

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE TYPES AND FUNCTIONS OF  
IRONY EXPRESSIONS IN TWITTER: SEMANTIC  
APPROACH**

**THESIS**



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PUTERA BATAM UNIVERSITY  
2018**

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements Thesis for Degree of Sarjana  
Sastra**



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2018**

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**This thesis has been examined on the date as indicated below**

**Batam, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

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## ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini berfokus pada ironi, sebuah fenomena umum yang sebenarnya terjadi setiap hari. Ironi adalah seni berbahasa yang diterapkan dalam percakapan sehari-hari ketika orang-orang menolak menggunakan bahasa secara literal. Peneliti bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis and fungsi ekspresi ironis di Twitter sebagai salah satu situs jejaring sosial terpopuler. Penelitian ini harus dilakukan karena ironi sering dianalisis hanya dalam karya sastra. Pada kenyataannya, ironi bukan sekadar majas yang hanya ada dalam karya sastra; ironi juga ada dalam percakapan dan situasi sehari-hari. Peneliti menggunakan pendekatan Semantik sebagai ruang lingkup utama untuk menganalisis. Peneliti juga menggunakan teori tipe ironi Muecke dan teori fungsi ironi Hutcheon sebagai referensi dasar dan teori lain yang relevan sebagai pendukung. Peneliti menerapkan metode observasi simak libat bebas cakap dalam mengumpulkan data. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menerapkan model Miles & Huberman yang mencakup pengurangan data, pemaparan data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa ada dua jenis ironi yang ditemukan di Twitter. Hasil analisis juga menunjukkan bahwa jenis ironi yang dominan terjadi adalah ironi situasional. Ironi situasional mencakup 60% dari keseluruhan data dan ironi verbal mencakup 40%. Adapun fungsinya, fungsi yang dominan digunakan adalah fungsi reinforcing dengan total delapan kejadian, diikuti dengan fungsi distancing/self-protective yang muncul sebanyak enam kali. Peneliti membuat kesimpulan bahwa ironi yang paling sering terjadi di Twitter adalah ironi situasional yang terjadi karena kesalahan manusia dan kejadian yang tidak dapat diprediksi. Ironi pada umumnya digunakan untuk mengungkapkan perasaan dan menggarisbawahi sudut pandang pembicara terhadap situasi yang ada dan mengkritik kejadian tertentu tanpa menghakimi secara eksplisit.*

**Kata Kunci:** Ironi, Semantik, Twitter

## ABSTRACT

*This research focuses on irony, a common phenomenon that actually happens daily. Irony is a language art that applied in everyday conversation when people refused to use language in literal way. The researcher aims to find out the types and functions of irony expressions in Twitter, one of the most popular social networking sites. This research must be conducted because irony is often analyzed only in the literary works. In fact, irony is not merely a figure of speech exists only in literary works; it exists in daily conversation and situation as well. The researcher uses Semantics approach as the main scope of analysis. The researcher uses Muecke's types of irony theory and Hutcheon's functions of irony theory as the basic reference and others relevant theory as support. The researcher applies non-participant observation method in collecting the data. As for analyzing data, the researcher applies Miles & Huberman's model which covers data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The result shows that there are two occurring types of irony found in Twitter. The result also shows that the dominant type of irony occurring is the situational irony. The situational irony holds for 60% of the data and the verbal irony holds for 40%. As for the function, the dominant function used is reinforcing function with the total of eight occurrences, followed by distancing/self-protective function which occurs for six times. The researcher makes a conclusion that the most occurred irony in Twitter is situational irony which happens due to human error and the unpredictability of the world. Irony, in general, is used to express feeling and underlines speaker's point of view towards an existing situation and to criticize certain events without explicitly judging.*

**Keywords:** *Irony, Semantics, Twitter*

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

*Isaiah 40:31*

*Try to save the dead horse as if it is still alive. Nothing is impossible.*  
*-Chinese proverb*

*This thesis is dedicated to my dearest family:*

*Papa, Mama, Ardy, Desy, and Granny*



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Batam, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Dina Yuliana**  
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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Language can be defined as a way of communication in human life. People need language to communicate, to express feelings and emotions, and to express ideas, thoughts, and imaginations either in spoken or written form. However, often in real life, people do not express their thoughts and feelings in a usual way. This is supported by Chomsky's opinion in Paul which Chomsky stated that language reflects human mental processes or shapes the flow and character of thought as people have a wide variety of interests, points of view, and intellectual backgrounds. Therefore, people may express their thoughts and feelings in a different way; a non-literal way (Paul, 2009).

