

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter comprises general outlines of present study. It begins with background of the study, statement of problem, purpose of research, significance of research, previous research, conceptual framework and organization of paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language has a great role in the life of human beings (Bloomfield, 1993:1). It never rises alone; instead, it does with the development of human civilization. Human use language to express their feeling, response phenomenon, share idea, criticize news, and deliver important news derived from unlimited space and time. This statement is supported by *Webster's News Collegiate Dictionary* (1996:759), "Language is a system of vocal sounds and combinations of such sounds to which meaning is attributed, used for the expression or communication of thoughts and feelings".

Wardaugh (1972:3) says that language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbol used for human communication. Language, according to Sapir (in Saeed, 1997: 42), is "a guide to social reality." It means that the most important part from language definition is communication. Due to this fact, human realize that language has a big contribution in human daily life, it will conduct us to understand the message of communication through the meaning. Meaning is crucial aspect of language and a way to get the message of textual

communication. In linguistics, meaning is considered as a core study of semantics (Leech, 1977:9).

One of communication form is translation. Nida and Taber (1982:12) define translation as, “Translating consists in reproducing in the receptor language the closest natural equivalent of the source language message, first in terms of meaning and secondly in terms of style.” Peter Newmark (1982:7) characterizes translation as “a craft consisting in the attempt to replace a written message and/or statement in one language by the same message and/or statement in another language.”

One of translation process result is the Noble Qur’an, one of the Great Arabic-English translations. Noble Quran is the way of life for the Muslim. It is written by using Arabic Language which has been translated to many languages, includes into English. In translating it, there are many versions, such as Abdullah Yusuf Ali’s version (*The Holy Qur’an: English Translation of the Meanings and Commentary*, 1973), Arbery’s version [*The Koran Interpreted*, 1980], Marmaduke Pitchkall’s version (*The Meaning of the Holy Quran*, 1930), and Mohammed Asad’s version (*The Message of the Quran*, 1980). Every translation has different translation styles. But, from those translations of Qur’an, Abdullah Yusuf Ali’s translation is the most popular in this world, both in east and west. This is a reason for researcher in choosing Abdullah Yusuf Ali’s Qur’an translation as object (source of data) of this research.

Moreover, it must be clarified there are two kinds of translation, a) literal translation and b) the translation of the meanings of the Glorious Qur'an. As for

the former, it is based on translating the verses of the Qur'an word by word. One of obstacle in translating Qur'an is translation of polysemical word. Qina'i (2011:27) states that this translation is a thorny issue that led to both different interpretations and different translation of the holy text. Related to polysemy, Ullman (1972:159) defines, "the same word may have two or more meaning, this situation has been known as polysemy." According to Hurford (1983:123), "Polysemy is one where a word has several very closely related senses." From the statements of Ullman and Hurford above, it can be taken a conclusion that the polysemy is a group of words that have more than one meaning, however, those meaning are very closely related senses.

Translators of Qur'an translated polysemical word by usage of "synonyms", includes Abdullah Yusuf Ali. In the preliminary study, the writer found an Arabic word in Qur'an has been translated by Yusuf Ali with usage of some different English words. For example:

| No | Arabic Word/Phrase | Verse | English Translation | Location |
|----|--------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| 1. | صراط | أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ﴿٦﴾ | 6. Show us the straightway. | QS Al-fatihah (1) :6 |
| | | يَهْدِي بِهِ اللَّهُ مَنِ اتَّبَعَ رِضْوَانَهُ سُبُلَ السَّلَامِ وَيُخْرِجُهُم مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ بِإِذْنِهِ - وَيَهْدِيهِمْ إِلَى صِرَاطٍ مُسْتَقِيمٍ ﴿١٦﴾ | 16. wherewith Allah guideth all who seek His good pleasure to ways of peace and safety, and led them out of darkness, by His will, unto the light,- guided them to a <u>path</u> that is straight. | QS Al-Maedah (5): 16 |

The researcher assumes that this phenomenon occurs because word relationships in Arabic and English are very different. In English, the word type

relationship to each other is not derived by using the same word root, for example word “book”, “write”, “library”, and “publisher” has not single root or derivative. Whereas in Arabic, those words have a bound using a single root, for example, *kitâbun, kataba, maktabun, mukâtabah*. That words using single root is (كتب); so, in one word of Arabic have one or more translate in English.

