CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter shows review of related theories, theoretical frameworks, and review of related studies. This chapter is divided into three parts. The first part presents review of related theories which describes about semantics, smoothening factors, and triggering factors of the semantic changes. The second part presents theoretical frameworks that describe about semantic changes, noun, and Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary as the object of this study. The third part presents review of related studies that contains the previous studies of the semantic changes.

2.1 Review of Related Theories

2.1.1 Semantics

The origin of the word semantics is not from English language. Sudaryat (2006) states that "The word semantics comes from Greek language *sema* (noun) 'sign' or 'symbol', which the verb is *semaino* 'sign' or 'symbolize'" (p.9). "Semantics is the study of meanings; but not simply the meanings of words" (Thiselton, 1977, p.75). Semantics is one of linguistics' subjects that studies about the meaning of utterances, either in words, phrases, or sentences which are written or spoken based out of any particular context. Semantics is the study of meaning "communicated through language" and "of words and sentences" (Saeed, 2003,

9

p.3). The focus of semantics is "to discover and interpret the meaning of an utterance in relation to its historical and literary context" (Thiselton, 1977, p.75). Semantics studies things that are related to meaning, such as the origin, usage, change, synonymy, multiple meaning, opposition, vagueness and ambiguity, cognitive and emotive factors, and development (Sudaryat, 2006; Thiselton, 1977).

There are two types of meaning which are lexical meaning and structural meaning. Lexical meaning is the meaning of a lexeme and it is not based on the context. Structural meaning is the meaning that appears as the effect of the relation between a language's element and another one (Sudaryat, 2006). According to the explanations of semantics above, the task of a semanticist is to describe the knowledge of semantics.

2.1.2 Smoothening Factors of the Semantic Changes

The meaning of a word can change because there are factors that smoothen it. According to Ullmann, cited in Sudaryat (2006), there are six factors smoothening the semantic changes, namely 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.

a. A language develops. A language is change from one generation to another (Meilet, cited in Sudaryat, 2006). The change of a language affects

its form and meaning. For example, the change of a word meaning happens from a negative connotation become a positive connotation.

b. A language is vague. The change of a word meaning in a language happens because there is vagueness in a language. For example, the change appears because the listener gives a different interpretation from the speaker's purpose.

c. A language is equivocal. Any interpretation appears because a language is equivocal or ambiguity. For example, a word contains two different interpretations or meanings.

d. A language loses motivation. In linguistic development in Greece, there are naturalistic and conventionalistic views. Naturalistic view considers between sound and meaning of a word related. The change of a word happens because the origins of its form and sound are unknown. So, the word easily changes. It is based on conventionalistic view. There is no a direct relation between the sound and meaning of a word.

e. A language has lexical structure. The lexical structure is any relation of meanings in vocabularies, such as synonym, antonym, homonym, hyponym, and polysemy. Because of the lexical structure, a word meaning easily changes. For example, the usage of a word in different sentences will change the meaning.

f. A language has double meanings. It is called polysemy, included in lexical structure. A word having double meanings will easily change the

meanings by using in a sentence because of the users' different interpretations.

2.1.3 Triggering Factors of the Semantic Changes

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.

a. 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. Usually, it is the effect of an element of language meeting another element of the language. The change can happen in morphology, phonology and syntax. For example, a verb changes becoming a noun because of adding a suffix -er: *perform* becomes *performer*.

b. The second is historical factor. A word meaning may change because of the journey of time. It means used in different time.

c. The third is sociological factor. It is related to the environment of society. The change of a word meaning happens by the usages in different environment based on the society.

d. The fourth is psychological factor. The change of a word meaning happens because of the user's subjectivity. There are three psychological factors changing the meaning, namely politeness, belief (taboo), and people's opinions.

e. 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.

f. 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. The usage of new lexemes replaces the old lexemes because the old ones are not suitable anymore.

