

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of research, research questions, research objectives, research significance, previous studies, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of Research

Linguistics is the scientific study of language. there are many units of language that are delivered, namely morphemes, words, phrases and sentences. In linguistics terms itself, a linguistic sign which is bilateral consist of signifier and signified. Signifier can be interpreted as something that is verbal or visual, such a writing, a voice, or object. While the signified is concept from writing, a voice, or object. The science that discusses the sign itself is called semiotic or semiology.

In everyday life people certainly will not be separated by the name of the sign. Without realizing the sign is always around us, wherever and anytime. With the sign of our presence believe that the insight behind it all has a signified, a signified is a concept to which the signifier refers.

The characteristics of Allah show that they have perfection, Allah has the right to everything that happens. Because Allah, the almighty creator of the world and everything in it, with us knowing the qualities found in Allah, our faith can increase. Because people as humans are often negligent and often forget the word thankful, whether in a state of difficulty or pleasure. When it's hard we always forget what pleasure Allah has given us. So when someone are happy that someone are washed away with the pleasure Allah gives us. Therefore, by knowing Allah's attributes, people are expected to be more able to give thanks for all the trials Allah has given us.

In this research the researcher is interested in examining a signifier, signified and connected to contextual meaning of the English translation of surah *Ar-Rahman* by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. Because the Qur'an itself is a holy book that

is always read by Muslim every day and used as a way of life from Muslims, the surah *Ar-Rahman* itself, which in its entirety discusses the pleasures of Allah which Allah has or will give to godly people. Before referring to the signifier and signified, there are characteristics of Allah that people don't know or already know but they have forgotten. For an example of characteristic from Allah in Surah *Ar-Rahman* itself, namely (Allah) Most Gracious this is found in verse ﴿الرَّحْمَنُ﴾ (1) in this verse show seventeen characteristics of Allah as one of them is the beneficent, the loving one and the giver of all, and concept (signified) from the characteristic that is Allah gives unequalled enjoyment to humans, and does not discriminate between the poor and the rich. Example such as breathing, breath is indeed a small thing but by breath we can live the life that Allah gives. By the signifier and signified this is connected with contextual meaning.

Contextual meaning from the translation verse ﴿الرَّحْمَنُ﴾ (Allah) Most Gracious, contextual meaning of this verse is found in the word Most Gracious. Most gracious here is a characteristic that belongs to Allah given to all creatures, and Allah never discriminates against each other whether they are devout, unbelievers, animal or plants. Allah always gives equality to each other, because every creature has its own nature which has been written in *Lauhul Mahfudz*. Even Allah always gives his pleasure everyday like one of them breathes, with breathing we can draw on fresh air and be able to enjoy the beauty of life. Allah also always gives the people needs not for they want, because between needs and desires that are different meaning. If the people need is something that they really need right then and there, desire is something people need but not at that moment, desire is only a mere lust that will not necessarily be fulfilled and needed.

Allah Most Gracious according Tafsir Ibn Kathir (2018) Allah informs of his mercy for his creatures, for he revealed the Qur'an to his servants, he made memorizing and understanding of it easy for those on whom he has bestowed his mercy. This tafsir explain about introduction characteristics of Allah. So it can be it can be that the Most Gracious is kind, the cause of Allah kind to his servants so

that he always gives an infinite pleasure to his people and no one can match it because everything returns to Allah.

Summing up the description above, this research will analyze the linguistic sign and connected to contextual meaning used English Translation of Surah *Ar-Rahman* by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. The signifier is something that looks physically or can found with a text that has meaning in it, while signified is a meaning that describes the symbol that we see. Cause each symbol must have a certain meaning and the symbol was created because of meaning. From these meaning people can analyze through meaning based on the context that is contextual meaning, from that contextual meaning people can know what meaning is contained in certain text of translation of the English translation of surah *Ar-Rahman*. The contextual meaning itself is a meaning in the language that having in the context, and associated in several contexts as the place, time and condition when the language is put into use.

