

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this first chapter, the writer elaborates some explanations of the introduction of this study. The first sub-chapter explains the phenomenon of the research object and the reason of this study is conducted by the writer. The other sub-chapters consist of statements of the problem, research objectives, the research significances, and the clarification of the key terms.

1.1 Background of Research

On December 16, 2022, the official Instagram account of United Nations Human Rights launched a new toolbox for the new campaign about protecting the rights of migrants, immigrants, and refugees. The campaign is #StandUp4Migrants: Changing the narrative on migration. This campaign is motivated by the case of the international migration of refugees from some countries. Those refugees still struggle to get justice from their origin country and their destination country. It is because there are still negative views about them as migrants.

Even though, they do the migration to seek a better life and opportunities to live. As reported by the UN Network on Migration on June 18, 2021, 32% of the 258 million migrants currently live outside of their origin country (Emmanuel et al., 2021). Some of the highlighted cases of international migrations are Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, Syrian refugees from Syria, and the migration along the Mexican and US borders.

The case of Rohingya occurred after the independence of Myanmar in 1948. The Rohingya Muslim suffer numerous human rights abuses such as mass killings, rape, and torture. Thousands of Rohingyas remain displaced depending on humanitarian aid for survival, while some also undergo brutal repression by the Myanmar border guard (Faye, 2021).

On the other hand, the Syrian refugees have suffered the crisis of human rights for nearly eleven years on. It is counted that 5.7 million Syrian refugee live in Egypt,

Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The refugees of Syrian includes the children that lack of the rights to get education. They need urgent assistance (UNICEF, 2022).

More than 71,000 refugees from Mexico in the international borders between the US and Mexico still seek the protection granted by the nation. Many have suffered extreme violence and other grave harms. Between January 2021 and August 2021, there were 6,000 reports of murder, rape, torture, kidnapping, or other violent assaults committed against asylum (the protection granted by the nation) seekers and migrants expelled or blocked from seeking asylum in the United States (Nations, 2022).

The issued from those cases motivate the United Nations Human Rights as the intergovernmental organization to reshape the narrative about migrants and their rights. By reshaping the narrative about migrant the United Nations want to inspire and connect people for the better life into the peaceful future. The United Nations reshape through the campaign in the form of statements and short stories. The UN take the action through the social media platform.

Nowadays, expressing opinions and share information are easier and free to do from anywhere for the public to see, such as on Instagram, Facebook, and Youtube. It is also important for readers to understand the meaning of what they read in this digital era to avoid the misunderstanding. The international human rights mobilization was increased when the United Nations General Assembly agreed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). International human rights law established agreement which States are bound to respect. By becoming parties to international treaties, States undertake obligations and duties under international law to respect, to protect and to achieve the purpose of human rights (Anam, 2018).

The campaign stand up for migrants still are posted on its official account Instagram of United Nations Human Rights. Some of those posts have explicit meaning and some of the posts are implicit. Particularly the posts in the form of short stories have the implicit meaning with the arrangements of language elements. Speaking of the meaning, in the field of the study of language that in the sentences are developed by the arguments and the predicates thus compile them into a complete and meaningful sentence.

Therefore, the referent of the arguments in these sentences can be analyzed by applying the theory by Krediler (1998) about semantic roles. In order to get the information properly about the entities being involved to the issue of the rights of migrants. It also denotes that language facilitates the human activity for communication both spoken and written in this world. As Bouchard (2013) stated that “language facilitated all aspects of human activity”. For this reason, ‘linguistics’ as the scientific study of language give the exact explanation of how language should be used, to produce good writing as well as good speech among the varieties of languages based on its rule. Meanwhile, thematic roles concern the relationship of the participants in a situation of the sentences semantically. Those participants consist of an argument and a predicate in a proposition to create meaning. Both argument and predicate will have the referent. Semantically argument will refer to an entity and predicate will refer to an event.

Comparably, there are some writers have studied the thematic roles. Firstly, the journal article entitled *Semantic Roles in Joko Widodo Re-elected as President of BBC Online News* by Maria Devi Sidabutari and Zakrimal in 2020. They discussed the categories and the semantic roles that mostly appeared in Joko Widodo re-elected as president in BBC Online News. The study uses the theory of semantic roles from Riemer (2010). Besides the categories and the semantic roles that mostly appeared, this study also revealed semantic roles as “the model of language” that assist the readers to comprehend how the text of the news is interpreted by the position of noun phrases to present exact meanings of words and phrases.

Secondly, the thesis entitled *A Thematic Role Analysis of English Motion Verbs* by Muhammad in 2008. The writer of this thesis investigated the thematic roles of English motion verbs with the two main problems. They are the pattern of the sentences in which the motion verb occurs and the thematic roles are designated by the motion verbs in the patterns of the sentences. The writer used the theories from Fillmore and Frawley. It is found that the grammatical function such as subject, object, and compliment have the variety thematic roles which depend on the verbs.

This study revealed that thematic roles is the interface of syntactic role and semantic meanings.

