CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, statement of problem, research purposes, research significances, conceptual framework, and previous studies. Each of the part is described below.

A. Background of the Research

As a social creature, humans in everyday life are never separated from the communication process. The material of the communication process is using language. Language is often viewed as a vehicle of thought, a system of expression that mediates the transfer of thought from one person to another, in everyday life, language also serves equally important social and emotion functions (Finegan, 2004: 6). The existence of language makes it easy for people to communicate. In order for others to understand what the speaker or writer means, every communication process has a specific purpose and goal that must be conveyed correctly through the meaning contained in the communication.

Communication is the transfer of information from one or more people to one or more other people (Coates, 2009: 13). Thus, the communication process will be complicated if the language used has no meaning, and those meanings must be understood by one another, so that misunderstanding does not occur. If a language that people use has no meaning, it is meaningless or useless, because meaning is representative of what is thought by humans. Therefore, learning about meaning becomes very important for everyone.

Semantic as one of the branch of linguistics which studying about meaning in language has many benefits in everyday life. By studying semantics, when someone is conveying information to the listener or reader, that information will be easy to understand. Crystal (1991: 130) defines semantics is one the branches

of linguistics studying about the meaning, and it is considered as major branch of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning in language. Yule (2010: 114) admits that linguistic semantics deal with the conventional meaning conveyed by the use of the words and sentences of a language. Thus, semantic is one part of linguistics that learns how every language used has a different meaning. In everyday life, people always express their purpose through language that contains words or sentences full of meaning. Therefore, every language has a semantic relationship between every word used.

In semantics there are several subfields, one of them is learning about lexical relation. Lexical relation describes the relationship of one word to another. Saied (1997: 63) says that lexical relation explains the meaning of each word relationships, such as synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, homophony, polysemy, homonymy, portion mass, and member-collection. Thus, one word with another has a different meaning relationship, if those words are in different sentence conditions.

However, in this research, the researcher only focuses on one type of lexical relations, namely synonymy. Synonymy is the relationship of meaning between the form of languages that have the same meaning, but not total. The form of the language that became a synonymy group is called synonyms. Thus, synonyms are words that have different sounds and writing but have the same or almost identical meanings. This opinion is already known by many people. Whereas, not all the synonymous words have the same meaning, but are only similar.

It all happens, because a synonym relationships are not only found in the form of words, but it can also found between more complex forms, such as; phrases, clauses, and sentences. Likewise, in the English translation versions of the Holy Qur'an there are many words that are synonymous with the other forms. Because, if a word that has meaning is arranged it can form a phrase, clause or sentence. As what Kim and Sells (2008: 11) said that in forming grammatical sentences, we start from words, or 'lexical' categories. These lexical categories

then form a larger constituent 'phrase'; and phrases go together to form a 'clause. A clause either is, or is part of, a well-formed sentence. Thus, as the explanation above, the synonym relationship can occur in the forms of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences.

Generally, people do not understand that every synonymous word can have different meanings depending on the conditions and situations in placing those synonymous words. Therefore, Cruse (2000: 157) classifies the scale of synonymyty into three types; absolute synonymy, cognitive synonymy, and plesionymy or near-synonymy. Those synonymous words are often found in conversations, writings, books, even in the English translation text of the Holy Qur'an. But apparently, many of the synonymous words that people find only have almost the same meaning and even, cannot replace each other. Thus, not all synonymous words have completely the same meaning. Sometimes those synonymous words have different truths if they are in different sentences.

From the statement above, the researcher chooses to analyze one type of lexical relation that is synonymy and then classify the types of synonymy as the subject, and the English translation versions of the Holy Qur'an as the object of this research. This English translation version of the Holy Qur'an is translated into different English words, according to their respective translators. Although, the words that have been translated are synonymous, but have different meanings if there are in different sentences.

Therefore, the researcher chooses synonymy to change Muslim's opinions regarding the meaning relationship of every synonymous word in The Holy Qur'an. Because, every word in the Holy Qur'an have a relationship one word and another. However, many Muslims who read the Holy Qur'an without knowing the meaning contained in every word, especially in the synonymous words. That is because the Holy Qur'an was written in Arabic. As God says:

> *"Indeed, We have sent it down as an Arabic Qur'an that you might understand"*. (Surah Yusuf: 2)

Thus, in order to be easily understood by all Muslims in the world the Holy Quran was translated into many languages, including English. Because English is an international language. Many translators who translated the Holy Qur'an into English versions such as; Abdullah Yusuf Ali, Sher Ali, M.A.K Pathan, Muhammad Maramaduke Pickthall, Muhammad Muhsin Khan and Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din al-Hilali, Muhammad Asad, Arthur John Arberry, and others. Every translator translated the Holy Quran with their respective versions and many of the words that those translators uses are different. Thus, in the Holy Qur'an many Arabic words are the same meanings, but are translated into different English meanings. Every translator translated the Holy Qur'an very thoroughly, because if the translators incorrectly translated meaning, it can affect the reader or listener in understanding the meaning contained in the Holy Qur'an. Therefore, it is interesting to identify the synonymy and types of synonymy found in the English Translation versions of the Holy Qur'an.