2.2 Theoretical Frameworks

2.2.1 Semantic Changes

Language change affects meaning change which the origin of a given word's meaning has its history. Giving a name to a thing happens by a baptismal event (Kripke, cited in Lehrer and Lehrer, 1995). Semantic change is the change of a word meaning. It happens because everything in this world changes including a word meaning by the time. Crystal (1994) argues that "Everyone knows that words can change their meaning" and "Semantic change is a fact of life" (p.138). For example, the meaning of word *cowboy* has been changed over time. The previous meaning was related with its romantic associations of the Wild West. Now, the meaning is added. In British English, it can mean an incompetent or irresponsible workman or business. In Northern Ireland, it can mean a member of a sectarian gang. In American English, it can mean an automobile driver who does

not follow the rules of the road or a factory worker who does more than the peacework norms set by his union or fellow-workers (Crystal, 1994).

The phenomenon of semantic change has been developed since long time ago. Grygiel (2005) acknowledges that "The problem of semantic change has preoccupied linguists ever since the beginning of the 19th century" (p.25). Studying semantic change means learning knowledge of semantics deeply and intensively. Hollmann (2009) contends that "Studying semantic change presupposes a more general understanding of semantics" (p.526). There are two types of semantic change, which are lexical semantic change and grammatical semantic change (Hollmann, 2009). Lexical semantic change means the change of a lexeme's meaning. Whereas, grammatical semantic change means the change of a phrase's or sentence's meaning based on the context.

Knowing the change of a word's meaning can be done by comparing between the previous or old meaning and the new meaning of a word. There are many types of semantic changes. The four important types of semantic changes which are semantic extension, semantic narrowing, semantic amelioration, and semantic pejoration (Crystal, 1994).

2.2.1.1 Semantic Extension

Semantic extension or generalization is the meaning of a word becoming more general than before (Crystal, 1994). Semantic extension can be called semantic generalization, semantic widening, or semantic broadening. It is one of

the semantic changes in which a word meaning is getting wide than the previous meaning. For example, the previous meaning of the word *dog* is some specific large and strong breeds. However, the new meaning of the word *dog* is any old dog (Hollmann, 2009). It means that the word *dog* was only used to certain dogs which were large and strong but today, the word *dog* is used to any adult dogs without any certain characteristics. This meaning change shows that the meaning of the word *dog* experiences semantic extension because the new meaning is more general than before. In addition, semantic extension is contrary to semantic narrowing (Hollmann, 2009).

2.2.1.2 Semantic Narrowing

Semantic narrowing or specialization is the meaning of a word becoming more specific than before (Crystal, 1994). Semantic narrowing can be called semantic specialization. It is one of the semantic changes which a word meaning is getting special than the previous meaning. For instance, the previous meaning of the word *engine* is mechanical contrivance (especially of war and torture). However, the new meaning of the word *engine* is mechanical source of power. It has been changed since the existence of the Industrial Revolution (Crystal, 1994). It means that the word *engine* was used to mechanical contrivance but today, the word *engine* is used to mechanical source of power that is related to industry. This meaning change shows that the meaning of the word *engine* experiences semantic narrowing because the new meaning is less general than before. In addition, semantic narrowing is contrary to semantic extension (Hollmann, 2009).

2.2.1.3 Semantic Amelioration

Semantic amelioration is the meaning of a word becoming more positive than before (Crystal, 1994). It is one of the semantic changes which a word meaning is more positive than the previous meaning. For example, the previous meaning of the word *revolutionary* is associated in the capitalist mind with an undesirable overthrowing of the status quo. However, the new meaning of the word *revolutionary* is widely used by advertisers as a signal of desirable novelty. Another example is the word *lean*. The previous meaning is bringing to mind emaciation but the new meaning is athleticism and good looks (Crystal, 1994). These meaning changes show that the meanings of the word *revolutionary* and *lean* experience semantic amelioration because those new meanings are more positive than before.

2.2.1.4 Semantic Pejoration

Semantic pejoration or deterioration is the meaning of a word becoming more negative than before (Crystal, 1994). Semantic pejoration can be called semantic deterioration. It is one of the semantic changes in which a word meaning is more negative than the previous meaning. For instance, the previous meaning of the word *villein* in Middle English neutrally described a serf. However, the new meaning of the word *villain* in Modern English is by no means neutral (Crystal, 1994). Another example is the word *sinister* "where the word did not carry any negative meaning but simply meant 'left'. (It may well be relevant, though, that most of you would refer to your left hand as your 'bad hand'.)" (Hollmann, 2009,

p.528). These meaning changes show that the meanings of the word *villain* and *sinister* experience semantic pejoration because those new meanings are more negative than before.

