CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

In our life, there are two kinds of story. The first is non-fiction, which is related to something that is real or based on facts of our life. The second is fiction which is related to something that is unreal or only based on the author's imagination.

There are various forms of fiction, such as: novel, short story, drama and comic books. They have their own uniqueness and I am personally more interested in comic books. I like how the authors present their stories in the form of comic strips, which is different from the other forms of fiction.

Pictures have important roles in comic books. Some pictures are used instead of words to describe a place. When an author wants to explain about the place where the story happens, he can use pictures. For example, if the action happens in front of a bank, the author will draw a bank as the background. Moreover, pictures can also describe the setting of time. For instance, when the setting of time is at night, the author will draw the moon and stars as the

background. If the setting is in the morning, the author will draw the sun to show that the event happens in the morning.

Besides the setting, pictures can also express non-verbal language. According to Steve Darn and Dilek Eryilmaz, non-verbal language is a kind of language which does not use anything that is related to verbal language elements such as words, phrases or sentences. On the contrary, the non-verbal language is related to body language (body movements such as: shrugs, facial expressions, gestures), posture, eye contact, space, sound symbols, locomotion, silence, smells, touch, clothing and appearance, and voice. Every element of non-verbal language has their own functions. For example, facial expressions can reveal someone's feeling; while, clothing can express someone's characters.

<http://teachingenglish.org.uk/think/methodology/nonverbal.shtml.>.   Moreover, people can get information about someone's emotions, such as fear, happiness, sadness, anger, surprise, interest and disgust through non-verbal language: the facial expression or the movement of the body. Besides, facial expressions can affect the meaning of someone's utterances.

<http://www.lichoamstaal.com/english/>.   In comic strips these forms of non-verbal language can be illustrated through pictures

For my thesis, I will only analyze some forms of non-verbal language, such as kinesics, posture and silence because those are the most often used forms of non-verbal language found in comic strips. I choose kinesics or body language, such as facial expressions and gestures. I also analyze the use of silence, which is

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related to pausing, waiting and secrecy. The third is posture which means position of the body or stance.

In comic strips there is also verbal language, of course. The readers can see the verbal language as the text of the comic strips. Verbal language is the language which is always related to words, phrases, sentences. Both verbal and non-verbal language have roles in comic strips. These two kinds of language support each other.

According to David Crystal in his *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Language*, 'linguistic and non-linguistic modes of expression are never totally independent of each other'. (Crystal, 1987: 181) It means that the verbal language and the non-verbal language influence each other. For instance, when a character in a comic strip says "I'm happy!", and the character's facial expression shows that he is smiling happily, it can be said that the non-verbal language supports the verbal language. Supporting Crystal's theory, Beaugrade in his *Linguistic Theory-The Discourse of Fundamental Works*, also says that when the verbal language is used in our communication, the verbal language becomes part of the non-verbal language. (Beaugrade, 1993: 201).

On the other hand, having observed some comic strips, I sometimes see that the non-verbal language is independent. It is not always supported by the verbal language as it stands on its own. Accordingly, I become curious to know more about the roles of the non-verbal language in comic strips.

There are so many comic series which can be found nowdays; yet, for my thesis data, I will only collect the data from *Tintin* comic series. I choose *Tintin*

comic series because I think in *Tintin* I can find more non-verbal language than in other comic series. Besides, in my opinion, the non-verbal language in *Tintin* comic series is clearer than the non-verbal language in the other comic series. Thus, my thesis title is *The Role of Non Verbal Language in Tintin Comic Series*.

The thesis topic belongs to Pragmatics. Pragmatics is a linguistic branch, which studies about contextual meaning. Using Pragmatics, people can get more information from what they have heard of someone's utterances. Besides Pragmatics, I also use a more specific theory, the non-verbal language theory. According to G.W. Porter, from the non-verbal language theory, people can know about the non-verbal communication. They will know that the non-verbal communication is one type of communication that does not use words, phrases or sentences. Thus, they will be more aware of body movements, gestures, smells, intonation, speed, and pause. (http://www.zeromillion.com/business/management/non-verbal-lcommunication.html)

Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, I would like to analyze the following problems:

1. Which strips show the use of kinesics, silence, and posture in *Tintin* comic series?

2. What is the function of each non-verbal language used in *Tintin* comic series?

Purpose of the Study

This study is done to show:

1. The strips which show non-verbal language used in *Tintin* comic series.

2. The function of each non-verbal language used in *Tintin* comic series.

Method of Research

In gathering my data, I read *Tintin* comic series first and then I select these strips which show the function of the non-verbal language. After that, I look for the theory from the Internet and I read some linguistic textbooks about non-verbal language. Besides that, I read some reference books which are related to my topic. Finally, I write the research report about the role of non-verbal language in *Tintin* comic series.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the theories used to analyze the data. The discussion of the role of non-verbal language is put in Chapter Three. Chapter Four is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendices.