

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Literary works always have topics that the authors take as keys to tell stories. In telling the stories, authors choose words that relate to the topic. Such words may show some similarity in meaning or synonymy relation, opposite or antonymy relation, general-specific or hyponymy relation, or may be collocationally used. Appreciating literary works then include not just identifying the theme, but also recognizing how words in the literary works are used and organized to achieve the author's purpose to send a certain message. In linguistic analysis, particularly semantics, one approach to the examination of the relations of words in texts is lexical field analysis. Since a literary work is a kind of text, it is possible to use lexical field analysis to support the study of the language elements of the literary works.

Lexical field was heavily influenced by de Saussure's structuralism and German idealism that origins of idea of Humboldt and Herder in the mid of 19th century. The lexical field first proposed by German and Swiss linguist in the 20s and 30s of the 20th century; Jost Trier. Trier's theory assumes that lexical fields are easily definable closed sets, with no overlapping meanings or gaps. These assumptions have been questioned and the theory has been modified since its

original formulation (Semantic Field, Semantic Domain.pdf, December, 26, 2013).

According Kreidler (1998: 87), “lexical field is an attempt to classify lexemes according to shared and differentiating features.” It means that the words that are used in the same sentence are similar to each other or are somewhat recurring. This means that there are just similar things. In other words, a lexical field is the set of lexemes (vocabulary units, units of meaning) in any one language-system which cover conceptual area and, by means of the relations of sense which hold between them, give structure to it.

Some lexical sets involve part-whole relationships. For example, *arm* includes *hand*, which then include *finger* and *thumb*. The set *second-minute-hour-day* is a part-whole relationship that is also hierarchical. And some sets are sequential or cyclical. In lexical field theory, there are also such kinds of lexical relations as hyponymy, synonymy, antonymy, and collocation.

In this thesis, the writer wants to adopt semantic field approach to analyze language aspects of a concept or theme of a literary work. The work is a novel by Suzanne Collins entitled *The Hunger Games* (2009). Specifically, the study focuses on the verbs expressing the concept of *survival*. In other words, the focus of this study is verbs of survival. Here, *survival* is taken as the keyword because it is the theme of the novel. In this study, the writer wants to analyze the verbs and the verb phrases that show some relations to the meaning of the word ‘*survival*’.

According to *Merriam Webster* (online dictionary), *survival* means “the act or living or continuing longer than another person or thing. Or, the

continuation of life or existence.” The motives of someone to survive may to struggle to get a better life or may to fight against the opponent and may to run away from dangerous thing or to live or exist especially in spite of difficult conditions. For example, the verbs that associated with survival concepts include *struggle*, *survive*, or *alive* for the synonyms, and *died*, *pain*, or *suffocate* for antonyms.

In this thesis, the writer wants to analyze the verb and the verb phrase expression that are related to word ‘survival’ which is taken from the novel which created by Suzanne Collins entitled *The Hunger Games* (2009). The story is telling about a girl named Katniss Everdeen, a girl from District 12, who had been a tribute in some game and she must survive until the game is over. She is a volunteer because she does not want to see her sister to be a tribute for this game. This game is a deadly fight, for the tribute must kill the other tributes who had been participants in one big forest which has been the arena of the game that was created by their Capitol. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the district in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl randomly between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in this annual game, a fight to death on live TV. In this game, Katniss is struggling to survive until the game is over with her teammate, Peeta Mellark, a boy from District 12, too. Peeta is a son of a baker, he has an ability to grapple and to camouflage with his art skill. But he is not as brave as Katniss Everdeen because she has more experience to hunt in the forest with her bow.

Since the idea of survival is very strong in the novel, it will be interesting to investigate how this concept is presented in the choices of verbs in the novel. This study is expected to contribute to more complete understanding of how verbs are related to one another in a text that expresses certain ideas or concepts.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. What verbs and verb phrases are associated with the concept of ‘survival’ in Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*?
2. What is the relation between the verbs and verb phrases with the concept of ‘survival’ in Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

There are two main purposes of this study. Firstly, the writer wants to find out the verbs and the verb phrases that are associated with the concept of ‘survival’ in Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*. Secondly, the writer wants to know that the relation between the verbs and verb phrases and the concept of ‘survival’ in Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study may give a contribution to the readers who are interested in studies of linguistics in that they may understand the verbs and verb phrases that are associated with the concept of ‘survival’ and the types of lexical relation

between the words and the concept of ‘survival’ in Suzanne Collins’s *The Hunger Games*.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This research will be done in the scope of semantics, specifically lexical analysis, since the writer deals with the text analysis. The writer concentrates the research on verbs and verb phrases that are associated and related with the concept of ‘survival’ only. For the research, the writer uses the novel of Suzanne Collins’s entitled *The Hunger Games* as the source of the data.

The writer only analyzes the verbs and verb phrases that are associated with the concept of ‘survival’ in the data. Therefore, the study does not analyze words or other expressions of ‘survival’ that belong to other categories such as adjective and noun.

1.6 Organization of the Study

The first chapter is the introduction, which is elaborated into the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. The second chapter is the review of related literature, which deals with theories used in this study. It discusses about semantics or lexical field. The third chapter is about research methodology. It deals with the design of this study, subjects of the study, instruments the data collection procedure and the data analysis. The fourth chapter

is about the analysis, the discussion and the finding of the study. The last chapter is about the conclusion of the study, and suggestions.