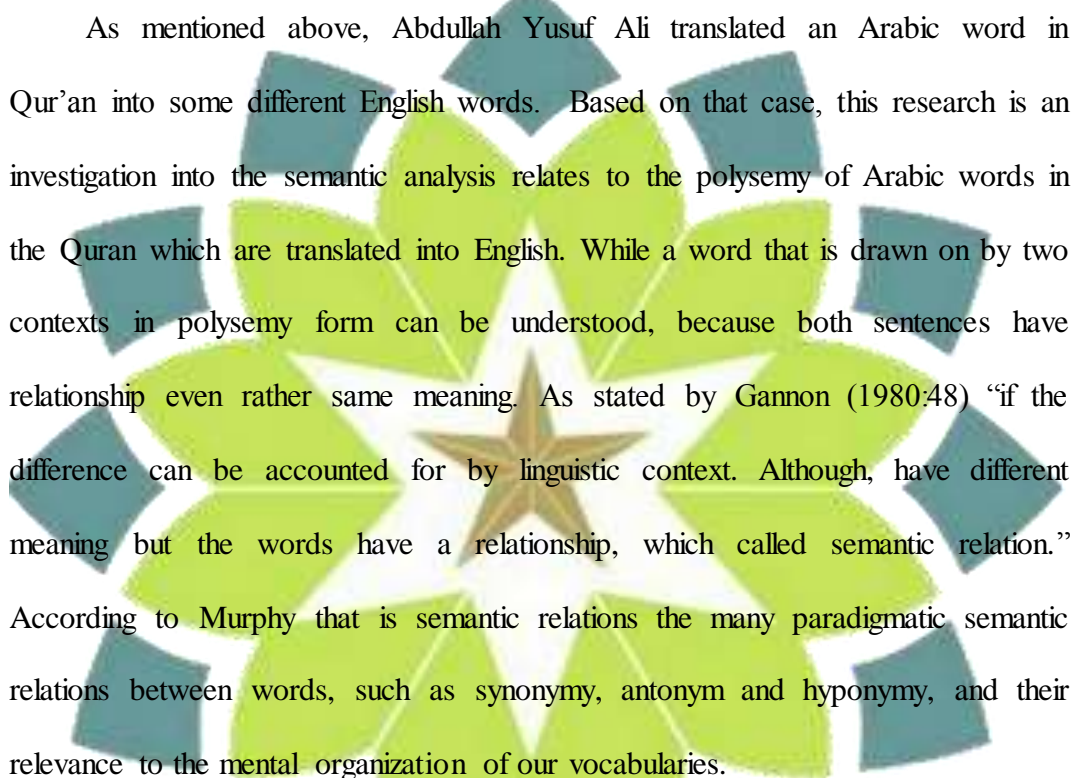
Differentiations in translating an Arabic word in Qur’an could occur because of different context. In this case, the language of a society may show regular variations from that used by other groups of speakers of that language (Fromkin & Rodman, 1993:276). So, the word can having some meaning if in the different context, and it the meaning is called contextual meaning.

According to Abdul Chaer (1995:290) that contextual meaning is meaning of a word in one context where it is connected with the condition such as the place, time and environment. Contextual meaning in a text closely related to the relationships that exist between sentences in the text. In the literature, these relations are usually called *semantic* relations. Semantic relation is relations among meanings (Miller et al., 1990:3). Some of these sources claim that semantic relations are sense relations (Lyons 1977:32) or meaning relations (Allan 1986:7).

Based on the information mentioned above, the researcher concerns to analyze and to compare Arabic word in Qur’an and their translations. One factor to discover it is by examining the diction or the structure of the structure of the sentence. It is important for the researcher, because it can be seen whether the diction is appropriate or not. Have the source language and the target language got

an equivalent meaning and goal? Does the meaning in English language is also an important matter naturally? Is the translator add to or omit expression from the source language is another question?

1.2 Statement of Problem



As mentioned above, Abdullah Yusuf Ali translated an Arabic word in Qur'an into some different English words. Based on that case, this research is an investigation into the semantic analysis relates to the polysemy of Arabic words in the Quran which are translated into English. While a word that is drawn on by two contexts in polysemy form can be understood, because both sentences have relationship even rather same meaning. As stated by Gannon (1980:48) "if the difference can be accounted for by linguistic context. Although, have different meaning but the words have a relationship, which called semantic relation." According to Murphy that is semantic relations the many paradigmatic semantic relations between words, such as synonymy, antonym and hyponymy, and their relevance to the mental organization of our vocabularies.

