

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Language is needed in our daily conversation. Koentjaraningrat (1974) explains language develops along with human development and civilization. Therefore, we can agree that language is a form of human culture. One type of language used is written language. Written language as a communication tool is widely used in various communication situations and for different purposes. Each situation and purpose allow a speaker or writer in a written language to choose the language variation. Language is also a verbal communication tool as an arbitrary sound symbol (Wardhaugh, 1984). Arbitrariness is that there is no direct relationship between the signifying symbol in the form of a word and the meaning.

Linguistics is a part of language. Linguistics is the study of language as a system of communication between humans (Richards & Schmidt, 2002). According to them, there are many different approaches to the study of language, as well as many different areas of investigation, such as sound systems (phonetics and phonology), sentence structure (syntax), relationships between language and cognition (cognitive linguistics), meaning systems (semantics, pragmatics, and functions of language), and language and social factors, among other things (sociolinguistics). Meanwhile, Semantics as the detailed analysis of literal meaning has been adopted and added to semantics as another language module by philosophers in recent decades (Fasold, R. & Connor-Linton, 2006).

Semantics, as a part of linguistics, is the study of how language is used to represent meaning and how this is represented in different ways. More specifically, semantics seeks to explain how literal meanings are encoded and translated by speakers and listeners through linguistic codes. The meaning of language is essential in ensuring that what is communicated to other people or readers in a literary work is understood and that the message conveyed by the researcher is understood. According to some sources, lexical semantics is also considered a sub-field of linguistic semantics. In other words, linguistics studies how and what words are used in each language. Language is essential for human life on the planet, as it allows us to communicate and meet all our needs. Lexical semantics is a branch of semantics that deals with the meanings of words and their combinations. In his definition of lexical semantics, Saeed (2003:53) states that it is the study of the meaning of words and that it traditionally has two descriptive objectives: to represent the meaning of each word in a language and to test how the meanings of words are interconnected. Lexical semantics is intertwined with linguistics in several ways. In addition to the creation of new words, the use of language can be seen in the various meanings represented by a single word, which is a phenomenon known as lexical diversity. As a result, several words may have different meanings or meanings that are distinct from one another but are related in the same form and even in the same pronunciation. Many of us, including the researcher, are unfamiliar with the term onomatopoeia, which means "sounding like something." Although we may not

realize it, we frequently use the term onomatopoeia in our everyday lives because the term onomatopoeia is associated with sound.

Onomatopoeia is a way of forming words. The sound produced by an object or human voice can form a word. Words that are formed based on sound imitation are onomatopoeia. Onomatopoeia is an expression found in various literary works such as novels, comics, and short stories. The written language in comics used to give effect to the reader's imagination and as an expression of the characters' feelings is called onomatopoeia. Onomatopoeia is words formed by imitation of the sound. The onomatopoeia contains the character's feelings, such as anger, disappointment, surprise, and sadness.

Onomatopoeia is one part of the figure of speech, especially figures of sound. When we read comics, we must find onomatopoeia in them, and this is because onomatopoeia is one of the linguistic forms as one of the linguistics forms that often appear in comics and analyzing the meaning of onomatopoeic words is interesting. Since written sounds (words) may be facts, symbols, or meaning, understanding onomatopoeia is the same as understanding language. A word is the smallest unit of meaning and symbolism in a script. In onomatopoeic words, sounds are associated with meaning. In linguistics, semantics is used to understand the meaning of all language varieties.

The iconic symbols of hearing or the name of an entity are described as onomatopoeia. It comprises a word or sequence derived from the artificial or imitative sound it makes (Abrams, 1999). In other words, it refers to the result of a sound mimicking mechanism humans hear in their environments from the

sounds of humans, animals, nature, machines, or devices (Assaneo, Nichols, & Trevisan, 2011). It highlights that onomatopoeia is inherent in that all humans can mimic the sounds they hear.

