CHAPTER II
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Theory of Semantics

Semantics is a branch of linguistics which relates with meaning. Semantics is considered as a study of meaning in language. It deals with the expression of linguistic objects such as word, phrases and sentences. It does not pay attention to the syntactical arrangement or pronunciation of linguistic object. As states by Katz (1972 : 1), “Semantics is the study of linguistic meaning. It is concered with what sentence and other linguistics object express, not with the arrangement with their syntactic parts or with their pronunciation.”

Semantics has long been an object of study within the philosophy. It is said that the term semantics itself was introduced into English at the end of the 19th century. Based on etymology, the word semantics originally comes from Greek word semantikos means ‘significant’ ; semainein means ‘to show, signify’ or ‘indicated by sign’; from sema means ‘sign’. However the word ‘meaning’ has a wide range of perceptions and there is no general agreement among expert about the way in which it should be described. There are some term semantics in various definition by some expert, they are:

Palmer (1976 : 1) states “Semantics is the technical term used to refer to study of meaning.”

Hornby (1972 : 789) has defined “Semantics is branch of linguistics concerned with studying the meaning of words and sentences.”
Lyons (1977 : 1) defines “Semantics is generally defined as the study of meaning.”

Siregar (1992 : 2) states “Semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, or sentences in the language or semantics is the study of meaning in language.”

Semantics has developed and become a worthy study. There are two factors that make semantics become important and worthy study. First, meaning is strictly connected with communication. A certain meaning can be delivered through communication plays an important role in human life. Second, the process of human attempts to comprehend the nature of meaning involves the mental ability by the use of reasoning and perception. As stated by Leech (1989 : IX), “Semantics is central to the study of communication; and as communication becomes more and more crucial factor in social organization, the need to understand it becomes more and more pressing. Semantics is also at the centre of the study of the human mind-thought process, cognition and conceptualization.”

Ridwan (1997 : 45) in Saleh (2008) states that there are some terms of semantics, such as semasiology, semology, semiotics, sememis, and semics. Beside having some terms, semantics also has some close relations with some disciplines, such as philosophy, psychology, anthropology and sociology.

Philosophy is closely related to semantics because the nature of the world and truth which become the contemplation of philosophy is represented through the meaning of language. Philosophy has a close relation with semantics namely philosophical semantics. Philosophical semantics examines the relation between linguistic expressions and phenomena in the world to which they refer and
considers the conditions under which such expressions can be said to be true or false and the factors which affect the interpretation of language used.

Hornby (1995 : 935) said that psychology is the science or study the mind and how it function. It is closely related with semantics because such psychology element as cognition, thought and reason can not be separated in the process of planning, organizing and understanding the meaning through linguistic codes.

The other terms which also have a close relation with semantics are sociology and anthropology. Hornby (1995 : 1128) says “Sociology is the scientific study of the nature and development of the society and social behaviour.” It has something to with semantics to identify a certain expressions or utterances which indicates the identities or characteristics of particular group or person of community. And at the last anthropology is the study of human race especially of its origin, development, customs and beliefs. It needs semantics because analysis of meaning in a language can provide the cultural classification of the language users.

2.2 Scope of Semantics

Semantics is the study of the linguistics meaning. It is not concerned with what sentences and other linguistics object expressed. It is not concerned with the arrangements of syntactic parts, or with their pronunciation. Semantics could cover more extensive areas, from structure and function of language as well as the interrelationship with other discipline. In this thesis, the scope of semantics is about the meaning itself in linguistics. Meaning of linguistic object can be various. Every people may have different way to analyze the meaning of a
linguistic because there is no very general agreement about the nature of meaning or the way in which it should be described.

There are at least two major approaches 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 linguistics approach, it concern with the way in which meaning in a language is structured. The second is philosophical approach, it investigates the relation between linguistics expression, such as the words of language, and person, things, and events in the world to which these words refer.

Katz (1972 : 11) said that theory of semantics concerns with the semantics structure of natural language in general. It is not a theory which concerns with the semantic structure of any particular language and it does not concern with individual’s meaning. Hence semantics scopes down its attention to the sentence meaning as a part of linguistic system rather than utterance meaning.