In order to reach purpose of this research, the writer decides to investigate some problems of translating of polysemical Arabic word in Qur'an. According to Arikunto (1998:19), "to enable the research to be conducted appropriately, a writer should formulate the problem as clearly as possible". Based on statement of the problem above, the researcher formulates some questions forms as follow:

1. Why an Arabic word on Qur'an translated into English by Abdullah Yusuf Ali with different words?

2. What is the relation between Arabic word in Qur'an and its English translation based on semantics analysis?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

According to the research questions above, it will be identified several purposes below which are:

1. to analyze some factors why an Arabic word on the Qur'an had been translated into English by Qur'an translator with different words;
2. to analyze relationship between Arabic word in Qur'an and its English translation based on semantics analysis;

1.4 Significance of the Research

The significance of this research lies on two foundations, academic and non-academic contribution. Academically, significance of this research are:

1. giving a chance to apply what the researcher knows about English and Arabic to develop the ability of mastering both English and Arabic;
2. giving explanation in distinguishing and determining polysemy forms in language context Source Language (SL) and Target Language (TL), especially in translation of Qur'an.

Non-academically, this research is expected to be a helpful source in comprehending meaning of Qur'an, as guide of Muslim life way.

1.5 Previous Research

Research on polysemy had carried out on some works. They are:

- a) *Polisemi dalam Bahasa Bali* (Bandana, 2002); in this research, Bandana concluded that polysemy in Bali language can be seen from its form, the category he and change its meaning;
- b) *The Semantics Analysis of Polysemy and Homonymy and Their Usage as Figure of Speech on Thomas Hardy's Novel "The Mayor of Casterbridge"* (Widodo Budiman, 2007). Widodo Budiman's study focuses on forms and differences of polysemy and homonymy in Hardy's novel *The Mayor of Castebridge*.

Besides, there is several previous research which concerns to study "English translation of Quran". They are:

- a) *Comparison of Passive Voice Between English and Arabic: Analysis on The Last Chapter of English Translation Qur'an Authorized by Abdullah Yusuf Ali* (Rifki, 2006); this graduating paper concerns to study the write tries to analyze the English translation Qur'an, especially the passive form that founded inside al-Qur'an as the object of this analysis, because there were similarities and differences between passive in English and Arabic;
- b) *An Analysis of Short Surah Arabic-English Translation of the Holy Qur'an: The comparative Study of Zidan's and King Fahd's Version* (Tatang Ruhayatna, 2007); this graduating paper focuses to study about
1) kind of translation in Quran, 2) the addition or reduction in

