

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter shows all of theoretical framework and review of related studies used in this study in order to analyze semantic change. The writer divided this chapter into two parts. The first part explains theoretical framework of this study which focused in the explanation of semantic change, types of semantic change, Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary and Nouns as the object of this study. In the second part, it explains related studies which consist of some of the previous studies as the supporting theory and also in order to make a comparison with this study.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The theory is very important for the writer in conducting a research. Therefore, the researcher will not be able to conduct the research if there was no theory in supporting their ideas. In this part, there will be some explanations of the theory that is used by the writer to conduct this study. It explains about semantic change and will be followed by the types of semantic change. Beside, there will be some explanations about Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary and Nouns as the object of this study.

2.1.1 Semantic Change

Any changes of everything in the world can occur through the time as well as the meaning of a word. The changes in the meaning of a word are called semantic

change. According to Crystal (1994), semantic change is the change of a word meaning. He argued that semantic change is a fact of life and everyone knows that words can change their meaning (p.138). For example, the meaning of the word *hot spot* has been changed over the time. The previous meaning was related with a place of political danger, a lively nightclub, and also could be an area on the screen which can be clicked on to start an operation such as loading a file. Nowadays, the meaning of word *hot spot* that popular among the people is an area where we can get connected to the internet through a wireless network.

Wilkins (1996) also stated that 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 change 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).

The phenomenon of semantic change has been developed since long time ago. 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.

2.1.2 Types of Semantic Change

There are many types of semantic change that can be used to identify the changes between the previous and the new meaning of a word. According to Traugott and Dasher, the six important types of semantic change are restriction, expansion, amelioration, pejoration, metaphor, and metonymy (Traugott & Dasher, 2004).

2.1.2.1 Restriction

Restriction of meaning here is similar with semantic narrowing type that means the meaning of a word becoming more specific than before. In this type, the meaning of a word is getting special than the previous meaning. The range of meanings is decreased so that a word can be used appropriately only in fewer contexts than it could before the change. For example in the word *x-ray*, it means ‘to examine, treat, or photograph with X-rays’ in printed version of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary. Whereas the online version, the word *x-ray* means ‘to examine

and make images of (things, such as the bones and organs inside the body) by using X-rays'. The meaning of a word *x-ray* in the online version shows that it has more specific meaning than before. So it can be concluded that the word *x-ray* in the online version of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary restrict its meaning from the printed version.

2.1.2.2 Expansion

This type is similar with semantic generalization, semantic widening, or semantic broadening that means the meaning of a word becoming more general than before. The range of meanings of a word increases so that the word can be used in more contexts than were appropriate for it before the change. Numerous examples of this process have occurred in the religious field where office, doctrine, novice and many other terms have taken on a more general, secular range of meaning. According to Bréal, expansion of meaning has an exterior cause that results from the events of history (Bréal, 1899). For example in the word *Cupboard*, in printed version it means 'a closet with shelves where dishes, utensils, or food is kept; also: a small closet'. Whereas in online version, it changes its meaning become 'a piece of furniture used for storage that has doors and contains shelves; a small room with shelves where you keep cups, dishes, or food; a small room where things are stored'.

2.1.2.3 Amelioration

It is the changes of meaning to be more positive connotation (Traugott & Dasher, 2004). For example in the word *Abjure*, in printed version it means 'to

renounce upon oath; to reject solemnly; to abstain from'. Whereas in online version, the meaning change become 'to reject (something) formally'.

2.1.2.4 Pejoration

This type is the tendency to semanticize the more negative connotation of a word (Traugott & Dasher, 2004). It is an opposed to amelioration and also called deterioration. Bréal said that pejoration of this type in part to malice and "pleasure in looking for a vice or a fault behind a quality". He also sees that it is the result of euphemism, the tendency to veil disagreeable ideas, and to disguise such ideas with new terms that themselves later take on the taboo meanings they were meant to mask (Bréal, 1964). For example meaning of the words *deteriorate* which once meant 'widely known', and now means 'widely and unfavourably known'.

