CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL OF FRAMEWORK

2.1 Theory of Semantics

Semantics is the area of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning. It can be said that semantics is one of linguistics branches study about meaning. Etymology, the word semantics actually comes from Greek word ‘sematikos’ means ‘significant’; ‘semaine’ means ‘to show, signify’ or ‘indicated by a sign’; from ‘sema’ means ‘sign’. However the word ‘meaning’ has a wide range of perceptions and there is no general agreement among experts about in which it should be described.

Actually, semantics has not always enjoyed a prominent role in modern linguistics. Many of the more influential books on linguistics that have appeared in the last thirty years devote little or no attention to semantics. The reason for this is that many linguists have come to doubt whether meaning can be studied as objectively and as rigorously as grammar and phonology, for the present at least. Furthermore, whereas phonologically and grammar quite clearly fall wholly within the province of linguistics (although the way in which a child learns the phonological and grammatical structure of his language is of considerable interest to the psychologist), what is commonly referred to as ‘the problem of meaning’ might seem to be of equal, is not greater, concern to philosophy, logic and psychology, and perhaps also to the other disciplines such as anthropology and sociology.
According to Leech (1974: ix) says, “Semantics as the study of meaning is central to the study of communication; and as communication becomes more and more a crucial factor in social organization, the need to understand it becomes a more and more pressing. Semantics is also at the centre of the study of the human mind-thought process, cognition, and conceptualization. All these are intricately bound up with the way in which we classify and convey our experience of the world through language”.

Lyons (1971: 400) says, “Semantics may be defined, initially and provisionally, as the study of meaning”.

Akmajian (1979: 228) says, “Semantics is generally considered to be the study of meaning (and related notions) in language, while in logig semantics in generally considered to be the study of reference (and related notions) in language”.

2.2 Scope of Semantics

Although the study of meaning became more significant at the early twentieth century, many linguists study language without reference to the meaning. A linguistic description tends to reduced into three levels of analysis such as phonological, morphological, and syntactic analysis.

According to Siregar (1992: 5) there are at least two major approach to the way in which meaning in language is studied, each of which is often very influential in determining which fact of meaning are relevant for semantics. The first is the linguistic approach. The students of language or linguists have long
been interested in the way in which meaning in a language is structured. There have been studies of the meaning of words and the semantic structure of sentence. Some of them also have distinguished between different types of meanings in the language.

The second is philosophical approach. Philosophers have investigated the relation between linguistic expression, such as the words of language, and persons, things, and events in the world to which these words refer. Although there are may be different approach to semantics, three basic terms seem to be widely mentioned in of each these approach, there are meaning, sense and reference.

2.2.1 Meaning

The term meaning is simply derived from the word *mean*. Meaning is regarded as the message that is intended or expressed or signified. In other word, it can be said that meaning is the idea that is intended. In everyday English, we use this word in a number of different ways as in the following:

a) That was *no mean* (insignificant) accomplishment.

b) They are *so mean* (cruel).

c) This will *mean* (result in) the end of second class citizenship.

d) Without ice cream, life wouldn’t *mean* anything (have any purpose).

e) I *mean* (intend) to help if I can.

f) Keep off the grass, this *means* (refers to) you.

g) His losing his job *means* (implies) that he will have to look again.

h) Lucky Strike *means* (indicates) fine tobacco.
i) Those clouds mean (are sign of) rain.

j) She doesn’t mean (believe) what she said.

k) Procrastinate means (?) “to put things off”.

l) In saying that, she meant (?) that we should leave.

In those sentences above, it can be seen that the word ‘mean’ in (a) yo (j)
has their ‘equivalence’ in other word, while the same word in (k) to (l) does not.
The last two sentences, in fact, exemplify two importantly different sorts of
meaning, i.e. linguistic meaning and speaker meaning. In (k) procrastinate has a
linguistic meaning of to put things off while in (l) meant refers to speaker’s
intention or what message the speaker intends to say in his words (Siregar, 1992:
6-7).

We might say that whole point of setting up a theory of semantics it to
provide a ‘definition’ of meaning that is a systemic account of the nature of
meaning.

2.2.2 Sense and Reference

2.2.2.1 Sense

Sense relates to the complex system of relationship that hold between the
linguistic elements themselves (mostly the words); is concerned only with
intralinguistic relations.

