CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Theory of Semantics

Semantics is generally defined as the study of meaning. It deals with all linguistics aspects from words, phrases, and sentences in language. However, this definition has led us to question about what is the nature of the meaning itself. How is the best way to describe what meaning is comes to be the problem here. It can be relevant when it is studied on where it has own contextual meaning.

Semantics was introduced in English at the end of 19th century. The term semantics in English adopted from French term *semantique*, which was coined from Greek. Before it was introduced in 1890’s, the semantics was once used in phrase *Semantick Philosophy* to mean ‘Divination’. This term is not refers to meaning but refers to its development, which is later known as ‘Historical Semantics’.

The term semantics was treated as the study of meaning until M. Breal released a book entitled Semantics: Studies in the Science of meaning in 1990. In the book, semantic was not only concerned with historical change of the meaning, but also treated as the science of meaning.

Meaning becomes the problem discussed in the semantics. To define about the meaning, it is necessary to define semantics into more specific definition. These more specific definitions have led us to an important basic assumption that meaning it part of speaker knowledge about their language.

There are other terms that have been used to refer to the semantics. They are semasiology, semology, semiotics and semics. Scholar has often used some of these
terms to suit their own interest and orientation. These terms are used referring to other things beyond the semantics proper. To make a clear definition, it is necessary to redefine semantics into a more specific definition. We could limit semantics into the study of more specific types of meaning only. We also need to make a clear limit of the study of meaning into linguistics proper. Then we may say that semantics is the study of meaning of words, phrases, or sentences in language.

For more clear understanding on semantics, we can see some definitions of semantics given by some linguists below:

1. Semantics is the branch of linguistics concerned with studying meaning the meaning of words and sentences. (Hornby, 1972:789)

2. Semantics is the study of meaning that concerned with what sentences and other linguistics objects express, not with the arrangement of their syntactic parts or their pronounciation. (J.J Katz, 1972:1)

3. Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning. (F.R. Palmer, 1976:1)

4. Semantics is generally defined as the study of meaning. (Lyons, 1977:1)

All the definitions above are different in some respect but principally semantics is a division of linguistics dealing with meaning of words, its study concerned with meaning of linguistics string. It means that we must focus our attention to what sentences or other linguistics objects express not to arrangement of their syntactic part of their grammatical form.
2. 2 Scope of Semantics

Although the study of meaning becomes more significant at the early 20\textsuperscript{th} century, many linguists study language without reference to meaning. There is no very general agreement about the nature of meaning or in which it should be described and no one knows which facts are relevant to semantics. However, the linguists have investigated the way of structuring meaning in language. There are at least two major approaches to the way in which meaning in language is studied. Each of this is often influential in determining which facts of meaning are relevant for semantics. The first is linguistics approach. This approach investigated semantics structure of the sentence. The second is philosophical approach. Philosophers have investigated the relation between linguistics expression such as the words of language, person, things and events in the world to which these words refers.

2. 3 Meaning

“Language is an instrument for conveying meaning. The structure of this instrument reflects its function, and it can only be properly understood in terms of its function. To study language without reference to meaning is like studying road signs from the point of view of their physical properties, or like studying the structure of the eye without any reference to seeing.” (Wierzbicka, 1996:3). Meaning has a number of definitions as suggested by Leech (1981-23) and notes three points of meaning.

1. Meaning involves the speaker’s intention to convey a certain meaning which may not be from the message itself.
2. Consequently interpretation by hearer is likely to depend on the context.
3. Meaning in the sense, is something which is former rather than something that
exist in a static way. It involves action (the speaker produces effect on the hearer) and interaction (the meaning being negotiated between speaker and hearer on the basis of their mutual knowledge). Meaning absolutely plays a great role in communication without meaning there will be no good interaction in communication, it implies that meaning absolutely needed between speaker and hearer.

As we know that meaning consists of two aspects: they are linguistic meaning and speaker meaning. Speaker meaning can be divided into literal meaning and non literal meaning. Metaphor belongs to non literal meaning. The writer concludes that the meaning of metaphor is hidden or implicit. It means what is said or written is not meant as what is said or written is.

To make it clear, the writer makes the examples below:

1. Every morning I always open the door so the fresh air can be come into my house.

2. If you need the help, I will open the door for you anytime.

In the first example, the phrase open the door implies a literal meaning. It can be seen from the whole of sentence. This sentence tells about someone habit in the morning. While in the second example, the phrase open the door implies a non literal meaning. If we see the sentence entirely, we know that the phrase open the door is not meant as written is. In this sentence, the uses of the phrase open the door is refer to provideness of someone to help the other.

In my conclusion, meaning has a number of different interpretations since speaker expressing their ideas, minds and feeling. The interpretation have to do in the study of semantics.
2. 4 Figurative Language

Dongoran (2007:10) said: “figurative language sometimes called metaphorical language, or simply metaphor” while Holman (1986: 202) defined figurative language is international departure from the normal order, construction or meaning of the words in order to gain strength and freshness of expression to create an effect, described by analogy or discover and illustrate similarities or otherwise dissimilar things. Furthermore, Shaw (1985: 251) states figurative language often vivid and imaginative can add color and clarity, vigor and effectiveness to writing.

