

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

English, which is one of the languages used internationally, plays important roles in all aspects of life. It is the international language of science and technology, and it is also used in business, diplomacy, economics, and politics. It has been used universally in daily life because most countries in the world use English as medium of communication to make interaction, irrespective of race, religion and residence.

As time passes, and the world is developing, people tend to communicate with others of different languages and cultural backgrounds and as the nature of man is inquisitiveness. So, that is why people need to study other languages other than their mother tongue because they are the demanded of modern living, coexistence and mutual understanding.

When the hearer understands the speaker's idea, it means that he grasps the meaning. Meaning has an important relation to various disciplines of linguistics study such as semantic. Lyons (1977:1) states that semantic is the study of linguistic meaning. In semantics, meaning is the main concern. Meaning is used to signal a very wide of world, including not only linguistics expressions, such as written or spoken and sentences, but also to mark on a map, road signs, smoke signals, and the sounds of policemen's whistle or a ship's siren. Similarity, a sentence written or spoken may impart different kinds of meaning. If one does not know the meaning of the sentence, she/he will lose the messages or the information that imply in that sentence. However, meaning can be used to avoid misunderstanding about the object.

Meaning will enable the readers to understand what the writer wants to tell so that they find it easy to understand the information conveyed in it.

In this case, some words in the irrigation text are borrowed from other languages. This term is called as “loanwords”. They are used to enrich vocabulary and it is relatively more prestigious. Allan (1986: 244) states that the motivation for borrowing is a word was previously unfamiliar to speaker. Therefore, borrowing or loanwords deal with respect to the area of vocabulary.

Usually loanwords have relation to a conquering of a country. The language of conquered people often supplies vocabulary for features of physical environment new to the conquerors. English has conquered many countries in the world, especially Indonesian. That is why English is very influence for some languages in the world.

Some loanwords are adapted by the governing administration in the water resource project which builds some irrigation in many places of this country. This irrigation project is made through reporting a program which is written in some texts. These texts contain some loanwords which are adapted from English. Sometimes, these loanwords make confused the readers because he/she does not know the meanings of the words exactly. Therefore, it is very interesting to know the meaning of loanwords related to the aim of the project.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

The problem of the study can be formulated as : **“What are the semantic changes of English loanwords implied in Indonesia irrigation texts?”**

1.3 The Objective of the Study

With reference to the problem previously, the objective of this study is: to describe the semantic changes of English loanword implied in Indonesia irrigation texts.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

In this study, it is discussed about the semantic changes of English Loanword in Indonesia irrigation texts. In this case, some loanwords are picked out as the data where their meaning can be explained based on the Irrigation Dictionary, and Civil Engineering Dictionary.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

A study on loanwords is a very interesting and challenging one to be conducted because it is one of the many aspects of the language being studied. In this case, the research findings will be useful for:

- 1). Theoretically: The readers can enlarge their knowledge about the semantic changes in loanwords when they are used in Indonesia Irrigation texts, especially for student of civil engineering faculty as well as technical school as a contributions for them on the study of loanwords in Irrigation fields.
- 2). Practically: the readers and writers realize that the demand on understanding meanings of loanwords is not only to know some information, but also to know the aim of the project exactly.