

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the research background, statement of problems, research objective, research significance, and definition of critical terms.

1.1 Research Background

The Qur'an is the book of Muslims that uses Arabic. The majority of its readers are non-Arabic Muslims around the world. According to Amjad and Farahani (2013, p. 128), approximately more than eighty percent of the 1.5 billion Muslims do not understand Arabic and use translation as a means to understand the words and messages of the Quran. And most Muslims read English translations of the Quran. English is one of the most essential things in human life in this global era because English is the primary language used as a means of communication around the world. The Quran has been translated by many translators, especially into English. The Quran has many types of English translated by many Islamic scholars. One of the Islamic scholars who translated the Quran from Arabic to English is Dr. Mustafa Khattab.

Mustafa Khattab is a Canadian-Egyptian expert Quran translator. He was a member of the first team to translate the Ramadan night prayer (Tarawīḥ) live from the Grand Mosque in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina (2002-2005). Khattab memorized the entire Quran at a young age and later obtained a professional ijāzah in the Ḥafṣ style of memorization with a chain of narrators to the Prophet Muḥammad. He received his Ph.D., M.A., and B.A. degrees in Islamic Studies in English with Honors from Al-Azhar University's Faculty of Languages and Translation.

In this research, researchers chose the Quranic translation of Mustafa Khattab because of the proper interpretation of the Quran and the intent and purpose of the revelator so that the Quran can be understood by humans in English translation, in this case, the proper interpretation of the word in the

translation of the Quran. It becomes very urgent to examine all the words that speak of *paradise* to obtain the whole meaning of *paradise*. Choosing the right word is not easy, especially for words that have many synonyms that have very close similarities in sense.

According to Muhammad Fuad al-Baqi in his book, *Mu'jam Maqayis al-Lugah*, the word *Jannah*, which is interpreted as *paradise* and its derivations are mentioned 201 times by the Qur'an, namely 144 times with the *Jannah*; 68 times of which are in the singular or mufrad, seven times in the form of mutsanna and 69 times in the plural. Then there are *Jan* (7 times), *al-jinn* (22 times), *Jinnah* (10 times), *Majnun* (11 times) and fetus or *Ajinnah* (1 time).

Synonyms are words that have more prominent semantic similarities than differences, hence a potential area for research. Absolute similarity of meaning does not seem to be functionally motivated. (Cruse 2000:156) According to Lyons (1977, p.199), Synonyms mean the same thing rather than having the same referent. The similarity in meaning will be made dependent on the descriptive meaning of the utterance.

Based on the topic of this discussion, Lyons (2009, p.1) argues that Semantics is generally defined as the study of meaning. However, meaning involves more than just the semantic interpretation of an utterance. Meaning includes not only the meaning of symbols but also the meaning of words, and every word has a meaning. The study of word meaning has evolved. One of the topics studied in semantics is components of meaning. According to Chaer (2013, p.114), the component meaning or semantic component teaches that each word or lexical element consists of one or several elements that together form the meaning of the word or the meaning of the lexical element. These components meaning can be analyzed, divided, or mentioned one by one, based on the "notions" they have, for example, the elements (+insan) (+adult) (+male) (+marriage) and so on the words father and mother contain components meaning: (+human) (+adult) (-male) (+married).

In this study, the researcher used one dictionary to find out the definitions of words in the literal sense. The dictionary used in this study is

Merriam-Webster. The researcher chose one dictionary so that this study can define the literal meaning accurately. It can help the researcher analyze the data.

In addition, the researcher also analyzed data on lexical relationships in synonyms that refer to the verses of the words themselves. The researcher analyzed words related to the context of the verses to understand these words. It is because one word does not always refer to one meaning only, but one word has many uses of meaning, such as the first meaning and referring to the actual meaning. And the second meaning refers to another meaning or connotative meaning. Here, lexical relations and meaning components are present as instruments to analyze the association of words related to the literal meaning and context of the words themselves.

For consideration in this study, the writer listed some of the results of previous studies by several writers that the writer had ever read. The first study is the journal written by Nabila Tijjani Zahradeen (2020) from Kano State Polytechnic, Nigeria. The title is *Componential Analysis of English 'Crying' Terms*. This study describes the use of the semantic components analysis to identify and describe the crying terms of the English language by following Pottier's approach (1964). The results show that six lexemes mean 'crying' in English, namely sobbing, weeping, wailing, whimpering, even bawling, and blubbering are accompanied by some characteristics.