2.3 Goals of Semantics

Leech (1969 : 5) says “The aim of semantics is to explain and describe the meaning in natural language. To make our starting point in ordinary usage more explicit, we may even say that the goal of semantics is to explain what underlies the use of the word means and related term (sense, nonsense, signify, ambiguous, antonymy, synonymy, etc) in English and other language.”

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that semantics should be able to give more explanations and define any expressions in language. semantics also should be able to define their meaning properties and relation. Any kinds of
expressions should have meaning. In this case, semantics should be able to specify those meanings based on their properties or relation.

2.4 Sense and Reference

Palmer (1976: 30) defined reference and sense as follow; “Reference deals with the relation between the linguistic elements, words, sentences, etc. And the non-linguistic world of experience. Sense relates to the complex system of relationship that hold between linguistic element themselves (mostly the words); it is concerned only with intra-linguistic relation.”

Sense is closely related to reference. As stated by Richard (1985: 241), reference is the relationship between words, the thing, actions, event, and qualities they stand for. A word or lexeme does not merely have meaning. It contributes to the meaning of a larger unit, a phrase, clause or sentence. For example, the sense of the word ‘ring’ in these following examples is different:

1. Rony bought a ring for his mother. (ring means a circular brand which is often of gold or platinum, worn around a finger as an ornament)
2. That bell has a nice ring. (ring means musical sound)

According to Muchtar (2006: 103), “The term reference carries different meanings, namely extra-lingual and intra-lingual reference. Extra-lingual reference is the relationship between words and entities to the something outside of language (non-linguistic word of experience). While, intra-lingual reference is the relationship between words and entities to something inside of an utterance. And intra-lingual reference can be classified into two categories namely anaphora and cataphora. Anaphora means the use of a word or phrase which refers back to
another word or phrase which was used earlier in the text or conversation. While, cataphora means the use of a word or phrase which refers forward to another word or phrase which will be used later in the text or conversation.

The difference between sense and reference can be shown by these examples; ‘The man who is my father’ and ‘the man who married my mother’. From the examples above, both examples refer to a certain individual or the same reference that is ‘father’. The phrase ‘The man who is my father describes ‘the own father or father-in-blood’ and ‘the man who married my mother’ describes ‘the step father’.

2.5 Meaning

Language is an important tool of human beings to communicate one another. The language, which is used by the human beings as tools of communication, indicate a certain meaning.

The word ”meaning” is simply derived from the word “mean”. There are some definitions of meaning as suggested by semanticist. They are as follow:


2. Lyons (1977 : 4) says “Meaning is a word of ordinary, every day vocabulary of English.”

3. Bloomfield (1933 : 139) defines “Meaning of a linguistics form as a situation in which the speakers utter it and response which it calls forth in the hearer.”

By paying attention to the definition above, the word “meaning” has a number different notions and varieties since speakers, in expressing their ideas, minds, feeling, use a word to mean something different from what it denotes.

2.6 Varieties Meaning

The experts of language have classified meaning from different point of view based on their deliberations. Those varieties of meaning can be explained in the following explantions.

2.6.1 Leech’s Seven Types of Meaning

Leech (1981 : 8-23) has defined seven types of meaning. The seven types of meaning are as follows:

1. Conceptual Meaning is logical, cognitive or denotative content

For examples:

House : a building made for people to live in

Horse : a kind of animal which has four legs, a mane and a tail.

2. Conotative meaning is the communicative value and an expression has by the virtue of what it refers to to over and above its purely conceptual content. And it includes not only physical characteristic, but also social properties and psychological.

For examples:
The word “red” has the conotation of *brave* and the word “black” has the conotation of *magic, evil or fear.*

3. Social meaning is a piece of language conveys about the social circumstances of it use. It is connected with the situation in which an utterance is uttered.

   For examples:
   The word ‘horse, steed and hag’ have the same conceptual meaning but the convey different social circumstances of their use.
   
