CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the writer deals with background to the study, research questions, objectives, significance to knowledge, and also framework of the theories.

1.1 Background to the Study

Nowadays, writing has become more essential part in human life. There are various jobs that deal with writing such as novelist, composer, screenwriter and many more. This circumstance, however, leads into many difficulties in writing particularly in producing literary works that deal with many lexical choices. One may be deceived by single lexical unit that have so many synonyms, and cannot choose a proper word that fits in the context. It is not quite easy to find a proper lexical unit among synonyms because there are so many types of synonym.

Basically, Synonyms are different words with identical or very similar meanings, according to Richtarcikova (2007). The word synonym is derived from Ancient Greek *syn* (same) and *onoma* (name). English potentially has so many synonyms, and in this research the writer focuses on how differentiate the types of synonym. Furthermore, there are many kinds of synonymy, including near-synonymy that are close in meaning but not identical. For Instance, *fog* and *mist* are synonym, yet they have relation of exclusion. Almost the semantic

components of *fog* are included in componential specification of *mist*, but they have a minor contrast. They have a different in scale of degree; it means that they are not intersubstitutability in all possible contexts without changing meaning.

To solve these problems, finding the contrast is the suitable option in order to determine the type of synonym. In searching the contrastive meaning, it may be found through contrastive component that is developed by Larson. According to Larson, by grouping together word which are related to one another and then semantically looking at the contrast between these words, one is able to determine the meaning (1984:79). In determining a contrastive component, a word that will be searched for its contrastive component must be grouped together with the other word that is semantically close. Cruse states that in looking at the meaning of the lexical items which belong to the same semantic set, one needs to first identify the class to which it belongs (1984:86). In this research, all the data, which are synonym, are grouped into their generic class.

In this research, the writer analyzes synonym in specific term as the research object. Moreover, the writer chooses synonymous term in hydrology. Hydrology is one branch of science that is already known widely, and it has so many sub branches. The data are obtained from two sources, which are from a single sentence and two sentences. In a single sentence, the writer finds and compares a pair of word weather they have relation of exclusion or not. Next, synonyms are taken from a single sentence. Halliday and Hasan State (1976:320) that the cohesion is a function of the relation between the lexical items themselves, which has both semantic aspect – synonym, hyponymy or metonymy.

It indicates that cohesion may join two synonymous lexical units in single sentence. Additionally, expressions may differ in sense, but have the same reference; and synonymous means having the same sense, not having the same referent, according to Lyons (1976:199) The synonyms do not depend on the same reference, but from the sense relations.

This *skripsi*, entitled "The Contrastive Meanings of Synonymous Terms in Hydrology", deals with the contrastive component that compares a pair of word that is semantically related, and their relation that make them semantically close. The contrastive component may bring out certain aspects of meaning, depending on their generic class. Moreover, the data are categorized into their generic class in order to make easier in finding contrastive component and the aspect of meaning.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the aspects of meaning resulted from the contrastive component of synonymous terms in hydrology?

2. What is the relationship of the synonymous terms in hydrology?

1.3 Objectives

1. To describe the aspects of meaning resulted from the contrastive component of synonymous terms in hydrology.

2. To find out the relationship of those synonymous terms in hydrology.

1.4 Significance to Knowledge

This research aims to give information about types of synonym. Each synonym is different. Two words may not be irreplaceable with other word if they have a contrast in their relation though they are synonym. Through contrastive component, the writer may differentiate the difference in each synonym, and simplify in choosing a proper word. If a pair of word does not possess a contrastive component, both words may be categorized as absolute synonym and it helps us in using a difference lexical item but it has the same meaning without having anomaly.

Additionally, the contrastive component may be used for the translator to find a lexical equivalent or differentiate two or more synonymous words. Furthermore, it will be useful for students to enrich their writing skills in lexical choice.

1.5 Framework of the Theories

In analyzing the contrastive component between a pair of word, the writer uses various theories that support the writer in this research and prove the research hypothesis. The theory are adopted from Larson's theory (1984). Larson states that by grouping together words which are related to one another and then semantically looking at the contrast between these words, one is able to determine the meaning (1984:79).

In analyzing the data, the writer uses the componential analysis. In addition, John Lyons explains that the sense-components (for which there is so far no generally accepted terms) may be thought of as atomic, and the senses of particular lexemes as molecular, concepts (1977:317). Meanwhile, Cruse states that one of the earliest and still most persistent and widespread ways of approaching word meaning of a word as being contracted out of smaller, more elementary, invariant units of meaning, somewhat of the analogy of the atomic structure of matter (2000:98)

Contrastive pairs may be very helpful in determining meaning of particular word (Larson, 1984:79). Each word that is closely related has the contrastive component which distinguishes those words.