CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the nature of the present study. It begins with background of the study, the formulation of research question, aims of this study, scope of the study, and glance of research methodology of the present study. This chapter also consists of organization of the paper as the general description of the research paper.

1.1 Background

In our daily life, we are always surounded by language. Language also changes even though we do not notify it. When a language grows, the words, which enrich the vocabulary, also grow as thousand of words enter into our language and they are used as we speak, read, write, or hear.

To understand more about how the words in a language are formed, we learn word formation. In linguistic, the study of words building or word formation is called morphology. That is why it can be stated that morphology is a study of the word structures and how the words are formed. As O'Grady (1997) noted, morphology is the system of categories and rules involved in word formation and interpretation. According to O'Grady (1997, there are several types of word formation; compounding, derivation, conversion, clipping, blending, back formation, acronyms, coinage, and onomatopoeia.

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Since we use language in our everyday life, it is easy to find some examples of word-formations around us. Here, the writer uses comic strip as an example of how word-formation processes are applied. According to Pecora (1992) (as cited from Bhatia: 2006), American comic strips have been a part of American popular culture since their first appearance in 1930's. Since American comic strips represent the American culture, the writer finds that it is interesting to find out more about what kind of languages or words that are used by the author of Superman Vs the Amazing Spider-Man and Batman Vs the Incredible Hulk.

Based on personal observation, the dialogue in comic strip tends to be limited by the size of the column of the comic books. Therefore, comic strips tend to use modified words. A study conducted by Hill (2011) reveals that onomatopoeic word often appears in a comic strip. In addition, Balteiro (2010) research finds out that many words in comic strip are formed through compounding, derivation, and acronym process.

The reason to study the phenomenon of word formation in American Comic Strip is the belief that American comic strips represent the daily life of American society. In addition it is also because comic strips have some special features that are rarely seen in other media. Thus, this research tries to find out tokens of specific word-formation processes that appear in Superman Vs the Amazing Spider-Man and Batman Vs the Incredible Hulk focusing in onomatopoeia, compounding, clipping, derivation, and acronym found in Superman Vs the Amazing Spider-Man and Batman Vs the Incredible Hulk and what is the context that leads to the usage of the tokens.

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1.2 Statement of the Problems

The research problems of the study are stated as follows:

a. What types of word-formation processes appear in the two comic strips?

b. What is the context that leads to the usage of the word formation?

1.3 Reason for Choosing Topic

In the present time, comic books spread in an incredible number. The easy access to internet enables people to search and find out about comic books. When we read a comic book, we will find out that almost in every page of comic book there are more than one kind of word formations.

So, it is interesting to see how the words are formed in Superman Vs the Amazing Spider-Man and Batman Vs the Incredible Hulk.

1.4 The Aims of the Study

Concerning the research questions above, the aims of this study are:

1. To know what tokens of word-formation appears in comic strip that can be found in Superman Vs the Amazing Spider-Man and Batman Vs the Incredible Hulk.

2. To know what is the context that leads to the usage of the word formation.

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1.5 The Scope of the Study

The limitation of the study is necessary since with limitation the writer can simplify the subject of the research that the writer does and solves the problem of the study (Surachmad, 1975: 3). Thus, this research focuses on several types of word formation processes which are onomatopoeia, compounding, clipping, derivation, and acronym that can be found in Superman Vs the Amazing Spider-Man and Batman Vs the Incredible Hulk.

1.6 Research Method

Research methodology used in this research is qualitative approach. The data are taken from two American comic strips published by DC Comic and Marvel Comic. The data are gathered and grouped based on their type of word-formation processes. Detailed process of collecting and elaborating the data is given in chapter 3.

1.7 Clarification of the Key Terms

a. Comic Strip   : based on Merriam-Webster, comic is a group of cartoons in narrative sequences.

b. Acronym   : a process of word formation which is taking the initial letter of each word in a phrase so that it is possible to read as a new word (O'Grady:1997).

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c. Compounding : a word that was created by combining roots and the much smaller lexical categories (Carstairs-McCarthy: 2002).

d. Clipping : a process that shortens a polysyllabic word by deleting one or more syllables (O'Grady: 1997).

e. Derivation : a process of word formation where the category or meaning of the base morpheme distinct to the formed words through the process of affixation (O'Grady: 1997).

f. Onomatopoeia : words that are mimicking or representing an action or aspect of a thing (O'Grady: 1997).

1.8 Organization of the Paper

This research paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction. This chapter presents background of the study, statement of the problems, aims of study, reason for choosing topic, scope of the study, significance of study, and a brief account of research methodology. Chapter II presents the theoretical review that relevant to the present study and a brief history of American comic strip. This chapter also contains a brief explanation of previous study that became the base of this research. Chapter III discusses the methodology of the research that includes formulation of the problems, aims of the present study, data collection, and data analysis. Chapter IV contains data presentation and discussion of the findings that the writer can find. While, chapter V concludes the present study and offers suggestions for next research.

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