

## CHAPTER ONE

### Introduction

#### A. Background of Study

The language has an important role in human life, writing or speaking. There will be no sciences communication and transformation without language and human kind will be always in left behind. It is also a main tool to deliver a message and to understand it. Language is the system of voices which arranged according to the collective agreement and used as the communication tools in order to run social interaction. Andoyo Sastromiharjo took Mary Finocchiaro perspective of language in his book, *General Linguistic* 'language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols which permit all people in a given culture or other people who have learned the system of culture to run a social communication or to interaction'.<sup>1</sup>

He also took Mario Pei's<sup>2</sup> perspective of language which said 'language is a system of communication by sound, operating through the organs of speech and hearing, among members of a given community, and using vocal symbols possessing arbitrary conventional meaning'. And Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary said that language is a systematic means of communicating ideas or feelings by the use conventionalized signs, sounds, gestures or marks having understood meaning.

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<sup>1</sup> Andoyo Sastromihardjo, Bandung, *Linguistik Umum*, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia, 2012, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> Pei was born in Rome, Italy, and immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1908. By the time he was out of high school he knew not only English and his native Italian but also Latin, Greek, and French. received his doctorate from Columbia University in 1937. In 1941, he published his first language book, *The Italian Language* ([http:// www. britannica. com/EBchecked/topic/448818/Mario-Pei](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/448818/Mario-Pei), August 4, 2012)

When studying language, first thing that must be known is that the scientific study of language is called linguistics. As an academic discipline, the development of this subject has been recent and rapid, having become particularly widely known and taught in the 1960s. This reflects partly an increased popular and specialist interest in the study of language and communication in relation to human beliefs and behavior, and the realization of the need for a separate discipline to deal adequately with the range and complexity of linguistic phenomena. Linguistic is a science that learn language or the science that make language as object of the study.<sup>3</sup> A person who studies language is called linguist. What must know that the word 'linguist' has two meanings, besides a person who studies language; it's also called to a person who good in several languages. A good person in several languages may not be a person who study and understand the linguistics well and vice versa<sup>4</sup>. A person who is able to speak many languages may become a translator, guide, ambassador, etc. but he cannot become lecture who teach linguistics because he just able to speak several languages and not deeply study the language he speak.

Traditional linguistic term always compared with structural linguistic term, and then there are traditional and structural grammars in formal education. As the effect of different approach from these two kinds of language into the nature of language, it's usually spoken as two conflicting things. Traditional grammar analyzes language by philosophy and semantic, as structural grammar analyzes it by structure or formal signs which contain in some language.<sup>5</sup>

There are four periods of traditional linguistics; Greek period, which see that philosophy is the most basic thing to see everything from nature

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<sup>3</sup> Abdul Chaer, *Linguistik Umum*, (Jakarta, Rineka Cipta, 2007), p. 1

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p. 3

<sup>5</sup> Ahmad Zaki Mubarak, *Pendekatan Strukturalisme dalam Tafsir Al Qur'an Kontemporer 'ala' M. Syahrur*, (Yogyakarta, eLSAQ Press, 2007), p. 69

phenomenon or human symptoms. And the second is Roman period, which adopt the Greek's way of think and views. And after that, they translated it terms to Latina. And the third is Medieval; the most dominating medieval characteristic is the important position of Latin in educational system, and also as *Linguafranca*<sup>6</sup>. And the last is Renaissance, when Bloomfield<sup>7</sup> diverts some students' interests into their own language of ancient scripts.<sup>8</sup>

The concepts and theories of traditional linguistic are used also in linguistic studies in Historical Linguistics era or Comparative Philology. Some traditional classifications of linguistic studies are under one genetic or genealogical classification with correspondence criteria of sounds and meanings.<sup>9</sup>

The most visible difference between traditional linguistic and modern linguistic is their thought between both approach. Meanwhile a traditional linguistics studies the development of language and languages over time, the data of study are identical to that of comparative philology<sup>10</sup>, viz the extant records of older states of languages; but the aims are not the same. Structural thinkers are who donate something special about structure of language. And the

