

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the general description of the paper. It consists of research background, research problems, research objectives, research significances, research limitation, previous study and organizations of writing.

A. Research Background

Everyone has a way to communicate and interact with each other to express themselves by using language. Humans use language as the main communication tool to interact with others. According to Wierzbicka (1996, p. 3), language is a tool that can help people communicate with others.

In daily life, sometimes a communication cannot run well as it does not express words in a clear sense. It makes the listener or reader interpret the words in different meanings. In comparison, to understand written language is more difficult than spoken language, because if the listener does not understand what is said, then they can ask the person directly about what he meant.

However, if the reader does not understand what is written such as in a book, novel, or other text in media online, then the reader cannot ask the writer directly and this can cause ambiguity.

According to Leech (1981, p. 30), ambiguity is “An expression is said to be ambiguous when more than one interpretation can be assigned to it”. Furthermore, Fromkin and Rodman (1983:169) also state, “A word, a phrase, or a sentence is ambiguous if it can be understood or interpreted in more than one way”. It is a term, which is against meaning properties of a language because it refers to an utterance (a word, a phrase, or a sentence) that has more than one meaning.

According to Ullmann (1977, p. 156) ambiguity divides into three kinds, there are phonetical ambiguity, grammatical ambiguity and lexical

ambiguity. However, this research focuses on lexical ambiguity in which the writer refers to the ambiguous meaning of the word.

Lexical ambiguity results from the ambiguity of a word, James Hurford and Brendan Heasley (1983, p. 128) state “Lexical ambiguity is resulting from the ambiguity of a word”, and the lexical ambiguity is caused by homonymy and polysemy. For example, “The captain corrected the list”. The word ‘list’ has two meanings. It makes the sentence can be interpreted in two meanings, they are: “The captain corrected the *inventory*” and “The captain corrected the *tilt*”. We do not know what the exact meaning of that word because the context is unclear.

The ambiguity that one of which can be found in the online newspaper texts is something that needs to be used as research. This is because many people are confused and misunderstood to understand the ambiguous words in online news article. For this reason, the writer is interested in conducting research on ambiguity in one of the online newspapers, namely The New York Times on the issue of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19).

The online newspaper that became the object of this research is The New York Times online newspaper. The New York Times is a daily newspaper published in New York city, America by Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr. and distributed internationally. This newspaper is owned by The New York Times Company. This newspaper was first published on September 18, 1851 by Henry Jarvis Raymond, a journalist, and politician, and George Jones, a banker.

Besides, along with technological developments, The New York Times Company has also released the newspaper based on website/online. The writer's interest takes The New York Times online newspaper is because this company has been established for a long time so that has become an international standard media that is recognized for the accuracy and correctness of its information, which still exists today and known all over the world.

Meanwhile, the issue of SARS-CoV-2 chosen in the online newspaper is an issue of new types of virus outbreaks throughout the history of human civilization that is spreading throughout the world. Therefore, this virus is called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) which is now known as the Covid-19 virus, which has attacked the human respiratory system.

The writer is interested in taking an article on the SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) issue because this virus issue is a global issue that is a challenge for people around the world, which has claimed millions of victims around the world. Even now this virus still exists and has not disappeared because there is still no vaccine that can prevent this virus.

B. Statement of Problem

Based on the background of problem can be formulated into the research questions as follows:

1. What types of lexical ambiguity are found in the articles of SARS-CoV-2 topics in the New York Times online newspaper?
2. How to describe the interpretations of lexical ambiguity in SARS-CoV-2 topics of articles in the New York Times online newspaper?

C. Research Objectives

The purposes of this research are to answer the problems of this research, which are mentioned above, they are:

1. To find out what types of lexical ambiguity are found in the articles of SARS-CoV-2 topics in the New York Times online newspaper.
2. To analyze how are the interpretations of lexical ambiguity in SARS-CoV-2 topics of articles in the New York Times online newspaper.

D. Research Significances

According to the explanation about this research in background of the research, research questions and research objectives. This analysis is very important for a better understanding of the lexical ambiguity. Therefore, the

significances of this study are the writer specially divides into two significances; they are theoretically and significantly:

1. Theoretically

It can be useful for the readers who are interested in studying Semantics focuses on lexical ambiguity. Moreover, this research also becomes a reference for further research in the same field.

2. Significantly

The results of the research are the expectation that the result can provide benefits or be a reference for other writer and it can give some idea for the reader to trying developed this research further and maybe interested in analyzing similar things, which is lexical ambiguity.

