Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is used by human beings as a means of communicating and interacting with others. They use it to share ideas, motivations and desires, and to maintain a good relationship with them. As such, language serves as one of the basic needs for a social interaction. It is indeed a need and a must for human activities.

To this point, Hudson (1980: 1) says that language is a means of communication. A social being, men cannot live alone, but with other people. They sometimes cannot do anything without help from others and if they want to ask for someone's help they need to have a good communication with other people or have a good relationship with their surroundings.

As a means of communication, language can be used in two forms; written and oral. To be able to use the spoken and oral language for communication appropriately and successfully, one has to pay attention to whom he is talking, where he is having a conversation, what he is going to talk, and why they are having talk (Holmes, 1992: 11-12)

This everyday real life communication (oral and written), is usually done by the literary writers, and put into good and aesthetic writing called **Literature**.

Good writers portrait real life screen fully in their poems, novels, drama scripts, etc (Kettle, 1976: 12 - 16). One of the great writers that attract the writer a lot in is Charles Dickens. He is a novelist who could make a narrative novel which could make the readers imagine what is happening in the story. His one novel is A Christmas Carol which can make the readers imagine how the characters make the conversations.

A Christmas Carol attracts the writer a lot because she loves all of the Christmas stories. She has watched many Christmas movies and read Christmas stories. In A Christmas Carol, the writer wants to explore more her attractions to all about Christmas and makes a research about the ironical expressions used by the main character. Here, the ironical expressions often used to make the conversations by the main character to converse to the other characters in a purpose; to mock them.

Mr. Scrooge as the main character is used to be researched his ironical expressions in communicating to other characters. Because the writer wants to research that his conversations are according to the Law of Christian Loves. As a catholic, the writer wants to research how the main character is having conversation with the other characters in A Christmas Carol especially Mr. Scrooge using as good language when having a conversation to other characters as law of Christian loves.

It is because as the writer knowledge that Mr. Scrooge is often used Sarcasm and Irony in communicating to other characters. It is the opposite hoping from the writer that actually as human being we have to converse to other people

without mocking or making some sarcastic conversation. It is because, in the Law of Christian Loves, we have to make a good conversation to other people indeed showing our love to other people as what the Bible written.

So far, there have been several studies about irony done by the students of the English Education Study Program of Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University. However, among them, there is no one related to this topic; ironical expressions used by the main character in general, and in this thesis the writer wants to show the Sarcasm and Irony used by Mr. Scrooge as the main character in particular.

Since no students of the English Education Study Program of Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University has done a study of this kind, and based on the reasons stated in the above paragraphs, the writer was encouraged to do a research focusing on the Irony used by Mr. Scrooge as the main character of A Christmas Carol. And this research was done and reported in this thesis entitled, "Mr. Scrooge's Ironical Expressions Encountered in Charles Dickens' novel entitled: A Christmas Carol"

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In line with the above background, the problems that arise to be formulated as follow:

- What ironical expressions are used by Mr. Scrooge, the main character in Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol" in communicating with other characters?

- Which one is the most ironical expression frequently used by Mr. Scrooge in communicating with other characters?

- Why does Mr. Scrooge use those ironical expressions in communicating with other characters?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Basing on the above major problem, the writer would like to:

1. Find and describe the ironical expressions which are used by "Mr. Scrooge" as the main character in Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol" in communicating with other characters.

2. Describe which ironical expression is the most frequently used by Mr. Scrooge, the main character in Charles Dickens' novel in communicating with other characters.

