

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains of background of problem, statements of problem, research objectives, research significances, and definition of key terms. Those are will help, support, and guiding the researcher in analyzing the data of this research.

1.1 Background of Problem

Language is an important thing that always used by human. There are a lot of functions of language that can be found in language itself. One of the functions of language according to Chaer and Agustina, language is a tool of social interaction, and a tool for conveying thoughts, ideas, concepts, or also feelings (Agustina, 1995), it means that language as a communication tool is very important for human life because without it human cannot deliver what they want and cannot understanding each other. Without realizing it, human depends on the language. Inconceivable if in this world there is no language. Because of that, language cannot be separated from human whether written and oral language, and language plays a great part in our life (Bloomfield, 1994).

But nowadays, there are many people still confuses to get the right meaning which is related to the context, and it was already known as the ambiguity that will be lead the people to interpreted it to the multiple meanings. Ambiguity is a phenomenon that often occurs in understanding a meaning conveyed through oral or written language in the form of sentences, phrases, or words. The phenomenon becomes a crucial problem, because every sentence, phrase, and even word certainly have a meaning, and the ambiguity can appear if those three elements of the language have more than one possible meaning. Therefore, the ambiguity can make misunderstanding in interpreting something that could happen. Which is why feeling ambiguous often occurs in catch the right meaning that accordance with the purpose and its context. As said by Cruse, ambiguity is the expression that said to

be ambiguous if it has more than one possible distinct meaning (Cruse, 2006, p. 10).

Especially in the use of language as a media for conveying everything, or even as a tool for social interaction, ambiguous is something that should be avoided because language is an important thing that always used by human. The statement of language that language is an important thing will be clear enough through Armstrong's theory who is said that a primary function of language is to convey information to each other or request services of some kind in a variety of situations (Armstrong, 2010). It means that language is the main function for human to express, tell, and inform everything by delivering it into words, then formed it into sentences.

The ambiguity does not only occur in a sentence but also it happens in a small unit such as word or lexical. For example, in English which has many words according to the English dictionary, the meaning also has more than one meaning. As said by Rodd, "Most words in English are ambiguous between different interpretations; words can mean different things in different contexts" (Jennifer M. Rodd, 2004). So, it will be better if choosing and using English words carefully because if it is not, the ambiguous will appear and it inflicts the confusion and doubt in deciding intended meaning both in written and oral.

That is why understanding properly the message that delivered is really important to avoid the ambiguous meaning. Because in fact, the ambiguity does not only occur in communication daily like social interaction directly with other humans, but also ambiguity can be found in other things such as media. One of media which is often found the ambiguity is entertainment media for example, movie. Nowadays, movie is one of the interesting media that used language to deliver the message which contains in the movie, aside from that movie becomes a media of language learning especially Western movie that uses English. Through the conversation in the movie or the subtitle, it helps to increase the comprehension of English vocabulary. But, as already known that in English, most words have more than one meaning, therefore feeling ambiguous often happens and that problem is an important thing that has to be solved.

To solve it, in linguistics as a study that used language as an object has a branch that studies about meaning, and that is semantics. According to Palmer, the meaning of semantics itself is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning, and since meaning is part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics (Palmer, 1976). The ambiguity often occurs in every situation like in written and oral language. The meaning of language can be found in many forms such as, sentence, phrase, or even in a small unit that is word. Even though meaning can be found in a small unit such as word, but it can give several meanings which sometimes giving a problem in interpreting it. So, semantics comes to help and solve the problem, because ambiguity is a part of semantics that is the branch of linguistics study that examines language and meaning. Understanding the message or information that read or heard is really important, to avoid the impact of ambiguous that is the ambiguity of interpretation of the meaning.

As said before, the expression of ambiguous can occur in sentences, phrases, or even in one word. And it usually occurs in a particular language especially English because it has lots of words and also the meaning is more than one. When the words delivered by the speaker are not clearly, not carefully to choose and use, it probably can show the ambiguity. The ambiguity sometimes occurs without realizing that the word has multiple meanings. There are three kinds of ambiguity according to Stephen Ullmann, those are: the first is lexical, second is structural, and the last is phonetic (Ullmann, 1977, p. 156). But in this research, the researcher will only focus on one type of ambiguity and it will analyze that is lexical ambiguity.

