

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter is the beginning of the whole paper. This chapter presents a general description of this paper and explain for choosing the focus of the research. It consists the background of the research, statement of problems, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Background of The Research

Language is important for human communication. According to Wardhaugh, Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbol used for human communication. Arbitrary means that language is selected randomly without reason. So language can be formed in every kind of sign that there is no reason why the concept of the thing and the language is used. In addition, Walija (1996, p.4) in (Schoolash 2011) explained the definition of language of communication is the most complete and effective way to convey ideas, messages, intentions, feelings and opinion to others. Language becomes a tool for obtaining information either from written or spoken form. In every human life, not all things can be expressed in spoken language, there is also a sign that can be source of information that has a meaning.

The first concern in the study of language (linguistics) is phonology, that concerns with the sound of language. Sound is being the first way for

communicating between the mother and the baby when the baby was born. Human communicate and understand language through the sound they heard. Although language can be formed by the written form, not all spoken language is easy to written. There are the sounds that sometimes are difficult to explain like the sounds come from a things, nature and other sound that human beings unlean by themselfe. Around the whole of sounds, there are sounds that can be heard such like the sound of object of broken thing “crack”, sound of splashing water “splash”, and the sound of vehicle “brrmmm”. There are the sounds of animals such as the sound of cat “meow”, the sound of frog “croak” and the sound of tiger “roar”. In addition, there are also the natural sounds that is often heard like the sound of wind in the sea “shhhhh”. Those sounds is called onomatopoeia.

In Merriam Webster online Dictionary, the definition of onomatopoeia is the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it. Onomatopoeia is the way to built the sense by simple putting the sound heard into written text. The relation between the sound and the meaning is conventional because there is no rule to put some sound into the exactly sound of a thing. In a recent study, Pateda (2010, p. 91) defines that onomatopoeic words are words that sound similar to the sounds they represent. Onomatopoeic word is the imitation of the sound of object or the sound of action through their works.

Understanding onomatopoeia is the same as understanding language because the form of written sounds (words) can be either information, signs or meaning that can be learned. Word is the smallest of unit in language that has meaning and symbol. In onomatopoeic words, sounds are related to meaning via

level of words by seeing the form of the word and to be formed. In linguistics, semantics are used to understand the meaning contained in every language forms. Understanding semantic means trying to interpret the meaning of a language, including the meaning of onomatopoeic words.

Understanding the meaning not only through the words or sentences in written or spoken, it can be done by understanding the situation where the language is used. In a recent study, Devlin (2006, p. 11) states that situation semantics provides a relational theory of meaning. In its simplest form, the meaning of an expression it taken to be a relation between an utterance or discourse situation, a speaker's connection function, and a described situation. Situation also affect the meaning that exist in a language. It can also be attributed to understanding the meaning of onomatopoeic words, because onomatopoeic words can be formed not only because of the conventional relation between the meaning and the sound. It might be formed by the circumstances in which the onomatopoeic word is formed.

For fiction writers, onomatopoeia is a commonly used sound device and its really important to built reader's imagination. It is usually found in novel, poem, advertisement, children's story book, and exactly in comics. Writers of all ages have to enriched their work with onomatopoeic words because onomatopoeic words help them to provide "sound" for support the concept of their work. By using onomatopoeia, the sound imagery is being more alive and can enhance the reader's imagination.

Comic becomes the main source of onomatopoeia readings because in addition to the words presented, the visual images presented in comic must be explained by a two-dimensional images that is connecting with a description through the words. Comic uses spoken language in the form of written text. In a recent study, Eisner (1985, p. 7) argued that comic communicate in a language that relies on a visual experience common to both creator and audience. Comic can be called reading in a wider sense than that term commonly applied. So, reading a comic is one of the way the reader get any kind of onomatopoeic words through the conversation contained in the comic. By reading a comic, the reader see a written conversation with visual image to clarify the situation and to get an easy understanding of onomatopoeic words in the form of image-word in the comic.

The format of comic present a word and image and the reader is required to understand visual and meaning interpretation of it. Eisner (1985, p.8) also argued that there is two regiments of comic, first are the regiments of art such as symmetry, perspective, brush stroke and second are the regiments of literature such as grammar, plot and syntax. So reading a comic is an act of aesthetic perception and intellectual persuit. Reading a comic also learning about language used in the comic to communicate the characters of the comic.

This study choose comic as the material for data retrieval because by reading the comic reader can know the expression of characters that are visualized through the image. So it will be known whether the meaning that the speaker wants to convey can be perceived or not by the hearer. Especially, onomatopoeia

is the big part of comic to express the situation and the action of every characters or every situation.

In this modern era comic into a practical reading material because comic can be read not only in the form of a book but it would be more practical if the reader opens it through the application. By the development of technology, comic reading becomes even easier so that people can easily get a reading material to get the benefit of entertain the reader while getting a learning through the dialogues that the illustrator conveys through the comics.

One of the popular online comic sites today is webtoon, webtoon is one of the naver corporation products developed in Korea. Through the Webtoon, thousands of readers in the world can access the comics for free. Stories delivered on Webtoon apps are very diverse. There are many genres promoted by Webtoon creators ranging from action, thriller, comedy, romance and drama. One of the genres that became the favorite among teenagers as the most webtoon users is romance. Many romance stories are created and often become the top reading on Webtoon site. One of the most favorite romance fantasy webtoons based on the rank for today is "Siren's Lament" created by instantmiso (pen name). "Siren's Lament" is a Webtoon that tells about the tale of Siren, a mitology creature that lives in the sea. Lyra, the main character, must ready for her comfortably lifestyle suddenly goes astray when she accidentally plunges into the world of sirens. In her life, she entangled in a curse, Lyra will learn that her world may be a lot bigger that she ever imagined as a siren.

