CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents about background of study, research problems, research objectives, significance of research, scope and limitation, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

In linguistics, there are many areas in which can be analyzed by the expert or researcher, such as phonetics, morphology, syntax, pragmatic, semantics, etc. Phonetics is the study of linguistics sounds. Morphology is the study of the meaning components of words. Syntax is the study of the structural relationship between words. Pragmatics is the study of how language is used to accomplish the goals. Semantics is the study of meaning. But, the researcher does not use all of those areas. The researcher chooses one of them that is semantics which is to learn about the meaning by using semantics analysis.

This study is to explore about meaning in linguistics. So, what is meaning? Meaning is an idea or concept that can be transferred from the speaker’s mind to the hearer by embodying them in the form of one language to another language. Meaning in linguistics is called semantics. According to Fromkin (1999:166) semantics is the study of linguistics meaning. The other experts of linguistics also give definition about meaning or semantics. Semantics is one of the branches of linguistic studying about the meaning, and it is considered as a major branch of linguistics devoted to study of meaning in language (Crystal, 1991:428).
The Holy Qur’an is a message from Allah to human being. It is transmitted to us in a chain starting from Allah to the angel Jibril to the prophet Muhammad (SAW). Allah says in the Holy Qur’an: “a book which we have revealed to you (Muhammad) so that you may lead the people from darkness to the lightness with their lords leave of Almighty, the praise worthy.”
The Holy Qur’an consists of 114 surah and 6666 verses. The language of the Holy Qur’an is different from the others. It has a special thing. Holy Qur’an has a great grammar that is always amazed by all people who read and hear it even the non-Moslem. The original language of Holy Qur’an is Arabic language, but it has been translated into many other languages including English language.

Language is very important for people around the world. Language is a tool to convey the intent to others. Without language, people will not express their mind and thought to another. There are two kinds of language, those are: spoken language and written language. In this research, the researcher studies about the written language, especially studying the meaning on the Surah “Al-Mudatsirs” (The One Wrapped Up) by A. Yusuf Ali using semantic approach, including the lexical meaning, and sentential meaning. The researcher chooses Surah Al-Mudatsirs because it has characteristic of those two parts of meaning in semantic features.

There are certain kinds of meaning in language. Lyons (1984: 136) argues that there are many types of meaning, such as lexical meaning, philosophical meaning, contextual meaning, grammatical meaning, sentence meaning, descriptive meaning, expressive meaning and social meaning. So, in this research the researcher explores the theory of meaning that is related to lexical meaning, and sentential meaning.

This research has relation with the previous researches that also focus on semantic analysis on the English translation of surah of al-Qur’an. However, all the researchers chose the different object (surah of al-Qur’an). Such as; Zulfa (2007), in her study entitled “A Semantic Analysis on the English Translation of Surah “Al-
Mulk” by A. Yusuf Ali. She discusses about the kinds of meaning, especially in the lexical meaning. Wijaya (2007) discusses about the meaning in Surah Luqman and also the translation method used. Therefore, the researcher conducts the title “A Semantic Analysis on the English Translation of Surah Al-Mudatstsir by A. Yusuf Ali” which focuses on the lexical and sentential meaning and also the messages involved of surah al-Mudatstsir.

In addition, there are many Surah inside Qur’an with different types and functions in each Surah. Some of the Surah on Qur’an consist of the story the previous prophets, and Prophet Muhammad. The other part, they consist of laws of Islam (Fiqh and Syari’ah), knowledge for know God (Tauhid), and the regulation of our actions in the relation with God and human (Aqidah Akhlaq).

The researcher discusses about “A Semantic Analysis on the English Translation of Surah Al-Mudatstsir by A. Yusuf Ali”. The discussion consists of two semantic features. Those are lexical meaning, which includes denotation, connotation, ambiguity, synonymy, hyponymy, polysemy, homonymy, and homophony. It also discusses about sentential meaning, including synthetic sentences, entailment, and presupposition.

1.1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the research context described in the preceding part, the following research focuses are formulated:

1. What kinds of meanings are found in the English Translation of Surah Al-Mudatstsir by A. Yusuf Ali?
2. What messages are found in the English Translation of Surah Al- Mudatsrisr by A. Yusuf Ali?

1.1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research focuses stated above, this study is intended to describe:

1. To describe the meaning used on the English Translation of Surah Al-Mudatsrisr by A. Yusuf Ali.
2. To describe the messages found in English Translation of Surah Al-Mudatsrisr by A. Yusuf Ali.

1.1.4 Significance of the Study

The main purpose of this research is to know the meaning, and the messages in the English translation of Surah Al-Mudatsrisr by A. Yusuf Ali. This study contributes both theoretical and practical in the study of linguistics, especially studying about semantics. Theoretically, this study is expected to contribute toward linguistics area and become the source in semantics, especially on how to show and identify the description of meanings and the messages which are found in the English Translation of Surah Al- Mudatsrisr by A. Yusuf Ali. The results of the study are hopefully useful for the researcher herself to understand better about the semantics features, and also for the readers by giving benefit and more information about semantic study.
Practically, this study is also very important to be done because it has some benefits for everyone who wants to study and read the Holy Al-Qur’an, especially Surah Al-Mudatsir in order to have deep understanding of knowing the meaning and the messages from the content of Surah Al-Mudatsir semantically. Therefore, the readers are interested in this study and read the Holy Al-Qur’an as well as possible. In addition, this study is expected to be used as a reference for the next researchers who are interested in conducting similar studies.

1.1.5 Scope and Limitations of the study

In this analysis, the researcher only focuses about the kinds of meaning and the messages found in the English Translation of Surah Al-Mudatsir by A. Yusuf Ali. For the meaning, the researcher tries to find out and discuss about the semantics aspects which concerns with two meanings. They are lexical meaning and sentential meaning.

1.1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding about the terms, some terms in this research are defined as follows:

1. Meaning : Ideas that can be transferred from someone to another one using language to make a clear communication.

2. Surah Al-Mudatsir : One of the verses in Holy Qur’an that consist of fifty six verses. It describes about the life patterns of Holy
Qur’an Prophet (S.A.W) by his most graceful Divine title.

3. Abdullah Yusuf Ali: One of the most popular translators in the world, the language use is easier to be understood by everyone. He gives explanation to the word that is difficult or use old English.

4. Message: An idea intended to send an important thing to another through spoken or written language.