



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 interesting 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 adjective 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 adjective words use in the short story. Adjective 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 adjective words to depict event at the time. Adjective word beautiful might have meaning beautiful