Lexical ambiguity is the word that may have two or more different meanings it fits into a given context but the form is the same, and two or more different words may be identical in sounds (Ullmann, 1977, p. 156). And the meaning of the words based on the dictionary that has more than one so the ambiguity can happen (Ramadani, 2015, p. 2). According to Ullmann in lexical ambiguity there are two forms, those are homonymy and polysemy (Ullmann, 1977, p. 158). The ambiguity does not only occur in verbal communication but also occurs in communication media such as one of the interesting communication media is film or movie.

Bordwell and Thompson stated that film is the form of language art and all its own is aesthetic (David Bordwell, 2008, p. 3). Unconsciously in the movie, in every single dialogue may occur a multiple meaning and it becomes ambiguous.

Talking about lexical ambiguity, there are several previous research that also discusses lexical ambiguity. The first lexical ambiguity research is carried out by Frisca Candra Safitri in 2017 the title is *Lexical and Structural Ambiguity Found in Zootopia Movie*, this research is analyzed the words that have ambiguous meaning which called as lexical ambiguity, found the most dominant type of lexical ambiguity that found in the movie, and also the structural itself. The researcher used Stephen Ullmann's (1997) theory to analyze it.

The second research is carried out by Bagas Tirangga in 2014, the title of the research is *Lexical and Grammatical Ambiguities of The News Headline of The Jakarta Post and New York Times*, this research is different with the first research because in this research the researcher not only analyzed the lexical ambiguity but also grammatical ambiguity that found in the Indonesian newspaper and American newspaper, and then comparing both. In the second research, the researcher used the same theory with the first research that is Stephen Ullmann's (1977) theory.

The third research that explained about ambiguity is carried out by Unpris Yastanti and Anggun Dwi Setiawati in 2018, the title of the research is *Ambiguity in Soundtrack Songs Lyric of Moana Movie*. The researcher found that the song has a deep meaning and difficult to understand the meaning, so the researcher feels interest to analyze the ambiguous meaning in every line of song lyric and also what types of ambiguity are used. In this research, the researcher used Hurford and Heasley's (2004) theory to analyze the ambiguity and used Saeed's (1997) theory to analyze the types of ambiguity.

The fourth research that talked about ambiguity is carried out by Niputu Vitria Arizona in 2016, and the title is *The Lexical Ambiguity in The Cosmetic Advertisements*. This research used cosmetic advertisements as an object of the research and found that the meaning of the cosmetic advertisement can be interpreted more than one meaning. So, the researcher wants to find and analyze the

lexical ambiguity that gives and ambiguous meaning by used Fromkin's (2003) theory.

The fifth previous research that analyzed the ambiguity is *Lexical and Syntactic Ambiguity in Humor* by Intan Nur Charina in 2017. The researcher uses humor as an object of this research which taken from jokes, newspaper headlines, anecdotes, and riddles. In this research the researcher analyzed not only the lexical ambiguity but also the syntactic, it still same with the first previous research but in different objects. In analyzing it, the researcher used Seewoester's (2009) theory to analyze the lexical and syntactic ambiguity in humor.

After reading the previous research about ambiguity, the researcher thoughts that ambiguity is one of the crucial problems that have to be solved. So, in this research, the researcher feels interest to analyze the lexical ambiguity and took a movie as an object. Not only the lexical ambiguity but also the researcher analyze the form of lexical ambiguity. The difference between this research and another previous research is, in the object of this research and Netflix is one of the interesting media which provides a lot of movie series which is liked by many people especially teenagers, and the most important thing is no one has researched this movie before also the researcher analyzes the lexical ambiguity form which is different with those five previous studies. The title of the movie is *Stranger Things 1st Season Movie* is an American science fiction-horror web television series created, written, and. directed by the Duffer Brothers, there are eight episodes and released on Netflix. *Stranger Things 1st Season Movie* is talked about the investigation into the disappearance of a young boy amid supernatural events occurring around the town, including the appearance of a girl with special abilities who helps the missing boy's friends in their search.