Based on the event which what is really meant needed to be analyzed, the researcher would use semantics as an approach in this research as it is a language study which concerns about the meaning. According to Nick Riemer, one of the experts in Semantics field, "Semantics is to study the basic, literal meanings of words as considered principally as parts of a language system. In linguistics, semantic is the study of meaning, as used at the levels of words, phrases, and sentences as well." (Riemer, 2013: 22).

One of the topics covered in semantics study is a figure of speech. According to Gustaf Stern in (Peter, Martin, & Julian, 2007: 83), figures of speech

are intentional transfers which involve emotional (including aesthetic) factors. They serve the expressive and purposive functions of speech better than the “plain statement”. Figures of speech are further divided into several kinds, and one of them is irony. According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary (“Irony,” n.d.), the irony is the use of words to express something other than and especially the opposite of the literal meaning. According to Literary Device, irony can also be defined as words that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words. It may also be a situation that ends up in quite a different way than what is generally anticipated (“Irony,” 2017). To put it simpler, it is a difference between appearance and reality. The definition of irony can further be divided by Muecke into two main types: verbal and situational.

Related to this research, the researcher compares her main topic to two different types of research before. The first one is a research conducted by Reyes, Rosso and Buscaldi in 2012 entitled “From Humor Recognition to Irony Detection: The Figurative Language of Social Media”. The focus of this research is to analyze humor and irony to identify the key values components for their automatic processing. They focused their research on five data sets taken from Twitter by taking advantage of user-generated tags, such as “#humor” and “#irony”. The results show the creative and figurative usages of language and the positive usage of humor and encouraging usage of irony (Reyes, Rosso, & Buscaldi, 2012).

Another research was conducted by Farías, Patti, & Rosso in 2016 entitled “Irony Detection in Twitter: The Role of Affective Content” In this work, they

address the problem of detecting irony in tweets, casting it as a classification problem. The classification experiments over different corpora result that affective information helps to distinguish between ironic and non-ironic tweets (Farías, Patti, & Rosso, 2016).

Based on above previous researches, both previous types of research have shown how this research is different in its major, as in this research, the researcher will conduct a research to find out the types and functions of irony expressions in Twitter.

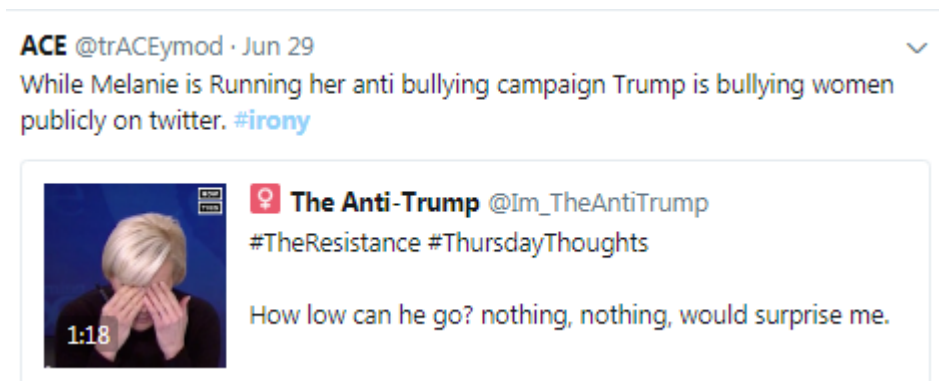
This research is important to be conducted because people often convey their thoughts and feelings on daily basis in a non-literal meaning by using irony, yet this topic is more often analyzed only in the literary works. Therefore, this research aims to explore the meaning behind the irony expressions to classify them per type and to explore the functions of the irony expressions which occurs in a daily basis to unveil another level of irony and to clear the misunderstanding.

Irony is a common expression in daily life, and it often appears in Twitter as well. Twitter is a social mobile network with a wide range of users. Twitter users may use irony to express their daily activities or about a social phenomenon. Below are two examples of them.



**Figure 1.1.1 Verbal Irony**





**Figure 1.1.2 Situational Irony**

The first tweet is “Super proud of my home state today. #irony” The second tweet is: “While Melanie is running her anti bullying campaign, Trump is bullying women publicly on Twitter. #irony”

In the first tweet, a Twitter user states she feels proud of her home state. This may seem normal, but it is actually ironic respond to a news headline of “How Illinois become America’s most messed-up state.” The Twitter user is actually reinforcing her thought that she feels ashamed of her home state achievement. As for the second tweet, a Twitter user presents a situation with this sentence: “While Melanie is running her anti bullying campaign, Trump is bullying women publicly on Twitter. #irony” By stating this, the Twitter user is presenting an ironic situation in which Trump and his wife are contradicting. One is campaigning anti-bullying, while another is bullying publicly. By bringing this situation unto surface, the Twitter user is applying the distancing/self-protective function of irony. This is so because the Twitter user avoids direct and harsh criticism of the event.