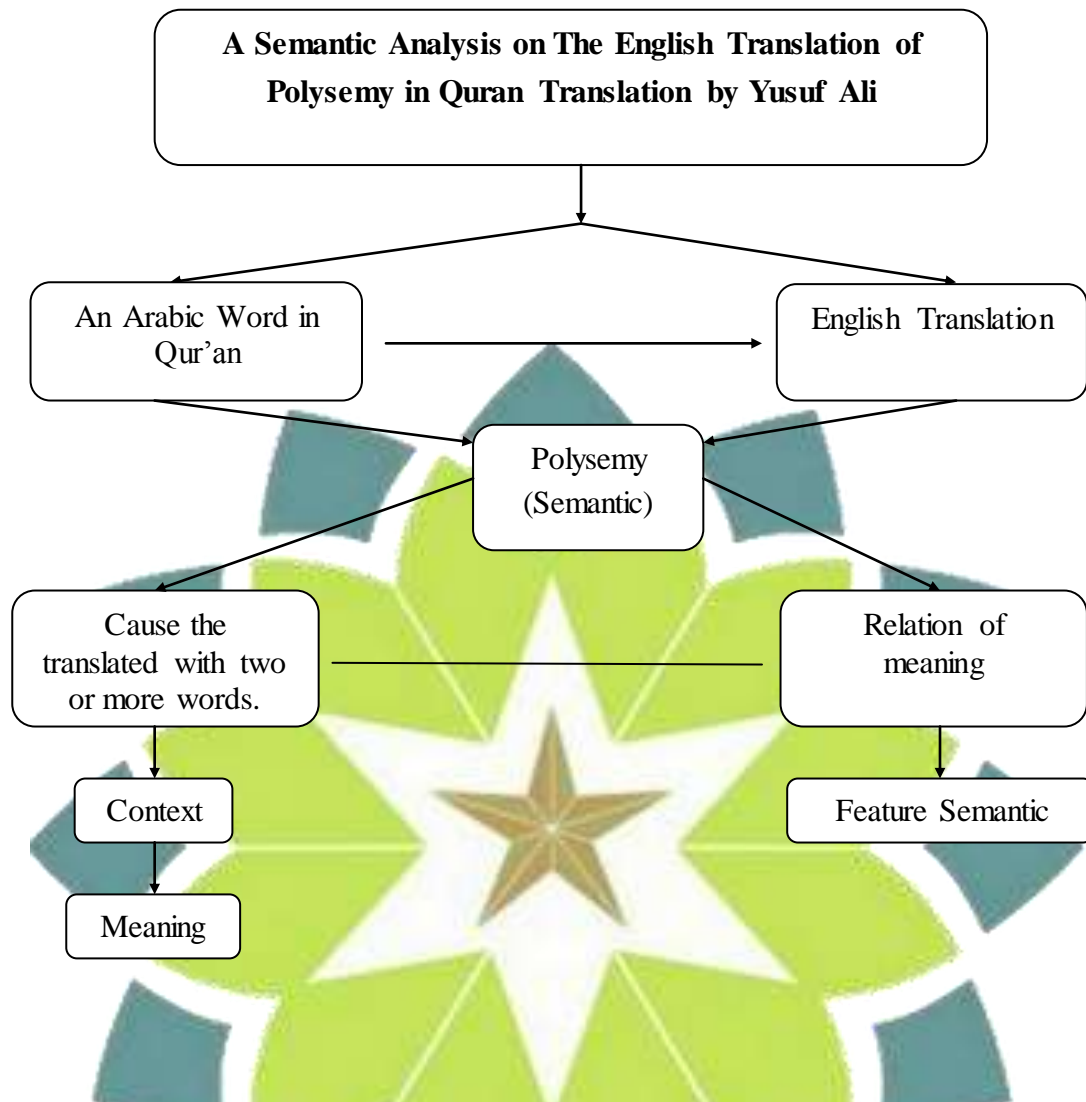
translation of Holy Qur'an, and 3) readability and understand of Holy Qur'an's translation.

Obviously, this study has different with those previous researches. This research focus to study some topics which relates with polysemy in Qur'an and its English translation , especially in Abdullah Yusuf Ali's translation of Holy Qur'an. They are 1) factors which cause an Arabic word in Qur'an can be translated into some different English words, 2) relation between Arabic word in Quran and its English translation words, 3) relation among English translation words.

1.6 Conceptual Framework

Semantics is the study of sentence meaning and word meaning. Semantics, as the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use, is a descriptive subject. It is an attempt to describe and understand the nature of the knowledge about meaning in their language that people have from knowing the language. It is not a prescriptive enterprise with an interest in advising or pressuring speakers or writers into abandoning some meanings and adopting others (though pedants can certainly benefit from studying the semantics of a language they want to lay down rules about, to become clear on what aspects of conventional meaning they dislike and which they favor) (Griffiths, 2006:15).

This research will be focus on the words of polysemy, between Arabic word and English translation. With the interpretation of a single word in have two or more meaning in different contexts, in other words, for the problem of polysemy.



1.7 Organization Paper

The paper consists of five chapter and it will be described as follows:

Chapter I : The first chapter is introduction. This chapter consists of background of problem, statement of problem, purposes and significances of the research, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II : The second chapter is theoretical foundation. This chapter consists of Polysemy, Language of Qur'an, and Translation.

Chapter III : The third chapter is methodology of research. This chapter consists of method of research, Data, source of data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analysis data.

Chapter IV : The Fourth is finding and discussion; It comprises factor of differentiation of translating polysemical word of Qur'an into English and Relation between Arabic word in Qur'an and its English Translation.

Chapter V : The fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion.