The second study is a thesis written by Veronika Dewi Aristiya (2008) titled *A Componential Analysis on Synonymous Nouns Used by The Third Semester Students of English Language Education Study Program*. This study describes twenty-nine inappropriate nouns used by students. Some of them were not synonymous with the word that should replace them. It could be said that students did not only make mistakes in the area of synonymous nouns. Some of them used inappropriate comments even though they did not exactly represent the idea that was going to be told.

The third study is a journal article written by Ida Cahyani (2019) titled *Componential Analysis of Meaning on Lexeme 'Look' In English*. This study

describes the use of the Semantic Component; the analysis employs Nida's componential analysis of meaning to figure out the distinguished features among lexemes. The result shows that fifteen lexemes mean "look" in English, namely see, look, watch, stare, gaze, glance, glare, glimpse, gape, behold, peer, peep, peek, blink, and wink.

Fourth, research studies that discuss lexical relations, such as those conducted by Afik Riyadi Adikarta. He discussed *Analisis Komponen Makna Kata Rusak dan Sinonimnya Dalam Bahasa Indonesia*, which specifically discusses the component meaning of the word rusak and finds synonyms in Indonesian. The study's results show that the researcher found seven synonyms of the word rusak in this study. The seven words are lebur, hancur, remuk, binasa, luluh, luka, and rapuh.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Components of meaning are utilized to find the differences between synonymous forms. Based on the background, the researcher found the problem that the problem can be formulated into research questions as follows:

1. What are synonymous words concerning *paradise* found in the translated Quran by Mustafa Khattab?
2. How are the meaning components of the synonymous words concerning *paradise* in the translated Quran by Mustafa Khattab?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the problems of the study, this research is intended:

1. To identify synonymous words concerning *paradise* found in the translated Quran by Mustafa Khattab.
2. To describe the meaning components of the synonymous words concerning *paradise* in the translated Quran by Mustafa Khattab.

1.4 Research Significance

As a linguistic phenomenon in semantics, the components of meaning are an exciting subject and need to be studied further. The researcher hopes this research can be helpful for theoretical and practical purposes.

a. Theoretical Significance

The significance of this research is that it is expected to contribute additional knowledge about semantic analysis, especially in synonyms and components of meaning, as well as provide an explanation of the branches of the study of semantic forms in precise Quranic translations by Mustafa Khattab. It is hoped that the results of this research analysis can facilitate readers' understanding of the Quran and be a reference for further researchers interested in this field.

b. Practical Significance

This research is expected to make it easier for readers to understand the meaning components of synonyms. In addition, this research is expected to make it easier for readers to understand the meaning of the contents of the Quran and can represent it in everyday life as a guide in life. It can become a good habit in everyday life.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

1.5.1 Semantics

The term 'semantics' used in this research is defined as the study of meaning communicated through language (Saeed, 2016, p.3). In other words, semantics studies meaning and meaning in language. It includes the analysis of the meaning of words, phrases, sentences, and texts within a linguistic context.

1.5.2 Lexical Semantic

The definition of the term 'lexical semantics or word meaning' is the lexicon of a language. In other words, lexical semantics examines the meaning

of lexicons that have not been put into context, both grammatical context (morphology and syntax) and discourse context. (Sitaresmi, fasya, 2011, p. 5)

1.5.3 Lexical Relation

This research uses the term 'lexical relation,' which is defined as a given lexeme that can simultaneously be in a number of these relationships, so it may be more accurate to think of the lexicon as a network rather than a list of words as in a published dictionary. An essential organizational principle in the glossary is the lexical field. (Saeed, 2016, p. 59)

1.5.4 Synonyms

'Synonyms' is defined as the substitution of words allowing us to express the same idea in different ways, although the context, setting, mood, and tone of the speaker as a whole may control the synonyms used. (Tarigan, 1995, p.18)

1.5.5 Componential Analysis of Meaning

This research uses the term 'components analysis of meaning,' which is defined as the primary meaning or lexical meaning of a word, phrase, or sentence in the source language of the contrasted form because it will not be accessible from significant differences. (Nida, 1975, p.32)

1.5.6 *Paradise* and Synonymy of *Paradise* in the Quran

"*Paradise*" is defined in the Qur'an as an eternal afterlife of peace and bliss where the faithful and righteous are rewarded. They will be restful in the presence of God, in "gardens beneath which rivers flow." *Jannah* comes from an Arabic word that means "to cover or hide something." (Albufalasa, 2021, p. 93)