

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is how humans communicate feelings or ideas convey to other people. It has an important role in every aspect of human life in society, especially among social groups. Language can be defined as a system of communication using sounds or symbols that enables us to express our feelings, thoughts, ideas, and experiences (Goldstein, 2008). It means that language as systems to transfer words, feelings, thoughts, and experiences to expresses what we want to another persons.

Most people know about the meaning of a word. A meaning is included in the part of semantics knowledge. The study of semantics looks at how meaning works in language, because of this it often uses native speaker intuition about the meaning words, phrases, and sentences to base research on (Saeed, 2009). Semantics also looks at the ways in which the meaning of words, phrases, and clauses can be connected to each others. Semantics can help to find out the meaning of a word, where ambiguous words have indirect meanings which are known as figurative language.

Kennedy (1987) stated that figurative language refers to words and groups of words that exaggerate the usual meaning in figures of speeches of the component words. A figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer from the sake of emphasis departs from the usual denotations of words.

Figurative language is not merely a matter of language but provides much of the foundation for thought, reason and imagination. One of the kinds of figurative language is metaphor. Metaphor is one part of figurative language.

The word *metaphor* is sometimes used as a general term for figurative or non-literal language. Metaphors are conceptual (mental) operations reflected in human language that enable speakers to structure and construe abstract areas of knowledge and experience in more concrete experiential terms (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). In cognitive linguistics, metaphor is defined as understanding one concept in terms of another concept. Here is an example of such a set (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980, p. 5):

ARGUMENT IS WAR

Your claims are *indefensible*.

He *attacked every weak point* in my argument. His criticisms were *right on target*. I *demolished* his argument.

I've never *won* an argument with him.

You disagree? Okay, *shoot!*

If *you* use that *strategy*, he'll *wipe you out*. He *shot down* all of my arguments.

This is an example of what it means for a metaphorical concept namely *Argument Is War*. Because *argument* is partially structured, understood performed, and talked about in terms of war. The concept is metaphorically structured, the activity is metaphorically structured and consequently the language is metaphorically structured.

Metaphor is common to all languages and cultures. It plays an important role in everyday life and is grounded in culture. English has many everyday expressions that are based on a conceptualization. Metaphorical expressions have

penetrated the various aspects of life including thought and action. Metaphorical language is an indispensable part of human life, involving language, thought and action (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). Accordingly, metaphor plays a major role in people's everyday language using and thinking. The conceptual system is based on experiences that have gained with interacting with people and things surrounding us.

Lakoff and Johnson (1980) identify three basic types of conceptual metaphors. They are structural metaphors, orientational metaphors and ontological metaphors. The types of metaphor can be described as a comparison that shows how two forms or more that is not alike of the similar ways. By the explain how a metaphor is simply understanding, and experiencing of one kind to other forms. It means to change the meaning of the words and sentences that actually, which is called metaphor. Metaphor is usually used in literary works, such as novel, play, and poetry. But nowadays metaphor is often used in newspaper articles.

In this study the writer analyzes the metaphor found in *The New York Times* about "Political Opinions". There are many people who can read newspaper articles, but there are some ambiguous words or imply meaning which make people find it hard to understand. In the study, the writer intends to analyze, explain, and introduce to readers that metaphor is necessary to understand the meaning of words and sentences in newspaper articles. And also the writer wants to show that metaphor is necessary to learn because ambiguous words will make people difficult in understanding words, using *The New York Times* online newspaper as the source of the data.

Another reason for choosing metaphor is that through this research the writer wants to know more about metaphor and its meaning with semantic approach and helps the reader to understand what the writer is trying to convey. The writer tries to understand the use of metaphor, identify types and functions of the metaphor that will take from one of the collection examples in the articles of *The New York Times* online newspaper.

Metaphor is one of the popular devices that may resolve the difficulties in understand the reading. Using metaphors can be conveyed meaning in a more interesting and creative way to do all of these. The study of metaphor has been generally associated with the study of literature. However, the present study will look at metaphor from linguistic point of view focusing on the types and functions of metaphor are used.

