CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Research

Language is required to transmit the information. Therefore, it is important to interpret a language itself. In daily practice, the information is obtained in two ways, direct and indirect information. Direct information is the information that is presented directly without intermediary. While indirect information is the information that is transmitted through certain media i.e. television, radio, book, magazine, newspaper, etc. Accurate information requires understanding of the meaning of the information in order to interpret it properly.

Therefore, the study of semantics is used to analyze the meaning and relation between sentences. Because semantics is the study of meaning, how words and sentences related to something that the speaker or the author describes. Accordingly, semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences (Yule, 2006, p. 100). Furthermore, meaning can be studied in words, phrases, sentences, and utterances in the language used in communication. Thus, it is necessary to study the meaning to understand the message intended.

Semantics is a conceptual meaning that focuses on the conventional meaning of the words, rather than on the individual meaning of the speaker or the author. Therefore, semantics do not pay attention to the meaning of speakers. Semantics is a part of the linguistics that learn about meanings regardless of the context. Different from pragmatic attention to the relationship of speech in context. As revealed by Finegan that semantics is a branch of linguistics that examines word

and sentence meaning while generally ignoring context. By contrast, pragmatic pays less attention to the relationship of word to sentence meaning but more attention to the relationship of utterance to its context (Finegan, 2008, p. 179). Nevertheless, the use of semantic from word to a sentence, apparently can bring up the information implied in it and can be considered the truth. It is explained in Entailment and presupposition. But in this study, the writer is simply focused on identifying semantic entailment.

In this research, the importance of understanding the relationship between the sentences is showed. Sometimes, the meaning of a sentence and the other sentences may cause misunderstanding, this kind of relation is called entailment. Griffiths describes entailment as a concept that relates one proposition to others (Griffiths, 2006, p. 25). The meanings of the two sentences in entailment are correlated to each other. This means the truth of one sentence implies the truth of the other.

The phenomenon of entailment in daily conversation rarely noticed by most of people, because they are not too aware of that. Actually, people need to pay attention to every single sentence to recognize the existence of entailment. It can be seen from the sentences which are closely related. Thus, it helps people to get a deeper understanding of the sentences. Here is the example of entailment in daily conversation:

Lily   : **Thank you for the new maroon sweater, Mom. Now I have a red sweater**.

Mother : Sure, Lily.

To understand this relation of meaning, the hearer has to understand that maroon is one type of red color. If the first sentence is true, then the second sentence is also true. However, the sentence *Thank you for the new red sweater* is true, but the sentence *Now I have a maroon sweater* is not always true. Because it could be another red. This is a type of entailment that relates sentences only in one direction.

Besides daily conversation, one of the phenomena of entailment can be found in fiction as in novel. Novel is an extended work of fiction written in prose that is distinguished from short stories and from the novelette which is middle length works (Abram, 2009, p. 226). Novel is interesting to be discussed, there are many novels with different genre produced until now.

The novel of *Matilda* written by Roald Dahl is chosen because it is one of his famous works for children that was published in 1988. This fantastic novel has received the Children's Book Award in 1988 and voted "Nation's Favorite Children's Book" in BBC Bookworm Poll. Moreover, according to The Official Website of Roald Dahl, in 1996 a film version of *Matilda* directed by Danny DeVito was released and went on to become a cult classic. Then, in 2010, The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *Matilda The Musical*, written by Dennis Kelly and with music and lyrics by Tim Minchin, opened in Stratford-upon-Avon, UK, to great critical acclaim. The production transferred to London's West End a year later, and in spring 2013 the show opened on Broadway (RoaldDahl.com, n.d.). According to Dahl as cited in Biography.com, "Children are ... highly critical. And they lose interest so quickly. You have to keep things ticking along. And if you think a child is getting bored, you must think up something that jolts it back. Something

that tickles. You have to know what children like." (Biography.com, 2019). Dahl claimed that children have different humor than adults so that he was trying to appeal them.