By the sense of a word, we mean its place in a system of relationships,
which it contract, with other words in the vocabulary. It will be observed that,
since sense is to be defined in terms of relationships, which hold between
vocabulary-items, it carries with it no presuppositions about the existence of objects and properties outside the vocabulary of the language in question.

In some cases, the same word can have more than one sense. For examples: the word ‘bank’ has different meaning in the following sentences:

(1) My salary is paid directly into my Bank.
(2) My house is on the south bank of the river.

Based on the examples (1) and (2) above, we can see that the word bank has a number of different senses. In the example (1), the word bank is an organization or a place that provides a financial service. Simply, bank is a place for keeping money safely. Then, in the example (2), the word bank has sense the land sloping up along each river or canal or the ground near the river.

2.2.2.2 Reference

“The terms ‘reference’ was introduced earlier for the relationship which holds between words and the things, events, actions and qualities they stand for” (Lyons, 1971: 424). It was pointed out that, under certain circumstances, the question ‘what is the meaning of the word x?’ can be answered by means of ‘ostensive’ definition by pointing to, or otherwise indicating, the referent or referents of the word. It can be assumed that the relationship of reference (sometimes described as denotation) is essential to the construction of any satisfactory theory of semantics. In other words, that there is a sense in which at least certain items in the vocabularies of all languages can be put into correspondence with features of the physical world.
According to Palmer (1976: 30), “Reference deals with the relationship between the linguistic elements, word, sentences, etc., and the non-linguistic world of experience”. For example, the word ‘hand’ has a certain meaning, a part of body, includes right hand and left hand, a hand has five of fingers and each finger has a fingernail. In addition, the word ‘hand’ also possesses a characteristic which is known as ‘reference’ that is the ability of the hand is to do anything such to take, throw, wash, etc.

2.3 Goals of Semantics Theory

There are two questions of the goals of a semantics theory. What should a semantic theory do, and how should it do it?

The short answer to the first question is that a semantics theory should attribute to each expression in the language the semantic properties and relations it has and it should define those properties and relations. Means that, in an expression \( e \) is meaningful, the semantic theory should say so. If the expression \( e \) has a specific set meaning, the semantic theory should specify them. If the expression \( e \) is ambiguous, the semantic theory should record that fact, and so on. Moreover, if two expressions are synonymous, or one entails the other, the semantics theory should mark these semantic relations.

The second questions concerning the goals of a semantic theory are, how should the theory handle all these semantic properties and relations? What kinds of constraints on a semantic theory are reasonable to impose?
First, it is generally conceded that even though a natural language contains an infinite number of phrases and sentences, a semantic theory of natural language should be finite. People are capable of storing only a finite amount of information but they nevertheless learn the semantics of natural language.

The second constraint on a semantic theory of a natural language is that it should reflect the fact that, except for idioms, expressions are compositional. This means that the meaning of a syntactically complex expression is determined by the meaning of its constituents and their grammatical relations. Compositionality rests on the fact that a finite number of familiar words and expressions can be combined and recombined to form an infinite number of novel phrases and sentences; hence, a finite semantics theory that reflects compositionality can describe meanings for an infinite number of complex expressions.

2.4 Figurative Expressions

2.4.1 Definition of Figurative Expressions

In semantic terms, there are two kinds of meaning; they are literal meaning and non-literal meaning. Literal meaning is the meaning of speaker or writer word does not have another meaning. When, non-literal or figurative meaning is the meaning of a writer or speaker word has another meaning. In other word, it can be said that need interpretation of what his or her word.

In traditional analysis, words in literal expressions denote what the speaker or writer mean according to common or dictionary usage, while words in figurative expressions connote they add layers of meaning. To convert an
utterance into meaning, the human mind requires knowledge, made up the memories of all the possible meanings that might be available to apply to the particular words in their context. This set of memories will give prominence to the most common or literal meanings, but also suggest reasons for attributing different meanings, e.g., the reader understands that the author intended it to mean something different.