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<sup>6</sup> A *lingua franca* (or working language, bridge language, vehicular language) is a language systematically used to make communication possible between people not sharing a mother tongue, in particular when it is a third language, distinct from both mother tongues (Crystal, *A First Dictionary*....., p. 211)

<sup>7</sup> Leonard Bloomfield (April 1, 1887 – April 18, 1949) was an American linguist who led the development of structural linguistics in the United States during the 1930s and the 1940s. His influential textbook *Language*, published in 1933, presented a comprehensive description of American structural linguistics (<http://www.ruf.rice.edu/~kemmer/Found/bloomfieldbio.html>, August 4, 2012)

<sup>8</sup> Abdul Chaer, *Linguistik Umum* ....., p. 32-44

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, p. 333

<sup>10</sup> The traditional term for the study of language history; as carried on by comparative philologist since the late of 18<sup>th</sup> century, the study of literary texts is also sometimes included within the term as the study of texts as part of cultural, political, etc. (Crystal, *A First Dictionary*.....; p. 264)

view is result from the concepts or new views about language and its studies which presented by modern linguistic founder, Ferdinand de Saussure.

Ferdinand de Saussure, who was born on November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1857 in Geneva, showed up by his view of language when he taught at the University of Geneva. As the result of his persistence in structure and language philosophy, he was told as the founder of structuralism. The basic of structuralism is that the universe was happened from relations and not substantial. Language, also seen as a building, it is built from sentences, a sentence is built from causes, a cause is built from words, a word was built from morphemes, and a morpheme built from phonemes. The basic of his study is the six dichotomies constitute the basic concept of structuralism in linguistics<sup>11</sup>.

There are many books and articles written by him such as *Ecrits de linguistique generale*, *Memoire sur le systeme primitif des voyelles dans les langues indo europeenes*<sup>12</sup>, and *Recueil des publications scientifiques de Ferdinand de Saussure*, but the most influence book of his is the *Course in General Linguistics* which its English edition was published in New York on 1959 and edited by Charles Bally and Albert Sechehaye, both are his disciples, and translated from French by Wade Baskin. This book was submitted by his former disciples and not written by him. It contains his idea of linguistics such as the study of the principal of phonology, synchronic study which contains his view of signs and it's arbitrary, diachronic linguistics which usually called by historical linguistics but it is proposed by Saussure himself. Even his contribution in historical linguistics was great; Saussure was famous because of his role in general linguistics. His *Course* was submitted from three series of his lecture when he taught at the University of Geneva. Because this book was

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<sup>11</sup> Mudjia Rahardja, *Ferdinand de Saussure: Bapak Linguistik Modern dan Pelopor Strukturalisme*, *Lingua, Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Humaniora dan Budaya, Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Malang, Volume 1, Nomor 1, September 2003*, p. 1

<sup>12</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand\\_de\\_Saussure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ferdinand_de_Saussure), January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

submitted after his death, some critics are proposed to Bally and Sechehaye as who submitted it, those critics are:

1. The presentation might not like what Saussure made, so it logically not suitable in its argumentation.
2. The research of signs is not as clear as his lecture notes.
3. The explanation about the sounds of language is not clear as what Saussure did.

Even so, this book is considered as 'the Holy Book' of linguistics. Generally, Saussure's lecture consists of five points below:

1. The difference between *langue*, *parole* and *langage*.
2. The difference between diachronic and synchronic linguistics.
3. The reality of signs.
4. The difference between associative and syntagmatic relations.
5. The difference between value, identity and reality<sup>13</sup>.

