

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Studies on varieties of language have indicated that men and women tend to use different word choices (vocabularies) to show that they are unequal. Stanley (1973) counts 220 English words for sexually promiscuous females and only 20 for sexually promiscuous males (Malmkajær, 1991: 260).

The variety of words that are used by men and women brings multiple meanings in a word (lexical meaning). The study of lexical meaning refers to the individual meaning of word. For example, the word *mistress* means ‘a woman that a married man is having a regular sexual relationship with and who is not his wife’ (Bull, 2008: 282). In contrary, the word *master* means ‘a man who has people working for him’ (Bull, 2008: 271). Based on this term, the lexical meaning of *mistress* tends to define women in terms of sexual capacity, in which women have less powerful capacity rather than men.

However, the topic in this research is interesting for two reasons. Firstly, sexist words are still commonly used by people, but they never seem to be aware of their influence on their attitude and perception. For example, the word *master* tends to show male power, while the word *mistress* tends to indicate that women are

powerless. Secondly, the semantic field theory is proposed by Katz. This theory is relevant to define sexist words in the novel *To Bed a Beauty*. Katz suggests that the sexist words are formed in two ways: *semantic marker* and *distinguisher* (idiosyncratic semantic information). Semantic marker is the formal elements that shared by words while distinguisher is formal elements that employed to represent the idiosyncratic about the meaning of lexical item (Katz in Christoph, 2007: 2). The example of using Katz's theory can be seen in the word *bachelor* (Nicole Jordan, 2008: 25). In semantic marker, the word 'bachelor' is shared by several markers, such as: (human), (male) and (adult). In distinguisher 'bachelor' is represented by idiosyncratic meaning such as: [young knight serving under the banner of another], [a person who has received the lowest degree] and [a man who has never been married]. This theory is used to show that sexist words are not only simply words, but has many idiosyncratic meanings.

In the previous research, there are two similar studies about sexist word analysis. The first is Nur Aini's (2010). The research entitled *The Sexist Swear Words Used by the Character in Schottas Movie*. It focused on sexist swear words used by character in Schottas movie. Aini also analyzed the meaning of the utterance based on Geoffrey Hughes theory. The second is a dissertation by Piengpen Na Pattalung (2008) entitled *An Analysis of Sexist Language in ESL Textbooks by Thai Authors used in Thailand*. This research focused on sexist language that was presented in the textbooks and its content that promotes sexist assumption which was concerning gender roles. Both of these previous studies have some differences from this present

study. Firstly, the present study gathers a different source from the previous study. This research uses *To Bed a Beauty* by Nicole Jordan as a primary source. Secondly, the present study chooses Katz's theory and Mill's theory to define each sexist word in the novel.

This research is needed to examine the derogation meaning in a word that is used in a literary work such as novel. Using sexist word in a novel tends to make the meaning of word become more negative. Then, the novel *To Bed a Beauty* is chosen as the data source. In the novel, the author attempts to show about women powerlessness by choosing the sexist words.

Furthermore, the purpose of this present study to find out the type of sexist words and their meanings. To gather the fully understanding about the meaning of sexist word, the theory is adopted from Geeraerts (2010) *Theories of Lexical Semantic* and supported by three primary references about gender and language such as McConnell's (2011) *Gender, Sexuality and Meaning*, Eckert and McConnell's (2003) *Language and Gender* and Sara Mills (2008) *Language and Sexism*. In addition, the meaning of sexist words in this novel can be defined by their markers and their distinguishers. Then, to gain the fully understanding about sexist word, this study involves Sara Mills (2008) perspective about the pattern of sexist word. Mills (2008: 10) suggests the type of these sexist words in two terms, such as: overt sexism and indirect sexism.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the topic above, the problems of the present study are formulated in the following questions:

1. What are the types of overt sexism in sexist words which are used in Nicole Jordan's *To Bed a Beauty*?
2. What are the type of indirect sexism in sexist word that are used in Nicole Jordan's *To Bed a Beauty*?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

This study is conducted in two purposes, such as:

1. To find the type of overt sexism in sexist words that are used in Nicole Jordan's *To Bed a Beauty*.
2. To find the type of indirect sexism in sexist words which are used in Nicole Jordan's *To Bed a Beauty*.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

Analyzing the lexical meaning from sexist word in Nicole Jordan's *To Bed a Beauty* has two significances academically and practically. Academically, the study will give information about the importance of finding sexist words and how the sexist word can bring the derogatory sense of meaning in a word. Practically, this analysis can be used as a reference for further research to conduct a similar research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of the study is the use of word in society, but limited to words that show sexism.

1.6 The Organization of the Study

This research paper is organized, such as: chapter one, chapter two, chapter three, chapter four and chapter five. The first chapter is introduction which consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and organization of the study. The second chapter is review of related literature, which deals with theory that used in this study. Semantic field becomes the theory that used in this paper. This theory is used to define the sexist word in the novel. The third chapter is research methodology. It deals with the research design of this study, the research instrument, the data source which is gathered from sexist word in novel *To Bed a Beauty*, procedure to get the data and procedure to analyze the data. The fourth chapter deals with the analysis of sexist words which are classified and defined by two primary types, such as: overt sexism and indirect sexism. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.