Figurative expression is the expressive which uses a language that needs interpreting of the meaning of the speaker or writer’s words. Usually, the writer or speaker describes something using unusual comparisons, for effect, interest, and to make things clearer. The result of using this technique is the creation of interesting images. Besides that, the use of figurative expression is to emphasize of meaning of what his/her word. As Kennedy (1983: 677) says, “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”. Then Wren and Martin (1981: 488) say. “Figure of speech is departure from ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect”. Means that, figure of speech is using a connote word to get special or wider effect.

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reader understand that the author intended it to mean something different. For example:

(3) “The ground is thirsty”.

The ground is thirsty is partly figurative. “Ground” has a literal meaning, but the ground is not alive. It is an inanimate thing but regarded as human which needs to drink because feels thirst. Actually, we may interpret that sentence wants to say that the ground is dry or has been long dry because the rain has not fall for long time.

2.4.2 Kinds of Figurative Expressions

There are some kinds of figurative expressions will be discussed in this thesis, they are:

2.4.2.1 Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech which compares two unlike things implicitly. Etymologically, the word ‘metaphor’ derived from Greek word ‘metaphor’ meaning ‘transfer or carry over’. It is a derivation from ‘meta’ meaning ‘over or across’ and ‘pherein’ meaning ‘to carry’.

According to Tarigan (1983: 141), “Metafora adalah sejenis majas perbandingan yang paling singkat, padat, tersusun rapi. Di dalamnya terlibat du aide: yang satu adalah suatu kenyataan, sesuatu yang dipikirkan, yang menjadi objek; dan yang satu lagi merupakan perbandingan terhadap kenyataan tadi; dan kita menggantikan yang di belakang ini menjadi yang terdahulu tadi. (Metaphor is a kind of figure of speech which the most concise, condensed, well ordered kind
of comparative figurative expression. Two ideas are involved inside; and the one is the reality or object, something thought; and the other is the comparison to the reality; and we substitute the latter with the former).

Kennedy (1983: 680) says, “Metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which in a literal sense, it is not.”

Crowther (1995: 734) cites, “Metaphor is the imaginative use of a word or phrase to describe something as another object in order to show that they have the same qualities and to make the description more forceful.”

Metaphor is a figure of speech in which an implicit comparison is made between two things usually unlike. Does not use connective words such as like or as.

A metaphor is generally more concise and immediate than corresponding literal version, because of super imposition, in the same piece of language, of tenor and vehicle.

Actually, if we look carefully, figure of speech metaphor seems like simile. It is because both compare two unlike things. It can be differentiated by searching of their each characteristic. As Wren and Martin (1981: 489) say “a metaphor is an implied simile. It does not, like simile, sate one thing is like another or acts as another, but takes that for granted and proceeds as if the two things were one.
The differences between them can be seen in the following example:

(4) Your fingers *like* sausages
(5) Your fingers *are* sausages
(6) He fought *like* a lion
(7) He was a *lion* in the fight

In sentence (4), it can be seen that the word fingers are compared with sausage by using the connective ‘*like*’. But in sentence (5), the word fingers are compared with sausages implicitly without using any connectivity. Then, in sentence (6) it uses simile because ‘he’ compares like ‘*a lion*’, and in sentence (7) it uses metaphor.

In general, a simile refers to only one characteristic that two things have in common, while a metaphor is not plainly limited in the number of resembles it may indicated. To use the simile “*He eats like a pig*” is to compare man and animal in one respect: eating habits. But, to say “*He is a pig*” is to use a metaphor that might involve comparisons of appearance and morality as well.

2.4.2.2 Simile

In simile, the two things to be compared and (sometimes) the ground of the comparison are spelt out in succession: the comparison itself, too, is made explicit by means of such constructional elements as *like, as...as, more...than*.

According to Kennedy (1983: 680) says, “Simile is a comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, *usually, like, as, than*, or a verb such as *resembles*. A simile expresses a similarity. Still, for a simile to exist, the things
compared have to be dissimilar in kind. It is no simile to say, “Your fingers are like mine” it is a literal observation. But to say, “Your fingers are like sausages” is to use a simile.

According to Siregar (1992: 13) says, “Simile is a comparison between two objects using like or as. For example:

(8) “Your eyes are like stars”.

In that example, it can be seen that the word ‘your eyes’ is compare like ‘stars’. As we know that stars are very bright and beautiful. So, it wants to say that the beauty of ‘your eyes are like the beauty of stars’.