   Horse (general)
   Steed (poetic)
   Hag (slang)

4. Affective meaning is meaning that expresses the personal feelings or attitude of the speakers or the writers.

   For example:
   I’m very glad to hear your voice, but I wonder if you would be so kind as to lower your voices a little.

5. Reflected meaning is the meaning that arises in case of multiple conceptual meaning when one sense of a word forms part of our response to another sense.

   For example:

6. Collocative meaning consists of the association of a word acquires on account of the meanings of words which tend to occur in its environment.

   For example:
The word ‘handsome’ and ‘beautiful’ have common ground in the meaning ‘good looking’. The word ‘handsome’ refers to man and ‘beautiful’ refers to woman.

7. Thematic meaning means what is communicated by the way in which a speaker or writer organizes the message in terms of ordering, focus and emphasis. It is usually applied in the use of active and passive forms. For example:

1. She likes orange juice the most
2. Orange juice she like the most
3. It’s orange juice that she likes the most

2.6.2 Lexical, Grammatical and Contextual Meaning

Chaer (1994 : 289) said that lexical meaning is meaning that possesses by a lexeme without any context. It is the actual thing that is observed through human sense. For example, the lexeme ‘cat’ has a lexical meaning i.e a small furry animal with four legs, a tail and mustache. And the lexeme ‘house’ has lexical meaning i.e the building made for people to live in.

Grammatical meaning is meaning that possesses by a stem because of grammatical process, such as affixation or tense. For example, in the affixation of suffix –s attached to a stem ‘pen’ produces ‘pens’. The grammatical meaning that appears that the number of the word ‘pens’ is more than the word ‘pen’ (‘pen’ means one pen (singular) while ‘pens’ (plural)).

Contextual meaning is the type of meaning which is determine by the context in which the word is used.
2.6.3 Linguistics and Speaker Meaning

In general, the linguistic meaning of an expression is simply the meaning or meanings of that expression in some form of language. One can understand linguistics meaning provided if he or she possesses adequate knowledge about grammatical rules and vocabularies of a language. The linguistics meaning is determined by the meaning of its constituents and their grammatical relations.

For example:

1. The boy runs
2. The bean plants run
3. Her stockings run

In those example, the word ‘run’ has more than one linguistics meaning base on the dictionary.

Speaker meaning is what a speaker means when producing his or her utterances. Sometimes, the speaker says somethind different from what his orher words mean. Or the other words, the speaker sometimes speaks non-literally. There are some different ways of speaking non literally. One of them is through the use of idiom. Richard (1985 : 134) in Saleh (2008 : ) says that idiom is an expression which functions as a single unit and whose meaning can not be worked out from its separate parts. The meaning of an idiomatic expression can not predicated either lexically or grammatically. For example, kick the bucket means passed away, I’m walking in the sunlight in the literally it means feel happy.

Another common way of speaking non literally is through the use of figure of speech, such as simile, metaphore, irony, hyperbole, personification, etc. There are so many terms of figure of speech, such as figurative meaning, figurative
language and figurative expression. And the term figurative expression will be used in this thesis. Moreover, because figurative expression is the subject matter of this thesis, it will be covered more detail in the following explanations.

2.7 Figurative Expression

Figurative expression are often arbitrary and conventional. The figurative expressions on a certain language might be different from another. They are mostly depending on the cultural background of themselves. Using figurative expression is by making imaginative description in fresh ways. It requires much imagination and focuses the readers or listeners to attend the connotation rather than the denotation because the sentence has hidden meaning behind the lexical meaning. It is usually immediately obvious whether w writer or a speaker is using figurative or literal language. The writer or speaker uses particular symbols to express the idea.

Wren (1981: 488) states “Figurative expression is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect.” It means that figurative expression is an expression that can be substituted by the variations of points which successfully to imply an intended meaning by giving an effect greatly different from what it literally. Or the other words we can say that figurative expression is the expressive use of language in which words are used in a non literal sense to give a particular emphasis or to generate a special effect.

