CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Semantics is the study of meaning. It deals with the literal meaning of words and the meaning of the way they are combined, which taken together form the core of meaning, or the starting point from which the whole meaning of a particular utterance is constructed (Kearns, 2011: 1). It is one of the interesting subjects to discuss in linguistics. Language is abstract and so is its meaning. The concrete one is the entities. People have different terms in expressing one thing, so it becomes arbitrary. To explain how people can relate the entities and its meaning has been explained by Ogden & Richards’ theory in their book “The meaning of meaning” (1945: 11) through semantic triangle. They classify the meaning of thing into three, namely symbol, reference and referent. Symbol is the representation of the entity, for example the word “cat”. Second is when people listen or know about “cat” they build the concept of this thing, such an animal, a mammal, four legs, furry, cute, and meow and it is known as reference. And the rest is the real entity in the real world which is known by referent. There is no relevant relation between symbol and referent.

Semantics concerns with the meaning not only non-sentences meaning, such as phrase and incomplete sentences, but also with the meaning of whole sentences. The meaning of whole sentences involve propositions, and the notion of proposition is central to semantics. A proposition is that part of the meaning of the utterance of a declarative sentence which describes some state of affairs (Hurford et. all, 2007: 20). Simple proposition or simple declarative sentence is needed in semantic analysis because it represents the propositions unambiguously. It is representable by a single predicator, drawn from the predicates in the language, and a number of arguments, drawn from the names in the language (Hurford et. all, 2007: 157). It also asserts the proposition where the assignment of the truth values (true/false) is intuitively most straightforward in the case of simple propositions (Hurford et. all, 2007: 20). Therefore the data in this research
are simple propositions or simple declarative sentences since the thematic roles is a logical analysis in which proposition must not be ambiguous.

Thematic role is one of semantic interpretation which involves determining the roles that the referent of NPs play in the situation described by sentences. It is used to describe the part played by a particular entity in an event (O’Grady and Dobrovolsky, 1997: 262). There are some recognized thematic roles namely, agent, theme, source, goal, and location. According to Frawley (1992: 200), thematic roles require predicates and arguments, not necessarily nouns and verbs. Thematic roles cannot directly be taken from grammatically roles. Thematic roles need the help of syntax especially deep structure as instrument to find the thematic roles of the sentence. According to O’Grady and Archibald (2016: 198) syntactic structure helps determining the meaning of the entire sentence through the positioning of words and phrases. In analysing language, thematic roles have an important role to explain and describe the function of noun.

Thematic role is very interesting to be analysed in this era since it explains the entity through different way and terms. The students in the class are usually taught by English teachers how to understand the construction of the sentences by traditional grammar and it cannot help the students much in understanding its meaning. Here, thematic role can help the students to understand the role of the entity in the sentence so it will help the students in understanding its meaning. In this research, the researcher is interested to analyse one of virtual comics which is known as Webtoon by thematic roles analysis because the researcher finds many simple sentences in the conversation which can be the data.

Webtoon is one of online comics which is launched in 2005 by Naver Corporation in Korea. Readers can find many genres of stories from romance, comedy, horror, drama, fantasy, thriller and etc in this Webtoon. It is also provided in various languages such as English, Chinese, Thai, Korean and Indonesian. So the readers can read it whenever and wherever they are because it can be accessed through online even through smartphone application. Because there are many stories which can be found in Webtoon, the researcher will pick up one famous story entitled Orange Marmalade.
Orange Marmalade is one of Webtoon’s romance stories which is composed by Seokwoo. It is one of the most favorite stories and it was filmed. It is a story about a vampire girl who lived as if she was a human because she did not want to be known as a vampire. People believe that vampires are monster because they drank human blood. Finally she was caught by people and they were scared of her except her close friends and her boyfriend. At the end of the story people could accept her in their community.

