factors such as educational, strata, occupation. Slang is one of the variations of language which is caused by social factors. Slang, or "colloquial speech," describes words or phrases that are used instead of more everyday terms among younger speakers and other groups with special interests

(Yule: 2010). This informal style tends to have short-period of time used because the development of slang continuously changes.

Transgender is one of the groups of people who use slang in order to communicate. Transgender is another gender expression that becomes luster lately. Currah and Minter (2000) define that in its broadest sense, transgender encompasses anyone whose identity or behavior falls outside of stereotypical gender norms. The term transgender (TG) is used as the 'umbrella' or a broad term in describing people who have a deviant gender expression, including gay, lesbian, transsexual, cross-dresser, drag king or queen and others. As the minority in social lives, mostly the groups of transgender are isolated in the society. However, lately the existence of transgender community seems to develop continuously, especially through language.

In this group of people, language also plays an important role. Like the other gender expression; male and female, language also becomes identity in transgender community. The language that they use aims to keep secrecy among their community. Baker (2002) defines Polari, the name of transgender language in United Kingdom as a secret language mainly used by gay men and lesbians. Since TG people are the minority in the society, it is needed to use secret language to keep out the outsiders from the community in order to conceal their sexual expression. Commonly, the secret language or slang that TG people use is actually deviation of common language, like national or even regional language. For example the word '*malelong'* in the sentence:

A: *Cin*, ***malelong*** *kita lah!*
‘Cin, let’s hang out!’
B: *Ayo!*
‘Let’s go!’

The word ‘*malelong’* in the example above is the word from the transgender slang in Padang region. It is formed from the original word ‘*malala’* which means ‘hang out’. This clearly that the formation of word which created by transgender people is the deviation from the common language that usually used. In fact, in practice some people outside of transgender group are trying to use their language in daily communication. As known that transgender slang is the deviation of common language which tends to bad language, the use of transgender language outside the group can impact to the destruction of the existing language because there will be more people who prefer to use this language in the future. Nevertheless, the slang that transgender people use is unique and authentic. By using slang in communication among the group of transgender, TG people have created and introduced many words into the language. Fromkin (2011: 470) states that the used of slang has introduced many new words into the language by recombining old words into new meanings.

As known, word is the basic unit of language. Words play an integral role in the human ability to use language creatively (Akmajian et al. 2001: p.11). So that, people need words to combine or built their sentences in order to communicate or express their ideas, feelings, arguments, and anything else to the others. Thus, words are the basic principle in creating the language. The creation of the new words sometimes happens intentionally and unintentionally. Some people just utter those

without consciousness, while others utter and create the new words with consciousness in order to fulfill some purposes. In linguistic study, the phenomenon of creating new words can be studied in the field of morphology by using word formation theory. McCarthy (2002) states that the area of grammar concerned with the structure of words and with relationships between words involving the morphemes that compose them is technically called morphology. Furthermore, to see how the words are created the researcher is going to do the research based on word formation theory. The word formation is forming the new words from the existing words.

The phenomenon of forming new words has become interesting topics for many researchers. One of the researchers who have conducted research in the study of word formation is Rahmi Tuti (2011) with the research entitled "An Analysis of Word Formation of Language Used in SMS sent by the English Department Student". She focused to analyze the type and process of word formation language used in SMS. This research has similarity in analyzing the word formation, but the researcher is interesting to conduct the research on transgender slang. The slang that the group of transgender used is very unique and different from the others. The uniqueness of transgender slang often makes common speakers curious and wants to use it in daily communication. When the transgender slang has been widely known by others outside the group of transgender, there will be any new words that are created in order to keep the secrecy among the community. This makes transgender slang

changing continuously. Since the words in the transgender slang is unstable; the words are easy to change to the new form of words, it becomes more interesting to be analyzed. The words of transgender slang keep growing, however there are few people who know about the process. Thus, the researcher is interested in analyzing the words that has been created and its word-formation processes that occur in transgender slang, especially in the community of transgender in Padang.

B. Identification of the Problem

The study about transgender slang can be analyzed in several aspects of linguistics. It can be studied in the sociolinguistics, semantics, phonology and morphology. In the study of sociolinguistics, transgender slang can be studied by analyzing the social factors in creating the slang or it also can be studied by comparing the transgender slang to the other gender's slang. Semantically, transgender slang can be studied by looking at the meaning or the semantic change of the words in transgender slang. In the field of phonology, this study can be researched about generative phonology that happens in transgender slang.

This research will be studied transgender slang based on morphological point of views. Since the researcher is interested to analyze the process of forming the words of transgender slang, and morphology is the study of internal aspect which studying how the formation of new words. However, semantic aspect is also needed in doing this research because by knowing the meaning of the transgender slang

words, it would be easier for the researcher in analyzing this research. In semantic point of view, it will be limited only to know the meaning of transgender slang words. Furthermore, the researcher is going to analyze the slang words and the types of word formation that used by transgender in the community of transgender in Padang.

C. Focus of the Research

Morphological study will be the focus of this research in order to analyze the process of word formation in transgender slang in the community of transgender in Padang. However sociolinguistic study also will be studied in order to find the characteristics of transgender slang words. Moreover, semantic study will also be added in order to know the meaning of transgender slang words. As stated that transgender is the general term for all people who have a deviant gender expression, then this research will only be focused on Male-to-Female transgender (MTF TG) community that used slang in Padang. Male-to-Female transgender (MFT TG) is the type of transgender men who interested to women's things or behavior. By limiting the research problem, the researcher hopes that this research can be done in detail.

D. Formulation of the Research Problem

Related to the scope and limitation of the research above, the problem in this research can be formulated as: "What are the words and the types of word formation that occur in transgender slang in their community in Padang?"

E. Research Questions

Based on the formulation of the research problem above, the research questions of this research can be divided as follows:

1. What are the slang words used by transgender in their community in Padang?
2. What are the classifications of slang words concerning characteristics used by transgender in their community in Padang?
3. What are the types of word formation of transgender slang words found their community in Padang?

F. Purpose of the Research

Related to the research questions above, the purpose of this research are:

1. to find out the slang words used by transgender in their community in Padang.
2. to find out the classification of slang words concerning characteristics used by transgender in their community in Padang.
3. to find out the types of word formation process in slang words used by transgender in their community in Padang.

G. Significance of the Research

It is expected that this research can give contribution both theoretically and practically in linguistic study. Theoretically, the result of this research hopefully can enrich the theory about transgender slang and its word formation. Practically, the

findings of the research are expected to give better understanding to the readers about word formation of transgender slang. Furthermore, it is also expected that the findings of the research can give some inspirations or can be a reference to the next researcher who is interested to study about transgender slang or the process of word-formation.

H. Definition of Key Terms

These are the following key terms in order to help the readers in understanding the research:

1. Word Formation : The process in creating new words.
2. Transgender slang : Informal and unstable language that created and used by the group of transgender
3. Community of transgender : A group of people (transgender) which has similarity or interest (language, gender, etc.)