Thus, as the result from background of study above, the researcher is interested in Ferdinand de Saussure's idea and his role in modern linguistics and will write his thesis under the title:

### **Ferdinand de Saussure, Structuralism and His Role in Modern Linguistic**

#### **B. Problem of Study**

As the result from previous background of study and to ease the understanding of the thesis, the discussant has focused his study into 3 parts

1. What is Structuralism in modern linguistics?
2. What opinion did de Saussure present about structuralism?
3. What is de Saussure's role in modern linguistic and Structuralism?

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<sup>13</sup> Harimurti Kridalaksana, *Mongin Ferdinand .....*, p. 12-13

### **C. Purpose of study**

As for the purpose of study, the writer will try to do the things below:

1. Explaining and describing structuralism in modern linguistics.
2. Explaining and describing de Saussure's opinion about structuralism.
3. Explaining and describing de Saussure's role in modern linguistic and Structuralism.

### **D. Significances of study**

1. Theoretical significance

The discussant will be trying and describing about Ferdinand de Saussure, what is Structuralism and his role in Structuralism and also in modern linguistic. And the last, the result of study will be useful to the next students who want to study about structuralism, and its concepts, especially for the students of Darussalam Institute of Islamic Studies.

2. Practical significance

Hopefully, after finishing his thesis, his study will be useful to the teachers who want to use this method of approach in their teaching of language. It may be used also for the faculty to put a new lesson with this thesis. This thesis can become a motivation for other students of this Institute to learn something new outside of what they've learn.

### **E. Literature Review**

There is no thesis writing about Ferdinand de Saussure and Structuralism, but there are some articles related to Ferdinand de Saussure, Structuralism and His Role in Modern Linguistic, and those articles help the writer in studying those 3 things. Those are:

*Ferdinand de Saussure: Bapak Linguistik Modern dan Pelopor Strukturalisme*, an essay which written by Mudjia Rahardjo, the Lecturer of UIN Malang in the Faculty Humanities and Culture, Department of Language and English Literature. This essay explains de Saussure's idea of language, from *langue*, *langage*, *parole*, etc. Even this essay doesn't explain the details of his idea; it helps the writer in writing this thesis with it's contains of points above.

*De Saussure and the Development of Semiology*, written by Martin Krampen. This essay tells de Saussure's dichotomy into *langue*, *parole*, significant, signifies and also the relation between *langue*, instrument and cue. His conclusion from the essay is de Saussure's generalization has important role. From the concrete activity of speaking, it will form the abstract language system. This essay also told what has the writer written in his thesis.

*Gambaran Umum Ilmu Bahasa*, written by Deny. A. Kwary. A paper doesn't talk much about Ferdinand de Saussure or Structuralism, but it talks much about the history of linguistic. He explained that language study has been begun from 6<sup>th</sup> BC and there are some dictionaries were published in 18<sup>th</sup> century. Those two are the proof that language study has been done from long time ago. This paper contains what the writer has written about traditional linguistics.

*Tinjauan Teoritik Tentang Semiotik*, written by Ni Wayan Setyorini, a Student of Airlangga University, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Indonesian Literature. She explains that there are relationship between Semiotics and Structuralism. But, semiotics scientists used Structuralism as a method in studying Semiotic. She also explains the meaning of sign according to de Saussure, semiology scientists, and many more. This paper talk about semiotics as the result of de Saussure's idea of sign system.

*Strukturalisme dalam Estetika dan Dalam Studi Sastra*, an essay written by Suseno W. S. on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008. He wrote Jan Mukarovsky's idea of difference between structuralism and another intellect trends, he defined the identity of Praha School of linguistic into two kinds; historically and epistemology. This essay explains one of School of Linguistics, School of Praha which uses traditional approach in its study of linguistics. The writer also written this approach by title diachronic linguistics as the idea of de Saussure.