Another term used for ‘figurative language’ is hidden meaning. Figurative language occurs when sentence and word contain hidden meaning. If someone want to interpret a figurative expression, someone have to know the context and the atmosphere of the sentence that expressed.

For example, Mr. Faisal flies to Jakarta.

This sentence will sound vague and clumsy if we interpret literally. The verb flies belong to characteristic of bird. Figuratively, this sentence means Mr. Faisal goes to Jakarta by plane.

An author may use the word in sentence above with the purpose of beautifying the language, because the author wants to say something indirectly.

It can be concluded that figurative meaning is one way to express an idea or thought by saying one thing. It occurs when the sentence has a symbolic or hidden meaning by using figure of speech. The use of figurative speech might attract someone attention and makes the speaker’s sentences more flowery.
2. 5 Metaphor

“Metaphor is defined as representing meaning or interpreting meaning from two perspectives. The term metaphor is constituted by meta which means ‘half’ or partly as in metaphysics meaning ‘half – physical’ or ‘partially physical’ and phora or phoric meaning ‘referring to’ or ‘pointing to’ as in anaphora, cataphora and exophora perspectively meaning ‘pointing to the back’, ‘pointing to the front’, and ‘pointing outside’. Thus, metaphor implies representing or interpreting meaning from two views, that is partially from one side and partially from another side. Metaphor inherently implies two points; comparison and uncommon representation. Firstly, a metaphorical coding involvers a comparison with an emphasis or similarity. Secondly, a metaphor implies an uncommon way of coding experience. In Systemic Functional Linguistic (SFL) theory where language is viewed as a social semiotics, there are two poles of coding experience; the unmarked or congruent coding. The congruent coding is also called uncommon, unusual or metaphorical representation. Metaphor is divided into lexical and grammatical metaphor” (Muller and Winear, 1982 : 36 ).

Lexically, there is usual, common or congruent coding of meaning in language. Congruently, the uses of word ‘snake’ in sentence the snake is crawling on the grass refers to ‘reptile’. Another way of coding experience is called incongruent or metaphorical representation. The uses of word ‘snake’ in sentence don’t trust Jack, he is a snake is no longer refers to ‘reptile’. This is an unusual way of coding experience. Jack is not a snake, he is a human being but he is considered as snake. It is implicitly understood in metaphorical representation that Jack is compared with a snake where some characteristics of snake are seen in Jack’s behave. Some features or characteristics
of snake are having scales, crawling, coiling its body, being poisonous and having fangs. Some of these features or characteristics are mapped to Jack. In other words, some characteristics of snake applicable to Jack such as coiling the people using his words and being poisonous in his words or expressions. The other characteristics of snake such as, having scales, crawling, and having fangs cannot applicable to Jack.

Metaphor is the use of a certain term, phrase or word in a sentence where the term, phrase or word do not convey their literal meaning. Keraf (1998:19) says metaphor is a kind of analogy that compares two things directly, metaphor as a direct compression which does not use the word: like, as, if so that the first thing is directly to relieve to the second.

Example:

Mike Tyson is a lion in the ring.

The metaphor of this word is “lion”. Mike Tyson is directly compared with a lion in the boxing ring that defeat his enemy by knocking out quickly. Therefore, Tyson is considered as a lion.

We must remember that the words being replaced must have the same characters, for example time is money in this case ‘time’ is metaphorical used. The word ‘time’ is described in the term of money. We have to understand that is characterizes of the money has high value, it happens to time as well. Time is important that it is supposed to be the same as money. The sentence can be interpreted time is valuable.

Metaphor is used make a variation of sentence. It can be used to reinforce the reader’s imagine of the world to challenge them. Metaphor has several purposes (Goatly, 1997: 166). First, it gives the color and vigor in the sentence where the readers open their
mind to find the poet’s needs by their interpretation. Second, using metaphor is one way to make be abstract concrete, philosopher and psychologists frequently employ metaphor to help their reader’s group difficult concepts. Third, it makes and clarifies some things to be clear. For example, when we say life is a yoyo. To explain how life is, metaphor compares yoyo with life. By drawing comparison, not only the writers can make things see more clearly but also very often can influence to see them in their way.

2.5.1 Hyperbole

Peteda (1989:129) defines hyperbole is derived from the Greek word *hyper* means exaggeration and *ballein* means to throw.

Wren and Martin (1990:361) say that in hyperbole a statement is made emphatic by an overstatement. While, Webster’s dictionary (1971:1112) states hyperbole is an extravagant or exaggeration that represent something as much greater or less, better or worse, or mare intense that it really is that depict the impossible as actual; for example: I could sleep for years. Hyperbole is the expression that exaggerates something or tells something more than the fact can prove. As an example we can see the quotation below written by Shakespeare.