The reason why the researcher took *Stranger Things 1st Season Movie* as an object because the researcher found that there are many words in the dialogue of the movie through the subtitle which makes confused and ambiguous to understand the right meaning which appropriates with the context, so the problem called as lexical ambiguity. The ambiguous happens because in fact, those words according to the Oxford dictionary have more than one possible meanings so it becomes

ambiguous. And then, the use of language in the movie is commonly used by teenager which often create an ambiguity, and the main reason why took the movie as an object because the researcher thought that movie is one of interesting tool to learn English and also increase the verbs. For example of ambiguous word that appear in the movie is 'couch' according to the Oxford Dictionary the word of 'couch' have two meanings, and also it can make the whole meaning of the sentence will be interpreted into two meanings, those are: 1) A long comfortable seat, and 2) To express a thought or an idea in a particular style or manner.

Because of those reasons, the researcher decided to analyze the lexical ambiguity in *Stranger Things 1st Season Movie* by using semantics approach and Ullmann's theory in order to make the knowledge of ambiguity is increased. This research does not only analyze the words that contain lexical ambiguity and it found in the movie, but the researcher also will explain the meaning, and then categorized and explain the lexical ambiguity that found in the movie into two forms those are homonymy and polysemy.

1.2 Statement of Problem

In the research, it certainly has a problem. Therefore, to solve it the researcher must decide what problems will be examined, or in the research it usually known as statement of problem or can be known as research problem. Walliman says that research problem is a general statement of an issue meriting research (Walliman, 2006, p. 176). So, based on the explanation above the researcher already decided which problems that will be discussed and relate to the background of problem that has been explained with these following questions:

1. What are the exact meanings of lexical ambiguity found in *Stranger Things 1st Season Movie*?
2. What forms of lexical ambiguity are found in *Stranger Things 1st Season Movie*?

1.3 Research Objective

As explained before that every research has a purpose, that is one of the important parts of research to help the researcher in order to make the research can be directed and the results are appropriate. Kothari says that the purpose of this research is to discover answers to questions through the application of scientific procedures (Kothari, 2004, p. 2). So, in this research the researcher has two purposes that can give a piece of useful knowledge to the reader, those are:

1. To know the meanings of the ambiguous word found in the movie and chooses the right meaning.
2. To determine what forms of lexical ambiguity that found in Stranger Things 1st Season Movie.

1.4 Research Significances

Research significances or as known as the benefits of research is always there in the research. By doing this research, the researcher certainly has benefits about what the researcher will examine. According to Haydar, research significance is the rationale of the study shows the importance of the study, as distinct from other studies addressing the same topic (Haydar El Hadi Babikir, p. 16). In this research, the researcher has two benefits that can give to the reader, those are:

1. Theoretically: The researcher hopes that it can give development and comprehension about the linguistics field especially semantics that is the study of meaning. By analyzing the lexical ambiguity in Stranger Things 1st Season Movie, the researcher hopes that it can provide the reader and contribute to increase the knowledge in semantics of lexical ambiguity. The movie becomes an object because it can be used to give an explanation about the right meaning by analyzing the lexical ambiguity in the dialogue of the movie.
2. Practically: The expectancy of doing this research is, it can be a good influence for those who read it. And it can make people more aware, and give more attention through understanding the conversation that builds in

the movie is the media to learn language, and how language used in the movie conversation in order to give and get the right message of the movie.

1.5 Definiton of the Key Term

- a. **Semantics** is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning, and since meaning is part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics (Palmer, 1976).
- b. **Ambiguity** is the expression that said to be ambiguous if it has more than one possible distinct meaning (Cruse, 2006, p. 10).
- c. **Lexical Ambiguity** is the word that may have two or more different meanings it fits into a given context but the form is same, and two or more different words may be identical in sounds (Ullmann, 1977, p. 156).
- d. **Movie** or film is film the form of language art and all its own is aesthetic (David Bordwell, 2008, p. 3).
- e. **Exact Meaning** is the meaning which relates or appropriates with the context of something that talked about.