The increasing of using figurative expression will obviously enrich the vocabularies of the users. One can be considered to possess a great number of
vocabularies provided that he or she understands well the meaning of the words or phrases literally. Therefore, figurative expression become essential in the learning vocabularies.

There are two purposes of using figurative expression namely pragmatic purpose and referential purpose. The pragmatic purpose of using figurative expression is to appeal the sense or interest, to clarify, to please, to delight and to surprise. While, the referential purpose of using figurative expression is to describe mental process or state, a concept, a person, an object, a quality or an action more comprehensively and concisely.

2.8 Kinds of Figurative Expression

There are many kinds of figurative expression. Taylor (1981 : 167) has classified figurative expression into three groups. They are as follows:

1. Comparison and substitution : simile, metaphor, allusion, metonymy, analogy and allegory.

2. Representation by substitution : synecdoche, personification, symbol.

3. Contrast by discrepancy and inversion : overstatement, understatement, paradox (oxymoron), irony, verbal, situational and dramatic.

While, Tarigan (1995 : 114) also has classified figurative expression into four groups. They are as follows:

1. Majas pertentangan terdiri dari hiperbola, litotes, ironi, oksimoron, paranomasia, paralipsis dan zeugma. (Contrastive figure of speech consists of hyperbole, litotes, irony, oxymoron, paranomasia, paralipsis and zeugma)
2. Majas perbandingan terdiri dari perumpamaan, kiasan, penginsanan, sindiran dan antithesis. (Comparative figure of speech consists of simile, metaphor, personification, allegory and antithesis)

3. Majas pertautan terdiri dari metonimia, sinekdoke, alusi, eufdimisme, elipsis, inversi dan gradasi. (Linkage consists of metonymy, synecdoche, allusion, euphemism, ellipsis, inversion and gradation.

4. Majas perulangan terdiri dari aliterasi, autanaklasis, kiasmus dan repetisi. (Repetition consists of alliteration, autanaklasis, kiasmus and repetition)

And the figurative expression that will be analyzed in this thesis are metaphor, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, simile, irony and oxymoron that exist in Ecclesiastes.

2.8.1 Metaphor

Metaphor is a kind of figurative expression which is an implicit comparison in which two unlike object are compared by identifying or substituting one with other. Or metaphor is a figure of speech which involves an implied comparison between two relatively unlike things using a form of be.

Metaphor are well known as a stylistic feature of literature, but in fact are found in almost all language use, other than simple explanations of physical events in the material world. All abstract vocabulary is metaphorical, but in most cases the original language hides the metaphor from us, a metaphor compares things, but does not show this with forms such as as, like. This appear is simile.

The following example is regarded as metaphor:

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• Sarah is an angel

In the expression above, shows us an example of metaphor. It is comparing two nouns, Sarah and angel. Possibly Sarah is a kind person just like an angel. So, the expression above metaphorically means Sarah is a kind person.

2.8.2 Simile

Simile compares two unlike object that are regarded similar or almost similar. It expresses a similarity. The object which are compared have to be different kind. Simile is usually indicated by using words like or as.

The following examples is regarded as simile:

1. Your eyes like the star
2. John swims like a fish
3. Peter is as brave as lion

In the first expression, it compares the eyes with the star. It does not mean that your eyes like a star but it means that your eyes are so beautiful. In the second expression, shows the ability of John in swimming is compared with a fish. Fish is an animal that lives in the water and uses fins and tail for swimming. It can swim well. So, the expression above means John can swim well. In the third expression, Peter’s bravery is compared with a lion. Lion is a strong animal that lives in the jungle. So, the expression above means Peter is very brave.

2.8.3 Hyperbole

Hyperbole is one exaggerated way which consists of an exaggerated statement which is not mean to be literary. It is also known as overstatement. It is
used to emphasize a certain point with a statement containing an exaggeration. It exaggerates the quality, size or number of something, sometimes for a fantastic degree in order to emphasize the point more.

