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

Linguistic studies on semantic relations, discussing how words relates each other semantically, describes that there are dependency between semantic and syntactical features. It means that the relationship holding between the words in a sentence determines its semantic relation. In other words, semantic relation is the study about the result meaning of particular word in the sentence, or the result meaning of syntactic structure (Saeed: 2003). Focusing on semantic relations, Kreidler (1998) argues for symmetric relations. Symmetry is theory about predicate that has relation between each other, for example,

(1) *John meets Rio*
it must be
Rio meets John.

The verb *meet*(*s*) is the predicate of the sentence. The predicate *meet*(*s*) is identified as symmetry because both arguments of predicate *meet*(*s*) fit each other. However, the predicate that does not have any relation between each other is called asymmetry (Partee: 2009). In its development, symmetrical relations do not

only discuss about predicate but it also may cover the relationships holding between clauses (Oliver, 1998:9). For instance,

(2) *It snowed **after** they had fought a battle*.

The example (2) presents the sentence that contains the conjunction *after,* giving a particular semantic relation. The sentence (2) is claimed interchangeable with:

(2i) *They had fought a battle **before** It snowed*.

It is argued that the conjunctions *after* and *before* are treated as a symmetric temporal conjunctions that show a sequence of event. First event is shown by a clause "*it snowed"* and the second by a clause *"they had fought a battle."* Thus, the clause structure in the sentence (2) can be changed without changing the meaning of the sentence and it is called symmetrical.

However, a further and close syntactic analysis on the words *after* and *before,* gives other syntactical roles. They are not only categorized as a conjunction, but also as the other part of speech; depending on their distribution in a sentence. Quirk et al (1985) claims that the words *before* and *after* have three parts of speech: conjunction, preposition and adverb. The challenge appears when both *after* and *before* play different categories; are they still symmetrical when acting as preposition and conjunction? In response to the challenge, the research focuses on symmetric-asymmetric relations of the word *after* and *before.*

As a nature, the research is triggered by the previous researches. Partee's Symmetric and Asymmetric predicate (2009), especially, contributes the idea

that predicate has symmetrical relations. Different from Partee (2009), this research focuses on symmetrical relations of the words *before and after* in the scope of predication and beyond. Referring on the phenomenon of the issue discussed, *after and before* may act in different categories regarded to their distribution (Quirk et al: 1985). In order to illustrate the categories of the words *before and after,* the sentence structure may be analysed by using tree diagram.

1.2 Research Questions

Referring to argumentation stated in 1.1, the research questions are formulated as follow:

1. To what categories *before and after* belong to the sentence?
2. What categories of *before and after* can have symmetric or asymmetric relations?

1.3 Research Objective

To answer the research questions, the objectives of this research are displayed as follow:

1. to identify the categories of the words *before and after* in the sentence
2. to analyse and describe the categories of the words *before and after* that can be a symmetric or asymmetric relations.

1.4 Significance to knowledge

This research gives readers new approaches on the word *before and after* theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research put syntactic and semantic dependency of the English word *before* and *after* occurs in the concept of predicative especially in symmetric-asymmetric relations of the words *before and after*. Practically, this research contributes to give alternative English expression with same meaning. Consequently, the scientific writer may produces expression variation to avoid unnecessary redundancy to use the words *before and after* with different categories and to be capable of differentiating those words in language use.

1.5 Frameworks of theories

Analysing symmetric and asymmetric relations, this research applies the theories of syntax as the supporting theory. Syntax is the study of phrase and sentence structure. Radford (2009; 13) mentions that syntactic structure serves as an input to semantic components. Based on the argumentation, syntactic structure is very important to analyse semantic relations built the sentence. Therefore, syntactic structure is required to analyse the data which are classified as the sentences that contain the words *before or after*. To illustrate the structure of the sentence, tree diagram is applied. Radford (2009; 37) states that *we show how the resulting structure can be represented in terms of a tree diagram, and we look at ways of testing the structure of phrases and sentences*. Based on the quotation, the data are analyzed using a tree diagram to show the sentence structure built by the

sentence constituents that are phrase(s) and clause(s). Based on Radford theory there are:

NP: Noun phrase (Noun as the head of phrase)

VP: Verb Phrase (Verb as the head of phrase)

PP: Prepositional phrase (preposition as the head of phrase)

DP: Determiner Phrase (determiner as the head of phrase)

TP: Tense Phrase (Tense phrase is used to describe verb with an auxiliary verb)

CP: Complementiser Phrase (Clauses introduced by complementisers; have been taken to have the status of CP/complementiser phrase constituents since the pioneering work of Stowell (1981) and Chomsky (1986b).

AP: Adjective Phrase (Adjective as the head of phrase)

ADVP: Adverb Phrase (Adverb as the head of phrase)

Symmetric-asymmetric relations are argued to be the relationships that hold between entities. Bluhdorn (2009: 77) claims that symmetric and asymmetric relations are semantically connected to the categories of entities, such as spatial object, events, or proposition. In order to serve phenomena beyond the simple clause, Oliver's ideas on symmetric-asymmetric relations, that symmetrical relation is the sequence, are adapted as a grand theory.