CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

The study of lexicon is always interesting to be investigated because there are still many lexicons of languages haven't been observed how actually they have change process, besides by studying lexicon we can understand as the stock of words in given a language.

Lexicon can be thought of as a list of all possible roots of a language, or all morphemes, parts of words that contain no smaller meaningful parts that can stand alone or be combined with other parts to produce words. The word can also refer to a single distinct meaningful element of speech or writing, used with others (or sometimes alone) to form a sentence and typically shown with a space on either side when written or printed.

Every language has a large vocabulary to meet the demands for social communication. However, the words in the vocabulary of a certain language are constantly changing instead of being invariable. With the unceasing rapid development of society, some words cease to exist and new words constantly appear to meet the *need* of expressing new ideas or naming new products. Many new words become stable after some time.

The change in vocabulary is just one aspect of language change, though it is the most noticeable one. According to Ke, Geoong and Wang (2008: 937), language change can be viewed as a diffusion process of some new linguistic elements (linguistic innovations) in a language community. It indicates an important characteristic of language: language changes with time. There is no language that remains stable all the time. Take English for example; the history of English is divided into three periods: Old English, Middle English and Modern English. English today is very much different from Shakespeare's time. There are considerable differences between the three stages of English development. Of course, the change from one stage to another is not sudden, but gradual.

Lexical change is the process in which the word, concept or meaning are totally or partly replaced by another lexical item. The change spreads gradually through the vocabulary of a language affecting an increasing number of words. According to Varshney (1995:283) It is sometimes convenient to subdivide lexical change into three facts: *1) loss of lexical items, 2) change of meaning, 3)creation of new lexical items.*

The phenomenon of lexical change happens in Arabic. One of the case of lexical change in Arabic is *the creation of new lexical item* which is divided into two processes; *internal lexical borrowing*; the created items within the Arabic language. This process is also called lexicalization encompasses *derivation*: the process of forming a new word on the basis of an existing word, *compounding*: the unifying of two or more autonomous words a third word, *acronym*: the initial of words, combined into a pronounceable word, and *coinage*: the invention of

totally new terms. The word عيوب /*'uyub*/ means *scandals*. It is the plural of the word عيب / *'aib*/. عيوب / *'uyub*/ has derivational process by adding infix. The word is added و. It is called as derivation process. Compounds are the internal process how to create new items for example; ميناء جوي /*miinaaun jawwiyun*/ means *airport*. It is included Arabic compound words. ميناء /*miinaaun*/ means *air* and جوي /*jawwiyun*/ means *port*. Next, the third internal process is acronyms such as a clause صلي الله عليه وسلم /*sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam*/ means *May Allah honor him and grant him peace*. The sentence can be shortened as صلعم /*sol'ima*/. It indicates that the created item occurs because of practicality. The last is *coinage* process e.g. أسبرن /*asbirin*/ means *aspirin*. Originally, the word is the name of product which derives from Spanish. In fact, the medicine becomes an icon to reduce pain and fever.

Besides, *external lexical borrowing*. Varshney (1995) states that *external lexical borrowing* is the created items derive from other languages. There are a number of Arabic words are borrowed directly from other languages such as the words اتوماتيك /*utuumaatiik*/ means *automatic* from English, كاسيت /*kaasiit*/ means *cassette* from French, كُمْبِيُوْتِرْ /*kumbiyuutir*/ means *computer* from English. Moreover, those Arabic borrowing words have their own words or equivalent. In the past, Arabic people used الشاريط /*al-syaariit*/ for كاسيت /*kaasiit*/. The change occurs when communications media including radio, television, newspapers have the significant role to introduce a new concept.

It also happens for the word كُمْبِيُوْتِرْ /kumbiyuutir/ has the Arabic equivalent; الة حاسبة /alat haasibah/ which consists of two words and of course the Arabic users choose the more practical one. In addition, for the word فيديو /fiidiiyuu/ is a phenomenon that Arabic doesn't have a term for that concept. It happens because of the advanced technology.

رَحْمَانُ /rahmaan/ means *merciful*, from Hebrew and Aramaic, where it has a similar meaning. نَبِيْ /nabii/ means *prophet*, old non-Arab term that came into Arabic from Aramaic and Hebrew before the emergence of Islam. مَدِيْنَةُ /madiinah/ (city or city square), a word of Aramaic or Hebrew origin; Alfred-Louis de Prémare explains in The Foundations Of Islam (p. 101) that the Jews were long before Arabs a sedentary population of Arabian Desert. مُنَفِقْ /munafiq/ means *hypocrite*, a term borrowed from Ethiopian, where it had the sense of heretical sect. Fromkin (2003) states that borrowing words from other languages is an important source of new words. Borrowing occurs when one language adds a new word or morpheme from another language to its own lexicon.

Arabic has important role in donating the words to other languages. Many Arabic lexicons are adopted by English such as *alcohol, algebra* etc. Most of Bahasa Indonesia words derive from Arabic. It indicates that Arabic has a lot of words to name the concepts. In reality, Arabic also has the created items by borrowing other languages even though Arabic has its term for the concepts (like the writer explained above). Furthermore, most lexical change study is applied in

morphological perspective. That's why the writer is interested in observing the lexical change particularly lexical creations in Arabic in sociolinguistics perspective. The writer would like to know the processes of lexical creations and the reasons of lexical creation occur in Arabic.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

The problems of the study is presented in the question of "How is the lexical change of Arabic?" This question then is elaborated into more particular questions, such as the following.

1) How do the lexical creations in Arabic occur?

2) Why do the lexical creations in Arabic occur the way they do?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

This research is aimed at studying the new phenomenon on lexical change in Arabic. It specifically attempt to objectively describe the lexical change as well as the ways and reasons of Arabic. Thus, the objectives of this study were elaborated as the following.

1) To describe the processes of lexical creation in Arabic.

2) To explain the factors of lexical creation in Arabic.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

As the lexical changes involve numerous types, it is quite impossible to cover them all. Therefore, this reserach limits the discussion of the *lexical creation* particularly *noun*.

1.5. The Significance of the Study

Findings of the research are expected to be useful for the readers both theoritically and practically in some respects.

1. Theoritically, the findings can be useful for enriching the theories on lexical change particularly for understanding the processes, and the reasons of lexical change in Arabic.

2. Practically, the finding can be useful for those who have focus on linguistic study especially the lexical change in Arabic. Moreover, the ideas and the point of views of the findings can significantly be useful to be used as:

   a. Review of literature for the coming researchers.

   b. Material reference for language learning particularly related to lexical change.

   c. Material for helping people particularly Moslem in comprehending and understanding Arabic.