

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays, there is no language than can surpass English as the most well-known language in the world. English has become an international language which is used in most countries in the world. However, the style of English language in one country is different from that in another country. As we know there are two styles of English language that are mostly used by people around the world, those are British English (BE) and American English (AE). According to Holmes (2001:125), one of the differences between BE and AE is in the vocabulary, for example many Americans use *dove* while British English speakers prefer *dived*. Vocabulary is the sum total of the words used in a language, by speaker, or for dictionary-making (Hartmann and James, 1998:154).

The norms of the differences between BE and AE in the vocabulary can be seen in the word *fall* which is in the AE, but in the BE the word fall is known as *autumn* (Janicki 1977:16). One of the tools that can be used to observe the differences between BE and AE in the vocabulary is through dictionary. A dictionary is a reference book about words (Jackson, 2002:21). Also, it is an important thing for language learners to find out the definitions from the word that they are looking for.

One of the dictionary types is a monolingual dictionary. According to Hartmann and James (1998:95), a monolingual dictionary is the entry words of a

language explained by the same language. Both BE and AE have their own monolingual dictionaries. For the BE, the most popular monolingual learner's dictionary is the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (OALD). The OALD has been used by over 35 million learners of English worldwide (Oxford University Press, 2013). The latest edition of OALD is the 8th edition that was published in 2010.

On the other hand, the most popular AE dictionary is the *Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* (MWCD). This dictionary can be traced back to 1801, when Webster started working on defining words that Americans use (Noah Webster History, n.d). The latest edition of MWCD is the 11th edition which was published in 2003. And, like all the earlier editions, it serves as a chief source of information about words of AE. The title may suggest a special appropriateness for older students, but those who work in offices and those who read, think, and write at home will equally find it a trustworthy guide to the English. (MWCD11, 2003:6a).

There are several references showing the differences between AE and BE. One of the examples is taken from English Club Team (2013). According to the web site, there are 105 different words in the BE and AE such as *anti-clockwise* in the BE, but *counter-clockwise* in the AE. Another example is from Azar (1999:22) that stated some irregular verbs which come in different forms in the BE and AE. For example, in the BE the irregular verb of get is *get – got – got*, but in the AE it is *get – got – gotten*.

The differences between BE and AE can be also observed in dictionaries. Dictionaries can show preferences for particular words that are put in the headwords. British and American lexicographers have different preferences for the headwords. For examples in the OALD, there is a headword for *ABTA* (Association of British Travel Agents), but this headword is not included in the MWCD. From the result that is given by Google advanced search, *ABTA* is mostly used in the British (which is 4,110,000) than in America (which is only 595,000). This is reasonable because *ABTA* is a British organization; it makes the lexicographer to put the word *ABTA* as the headword in the OALD. On the other hand, in the MWCD there is a headword for *AAAL* which is the abbreviation of American Academy of Arts and Letters, but that headword cannot be found in the OALD. The lexicographers at the OALD do not think that *AAAL* is necessary because it refers to an American organization which is not widely recognized globally. This is also supported by the result of Google advanced search. *AAAL* is mostly used in the US (which is 685,000) than in British (which is 67,000) therefore it is in the MWCD, but not in the OALD.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested to do a research focusing on the headwords in Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition and the Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition. Since British and American have different types of dictionaries, the number pages of dictionary are also different. The table comparing the number pages between Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition and the Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition can be seen in table 1.1.

Table 1.1 The Number of Pages between OALD and MWCD

Alphabet	OALD 8 th Edition	Merriam-Webster' Collegiate 11 th Edition	The largest number of different pages
A	88	88	0
B	109	83	26
C	167	143	24
D	93	78	15
E	64	57	7
F	87	65	22
G	58	49	9
H	70	55	15
I	59	54	5
J	15	14	1
K	14	15	1
L	61	50	11
M	86	79	7
N	33	32	1
O	43	35	8
P	143	128	15
Q	8	9	1
R	96	71	25
S	216	178	38
T	97	86	11
U	34	26	8
V	22	25	3
W	58	45	13
X	1	2	1
Y	5	6	1
Z	2	5	3

According to the table 1.1, the largest number of different pages is the S entry. Therefore, the writer assumes that there must be a number of headwords in the S entry in the Merriam Webster's Collegiate 11th Edition that are different from those in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition. Therefore, in this case, the writer focuses on the headwords in the S entry in the Oxford

Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th edition and Merriam Webster's Collegiate 11th edition.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

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

1. What the unique headwords are found in S entry of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition but not found in the Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition?
2. What the unique headwords are found in S entry of the Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition but not found in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition?
3. What are the differences in the unique headwords of the two dictionaries?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the unique headwords that are in the S entry of Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition but not found in S entry of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition.
2. To find out the unique headwords that are in the S entry of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition but not found in S entry of Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition.
3. To identify the differences of the unique headwords in two dictionaries.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be beneficial for researchers, lexicographers, teachers and students. This study aims to extend research in lexicography especially in a monolingual dictionary. From this study, researchers and other lexicographers will know the preferences of OALD and MWCD. This study will also inform teachers and students of English language about the differences between BE and AE. The differences are not just the obvious ones, such as *colour* and *color*, or *flat* and *apartment*, but also on the preferences of the lexicographers in the lemma selection. By knowing the differences in the headwords that are used in British and American dictionaries, teachers and students will know further about the differences between AE and BE and become more consistent in the use a certain variety of English.

1.5 Definition of Key terms

These are some words that need deeper explanation to get more understanding:

- *Monolingual Dictionary* : the type of reference work in which the words of the language are explained by the same language. (Hartmann and James, 1998:95)
- *British English* : the English language as spoken in Britain and certain other country. (OALD8, 2010:178)
- *American English* : the English language as spoken in the U.S. (OALD8, 2010:43)

- *Vocabulary* : the sum total of the words used in a language, by speaker, or for dictionary- making. (Hartmann and James, 1998:154)
- *Lexicography* : the professional activity and academic field concerned with dictionaries and other reference works. (Hartmann and James, 1998:85)
- *Headword* : the form of a word or phrase which is chosen for lemma, the position in the dictionary structure where the entry starts. (Hartmann and James, 1998: 67)