

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the background of research, statements of problem, research objectives, research significances, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Research

Human can sense what is happening around them. In daily life, there are many sounds that can be heard. There are the sounds that sometimes are difficult to explain as the sounds come from a thing, nature, and other sound that human beings unlearn by themselves. Around the whole of sounds, some sounds can be heard such as the sound of splashing water “*splash*”, sound of a whistle “*tweet!*”, and the sound of a clock “*tick-tock*”. There are the sounds of animals such as the sound of dog “*woof*”, sound of cat “*meow*”, and sound of bee “*buzz*”. Those sounds are called onomatopoeia.

Onomatopoeia is a part of language which is formed from the imitation of natural sound (Bredin, 1996). It means that the natural sound and the word which resembles it are similar. Onomatopoeia is the way to built the sense by simple putting the sound heard into written text. The relation between sound and the meaning is conventional because there is no rule to put some sound into the exactly sound of a thing. Pateda (2010: 91) defines that onomatopoeia words are words that sound similar to the sounds they represent. Onomatopoeia 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 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 onomatopoeia words.

Onomatopoeia generally occurs in literary work such as poetry and prose, and in popular culture such as movies, comics and so on. However, the most dominant work in the use of onomatopoeia is comic. Comic becomes the main source of onomatopoeia readings because in addition to the words presented, the visual images presentend in comic must be explained by a two-dimentional images that is connecting with a description through the words. Comic uses spoken language in the form of written text. Eisner (1985: 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 onomatopoeia 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 onomatopoeia words in the form of image word in the comic.

In this era, comic has been developed significantly as the times goes by. Comic into a practical reading material because comic can be read not only in the form of 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 people can easily get a reading material to get the benefit of entertain the reader while getting a learning through the dialogues that the illustator conveys through the comics.

One of the popular online comic application today is webtoon. Webtoon is a combination of web and cartoon. Webtoon is a type digital comic that originated in South Korea which available in web and playstore. In the webtoon, thousand of

readers in the world can access the comic for free. Webtoon provides a variety of comic genres in it such as horror, thriller, romance, comedy, drama, sci-fi, and action. One of the most favorite romance fantasy in webtoon is “*Refund High School*” by Lico. *Refund High School* is a comic that tells about an teenager named Aru. She died before her desire are fulfilled, then leaving her two choices, reincarnation into something random or three years at Refund High School to become anything she wants. *Refund High School* has a high rating of eleven million redears. The reason *Refund High School* comic became one of the favorite comic in webtoon because the fantasy romance genre is still a favorite of reader for all ages, especially for girls. Then in some episodes, the author give a backsound so that the reader can get into the story more deeply. On the other hand, the researcher chose *Refund High School* as the object of research because there are many onomatopoeia in the comic *Refund High School*.

There are several reasons why the researcher choose onomatopoeia as research especially in linguistics. The first reason, the reseracher sees onomatopoeia is important to be discussed, as onomatopoeia words make some fascination and imagination for comic writer over readers. The second reason is onomatopoeia words has symbol itself, such as the word *argh* is symbolize a person’s feeling. This word symbolizes the condition of being angry with something or someone. The third reason onomatopoeia related to semantic. We can find out the meaning of onomatopoeia which is seen from lexical meaning and contextual meaning, for example the word *knock*. Based on the dictionary, the word *knock* refers to strike a surface noisily to attract attention. The word of *knock* is categorized as lexical meaning because the meaning of knock is available in a dictionary. On the other hand, there is the word 'ZZZZ' which describes the character in the comic that he sleeps. Thus, this word shows the contextual meaning. Even the word has not been noted in dictionary, we can know the meaning because the context described this

word. In addition, the writer also found the existence of onomatopoeia based on sound symbolism.

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 research, the researcher also reviews some previous studies from other researchers who have already done some similar studies. In relation to the topic of research to be studied, the literature review can be accountability effort of this research. From the literature search result, researcher has found several researches that discuss about onomatopoeia, including as follows.

The first by Marietta Dea Karina entitled “*English Onomatopoeia in Children’s Books: Types and Readers Understanding (2017)*”. Published by The Faculty Of Letters in English Letters majors of Sanata Dharma University. In this research focuses on how childrens understand an onomatopoeia words in as storybook using qualitative methods and theory of onomatopoeia from Hugh Bredin’s. She found twenty eight words classified as direct onomatopoeia, eight words as associative onomatopoeia, and six words exelempary onomatopoeia.

