

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Everyday, people involve a lot in communication with other. They talk to their families, chat with their friends, or make much conversation with other people in their neighborhood. In doing such activities, people produce and receive words because when they are being in those situations they say something and listen to something from their interlocutor. However, in producing or interpreting the words, people cannot merely consider that those words can only be taken literally, for examples: *mouth of a river*, *the top of the morning*, *a heart of stone*, and *the brow of a hill*. In people's mind, they must realize that those phrases cannot be taken literally because the meanings will be so defective.

McCrimmon says that words are always spoken in some situation or context, and at the same time, people always try to interpret their meanings based on each context in which they occurred. Therefore, "the relation between a word and whatever it refers to is a mental one". Moreover, "words have no intrinsic meanings; the people who use them give their meanings" (1967:165).

Such phenomenon above concerns a lot with the use of metaphor. Metaphor is "non-literal interpretation of sentences" (Fromkin and Rodman 1988:234). In a more specific way, Pope defines metaphor as "the implicit 'carrying

over' of sense from one area to another, implicitly talking about one thing in terms of something else" (2002:215). Furthermore, metaphor may serve an aesthetic function, since people may use it as a way to use language decoratively, expressively, or dramatically. Hence, people can say that the essence of metaphor is saying thing in a different way (Van Lier 1995:65). Beside an aesthetic function, metaphor also generates other great effects toward the speaker (or writer) and the hearer (or reader). The effects are just like what stated by McCrimmon that "the effectiveness of metaphor lies in its power to evoke images, emotions, even the very flavors experience, which are difficult to communicate in literal terms" (1967:183). Through those definitions and description about metaphor, it can be said that it is very potential for the metaphor to involve and emerge in human daily communication as special aspects that give more sense in it, which later is able to make the communication more forceful and meaningful. In other words, metaphorical utterances are indeed parts of people's daily life, although, they may use or utter them without any awareness.

If metaphor is seen from the linguistics point of view, it is indeed part of pragmatics. Metaphorical utterances are utterances which are used by the speaker in a particular context, whereas, "pragmatics is the study of people's use of language in contexts" (Fromkin and Rodman 1988:227). By those two definitions it can be concluded that pragmatics is the closest area of linguistics in where metaphor belongs to. It is in accordance with Black's statement that the study of metaphor has broader scope than just to be a matter in semantics area and the broader scope lies on

pragmatics (quoted in Ortony 1979:5). Furthermore, Searle states something that strengthens Black's statement about the proper area of the study of metaphor. Searle states that if people are talking about metaphor, it means that people are talking about possible speaker's intentions. Then, he emphasizes his statement by saying that "metaphorical meaning is always speaker's utterance meaning" (Searle 1979:93). The statements strengthen the idea that metaphor is definitely part of pragmatics area because they show that beside non-literal interpretation, metaphor also has another basic aspect that is the speaker itself. Metaphor concerns a lot with the speaker who utters metaphorical utterances. This fact is in accordance with the general description of pragmatics that Pragmatics is "the study of the relationships between linguistic forms and the users of those forms." Pragmatics also "allows human into the analysis" (Yule 1996:4). Therefore, it is obvious that metaphor and pragmatics indeed have more specific and closer relation one each other.

As stated before, metaphorical utterances are part of human life and have big potency to be uttered in their daily communication. Indeed, this condition is found in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech *I have a Dream*. The speech is about a movement against segregation between Black people and White people in America. It was spoken in Lincoln Memorial-Washington, on August 28 1963 (Torricelli and Carroll 1999:234). The most special thing of the speech is the fact that King's speech is full of metaphorical utterances (Green and Brizel 2002); these following sentences show the existence of metaphors in the speech: "*This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the*

*flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity*" (Torricelli and Carroll 1999: 234). Green and Brizel also say that "by using strong visual images," King delivered his wonderful speech. To this day, the speech still causes emotional impact to those who heard it (Greene and Florie Brizel 2002:76). In other words, King's speech was strengthened by the use of metaphors. By using a great number of metaphorical utterances, automatically, King involved many linguistic aspects in his speech, particularly pragmatics. King tried to deliver his intention and messages through words, expression, and sentences, which departs from what the words, expression, and sentences actually mean. Therefore, it is all about possible King's intention. Furthermore, King also uttered his metaphorical utterances in a particular context; the context is about against segregation between black and white people in America. The particular context of the speech emphasizes the relation between King's metaphorical utterances and pragmatics as the part of linguistic field.

Inspired by the phenomenon above, the writer is interested in doing a study on the analysis of the metaphors used by Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech *I Have a Dream*.

## **B. Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background above, the writer formulates the statement of the problem as follows:

What are the intended meanings behind the metaphors in *I Have a Dream* speech?

### **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problem above, the main intention of the study is to find the intended meaning behind the metaphors in *I Have a Dream* speech.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes that the result of this study will give benefit to the readers, especially to have more knowledge about the use of metaphor on texts, such as speech text. This study is also expected to encourage the readers to have special perspective and manner in understanding particular texts that cannot be understood literally, but instead has to be interpreted profoundly the meanings behind them. Particularly to English Department students, this study is intended to show them that the use of metaphors is not only widely applied in literary works, but also in non-literary field too, such as speech.

### **E. Scope and Limitation**

The writer makes limitation in order to get the accurate data and to be in accordance with the intention of this study. Many aspects can be analyzed in

understanding Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech *I Have a Dream*. However, the writer limits the study only on the use of metaphors in the speech.

## **F. Definition of Key Terms**

In analyzing the use of metaphor in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speech *I have a Dream*, there are some key terms used such as:

- **Interpretation** : the action or process of interpreting language that the listeners accept (Hornby 1995:624).
- **Literal meaning** : the basic or usual meaning of a word or phrase (Hornby 1995:687).
- **Metaphor (MET)** : non-literal interpretations of words, phrases, and sentences (Fromkin and Rodman 1988:235).
- **Paraphrase (PAR)** : an account of the meaning of something written or said, using different words, especially in order to make it easier to understand (Hornby 1995:840).
- **Pragmatics** : the study of the use of language in communication, particularly the relationship between sentences and the contexts and situations in which they are used (Richard, Platt and Platt 1992:284).

# **CHAPTER II**

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**