Based on the background of research above, the researcher is interested to explore the types and the functions of irony expressions found in Twitter.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the explanation in Background of the Research, the researcher identifies the problems as follows.

1. There are many types of irony expressions in Twitter.
2. There are many functions of irony expressions in Twitter.
3. The topic that is used the most for irony.
4. The composition frequency of irony in Twitter.

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

According to the problems that have been explained before, the researcher chooses to limit the research due to the limitation of time that researcher has. Thus, the problems are limited as follows.

1. There are many types of irony expressions in Twitter.
2. There are many functions of irony expressions in Twitter.

## **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on problems that found and arranged previously, thus the researcher curious about those several problems that will be explored, and it has arranged becoming the formulation as follows.

1. What are the types of irony expressions in Twitter?
2. What are the functions of irony expressions in Twitter?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

In accordance with the formulation of the research, the objective of this research is as follows.

1. To find out the types of irony expressions in Twitter.
2. To find out the functions of irony expressions in Twitter.

### **1.6 Significance of Research**

The significances of the research are as follows.

1. Theoretically, this research provides additional information as a reference or comparable study in linguistics, especially in Semantics.
2. Practically, the readers are able to apply irony and develop a good sense to understand the meaning through Semantics point of view, not only in the linguistics field but also in daily life.

### **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

Based on what the researcher has described in the background of the research, the representative key terms that will commonly encounter by readers are as follows.

**Irony:** an indirect means of expression, where what is presented differs to what is implied or intended (Dracopoulos, 2006).

**Semantics:** a branch of linguistics was mainly concerned with how the 'meaning' was conveyed by the linguistics system consisting of different unit structures like sentence,

phrases, words, morphemes etc (Leech in Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 1).

Twitter: the mobile social network that combines elements of short messaging services (SMS or texting), instant-messaging communication tools, and blog publishing software (Fitton, Gruen, & Poston, 2009: 9).

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.1 Theory Concept**

##### **2.1.1 Semantics**

Semantics is one of the language studies which discusses the meaning. According to Leech (in Umagandhi, 2017), semantics is also central to the study of communication. Even though people can convey their ‘meaning’ or information through gesture, picture, signals, etc., language remains the main tool of communication of the human beings. Semantics as a branch of linguistics was mainly concerned with how the ‘meaning’ was conveyed by the linguistics system consisting of different unit structures like sentence, phrases, words, morphemes etc. (Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 1). Further, Leech (in Bagha, 2011) said that semantics concerns itself with ‘giving a systematic account of the nature of meaning’ (Bagha, 2011: 1). To make this point explicit, the aim of semantics is to explain and describe the meaning in natural language.

In studying meaning, Leech breaks down “meaning” into seven different types. The first is logical meaning which more common mentioned as conceptual meaning, then connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and the last is thematic meaning (Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 1).

### **2.1.1.1 Conceptual Meaning**

Conceptual meaning is widely assumed to be the central factor in linguistics communication. Sometimes it is called as denotative or cognitive meaning, which means that it is the basic meaning which refers to the dictionary definition. For instance, the word 'girl' can be described as +Human, +Female, -Adult (Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 1).

### **2.1.1.2 Connotative Meaning**

Connotative meaning is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content. It might be overlapped with the conceptual meaning, but the connotative meaning provides additional and also non-criterial properties, it is not only the physical characteristics but also the physiological and social properties. The connotative meaning was concerned with the real-world experiences one associate with the linguistics expression one uses or hears. For example, the word 'Woman' besides features as +human +female +adult as conceptual, woman also has the characteristics such as feminism, talkative, multitasking, etc. (Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 2)

### **2.1.1.3 Social Meaning**

According to Leech (in Umaghandi, 2017), social meaning is concerned with communication aspects which are derived from the situation or environment in which an utterance or sentence is produced in a language. Social meaning is

that information which a piece of language (i.e. a pronunciation variation, a word, phrase, sentence, etc.) conveys about the social circumstance of its use. Aspects of language variation like social or regional dialect variation, style variation like formal, informal, colloquial, slang etc., in a social situation a functional meaning of a sentence may differ from its conceptual meaning due to its illocutionary force (Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 2). For instance, in Bahasa Indonesia, '*kacang*' means 'peanut'. But in Malaysia, '*kacang*' is a slang word which means 'easy'.