The next research by Rini Indriani is “*The Study of Onomatopoeic Words in English and Indonesian Webcomics of Orange Marmalade (2017)*”. Published by The Faculty Adab and Humanities in English Literature majors of *Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung*. In this research focuses on the onomatopoeia in the comic of *Orange Marmalade* in both English and Indonesian version, using the theory of semiotics sign and meaning based on theory of Ferdinand the Saussure. She found 272 corpus of onomatopoeia. Then he equivalences of the onomatopoeic

word in Indonesian with the English onomatopoeic are found in the way of adoption, adaptation, modification, creation, and the use of the word convention.

The last previous study by Imam Hasan Al Ghifari entitled “*Sign and Meaning of Onomatopoeia in Scooby Doo: Where Are You Series Comic*” (2017)”. Published by The Faculty Adab and Humanities in English Literature majors of *Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung*. In this research focusses types of sign of onomatopoeia and the meanings of each type of sign of onomatopoeia words. The result from the research show onomatopoeia based on the ground can be sourced from legisign and sinsign. Based on the objects, sign of onomatopoeia included into icon. Based on the interpretation, it can be as rheme or decisign.

The difference with the researcher research is based on the previous researches above, the difference between this research and those previous study, is the use of the theory. The researcher explain about the onomatopoeia words based on types of sound symbolism used theory Leanne Hinton, Johanna Nichols, and John J. Ohala (1994), then the researcher explain about the lexical meaning and contextual meaning of onomatopoeia words used theory of Lyon (1995). By using the different theory, the research also shows the different explanation and different result. Therefore the researcher decides this research entitled **Analysis of Onomatopoeia in Webtoon Application Refund High School**.

1.2 Statements of Problem

Deal with the explanation above, Onomatopoeia is one of the important elements in comics which is used to describe sounds made by the characters and events. This research is intended to categorize meanings based on lexical and contextual meanings then categorize the types of onomatopoeia based on sound symbolism then in webtoon *Refund High School*.

Based on the statement above, it can be formulated into two research questions as follow:

1. What are the types of sound symbolism of onomatopoeia words in comic *Refund High School*?
2. What are lexical meaning and contextual meaning of those onomatopoeia words in comic *Refund High School*?

1.3 Research Objectives

Dealing with the statement of problems, this research has two research objectives gained by the researchers as follows:

1. To find out the types of onomatopoeia words based on the sound symbolism found in webtoon *Refund High School*.
2. To find out the lexical meaning and contextual meaning of those onomatopoeia words in webtoon *Refund High School*.

1.4 Research Significances

This research is expected to make contribution academically, practically, and future researcher.

1. Theoretically, this study is aimed to enrich comprehensions about theory of onomatopoeia, especially to find out the types of onomatopoeia words based on sound symbolism and the meaning of onomatopoeia word based on lexical meaning and contextual meaning.
2. Practically, this research can be a reference to make a better research, and will help the student increasing the knowledge about onomatopoeia study.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid is a misunderstanding in reading this thesis, especially for readers, in this section the researcher written the definition of key terms. This definition of key

terms is written briefly and clearly so that the reader has a description of the many terms contained therein. The following are keywords from this research:

- **Webtoon** is an application combination of web and cartoon , and was coined in South Korea to refer to webcomics. Webcomics generally means comics published on a website, but more strictly it refers to comics that are specifically created for and published on a computer platform. Webtoon published in a website or application which use internet network to access.
- **Refund High School** is a comic which is release in webtoon website. To open this webtoon, the reader should login in the application (for android or iOs) or open it in website.
- **Onomatopoeia** is the naming of an object which derives from the imitation of the sound produced by the object itself.
- **Semantic** is the systematic study of meaning and linguistic semantic is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. The meaning has two types, there are lexical meaning and contextual meaning. The lexical meaning is study of semantics which concerns on the meaning based on the dictionary. The contextual meaning is the study of semantics which concern with the meaning based on the situation.
- **Sound Symbolism** is a branch of linguistic and refers to the idea that vocal sounds have meaning.