CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background to the study, research questions, objectives, significance to knowledge and framework of the theories.

1.1 Background to the Study

In communication, it is important that information and concepts are conveyed correctly to avoid misunderstanding. Language is a tool for communicating these concepts through words, phrases, and sentences. To make these concepts understood similarly between the people using the language, agreement on what word represents what concept is essential. Metaphorically, when a baby was born, the parents will give a name to the baby. Over time, the name is identified as representing that particular baby. The same is true for new words in a language. The concept, which represents a particular human's experience, is named and agreed by the language users, and the name, or word, is identified as representing that concept or the new things. As stated by Booji in The Grammar of Words, '*The main reason for changing the lexical norm of a language is that language users need expressions for new concepts, or new things*." (2005: 275). Hence, new words are created to label new concepts. These new words may be originated from existing words, albeit with new interpretation or modification due to the dynamic use of language among the users.

The word '*Selfie*' is discussed as an example. It is morphologically formed by combining two bound morphemes, morpheme '*self*' and morpheme '*–ie*'through a process identified as an affixation process. Semantically, the morphemes '*self*' and '*-ie*', respectively, mean the entire person of an individual and one belonging to. These two morphemes are combined into a new word. However, the meaning of this new word is different from the meaning of its original morphemes. Therefore, a change of meaning occurs from the original meaning of 'the entire person of an individual' and 'one belonging to' to 'a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically taken with smartphone or webcam and shared it via social media' as defined in the Online Oxford English dictionary.

The word '*Selfie*' was never used in English daily conversation before the 21th century. Oxford Dictionary Blog stated that the word '*Selfie*' first appeared in Australia in 2002 but it was not popular at that time. With the advances in capturing images using cameras, especially with the availibility of high quality camera in mobile phones, more people become familiar with the word '*Selfie*'. People use it to refer to pictures taken by themselves. Jude Pearsall, an editor for Oxford Dictionary, said that '*Selfie*' became popular because of social media such as Flickr. The word '*Selfie*' is then accepted and commonly used by english-speaking people. Related to the recent updates oxforddictionaries.com, this word was officially listed in Online Oxford English Dictionary in August 2013.

According to the discussion of the word '*selfie'* above, it can be assumed that a new word cannot be formed for granted. All happens with a certain reason. Reaching the goal, there are several processes used in its formation, such as compounding, shortenings, borrowing, back formation, conversion, and inventing, and affixation, as proposed by Brinton (2002) and Finegan (2008).

Related to this research, there are several researchers who also have conducted research on word formation. The first research entitled 'The Study of English Word Formation in American Comic Strip: Superman vs The Amazing Spiderman and Batman vs the Incredible Hulk' was conducted by Tri Rahmiati (2012), a student of UPI Bandung. The second research is 'An Analysis of Word Formation Used in Twilight Novel by Stephanie Meyer and Twilight Movie' conducted by a student of Universitas Sriwijaya, Melisa Nova Nanda (2013). Both researchers have focused on the word formation only. In order to make this research different, analysis of the origin of word and meaning properties are included.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the explanation in the background to the study above, the research questions in this research can be formulated as follows:

1. What processes of word formations are identified in the data?
2. What meanings in each morpheme are identified in the data?
3. What histories of words are found in the data?

1.3 Objectives

In order to answer the research questions above, the objectives will be as the follows:

1. To identify the process of word formation in the data.
2. To describe the element of morphology involves in the word formation.
3. To describe the history of words involved in the data.

1.4 Significance to Knowledge

This research has some purposes, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it is expected that this research provides a brief explanation and knowledge to readers about how a new word is formed and how to look into the origin and the meaning properties of words. Practically, the readers can understand the meaning of the word without opening dictionary and can help the readers try to form new words by using the processes in word formation to express a new activity.

1.5 Framework of the Theories

Several theories are used to analyze the data, starting from the theories of word formation process by Brinton (2002) as the grand theory to Finegan (2008) as the supporting theory. Brinton (2000: 85) stated "*English has a number of means by which morphs combine or are altered to form new words*". In order to form a new

word, several processes are involved, namely derivation process, reduplication, conversion or functional shift, compound, blends, back formations, shortenings, and idioms.

In order to make the explanation clear, the theory of Finegan (2006) is used as the supporting theory. Finegan's theory proposes, "*in some societies, the needed for new nouns, adjectives, and verb arises frequently, and addition to these categories occur freely. For these reason nouns, adjectives, and verbs are called open classes*.' (2008: 46). According to the statement, it can be understood that the word formation is derived from an open class through some processes. Adding to Brinton's theory, Finegan (2006: 50-51) mentioned other processes to create a new word. Those are semantic shift process, borrowed words, and inventing words. Brinton's and Finegan's theories are used to analyze the process of word formation morphologically.

This research does not only analyze the process of word formation morphologically, but also covers the issue when the change of word meaning is involved. The change of meaning can be discovered using the universal concept of Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM), which is explained by Godard and Wierzbicka (2007). This theory is used to analyze the meaning properties of the new word by using componential analysis.

In addition to the analysis of word formation morphologically and semantically, the new word is also analyzed in terms of its history. The history of the word can be

analyzed by looking at the followings: who invents the new word, when the new word was initially formed, and why the new word appeared. In the relation of history's elements, Liberman's theory (2008) is used as the etymological approach. This theory is used to find out the elements of history in the data found.