## F. Theoretical Framework

### 1. Ferdinand de Saussure

As the founder of modern linguistic, de Saussure has some view on language such as *langue* and *parole*, diachronic and synchronic study, descriptive and perspective and also about semiotic, the difference between *signifiant* and *signifie*, sigtagmatic and paradigmatic relationship. He was never producing anything except result of thought which submitted by his disciples in the next day and became *Course de Linguistique Generale* which arranged and published by Charles Bally<sup>14</sup> and Albert Sechahaye<sup>15</sup> in 1915.<sup>16</sup>

As the book which it's source from the lecture notes of his students, it is contain many problems. And these problems must be

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<sup>14</sup> *Charles Bally* (4 February 1865, Geneva – 10 April 1947) was a French linguist from the Geneva School. He lived from 1865 to 1947 and was, like Ferdinand de Saussure, from Switzerland ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Bally](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Bally), August 4, 2012)

<sup>15</sup> *Albert Sechahaye* ( 4 July 1870 - 2 July 1946 ), born and died in Geneva , was a linguist Swiss , a school of theorists of language in Geneva. Student of the University of Geneva , where his tutor since 1891 was Ferdinand de Saussure , is an intern at Sechahaye Göttingen ( 1893 - 1902 ) and preparing a thesis in German on the imperfect subjunctive French (<http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Albert+Sechahaye>, August 4, 2012)

<sup>16</sup> Ahmad Zaki Mubarak, *Pendekatan Strukturalisme....*, p. 70



revealed without underestimating the lecture collector who became famous linguists such as Ch. Bally, A. Sechehaye and A. Riedlinger. The critics who ever proposed to those 3 scholars are: (1) the presentation may not be like de Saussure, so it may not be like logical structure in its argumentation. (2) The discussion about the substance of language signs not as complete as his lecture notes. (3) The description about sign of language voices not as careful as de Saussure.<sup>17</sup>

In his letter on 1894 which he sent to one his student, Antoine Millet, he complained that linguistic was never trying to determine the substance of object which he studied until that time. Besides, without that elementary study, a science will never develop the right method. His unsatisfying finally can be overcome after 3 lecture series of general linguistic in Geneva, and then he tried to explain the substance and other basic aspects.<sup>18</sup>

## 2. Structuralism

It is the idea or view which express that all of community and culture has same and stable structure. Structuralism is the sharp classification about community and humanity from 1950-1970, especially in France<sup>19</sup>. Its principles is the origin of the term 'structure', one finds that the term initially had an architectural meaning. It referred to the 'action, practice of process of building or construction' and 'the way in which an edifice, machine, implement, etc. is made or put together'. In seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the use of the term broadened and came to describe the ways in which the parts of a concrete being are structured into a whole. This concept may apply to a variety of structures, including anatomical, geological and mathematical. The application of the

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<sup>17</sup> Harimurti Kridalaksana, *Mongin Ferdinand .....*, p. 4

<sup>18</sup> Harimurti Kridalaksana, *Mongin Ferdinand....*, p. 12

<sup>19</sup> <http://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strukturalisme>, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012

notion of structure to language and the social sciences in general came from developments in the field of linguistics through the seminal Saussure's *Course*. He said that 'language is a system in which all the elements fit together, and in which the value of any one element depends on the simultaneous coexistence of all the others'<sup>20</sup>.

### 3. Modern Linguistic

The Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure (1857-1913) has exerted a profound influence not only on twentieth-century linguistics but also on a whole range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. His central thesis was that the primary object in studying a language is the state of that language at a particular time - a so-called synchronic study. He went on to claim that a language state is a socially constituted system of signs which are quite arbitrary and which can be defined only in terms of their relationship within the system. This new perspective has changed the way people think about linguistics and has led to important attempts to apply structuralism's ideas in anthropology, literary criticism, and philosophy.<sup>21</sup>

If traditional language applies the patterns of Greek and Latin grammar in describing some language, structural linguistic doesn't do that. Structural linguistic is trying to describe some language by the special sign of language. This view is the consequence of new concepts and perspective in studying language which declared by Father of Modern Linguistic, Ferdinand de Saussure.

