CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Analysis

It is a general truth of statement that language is the fundamental means of communication. Language, itself has an essential role and position in some aspects of human life. It is used to express our reaction to certain situation, to reveal or represent our idea, thoughts, feelings and emotions. Human as a social creature uses language to build relationship to each other. It is a wonderful ability for human to communicate using words and sequence of words which differentiates them from animal and other living things. That is the reason why language is a complex human being phenomenon.

Since language is regarded as a science called linguistics, some of the linguist gives different definition of language; however they still refer to the same thing. Language becomes science because it is systematic and progressive. Here is the writer takes some definition defined by the linguist.

Bollinger (1975: 14) says, “Language is a system of vocal auditory communication, interacting with the experiences of its user, employing conventional signs composed of arbitrary patterned sound units and assembled according to set rules.” or in the other words means that language is a system of communication tools in vocal auditory form using conventional signs and symbols that has been assembled.

Linguistics itself defined as the scientific study of linguistics. Hartman & Stork (1972:132) say, “Linguistics is the field of study, and its object is language.” Linguistics is divided into some parts of discipline knowledge. One of the branches in linguistics which concern with meaning is called semantics. Siregar (1992) said that in semantics: meaning can be
divided into two parts, literal and non-literal meaning. Considering that language is an instrument to conveying the meaning, here means that when we study a language we will study about meaning automatically. Sometimes we mean something different from what our words mean. It is called non-literal meaning, the speaker means something different from his literal meaning of the words, or he has other intentions from the meaning of word he said. The hearer may find it is difficult to understand what the speaker wants to convey if the speaker speaks non-literally. For example, *I was blind because of tears*. The sentence does not mean that ones blindness because of the tears but the speaker wants to say that he is very sad or maybe mournful because of suffering.

Figure of speech or figurative expression is a part of non-literal meaning. It is used to make special effect to language and to make language more beautiful. Beckson & Ganz (1975: 80) state “Figurative language is language which makes use of certain devices called ‘figure of speech’, most of which are techniques for comparing dissimilar object, to achieve effects beyond the range of literal language.”

There are some most common kinds of figure of speech; *hyperbole*, which uses exaggeration; *irony*, which expresses a meaning contradictory to the stated or ostensible one; *metaphor*, which compares two unlike objects and substitutes one for the other; *personification*, in which inanimate objects or abstract ideas are endowed with human qualities and actions; *simile*, which is an expressed comparison between two unlike objects; *synecdoche*, in which a part represents the whole object or idea; etc.

Non-literal meaning gives any difficulties for listener who cannot interpret a hidden meaning of a word or sentence. That is the reason why the writer would like to analyze the non-literal meaning in the Holy Bible based on the semantic point of view. In general there are two
ways of language activity, first is through the oral language which done in our daily conversation either in formal or informal situation. Second is through the written language. These two types of media have similarities and differences. One of the differences between those two media that related to the meaning aspects is that in written language media we can more broadly choose the meaning of the words which are regarded more appropriate. The fact above caused more by different language space, time and condition between these two language media. Through the written language media one is able to think and choose appropriate word as he wished. This is, of course, a thing that cannot be done through the oral language media because of the matter of the time.

The Holy Bible is the holy book that is composed by the God’s voices. The Holy Bible is used by the Christian who believe that God communicates with them through the Scripture. The Christian usually use their book as the clue or guidance in running their daily life. The Church society sometimes finds some difficulties when they read the Holy Bible. They misinterpret the meaning of the sentences or phrases. Here the writer would like to analyze the Scripture since the Book has non-literal meaning which semantically can be analyzed.

The Holy Bible is the holy bible consist of two big parts, they are The Old Testament and The New Testament. The Old Testament told about God when He released the Israel from the Egyptian’s slavery. The Israel people led by Prophet Moses then God made an agreement with them in Sinai. While The New Testament told about the fulfillment of God’s promise. The New Testament tells more how God forgives them from their sin by giving His only Son, The Messiah. Then the story about Jesus’ sacrifice and the beginning of the Christian.

In this thesis, the writer will analyze one part of Holy Bible that is Hebrew. Hebrew is a letter that is written by Paul one of God’s Prophet Adressed to the people of Hebrew (Hebrew is
an ethnic). The letter contains important advice and guidance for life. The letter was written in a unique style of writing and also contain some figurative of speech.