Here is an example of one of the character's dialog that represents some logical connector of entailment in the sentences:

Matilda : You must try to get those bits off your forehead, Daddy. **It looks as though you've got little brown insects crawling about all over you. People will think you've got lice.**

The sentences above are in the relation of entailment. Thus, *People will think you've got lice* is true, *it looks as though you've got little brown insects crawling about all over you* is also true. It means Matilda said that the little brown insects crawling about all over his father are lice. People need to understand that relation of entailment to get a deeper understanding. So, people will get what the character wants to say.

Matilda is interested to analyzed because it is a perfect book for children to get morality and tell them the right things to do with a unique storyline concept as a children book. Matilda also has some semantics phenomena, one of them is entailment. Therefore, in this research, a semantic analysis of entailment is used to get a deeper meaning of the characters' utterances. Griffiths (2006) and Murphy's (2003) theories about the types and meaning of entailment are used in this research. Therefore, this research is entitled *Semantic Analysis of Entailment Applied by Characters in the Novel "Matilda" by Roald Dahl.*

1.2   Identification of the Problem

This research is being intended to analyze entailment in the novel of *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. The utterances of words and sentences need to be analyze to avoid misunderstanding of what the writer means. The focus of this research deals with the following problems:

1.) What are the types of entailment used by the main characters in the novel of *Matilda* by Road Dahl ?

2.) What are the meanings of entailment found in the main characters in the novel of *Matilda* by Road Dahl ?

1.3   Objectives of the Research

The objective of this research is based on the research question above. This research is conducted to analyze entailment in a novel *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. There are five characters of the novel which become the data of this research. This research is intended to answer the following research question that formulated below:

1.) To identify the types of entailment used by the main characters in the novel of *Matilda*.

2.) To interpret the meanings of entailment conveyed through the main characters in the novel of *Matilda*.

1.4   Scope of the Research

This study is focused on identifying and interpreting the meaning of entailment used by the characters in the novel *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. All the utterances of five main characters in the novel containing entailment are collected

and analyzed by using Griffiths and Murphy's theories. The five characters are Matilda, Mr. Wormwood, Mrs. Wormwood, Miss Honey, and Miss Trunchbull.

1.5   Method of the Research

This research is analyzed using qualitative descriptive research. Qualitative research analyzes words and or images that are explained in description (Denscombe, 2007, p. 248). It means this research will be focused on words rather than numbers. The source of data of qualitative research can be in the form of words, which can be found in spoken utterances or written sentences (Denscombe, 2007, p. 286). The spoken utterances can be found in conversation in daily life or the movie, while the written sentences can be found in the novel, short story, magazine, etc. The novel *Matilda* is used to be the source of the data.

1.5.1   Collecting the Data

This research involved several steps in collecting the data. In the first step, the data were taken through the utterances from the conversations in the novel. In this research, the form of data is the sentences in a written language which uttered by five main characters in the novel of *Matilda*. This study is focused on the utterances of the characters which analyzed by the writer using semantics analysis of entailment. This novel is read several times to understand the novel. The next step is not only read the novel but also carefully observed all the utterances of the five main characters to identify the entailment. After all the utterances are found, the data are carefully analyzed according to general criteria of entailment.

1.5.2 Analyzing the Data

After collecting the data, the semantics identity method is applied to identify the description of the data. The types of entailment by Griffiths (2006) and Murphy (2003) are used as the theory to analyze the entailment contained on utterances of the main characters in the novel of *Matilda*. In analyzing the data, those utterances containing entailment are classified based on the theories. After that, a table of the entailment are made by the writer. This table is aimed to organize the data into several groups to ease the reader to understand the classification. Then, the occurrences of each type of entailment are calculated to get conclusion.

1.5.3 Presenting the result of the analysis

The result of the analysis is presented descriptively in written form to classify entailment that used by the main characters' utterances in the novel of *Matilda*. Words or interpretations are used to explain the types and meanings of entailment narratively through the utterances. Meanwhile, there are two variables of the problem in this research which are the types and the meaning of entailment, but they were presented in one discussion. In certain aspects, there is a table of entailment to make it clearer to the reader. The dominant type of entailment that used by five main characters in *Matilda* is found through the percentage by the table. In the end, all of the data are attached in the appendix.