#### **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the writer explains six parts of introduction which are background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definition of key terms.

#### **1.1 Background of Study**

Language is an important aspect that help human to communicate among others. It is certainly figures centrally in our lives. Human beings are the special creatures which have ability to use language optimally. Language seems to be a feature of our essential humanity which enables us to rise above the condition of mere brutish beings, real or imagined (Widdowson, 2006, p. 4). It clearly describes that language is part of human life which can help us to discover our identity as individuals and social beings. When people know a language, people will know about words in that language, that is the sound units are related to specific meanings. In the meaning of words context plays an important role either in text or utterance. The meaning of a word is fully reflected in contextual relations and is constituted by contextual relations (Cruse, 1986, p. 16). It helps to understand the speaker, hearer, and the reader to catch what is the meaning of the words. Understanding meaning of words is not an easy thing to do because sometimes misunderstanding and disagreement will appear. The meaning of one word can consist of more than one meaning because the meaning of word is defined in part by its relation with other words in language (Saeed, 1997, p. 53). It means meaning of words can reflect another interpretation based on the viewpoint and context at the time. Thus, the meaning of words might consist of real meaning or fake meaning. People cannot just interpret the meaning of word without regard to any words because it can make the message that contained in text cannot deliver clearly.

From the Saeed' statement above, the writer found the importance to study about semantics. It uses in our daily life to communicate among people in society and to understand text. Therefore, the meaning of word is important to explain the messages that deliver by the speaker or writer to avoid misunderstanding and disagreement. Yule (2010) stated that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences (p. 112). It clearly describes that in every words, phrase, sentences that is produced by people always contains of meaning. It shows how all features are combined together to serve meaning and might consist of fake meaning or real meaning. Binkert (2003) stated that semanticists have recognized a number of useful distinctions in the meaning of a word. One of these is the distinction between denotation and connotation (p. 163).

It is important to recognize the meaning of words because sometimes words can adopt extra meaning in certain situations. Leech (1981:11) stated that there are two categories of meaning. The first is conceptual meaning (denotation) and associative meaning (connotation). Conceptual meaning is an inextricable and essential part of what language is. Conceptual meaning or called as denotative is to be central factor in linguistic communication. Denotative meaning is words which have specific and exact meaning, excluding all of its extended uses and emotional colorations. In other words, denotative meaning is literal meaning or specific meaning; often we say denotative meaning is dictionary meaning. The connotative meaning is defined as the secondary meaning of a word or expression besides its explicit or primary meaning (Al-Adaileh, 2012, p. 1). It means that connotative meaning carried another meaning in words or adopts another meaning beyond the denotative meaning. It deals with leech (1981) statement that connotative meaning is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to (p. 12). Connotation of words also helps us to determine how author's feels about what they are describing. On the other hand, a connotative meaning is any meaning which carries some special implication or association (Binkert, 2003, p. 163). Understanding the connotation of words seems to require common sense and word knowledge. Connotation and denotation cannot be separated because they exist together.

In fact, connotation and denotation always appear either in spoken or written. Word that appears in written text is a conscious manipulation based on the experience of the author (as cited in Head, 2009, p. 13). Short story is one of example written text which contains of connotation and denotation meaning. The reader must interpret to catch the message from the author because connotation and denotation meaning plays important role in the sequence of story. In this opportunity the writer found an interested short story which consists of necessary data to be analyzed in this thesis. Short story that the writer analyzed entitled "The child's story" by Charles Dickens. The child's story is a timeless account of the journey we all take, from childhood and spontaneous youth, through adulthood and marriage, and continue into our golden years. The child's story is depiction of the stage our life. Thus, any event that happens in the child story is reflection of life, which draws stage of real life in our life. It makes us realize that when life in the world we experienced phase-by-phase to be good human. The main point of this story is about the meaning of adjectives words that appear in the sequence of story. Dickens uses adjective words to help him deliver his message and describe his intentions. The writer is interested in analyzing this story because the story has good meaning, good structure, and it is really different from other story where the child story tells about journey of life.

By explanation above, the writer wants to analyze the meaning of adjectives words use in the short story. Adjectives words which appear are modifiers that describe words which they relate by providing specific detail and do not have to agree in number or gender. This is an example of adjective words that used in the child's story.

He travelled along a rather dark path for some little time, without meeting anything, until at last he came to a *beautiful* child. So he said to the child, "What do you do here?" And the child said, "I am always at play. Come and play with me!"

The sentences in the child's story short story show the adjectives words to depict event at the time. Adjective word beautiful might have meaning beautiful in attitude, beautiful in face, or beautiful inner beauty. Based on the context semantics especially connotation and denotation, adjective word that use in short story is connotation. It is impossible the child can accept the stranger and play with him if he does not have good attitude. We can know the meaning of that word based on the context in text, beautiful here means good attitude. It clearly shows that adjective word which used carried of more than one meaning.

The writer concerned in meaning of adjectives words because adjective words that appears in the story adopt extra meaning that hide message from the author. Adjective words that appear in the child's story by Charles dickens must be interpreted to get the meanings of those words exactly because the adjective words that appear have different meaning depends on the certain situation. The writer intends to show the connotative and denotative of adjectives words in the child's story through the research.

#### **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Based on background of study, there are problems related to the study, which leads to the following research question:

- 1. What are the meanings of adjective words that appear in the *The Child's Story* short story?
- 2. What are the adjectives words contexts that appear in the *The Child's Story* short story?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

This study is to find out the answer of the following problems:

- 1. To know the meaning of adjectives words that appear in the *The child's story* short story.
- 2. To know the adjectives words contexts that appear in the *The child's story* short story.

# **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study is to contribute in the developments of linguistic field, especially in study of the semantics. For the readers, this study have purpose for explore the semantics in specific areas. The writer want to show the meaning of adjectives that appear in the child story short story. Moreover, the writer hopes that the research can give benefit to a lot of people and give the readers a better understanding of the meaning of simple words in semantics.

Another reason, this study becomes a reference for linguistic students to learn about semantics especially in meaning of adjectives words. In addition, they can learn about the connotative and denotative adjectives meaning through the short story.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

In order to keep the reader concerning to the topics, the writer focuses this study on the semantics and limits the thesis on the meaning of simple adjective words that appears in short story. In addition, the writer doing research based on short story and does not have interview with the writer directly.

## **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

In this study, definitions of key terms are given to avoid misunderstanding between the researcher's meaning concept and the reader's. It is important to define some terms used in this study.

1. Semantics:

Semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences. (Yule, 2010, p. 112). Semantics is study about every meaning in words, phrase and sentence

2. Connotative:

Connotative meaning is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to (Leech, 1981, p. 12). Connotation meaning is words that have extra meanings in certain situations.

3. Denotative:

Denotative meaning is words which have specific and exact meaning, excluding all of its extended uses and emotional colorations (Binkert, 2003, p. 163). Often we say denotative is literal meaning, also known as specific meaning or dictionary's meaning.

4. The child's story short story:

Originally first published by Charles Dickens in the mid-1852s in United States, "The Child's Story" is a timeless account of the journey we all take, from carefree childhood and spontaneous youth, through adulthood and marriage, and into our golden years.