According to Ullman (1962), onomatopoeia is classified into two types: primary and secondary onomatopoeia. Onomatopoeia's primary form is sound-by-sound imitation. The object itself generates the sound. Onomatopoeia occurs in words that mimic tone, which imitates sound, implying the described object (Alexander, 1963). Meanwhile, secondary onomatopoeia is a sound that occurs due to an object's sound and movement (Ullman, 1962).

Comics are made to amuse, and the word comic means “funny.” According to Webster’s Comprehensive Dictionary (2003: 262), comics are used to “produce mirth, comedy, and ludicrousness.” A comic book is made up of images and language expressions. When a person reads a comic book, he or she enjoys the visuals and plays with the linguistic expression. One of them, onomatopoeia, enhances the appeal of comic dialogues. Onomatopoeia is an essential aspect of comics because it explains any sounds that makes in comic. Most of comic authors use onomatopoeia to make their comic more life, fun, and interesting to be read by the readers. The terms are also strongly associated with comic books. Words are usually found inside balloons by comic readers. Onomatopoeia is accepted to have a specific role in many such works of art. When people read a comic, they do not just enjoy the illustrations. They must, though, deal with linguistic expressions. In this situation, onomatopoeia brings conversation in comics to life and makes it exciting and enjoyable. Comics do

not have much narrative in them. Instead, there are linguistic elements of cartoons, such as onomatopoeic words. To truly comprehend the meaning of these Onomatopoeic words, we must first comprehend their meaning in terms of lexical or contextual meaning.

Others have carried out previous studies related to onomatopoeia. Several studies have discussed the translation of onomatopoeia, including a study by Yaqubi, Tahir, and Amini in 2018 entitled *Translation of Onomatopoeia: Somewhere between Equivalence and Function*. The study aims to identify English onomatopoeias in the novel *A Tale of Two Cities* written by Charles Dickens and the translation techniques used for translating them by the two translators. The writers use the theory by Reiss. They concluded that translation of onomatopoeias creates difficulties for the translator due to differences in both languages and cultures which can occur in two stages: identification and transferring the expressive function.

A study about the translation of onomatopoeia was conducted by Erna Wiles entitled *Translating Paralinguistic and Onomatopoeia: An Analysis on the Novel "Bumi Manusia" by Pramoedya Ananta Toer and its Translation "This Earth of Mankind" by Max Lane (2021)*. The study describes the challenges and strategies in translating paralinguistics and onomatopoeias. Data were collected from a novel by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, "Bumi Manusia," and its translation, "This Earth of Mankind," by Max Lane. The analyses concluded that paralinguistic (and non-linguistic), as well as onomatopoeic features, are culturally bound. Ones can exist in one language community but may not in

another, and the adoptions can also differ; thus, the equivalence cannot be fully maintained.

Another study on onomatopoeia was conducted by Firdaus, Indah, and Damayanti, entitled *An Analysis of Onomatopoeia in Peanut Comic by Charles M. Schulz* (2021). The study aims to find out the type of onomatopoeia used in the comic, the meaning of the onomatopoeic word, and the syllabic structure of the onomatopoeic word. The corpus used by the writers is a Peanut comic by Charles M. Schulz, and Ullman's theory is used to analyze the onomatopoeia. The result indicated that the comic contained two distinct types of onomatopoeias: primary and secondary onomatopoeias. Secondary onomatopoeia was the most prevalent type among the 71 words. Additionally, it was discovered that certain types of onomatopoeia use the same word with distinct meanings, depending on the subject and object that generate the sound. Certain words appear multiple times throughout the comic's storyline.

A study about onomatopoeia in poems was conducted by Walen Carera, Anjas, and Ivan Achmad Nurcholis. The study entitled *Analysis Onomatopoeia in Selected Poems by Lee Emmett* (2019). The study aims to analyze onomatopoeia using some poems by Lee Emmett. Five poems have been analyzed: *running water*, *Bake a Cake*, *Wind and Rain*, *The Gentle Sound of Rain*, and *See the Skater*. The study shows two types of onomatopoeia words: primary onomatopoeia (PR) and secondary onomatopoeia (SC). Onomatopoeia found as many as 21 words. From 21 words, the dominant types and meanings

used in the five poems are secondary onomatopoeia: 15 words. Ullman's theory is also applied in this study to analyze the type of onomatopoeia.