B. Research Questions

The problem in this research that Allah is the almighty giving to his servants without distinguishing each other. But with the grace given by Allah, humans forget to be grateful for the blessings. Even humans are often negligent when given more pleasure by Allah, and they are drift that pleasure. The researcher classifies and formulates the problems of research into questions as below:

1. What are Allah's characteristic that identify signs in the English translation of Surah *Ar-Rahman*?
2. What is the concept of the characteristic of Allah contained in the English translation of Surah *Ar-Rahman*?
3. What is the contextual meaning of the English translation of Surah *Ar-Rahman*?

C. Research Objectives

1. To identify the process Allah's characteristic that identify signs in the English translation of Surah *Ar-Rahman*.
2. To find out the process concept of the characteristic of Allah contained in the English translation of Surah *Ar-Rahman*.
3. To analyze out the process contextual meaning of the English translation of Surah *Ar-Rahman*

D. Research Significance

Based on the statement of the problem, the researcher hopes that this research gives the useful information for the readers. The significance of the research can be seen as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

This research is directed to student of linguist subject or people want to learn English study. Especially to the Linguistic study on translation Surah *Ar-Rahman*. This research give more information and knowledge about Linguistic Sign. Moreover, this reseacher gives result of this research to be useful as a reference and alternative information for others especially English Literature students who conduct the similar research.

2. Practical Significance

This researcher give that the reader will be aware if there were a lot of signs for comprehending in Surah *Ar-Rahman*. The researcher wish to persuade people that the inequality is not reason for a dispute but coloring life. The researcher also aware to conscious that the study of language is never finished, unless the world end. By the translation of Surah *Ar-Rahman*, the phenomena of sign will be born, the object sign can be found everywhere. In addition, this reseach can be references to give an example of signifier and signified of Ferdinand de Saussure theory attached contextual meaning.

E. Previous Studies

Previous research that the researcher encountered included the first analysis of English Translation of Surah Al-Waqiah in Holy Qur'an Based on Shakir Translation, by Nurmayasari (2015), In hers research she discussed the semantic object to the english translation of surah *Al-Waqiah*. Then from semantic it produce lexical meaning and contextual meaning, and the results of this study are analyzing lexical meaning and contextual meaning of the phrase contained in the translation of surah *Al-Waqiah*. Second about Signifier, Signified, and Significant Anti-Smoking Poster Advertisement by Aguestiawan (2017), In his writing, he researched the advertisement poster porhibiting shop and using Barthes' theory, the results of this study he look for signifier, signified from the advertisement. Then from the signifier and signified it produces connotation and denotation meaning.

While the difference between this research and previous research is the writer classifies the characteristic of Allah from the translation contained in the Surah *Ar-Rahman*. After then knowing what the characteristics of Allah are, the writer will determine the signifier and signified, after that the signified will produce contextual meaning. The researcher uses qualitative methods for his research, and uses linguistic sign analysis through Ferdinand de Saussure's approach in solving problems related to signifier and signified.

F. Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms made to avoid misconception in conceiving the terms in this research, the terms are clarified as follows:

1. Linguistic Sign

The term Linguistic sign used in this study refers to Ferdinand de Saussure theory that unites with a concept and sound-image. The sound-image is sensory, and if I happen to call it "material," it is only in that sense, and by way of opposing it to the other term of association, the concept, which is

generally more abstract. I call the combination of concept and a sound-image a sign. Saussure (1996:66-67)”.

2. Translation

The use of the term translation in this study refers to translation is the interpretation of the meaning of the text from the source language to produce equivalent text in the target language which assumes a similar message.

3. Surah Ar-Rahman

In this research the term *Surah Ar-Rahman* is defined as *Surah Ar-Rahman* is the 55th surah in the holy Qur'an. This surah is classified as surah makkiyah, and consists of 78 verses. The meaning of the whole *Surah Ar-Rahman* explains about the generosity of Allah which is to give unlimited blessings both in the world and the hereafter. In this surah there are also repetitions of the verse 31 times, namely : **فَبِأَيِّ ءَالَآءِ رَبِّكُمَا تُكَذِّبَانِ**

4. Signifier

The use of the term signifier in this study refers to the sound-image is sensory, and if I happen to call it “material,” it is only in that sense, and by way of opposing it to the other term of association.

5. Signified

The term signified or concept used in this study refers to the concept, which is generally more abstract. I call the combination of concept and a sound-image a sign.