#### **CHAPTER II**

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter includes the discussion of some theories and the review of the previous study. Related theories which have links with this study are semantics, connotative and denotative, and short story. The main data in this analysis is the short story entitled the child's story by Charles Dickens and it will be supported by some resources.

#### 2.1 Theoretical framework

### 2.1.1 Semantics

The study about systematic of meaning is called semantics. Semantics is study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences (Yule. 2010, p. 112). The definition of semantics part of linguistic fields that is refers to the meaning of words, relation between of words or sentence and their meaning. Meaning also figures at levels of language below the word and above it (Widdowson, 2006, p. 53). It means that the meaning of words is show the level of language; every words, phrase and sentence which appear have their own meaning. Semantics is concerned with identifying with the meaningful identifying elements of specific language, for example, English words like *paint* and *happy* and affixes like the *-er* of *painter* and the *un-* of *unhappy*. It is concerned with describing how such elements go together to express more

complex meanings in phrases like *the unhappy painter* and sentences like *The painter is unhappy* and telling how these are related to each other.

Semantics, the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use, is a descriptive subject. It is an attempt to describe and understand the nature of the knowledge about meaning in their language that people have from knowing the language (Griffiths, 2006, p. 15). It clearly shows that every word in sentence or even in phrase have important role which provide meaning, because they are related to each other. It also helps to understand about representation of word meaning. In other words, semantics guide us to know how the meanings of words combine into sentence and how the way consider context determine the meaning.

The full set of normality relation which a lexical item contracts with all conceivable contexts will be referred to as its contextual relations. We shall say, then, that the meaning of a word is fully reflected in its contextual relations; in fact, we can go further, and say that, for present purposes, the meaning of a word is constituted by its contextual relation (Cruse, 1986, p. 16)

In the most general sense, semantics is a component theory within a larger semiotic theory about meaningful, symbolic, behavior. Hence we have not only a semantics of natural language utterances or acts, but also of nonverbal or paraverbal behavior, such as gestures, pictures and films, logical systems or computer languages, sign languages of the deaf, and perhaps

social interaction in general (Van Dijk, 1985, p. 1). In order to make good communication we must understand the meaning of words based on the context, for instance the question of what a particular word, say, table, means. It is clear that when native speakers of English use the word table, they are referring to a specific object and recognize in that object certain identifiable characteristics which make the use of table appropriate. When words such as beauty, love, and joy are brought into the picture, the problem of providing definitions reaches nearly unmanageable proportions, for words such as these, in addition to referring to intangible objects, also vary considerably in meaning from speaker to speaker (Binkert, 2003, p. 163).

Semantics as the study of sentence meaning and word meaning in natural language divided into some subfields. There are two primary types of social meaning, conceptual meaning and associative meaning. We can go further and make a broad distinction between conceptual meaning and associative meaning. Conceptual meaning covers those basic, essential components of meaning that are conveyed by the literal use of a word. It is the type of meaning that dictionaries are designed to describe. Some of the basic components of a word like needle in English might include "thin, sharp, steel instrument." These components would be part of the conceptual meaning of needle. However, different people might have different associations or connotations attached to a word like needle. They might associate it with "pain," or "illness," or "blood," or "drugs," or "thread," or "knitting," or "hard to find" (especially in a haystack), and these associations

may differ from one person to the next (Yule, 2010, p. 113). It deals with Leech that stated "I shall breakdown 'meaning' in its widest sense into seven different ingredients, giving primary importance to logical meaning (as I prefer to call it) conceptual meaning" (Leech, 1981, p. 9).

Six other types of meaning connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and social meaning are includes in associative meaning. Conceptual meaning covers those basic, essential components of meaning that are conveyed by the literal use of a word.

By explanation above semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use, is a descriptive subject. Semantics also study of how languages organize and express meanings. Our semantics knowledge of the meaning help to understand the meanings, purpose, and goals of words that appears. In order to understand the meaning of words people must have semantics competence. Having background of semantics knowledge is important to help interpret the meaning of words which might have more than one meaning.

The classification types of meaning which has been mentioned above can be diagrammed as shown below:

Conceptual meaning or sense	Logical, cognitive, or
	denotative content

Associative meaning	Connotative meaning	What is communicated by virtue what language refers to
	Social meaning	What is communicated of the social circumstances of language use
	Affective meaning	What is communicated of the feelings and attitudes of the speaker/writer
	Reflected meaning	What is communicated through association with another sense of the same expression
	Collocative meaning	What is communicated through association with words which tend to occur in the environment of another word
Thematic meaning		What is communicated by the way in which the message is organized in terms of order and emphasis.