Not only in poems, comics, and novels but onomatopoeia also can be found in song lyrics. A study related to onomatopoeia in a song lyric has been conducted by Kertiasih, Santika, and Utami with the title Primary Onomatopoeia Found in Nursery Rhymes by Dave and Ava on YouTube (2021). This study aims to investigate types of primary onomatopoeia from Nursery Rhymes by Dave and Ava on YouTube. The findings of the study were presented using formal and informal methods. The result of this study shows that there are 12 data belonging to primary onomatopoeia. Furthermore, of the two types of meaning, the lexical meaning becomes the dominant meaning of the primary onomatopoeia.

As the result of the state-of-the-art analysis, the writer found that none of those studies have analyzed onomatopoeia lexically and contextually in the True Beauty Webtoon Comic as the data source. Therefore, the writers claimed that this study could be a novelty of the study. The writer would analyze the onomatopoeia in the Webtoon by using Stephen Ullman and John Lyons's theory, determining the category of the contextual meaning, the writer applies the theory that was proposed by Ullmann (1962), which explains the type of onomatopoeia, and after that, the writer analyzes the meaning with theory by John Lyons. The writer chose the theory to help this study because the writer considers it a detailed theory, so it is hoped that it can help the writer get a more relevant study result.

Currently, Webtoon is the most accessible medium to access digital comics. Apart from being free and legal, the webtoon application can also be downloaded on various mobile phones, both android and apple products. Because of that, Webtoon is becoming more familiar and popular in the community. This seems to be the basis for why the writer chose Webtoon. True Beauty is one of the most popular webtoon comics which describes the realities of social life that occur in South Korea through the eyes of a high school student. The thing that is at the center of this Webtoon comic is Lee Jugyeong, who is the main character. This Webtoon tells about how society sometimes only focuses on physical appearance and the reality of being a middle child since Jugyeong has a beautiful, accomplished older sister and one younger brother who feels less loved by her mother's problems with education and ideals, association, and romance.

The reason for choosing onomatopoeia, besides being essential to studying onomatopoeia, also has different meanings depending on the context. Besides that, onomatopoeia is also part of aesthetics in a literary work. The writer argues that better understanding the types and meanings of onomatopoeia can build more imagination in reading them, especially in comics. Aside from that, according to the writer's personal experience, many people have difficulty distinguishing between onomatopoeia and other words. Onomatopoeia is a literary device found in novels, comic books, books, films, and children's stories. Furthermore, the writer chose True Beauty Webtoon Comic as the research corpus because it successfully attracted around 4 billion readers worldwide, was

liked 28 million times, and became one of the most popular webtoons in the history of digital comics. During the writer's experience, while reading the Webtoon, the writer also found so many existences of onomatopoeia in the Webtoon that are interesting to be analyzed.

This study will use a qualitative approach using a descriptive-analytical interpretive research design to explain the meaning of each onomatopoeia. Creswell (2009) stated that the qualitative method is one in which the inquirer often makes knowledge claims based primarily on constructivist or advocacy/participatory perspectives or both. Therefore, the qualitative method is the most suitable approach for this study.

1.2. Research questions

1. What kinds of onomatopoeia are used by the author in True Beauty Webtoon comics?
2. How are those onomatopoeic words' lexical and contextual meanings in True Beauty Webtoon comics reflected?

1.3. Purpose/Aim

1. To find out the kinds of onomatopoeic words are found in the True Beauty Webtoon Comic.
2. To elaborate on the meanings reflected in the onomatopoeic words found in the True Beauty Webtoon Comic.

1.4.Scope of The Study

The onomatopoeia used in the True Beauty Webtoon Comic by Yaongyi is the sole focus of this study. In this study, the writer only looks at the different types of onomatopoeic word classification and their lexical and contextual meaning.

1.5. Significances of The Study

The writer hopes that this study will assist in contributing to academic studies, particularly in understanding the different types of onomatopoeia and analyzing the lexical and contextual meaning of onomatopoeic words.

