

**THE MEANINGS OF WORD '*DIDAN*' IN *DARI*
LANGUAGE: AN ANALYSIS OF NATURAL
SEMANTIC METALANGUAGE**

THESIS

**Submitted as Partial of the Requirements
to Obtain Strata One (S1) Degree**



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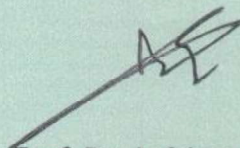
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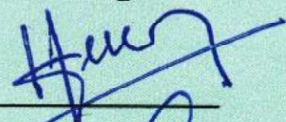
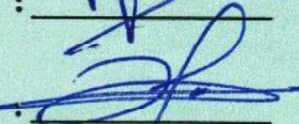
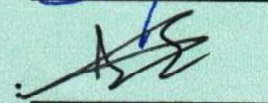
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ABSTRACT

Noviafni, F.N. 2022. The Meanings of Word '*Didan*' in Dari Language: An Analysis of Natural Semantic Metalanguage. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

This study aims to analyze words in Dari that have the same semantic prime: SEE using Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM). This research was conducted using a descriptive qualitative approach. This research used a theory by Goddard and Wierzbicka about NSM. The data found in this study are connected words that are associated with the prima semantic SEE '*Didan*' in Dari language. The sources of this data are 5 informants who are original prosecutors from Kabul which is the capital of Afghanistan. Data was collected using interview guidelines, recording equipment, and writing instruments. The interactive data analysis model was used to analyze the data. From the data collected and analyzed, there are a total of 11 words related to the semantic prime of Seeing: *Negah, Naqel, Tamasha, Barasi, Mulaqat, Tashkhis, Arzyabi, Dark, Tasawer, Shunakhtan, Mu'ayena*. These words are similar but not exactly the same so it will create misunderstanding in the diction.

Keywords: *Didan, Dari language, NSM, Semantic Primitives, Verb*

ABSTRAK

Noviafni, F.N. 2022. The Meanings of Word '*Didan*' in Dari Language: An Analysis of Natural Semantic Metalanguage. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis kata-kata dalam bahasa yang mengandung prima semantik serupa: SEE menggunakan Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM). Jenis penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif untuk menggambarkan bahwa dalam bahasa Dari, terdapat beberapa kata yang memiliki prima semantik yang hampir mirip. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori dari Goddard dan Wiezerbicka tentang NSM. Data yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini adalah kata-kata yang berhubungan dan berasosiasi dengan prima semantik SEE '*Didan*' dalam bahasa Dari. Data dikumpulkan menurut lima informan yang merupakan penutur asli bahasa Dari yang berdomisili di Kabul yang merupakan ibu kota Afghanistan. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menggunakan pedoman wawancara. Model analisis data interaktif digunakan untuk menganalisis data. Berdasarkan analisis pengumpulan data, ada total 11 kata yang terkait dengan prima semantik "Seeing": Negah, Naqel, Tamasha, Barasi, Mulaqat, Tashkhis, Arzyabi, Dark, Tasawer, Shunakhtan, Mu'ayena. Kata-kata tersebut pada dasarnya memiliki kesamaan makna, namun dalam penelitian ini ditemukan perbedaan yang signifikan sesuai dengan makna inti dari masing-masing kata.

Kata kunci: *Didan*, Dari language, NSM, Prima Semantik, Kata Kerja

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research Problem

Linguistics is the study of language or scientific language investigation (Kridalaksana, 2009: 144). The definition of linguistics has also been expressed by Tarigan (1986) who defined linguistics as a set of knowledge obtained by applying scientific methods to language phenomena. In addition, linguists claim that linguistics is the science of language or the science that makes language the object of their study. Studying linguistics is highly important because language is the main communication tool for every human being. In everyday life, humans use various forms of language to meet daily needs. The most important human need is to be able to communicate with other people because it cannot be denied that humans are interconnected social creatures.

When humans communicate each other, there is a reciprocal relationship between the two. The reciprocal relationship is talking and understanding. When someone talks, the other person will understand the utterances. This is due to the meaning of what someone said. Meaning are interpreted as (1) the speaker's intention; (2) the influence of the language unit in understanding the perception or behavior of humans or society; (3) the relationship in the sense of equivalence between language and nature outside of language or between utterances and all the things it indicates; and (4) how to use language symbols (Kridalaksana, 1993: 148).