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<sup>20</sup> Gary P. Radford and Marie L. Radford, *Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, and the Library; de Saussure and Foucault*, *Journal of Documentation*, Vol. 61 No. 1. 2005, p. 1-2

<sup>21</sup> David Holdcroft, *Saussure, System, and Arbitrariness* (New York, Columbia University, 2006), p.1

## G. Methodology of Study

### 1. Data Sources

In this research, the writer will use three ways to the data sources, first is main data or source; here, it is the person as the object of research because the thesis is literature thesis. In this case, Ferdinand de Saussure is the main source. The main course is written through the written record or pictures. Because the main source is no longer live, the data will be gained from the curriculum vitae of Saussure which written by another person's. It can be taken from magazines, journals, articles, archives and legitimate documents. Those sources are precious for the writer to explore the object condition. Private document may not available in this research, because all of Saussure's lectures are written in his *Course*<sup>22</sup>.

There are two kinds of data sources in this study, the first is primary source which the writer use the book of Ferdinand de Saussure himself, *Cours de Linguistique Generale*. Even the book was not written by de Saussure himself, it is still very important because it's contain whole de Saussure's lecture in linguistic. And the second is secondary source is the whole book about Ferdinand de Saussure, Structuralism and Modern Linguistic.

#### a. Primary Sources

To comprehend the biography of Ferdinand de Saussure, history and contain of Structuralism and also his role in Modern Linguistic, researcher will use the book which not written by Ferdinand de Saussure himself, but was submitted by his disciples from his lecture in Geneva University and this book is:

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<sup>22</sup> Basrowi and Suwandi, *Memahami Penelitian Kualitatif*, Rineka Cipta, Jakarta, 2009, p. 169-170

- 1) Ferdinand de Saussure, *Cours de Linguistique Generale*, (Course in General Linguistic), translated from French into English with introduction and notes from Wade Baskin, McGraw Hill Book Company, New York-Toronto-London, 1915. This book was not originally de Saussure's work, but it was submitted by his disciples as the result of his lecture in general linguistic at Geneva University. It is concerning the whole de Saussure's ideas of linguistic especially about modern linguistic. This book gives the researcher the information about de Saussure's life, meaning of structuralism and it's contain and also the proof of his brilliance in linguistic, and it help the researcher to gain more information about all of it.

a. Secondary Sources

Secondary sources are those works written by others on the subject of Ferdinand de Saussure, Structuralism and Modern Linguistic or in next of relations to the problem discussed. There are some secondary works used by the writer to complete this thesis:

- 1) *Strukturalisme Linguistik dalam Tafsir Al-Qur'an Kontemporer 'ala' M. Syahrir* (Yogyakarta, eLSAQ Press, 2007). It was written by Ahmad Zaki Mubarak. This book helps the researcher to understand more about Structuralism and traditional linguistic. It will help the researcher to complete his thesis.
- 2) *Superstrukturalisme, Pengantar Komperhensif kepada Semiotika, Strukturalisme dan Poststrukturalisme* (Yogyakarta, Jalasutra, 2006). Translated by Iwan Hendarwaman from its original chapter *Superstructuralism: The Philosophy of Structuralism and Post-Structuralism*, London & New York, 1987. This book contains the explanation about Structuralism and the scientist of it. The writer gains many information related to his research in this book.

- 3) *Linguistik Umum* (Jakarta, Rineka Cipta, 2007). This book written by Abdul Chaer. This book contains many explanations of the history of linguistic, its periods, structural linguistic, its scientists and its school. This book gives many information to understand structuralism and its school. This book will help researcher to complete his thesis.
- 4) *School of Linguistics: Competition and Evolution* (London, Hutchinson & Co., 1980). This book was written by Geoffrey Sampson. This book contains de Saussure's idea of linguistics, Noam Chomsky and generative Grammar, Prague School, the history of linguistics etc. This book will also help the writer in completing his thesis.
- 5) *Structuralism and Semiotics*, (Berkeley and Los Angeles, University of California Press, 1977). This book was written by Terence Hawkes, this book contain de Saussure's idea, American Structural linguistics, Levi-Strauss as one of structuralists and the study of sign. This book will help the writer in his thesis writing.