I love Ophelia; forty thousand brothers

Could not, with all their quantity of love,

Make up my sum.

In the quotation above, a man exaggerates his love by saying that his love more than forty thousand brother’s love. Actually it is not true, but he just wants to say his love is very deep to a lady, who is named Ophelia.
Holman (1966:246) suggests hyperbole is a figure of speech in which conscious exaggeration is used for the sake of exaggeration.

2.5.2 Metonymy

Frederic (1988:20) says that metonymy is a figure of speech which the name of one thing is applied to another which it is closely associated. While Peteda (1989:139) defines metonymy derives from Greek word ‘mete’ means to change and ‘onym’ means name.

Metonymy is the substitution of one object or thought for another that closely associated with it because it has a common duality as it given. Peteda (1989:139) defines metonymy derives from Greek word ‘mete’ means to change and ‘onym’ means name.

Metonymy is the substitution of one object or thought for another that closely associated with it because it has a common duality as it given.

Example: The pen is mightier than the sword.

In the example above, the pen is substituted with the sword because the pen and the sword have the common qualities, both of them can make people suffer. The sword makes people suffer directly, while the pen indirectly. For example, when the boss of a big farm writes a letter in which he asks his worker to quit his job from the firm, it will make the worker very suffering, and it is just what a pen did. The pen does not make suffer directly, but the boss.

Wren and Martin (1990:363) says that in metonymy (literary, a change of name) object is designated by the name of something which is generally associated with it. For example, a man says ‘give me a light’ when he literary mean he wants some tire ‘
he is addicted to the bottle’ is another way of saying that he drinks too much whisky.’ I am studying Shakespeare’ means that I am studying his plays, not the man himself. Its each of these, a closely related object (light, bottle, Shakespeare) is substituted for the object.

Since there are many of association between objects, there are several varieties of metonymy. This metonymy may result from the use of:

1. The sign for the person or thing symbolized; as,
   You must address the chair (i.e. the chairman).
   From the cradle to the grave (i.e. from infancy to death)
2. The container for the thing contained: as,
   The whole city went out to see the victorious general.
   The kettle boils.
   Fortwith he drank the fatal cup.
   He keeps a good cellar.
   He was playing to the gallery.
   He has undoubtedly the best stable in the country.
3. The instrument for the agent: as,
   The pen is mightier than the sword.
4. The author for his works: as,
   We are reading Milton.
   Do you learn Shakespeare at your school?
In the explanation above, it can said metonymy is the substitution of one object or thought for another that closely associated with it because it has a common duality as it given.

2.4.3 Synecdoche

Holman (1986:210) says that synecdoche is the common figure in which uses of part or an individual for the whole.

For example: Someone says to his friend: you got a new machine.

In the example above, the word new machine does not mean new machine but it means a new car. The word ‘new machine’ is part of car standing for the whole car.

Furthermore, Wren and Martin say that in synecdoche a part is used to designate the whole or the whole designated a part. By paying attention the explanation above can be divided into two kinds.

1. A part is used to mean the whole of thing.

   All eyes on top singer.

   In the sentence above, the phrase ‘all eyes’ represents the audience or public, not only the eyes of the people but the whole of their body, since eyes are a part of the human body.

2. The whole is used to name a part.

   Indonesia wins the badminton match against china in the Athens, Olympiad.

   The word ‘Indonesia’ in this sentence does not mean the government of Indonesia. Indonesia means the badminton player who is identified as Indonesia nationality.
From the explanation above, we can conclude that synecdoche is the metaphor which use reference to a part of thing or person. It can be said to a part for the whole or the whole for the part.

Example: *There are a lot of a good heads in the University.*

In the sentence above, the word ‘head’ represent not only the head of the people but the whole body of the people. If we pay attention to the phrase ‘good heads’, it seems that this metaphor carries a new understanding because the phrase ‘good heads’ not only represent the people, but also it means intelligent. We know that the ‘good heads’ mean intelligent because intelligent is associated with brain inside of head. When we say: “there are a lot of good heads in the university”, it means that there are a lot of intelligent people.

2.4.4 Composite

Composite is a kind of metaphor which tries to consider inanimate to be animate.

Example: *Airport lames again*

The activity in *Airport* is going on everytime. It can be compared with human who always do activity everytime. When the activity in *airport* is stop, it can be compared with a lame human who cannot do anything. Actually, *lame* is the characteristic of human being.

Example: *The sun does arise.*

\[ \text{And makes happy the skies} \]

\[ \text{The merry bells ring} \]

\[ \text{To welcome the spring} \]

\[ \text{The skylark and the truth} \]
The birds of the bush

Sing louder around

To the bells cheerful sounds

While our sports shall he seen

On the echoing green.

(William Blake, "The Echoing Green")

In this poem, it can see things, like sun and bell, have felling and action. It is said that the sun arises and makes the skies happy. But as we know, they really cannot do it since they are not alive.