The following expression is considered as hyperbole:

   Tom has not seen his mom for ages

In the expression above, the phrase ‘for ages’ indicates as an exaggeration. Through the phrase, the speaker want to emphasize that Tom has never seen his mom for a long time.

2.8.4 Personification

Personification is a kind of figurative expression in which an inanimate object given a human quality. In the other word, personification means giving inhuman thing human qualities. A figure that endows animals, ideals, abstraction and inanimate object with human form, the representing of imaginary creatures of things as having human personalities, intelligence and emotions it is representation of a thing or abstraction in the format of person.

The following examples are considered as personification:

   1. Life can twist your heart, put you in the dark

   2. My heart was asleep

In the first expression, the word ‘heart’ is described as something that has hands and feet to twist and put. The word ‘heart’ is considered as having human quality. So. The expression means everything can happen in our life.

In the second expression, the words ‘asleep’ as used to express human’s personal qualities. In this expression, means a condition that someone has no feeling.
2.8.5 Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a kind of figurative expressions which states one thing partly instead of its universe or vice versa.

The following examples are considered as a synecdoche:

1. God will bless the hand that have given donation for us.
2. We will see the competition between Germany and England.

In the first expression, the word ‘hand’ refers to the people because hand is a part of human body. In the second expression, the words ‘Germany and England’ are used as substitution of some players of both countries.

2.8.6 Oxymoron

Oxymoron is a kind of figurative expression that uses two words are contradictory in meaning to produce a rhetorical effect by means of a concise paradox.

The following example is considered as oxymoron:

Childhood is so bittersweet.

In the expression above, the word ‘bittersweet’ indicates an oxymoron since the word ‘bitter’ and ‘sweet’ are contradictory in meaning.

2.8.7 Irony

Irony is a kind of figurative expression in which real meaning is completely opposed to its surface meaning. Irony is a way of speaking or writing by saying something while the meaning is another. It refers to a situation in which
reality differs from appearance. It occurs in sentence or words when they imply contrast or opposite meaning.

The example below is considered as irony:

Your handwriting is very good so I can not read it.

The expression above can be considered as irony since the expression want to say that his handwriting is very bad.

2.9 Related Study

In compiling this thesis, the writer refers to some previous researches which are related with the thesis. Some of them are follows:

Nurul Ramadhan (2008). The Analysis of Non-Literal meaning in Jascha Richter’s Lyrics in Michael Learns to Rock’s songs. In her thesis, she analyzed non literal meaning that exists in Jascha Richter’s Lyrics in Michael Learns to Rock’s songs. She concludes that there are 50 cases of non literal meaning found in Jascha Richer’s Lyrics in Michael Learns to Rock’s Songs and the most dominant one is hyperbole with total case 17 cases and followed by metaphor (14 cases), simile (6 cases), personification (6 cases), euphemism (6 cases) and irony (1 case).

Syaiful Saleh KS (2008). A Semantic Analysis of Figurative Expressions in Ernest Hemmingway’s the Old Man and the Sea. In his thesis, he analyzed figurative expressions that exists in Ernest Hemmingway’s the Old Man and the Sea. He concludes that there are 67 cases of figurative expressions found in Ernest Hemmingway’s the Old Man and the Sea. They are 27 cases of simile, 20 cases of personification, 8 cases of metaphor, 7 cases of synecdoche, 4 cases of hyperbole and 1 case of oxymoron.
Song Lyrics. In her thesis, she analyzed figurative meaning that exist in the lyrics 
of Scorpion’s songs. She concludes that there are 77 cases of figurative meaning 
found in 10 songs of Scorpion’s and the most dominant one is hyperbole with 
total case 26 cases and followed by synecdoche (6 cases), metaphor (17 cases), 
simile (3 cases), euphemism (3 cases) and metonymy (2 cases). 
Finally, based on the review and as the writer stated on 1.4 above, the figurative 
expression, which will be analyzed in this thesis are metaphor, simile, 
personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, irony and oxymoron that exist in 
Ecclesiastes. The theory which is conducted in analyzing all data in this thesis is 
the semantics theory which is proposed by F.R. Palmer.