#### **2.1.1.4 Affective Meaning**

Affective meaning reflects the personal feelings of the speaker which includes the attitude of the listener or his attitude to something the listener is talking about. It is often conveyed explicitly through the conceptual or connotative content of the words used. Affective meaning is a category to express our emotions we rely upon the mediation of other categories of meaning such as conceptual, connotative, or stylistic. Emotional expression is about how something expresses, for instance, when someone applies the impolite tone to express displeasure, and when someone applies the casual tone to express friendliness (Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 2). Affective meaning is later used as the tool to analyze irony expressions.

#### **2.1.1.5 Reflected Meaning**

The reflected meaning was the meaning which arises in cases when a word has multiple conceptual meaning or polysemous when one sense of a word form

part of our response (or reaction) to another sense (Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 2). For instance, The Comforter and The Holy Ghost both refer to the Third Trinity, but the Comforter sounds warm and comforting, while the Holy Ghost sounds awesome or dreadful.

#### **2.1.1.6 Collocative Meaning**

According to Leech, “collocative meaning consists of the association a word acquires on account of the meanings of words which tend to occur in its environment” Pretty and handsome both share common ground in the meaning of good-looking, however, Leech distinguished by the range of nouns with which the words are likely to co-occur as the word ‘pretty’ collocates with – girls, woman, village, gardens, flowers, etc. While the word ‘handsome’ collocates with – ‘boys’ men, etc. To conclude this, it is ‘pretty woman’ and ‘handsome man’ (Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 2).

#### **2.1.1.7 Thematic Meaning**

Thematic meaning is that “what was communicated by the way in which a speaker or writer organize the message, in terms of ordering, focus, and emphasis”. The thematic meaning can also be expressed by means of stress and intonation to highlight information in one part of a sentence (Umagandhi & Vinothini, 2017: 2).



For example, the sentence “Mrs. Bessie Smith donated the first prize.” and “The first prize was donated by Mrs. Bessie Smith.” has the different highlight of information.

### **2.1.2 Irony**

The word ‘irony’ is derived from Greek word *eironia* which means ‘deception’ or ‘trick’. The definition of irony in a simple way is the difference between what is presented and what is intended in the reality.

“Irony is undoubtedly an indirect means of expression, where what is presented differs to what is implied or intended. Characteristic features of this figure of speech are the refusal to declare something as it truly is resulting in discord between what appears and what exists, as well as discord between expectation and the outcome” (Dracopoulos, 2006).

The definition is further supported by Harya in his view that irony contains the contradiction of what is spoken and what is meant, what is expected and what actually takes place.

“Irony is one type of figure of speech that declares the opposite meaning and contradiction with the fact. There is some argument about what qualities as ironic, but all senses of irony revolve around the perceived notion an incongruity between what is said and what is meant, or between an understanding or expectation of a reality and what actually happens. For instance, “In this prison, we are happy, very.” (Harya, 2016: 49)

Irony, whether verbal or situational, reflects speakers’ conceptualization of the world of their experiences. As Hutcheon argues, “Because irony happens in something called ‘discourse’, its semantic and syntactic dimensions cannot be considered separately from the social, historical and cultural aspects of its contexts of deployment and attribution” (Hutcheon, 2005: 17)

Muecke (in Enos, 2010) classified irony into two general types, verbal irony (“He is being ironic”) and situational irony (“It is ironic that...”) (Enos, 2010: 356). The types of irony according to Muecke will be further elaborated below.

### **2.1.2.1 Verbal Irony**

Verbal irony is the use of words contradicting to what a speaker means. The term verbal irony is defined by Muecke as seen in the quotation below.

“In the first place, irony is a double-layered or two-storey phenomenon. At the lower level, is the situation either as it appears to the victim of irony (where there is a victim) or as it is deceptively presented by the ironist (where there is an ironist).” Muecke in (Butler, 2015: 55)

The definition is further explained by Dracopoulos that the manifestation of a verbal irony appears when a tension is identified between a specific group of words and another meaning which is possibly situated in the words themselves or the context of these words (Dracopoulos, 2006: 193).

