

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

One easiest way for people to know or to search any meaning of a word is by using a dictionary. According to Stockwell and Minkova (2001), a dictionary either gives information about equivalences between two languages (so-called bi-lingual dictionaries), which is used in translating language that is not known well; or giving information about a language that has already been known in order to know better (so-called monolingual dictionaries). Dictionary becomes an important thing nowadays for people who talk any languages beside their first language. By using a dictionary, they will be able to use, understand, and get a meaning of language well in order to communicate each other and minimize missed-communication. It seems that one of the various kinds of dictionaries in the world that is most used is an English dictionary. It is because the usage of English that has become the strongest international lingua franca in the world (Crystal, 2003). Hoggs and Denison (2006) also stated that English is one of the languages that gives a big impact in the world because it is spoken by at least by 400 million people as their first language. So, there might be many people using an English dictionary because of the importance of English as a global language.

One of the most popular English dictionaries that has been known by most of people is Merriam Webster dictionary. It is one of American English dictionary which is usually used as the reference in the world of education (Stockwell and Minkova, 2001). It might be the best American English dictionaries because it was the first American English dictionary in America (Cowie, 2009). It is also found by Noah Webster who is very popular in the world of lexicography because he is the one who published the first truly American dictionary, *A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language* in 1806. There are eleven editions of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary which had been published since 1898 until 2003. The latest one is 11th edition of this dictionary. In this edition, it sets a new standard for college-level desk dictionaries and introduces a revolutionary combination of high quality reference and state-of-the-art technology (MWCD11, 2003). The latest edition is also available in two different versions of dictionary which are printed and electronic version following the development of technology.

Advances in technology encouraged a more extensive use of internet in any necessity of our life which is in this case is lexicographical projects. As it has been mentioned in the meaning of 'dictionary' that it is a reference source in printed or electronic form containing words usually alphabetically arranged along with information about their forms, pronunciations, functions, etymologies, meanings, and syntactical and idiomatic uses (MWCD11, 2003), therefore Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary is not only available in printed version, but it can be also accessed in online version.

In online version, people will get some advantages than the printed one. Beside the easier way to access, they will get some additional information from the meaning of a word including a new meaning of a word that can not be found in printed version of this dictionary (MWCD11, 2003). A new meaning of a word can be found in all languages, which in this case is written text, because it has been known that language changes overtime. This change is called semantic change.

According to Wilkins (1996), Semantic change is the form in the addition of a meaning to the semantic system or it also could be loss of a meaning from the semantic system while the form remains constant. It was firstly examined by Bréal in his early work entitled *Essai de Semantique* (1899). His theory explained four semantic changes which are restriction of meaning, expansion of meaning, metaphor, and abstract words and concretion of meaning (Bréal, 1899). However, his theory seems too old to use as the referential theory nowadays. So that is why Traugott and Dasher (2004) renew Bréal's theory in order to complement it than before. They suggest six important semantic changes that become the theory of this study which are Restriction, Expansion, Amelioration, Pejoration, Metaphor, and Metonymy (Traugott & Dasher, 2004).

There are some factors that can cause the emergence of semantic change itself. Campbell (1998) argues those three factors are structural (linguistic) factor, psychological factor, and also historical factor. In structural (linguistic) factor, it has nothing to do with external factor of the language such as material culture. For psychological factor, it deals with language acquisition that can be noted in any daily

life. Lastly, historical factor involves language external factor such as referents in a material culture. Those three factors will become a kind of classification from the analysis of semantic change in Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary.

The analysis of this study focused on the entries 'S' nouns of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary from its printed and online versions. The writer chooses those objects for three reasons. First, the entries 'S' is chosen because it is the highest number of entry in Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary 11th edition which is approximately 177 pages. Because of its highest number, there are also a higher number of words that probably indicate semantic change. Second, the content words which are sampled further into nouns are also due to their highest occurrence. According to the British National Corpus, the nouns appear approximately 15,285,549 word tokens out of million words in the corpus. Third, the writer chooses the online version because the year of the newest version of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary is more than 10 years up until now. Meanwhile in the online version, the editors of Merriam Webster Dictionary always do some activities to search some new words, new usages of existed words, variant spellings, understanding what it means and some other activities related to the word of the dictionary. However, it would not be found in the printed version. In printed version, it is just published at that time and would be not published again or make some revision to this dictionary because of their new meanings, usages, words, or any others until the time for the present edition published that takes 5 until 10 years. So,

the online version seems to be more appropriate in order to analyze semantic change with the latest edition of printed version.