3. Find out the social factors that influence Mr. Scrooge to use the ironical expressions in "A Christmas Carol".

1.4 Significance of the Study

The findings of this study are expected for the theory of Sociolinguistics, that there are many social in a different situation. As Griffith (2006: 66-67) explains, there are four kinds of ironical expressions. This research will be useful as an additional reference for students or readers who are interested in studying the ironical expressions which are used by the characters, especially, their expressions, as represented in "A Christmas Carol". And for the writer, this study

is expected to get more contribution to know deeper about ironical expressions used in a literature. Then, this analysis will give a contribution to the understanding about the Ironical Expressions.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Here, in this study the writer finds a close relationship between the field of sociolinguistics especially in social factors and literature; it examines the relationship between language and society as Holmes statement (1992: 1). This study aims for having a better understanding of language expressions only; especially ironical expressions and also for knowing which ironical expression is used. The writer also has to know what social factors which influenced the speaker to use the ironical expressions. This study is also related to the ironical expressions used in literature, especially in a novel.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, it is necessary for the writer to define some key terms which are used in her study. They are:

1. Communication:

   In this society, communication is a need and a must in having a good relationship with others. According to Long's statement (1980: 2), the real communication is an interaction between two or more living beings; they transfer their thoughts, feelings and also messages. It is also a process in transmitting and receiving the information.

2. Ironical Expressions:

According to Blakemore (1993: 164 - 165), Irony is analyzed in form of meaning the opposite of what the sentence literally means. The utterance has two meanings; firstly, a literal meaning and secondly, the figurative meaning. For instance, according to Blakemore (1993: 157, 165):

> "(Barbara has just insulted Nigel)
>
> Nigel: Barbara's always so tactful.
>
> The meaning for literal meaning is *Barbara is always tactful*.
>
> The meaning for figurative meaning is *Barbara is always tactless*."

As have just seen in above example that it is such an analysis fails to catch the indeterminacy of ironic utterances (Blakemore, 1993: 165).

There some types of Irony, they are:

- Sarcasm

- Verbal Irony

- Situational Irony

- Socratic Irony

- Tragic Irony

- Dramatic Irony

- Attitudinal Irony

- Cosmic Irony

3. Social factor:

   Social factor according to Holmes (1992: 11 – 12) deals with some factors which influence the speaker in choosing a certain speech style. The social factors could be said as the social components of a speech, which are:

   a. The participants: who is speaking and with whom are they speaking to?

   b. The setting or social context of the interaction: where are they speaking?

   c. The topic: what is being talked about?

   d. The function: Why are they speaking?

4. "A Christmas Carol":

   The writer tries to analyze the most famous novel by Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol". From the free encyclopedia, Wikipedia, the writer finds that *A Christmas Carol* is a [Victorian](#) [morality tale](#) of an old and bitter [miser](#), [Ebenezer Scrooge](#), who undergoes a profound experience of redemption over the course of one evening. Mr. Scrooge is a financier or money-changer who has devoted his life to the accumulation of wealth. He holds anything other than money in contempt, including friendship, love and the Christmas season.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

   In this study, the writer uses the theory of communication; this theory has a close relationship with ironical expressions in a language. The writer finds that communication is really needed in finding out the ironical expressions which are used by the main character, Mr. Scrooge, in Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol" when he communicates with other characters. In this study, the writer also

uses some theories which deal with the ironical expressions, which are: theory of sarcasm and also the theory of irony. The underlying theories which the writer uses in her study are the theories which deal with sociolinguistic types of characters, which show the relationship to the choice of ironical expressions.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

The organizations of this thesis are as follow: Chapter I is the introduction, which is divided into sub–chapters: background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope and limitation, significance of the study, definition of key terms, theoretical framework and organization of the study.

Chapter II is the review of the related literature, which consists of theoretical frameworks and previous study. Theoretical frameworks consist of: theory of: communication which is divided into two types – verbal and non-verbal communication, theory of novel which includes its elements and the characterization of a novel, theory of sarcasm and irony which discusses deeper about ironical expressions. For the previous study, the writer found some literature reviews which show how they are similar with or different from the writer's study.

Chapter III is the research methodology which is divided into research design, subjects, the research instruments, the data collection procedures, and the data analysis procedures. Chapter IV consists of: the data analysis, the findings of the data analysis and the discussion of the findings. The last chapter consists of the conclusion which is divided into the summary and suggestions.