CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Analysis

“Semantics is the study of meaning in language. Based on the definition, we may be tempted to think that once we understand the semantics of a language, we completely understand that language. Meaning, however, involves more than just the semantic interpretation of an utterance” (Hurford and Heasley, 1983:1).

“Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning. The meaning of word is determined by the words arrangements in sentences or other words” (Palmer, 1976:1).

“Lexical relations are relationship of the meaning of a word to other words” (Bolinger, 1968:11). “Meaning property is one of several features or component which together can be said to make up the meaning of a word or utterance” (Lyons, 1977:57). All of lexical relations and meaning properties can be differentiated by looking all the words or sentences.

Lexical relations include hyponyms, meronyms (Siregar, 1981:20), homonyms, synonyms, and antonyms (Palmer, 1976:59). While meaning properties include meaningfulness, ambiguity, redundancy, anomaly, and contradictory (Siregar, 1981:29). Those topics will be analyzed in this thesis.

“Hyponymy is a word the meaning of which may be said to be included in that of another word. Meronymy is a part-whole relationship between lexical items” (Siregar, 1981:20). “Homonyms are different words which are pronounced the same, but have different meanings. Synonyms are words which sound
different, but have the same or nearly the same meaning. And antonyms are words
or expressions which are opposite in meaning or two words that express opposing
concepts” (Palmer, 1976:59).

“Meaningfulness means a word or expression that has meaning and neither
anomalous nor contradictory. Ambiguity means a word or sentence that has more
than one sense. Redundancy is the degree to which an expression contains more
information than is needed for it to be understood. Anomaly is an expression
which has an incompatibility of meaning between constituent expressions.
Contradictory means that there is a contradiction of meaning between constituent
expressions” (Siregar, 1981:29).

“Article is a piece of nonfiction writing in a newspaper, magazine or
reference book” (http://encarta.msn.com/dictionary_/article.html Nov 9th 2008,
8.30 p.m.). The Jakarta Post is the largest English language newspaper in
Indonesia with an average circulation of around 25,000 copies. The head office is
in the nation's capital, Jakarta. It was launched on 25 April 1983 in Jakarta and it
has been existed for 25 years. Articles in The Jakarta Post are chosen as the data
source because it is assumed that there are many lexical relations and meaning
properties existed which are interesting to be analyzed semantically.

Here are some examples of the lexical relations and meaning properties found
in articles in The Jakarta Post newspaper:
1. **Antonyms**

   For examples:

   Third, international donors are likely to contribute to domestic democracy when there are sufficient nascent civil society institutions or fledgling non-state associations.

   *(Wednesday, November 5th, 2008)*

   The words *international* and *domestic* refer to antonyms because they have opposite in meaning. *International* means happening or existing between two or more countries. *Domestic* means that inside a particular country, not foreign or international.

2. **Synonyms**

   For examples:

   Saturday morning, for Tin Martini, a 65-year old resident of a senior citizen’s home in Central Jakarta, means the start of a brighter day.

   *(Tuesday, November 4th, 2008)*

   This sentence has synonym relation because the words *resident* and *citizen* have similar meaning even though they have different sound. *Resident* means a person who lives or has a home in a place, not a visitor. *Citizen* means a person who lives in a town or a city.

3. **Homonyms**

   For examples:

   The concentration of risk in one business group results in a too-big-to-fail hazard, which carries systemic for the entire Indonesian capital market.

   *(Monday, November 3rd, 2008)*
The words **too** and **to** have same pronunciation: [tu:], but they have different meaning. The word **too** here is used before adjective and means to a higher degree. The word **to** be a preposition for the special uses in phrasal verbs that means towards a situation.

4. **Contradictory**

For examples:

Today, that mangrove jungle is **history**.

*(Tuesday, November 4th, 2008)*

The words **today** and **history** have contradiction of meaning because **today** is the present time whereas **history** is past event, something that happens in past time.

1.2 **Problems of the Analysis**

Based on the background, the problems of the analysis are formulated as follows:

1) What types of lexical relations and meaning properties are found in articles in *The Jakarta Post newspaper*?

2) Which type of lexical relations and meaning properties occur the most in articles in *The Jakarta Post newspaper*?
1.3 Objectives of the Analysis

By writing this thesis, some objectives are achieved to answer the problems of the analysis, they are:

1) To find out the types of lexical relations and meaning properties found in articles in *The Jakarta Post newspaper*.

2) To find out which type of lexical relations and meaning properties occur the most in articles in *The Jakarta Post newspaper*.

1.4 Significances of the Analysis

Theoretically, this thesis will enrich the study of semantics that can be used for further reference, especially dealing with lexical relations and meaning properties.

Practically, this thesis can be used as an additional reference for teaching semantics and translation.

1.5 Scope of the Analysis

It is very important to limit the analysis and the object of the analysis in order to get a clear and satisfactory result. Therefore, in this thesis, I would like to focus only on the lexical relations and meaning properties that exist in 7 (seven) chosen articles of seven editions (February 8th – February 14th) of *The Jakarta Post newspaper*. 

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1.6 Review of Related Literature

In analyzing the lexical relations and meaning properties in this thesis, some related literatures are reviewed in this thesis. They are:

**Palmer (1976)** in *Semantics: A New Outline* define semantics, explain goals of semantics theory and lexical relations.

**Siregar (1981)** in *Semantics: The Study of Meaning* explains about semantics including lexical relations and meaning properties and their classifications.

**Usni (2002)** in her thesis entitled “A Semantic Analysis of Meaning Properties and Meaning Relations in Technical Terms Used in PT. Unilever Indonesia, Tbk” found that there are 74 cases for meaning properties: 22 cases (29, 73%) for meaningfulness, 20 cases (27, 03%) for anomaly, 10 cases (13, 51%) for contradictory, 12 cases (16, 22%) for ambiguity, and 10 cases (13, 51%) for redundancy. There are also 110 cases for meaning relations: 18 cases (16, 36%) for hyponymy, 2 cases (1, 81%) for homonymy, 31 cases (28, 18%) for polysemy, 36 cases (32, 73%) for synonymy, and 23 cases (20, 91%) for antonymy.

**Simbolon (2003)** in her thesis entitled “An Analysis of Meaning Properties and Relations on Westlife’s Songs” found that there are 51 cases for meaning properties: 24 cases (47, 05%) for meaningfulness, 8 cases (15, 6%) for anomaly, 4 cases (7, 84%) for contradictory, 10 cases (19, 58%) for ambiguity, and 5 cases (9, 8%) for redundancy. There are also 43 cases for meaning relations: 7 cases (16, 27%) for homonyms, 13 cases (30, 23%) for synonyms, and 23 cases (41, 85%) for antonyms.
Tiakhiroh (2007) in her thesis entitled “An Analysis of Meaning Properties in Campbell’s Kingdom by Innes Hommand” found that there are 138 cases for meaning properties: 94 cases for meaningfulness, 28 cases for anomaly, 7 cases for contradictory, 3 cases for ambiguity, and 6 cases for redundancy.

Sofiana (2008) in her thesis entitled “The Analysis of Meaning Properties and Meaning Relations in Saul Bellow’s short story Looking for Mr. Green” found that there are 136 cases for meaning properties: 112 cases (82, 3%) for meaningfulness, 12 cases (8, 8%) for ambiguity, 6 cases (4, 4%) for anomaly, 4 cases (2, 9%) for contradictory, and 2 cases (1, 4%) for redundancy. There are also 34 cases for meaning relations: 13 cases (38, 2%) for antonyms, 11 cases (32, 3%) for homonyms, and 10 cases (29, 4%) for synonyms.