2.1.2.5 Metaphor

Metaphor is the mapping of one concept onto another (Traugott & Dasher, 2004). It involves understanding or experiencing one kind of thing in terms of another kind of thing thought somehow to be similar in some way. Metaphor in semantic change involves extensions in the meaning of a word that suggest a semantic similarity or connection between the new sense and the original one (Campbell, 1999). Metaphor changes the meaning of words and creates new expressions on the spur of the moment. It is born from the instantaneous glimpse of a similarity between two objects or two acts (Bréal, 1899). For example in the word *Bead*, in obsolete meaning it means 'prayer'. Whereas for now the meaning of the word *Bead* based on

Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary which is online version, it means ‘a small, usually round piece of glass, wood, stone, etc., that has a hole through its center and that is put on a string with other similar pieces and worn as jewelry or that is sewn onto clothing’.

2.1.2.6 Metonymy

Traugott and Dasher state that this type is the association of one word with another (Traugott & Dasher, 2004). It involves shift in meaning from one thing to another that is present in the context. Its conceptual association between the old and new meanings may lack precision. For example, the word *wheel* was used synecdochically to refer to ‘a variety of wheeled vehicles, including carts and carriages until modern times’.

2.1.3 Noun

Noun is a term that is 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). Nouns are generally sub-classified into common and proper types, and analyzed in terms of number, gender, case and countability. According to Crystal (1994), there are some factors that can be characterized by the noun itself; they are syntactic structure, syntactic function,

grammatical morphology, and lexical morphology. In syntactic structure, a noun is the chief item of a noun phrase. In syntactic function, a noun's functions as the subject, object, or complement of a clause, for example in the sentences '*Oranges are delicious*' and '*I bought oranges yesterday*'; those objects are oranges. In grammatical morphology, a noun can change its form to express a contrast in singular or plural number or to mark the genitive case. In lexical morphology, a noun can be formed by adding one of a small list of suffixes.

Moreover, two or more nouns can combine themselves to form a single noun because words may be joined to other roots to produce compound words. The combining word, which in this case is noun, is called a compound noun such in the word *bedroom, rainfall, washing machine, blackboard*, etc. Not only noun that can be combined to form a compound word but some other content words such as verbs and adjectives also can combine them with other word classes to produce a compound word. Therefore, this study focused on nouns used as a word and a compound word.

2.1.4 Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary

Dictionary is a reference source in print 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). Dictionary becomes an important thing nowadays for people who talk any languages beside their first language. By using a dictionary, they will be able

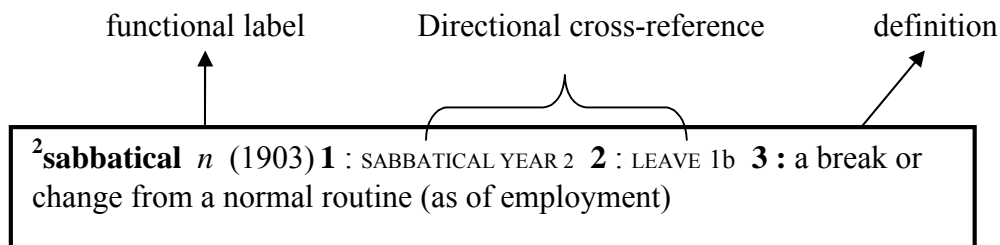
to use, understand, and get a meaning of language well in order to communicate each other and minimize missed-communication.

It seems that one of the various kinds of dictionaries in the world that is mostly 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). 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.

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). It is because 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 could 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. Therefore, the online version seems to be more appropriate to analyze semantic change with the latest edition of printed version.

In printed version, there are 46 internal structures that can be found in Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary such as angle brackets, binominal, definition, directional cross-reference, equal variant, etymology, functional label (adjective, verb, noun, adverb), illustrative quotation, pronunciation, and so on as it can be seen in the picture below:



Whereas for the online version, it involved more extend feature than the printed one as can be seen in the picture below:

¹sab·bat·i·cal  *adjective* \sa-'ba-ti-kał\

Definition of SABBATICAL [Cite!](#) [G+1](#)

1 : of or relating to a sabbatical year

2 : of or relating to the *sabbath* <*sabbatical* laws>

[See sabbatical defined for kids »](#)

Variants of SABBATICAL

sab·bat·i·cal  or **sab·bat·ic** 

Origin of SABBATICAL

Late Latin *sabbaticus*, from Greek *sabbatikos*, from *sabbaton*
 First Known Use: 1599

Other Education Terms

baccalaureate, colloquium, corequisite, dissertation, monograph, pedant, practicum, survey course, thesis

Rhymes with SABBATICAL

grammatical, piratical

²sabbatical *noun*

: a period of time during which someone does not work at his or her regular job and is able to rest, travel, do research, etc.