In the era, all of people need something that entertains themselves. By the development of the technology, people also have many kinds media entertains to find information and news, such as newspaper. Newspapers are one of the existing information media in the community. Newspapers have been regarded as an efficient information medium, in addition to television and radio. By reading newspaper, the people can keep abreast of actual developments, both domestically and abroad. In essence, all people need information. Information is considered a basic necessity, which should not be missed. The media have been described as powerful sites for the production and circulation of social meanings (Thornborrow, 2000). One of the most updated and famous newspaper in the United States are *The New York Times*.

The New York Times (sometimes abbreviated NYT) is an American daily newspaper, founded and continuously published in New York City since September 18, 1851, by *The New York Times Company*. *The New York Times* has won 122 Pulitzer Prizes, more than any other newspapers. The paper's print version in 2013 had the second largest circulation, behind *The Wall Street Journal*, and the largest circulation among the metropolitan newspapers in the United States. *The New York Times* is ranked 18th in the world by circulation. Following industry trends, its weekday circulation had fallen in 2009 to fewer than one million (Wikipedia, *The New York Times*).

Nicknamed "The Gray Lady", *The New York Times* has long been regarded within the industry as a national "newspapers of record". It has been owned by the Ochs-Sulzberger family since 1896. Arthur Ochs Sulzberger the publisher of the Times and the chairman of *The New York Times Company* is the fourth generation of the family to help the paper. *The New York Times* international version, formerly the International Herald Tribune, is now called *The New York Times International Edition* (Wikipedia, *The New York Times*).

Since the mid-1970s, *The New York Times* has greatly expanded its layout and organization, adding special weekly sections on various topics supplementing the regular news, editorials, sports, and features. Since 2008, *The New York Times* has been organized into the following sections news, editorials/opinions columns/op-ed, New York (metropolitan), business, sports of the times, arts, science, styles, home, travel, and other features (Wikipedia, *The New York Times*).

The writer chooses *The New York Times* online newspaper because its writing is easy to understand, detail, and interesting to read. The writer chooses the news in *The New York Times* online newspaper since 2 November until 18 December 2017 editions about “Political Opinions” to source of the data. The politic news is very interesting to analysis and discuss. In addition, a lot of metaphorical expressions including it is types and functions of metaphor can be found in *The New York Times* online newspaper.

For this reason, the study entitled “**A Study of Metaphorical Expression Found in *The New York Times* Online Newspaper: A Semantic Approach**” will be conducted and is expected to give a contribution to linguistic knowledge about the metaphorical expression in *The New York Times* online newspaper which helps writers, readers, teachers, students, translators use and understand language more effectively.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, there are two questions that will be research problem. Those are:

1. What are the types of metaphor found in the articles *The New York Times* online newspaper?
2. What are the functions of metaphor found in the articles of *The New York Times* online newspaper?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of research problem the purposes of the study are:

1. To identify and explain the types of metaphor words found in articles *The New York Times* online newspaper.
2. To explain the functions of metaphor found in the articles of *The New York Times* online newspaper.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is expected to give both theoretical and practical contributions particularly for students of English Department of Trunojoyo University. Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to give understanding about figurative language of metaphor. For linguistics studies, this kind of study is important to give more information, clear understanding and explanation about the types and the functions metaphor are used in the newspaper articles.

Practically, this study is expected to be a useful source for teaching, learning, translating, writing and reading dealing with metaphorical expressions. In a word, the result of the study is hoped to enhance the reader's comprehending and evaluative skills in interpreting metaphor in newspaper articles.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study in the field of semantics focusing on metaphorical expressions found in *The New York Times* online newspaper. This study aims to observe and describe some commonly used means for expressing metaphors in newspaper articles of *The New York*. This study uses theories proposed by Lakoff and Johnson (1980) and Knowles and Moon (2006). The metaphorical expressions are analyzed in terms of semantics aspects. In addition, the study discusses the finding of the types and the functions of metaphor are used in the newspaper articles. The investigation explores the metaphorical expressions used in political articles in *The New York Times* online newspaper.

