CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Analysis

Every part of human’s lives is filled with language. Language is an instrument for conveying meaning and communicating some ideas. According to Halliday (in Sinar 2007:56) “Language is the study of how people exchange meaning through the use of language.” In Linguistics as the scientific study of language, meaning is studied in Semantics. Semantics is the technical terms used to refer to the study of meaning. Meaning is regarded as one of the most ambiguous and controversial terms in the theory of language. The meaning of word is determined by a word arrangement in sentences or in other words (Palmer, 1976:1).

There are two varieties of meaning in Semantics, linguistic meaning and speaker meaning. Linguistic meaning is meaning of that expression in some from of language. Speaker meaning is what a speaker means in producing an utterance. Speaker meaning divided into two different types, literal and non literal meaning (Siregar, 1992:25-27). Literal means based on the real or lexical meaning of the utterance. Non-literal meaning occurs when a speaker means something different from what the words mean or different from the lexical meaning of the word.

Martin (in Siswantoro, 2002: 10) said that in the case of non-literally meaning, there are a number of different ways one can speak non- literally. Non-literal uses of language are called figurative language. They are described by a large set of
rhetorical terms including simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, oxymoron, and synecdoche.

Non-literal expressions are often found in literary works such as; novels, plays, short story, poems or even in lyrics of the song. And in this thesis, I am interested to analyze the non literal meaning found in poem. Poem is a verbal composition designed to convey experiences, ideas, or emotions in a vivid and imaginative way, characterized by the use of language chosen for its sound and suggestive power and by the use of literary techniques such as meter, metaphor, and rhyme. A poem is a single piece of poetry, complete in itself. Poetry is the collective term used to describe many pieces of poetry, which may or may not be related by theme, author, or style.

Perrine in Siswantoro (2002:2) says “Poetry might be defined as a kind of language that says it more intensely than does ordinary language.” This statement confirms that poetry is a kind of language that is different from everyday language because poetry expresses itself intensely. Intense means meaningfulness that makes it different from other language which tends to use words with literal meaning. Furthermore, everyday language is used to convey information so, the hearer will not find implicit meaning in the interact communication. Meaning of each word used in everyday language is clear, no ambiguity, and practical.

So that, the poem need to be analyzed if the reader wants to know the depth meaning of the poems since poets convey something which is usually very difficult to understand for it may contain so many expressions with non-literal meaning. But, by the analysis which is supported by theory, the readers can unfold the implicit meaning behind the text of poems. For example:
The trees are afraid to put forth buds
And there is timidity in the grass
The plots lie gray where gouged by spuds
And whether next will pass

(Thomas Hardy, “A Backward Spring”)

The poems contain of non-literal meaning that is personification. Based on Martin, personification is a description of an inanimate object as being a living person or animal. In this poems, a poet expresses describe the word tree and afraid. The tree animates as a human which are afraid. As we know afraid is a human feeling, being frightened, indeed such emotional feelings are only shown as a natural reaction from human when they feel something wrong, or being shocked. Tree has no feeling like this. In this expression, the trees are afraid of doing something which is to put forth buds. Buds here mean seed also a common word that has close related to the trees, part of tree. While the word forth tells us another term, it refers to period, time or deals to a process. We can define it as a symbol of buds that grow for the fourth times. We know that buds usually comes out in fall-season or spring-has been used for the title-happens once in four month a year. So. Forth buds mean buds that growth in fourth year.

As the object of the analysis, I choose Thomas Hardy’s selected poems. He is one of the most popular poets in English literature. He was an English novelist and poet of the naturalist movement, although in several poems he displays elements of the previous romantic and enlightenment periods of literature, such as his fascination with the supernatural.
1.2 The Problem of Analysis

In this thesis, there are some problems that appeared and need to be answered. The problems are:

1. What are the types of non-literal meaning found in Thomas Hardy’s selected poems?
2. What is the meaning of each type of non-literal meaning found in Thomas Hardy’s selected poems?

1.3 The Objective of Analysis

Dealing with the analysis of the non-literal meaning in Thomas Hardy’s selected poems, the objectives of the analysis of this thesis are:

1. To find out the types of any non-literal meaning in Thomas Hardy’s selected poems
2. To describe the meaning of each type of non-literal meaning which found in Thomas Hardy’s selected poems.

1.4 The Scope of Analysis

There are six types of non-literal meaning based on Wren and Martin’s theory, such as; simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, oxymoron, and synecdoche. But in this thesis, the analysis is only focused on the four types of non-literal meaning found in fifteen poems of Thomas Hardy’s selected poems, such as; simile, metaphor, personification, and oxymoron.
1.5 The Significance of Analysis

This thesis is expected to enrich semantic study and add the knowledge for student of language in terms of semantic, especially in non-literal meaning. And also can help the students or the readers to understand the meaning of the poem.

1.6 Review of Related Literature

In supporting the idea of the analysis, some thesis as the previous study are used to support the idea of the analysis. Several ideas can be seen, as follows:

Nasution (2005) in his thesis entitled “An Analysis of Non-Literal meaning Found in Gun’s N Roses Selected Lyrics” concludes that the songwriter uses four kinds of non-literal meaning that are figurative ways (simile, metaphor, personification, oxymoron, and euphemism), facetious way (irony), exaggerated way (hyperbole), and idiom.

Ambarita (2008) in his thesis entitled “An Analysis of Non-Literal Meaning Found in Robert Frost’s Selected Poems” concludes that the poet uses non-literal meaning in the poems: they are simile, metaphor, personification, euphemism, oxymoron, hyperbole, and idiom.

Both have the same analysis that is non-literal meaning but differ in object of the study. The scope of their analysis is more expand than the scope of my analysis because in this thesis, I only analyze the type of non-literal meaning such as; metaphor, simile, personification, and oxymoron.