As Muslims know, the Holy Qur'an consists of 30 sections, 114 surahs, consisting of Makkiyah and Madaniyah surah. The Holy Qur'an is the Muslim scripture and becomes a living guideline for all mankind, because in the Holy Qur'an contains the guidance of the good life which corresponds to the commandment of God and the example of the Prophet, Muhammad SAW. In addition, Holy Qur'an is a Holy scripture that has been revealed by God via angel Gabriel communicated to prophet Muhammad to be shared to mankind around the world without looking a religion, a race, age, sex, a country, even a color skin (Al-Hasany 79 in Mardhiah: 2019).

In this research, the researcher chooses to analyze one of Juz from the English translation versions of the Holy Qur'an that is Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) However, the researcher only focuses on analyzing of five surahs in Juz 'Amma; Surah An-Naba, An-Nazi'at, 'Abasa, At-Takwir, and surah Al-Infithar. Juz 'Amma is another name for Juz 30 and is one of Juz in the Holy Qur'an. Juz 30 is better known or often called as juz 'Amma because it is marked with the word 'Amma contained in the first verse of the Surah An-Naba. Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) is

the last section in the Holy Quran. It consists of 37 surahs, from surah An-Naba to surah An-Nas. Most of the surah in Juz 'Amma are short surahs that go down in Mecca and there are three surahs that go down in Medina: An-Nasr, Al-Bayyinah, and Al-Zalzalah. The surah which has the most verses in Juz 'Amma is surah An-Naziat and the least is surah Al-Kautsar.

The reason, researchers choose Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) because it is one of the famous Juz in The Holy Qur'an, from children to old people or new Muslims, most of them first know one of the Juz in the Holy Qur'an usually Juz 'Amma. In every Islamic school, Madrasa, and other Muslim places, usually the first part of the Holy Qur'an that learns to read is Juz 'Amma. And Juz 'Amma is also used as a second step in learning the Holy Qur'an after finishing learning and reading Iqra. Even, when someone is going to memorize the Holy Quran, the first memorized surah is from Juz 'Amma. Some people start from surah An-Nas, and others start from surah An-Naba. Besides, almost all of the surah in Juz 'Amma are shorter, the people find it easier to read and memorize. Then, when Muslims are praying, the surahs in Juz 'Amma are often used and read. Not only when the obligatory prayers, but also the Sunnah prayers. And the messages revealed in this Juz are most fundamental to a Muslim's faith.

The researchers only took five surahs of Juz 'Amma: Surah An-Naba, An-Nazi'at, 'Abasa, At-Takwir, and surah Al-Infithar, because as we know, most people begin to memorize Juz 'Amma from the short surahs on the last pages that is starting from Surah An-Nas, so many of them have understood the meanings contained in the short surahs. While who begin to memorize from long surahs such as An-Naziat is not too much, so there are still many people who do not understand the meanings contained in these long surahs, especially the five surahs that researchers make as research data. However, one of the five surahs, namely surah An-Naba is a surah that the most commonly known and memorized by many Muslims. These five surahs have many meanings, one of them tells an overview of the day of judgement. When the reader understands the meaning contained in these surahs, they will know what will happen on the day of

judgement, so they can prepare themselves properly, by worshipping Allah. Therefore, by doing this research, at least the researchers help people, so that they are do not misinterpret when reading the English translation versions of these five surahs, especially in the translation of synonymous words.

The English translation versions of Juz 'Amma of the Holy Quran that the researcher analyzed was taken from three different translation versions, such as: *The Koran Interpreted* by Arthur John Arberry, *The Meaning of the Glorious Quran Text, Translation and Commentary* by Abdullah Yusuf Ali, and *The Holy Quran, Arabic Text, English Translation, and Commentary* by Maulana Muhammad Ali. The first translator is Arthur John Arberry. He is British orientalist, scholar, translator and author who translated the Holy Quran into English. He wrote and translated of books on Arabic and Persian Language. His work, The Koran interpreted, is one of the most prominent written by a non-Muslim scholar, and widely respected amongst academics.

