

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is a system of symbols. Besides, language is also a system of meanings. Hence, symbols and meanings are interrelated in a language. The statement is in line with the opinion of Halliday saying that language is interpreted as a system of meanings, accompanied by forms through which the meanings can be realized (1985: XIV).

Forms as part of symbols in language can be morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, sentences or even discourses. Morphemes are defined as the smallest meaningful units of language. It means that a morpheme has meaning. Since a free morpheme is also a word, a word should be meaningful.

To comprehend meanings of a word requires some certain capacities, because of the fact that the meanings contained within a word are of various kinds, such as referential, denotative, connotative, contextual, etcetera. However, it is very helpful to search the meanings of a word by comparing it with other words, so the lexical relations between or among the words compared may be revealed.

The lexical relations between or among words may include synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, polysemy, and homonymy. The following may classify the discussion intended:

1. (A) He silently removed the top of the large cross that hung around his neck, revealing a long, wicked-looking *stiletto* (Sydney Sheldon, 1989:8).
(B) In one lightning move he plunged the *knife* into the guard's chest (Sydney Sheldon, 1989:8).
2. (A) "Wait *here*", Jaime said (Sydney Sheldon, 1989:9).
(B) "There's a safe house outside Torro. We'll stay *there*, until dark and then move on (Sydney Sheldon, 1989:9).
3. (A) Jaime Miro took the keys from the *body* and swiftly opened the two cell doors (Sydney Sheldon, 1989: 8).
(B) He was six feet tall, with a strong, intelligent *face* a muscular body and brooding dark *eyes* (Sydney Sheldon, 1989:8).
4. (A) The *dark* haired, arrestingly beautiful one (Sydney Sheldon, 1989: 47).
(B) Inside the convent, in the *dark* before dawn, sister Teresa held the discipline tightly in her right hand and whipped it hard across her body, feeling the knotted fails slashing into her as she silently recited the Miserere (Sydney Sheldon, 1989: 34).
5. (A) Your ears are to *hear* only God's words (Sydney Sheldon, 1989:9).
(B) "Wait *here*," Jaime said (Sydney Sheldon, 1989: 9).

The words *stiletto* in the sentence (1A) and *knife* in the sentence (1B) are semantically related. Both of them refer to the same thing, namely a tool commonly used to cut something. Since they are two different words with the same meaning, their relation is said to be synonymous. In terms of their class,

both *stiletto* and *knife* are categorized as noun. While the words *here* in the sentence (2A) and *there* in the sentence (2B) have a lexical relation. Both *here* and *there* in the sentences above are contrast in meaning. In other words, they are opposites of each other. So, their relation is classified as antonymous. Due to their category, they are classified as adverb. Another, the lexical relation among those words is hyponymous in nature; in which the *body* becomes a superordinate, while *eyes* and *face* are its hyponyms. The relation here is also known as part-whole relationship. Due to their part of speech, the three words are classified as noun. Next, the word *dark* in the sentence (4A) and *dark* in the sentence (4B) are interrelated semantically, namely polysemic in nature. The two words are identical in both in spelling and pronunciation, and they contain features which are closely related with different references. The first *dark* refers to black colour while the second *dark* refers to part of a day which is still dark. Based on their category the word *dark* in the sentence belongs to adjective, but the word *dark* in the sentence (5B) is a noun. Finally, the relation between the words *hear* in the sentence (5A) and *here* in the sentence (5B) is homonymous, since both of the different words have the same pronunciation. Finally, homonymy concerning the two words is called homophone referring to similarity in sounds rather than spelling. In terms of their class, the word *hear* is categorized as verb, while the word *here* belongs to adverb.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

The study of lexical relations in Sydney Sheldon's *The Sands of Time* is chosen as the topic of the discussion in this research because the topic contains

great problems for learners of English to comprehend. That is why; the researcher is quite interested in doing a research on these problems. Besides that, the students of Widya Mandala University so far never discuss the lexical relations as the topic of their research. Therefore, this research is considered relevant in order to get alternative solution on these problems.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

Due to the topic of the discussion, the researcher formulates three problems to discuss. They are:

1. What words are in lexical relations semantically in Sydney Sheldon's *The Sand of Time*?
2. How are the words interrelated?
3. What are the classes of those words?

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem as stated above, this research tries to answer the three questions, namely:

1. To identify the words which are in lexical relations semantically in Sidney Sheldon's *The Sands of Time*.
2. To describe the interrelationships between or among those words.
3. To clarify the classes of those words.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

This study deals with semantics. Semantics is one of basic branches of linguistic study which concerns with meaning in language. Here, the researcher focuses the discussion on the lexical relations between or among the words in Sidney Sheldon's *The Sands of Time*. The lexical relations intended include synonymy, homonymy, antonymy, polysemy, and hyponymy. The words are viewed in terms of the kinds of their semantic relationships and their categories in sentence constructions.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the result of this study may contribute something valuable for the readers, especially those who are interested in lexical relations. To be more specifically, it is beneficial for the readers since it may stimulate them to comprehend lexical relations more deeply. In addition, it may encourage other researchers to do a further research on this topic seen from different points of view.

17. The Meaning of Key Terms

In order to make this study understandable, several key terms are listed below:

1. Semantics is the study of meaning in language (Hurford and Heasley, 1983: 1).

2. Meanings are ideas or concepts which can be transferred from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the hearer by embodying them, as it were, in the forms of one language or another (Lyons, 1984: 136).
3. Lexicon is a key component in the grammar, containing vast amounts of information on individual words (Fromkin and Rodman, 1993: 100).
4. Lexical relations is the words related by virtue of meaning form sub groups within the lexicon of a language (Akmajian, Demers and Harnish, 1984: 248).
5. *The Sands of Time* is one of Sidney Sheldon's novels published in 1988 by Warner Books, Inc.