2.2.2 Noun

Noun is one of word classes beside pronoun, adjective, adverb, verb, preposition, and conjunction. Crystal (1994) responds that "A word class is a group of words which, from a grammatical point of view, behave in the same way" (p.207). Noun is a word that refers to a person, a thing, a place, an abstract quality, or an action (Nesfield, cited in Crystal, 1994). In other words, nouns can be said as words that refer to concrete or abstract things. The examples of nouns are girl, cat, house, perfection, and performance. The characteristics of nouns are decided by four factors which are syntactic structure, syntactic function, grammatical morphology, and lexical morphology. In syntactic structure, a noun is the chief or head item of a noun phrase, such as *the new telephones*. In syntactic function, a noun functions as the subject, object, or complement of a clause, such as *Apples are popular*. In grammatical morphology, a noun can change its form to express a contrast in singular and plural number or to mark the genitive case, such as *a cat* or *cats*. The last in lexical morphology, a noun can be formed by adding one of a small list of suffixes, for example: *-age*, *-ment*, or *–tion*, to a verb, an adjective, or another noun (Crystal, 1994).

2.2.3 Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

A dictionary is the work result of linguistics that contains a collection of words' information and things which are related to the words, such as the meanings. Usually, the form of a dictionary is printed or electronic (Kirkness, 2004). A learner's dictionary is made for the non natives of a language that it is different with a dictionary which is especially made for the natives. There are three characteristics of a learner's dictionary. The first, the list of words is usually limited. The second, it contains the examples of the words' list in sentences or phrases. The third, it contains notes and information that are related to the words' list by the lexicographer (Kernerman, 1996). So, OALD is a type of dictionaries that is especially designed for the non natives of English language. OALD is published by Oxford University Press since 1948 and there are eight editions that have been published since the year. In other words, OALDs are always updated. The semantic changes in OALDs can be proved by comparing the different editions. That is why, it interests the writer to study the semantic changes in OALD 5th and OALD 8th which the 8th edition as the newest edition.

2.3 Review of Related Studies

There are many studies of semantic change by undergraduates. The two of them are by Tobing in 2010 and by Javandalasta in 2011. The first is by Tobing (2010) which is *Semantic Change and Meaning Shift Analysis on Film Making Terms*. This study analyzed the meaning change of words that were used in film making terms and factors that facilitated the meaning change by using the

componential meaning analysis from Palmer. Tobing inspires the writer to do the same study about semantic change. There are similarities and differences between Tobing's study and this study. The first similarity, both studies do the same study which is semantic change. The second similarity, both studies use dictionaries as the objects. In contrast, the first difference is Tobing using *Kamus Istilah Film Populer* by Nisrina Lubis (2009) but this study uses OALDs. The second difference, Tobing used the componential meaning analysis by Palmer but this study uses the semantic changes theory by David Crystal. The last difference, Tobing analyzed the meaning change of words that were used in film making terms and factors that facilitated the meaning change but this study identifies the types of semantic changes of English nouns for the entry "A" in OALD 5th and OALD 8th and finds the dominant semantic change.

The second is by Javandalasta (2011) which is *A Semantic Change Analysis of Japanese Loanwoard (Gairaigo) in Nipponia Magazine*. This study analyzed the semantic changes of Japanese loanwords that were borrowed from English and the dominant semantic change of Japanese loanwords in the magazine by using the semantic changes theory from David Crystal. Javandalasta inspires the writer to do a similar study about semantic changes. There are similarities and differences between Javandalasta's study and this study. The first similarity, both studies analyze the semantic changes and find the dominant semantic change. The second similarity, both studies analyze the semantic changes by using the theory of David Crystal. In contrast, the first difference is Javandalasta using *Nipponia Magazine* as the object but this study uses OALDs as the objects. The second

difference, Javandalasta analyzed the semantic changes that occurred between two different languages which were from English to Japanese language but this study analyzes the semantic changes that occur in English which are found in the different editions of OALDs.