This type of irony is defined by Abrams as well (in Al-Ali, 2015) as “a statement in which the meaning that a speaker implies differs sharply from the meaning that is ostensibly expressed. The ironic statement usually involves the explicit expression of one attitude or evaluation, but with indications in the overall speech-situation that the speaker intends a very different, and often opposite, attitude or evaluation.” (Al-Ali, 2015: 3) A characterization of ironic statements or verbal irony was given by R. J. Kreuz and S. Glucksberg (in Gibbs & Colston, 2007): “In verbal irony a speaker expresses an attitude towards some object, event, or person by saying something that is not literally true” (Gibbs & Colston, 2007: 60). For example, “I am absolutely happy to lose my money.”

### 2.1.2.2 Situational Irony

Situational irony is an existed ironic condition which is brought to the surface by an observer. Situational irony is defined by Muecke as below.

“At the upper level is the situation as it appears to the observer or the ironist. The upper level need not be presented by the ironist; it need only be evoked by him or be present in the mind of the observer.” Muecke (in Butler, 2015: 55)

Further, according to Gibbs (in Li, 2008), a context that sets up an “ironic situation” through a contrast between expectations and reality facilitates ironic interpretation. He also considers situational irony as an incongruity in a situation arising from the tension between what is expected or intended and what actually happens. The incongruity is often filled with a sense of misfortune or unfairness for agents involved in the situation. Further, Gibbs elaborates that the incongruity in the situation itself is not intended and is often out of the hands of the agents who may be victims of the situational irony. Situational irony differs from other forms of irony in a fundamental way: situational irony is observed whereas other forms of irony are created. Muecke (in Li, 2008) noted that the distinction between verbal and situational irony is made when people say, on the one hand, “He or she is being ironical” and on the other hand, “It is ironic that...” (Li, 2008: 6).

While verbal irony contains an ironist, most types of situational irony merely contain an observer. According to Kierkegaard ( in Li, 2008), situational irony is “not present in nature for one who is too natural and too naïve, but only

exhibits itself for one who is himself ironically developed...To become conscious of this requires a consciousness which is itself ironical” (Li, 2008: 6). Kierkegaard’s analysis concludes that “an ironical consciousness must exist within an observer for him or to successfully perceive the irony of a situation” (Li, 2008: 5-6). For example, “Graft Suspected in Indonesian Anti-Corruption Monument Project.”

Lucariello’s article (in Li, 2008) adds dimensions to the understanding of situational irony by identifying four features presents in situational irony: unexpectedness, human fragility, opposition, and outcome. Unexpectedness is a feature shared by all ironic situations, but it is certainly not a sufficient condition for irony as not all surprises are ironic. Lucariello further adds that human fragility introduces the idea that ironic events mock the normal or expected order of things; and expose a “theory of the world’s unpredictability, capturing our understanding that we cannot rely on ourselves, on others, or on events to run a standard course. They signal the vulnerability of the human condition—intentionality, actions, states, outcomes” (Li, 2008: 8)

According to Lucariello, in considering situational ironies, a part of the unexpectedness in the circumstances arises from a form of event knowledge known as the “script,” which is “a general knowledge structure or schema for events that realize a high reliability of expectation” (Lucariello in Li, 2008). Scripts are mental representations of “what is supposed to happen in a particular circumstance” (Ashcraft in Li, 2008) and have to do with a sense of regularity or control in the world. The acknowledgment of situational ironies emerges when a

set of affairs deviates ironically from the scripts. Ashcraft also adds that the irony in the deviation or unexpectedness relates back to the situation's mockery of human fragility in our intentions and expectations.

To sum it up, the main difference between verbal irony and situational irony lies in the role of the ironist. While verbal irony implies an ironist who intentionally creates the irony, situational irony, on the other hand, is a "condition of affairs" that is felt to be ironic. With verbal irony, the focus of analysis is on the ironist's technique, while the observer's ironic sense is the focus when analyzing situational irony (Enos, 2010: 356).

### **2.1.3 Functions of Irony**

The functions of irony have been approached variously, however, Hutcheon's approach seems to be the most comprehensive one. According to Hutcheon, the functions of irony are reinforcing, complicating, ludic, distancing, self-protective, provisional, oppositional, assailing, and aggregative as illustrated below (Al-Ali, 2015: 4-8).

#### **2.1.3.1 Reinforcing**

According to Hutcheon (in Al-Ali, 2005), reinforcing means that the familiar intentional use or interpretation of irony as being used to underline a point in the everyday conversation. This has a positive function as it is necessary for emphasis, and often for greater precision of communication, especially the communication of an attitude. Hutcheon even thinks that this function may

include emotional involvement (Al-Ali, 2015: 5). For example, “I am absolutely happy being slapped for no reason.”