Thirdly, another study is the journal article entitled *The Analysis of Thematic Role in Narrative Texts of Senior High School* by Ririn Marlina in 2011. This study focused on the ways of thematic roles in structuring the sentence's meaning and the thematic role mostly used in narrative texts of Senior High School textbooks for X grade. The writer used the theory of thematic role from Jackendoff (1990) and Saeed (2009). The result of this study is that thematic roles construct the sentence's meaning by identifying the verb in sentences.

Fourthly, Doni Efrizah in 2019 studied the journal article entitled *Thematic Roles in The Tale of "Macbeth" by E.F. Dodd*. The writer investigated the thematic roles in the tale of Macbeth by applying the theory of thematic roles by Haegeman (1994). It is found that all kinds of thematic roles which are proposed by Liliane Haegemen (1994) can be found in the tale. All kinds of thematic roles are agent, patient, theme, experiencer, benefactive, goal, source, and location.

Fifthly, in 2020 Anwar Iskandar and Retno Purwani Sari published a journal article titled *Semantic Roles "Agent" and "Affected" in Trilingual Balinese Folklores: A Study of Semantics*. The entities occupying the positions of agent and affected appear in clauses of trilingual Balinese Folklore. The author applied Kreidler's semantic role theory (1998). The findings of this study indicate that every sentence or fragment of story script plays a specific role in supporting the plot of the script and encouraging readers to be more critical when reading a script, and the entities involved in this research, act as an agent and an affected, are all animate things.

Based on these five previous studies above, it is proved that thematic roles can be implemented into linguistic objects such as speech, students' writing final examination and narrative texts. The results of these previous studies imply that the thematic roles can be applied to analyze the construction of the sentences to further do the study of participants in sentences. From all the explanations above, the writer chooses the sentences on the Instagram posts of United Nations Human Rights about the issue of migrants to examine the thematic roles are found in the sentences as the

object of data. The dissimilarity between this study and the previous studies is that, this study focuses on the use of thematic roles to enhance the meaning of what entities that being discussed regarding the issue of the migrants' rights within the sentences and clauses on the Instagram posts of United Nations Human Rights. Thereupon, it is out of the ordinary to conduct the study semantically by using the thematic role approach. Therefore, this study is conducted under the title "Thematic Roles in the Sentences of United Nations Human Rights Instagram Posts."

1.2 Statements of Problem

This study is formulated by two statements of problems as follows:

1. What thematic roles are found on Instagram posts of United Nations Human Rights?
2. How do thematic roles enhance the meaning for the readers on Instagram posts of United Nations Human Rights?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the formulation in the statement of problems, this study has two purposes as follows:

1. To identify the thematic roles are found on Instagram posts of United Nations Human Rights.
2. To uncover and analyze the thematic roles can enhance the meaning for the readers on Instagram posts of United Nations Human Rights.

1.4 Research Significances

In general, the finding of this study is expected to be useful practically and theoretically. The use of thematic role under the discussion of semantics involves the roles of the arguments in the sentences of Instagram posts from the United Nations Human Rights meanings. This study is analyzed semantically and also for

the development of linguistics. Thematic roles can be used to analyze the construction of meaning in a sentence. Theoretically, thematic roles are semantic relations that link entities to events. More particularly, the relations of arguments to predicates in a sentence. This study is expected to bring some benefits both theoretically and practically.

1.4.1 Theoretical Benefit

Theoretically, the study of thematic role can give more knowledge about the construction of a sentence for a specific purpose. In this case, the sentences from the United Nations Human Rights on Instagram. This study will help the English students to give new knowledge of the thematic roles in semantics field. Particularly the thematic roles in constructing a sentence and defining its meaning effectively.

1.4.2. Practical Benefit

Practically, this study is helpful to give more references for English students, generally those majoring in English Literature. It explains thematic roles under the semantics discussion. Additionally, the teachers of educational institutions can use the result of the thematic role study to increase the material for teaching English, especially those who take a major in English Literature. Besides the teachers of educational institutions, content writers can also use this study to enrich the perspective of writing the content especially for the information on the platform Instagram.

1.5 Clarification of the Key Terms

To keep clear of the most terms are applied in this study. Here the explanations of the thematic roles terms that require to be presented, as follows:

a. Thematic Roles

Thematic Roles are the roles of an argument in semantic field. The role of an argument depends on the predicates and the referring expressions of its argument. Thematic roles shows that a meaning can be presented by the role of an argument in a situation.

b. Proposition

Proposition is an abstract idea of meaning in a clause or sentence that is understood in someone's mind. Same proposition can be presented in different sentences. It consists of a predicate and one or more arguments.

c. Argument

Arguments are the variations of referring expressions except predicate in a sentence. Arguments are the participants in the event or state expressed by the predicate in a proposition.

d. Predicate

Particularly, in semantics predicate is the element of meaning which identifies the property or relationship with the argument to a proposition. Predicates are usually in the form of verbs.

e. Entity

Entity is the referent of an argument that are typically encoded as nouns. The semantic representation entity defines all referred nouns.

d. Event

Event is the referent of predicate. Events are typical encoded as verbs as a type of situation in a sentence in which something happens.