The second translator is Abdullah Yusuf Ali. He is a British Indian barrister and Indian Islamic scholar. The English translation version of Holy Quran by Ali is the one of the most widely known and used by many Muslims from different countries. The third translator is Maulana Muhammad Ali. He is a leading figure of the Lahore Ahmadiyya Movement for the Propagation of Islam. He also an Indian Writer and scholar. He translated the Holy Qur'an, with full commentary, in both English and Urdu.

The researcher chooses the three translators because every translator has a difference in translated of the Holy Quran in English version, including in translating Juz 'Amma. Many of the same Arabic words in the Holy Qur'an are translated into different English. Whereas, the Arabic words have the same or similar meaning and purpose, but the translators translated into different English words. Although, the words that have been translated are still synonymous, but sometimes if the word is put in a different sentence, the words have a different truth condition. Then, in these English translation versions of Juz 'Amma, the researcher also found the relationships of synonym occurs in the forms of word,

phrase, clause, and sentence. Therefore, the researcher chooses to analyze the synonymy and types of synonymy found in three English translation versions of Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) of The Holy Qur'an.

B. Statement of Problem

The Holy Qur'an is guidance for all Muslims. However, many Muslims in the world who do not understand the meaning contained in the Holy Qur'an. Because, they have different mother tongues, while the Holy Qur'an is written in Arabic. Therefore, the Holy Qur'an is translated into many languages. Every translator translated the Holy Qur'an with different versions. Thus, many Arabic words in the Holy Qur'an have the same meaning, but translated into different words or languages. Although some of these words are still synonymous, but sometimes these words only have similar meaning, especially the relationships of synonym can occur in different forms of word. Such as, words can be synonymous with phrases. Therefore, the synonymous words are not completely synonymous, even just near synonyms.

Based on the background analysis and explanation above, the researcher formulated the problems in two questions below:

1. What words having synonymy found in three English translation versions of Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) of the Holy Quran?
2. What are the types of synonymy found in three English translation versions of Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) of the Holy Quran?

C. Research Purposes

The research purposes deals with the question of analysis above are:

1. To find out the words having synonymy found in three English translation versions of Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) of the Holy Quran.

2. To find out the types of synonymy in three English translation versions of Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) of the Holy Quran.

D. Research Significances

This research is expected to provide the benefit for the researcher as well as the reader. The significances of this research are divided into two types, namely theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically

    The result of this study can give contribute knowledge about the semantic field, especially in synonymy existing in English translation versions of the Holy Qur'an. In particular, this analysis gives the result of finding the relation of synonymy between one of word to another forms of word and finding the types of synonymy in three English translation versions of five surahs in Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) of the Holy Quran. Therefore, by applying the theories of synonymy in this research will make people easier to understanding the English translation versions of the Holy Quran.

2. Practically

    This research on synonymy is expected to provide many benefits and new knowledge for the reader, lectures and English department student who study semantics. In addition, this research might be used as a comparison for other researchers, can also be used by the lecturers or teachers as teaching material, and is expected to be a reference for the next researchers to analysis synonymy. This research also can give the motivation to conduct research with better results.

E. Conceptual Framework

In this research, the researcher identified and analyzed the English translation versions of five surahs (An-Naba, An-Nazi'at, 'Abasa, At-Takwir, and

Al-Infithar) in Juz 'Amma of the Holy Quran by three translators; Arthur John Arberry, Abdullah Yusuf Ali, and Maulana Muhammad Ali to find the words having synonymy and to find the types of synonymy. There are several theories that related to synonymy and it helps the researcher to identify the data as the material in this research. The researcher uses some semantics theories, especially the theories of synonymy by Lyons (1981), and Cruse (2000) to find and classify the types of synonymy found in three English translation versions of Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) of the Holy Quran.

As people know that semantics is the study of meaning in language. That meaning always contained in every language that people use with different purposes. People express their purpose through words that are arranged correctly, so that words have meaning and can be easily understood by others. This statement is supported by Kreidler (2002: 3) that states "semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings". Furthermore, according to Saeed (1997: 53), the study of the meanings of words is defined as semantic. Thus, every word in a language has a meaning that related to another word. The meaning of words is determined by the words arrangements in sentences or in other word (Palmer, 1981: 1). Therefore, in semantics, it learns about the relationship between word meanings.

Lexical relation is one of the topics in semantics that studies the relationship of meaning between one word and another. Palmer (ibid: 59) states that lexical relations consists of seven part, there are: synonymy, polysemy, homonymy, hyponymy, antonymy, relation opposites, and components. Sometimes, one word with another has a different meaning relationship. Even in writing or conversations often found relationships of words that have the same or almost the same meaning, it is called synonymy which is the main interest in this study.

