

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are some subchapters in this introduction. Those are background of study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Those are needed to be explained because they describe this study in general.

1.1 Background of the Study

In a language, a sentence is built of words. The sentence is correct when the words have the appropriate position. In language the verb plays a central role in the meaning and structure of sentences, the verb determines the number of objects and limits the semantics properties of both its subject and its objects. For example in English the word *find* requires an animate subject and selects a direct object; put selects for both a direct object and a prepositional object that has a locative meaning. So, people will be able to make a good sentence (Fromkin 2003).

Language of the world may be classified according to whether the verb occurs initially, medially or finally in their basic sentences. All this is evidence for the centrality of the verb. For example, *Deco goes to school*. In this sentence *Deco* is the subject, the person who conducts the action. *Goes* is the verb, the activity that conducted by *Deco* and *to school* is the place or the destination (Saeed 2009).

From the example above, a sentence has a word with different function. The function of the word can be understood well by learning the context of each word in the sentence. To understand this study, people need to learn thematic role. But before that, people need to understand about semantics and study of participant.

As stated by Saeed (2009), semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language. The study of semantics looks at how meaning works in language, and because of this it often uses native speaker intuitions about the meaning of words and phrases to base research on.

Semantics helps people in understanding meaning of language. Besides that, semantics also focuses about the function of words in a sentence, so that the sentence can have a good meaning and can be understood by people well. Understanding the meaning means understanding the words and the sentences. It is a level of semantics.

Level of semantics is how speakers may choose to characterize situations and express various degrees of commitment to the portrayal. Another set of semantic choices which face a speaker seeking to describe a situation concerns how to portray the roles of any entities involved (Saeed,2009). Those are important for people to learn about meaning of words and sentences. After understanding what semantics is, learners or people are able to understand thematic role easier.

Thematic role is the study of relationship between the verb used in a sentence with a noun phrase contained in the sentence and the relation depends on

the meaning of the verb (Fromkin, 2003). From this definition, it can be called that to understand a meaning of sentence, people need to know the characteristics of verb phrase and noun phrase.

Riemer (2010), also states that semantic role is a relation between a verb and it is associated with noun phrases. Some roles are more likely to be coded as subject and others as objects. For instance, *Gina raised the car with a jack*. This sentence identifies three entities, *Gina*, *the car* and *a jack*, related by the action described by the verb *raise*. The sentence portrays these entities in specific roles: *Gina* is the entity responsible for initiating and carrying out the action, the car is acted upon and has its position changed by the action, and the *jack* is the means by which *Gina* is able to cause the action.

In this study, the writer analyzes thematic role in *a sheltered woman* short story. This study is conducted because thematic role is sometimes left by people in understanding a sentence pattern. It is important to analyze because one of the important is sometimes people are confused in determining whether it is agent or experiencer. The people or reader also can predict such linkage of the story. Understanding thematic role will give information more about the meaning of the sentence and the function of each word.

The writer analyzes the thematic role in *A Sheltered Woman* short story. *A sheltered woman* is short story that was authored by Yiyun Yi in 2014. It was awarded by Sunday Times EFG short story prize, a £30,000 award, in April 2015. First published in the New Yorker in March 2014, it tells the story of a

nanny to a new baby whose mother is suffering from postpartum depression. After getting this award, this short story was so famous. Many people loved to read it.

The writer analyzes the thematic role of the sentences in this story. Here is the example of the thematic role that found in the short story as source of data, *the young woman started to sob*. The explanation of this data is *the young women* is the entity which is a initiator of action or state that described by predicate. It is known as agent, and the word *to sob* is noun that gets the movement from the action of young women it known as goal.

In this study, the writer analyzes on the types of thematic role and types of verbs as the main focus. As explained above, the verbs are the important roles in understanding the meaning and the structure of the sentences.

1.2 Statements of Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the writer employs research questions as follow:

1. What are the types of thematic role found in *A Sheltered Woman* short story?
2. What are the types of verb that follow thematic role in *A Sheltered Woman* short story?

1.3 Objectives of the study

In line with the research questions, the objectives of this study are:

1. To explain the types of thematic role found in *A Sheltered Woman* short story.
2. To explain the types of verb that follow thematic role in *A Sheltered Woman* short story.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to give contribution to public. The contributions or the significances are theoretical and practical. Theoretically, the writer hopes this study gives any information to the next writer that is interested in analyzing thematic role. In other word, the writer expects this study as an updated reference that will help him/her easily.

A Sheltered Woman short story is a famous short story and many people love to read it. Practically, this study is expected to help people in understanding part of role or pattern in a sentence. By understanding thematic role, people will know and identify the relationship such as between an experiencer and a percept and another relation. Also the reader can predict such linkage and more general patterns amongst individual case.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The writer uses Saeed's theory (2009) about thematic role and types of verbs as the scope of the study. He divides the types of thematic role into ten types. Those are agent, patient, theme, experiencer, beneficiary, instrument,

location, goal, source, and stimulus. Also this study focuses on type of verb that is proposed by Saeed. Those are stative and dynamic verbs. Furthermore, to make this study more specific, this study limits its discussion only in narrations of the short story in *A Sheltered Woman*, because the sentences in the narration are more complete and complex rather than conversation or dialogue in the short story.