# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

In daily life, human has a communication tool to interact with others, it is called as language. Without language, human beings will not be able to interact with others, as a result they cannot build a good relationship. Language is a tool for the exchange of information, it will be essential for human life. Kreidler (1998) says, "language is creative, our communication is not restricted to a fixed set of topics, people constantly produce and understand new messages in response to new situations and new experiences". It means when people use language to communicate there will a new vocabulary to add their language in communication. People can talk anything that they want to talk, because communication is used in social life. Therefore, people have to really know the meaning of it.

In addition, Fernald (2016:228) says "as regards the use of words, language in its broadest sense denotes all the uttered sounds and their combinations into words and sentences that human beings employ for the communication of thought, and in a more limited sense, the words or combinations forming a means of communication among the members of a single nation, people, or race". It means, sounds that make up a word, a phrase or sentences that is used by humans to communicate it called a language. Based on Team FME (2013: 9), "communicate is an essential life skill and everyone has their own style that they naturally adapt and develop to suit the different environments they operate in.". In other word, language is a something important to communicate with other people. According to Wood (2009: 27), "communication is

a systemic process in which individuals interact with and through symbols to create and interpret meanings". It seems that language is the best communication tool. Communication is emphasized on the meaning conveyed by both parties. Learning the meaning means learning how people is able to understand and comprehend the language essentially. Therefore, a study of semantics is needed to understand human expression through language.

Hurford et all (2007:1) state that "semantics is the study of meaning in language". It means studying semantics is trying to interpret a meaning in a word, a phrase or sentence. To construct a sentence in order to be understood, humans are required to follow the grammatical rules or obey the rules of the choice of words by lexical relation system that applies in a language. The branch of semantics that deals with the word meaning is called lexical relation. The researcher considers that lexical relation is included in semantics study. People shall approach the problem of meaning from the point of view of sense relation. It means that lexical relation looks at meaning in utterance when people covey or say something.

According to Saeed (2003:63) lexical relation consists of synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, homonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, member-collection and portion-mass. From all of them, the researcher will only focus on the research on synonymy. Many people assume that the synonymy is a word that has the equation. The definition is a notion that has been unusual; it means everyone must know what is meant by synonymy. For example, the word 'large' is synonym to 'big', and 'tall' and 'high', also 'girl' that synonym with 'woman'. However in the fact, not all words have the same meaning and can be used in the context of the same sentence as well.  Therefore, the researcher will examine the synonymy that is contained in a word.

Synonymy is a word that has a similar meaning. As said by Reimer (2004:151) "words are synonymous if their separately established meaning is identical".  Moreover, Saeed (2003:65)

says that "synonymy is different phonological word which has the same or very similar meanings".

In addition, Kreidler (1998: 96) says that "synoyms can be found in noun, verb, adjective and adverb". Furthermore, the researcher wants to analyse the synonym of adjective. Adjective is a word that describes name a place, a person, a thing, or an idea. The reason why the researcher wants to analyse this topic is because synonymy plays an important part of the learning vocabulary. It can help the readers to increase vocabulary in English. When someone talks with other, they need high stocks vocabularies to convey a message in a good and perfect language. So it can be understood by the listener. By knowing more vocabulary of words in synonymy, at least someone can know what words that should be used in sentence. When communicating, someone must sort and select words that deserve to be in say. The vocabulary must be mastered well because the vocabulary will support the success in learning the language. Without an adequate vocabulary mastery then the purpose of studying the language will not be achieved.

The researcher chooses *Matilda* novel as the object in this research. This novel tells about the story of a little child who has intelligence and cleverness which outstanding for the size of a child. Matilda was her name; she can read before reaching 5 years old. Matilda's parents assume Matilda as annoying child. Miss Honey was a teacher at the school, she was very kind and compassionate, and all of kids loved her. But Matilda has a principal who is very cruel and wicked, she did not like children. She was always being evil to people around, she was Miss Trunchbull. Then why the researcher chooses this novel is because Roald Dahl used many adjectives to described objects or figures that contained in this novel. For that reason, this novel is very suitable for this research.

According to the earlier research, the researcher has found the similar research about synonym that had done previously by some researchers. First, the research belong to Efa Faoziyatussa'adah (2012) which is entitled "*The translation of synonymous word from English into Bahasa indonesia in Rowling's Novel Harry Potter and The Sorcerer's Stone*". The result of this research is the English synonymous words are translated into the same equivalent word in *Bahasa Indonesia* based on their similar meaning and the same part of speech. In addition, the same equivalent target language is used because there are no other words to state the intended word. For the different translation appear in the novel is based in the differences in the meaning specifically, the adjustment to the context of sentence and Indonesia grammatical structure, and the last one in the connotation considering in the target language.

Second, the research had been done by Genia Fitri Yuslihati (2005) which is entitled "*Synonym Meaning in John Steinbeck's-The Grapes of Wrath*". The result of this research is the word for the same meaning and makes the sentence according to synonyms word.

Third, the research belong to Iceu Komariah (2005) which is entitled "*Diction Analysis on George Orwell's Novel 'Animal Farm': Synonym of Nouns*". The result of this research is the study of diction (specialized on synonym of nouns) has been used to find out the reason why the certain word selected, and the others are not, whereas they are synonymous.

Fourth, the research had done by Nur Liana Rachmawati (2013) which is entitled "*Synonymous Word Translation in Modern Sundanese Poetry: Voice from West Java*". The result of this research is features as word characteristic then determine appropriateness of synonymous words translation. Moreover, there are two factors caused the synonymous word translation; there are context and translation techniques. At most, the technique that is used by the translator is concretization. Then the other techniques that also used are logical derivation, modulation and transposition. Further, context that is showed in each word is supporting the translation into synonymous words.

From all of the previous study above, the researcher assumes that the difference of this research focuses on synonymy. Then the researcher entitled this research "**The Synonymy of Adjective in Roald Dahl's** *Matilda* **Novel: A Semantics Study**".

### 1.2 Statement of Problem

This research discusses synonymy of adjective in novel entitled *Matilda*. There are many adjectives found in this novel. Therefore, the researcher will look for adjectives that have similar meanings. The researcher chooses this novel as the object and uses Lyon's (1995) theory to analyse the object.

Based on the explanation above, it can be underlined that the appeared problem in this research is adjective that have many synonyms. Then the researcher determines the research questions as follows:

1. How is the synonymy of adjectives used in Roald Dahl's *Matilda* novel?
2. What kinds synonymy of adjectives that found in Roald Dahl's *Matilda* novel?

### 1.3 Research Objective

From the research questions above, there are two objectives in this research, as follows:

1. To explain how the synonymy of adjective used in Roald Dahl's *Matilda* novel
2. To know what kinds synonymy of adjective in Roald Dahl's *Matilda* novel.

### 1.4 Research Significance

Theoretically, this research is expected to be useful for the reader to learn about the synonym as one study of semantics and reviewing the semantics deeply.

Practically, this research is hoped to be one of the references for next researcher to conduct similar research about synonymy.

### 1.5 Definition of Key terms

Semantic : the study of meaning

Lexical relations : the study of systematic, meaning related structures of words.

Synonymy : the word that has a similar meaning.

Adjective : a word that describes name a place, a person, a thing, or an idea.

Synonymy of adjective : the adjectives which are synonymous with other adjective