

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of six subchapters, namely background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of the term. Those subchapters are necessary to be explained because they describe this study generally.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Saussure (cited in Chandler 1994) said that each word actually has no correlation between the signifier and signified of language (i.e. word) known as arbitrary. We can take an example the word *tree* has meaning as a tall plant which has a wooden trunk and branches that grows from its upper part, but the word *tree* actually has no real correlation meaning with the physical object of the *tree* itself. It can be said that language has conventional meaning.

However, onomatopoeic word is not arbitrary; it has associative correlation between the words (sound of the word) and meaning. Drabble (2000) stated that onomatopoeia refers to the formation, and use, of a word by an imitation of sounds associated not only with the object, but also with the action designated. We can take an example the word *meow* is onomatopoeic word imitating the natural sound of animal that is cat. The existences of onomatopoeic words are usually found in literary works to make an interesting reading because some expressions are illustrated by the written sound. Among various media, onomatopoeic words are most often found in comic.

When people reads a comic, they do not only enjoy the images but also deal with the onomatopoeia which makes comic dialogues become more attractive. It means that onomatopoeic words are used to increase the reality of the situation in the comic, so the readers can get a real acoustic sensation of the whole acts. Petersen (cited in Guynes 2014) said that the existences of onomatopoeia in comic are part of a narrative erotics that create an animated interior for the story to live within...[a] space for meaning to accrue.

Comic writers tend to consider word choice, type, meaning, function, and some others things related to appropriateness when performing act in comic. Therefore, they also consider to perform onomatopoeia in comic. Comic writers commonly use certain types and variations of onomatopoeic words which they construct in the comic. They express types and variations of onomatopoeic words in comic which convey meaning of the character's act. One example is the written text CLICK, which is taken from the data in *Black Widow* comic entitled *Agent. Avanger. Assassin.* on page five published in 2014. See the picture below:



Picture 1.1.1 CLICK

The onomatopoeic example above is categorized as direct onomatopoeia since the denotation of a word is a class of sound (Bredin, 1996). On the story, agent Natasha tried to go into a room in which there was a suicide hauser. He tried to kill himself by the bomb. When agent Natasha opened the door, there was a written text

on the door CLICK. By taking notice on the situation of story, the written text CLICK is direct onomatopoeia which is produced to imitate the sharp sound of clicking door-handle.

As variation of the onomatopoeic word, CLICK uses capital letter. As the theory of onomatopoeic word variation based on Kotter, Lange, and Holger (2005), if the onomatopoeia uses capital letter, it suggests the importance and loudness. It means that the writer of this comic aims to suggest the important act with the door-handle. Based on the situation of the comic, the action of agent Natasha opening the door is the important act not only causing the sound appears but also giving a real acoustic sensation of the acts that the sound CLICK is the loud sound.

From analyzing onomatopoeic word CLICK above, type and variation of onomatopoeia are interesting to be analyzed because the existences are occasionally unexpected in comic. There are a lot of comics which inspire the readers either in the term of creating a better idea of plot, a moral value or the character of the comic itself. One of inspiring comics is chosen by the writer is *Black Widow* comic whose woman character as superhero.

*Black Widow* is a fictional superhero published by Marvel Comics. *Black Widow* has more than twenty comics which are compiled in 1964 until now. It is created by editor and plotter Stan Lee, scripiter Don Rico, and artist Don Heck. *Black Widow* has development in the costumes and characters through time. The famous one is legendary scarlet-haired Natalia "Natasha" Romanova, one of the world's greatest spies and master of disguise. The character is first introduced as a Russian spy, an antagonist of the superhero Iron Man. She later defects to the United

States, and becomes an agent of the fictional spy agency SHIELD and a member of the superhero team the Avengers.

The writer has two reasons why she chooses the *Black Widow* as source of data. The first reason is this comic provides many types and variations of onomatopoeic word which the writer of this study is able to find all onomatopoeia types and variations as her data. The second reason is Marvel is a great and famous American superhero comic publisher; *Black Widow* is one of Marvel's comics with woman character which ranks the fifth best female comic book characters with 952 votes (Ranker, 2016). *Black Widow* also becomes the runner up of the best female superheroes (Top Tens, 2016).

The writer finds four related previous studies about onomatopoeia. The previous studies mostly analyze the onomatopoeia focusing on a particular type such as what have been done by Kusuma (2013), Seyyedi and Akhlaghi (2013), Eliza (2012), and Al-Zubbaidi (2014). Those writers concern with different onomatopoeia problem and source of data, but some of them use the similar theory of onomatopoeia types. The writer is going to combine two theories of onomatopoeia types which are used in the related previous studied above. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing onomatopoeia in the different focus that are type and variation of onomatopoeic words which are constructed in the comic. The writer also takes the different data as source of the research. The writer is going to analyze onomatopoeia which is applied outside and inside the balloon in *Black Widow* comic entitled a study of onomatopoeia used in *Black Widow* comic.

## 1.2 Statements of the Problems

There are two questions formulated in this study. The questions relate to the onomatopoeic words found in the *Black Widow* comic. Those are:

1. What are the types of onomatopoeic words in *Black Widow* comic?
2. What are the variations of onomatopoeic words which are constructed in *Black Widow* comic?

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the statements of the problem, the objectives of the study are:

1. To explain types of onomatopoeic words which are found in *Black Widow* comic.
2. To explain the variations of onomatopoeic words which are constructed in *Black Widow* comic.

## 1.4 Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this study is hoped to become a reference for other writers who are interesting to analyze the same source of data or use the same theory of this study. Furthermore, this study is proposed to give better understanding to the readers about types of onomatopoeia used by the character in the comic and variations of onomatopoeic words which are constructed in the comic. It can be consumed as reference for others.

Meanwhile, practically this study improves the knowledge of comic readers about types and variations of onomatopoeia which can be applied not only in this comic but also in the other comics or other literary works. This study also

helps the comic readers identify the variations of onomatopoeic words which are constructed in the comic. This study also inspires other comic writers to apply onomatopoeia in suitable condition in order to increase the reality of the situation in the comic, so that the comic becomes more interesting.

### 1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study analyzes types of onomatopoeia in *Black Widow* comic by using the theory of onomatopoeia types proposed by Bredin (1996) and Ullman (cited in Eliza 2012). This study also analyzes variations of onomatopoeic words which are constructed in *Black Widow* comic by using the theory of onomatopoeia variations proposed by Kotter, Lange, and Holger (2005).

Therefore, the scope of this study is word formation which concerns the discussion of onomatopoeia in a comic. The limitation of this study is comic scene outside and inside the balloon that contains onomatopoeia in *Black Widow* comic.

### 1.6 Definition of Term

It is important to make one understanding about the study. This is built to avoid misunderstanding on a term as keyword of the study. Therefore, the writer gives definition of *comic* used in this study.

**Comic** is defined as written literary work which contains a story told in a picture, small amount of text, and linguistic expression. Comic is common published in the newspaper comic strips and comic books itself. As like other written literary works, comic also has certain genres, such as superhero comics, romance comics, horror comics, etc.