CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the Topic

In British and American English, same concept may be manifested by different lexical constructions. For example, the concept of place where we can watch movie is represented by the word '*theater*' in UK and '*theatre*' in US. Arguing for this issue, Scheil (2004:3) states that '*theater*' and '*theatre*' have different connotations. In addition to that argumentation, she assumes that a director of founder of a theatre would want to tap into those. Inferred from Scheil's argumentation, he speculates that the American spelling, '*theater*' may convey more of a sense of accessibility for a potential audience rather than the elite connotations of *'theatre'*, but admits such connotations are unfounded. British '*theatre*', however, has a long history of amateur performance, and at least in London, *'theatre'* is much more accessible to common people that it is in the U.S. in terms of cheap tickets. From that example, different lexical constructions of British and American English can be a problem for a beginner of non-native speakers of English. Focusing on the case, the problem refers to how the beginner of English learners make a decision on which appropriate diction should be used in their conversation; whether *theatre* or *theater* in the previous example.

In this study, it is proposed that the learners should know and learn the difference of some words that have sharing meaning but different contructions to answer their problem on appropriate diction issue Identifying a case it arises a

question in a linguistic study; what factors may be involved in making decision, whether using British or American English. Further thought is assumed that two factors involved are to know and understand the origin and development of lexical constructions engaged in British English versus American English.

British and American English are well known as a dialect in English development. Theoretically, Barton (1996:1) assumes that British English is English that is used in the United Kingdom, and it includes all English dialects are used in there. He also states that American English is the form of English used in the United States; including all English dialects are used in the country. Supporting Barton's idea, UK uses '*sexy*' and US uses '*foxy'* for concept of woman with attractive appearance. However, Barton and Scheill's studies have not been completed yet. They leave the phenomenon of factors that might influence the origin of lexical constructions of British and American English. On purpose to give a contribution to the studies, this study develops the ideas of factors triggering the formation of lexical contructions.

1.2 Scope

As mention in the background, this study focuses on the origin and development of the lexical constructions involved in British English versus American English with the scope of:

1. What are factors that influence different lexical constructions of British and American English for sharing concepts?

1.3 Objectives

Based on the scope, the objective of the study is to identify factors that influence different lexical contructions of British and American English for sharing concepts.

1.4 Significance to Knowledge

This study has contribution theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study can be used for beginner of non-native English learners in understanding some words with sharing concept between British and American English. Practically, this study is to make easier for them in choosing the words on making a decision to use an appropriate diction in their daily conversation.

1.5 Framework of the Theories

There are some factors that influence lexical constructions with sharing concept of British and American English. In this study, those factors are preference, phonological item and history. Based on history, this study develops Brown's (2009:1) research. He assumes that what makes the difference is the colonialization of America by Great Britain.

The other factor is phonological items, which develop by the theory of Akmajian (2010:67) that assumes phonological items are according to the speech sounds. He also describes methods on how a sound is produced and what the form of making vowels and consonant is.

Akmajian (2010:363) has completed his research with the preference of using different lexical constructions of sharing concept by pragmatics. He declares what pragmatics is, and concludes why one person choose a word that is easier in one meaning better than other word that have double meaning.

1.6 Research Method

This study uses qualitative descriptive method. Lambert (1993:3) states that qualitative descriptive studies are the least "theoretical" of all of the qualitative approaches to research. In addition, qualitative descriptive studies are the least encumbered studies, compared to other qualitative approaches, by a pre-existing theoretical or philosophical commitment. For example, phenomenology, grounded theory, and ethnographic are based on specific methodological frameworks that emerged from specific disciplinary traditions. This theory of Lambert (1993:3) has a mutual direction with this study, because Lambert assumed that qualitative descriptive are based on theories and collecting data. For that reason, the present writer arranged all theories that may support the study and collected all data while dealing with customers of PT. Restu Valuta Mas Money Changer. Those data were recorded and transcripted into paragraph of conversation.