CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

I personally believe we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain. ~Jane Wagner

Language is by its very nature a communal thing; that is, it expresses never the exact thing but a compromise - that which is common to you, me, and everybody. ~Thomas Earnest Hulme, Speculations, 1923

Language can be defined as means of communication for human in life. Language is important. When people want to communicate, to make a real social life with the other human beings, making a friend, they use language. When people want to say something to others, they use language. When people want to be supposed by others, they use language. When people want to show our existence in the world, they use language. When people want to express whatever in our mind, they use language. But, it is not just done well when someone has uttered his language. Though it looks, it is not that simple, language is good when someone as a speaker can make others as listener understand what he means.

Whatever people speak, it must have meaning. Meaning is what is referred to or indicated by sounds, words, or signals. The last three terms mentioned before can be named language. So, language and meaning seems cannot be separated, whenever a language is spoken, it must have meaning. Certainly there is science that studies about language and meaning. The study about language is called Linguistics. Linguistics has many branches; they are phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, pragmatics, discourse analysis, and semantics.
Semantics is the branch of linguistics dealing with the meaning of words and sentences. Semantics is concerned with the study of meaning, and the relationship between meaning and language as phenomena, or in the other words, meaning is the main object in Semantics. As others, Semantics has also some parts in it, two of them are meaning properties and meaning relations. In this thesis, the writer will try to explain about both meaning properties and meaning relations.

Study about meaning properties and meaning relation will give us some advantages, especially in understanding about words, sentences, and meaning. Meaning properties is one of several features or components which together can be said to make up the meaning. Meaning properties is like analyzing what the speaker intends by his/ her utterance. It is useful when it requires us to know about the background of the speaker’s intends in his/ her utterance, possibly the speaker’s background of education.

Meaning relations is the relationships of meaning or sense that may be set up between two individual and groups of lexical items. In meaning relations, we may know that one word possibly may have two meanings or more, so we can use it in appropriate to the condition we are within. It can be useful such in this condition, when we are in a condition that requires us to speak politely, we can change the word we want to speak with the other word that has similar meaning but more polite in pronouncing, in order to not insult our listener.

Factually there are many ways to express what in mind about our surroundings, whether it is a critic, or an argument. One of that many ways is literary work. Literary works can be divided into poem, novel, articles, prose, play and essay. For examples, a man makes an essay as a way to criticize the reigning government today in his country. While the other one makes a poem about his argument and
disagreement about the economic policy in his country. In America, Amiri Baraka has written an essay about the September 11th 2001 tragedy, titled I will not apologize, I will not resign.

The word essay derives from the French infinitive essayer, “to try” or “to attempt”. In English essay first meant “a trial” or “an attempt”, and this is still an alternative meaning. An essay is a piece of writing which is often from an author’s personal point of view. Essays can consist of a number of elements, including: literary criticism, political manifestos, learned arguments, observations of daily life, recollections, and reflections of the author. An essay has been defined in a variety of ways. One definition is a “prose composition with a focused subject of discussion” or a “long, systematic discourse”. One of many authors that have ever written essay is Amiri Baraka.

Amiri Baraka who was born in 1934, in Newark, New Jersey, United States of America, is the author of over 40 books of essays, poems, drama, music, history, and criticism, a poet icon and revolutionary political activist who has recited poetry and lectured on cultural and political issues extensively in the USA, Africa, and the Europe.

His writings have become controversy over the years, particularly his advocacy of rape and violence towards white people, and Jews. Critics of his work have alternately described such usage as ranging from being vernacular expressions of Black oppression to outright examples of racism, sexism, homophobia, and that they perceive in his work.
The essay titled "I Will not Apologize, I Will not Resign" talked about; when Amiri Baraka wrote a poem titled "Somebody Blew Up America" which is about the September 11, 2001 attacks. The poem was controversial and full of critical for racism in America, and includes angry depictions of public figures such as Trent Lott, Clarence Thomas, and Condoleezza Rice. The poem also contains lines claiming Israel's involvement in the World Trade Center attacks:

Who knew the World Trade Center was gonna get bombed  
Who told 4000 Israeli workers at the Twin Towers  
To stay home that day  
Why did Sharon stay away?  
...
Who know why Five Israelis was filming the explosion  
And cracking they sides at the notion

Baraka stated that he believed that Israelis and President (George W. Bush) were involved in the September 11th attacks, telling what he described as information that had been reported in the American and Israeli press and on Jordanian television. He denies that the poem is anti-Semitic, but points to its accusation which is directed against Israelis, rather than Jews as a people. The Anti-Defamation League denounced the poem as anti-Semitic, though Baraka and his defenders defined his position as Anti-Zionism.

So that is why the writer is interested in analyzing meaning properties and meaning relations in Amiri Baraka’s essay “I will not apologize, I will not resign”. The writer wants to know what Amiri Baraka feels when he wrote this essay that time, and to whom he wants to show his feeling and arguments; and how he wrote it, by analyzing the meaning properties and meaning relations in it.
1.2 Problems of the Study

According to background above, the problems of the analysis are formulated as follows:

a. What types of meaning properties and meaning relations found in Amiri Baraka’s Essay “I Will Not Apologize, I Will Not Resign”?
b. Which is the most dominant type of both meaning properties and meaning relations used in Amiri Baraka’s Essay “I Will Not Apologize, I Will Not Resign”?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

By concerning to the problems of the analysis as mentioned above, the writer does expect to be able to achieve the objectives below:

a. To find out each type of both meaning properties and meaning relations found in Amiri Baraka’s Essay “I Will Not Apologize, I Will Not Resign”.
b. To find out the most dominant types of both each meaning properties and meaning relations found in Amiri Baraka’s Essay “I Will Not Apologize, I Will Not Resign”.

1.4 Scope of the Study

In any literary works, there are so many types of both meaning properties and meaning relations can be found out. In the process of analyzing the problems of this thesis, it is just limited on the analysis only in the essay titled “I Will Not Apologize, I Will Not Resign” by Amiri Baraka.
This analysis is focused on meaning properties based on Leech (1981: 29), is divided into meaningfulness, ambiguity, redundancy, anomaly, and contradictory. And meaning relations based on the theory from Saeed (2003: 63) are antonymy, synonymy, hyponymy, homonymy, meronymy, and polysemy; found in Amiri Baraka’s Essay “I Will Not Apologize, I Will Not Resign”.

1.5 Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this thesis can explore and add knowledge for students of language in terms of semantics, especially in both terms of meaning properties and meaning relations. The reader of this thesis can understand how to describe the semantic component of a word or how to define the semantic field of a word. This thesis can also improve increase the vocabulary of students by knowing about meaning relations.