### **2.1.3.2 Complicating**

Irony is seen as a complexity, a form of controlled ambiguity that calls to interpretation. However, it may serve unnecessary complexity and ambiguity which can breed misunderstanding, confusion, or simply imprecision and lack of clarity in communication. Irony, therefore, is meant to complexing or misleading and ambiguous (Al-Ali, 2015: 5). For example: “She says, “There are plenty of other fish in the sea.” Oh well, I cannot even handle one fish.”

### **2.1.3.3 Ludic**

Irony is seen as the benevolent teasing. It may be associated as well with humor and wit, and therefore be interpreted as a characteristic of playfulness (and so in language, akin to punning or even metaphor). As in Peter McGraw’s words, “humor only occurs when something seems wrong, unsettling, or threatening, but simultaneously seems okay, acceptable or safe.” However, irony can be implied as a negative aspect as it is seen as silly and trivializing (Al-Ali, 2015: 6). For example, “Although he is a grammarian, but too bad he has no comma sense at all.”

#### **2.1.3.4 Distancing/Self-Protective**

Distance suggests the “non-committal, the inferred refusal of engagement and involvement”. The distancing function induced by irony refuses the explicit judgments, especially at a time when such judgments might not be either appropriate or desirable. In other words, it indicates the “refusal to be pinned down” (Al-Ali, 2015: 6). Therefore, irony can be seen as a kind of defense mechanism as it allows the speaker to avoid the kinds of sanctions may occur. For example, “The medical term for the inability to pronounce the sound r is called rhotacism. Whoever coined this term is absolutely smart.”

#### **2.1.3.5 Assailing**

In many discussion of irony, this function is seen as the most function considered. The word assailing is derived from the Latin word *assilire* which means ‘to leap upon’. This function may be seen as negative as it is used to attack or reprimand about a certain issue. However, there does exist what could be interpreted as a positive motivation for “leaping upon” something. The positive motivation lies in the corrective function where there is a set of values that one is correcting forward (Al-Ali, 2015: 8). For example, “What an honorable way to betray his master. People should not be so ungrateful.”

#### **2.1.4 Twitter**

Twitter is basically a powerful mobile social network that enables a person to keep up with the people, businesses, and organizations he is interested in,

whether he knows them personally or not. It also lets the person shares what he is doing with the world — everyone from family and friends to complete strangers (Fitton, Gruen, & Poston, 2009: 9).

Twitter has one central feature: It lets users instantly post entries of 140 characters or less, known as tweets, through the [www.Twitter.com](http://www.Twitter.com) site or cellphone, or by way of the numerous applications that are available for both. On the most basic level, Twitter is a mobile social network that combines elements of short messaging services (SMS or texting), instant-messaging communication tools, and blog publishing software, such as Blogger or WordPress. Like blogging, tweets are generally published to the world at large where anyone can read them on [Twitter.com](http://Twitter.com) (unless the user choose a private account so that only those chosen can see the tweets). Unlike blogging, a tweet is limited to just 140 characters. Like instant messaging, user can communicate directly with people (through direct messages), but unlike instant messaging, each message has its own unique resource locator (URL), so each message is actually a Web page (Fitton et al., 2009: 10). If a user wants to weave tweets into a conversation thread or connect them to a general topic, he can seek out and use relevant keywords and #hashtags to connect with others who shares the same interests (Fitton et al., 2009: 94).

## **2.2 Previous Study**

Regarding to above phenomenon found, the researcher discovered about the related phenomenon. The first previous research is taken from Proceedings of the Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems 2017 entitled “#IronyOff –



Understanding the Usage of Irony on Twitter during a Corporate Crisis” by Mirbabaie et al. This research examines user groups and their personal and social motives for the use of irony. Their study revealed that certain community clusters exist that use irony specifically for the purpose of entertainment and pastime (Mirbabaie, Stieglitz, & Ruiz Eiro, 2017).

The second research is taken from Journal of Pragmatics entitled “Phrasal Irony: Its Form, Function and Exploitation” by Alan Partington. This research examined the phenomenon of phrasal irony, defined as the reversal of customary collocational patterns of use of certain lexical items. The research question proposed are how phrasal irony is structured; how, why and where writers use it; and how it relates to other more familiar types of irony. He found that the ironic use of a particular phrase or phrase template is repeated frequently and productively and can become a recognized usage in its own right. (Partington, 2011).

