

# CHAPTER 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Semantics is the study of meaning. It deals with the literal meaning of words and the meaning of the way they are combined, which taken together form the core of meaning, or the starting point from which the whole meaning of a particular utterance is constructed (Kearns, 2011: 1). It is one of the interesting subjects to discuss in linguistics. Language is abstract and so is its meaning. The concrete one is the entities. People have different terms in expressing one thing, so it becomes arbitrary. To explain how people can relate the entities and its meaning has been explained by Ogden & Richards' theory in their book "The meaning of meaning" (1945: 11) through semantic triangle. They classify the meaning of thing into three, namely symbol, reference and referent. Symbol is the representation of the entity, for example the word "cat". Second is when people listen or know about "cat" they build the concept of this thing, such an animal, a mammal, four legs, furry, cute, and meow and it is known as reference. And the rest is the real entity in the real world which is known by referent. There is no relevant relation between symbol and referent. Semantics concerns with the meaning not only non-sentences meaning, such as phrase and incomplete sentences, but also with the meaning of whole sentences. The meaning of whole sentences involve propositions, and the notion of proposition is central to semantics. A proposition is that part of the meaning of the utterance of a declarative sentence which describes some state of affairs (Hurford et. al, 2007: 20). Simple proposition or simple declarative sentence is needed in semantic

analysis because it represents the propositions unambiguously. It is representable by a single predicator, drawn from the predicates in the language, and a number of arguments, drawn from the names in the language (Hurford et. al, 2007: 157). It also asserts the proposition where the assignment of the truth values (true/false) is intuitively most straightforward in the case of simple propositions (Hurford et. al, 2007: 20). Therefore the data in this research are simple propositions or simple declarative sentences since the thematic roles is a logical analysis in which proposition must not be ambiguous. Thematic role is one of semantic interpretation which involves determining the roles that the referent of NPs play in the situation described by sentences. It is used to describe the part played by a particular entity in an event (O'Grady and Dobrovolsky, 1997: 262). There are some recognized thematic roles namely, agent, theme, source, goal, and location. According to Frawley (1992: 200), thematic roles require predicates and arguments, not necessarily nouns and verbs.

Thematic roles is a part of a words meaning which indicates the role that some individual plays in the action which that words describe verbs and other heads (O'Grady,1993:243). Thematic roles cannot directly be taken from grammatical roles. Thematic roles need the help of syntax especially deep structure as instrument to find the thematic roles of the sentence. According to O'Grady and Archibald (2016: 198) syntactic structure helps determining the meaning of the entire sentence through the positioning of words and phrases. In analysing language, thematic roles have an important role to explain and describe the function of noun. Thematic role is very interesting to be analysed in this era since it explains the entity through different way and terms.

Students in the class are usually taught by English teachers how to understand the construction of sentences by traditional grammar and it cannot help students much in understanding its meaning. Here, thematic role can help the students to understand the role of the entity in the sentence so it will help students in understanding its meaning.

Luke In the Gospel, there are special characteristics that make The Gospel of Luke is different from the other Gospels. Literary style and language used in Luke's Gospel better, easier to learn and understand. From the reasons above, we can all finally know, and understand the Gospel of Luke as a whole, in the sense of not only in theory but can be practiced in our lives daily.

Tetun is one of the hundreds of dialects on the island Timor both West Timor - Indonesia and Timor Leste. Tetun is included in Austronesian language family. Since 2002 when the State Accountants by The United Nations as one of the sovereign countries in Southeast Asia, Tetun has been formalized as the National language in Timor Leste, in addition to languages Portuguese (Yohanes Manhito, 2007: xix). That means Tetun is not only a local dialect, but it has entered the language category because it has gained world as one of the National and maybe International languages. Because that is anyone who enters Belu-Malaka region in Indonesia and the territory of the country Timor Leste is obliged to learn and read Tetun. In a long exchange of time and age, arrived at present, the Tetun language is the cultural identity of Tetun people, language politeness but in its use, it is slowly changing due to the influence of modernity, cultural assimilation, migration, inclusion, acculturation and adaptation of new cultures.

In this research, he is interested in analyzing the meaning in Tetun through thematic analysis because he finds many sentences in the story that support the researcher as a source of data. Because in many languages, the author also wants to see the equality of thematic roles in two languages, namely English as an international language and Tetun as a translated text because there has been no study that previously discussed the equivalence of two languages with a thematic roles analysis framework.

In addition, the researcher also wants see whether the translator presents variations of equivalence in terms of semantic roles and whether there is a shift from the source language to the translated text. Based on the background above, the problem in this paper is formulated in the form of questions as follows: 1. What are the thematic roles found of Tetun belu in gospel of Luke? 2. How is Tetun belu classified based on thematic roles in gospel of Luke?

Based on the explanation above, the authors are interested in analyzing conversations containing sentences in Tetun related to thematic role theory of (O'grady, Saeed analysis and Kearns). So the writer conducted a research entitled **“AN ANALYSIS ON THEMATIC ROLES IN GOSPEL OF LUKE OF TETUN BELU”**

## **1.2 Research Problem**

The problem of this research is formulated in the following questions :

1. What are the thematic roles of Gospel of Luke of Tetun Belu?
2. How are thematic roles in Tetun Belu classification based on Gospel of Luke?

### **1.3 The Aim of Study**

The research is conducted to find out the answer to the problem statement, therefore the research purpose are:

1. To describe what are the thematic roles in Gospel of Luke of Tetun Belu.
2. To explain Tetun Belu classification based on thematic roles in Gospel of Luke.

### **1.4 The Significance of Study**

The results of this study have some implication and application

#### **1.4.1 Implication**

The result of this study is expected to support theory Kroeger (2005:54), that is about thematic roles is helpful in classification arguments into broad semantic categories according the types of role they play in the situations described by predicates. Yule (2010: 102) moreover stated by that the noun phrases in the sentences described the roles of entities such as people and thing, involved the action. One can identify a small number of thematic roles for noun phrases.

#### **1.4.2 Application**

1. This study will be used as additional knowledge or information for the teacher in developing his or her knowledge about semantic.
2. The result of this research is expected to be useful to the next research, as reference to help teacher, students and researchers who plan to do research dealing with this topic.

3. The result of this study would be relevant reference for linguistic to deepen comprehension about thematic roles.
4. Moreover scholars are expected to know more about thematic roles with their characteristic.