There are many studies which have discussed thematic roles in various discussion. The first study from Kang and Morita (2014) analysed the acquisition of the English verb open and its thematic roles in L2 English by Korean learners. The next study, Ferretti, et all (2001) investigated whether reading or hearing a verb results in the immediate computation of information regarding typical agents, patients, instruments, and location and whether the activation of this situation knowledge is modulated by syntactic clues. The third, Marlina (2012) in her research with some aims to identify the thematic role that mostly employed and to identify the existence of thematic roles in constructing the sentences’ meaning. The fourth, Dowty (1991), in his research, had some goals namely to lay some methodological groundwork for studying thematic roles with the tools of model-theoretic semantics, and to propose some new strategies for attacking the area one step at a time, to propose one new account of thematic roles that seems have merit as the first step, and to make syntacticians and all linguists recognize the dangers of continuing to take this notion for granted and of assuming that thematic roles are as well motivated as phonemes or phrase-markers and to invent and explore other novel theories of thematic roles. The next study, Matsuki (2013) in his thesis and dissertation had a goal to further readers’ understanding about the roles of thematic knowledge during sentence processing and sentence understanding by examining two critical unresolved issues. Another thesis from Samardzic (2009) investigated the cross-linguistic (English, German, and Serbian) divergences at the lexicon-syntax interface concerning predicate decomposition, namely the light verb constructions and causative constructions, which affect the predicate argument structure of sentences based on Fillmore theory. The last study Wang,
et all (2016) used thematic roles for neuropsychology research to examine the possibility of decoding the thematic role binding of an agent or patient from the neural activation patterns evoked by semantically reversible events depicted in an animation in healthy individuals.

In this research, the writer is interested in analysing one of Webtoon’s story through thematic roles analysis because she found many simple declarative sentences in the story’s conversations which support the researcher as data source. Because it is provided in many languages, the writer also wants to find out the equivalence of thematic roles in two languages namely English as source language and Indonesian as translated script since there is no study before which discuss the equivalence of two languages with the frame of thematic roles analysis. Moreover, the researcher also wants to know whether the translator presented the equivalence variation in the frame of semantic roles and whether there is the shift of roles from source language to translated script.

According to the explanation above, the writer is interested to analyse the conversations which contain simple declarative sentence in one of Webtoon’s story entitled Orange Marmalade based on thematic role’s theory from O’grady, Saeed and Kearns. So, the writer will conduct a research entitled “A Thematic Roles Analysis of Webtoon Orange Marmalade in English and Indonesian Version”.

B. Limitation of the Study

The topic of this study is “A Thematic Roles Analysis of Webtoon Orange Marmalade in English and Indonesian Version”. The writer will investigate simple declarative sentences of the conversation in Orange Marmalade story of Webtoon in English and Indonesia version based on thematic roles analysis of O’grady’s, Saeed’s and Kearns’ theory. Afterward, the writer will identify the role played in this Webtoon and describe the equivalence variation of thematic roles based on English as source language and Indonesian as translated script.
C. Problem Statement

The background has explained semantics especially thematic roles and online newspapers. These two proportions will help the researcher to make same issues to be solved. To solve the issues the researcher formulates same questions to be answered, namely:

1. What is the role played by each entity in the sentences found in the conversations of Orange Marmalade story of Webtoon in English and Indonesian version?
2. What are the equivalences of thematic roles found in the conversations of Orange Marmalade story of Webtoon in English and Indonesian version?

D. Objective of the Study

According to some questions above, they must be some objectives of this study. The objectives are as follow:

1. To describe the role played by each entity in the sentences found in the conversations of Orange Marmalade story of Webtoon in English and Indonesian version, then finding the rules of thematic roles in its utterances.
2. To describe the equivalence of thematic roles found in the conversations of Orange Marmalade story of Webtoon in English and Indonesian version.

E. Benefits of the Study

After doing this research, the writer hopes some benefits for the readers, namely:

1. Theoretical Benefits

Many researches about thematic roles have been discussed before. The problems which are found also complicated. Begin from the status of thematic roles, the way how to analyze the sentence, and so on. The present study is presented in order to develop the theory of thematic roles which is supported by some previous study. It also can be a theoretical reference for the lecturers and the students.
2. Practical Benefits
   a. For Lecturers and Teachers

   This research can be one of the references that lecturers and teachers need in teaching English as foreign language and for research. So, the lecturers and teachers can get more theory for teaching or research.

   b. For Students

   Students as English foreign learners, can get the benefits and solution in learning English. They can get the other way to learn and understand English. It can be the reference for them in theory of English language.

   c. For Researchers

   This research can be an inspiration for the development of another research. The researcher can complete the deficiencies from this research for the sake of the development of linguistic theory especially in thematic roles itself.

F. Research Paper Organization

   The researcher formulates the research into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction. It deals with the background of study, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, and significance of the study.

   Chapter II is theoretical framework. It consists of underlying theory and previous study. In underlying theory, it explains semantic, thematic roles, sentence, noun phrase, conversation, comic, and translation.

   Chapter III is research method. It deals with type of research, object of research, data and data source, method of collecting data, data validity, and method of analysing data.

   Chapter IV is finding and discussion of finding. It deals with the analysis of the role played by the entity of simple declarative sentence found in the
conversation of Webtoon *Orange Marmalade* and the equivalence of the thematic roles between Indonesian and English version of the Webtoon.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.