CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, the existence of dictionaries can be found everywhere. It means that its existence is closer to people's daily lives. People need dictionaries when they read texts of foreign languages to avoid misunderstanding when they find unfamiliar words. A dictionary is a description of the vocabulary used by members of a speech community such as by speakers of English (Atkins and Rundell, 2008).

According to Atkins and Rundell (2008), there are many types of dictionaries based on many different aspects. They are the dictionary's language(s), the dictionary's coverage, the dictionary's size, the dictionary's medium, the dictionary's organization, the users' language(s), the users' skills, and what they use the dictionary for. Those aspects are used in classifying trade dictionaries.

The first, based on the dictionary's language(s), dictionaries are classified into monolingual, bilingual, and multilingual. There are two types of bilingual, namely unidirectional and bidirectional. The second, based on the dictionary's coverage, dictionaries are classified into general language, encyclopedic and cultural material, terminology or sublanguages (e.g. a dictionary of legal terms, cricket, nursing), and specific area of language (e.g. a dictionary of collocations,

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phrasal verbs, or idioms).

The third, based on the dictionary's size, dictionaries are classified into standard (or 'collegiate') edition, concise edition, and pocket edition. The fourth, based on the dictionary's medium, dictionaries are classified into print, electronic (e.g. DVD or handheld), and web-based. The fifth, based on the dictionary's organization, dictionaries are classified into word to meaning (the most common) and word to meaning to word (where looking up one word leads to other semantically related words).

The sixth, based on the users' language(s), dictionaries are classified into a group of users who all speak the same language, two specific groups of language-speakers, and learners worldwide of the dictionary's language. The seventh, based on the users' skills, dictionaries are classified into linguists and other language professionals, literate adults, school students, young children, and language learners. The last, based on what they use the dictionary for, dictionaries are classified into decoding, which is understanding the meaning of a word and translating from a foreign language text into their own language and encoding, which is using a word correctly, translating a text in their own language into a foreign language, and language teaching.

Over time, the contents of dictionaries tend to change. The contents of dictionaries change as the effect of the changes of languages. A language relatively changes by the change of its form and meaning continuously. In addition, the change of form causes the change of meaning (Sudaryat, 2006). The change of meaning means that a word meaning can become more or less general

or the connotation of meaning can become more positive or negative than the previous meaning. This process is known as semantic changes. Semantics itself studies meaning in languages (Moss and Tiede, 2007). Thus, semantics is the study of meaning and semantic change is the change of meaning in words, phrases, and sentences. However, this study focuses on semantic changes of English words.

Semantic changes happen because of smoothening factors and triggering factors. According to Ullmann, cited in Sudaryat (2006), there are six factors smoothening the semantic changes which are a language develops, a language is vague, a language is equivocal, a language loses motivation, a language has lexical structure, and a language has double meanings. The first, a language develops. A language is change from one generation to another (Meilet, cited in Sudaryat, 2006). The second, a language is vague. The change of a word meaning in a language happens because there is vagueness in a language. The third, a language is equivocal. Any interpretation appears because a language is equivocal. The fourth, a language loses motivation. The change of a word happens because the origins of its form and sound are unknown. The fifth, a language has lexical structure. The lexical structure is any relation of meanings in vocabularies. The sixth, a language has double meanings. It is called polysemy.

Next, according to Sudaryat (2006), there are six triggering factors of the semantic changes which are linguistic factor, historical factor, sociological factor, psychological factor, factor of foreign language, and factor of need of new lexeme. The first is linguistic factor. The change of a word meaning in a language

happens because of its usage in the structure of a language. The second is historical factor. A word meaning may change because of the journey of time. The third is sociological factor. It is related to the environment of society. The fourth is psychological factor. The change of a word meaning happens because of the user's subjectivity. The fifth is factor of foreign language. The usage of foreign languages' words in a language adds vocabularies in the language and changes a word meaning. The sixth is factor of need of new lexeme. The change of a word meaning happens because of the usage of new words or lexemes.