Meaning in linguistics is formally studied in semantics. Studying meaning in semantics can be done by using different approaches or theories, the one which is using Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM) Theory. Natural Semantic Metalanguage is a theory that combines a philosophical logical tradition in the study of meaning with a typological approach to studying language, and with broad-based cross-linguistic inquiry (Wierzbicka, 1996b: 23). Moreover, according to Goddard and Peeters (2008: 13), NSM is a theory used to give an explanation on semantically complex words in any language in the world. It is a theory that tries to find the semantic concepts of words that are innately understood but unable to be expressed in simpler terms or what is called semantic primes. NSM theory proves that there are no words in this world that are exactly synonymous. Even though there are many synonyms in one language, NSM can be used to show the differences in their core concepts.

There are three important concepts in NSM, namely the original meaning, encompasses polysemy and universal syntax. The original meaning is a set of immutable meanings that have been inherited from birth. This means that the original meaning is the first meaning of a word that is not easily changed even though there are changes in culture and time (Goddard, 1994: 2). Encompasses polysemy is a single lexicon formed from two different original meanings (Wierzbicka, 1996a: 27-29). Meanwhile, universal syntax is an extension system of the original meaning system (Goddard, 1996: 24). This form of analysis using the NSM theory is called a semantic structure. Semantic structure is a configuration of the original meaning. Understanding of semantic structures will

give support to describe the natural meaning of a language (Chafe, 1970: 73). In general, the object studied using this theory is a verb. This is because the verb in the sentence shows the action and still has meaning even though it stands singularly.

Verb is a class of words that usually serve as a predicate; in some other languages, verbs have morphological characteristics such as chronology, aspect, person, or number. Most of the verbs represent semantic elements of actions, circumstances, or processes (Kridalaksana, 2009: 254). For example, *Dari* language, one of the local languages in Afghanistan, the verbs “*Didan*” and “*negah*” have the same meaning of seeing but when viewed in their use, they have different meanings that is shown in sentence a and b below:

Table 1.1 Different meaning in their use

Didan:

<i>Unha</i>	<i>un</i>	<i>maghoza</i>	<i>ra</i>	<i>Didan</i>
They	demonstrative pronoun	Mall	preposition	See
They saw the mall				

Negahkardan:

<i>Unha</i>	<i>un</i>	<i>maghoza</i>	<i>ra</i>	<i>Negahkardan</i>
they	demonstrative pronoun	Mall	preposition	See
They saw the mall				

The verb *Didan* only emphasizes that the speakers see the mall however, the speakers did not intentionally care, and while *negahkardan* verb emphasizes

that the speakers see it intentionally. See is a word that generally expresses knowing something through the eye senses. So the word not only states about opening the eye and showing it to a particular object, but also about knowing the objects.

According to the previous explanation, in Dari language several words have plural meanings such as the word "*Didan*". The word "*Didan*" has the similar meaning as "*Negahkardan*", "*Mushaheda*", "*Tamasha*", etc, which have the similar meaning as "seeing", however the words do not have the similar meaning exactly. Based on this example, it can be assumed that the verb "*Didan*" in Dari language may have other possible synonyms. NSM analysis is one of the solutions to examine these possible synonyms.

Previous scholars have focused on different words and different languages, the scholars did several studies of semantic meaning using NSM theory. Gladkova (2005) studied the meaning of two emotion-related words "sympathy" and "compassion" in Russian language. Furthermore, Gladkova, Vanhatalo, and Goddard (2015) studied the meaning of interjections in English language including "wow, gosh, gee, yikes, yuck, and ugh". In addition, Shadi Ansarian, Mahinnaz Mirdehghan, and Parsa Bamshadi (2020) analyzed the conceptualization of verb 'space' in Persian language. Sajady, Sayed Mehdy, Karimidostan, Gholam Hossein (2016) analyzed assumptions, concepts, and goals, in Western Iranian Language and Dialects using a natural semantic metalanguage Approach. Farese (2016) explored the meaning of Japanese Emotion Terms '*haji*' and '*hazukashii*', thus, Saputra, Budirasa, Dhanawaty, and

Putra (2016) studied the meaning of verb “eat” in Balinese language. In addition,, Aso (2017) did a study on verb “sound” in Muna language, one of the local languages in South East Sulawesi. Then, Levisen (2018) explored the meaning of word “violence” in Danish language. Moreover, Rosa (2018) analyzed the meaning of verb “see” in Minangkabaunese language. Then, Rannas and Rosa (2020) did a study on Minangkabaunese verbs connected to the semantic prime “touch”. Those previous studies indicate that studying the meaning of words using NSM theory is always useful due to the existences of other words in other languages which meanings need to be explored using NSM theory.