Full Definition of SABBATICAL

1 : SABBATICAL YEAR 2

2 : LEAVE 1b

3 : a break or change from a normal routine (as of employment)

[See sabbatical defined for English-language learners »](#)

Examples of SABBATICAL

- Several professors will be taking *sabbaticals* this year.
- She recently returned to work after a two-year *sabbatical* from her acting career.
- Several professors will be *on sabbatical* this year.

First Known Use of SABBATICAL

1903

Other Education Terms

baccalaureate, colloquium, corequisite, dissertation, monograph, pedant, practicum, survey course, thesis

Browse

- Next Word in the Dictionary: [sabbatical year](#)
- Previous Word in the Dictionary: [Sabbatian \(noun\)](#)
- All Words Near: [sabbatical](#)

“ Seen & Heard ”

What made you want to look up *sabbatical*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

From the picture above, it can be seen that there are some additional features that is more extend compared with the printed one such as the 'speaker' button, a new definition, examples, synonym, antonym, and so on. The 'speaker' button will spell the pronunciation of the word. So, if non-native speakers did not know how to pronounce the word well, he or she just clicked on the 'speaker' button then there will be a pronunciation that is said by the native speaker. There is also stated a new definition of the word that changes its meaning, and the previous definition that stated in the printed dictionary.

There are eleven editions of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary which had been publishing since 1898 until 2003. The writer chooses 11th edition of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary because it is the newest edition up until now. The latest edition is also available in two different versions of dictionary which are printed and electronic version following the development of technology. From those two different versions of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary, the writer found that there is also a different meaning of some words inside. Therefore, that is why the writer decided to examine a semantic change based on those two different versions of this dictionary which is electronic or online version and the printed one.

2.1.5 Cultural Change

Language is an important key in extending culture and making it popular in the world. According to Assemi, et al (2012) some cultures are more popular because of the popularity of their languages. Language is a connector among cultures as

translation among words and sentences. All cultures change overly through the time. It is common wisdom that language is culturally embedded. Culture is what brings us together as human beings, as social creatures (Assemi, et al, 2012). Change in culture is completely unobservable and nonmaterial. In language or in ideas about language, Cultural change is often accompanied by a change in idiom. Hornby (2010) also said that cultural change in language can be related to the notion of euphemism.

One of the effects of cultural change that can affect the world of language is the change of the meaning of the word or it can be called as semantic change. It seems that the types of semantic change that caused by cultural change's factor are amelioration and pejoration. In amelioration, the meaning of the word changes to be more positive, whether in pejoration, the meaning of the word changes to be more negative than before. As hornby (2010) said, cultural change can be related to the notion of euphemism. The euphemism can be appeared among the people because of the human mind that is getting more advanced than before. Therefore, people change their mindset in the use of euphemism which in this case is the word usage, to refer to something unpleasant, disrespecting or even hurting (Hornby, 2010).

Those are the explanations of theoretical framework. The second part will explain about review of related studies. In this part, it will explain related studies which consist of some of the previous studies as the supporting theory and also in order to make a comparison with this study. The previous studies are taken from two different theses that had been conducted by the students of Airlangga University.

2.2 Review of Related Studies

There are some similar studies which have already discussed semantic change that is done by undergraduates. The two of them are by Novitasari in 2013 and the other one is from Harwinda. The first is a thesis from Novitasari in 2013. She was one of the English department student in UNAIR that has already conducted a research in semantic change which is *A Study of Semantic Changes of English Nouns for the Entry 'A' in the 5th and 8th Editions of Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionaries*. This study 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. There are some similarities and differences between Novitasari's study and this study. The similarity is both studies analyzed semantic change and try to find the dominant semantic change. For the differences, Novitasari's study used Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary whereas this study uses Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary. Second, Novitasari analyzed semantic change just from the printed version of the dictionary but this study analyzed semantic change that occurred in English which are found in the two different versions of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary which are printed and electronic version.

The second thesis is from Harwinda. His study entitled *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)* analyzed 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 the semantic changes theory from Traugott and Dasher. The first similarity was from the entry that the writer focused on. These studies focused in the entry 'S' of the dictionary. Second, both of these studies analyzed semantic change by using the theory of Traugott and Dasher. For the differences, Harwinda used Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary while this study uses Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary. Second, he analyzed semantic change just from the printed version of the dictionary but this study analyzed semantic change that occurred in English which are found in the two different versions of Merriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary which are printed and electronic version.