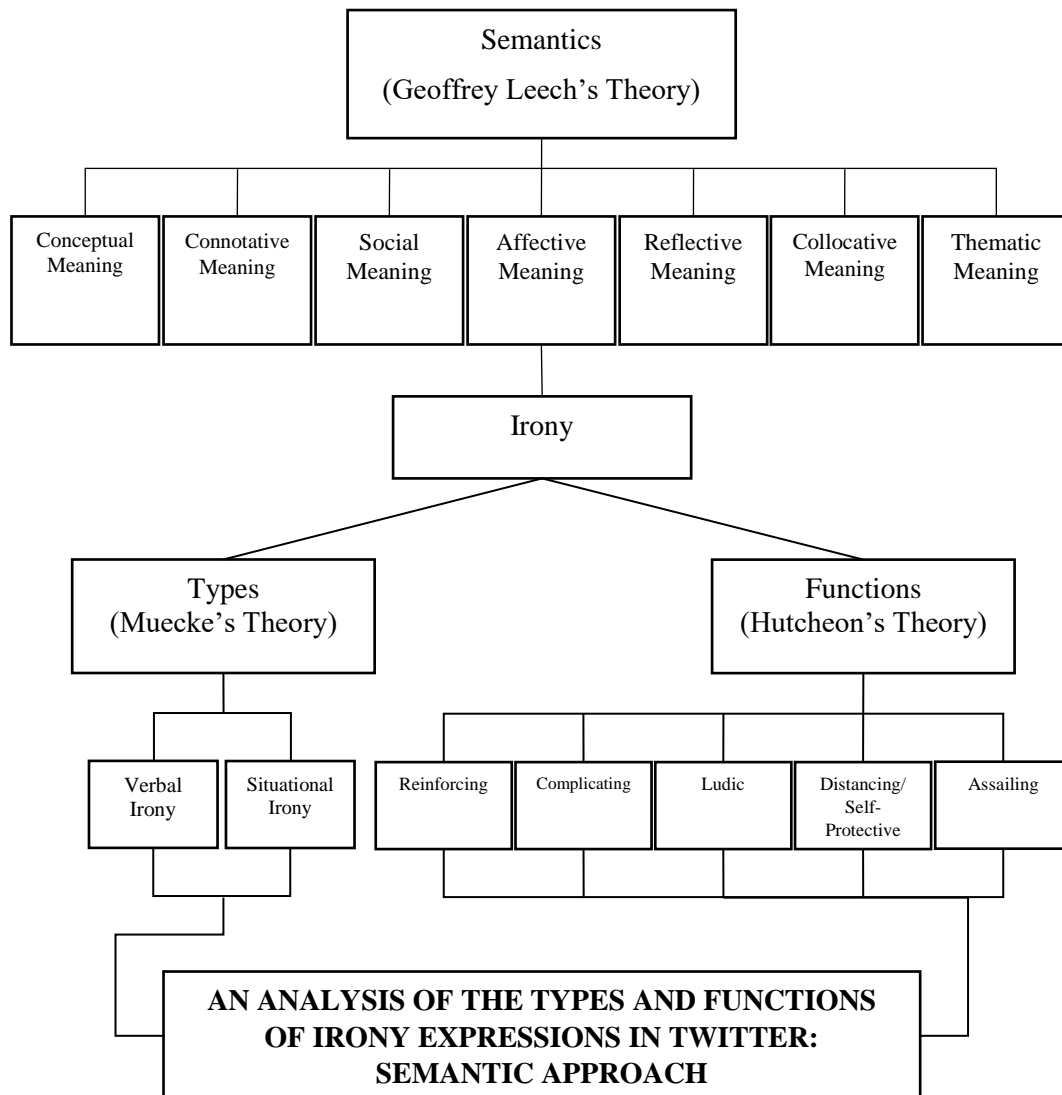
The third research is entitled “Irony Detection in Twitter: The Role of Affective Content” by Farías et al. In this research, they addressed the problem of detecting irony in tweets and casting it as a classification problem. They propose a novel model that explores the use of affective features based on a wide range of lexical resources available for English, reflecting different facets of affect. Classification experiments over different corpora show that affective information helps in distinguishing among ironic and non-ironic tweets. (Farías et al., 2016).

The fourth research was conducted by Yasir Alotaibi which entitled “A New Analysis of Verbal Irony”. This paper argues for a new analysis, suggesting

that there are multiple types of verbal irony that should be examined under more than one analytical approach based on their meanings. This paper suggests that ironic verbal expressions that communicate the opposite of their literal meaning should be analyzed as a type of metaphor with two oppositional subjects in which the ironist pretends to believe that they resemble one another (Alotaibi, 2017).