Semantic changes are also reflected in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionaries (OALDs) which have been published by Oxford University Press since 1948. The 1st edition was in 1948, the 2nd edition was in 1963, the 3rd edition was in 1974, the 4th edition was in 1989, the 5th edition was in 1995, the 6th edition was in 2000, the 7th edition was in 2005, and the 8th edition was in 2010. OALDs are published continuously in order to update the contents. A word meaning naturally changes in various ways through time, usually not having the same connotation as they did a thousand years before (McWhorter, 2004). The newest OALD, the 8th edition, experiences semantic changes from the previous editions by adding 1000 new words and meanings.

In linguistic areas, there are many studies about semantic changes. Several of them are *Semantic Change and Meaning Shift Analysis on Film Making Terms* (Tobing, 2010) and *A Semantic Change Analysis of Japanese Loanwoard (Gairaigo) in Nipponia Magazine* (Javandalasta, 2011). Tobing analyzed the meaning changes of words that were used in film making terms and factors which

caused the meaning change. The data were taken from *Kamus Istilah Film Populer.* Javandalasta analyzed the semantic changes of Japanese loanwords that were borrowed from English and the dominant semantic change of the Japanese loanwords. The data were taken from *Nipponia* magazine. The deficiency of those studies is that the data were not taken from English dictionaries whereas English is an international language spoken by many people in the world. The data of this study are taken from OALDs. This study chooses dictionaries as the objects because dictionaries describe vocabularies of languages. A good dictionary tells the readers the ways in which that word typically contributes to the meaning of an utterance, the ways in which it combines with other words, the types of text that it tends to occur in, etc. (Atkins and Rundell, 2008).

This study takes the data from OALDs because they update the contents continuously. Furthermore, English is spoken by 1880 million speakers (Crystal, 2003). Since the opening of the nineteenth century, English had spread to the world and in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the number of speakers of the language grew (Bauer, 2002). A trend in the use of global English is that fewer interactions now involve a native-speaker (Graddol, 2006). This study chooses using the 5th edition because it is the first time to use British National Corpus and the 8th edition because it is the first time of Oxford English Corpus. OALD 5th contains a defining vocabulary of 3500 words, the 100 million-word British National Corpus, the 40 million-word Oxford American English Corpus, etc. whereas OALD 8th contains vocabulary to 7500 words, 1000 new words and

meanings, 3000 keyword entries, 184500 words, phrase and meanings, etc. So, this study identifies the semantic changes in both editions of OALDs.

This study attempts to identify what types of semantic changes of English nouns for the entry "A" and find the dominant semantic change in OALD 5th and OALD 8th. This study chooses nouns because they are the most number experiencing semantic changes than other word classes. Therefore, the importance of the study is to be a reference for further studies in semantic changes. Finally, this study will analyze semantic changes of English nouns for the entry "A" in both editions of OALDs by using a theory of semantic changes from David Crystal. Semantic changes are divided into four types, namely semantic extension, semantic narrowing, semantic amelioration, and semantic pejoration (Crystal, 1994).

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the problems as follows:

1. What types of semantic changes are experienced by English nouns for the entry "A" occur in the 5th and 8th editions of OALDs?

2. What is the dominant semantic change of English nouns for the entry "A" found in the 5th and 8th editions of OALDs?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To find out the types of semantic changes experienced by English nouns for the entry "A" occur in the 5th and 8th editions of OALDs.

2. To find out the dominant semantic change of English nouns for the entry "A" found in the 5th and 8th editions of OALDs.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to contribute to the study of semantic changes occurring in OALD 5th and OALD 8th. In addition, it also can provide information for the readers about presentation of the English words' meanings in both editions. Practically, the result of this study is to be used as a reference to the students who are interested in the same topic with this study.

1.5 Definitions of Key Terms

Semantic Changes: The changing of words' meanings namely semantic extension, semantic narrowing, semantic amelioration, and semantic pejoration (Crystal, 1994)

Nouns: Words that describe people, places, abstract qualities, and actions (Nesfield, cited in Crystal, 1994)

Dictionary: A dictionary is a description of the vocabulary used by members of a speech community such as by speakers of English (Atkins and Rundell, 2008)

Learner's Dictionaries: Dictionaries designed for learners or users of a language other than their mother tongue (Kernerman, 1996)