## 2. Data Analysis

After collecting the whole data, the writer will analyze and explain among the relations. Data analyzing began with reading all available data from various sources. Its concept is the effort by working with the data, organize it, choosing, and find the pattern and what to learn, finally, decoding what will be told to the people. Data analyzing is through four steps, those are:

1. Reading the data marking point and ideas in it.
2. Learning the points in purpose to find the themes.
3. Writing found model.
4. Data coding<sup>23</sup>.

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, p. 193-194

According to Miles and Huberman, analyzing data are through three steps, first is data reduction where the writer will do the processing, concentrating, and data abstraction. It happened from the beginning until the end of research. Here, the writer really looks for a valid data, and when he hesitates of its truth, he must return looking for the accurate data.

### 3. Writing Result of Research

In data presentation, here, the writer will present the result of his research by narrative text and not graphic, it is because the research is literature study. Its purpose is to ease the reader and conclude it, then; the data must well serve to the reader. In this process, the writer will classify some categories into its kinds also the data will be classified according to main themes. And the last is data verification where we verify the conclusions when doing the research in this phase, the writer will make preposition formula related to the logical principle, raise it as found research, then studying the data continually, classifying formed data and preposition. The last step is reporting the result of research completely<sup>24</sup>.

In his thesis, in order to submit and make the result of his study reliable, the researcher will use qualitative method where the problem which he has is still temporary, and then the theory is still temporary too, it will develop after the researcher enter into the field of study. And finally, qualitative study's behavior is to find the theory.<sup>25</sup>

For gaining data, researcher will use observation and documentation technique. While in observation technique, researcher will try to describe the whole data in first place. And then, after doing grand

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<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, p. 209-210

<sup>25</sup> Sugiyono , *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan, pendekatan kuantitatif, kual, dan R & D*, (Bandung, , Alfabeta, 2008) p.295

tour observation researcher will take some conclusions until he is able to describe what he finds. In phase, researcher will focus his research into some aspects. And finally, as the final phase of observation, researcher has analyzed founded focuses until the data become more detail.<sup>26</sup>

As for documentation technique, even it's rather difficult, because the researcher will explore all of documents in writings, scripts or even picture from related research.<sup>27</sup> Document study is to complete observation technique in qualitative research. So, analyzing qualitative data will be done interactively trough data reduction, data display process and verification.<sup>28</sup>

## H. Study System

This research will be divided into four chapters, those are:

For the first chapter and as an introduction to the thesis, this chapter contains background of study, problem of study, abbreviation of study, study purpose, significance of study, literature review, theoretical framework, method of study and system of study.

Continuing research, researcher will discuss the biography of Ferdinand de Saussure, his education, his works and also in this chapter he will describe the definition of structuralism, modern and traditional linguistic, the scientists in both and the sciences of modern linguistic. And these studies will be written in second chapter.

As the main chapter of thesis, researcher will write about the language concept of Ferdinand de Saussure, his idea about langue, parole, langage, significant, signifie, phonology principal, substance of sign,

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<sup>26</sup> *Ibid*, p.315-316

<sup>27</sup> Suharsimi Arikunto *Prosedur Penelitian suatu pendekatan praktik*, ( Rineka Cipta, 2006), p.231

<sup>28</sup> Suharsimi Arikunto *Prosedur Penelitian.....*, p. 329

synchronic, diachronic and geographical linguistic. It also contains Structuralism and de Saussure's role in modern linguistic. The sub-chapter will contain traditional linguistic and its school, its period, its scientists, and also the scientists who against structuralism and who support it, for the last of the chapter, the writer will write about the school of structural linguistic.

And finally, in the fourth chapter the researcher would like to give his conclusion about his research, suggestion, recommendation and the last is closing.