According to Wren and Martin (1981: 480) say, “Simile is a comparison made between two objects of different kinds which have, however, at least one point in common”. Means that, simile is the comparison between two things which have a point of similarity.

A simile is generally more explicit than metaphor, In this example:

(9) “That bathen in the gladnesse”.

For instance, does not tell us exactly what gladness is compared to. Instead, there is a bundle of interrelated possibilities: the sea, a lake, water generally, some other liquid, etc. But in translating into simile, we have to make up our minds which these is intended.
2.4.2.3 Hyperbole

The word hyperbole is derived from Greek language, that are ‘hyper’ means ‘over’ and ‘ballien’ means ‘to throw’. So, from that meaning, it can be said that hyperbole or over statement is a statement containing exaggeration to emphasize a point (Kennedy, 1983: 687). On the other hand, hyperbole is an expression to make something looks bigger or greater than it really is.

Exaggeration in colloquial talk is often incredible because at variance with known fact. For example:

(10) “He’s got acres and acres of garden”.

In a hyperbole, if we happen to know that the plot indicated is no more one acre in extent. We are that able to judge that the speaker means no more, “He has a very large garden”.

In other cases, an exaggerated statement is not just incredible in the given situation but a situation, because outside the bounds of possibility.

(11) “She is as old as the hills”

It is an assertion which cannot be swallowed whole under any circumstances. Actually, that sentence wants to say that the girl ‘she’ has been old or has old age. To emphasize the point, the writer makes it by saying ‘She is as old as the hill’.

According to Siswantoro (2005: 34) cites, “Hiperbola dimanfaatkan oleh penyair dalam upaya menggambarkan objek, ide, dan lain-lain dengan member bobot tekanan secara berlebihan untuk memperoleh efek yang intens.” (Hyperbole
is used by the writer to describe an object, idea, etc. with giving exaggeration emphasize to get effect intently). Then, Wren and Martin (1981: 491) say, “In hyperbole a statement is made emphatic by over statement”. Means that, hyperbole uses an exaggerate word to emphasize a point.

**2.4.2.4 Personification**

The word personification comes from Latin that is ‘*persona*’ means ‘actor, person, doer or a mask which used in a play’ and the word ‘*fic*’ means ‘to make’. Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing or abstract term (truth, nature) is made human.

Personification is the arbitrary of human qualities to inanimate object (for example the sea as an abstract concept for freedom). The endowment of abstraction with human quantities. A figure that endows animal, ideals, abstraction, and inanimate object with human form, the representing of imaginary creatures or things as having human personalities, intelligence, and emotions. It is the representation of a thing or abstraction in the format of person. As Kennedy (1983: 686) says, “Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth, nature) is made human”.

According to Siswantoro (2002: 29) says, “*Personifikasi adalah pelukisan benda atau objek tak bernyawa atau bukan manusia (inanimate) baik yang kasat mata atau abstrak yang diperlakukan seolah-olah sebagai manusia*” (Personification is portray an inanimate thing or an object in unreal or abstract which is regarded as if as human).
The following examples will make us more understand:

(12) “The wind, please tell me where is my lover now”.

(13) “The shoes of the children have been laughed”.

In (12), the wind is regarded as human that as if can tell something to human. As we know that ‘the wind’ is inanimate thing that cannot speak something.

In (13), it can be seen that the word ‘the shoes’ is considered as human that can laugh as human do. As we know that, the shoes are inanimate thing that cannot do something. So, the expression above means that the shoes of the children have been torn.

2.4.2.5 Irony

Irony is a situation, literary technique or rhetorical device, in which there is an in congruity or discordance that goes strikingly beyond the most simple and endent meaning of words or actions.

From the Wikipedia.com, irony is figure of speech when an expression used is the opposite of the thought in the speakers mind. This is conveying a meaning that contradicts of literal definition. For the example:

(14) “I’m not upset!”

In (14), the sentence states the speaker is not upset , but it reveals an upset emotional state through the voice
2.4.2.6 Oxymoron

From the Wikipedia.com, oxymoron is a figure of speech that combines normally contradictory terms. The most common form of oxymoron involves an adjective-noun, combination of two words. For example; *dark sunshine, amazing dullness, cold sun, and living dead.*