

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is vital in communication. Language is used as a tool to deliver messages, thoughts, or information to others. It is used in many ways, either written or spoken. There are also several forms of communicating the language. One way to perform it is through proverbs.

Proverbs are metaphorical short sentence that contains wisdom, moral values, and traditional values belongs to the folk, passed down from generation to generation (Mieder, 2004:3). It compares symbolic feature and language styles to describe something (Riyanto, 2018:37). One of the symbols often used in proverbs is animal elements.

There is a well-known proverbs in English, that is *If wishes were horses, beggars would ride* which is Indonesian its equivalent is *Meminta tanduk pada kuda* (Asking horns to horses). These two languages have different structures and is not related, also both proverbs have different expressions. Nevertheless, they shared same cultural motives that build its value. Both proverbs means that there is no use in only wishing something to happen.

The writer wants to conduct research on proverbs that contains animal elements in it from English and Indonesian. Animal is an element that have been around and live together with human since ancient times. The writer believes that despite difference in language and culture, animal elements that are used in proverbs across several languages should have some similarities in its motives

to express cultural values, which in hope will give access to better understanding of values implied in proverbs between two languages.

1.2 Theoretical Framework

1.2.1 Definition of Proverbs

Mieder in his book (2004:3) stated that Proverbs is a commentary that summarize human experiences and observations into a piece of wisdom. John Simpsons (1982) in the introduction of *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs* sums up that proverb is short traditional sayings of the folk that presents advice or moral. That being said, how proverbs used are unique because it is essentially a prepared phrase for certain situations where it fits. It could be said that proverb is a metaphorical saying made by the culture of the folk for certain situations.

1.2.2 Meaning in Proverbs

Proverbs are metaphorical speech that implies its meaning figuratively. Proverbs' indirectness makes it preferred as a way to give advice or wisdom, warning, or commentary (Mieder 2004:8). People developed sayings as strategies to deal with such occurrences (Burke 1941:256). How proverbs mean then are very context dependent. Proverbs such as *He eats like a bird* do not mean someone eats like how a bird should eat, but in context, it would mean a very poor person.

1.2.3 Function of Proverbs

Proverbs serve as a tool of communication. Norrick (2011:18) stated that proverbs function as an evaluative commentary, an argument, supporting

arguments, or to summarize it. This usability contributes a big portion in social life communication. It is used more than only sayings of wisdom. Proverbs are found in newspaper titles, magazines, speeches, or propaganda to present certain values to society.

1.3 Review of Previous Studies

Several researches on animal-related proverbs have been conducted before. The listed studies below are a few of many types of researches that have a close connection to this research.

A Cultural Linguistic Perspective on Animal Proverbs, with Special Reference to Two Dialects in Arabic by Sami Ben Salamh and Zouheir A. Maalej. This research focused on the cultural linguistic approach to proverbial discourse in Saudi dialect and Tunisian dialect. This study is based on the same general idea as the writer's research on animal proverbs between two languages. Unexpectedly, however, it shows very few connections between them. The findings show that there are only very few generic scenes in which animal proverbs are used from both subcultures.

Cat Metaphors in Malay and English Proverbs by Nurul Nadia Muhammad and Sabariah Md Rashid. This study focused on the usage of metaphors related to cats in two different languages. It analyzes metaphor meanings using the Conceptual Metaphor Theory and the Great Chain of Being framework. It shows various cultural differences in meanings that related to both languages. The research stated that animal is widely used metaphorically to convey particular meaning related to society in Malay and English. It aims to examine the differences and similarities both cultures have in proverbs

related to cats. The analysis confirms that the meanings associated with cat proverbs in both languages do not conform to the common proposition, that is a cat usually fickle and independent. This study shows comparisons of cultural value behind proverbs from both languages, which is in line with the writer's research.

Analysis of Using Animal Elements in English Proverbs by Andra Ade Riyanto. This research mainly discussed the function of animal elements in English proverbs. It analyzes human life aspects by understanding the function of animal symbolism that is used in English proverbs. This study shows the function of animal symbolism in proverbs are to give responses, advices or reminder on human moral value in the appropriate context of the communication. Knowing the function of symbols used in proverbs will help in understanding proverbs usage in conversation. This research only shows the usage of animal elements in English proverbs.

Cultural Awareness through Animal Proverbs in English and Myanmar by Thet Ni. This research studies cultural differences in the concept of animals through Myanmar and English proverbs. It explores social culture values through animal proverbs to compare animal expression with human characteristics and cultural differences in the concept of animals through proverbs in English and Myanmar language. This research found that proverbs in English and Myanmar have similar cognitive processes used in animal proverbs based on human experience with the animals themselves. It is reflected in cultural values, social values, and worldviews of both nations.

A Comparative Study of English and Chinese Animal Proverbs—From the Perspective of Metaphors by Jianwen Liu. Her research focused on metaphorical analysis in English and Chinese Animal Proverbs. It presents that animal proverbs provide similarities and differences in living environments, lifestyles, religious beliefs, values, and thinking processes from both languages. The writer confirms that this research is started based on a similar manner to this research. Understanding Ms. Liu research will help the writer's research.

1.4 Research Question

The writer will analyze the cultural value of animal proverbs in English and Indonesian. The following questions are formulated by the writer for this research.

- a. What is animal related proverbs in English and Indonesian that have close meaning?
- b. What are cultural values in animal related proverbs in English and Indonesian.

1.5 Research Objectives

In order to answer the question that are presented above, the objective of the research are:

- a. Identifies English and Indonesian animal proverbs from popular dictionary
- b. Identifies cultural values from these two languages from the gathered proverbs.

1.6 Research Scope

The scope of this research are animal proverbs in English and Indonesian with proverbs that have the closest meaning to it from both languages. The writer will search animal proverbs from English and its equivalents in Indonesian language, then animal proverbs from Indonesian language and its equivalents in English Language. The methods used in this research is comparative method by Robert L. Rankin. Comparative method in linguistics is technique developed to compare material from two or more languages (Joseph & Janda 2017: 183)