1.2 Problem of Analysis

This analysis is a study of semantics, which focus on the use of the non-literal meaning in the Holy Bible. In this case the text that is being analyzed is ‘Hebrew’. It is difficult to predict the meaning through the arrangement of the words. Hence, the writer would like to analyze the speaker meaning based on the semantic point of view.

In this analysis, the writer has some questions as the problem of the analysis:

a. What types of figurative expression are described in the Holy Bible: Hebrew?
b. What are the real meanings of the figurative expression in the Holy Bible: Hebrew?

1.3 Objective of Analysis

Concerning the problem of analysis, then the writer has some objectives of the analysis or the purpose to be gained. They are:

a. to find out the types of figurative expressions in the Holy Bible especially in Hebrew,
b. to describe the real meaning of figurative expression in the Holy Bible especially in Hebrew.

1.4 Scope of Analysis

In this thesis, the writer will make a limitation to obtain a clear and detailed picture of the matter that is being analyzed. There are various figurative expressions that found in literally works, but in this thesis the scope of the analysis is the utterances and the sentence which have
1. Figurative expressions in the book of Hebrew. And the types of figurative expressions which will be analyzed in this thesis are only simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, synecdoche, and irony.

1.5 Significance of Study

Theoretically this thesis can add knowledge for student who majoring on language in terms of semantics, especially in non-literal meaning and help them in translating and interpreting the text to understand the real meaning. Practically this thesis can be useful in interpreting the Holy Bible to the Christian and also to make people become easier in knowing the real meaning of the bible. So by knowing the non-literal meaning, it will help the process of bible study to all the people who wants to find the real meaning.

1.6. Review of Related Literature

In doing this thesis, I consult and read some information from some books and other research that had been done before which are relevant to the topic to support the idea of the analysis. Some of them are quoted as follows.

The analysis of semantics, especially which deals with non-literal meaning, is less amount than that of the analysis of other fields of linguistics such as structure and morphology. Hockett (1958: 152) says, “Linguistics has always concentrated on the three central subsystems, without much concern with the peripheral systems. Some scholars indeed prefer to define ‘language’ so as to include only the central subsystems, regarding problems of meaning as belonging to sister sciences rather than to linguistics.”
Palmer (1976), said that semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning. This book dealt with many issues about semantic, like the term of semantics, scope of semantics, kinds of meaning, sense and reference, linguistics and non-linguistics context, many recent issues about semantics.

Here, Hockett, however said that semantics system of a language is not only has an effect on structure and phonology, but also in social life of man.

In the case of non-literal meaning, three are some ways to speak non-literally, one of them is figuratively. Shaw (1972:159) cites, “Figurative language is deliberately and intentional departure from normal word meanings or word order so as gain freshness and strength of expression. Figurative language is writing (or speech) that makes use of one or more figures of speech, such as metaphor and simile. The basic purpose of figurative language is to employ ornamental devices from comparing dissimilar things and for creating sounds and images.”

Kennedy (1983) cites, “A figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotation of words”. He defined the figure of speech as follows:

- Metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which in literal sense, it is not.

- Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal or abstract term (truth, nature) is made human.

- Hyperbole is statement containing exageration to emphasize a point.

- Metonymy is the name of the thing is substituted for that another closely associated with it.
- Synecdoche is the use of a part of thing to stand for the whole of it or vice versa.

- Simile is a comparison of two things indicated by some connective, usually like, as, than, or such as resembles.

Idham (2003) in his thesis “An Analysis of Non-literal Meaning in Obscene Language Used in Slipknot’s Selected Songs” concluded that there are 32 cases of the using of non-literal meaning in the songs. They are 16 cases for facetious way, 9 cases for sarcastic, 7 cases for ironic, 14 cases for exaggerated ways, and two cases for figurative way (metaphor and euphemism). This finding that there are 16 cases of facetious way in the lyrics actually shows that the society or the genres of their music is a rock society.

The Holy Bible used in the social life of the Christian and it stands for two parts; those are Old Testament and New Testament. Hebrew that would be analyzed found in the New Testament. As Oxford Learner Dictionary define the Bible as the sacred writings of the Christian Church, consisting of the Old Testament and New Testament.