The reason to choose onomatopoeia because onomatopoeia is important to be learned especially for understanding this kind of word in the way in reading a comic because every word has a meaning. Onomatopoeia has different meaning in different context with the common word such like “ring” in onomatopoeic word is different with “ring” in common word. Then, onomatopoeia is a part of aesthetic form of written text usually in the form of literary works. As the language student, the writer thinks that leaning onomatopoeia is important especially for knowing the function of it and the way this words is formed in every ways by using any linguistics theory especially in semantic. By knowing the used of onomatopoeia, all writer or comic creator can built the imagination of the reader. Based on the writer’s experience, the writer found the dictionary of onomatopoeia and there are a lot of onomatopoeic words there. By all of the onomatopoeic words, the writer can not knowing the used of it in which situation because there is no description of the using of the onomatopoeic words there. So, the writer decides to develop this paper to understanding the using of onomatopoeia based on the situation and the meaning itself. The data of this study gained from the original Webtoon written in English as the main object in order to understand deeper of onomatopoeia.

The researcher found the previous study as like “An Analysis On Onomatopoeic Words and Their Translation Procedures In Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban And Its Translation Version” by Leni Tiwianti which focuses on the translation strategy in English and Indonesia. The other research from Eliza “An analysis of Onomatopoeias in Garfield Comic” that focuses on the

lexical meaning and contextual meaning in the onomatopoeic words. Then, the last study “The Study of Onomatopoeic in English and Indonesia Webcomic Orange Marmalade (Cognitive Semiotic of Sign)” by Rini Indriani that focuses on the equivalence meaning of the onomatopoeic words. This study would continue the study from Rini that has been suggested in her study.

Based on those previous studies, the researcher analyzes the same case in a different way analyzing. The researcher will focus in the way onomatopoeia is taken to produce the meaning based on the semantic features in webtoon “Siren’s Lament” and also focus on identifying the function of meaning related to the onomatopoeic words found in webtoon “Siren’s Lament” based on the situation explained in it.

Based on the explanation, this study will analyze the onomatopoeic words found in webtoon by the study entitled “Onomatopoeic Words in Webtoon *Siren’s Lament* by Instantmiso”.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of study, the statement problem will be formulated as follows:

1. What is the meaning of onomatopoeia from the conversational context in webtoon *Siren’s Lament* based on situation semantics?
2. What is the function of the meaning of the onomatopoeic words found in webtoon *Siren’s Lament*?

### 1.3 Research Objective

Based on the background of study above, there are some research objective in this study the researcher just limit the purpose of this research into two purposes:

1. To analyze the meaning of onomatopoeia from conversational context in webtoon *Siren's Lament* based on the situation semantics.
2. To identify the fuction of language of the onomatopoeic words found in webtoon *Siren's Lament*.

### 1.4 Research Significance

The researcher can get many experiences which means to develop a research. The research significance of this research are:

1. Academically, bring the improvement of knowledge about linguistics especially about onomatopoeia and semantic, especially for student of linguistic subject.
2. Practically, give the knowledge about how the sound in webcomic is taken based on the situation and the context of the story itself.

This research can provide practical contribution for students finding this research can provide useful activities and direction for successful implementation of practical daily life.



### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In this sub-chapter, the researcher writes about some terms that will often be found or used in this study. In order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding, some terms are clarified as follows:

1. **Onomatopoeia** is the naming of a thing or action by a vocal imitation of the sound associated with it. Onomatopoeia is the way to built the sense by simple putting the sound heard into written text. Onomatopoeia related to the culture of the given language, it belongs to sounds, symbolism, imitative sound symbolism to be exact. Onomatopoeia related to the meaning via level of word are formed. Onomatopoeia is the way language creat a new words by imitating the sound of an action, thing, and animal.
2. **Word** is the smallest unit in language that has meaning. The meaning of words is to be derived from the relations between words, concepts and things in the real world.
3. **Webtoon** is comics published in a website or aplication which use internet network to access. Webtoon is originally developed by “Line”, one of mobile application. Comic is one of form of reading text with image as the visualization. Comic communicate in a language that relies a visual experience common bot from the creator and the reader. Comic is an activity of reading in a wider sense than that the term is commonly applied. The situation in comic describe by every panel in the comic.

4. **Siren's Lament** is a comic that releases in Webtoon website. To open this webtoon, the reader should log in in the application (for android or iOs) or open it in website.
5. **Semantic** is the technical term use to refer to the study of meaning. Situation semantics distinguishes two different kinds of meaning. The meaning-in-use is induced by the abstract meaning, with the former a particular instantiation of the latter. In the case of an utterance of a sentence, the meaning-in-use is closely related to the propositional content. In the case of individual words, the meaning-in-use provides a link between the utterance situation and the object (possibly an abstract object, such as a relation) in the world that the word denotes.
6. **Situation semantics** is the meaning of an expression which is taken to be a relation between an utterance or discourse situation, a speaker's connection function, and a described situation. According to Devlin's theory (2006), there are utterance situation, resource situation and focal situation.
7. **Function of language**, based on Jakobson's theory (1960), there are referential function, emotive function, conative function, phatic function, metalingual function and poetic function.