The fifth research is taken from *Journal of Language and Social Psychology* entitled “Individual Differences in Irony Use Depend on Context” conducted by Akimoto and Miyazawa. They investigated individual differences in irony use depending on context. The results were the use supportive humor between conditions, whereas expressive suppression, self-control, and preference for playful humor irony use regardless of condition. (Akimoto & Miyazawa, 2017)

### 2.3 Theoretical Framework



**Figure 2.3.1 Theoretical Framework**

The biggest scope of this research is the Semantics approach itself which is the study of meaning. Leech further classified meaning into seven types, which one of them is affective meaning. Affective meaning is used to analyze irony as it concerns with speaker's feeling and attitude. Irony is further divided into two types which are verbal irony and situational irony based on Muecke's theory. Beside the types of irony, the researcher will analyze the functions of irony as well. The functions of irony are based on Hutcheon's theory which covers reinforcing, complicating, ludic, distancing/self-protective, and assailing. The types and the functions of irony will be used as base to analyze irony expressions in Twitter.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Humans have been living close to each other since thousands of years ago. Every human comes from different background, which involves social, economy, cultural, race, etc. and forms into a society. As everyone comes from different background, each person may have different concept or value which is likely to cause problems when socializing. That is why research is needed to be conducted to solve the problems.

According to Plutchick R (in Khan, 2008), research has its origin in a term which means to go around or to explore and it is a combination of re+search. Literally, it means the repetition of search. However, research is always intended to invent or discover new knowledge. Research means a search for facts, answers to questions and solutions to problems (Khan, 2008: 2).

In conducting research, there are three types of research design which are qualitative approach, quantitative approach, and mixed methods approach (Creswell, 2014: 2). In this research, the researcher uses qualitative approach. Qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures, data typically collected in the participant's setting, data analysis inductively building from particulars to general themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the

data (Creswell, 2014: 2). In conclusion, qualitative approach is used to analyze data based on text and cannot be used to analyze statistical data.

### **3.2 Object of the Research**

The object of this research is determined to research about the types and functions of irony. Irony is often portrayed when people express their thoughts in social media, and in this research, Twitter is taken as the source of data. Twitter is a social media platform that has gained much popularity from users all around the world. It has simple and user-friendly interface that enables the users to post and interact with messages called “tweets”. The researcher uses the tweets that contain irony as the primary data. The data range is limited from January until June 2017.

### **3.3 Method of Collecting Data**

In collecting data, there are several steps conducted by the researcher. The method of collecting data in this research is *simak* method (Sudaryanto, 2016: 203). *Simak* method is usually called as observation method. In *simak* method, the researcher uses the continuance technique of *Simak Bebas Libat Cakap*. In *Simak Bebas Libat Cakap*, the researcher does not involve directly, in other words, the researcher just observes to get the data. The observation method is applied by thoroughly observing the irony expressions in Twitter. This method of observation is implemented at once with note-taking (*catat*) technique (Sudaryanto, 2016: 205-206). The use of note-taking technique is to identify and classify the data so that it is easier to formulate the analysis. The data collected in

this study are primary data since they were directly collected from the data source by using the observation method and note-taking technique.

The steps in collecting data are as following.

1. The researcher makes sure the internet service is available.
2. The researcher proceeds to twitter.com.
3. The researcher clicks on Advanced Search.
4. The researcher sorts out the search by using hashtag #irony
5. The researcher limits the period of time from January to June 2017
6. The researcher screenshots and crops the wanted part by using Microsoft Paint.

### **3.4 Method of Analyzing Data**

There are several steps in analyzing data. The method of analyzing data is by using Miles and Huberman model which includes data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing (Miles & Huberman, 1994: 10). The technique of analyzing data is interpreting the irony expressions. The steps in analyzing data are as follows.

1. The researcher reads the tweets which contain irony expressions.
2. The researcher interprets the irony expressions semantically.
3. The researcher classifies the data based on the types of irony by Muecke's theory.
4. The researcher describes the functions of irony expressions based on Hutcheon's theory.

5. The researcher conclude the types and functions of irony expressions found in Twitter.

### **3.5 Method of Presenting Research Result**

In this research, the researcher uses informal presentation method (Sudaryanto, 2016: 241). In this method, the researcher presents the data in the form of written or words and does not include any calculation or numerating. The data will be collected, analyzed, and described in the form of word instead of numerical statistics.