Based on the description before, there are several reasons why the researcher is intrested in conducting research about the verb "*Didan*" in Dari language with NSM theory. First, the researcher has been looking for similar studies on semantic “*Didan*” verb that have been carried out by other researchers in which they used the theory of semantic stereotype and polysemy theory, but no one has applied the theory of NSM in studying the verb “*Didan*” of *Dari* language. Second, the variation of the word "*Didan*" turned out to be more than one based on the result of some previous research. The variation the verb “*Didan*” are: "*tamasha*", "*mushaheda*", "*negah*" etc. Because of those reasons the researcher analyzed each word that related to semantic prime SEE/*Didan* to diminish ambiguities and mishaps when someone is expressing the verb SEE in Dari . This study is important because the study highlights the different meanings of the *Dari* verbs which are connected with the semantic prime SEE/*Didan*

reduces the number fallacy and errors in choosing the right word to express the meaning.

1.2 Identification of the Research Problem

The semantic meaning of words, which is the literal meaning of words, can be analyzed by using different semantics theories. First, the meaning can be analyzed by using lexical semantics theory. Using lexical-semantics theory means that the words will be analyzed by deconstructing them one by one within a line of text to understand the meaning within a context. Second, the meaning can be analyzed by using conceptual semantics theory. This theory is used to analyze the meaning of words without the context. This would mean analyzing the words based on the conceptual meaning only. Third, the meaning can be analyzed by using Natural Semantic Metalanguage (NSM). This means using semantic primes, allollexy and polysemy of the words to find out the primitive and core meaning of the words and explaining the meaning by using paraphrase to illustrate how the word would play out in context.

1.3 Limitation of the Research Problem

Based on the identification of the problem, the researcher limited the problem into semantic prime, allollexy and polysemy of verb “*Didan*” in Dari language that would be analyzed by using a Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory.

1.4 Formulation of the Research Problem

Based on the limitation of the research, the problem of this study was formulated into the question: “What are the meanings of the words connected to

the semantic prime of verb “*Didan*” in Dari language based on a Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory?”

1.5 Research Questions

The problem of this research was formulated into the following research questions:

1. What is the meaning associated with the verb SEE ‘*Didan*’ in Dari language based on allolexy and polysemy analysis on Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory?
2. What are the meaning differences among each verb connected to the semantic prime of verb SEE “*Didan*” in Dari language based on Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory?

1.6 Purposes of the Research

Based on the research questions, this study was intended to:

1. Find out the allolexy, the polysemy, and the explanations that capture the meaning of each verb connected to the semantic prime of verb “*Didan*” in Dari language using a Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory.
2. Find out the differences between each verb connected to the semantic prime of verb “*Didan*” in Dari language using a Natural Semantic Metalanguage theory.

1.7 Significance of The Research

The results of this research are expected to give both theoretical and practical contributions, Theoretically, the results are expected to contribute to the

linguistic knowledge in Dari language, especially in categorizing the meaning of the verb “*Didan*”, Practically, the results are expected to contribute to the practice of Dari’s verbs which are related to the verb “see”. Therefore, it is expected that the Dari language speakers do not make mistakes in using the proper meaning of verbs associated with the act of seeing.

1.8 Definition of The Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of several terms used in this research, the following terms need to be defined operationally.

1. Natural semantic metalanguage or NSM is an approach in semantics that studies the meaning of words based on its primitive meaning or its core meaning.
2. Dari is one of the local languages in Afghanistan and is the most widely known language of massively communication in Afghanistan.
3. *Didan* is the verb in Dari language which meaning is associated with the act of seeing.
4. Allolexy is a term used to show one semantic prime can express more than one word.
5. Polysemy is a term used to show one word is used to express more than one semantic prime.
6. Semantic Prime is a unit of meanings of words that can no longer be decipher.