There are similar studies which have already discussed about semantic change. However, none of the studies discussed semantic change based on two different versions of dictionaries. Ng, Sik Hung, et al (1993), wrote a journal article that examined semantic change of words associated with females and males. In 2013, Novitasari who is one of the English department students in Airlangga University has already conducted a research in semantic change. She analyzed about a semantic change of English nouns for the entry “A” and analyzed the dominant semantic change in the 5th and 8th editions of Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionaries by using the semantic change theory from Crystal. Besides, there is also another research from Harwinda in 2013. He was one of the English department student in UNAIR that has already conducted a research in semantic change which is *Semantic Changes of Nouns in Entries ‘S’ of Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary 4th Edition (OALD4, 1989) and Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary 8th Edition (OALD8, 2010)*. This study analyzed the semantic change of English nouns for the entry “S” and analyzed the dominant semantic change in the 4th and 8th editions of Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionaries by using semantic change theory from Traugott and Dasher.

In spite of the differences between those previous studies, the present study utilizes Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary as the object of the study. It also concentrates in entry ‘S’ between printed and online versions of this dictionary.

1.2 Statement of The Problems

This thesis is conducted in order to analyze semantic change that occurs in Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary in its printed and online versions. The selected word class is noun and the particular entries are 'S'.

The two statements of the problem that is formulated by the writer are as follows:

1. What semantic change for Entries 'S' Nouns is Found in Printed Version of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition and Its Latest Online Version?
2. What is the most common semantic change for Entries 'S' Nouns is Found in Printed Version of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition and Its Latest Online Version?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the objective of the study are as follows:

1. To analyzes semantic change for Entries 'S' Nouns Found in Printed Version of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition and Its Latest Online Version.
2. To explain the most common semantic change for Entries 'S' Nouns Found in Printed Version of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition and Its Latest Online Version.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study has both theoretical and practical contributions. Theoretically, this thesis is expected to contribute to the research in lexicography and semantics identified in a monolingual dictionary. Besides, this thesis is expected to contribute to the research of semantic change in monolingual dictionary which suggests consideration to lexicographers while revising dictionaries.

Practically, this thesis is expected to give more information to people who are interested in studying semantic change in English. In addition, it is also expected that this study can be something useful to enrich our knowledge about semantic change of English language in Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary. The results of this study will probably be used in order to help the lecturer and also the students who use or read the dictionary, realize that the meaning of a word inside the dictionary can change through the time. Also, the writer hopes that this study can be used as a reference to another study in order to develop a better analysis for further research in semantic change analysis.

1.5 Definition of Key terms

Semantic Change : shift from one linguistically coded meaning to another, for example, from obligation to do something to conclusion that something is the case. (Traugott and Dasher, 2004)

- Noun** : A term used in the grammatical classification of words, traditionally defined as the ‘name of a person, place or thing’, but the vagueness associated with the notions of ‘name’ and ‘thing’ (e.g. is *beauty* a thing?) has led linguistic descriptions to analyze this class in terms of the formal and functional criteria of syntax and morphology (Crystal, 2008)
- Entry** : A term used in grammatical description to refer to the accumulated structural information concerning a lexical item as formally located in a lexicon or dictionary (Crystal, 2008)
- Online Version** : The term electronic dictionary can be used to refer to any data collection in electronic form concerned with the spelling, meaning, or use of words (Cowie, 2009)
- Printed Version** : Print media is used to refer art factual media produced by means of printing technology (Magar, 2010)
- Collegiate Dictionary** : A dictionary designed for or characteristic of college students (MWCD11, 2003)