CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Language is a tool for human communication to convey meaning to another, because communication is a process of giving people information. Furthermore, human uses language to communicate, cooperate and express their feelings or ideas. For making an effective communication, both communicator and communicant should understand their sentences meaning each other. It means that the communicant has to process the meaning sent by the communicator so that he will understand what the communicator means.

The communication itself consist of spoken language and written language. Both languages have difference in the way of uttering the message or the idea. Spoken language utters the words straightly to hearer, while written language does not utter messages straightly to the readers. In brief, written language is rather hard to understand than spoken language. Therefore, word, phrase, and sentence have meanings that can describe expression and imagination of the meaning.

Language can be used to express meaning, but it is not easy to define the meaning. One problem is that there are several dimensions of meaning. Imagine that someone ask, "Can you give me an apple?" while looking at a bowl of apples on the table beside you. What its literally asked is whether you have the ability to give me an apple; this is called the semantic meaning.

Semantic meaning is part of linguistics and these are interrelated. In linguistics there is semantics that explain the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences.

Language cannot be separated from meaning. Therefore, the science that specializes in studying language is linguistics. Linguistics is source of all the study of language and meaning involving all components which consist of the language and meaning itself. Linguistics as the scientific study of language not only examines a language in general but also explores the ins and outs of the language. Linguistic structures are pairings of meaning and form that are discussed in semantic.

Semantic is one of branch of linguistics and the study of human language. It is stated by Kreidler (1998) "semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meaning" (p. 3). In other words, it that includes understanding the meaning and the way of combining the meaning of words, the phrase, the meaning of the sentence and larger units of discourse (termed texts, or narratives).

Further, semantics gets interesting when the little know about the ways in which meaning gets expressed in various languages. Likewise, Yule (2014) "Semantics is the study of words, phrases, and sentences (p.109). There is always attempt to focus on what the words conventionally mean, rather than on what an individual speaker might think they mean, or want them mean, on a particular occasion.

Furthermore, in semantics, there is term which is generally known as thematic roles. Thematic role is used to describe the part played by a particular entity in an event. Saeed (2016) said some of the semantic options through which speakers may characterize the entities involved in the situation (p. 149). In other words, every entity has a different role in some position. Thematic role is referring expressions in a sentence.

Thematic role is very interesting topic to be analyzed since it explains the entity through different way and terms. The English students have difficulty how to understand the construction of the sentences by traditional grammar and it cannot help the English students much in understanding its meaning. Here, thematic role can help the English students to understand the role actor or subject play in the situations described in the action in the sentence. So it will help the English students in understanding its meaning.

Thematic role can be analyzed by considering the noun phrase's function based on the verb which is used in the sentence, because thematic role is related with the verb. The writer can decide whether the subject has a role as an agent or experiencer by observing the verb. Verbs and other heads of phrases may be associated with such semantic roles or thematic roles as agent, actor, patient, theme, experiencer, beneficiary, instrument, location, goal, source, and stimulus.

Agent is the one who performs an action or the participant that initiates the action, "volition", capable of acting with volition. Actor is the participant which performs, effects, instigates, or controls the situation.

Patient is get effect when something happen or when the entity undergoing the effect of some action, often undergoing some change in state. Theme is the entity or thing that get an action. Theme is the entity whose location is described. Experiencer is the entity which is state described by predicate, but which is not in control.

Beneficiary is an action for benefit or profit other people was performed. Instrument is the entity by means of which the action is carried out. Location is the place where an action happens. Goal is the entity towards which something moves or the place to which an action is directed. Source is the entity from something moves. Stimulus is entity causing an effect (usually psychological) or causes some emotional reaction or cognitive judgement in the experiencer.

From the explanation above about the roles that exist in the thematic roles. The writer is interested to analyzed thematic roles in short story. Because in short story many simple sentences that contain thematic roles. Short story is a fully developed story which is shorter than a novel and longer than a fable. Short story written by someone with various existing imaginations. Lots of people read a short story. They read short stories as entertainment or to search imagination.

Short story readers do not look at age. Everyone can read short story. However, certainly with a different genre. As a literary work, short story has many genres. The genres contained in short stories that are romantic, family, friendship or comedy, etc. Various genres each has a reader. A short story can

also impact a reader and even inspire them. Moreover, short story is one of ways to communicate by giving description about all aspects in the story inside, like characters and events to deliver the message.

One of the short story collections, the writer chooses "*The Great Big Treasury*" by Beatrix Potter. *The Great Big Treasury* is a charming little stories full of animals and people. It has been translated into nearly forty languages and adapted for stage, film, and television. The stories are a mixture of moral fables and interesting descriptions of nature. The stories differ in how they are connected directly to childhood imagination.

The writer will give one example to describe the interesting of having a research about thematic role that find in a sentence. For example, *an old mouse was running in and out over the stone doorstep, carrying peas and beans to her family in the wood*. From this sentence it can be explained that the agent is *an old* mouse.