# 2.1.2 Connotation and Denotation

Word meaning is able to discuss object in the English language because one "word" can be consists of more than one meaning. As Leech stated (1981) the word "meaning" and its corresponding verb "to mean" are among the most eminently discussable terms in English language (p. 1). It is not easy

to understand about the word-meaning because sometimes misunderstanding and confusing will come when we lack of agreement of the word-meaning itself. Connotation and denotation are meaning that commonly appear in words. According to Leech (1981) connotative meaning is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to (p. 12). It clearly shows explain that connotative is words that carries extra meaning beyond the real meaning. On the other hand, a connotative meaning is any meaning which carries some special implication or association. Connotation refers to the personal aspect of meaning, the emotional associations that the word arouses (Kreidler, 1998, p. 45). Connotative meaning is not specific language and relatively unstable according to culture, historical period, and the experience of the individual. On the other words, connotation is describing the meaning of words that carries in the text.

Denotative meaning is literal definition, often we say as dictionary's meaning, exact meaning, or specific meaning of word. Denotative meaning or sometimes called as conceptual meaning is widely assumed to be the central factor in linguistic communication. As leech (1981) stated denotative meaning or sometimes called as conceptual meaning is an inextricable and essential part of what language is, such that one can scarcely define language without referring to (p. 11). A denotation identifies the central aspect of word meaning, which everybody generally agrees about it. Conceptual meaning covers those basic, essential components of meaning that are conveyed by the literal use of a word. It is the type of meaning that dictionaries are designed to

describe (Yule, 2010, p. 113). It clearly described that conceptual meaning or called it as denotation meaning is the real meaning of such words. The denotation of an expression is whatever it denotes. For many words, the denotation is a big class of things: the noun *arm* denotes all the upper limbs there are on the world's people, monkeys and apes. (Yes, there is a noun *arms* that has a lot of weapons as its denotation, but it always appears in the plural form.) If expressions did not have denotations, languages would hardly be of much use. It is the fact that they allow us to communicate about the world that makes them almost indispensable because languages have useful links to the world, there is a temptation to think that the meaning of a word (or other kind of expression) simply is its denotation (Griffiths, 2006, p. 12).

In order to understand word meaning exactly listener and speaker must have same background knowledge to get what is the intentions either listener or speaker. Knowing context is the key to understand the meaning of word connotative and denotative. Connotation and denotation meaning always appear in the meaning of words because they are part of it and exist together. The example of connotative and denotative meaning:

- 1) He comes to a beautiful child.
- 2) Mary doesn't like Johnny, because he does not have *beautiful* attitude.

In (1) the word *beautiful* is used in its denotative meaning to refer to a specific appearance, while in (2) it is used in a connotative meaning to imply a bad person.

## 2.2 Review of previous studies

To enrich our knowledge about linguistics field, the writer reviews the previous study who conducted a research about word meaning especially connotative and denotative meaning. The first study is "The Connotations of Arabic Colour Terms" which is made by Bilal A. Al-Adaileh (2012). The writer learns that Bilal A. Al-Adaileh study focused on the meaning of Arabic colour terms. He wanted to explore the figurative uses of black, white, yellow, red, green, and blue; the most common colours that are used figuratively. Bilal also wanted to know that colours have many orthophemistic connotations, and that dysphemistic connotations of the colours under study are more common than euphemistic connotations. He used qualitative method to complete his research.

Next study entitled "English and Chinese Cultural Connotation of Color Words in Comparison" conducted by Guimei He (2009). He observed the meaning of colour through the different cultural between English and Chinese. Guimei's study focused on the meaning of colour through the cultural comparison. He wanted to explore the colour at different cultural backgrounds reflecting in the different cultural connotation.

Another study has been created by Safa Elnaili (2013) entitled "A Stylistic Analysis of Libyan Short Stories: The Connotation of adjectives". The research focused on the use of adjectives and how their denotative and connotative meanings contribute to the understanding and appreciation of the literary work. The aimed of this study to find out the meaning of connotation adjectives words in 6 short stories through the positive and negative picture.

The different between this study and previous research is this study focused to find out kind of adjectives appears in the child's story short story, to know the meaning of connotation of adjectives in the child's story short story, and to know the meaning of denotation of adjectives in the The Child's Story short story by Charles dickens. The writer only used one short story in his object; it is different with the previous study which used six short stories and used colour as the object. Another differentiation, this study focused on the semantics field, especially connotation and denotation areas. Meanwhile, the previous study focused on the stylistic field.