Synonymy is the relationship between two words that have the same meaning. The concrete form of synonymy is called 'synonym'. Synonym is often

known as two or more words that have the same meaning or that are closely related in meaning. As Harris (1973) gives an opinion about synonymy that synonymy as sameness of meaning of different expressions. Whereas, in reality the meaning of the word that are synonymous is not always the same, depending on the condition of the sentence where the words are.

Moreover, the relationship of synonyms not only occurs between words, the researcher also finds between phrases, clauses, and sentences. It all happens because if the word is combined and arranged it can build more complex forms and create the meaningful utterances. As in the syntax is described how words are put together to build phrases, with how phrases are put together to build clauses or bigger phrases, and with how clauses are put together to build sentences (Miller, 2002: xii). Thus, based on the explanation above, the word having synonymy can appear between words, phrases, clauses, and sentences.

Although there are many theories about synonymy that basically have the same discussion in understanding the meaning of words that are synonymous. But, the researcher uses the theories synonymy by Lyons and Cruse. Lyons defines synonymy is a linguistic term that refers to lexical items that share the same, or similar meanings (Lyons, 1981:148) and Cruse states that there are three types of synonymy: absolute synonymy, cognitive synonymy, and plesionymy or near-synonym (Cruse, 2000: 157).

Based on the theories above, the researcher uses the synonymy to analyze the data takes from three English translation versions of five surahs in Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) of the Holy Qur'an. Because, many translators who translated the Holy Qur'an in different expressions or different in choosing the diction of the words to be translated, whereas those words have the same meaning. Therefore, the researcher chooses to classify and analyze the words having synonymy and the types of synonymy found in three English translation versions of Juz 'Amma.

F. Previous Studies

There are some previous studies which are relevant to this research topic to support and be a reference for analyzing synonymy, the first is *"A Study on Lexical Meaning of the English Translation in Surah Al-Muzammil "By two translators"* by Fadlilah (2018). The researcher analyzed lexical meaning used theory by Sir John Lyon (1981:139) to identify the English translation in surah Al-Muzammil by Arthur John Arberry and Abdullah Yusuf Ali. And used descriptive qualitative method. It means, the researcher tried to find the kinds of lexical meanings. The final result is she found the seven kinds of Lexical Meaning such as synonymy, denotative, polysemy, hyperbole, repetition, irony, and connotative. That data is taken from the words, phrases, and sentences in 20 verses of English translation text in Surah Al-Muzammil.

Furthermore, the second, the researcher uses the relevant studies from Sutadi (2013), *"An Analysis of Lexical Relations in Abdullah Yusuf Ali's translation of Surah Ya-Sin of the Holy Qur'an".* The researcher analyzed lexical relations using theory by Saeed to classify the lexical relation, namely homonymy, polysemy, synonymy, opposites (antonymy), hyponymy, meronymy, member-collection, and portion-mass. The researcher used both the qualitative and quantitative methods. That research has the objectives to find out the type of lexical relations and to find out the most dominant type of lexical relations.

Meanwhile, the last previous study is from Azizah (2019), *"The Lexical Relation in Surah Ar-Rahman in The Nobel Qur'an English Translation by Muhammad Muhsin Khan and Muhammad Taqi-Ud-din Al-hilali".* The researcher used some theories related to the lexical relation to classify the types of lexical relations, and used semantic features to prove the words included in the lexical relation. The method used in his research is a qualitative descriptive method. Moreover, the researcher used three dictionaries to analyze the data, such as Oxford, Merriam-Webster, and Cambridge Dictionary.

The difference between this research and previous research is in the subject and object analyzed. This research only focuses on analyzing one type of lexical relation, namely synonymy. First, analyze the words having synonymy and then analyze the types of synonymy found in English translation versions of the Holy Qur'an. The researcher uses comparative method and uses some theories of synonymy, such as theories by Sir John Lyon (1981:148), and Alan Cruse (2000: 157).

Furthermore, the researcher analyzes the synonymy found in three English translation versions of Juz 'Amma that only focus on five surahs (Surah An-Naba, An-Naziat, 'Abasa, At-Takwir, and surah Al-Infithar). Afterwards, describes the similarities and differences of three English Translation versions of five surahs in Juz 'Amma (Juz 30) of the Holy Qur'an translated by Arthur John Arberry, Abdullah Yusuf Ali, and Maulana Muhammad Ali.