Since it is the initiator capable of acting with volition and the existence of the action verb *was running* and *carrying*. Then, the goal is shown by the word *to her family* because the entity (an old mouse) towards which something moves. The location is shown by the word *in the wood* where the place is situated.

Based on explanation above, the writer can perform analysis thematic role. The writer will find about thematic roles in Short Story Collection *"The Great Big Treasury"*. The short story contains data that relevant to the issues

being discussed and analyzed in this study. The research data was taken in ten short story collection in *"The Great Big Treasury"* by Beatrix Potter.

From the above background explanation, therefore, the writer chooses is title **"Thematic Roles in *The Great Big Treasury* by Beatrix Potter."**

B. Questions and Scopes of the Research

1. Questions of the Research

In this paper there will be the questions about the problem from the data resources or how to analyze containing thematic roles. Therefore, the writer will be discussing the problem can be mentioned in detail as the following questions:

a. How does the way to identify thematic roles in *"The Great Big Treasury"* by Beatrix Potter?

b. What are the types of thematic roles used in *"The Great Big Treasury"* by Beatrix Potter?

c. What types of thematic roles do exist in *"The Great Big Treasury"* by Beatrix Potter the most?

2. Scopes of the Research

The scope of this research focuses on the word in types of thematic roles. The discussion of this study covers identifying, analyzing and studying the thematic roles. In this research, the writer limits the problem only focus on simple sentences of thematic roles in ten short stories in The Great Big Treasury by Beatrix Potter, that include: *The Tale of Peter*

Rabbit, The Tailor of Gloucester, The Tale of Squirrel Nutkin, The Tale of Benjamin Bunny, The Tale of Two Bad Mice, The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, The Pie and The Patty-Pan, The Roly-Poly Pudding, The Tale of Timmy Tiptoes and *The Tale of Mr. Tod*. The state used is semantics. The theory based on John I. Saeed (2016).

C. Objectives and Significances of the Research

1. Objectives of the Research

Based on the problems of the researches mentioned above, the objectives of the research are described as the following:

a. For identifying the thematic roles in *"The Great Big Treasury"* by Beatrix Potter.

b. For knowing the types of thematic role that exist in *"The Great Big Treasury"* by Beatrix Potter.

c. For finding out the thematic role types that exist the most.

2. Significances of the Research

Hopefully the writing and research paper can be useful not only for the writer but also for the reader mainly who learn about thematic roles. The significances are:

a. Theoretically

The result of this research may give more information about thematic roles and the types use in short story. It also can be useful

for English students as linguistic reference which will help them to understand semantic especially in thematic roles.

b.   Practically

The results of this research are expected to give useful inputs for researchers who are going to do research in the same field but in the different subject or theory and beneficial to the readers in general, in improving their knowledge on thematic roles. Especially to the student whose major in linguistics. This research hopefully can contribute more knowledge about thematic roles, to complement the theories and to give English students an understanding about semantic, especially on thematic roles. Moreover, those who are interested and to increase the knowledge of the research about thematic roles in linguistic field. This study provides contribution to another researcher to develop this research.

D. **Operational Definitions**

After having read several books as the sources of the primary data, and then understood so the writer can conclude some definition as the real existence of the title as follows:

1. Thematic role

     Thematic role is to classify arguments into broad semantic categories according to the kind of role actor or subject play in the situations described by their predicates plays in the action and referring expressions in a sentence. That relationship depends on the meaning in the sentences. Thematic role is used to describe the part played by a particular entity in an event. Here some types of thematic role, there are: Agent, Actor, Experiencer, Patient, Beneficiary, Instrument, Theme, Goal, Source, Location and Stimulus.

2. Short story

     Short story is a fully developed story which is shorter than a novel and longer than a fable. It typically takes just a single sitting for reading. There is no maximum length, but the average short story is 1,000 to 7,500 words, with some outliers reaching 10,000 or 15,000 words. At around 10 to 25 pages, that makes short stories much shorter than novels. Short story focuses on the incidents bigger or smaller and evokes strong feelings from its readers. A short story often has a few characters in the plot. But, sometimes a short story usually focuses on one plot, one main character, and one central theme.

E. **Systematization of the Research**

     Systematization of the research means to present the research in well-edited composition. This research is divided into five chapters as follow:

Chapter I: Introduction explains about Background of the Research, Questions and Scopes of the Research, Objectives and Significances of the Research, Operational Definitions, and Systematization of the Research.

Chapter II: Theoretical Description consists of the definitions of Semantics, Semantics in Linguistics, Meaning, Thematic Roles, Short Story, and Research of Relevance.

Chapter III: Methodology of the Research contains about method of the research: (1) Time and Place of the Research, (2) Kind of the Research, (3) Procedure of the Research, (4) Sources of the Primary and Secondary Data.

Chapter IV: Data Analysis shows about the Data Description, Data Analysis and Interpretations of the Research finding.

Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestion show the Conclusion of the research finding, Suggestion gives significance of the research.