A SEMIOTICS STUDY ON METAPHOR USED IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF AL-QUR’AN

RESEARCH PAPER

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by

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language used for communication has role both as delivering and getting the information. Language as the way of communication is, in one side related to the meaning and in the other side related to the sign sound, word, and sentence or written text. In the process of communication sometime message is stated directly or explicit but sometimes it is stated in figurative language such metaphor. Metaphor needs deep understanding and needs to be paraphrased first to get the intent meaning.

Semiotics as the study of signs is the right approach in study of sign because people use many symbols or signs in communication. The symbols or signs themselves have meaning. A sign is composed of a signifier; the form which the sign take and the signified; the mental concept represented by the signifier. Study about semiotics is interesting because it will lead to have understanding toward sign or symbol in the message. The most important thing in communication is understand the intent of message.

One of the messages which need to have the right understanding is the Moslem Holy Scripture, Al-Qur’an. Al-Qur’an is the revelation of God. The message in Al-Qur’an sometimes is stated explicitly but sometimes implicitly by using figurative language. One of them is metaphor. Metaphor is a form of figurative languages in which the object or the concept is denoted by using
another object or concept. Metaphor also occurs when one says the thing and means something else. So it needs to be paraphrased first to have literal meaning. There are two ideas active together in the metaphor namely tenor and vehicle. a ‘literal’ primary subject (a tenor) expressed in the terms of ‘figurative’ secondary subject.

Example: *Then shall anyone who has done an atom’s weight of good see it!*

It is substance symbol. An atom is used to compare the greatest tiny goodness. “*Allah has a set seal on their hearts and on their hearings, and on their eyes there is a covering. (2: 7)*. It is object symbol. The intention of the verse reminds that Allah has authority toward human being, who rejects faith or disbelievers, especially who truly rejects faith. Allah resembles their hearts and hearing with house which has sealed door. There is no entrance to their heart for guidance their life.

They are unable to accept advice because they do not want to listen it. Allah covers their eyes so they are unable to see any kinds of sign from Allah in this world, which can bring them to faith. They just see the phenomenon, but they cannot think and take the lesson from it. Allah lets them sink in their lost as they want. A seal on their hearts and on their hearing symbolized locked condition and there is no entrance for guidance.

The use metaphor in Al-Qur’an is very interesting to be research and of course the writer does not mean to decrease or increase the content of Al-Qur’an it self. The researcher just means to describe the use of metaphor in English translation of Al-Qur’an its variations of symbols and its intention
viewed from semiotic approach because in communication or in learning language cannot be separated from its meaning while semiotic is related to language meaning, especially sign and symbol.

B. Previous Study

So far the writer knows that there are some researches in relation with the topic dealing with figurative language they are: Semiotic Study on Simile used in English Translation of Al-Qur’an” by Sakinah (2006-UMS). It analyzes figurative language used in translation of Al-Qur’an, it’s meaning, and the variation of symbol of simile. She classifies the data based on Human Perceptual System by Michael C Haley. Then she applies the semiotics theory to judge the inside meaning.

She found 9 simile symbols in Al-Qur’an English translation, namely Human symbol, abstract symbol, cosmos symbols, energy symbols, substance symbols, terrestrial symbols, thing/ objective symbols, Life symbols and animate creature symbols, the highest frequencies is human and their behavior symbols and the meaning of variation simile symbols are criticizing, reminding sarcasm, and beautifying.

Second is A Semantics Study of Metaphor Language used in the Josh Groban closer album “by Sutrisno 2006 described metaphorical expression on Josh Groban song lyrics in the Josh Groban closer album. She classifies the data based on Human perceptual system by M.C Haley. Then she applies semantic approach in order to get the inside meaning of it. She found 31 Metaphor expressions in these songs. There are 16 Abstract concept
expression, 2 Energy metaphor expression, 7 terrestrial metaphor expression, 1 animate creature expression, 1 substance metaphor expression and last 4 man/human expression.

From previous researches above, the writer analyzes the metaphor by using semiotic approach. It has different topic to the first researcher and use different approach with the second researcher, but similar approach with the first researcher.

C. Limitation of the Study

In this research the writer limits the problem in order to make the research easier, clearer and focuses on the objective or the purpose of the study. The writer observes metaphor on some chapters which contains metaphor. Because metaphor is kinds of figurative language which use word imaginatively and it need to be paraphrases first to get the intend meaning, and the message in Al-Qur’an it self sometime states explicitly but some time states implicitly by using figurative language.

D. Problem Statement

Based on the phenomenon about the problems of the study are formulated as follows:
1. What are the variations of the metaphor symbol in English Translation of Al-Qur’an based on Human perceptual system?
2. What are the meaning of the Metaphor symbols used in the English Translation of Al-Qur’an based on Human perceptual system?
E. Objective of Study

Based on the problem statement mentioned above, the writer has the following objectives:

1. To describe the variations in metaphor symbol used in the English Translation of Al-Qur’an based on Human perceptual system
2. To find out the meaning of the metaphor used in the English Translation of Al-Qur’an.

F. Benefit of the Study

The result of the study is expected to have two benefits:

1. Theoretically
   The study adds some literary insight in semiotic
2. Practically
   This research improves reader’s knowledge of understanding metaphor and the type of meaning in English translation of Al-Qur’an.

G. Research Organization

The organization of this research is based on the following arrangement.

Chapter I deal with the introduction that consists of background of the study, previous study, limitation study, problem statement, the objective of study, benefit of the study, research organization.

Chapter II is about underlying theory dealing with characteristic of Islamic Holy Scripture, metaphor, semiotics, and theory of symbol by Michael C Halley.
Chapter III deals with the research method presents the type of research, object of research, data and data sources, method of data collection, technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is research finding and discussion. It discusses data classification, data analysis, data discussion of the findings.

Chapter V is the last chapter in this research which draws conclusion, and suggestion.