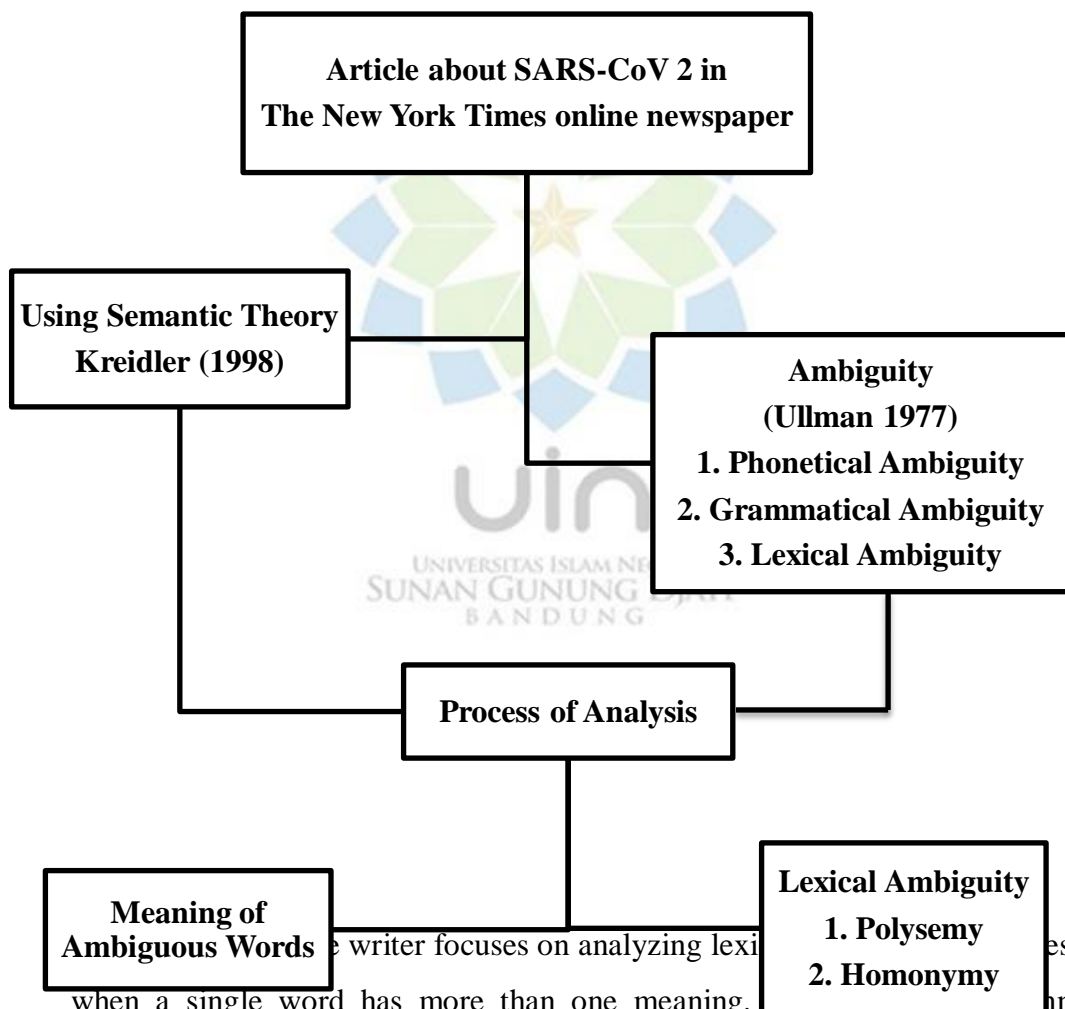
E. Conceptual Framework

The writer chooses the object of data from the articles of The New York Times focuses on SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) topics. Which will analyze what types of lexical ambiguity and how are the interpretations of lexical ambiguity in SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) topics of articles in the New York Times online newspaper. The writer explains the basic explanation to analyze and answer the problem submitted.

To answer the research problems, there are several steps when the writer does data analysis. This data collection was carried out using the documentary method because the source of the analysis came from online newspapers. This method is done by analyzing and classifying it. This study uses qualitative data.

To relate this research, the writer using theory semantic from Kreidler (1998) says that semantics is the systematic study of meaning and linguistic semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. Besides, Kreidler (1998, p. 41) also said that the dimensions of meaning include reference and denotation, connotation, lexical and grammatical meaning, morphemes, homonymy, polysemy, lexical ambiguity, sentence and then meaning.

The focus of the research is on ambiguous words which are included in the lexical ambiguity which explains the meaning of the ambiguous word contained in The New York Times article. According to Ullman (1977, p. 156). Ambiguity is a linguistic condition that can arise in a variety of ways. So, ambiguity occurs when a word, or sentence can be understood or interpreted in more than one meaning. And ambiguity can arise in a variety of situations, spoken or written language. As for the types of ambiguity according to Ullmann (1977, p. 156) that are phonetic Ambiguity, Grammatical Ambiguity, and Lexical Ambiguity.



The writer focuses on analyzing lexical ambiguity when a single word has more than one meaning. (1977, p. 156) is caused by a lexical factor, this statement is supported by Fromkin et al which say, lexical ambiguity arises when at least one word in a phrase has more than one meaning. Furthermore, lexical ambiguity stems

from the meaning of words, not their structure. It is a sequence of words, such as speech, that can lead to more than one interpretation because a word has more than one lexical meaning. And the lexical ambiguity is caused by homonymy and polysemy.

To answer research problems by analyzing data, of course there are several stages. The first the writer collects news data SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) topics in The New York Times Online Newspaper. The second is the writer identifies the text of articles in The New York Times Online Newspaper on SARS-CoV-2 topics. The third is the writer categorizes them into the types of Lexical Ambiguity. The fourth, the writer explains the interpretations of Lexical Ambiguity on SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19) topics in The New York Times Online Newspaper.

F. Previous Study

The writer is greatly helped by previous writers, because of becoming references in working on this research. The writer enters several previous studies that are identical discussing lexical ambiguity but different in terms of objects and data. Here are some of the writers:

The first was employed by Faelani (2013), the paper entitled "*Ambiguity in The Jakarta Post Weekender*". She discussed about ambiguous sentence as grammatical, and lexical. This ambiguity can happen in various situations, either spoken or written. Because of that, the writer wants analysis kinds of ambiguity in magazine. In this paper, the writer proposes two problems: 1) what kinds of ambiguity are there in The Jakarta Post Weekender? 2) What are effects of ambiguity into meaning of sentence in The Jakarta Post Weekender? The result show, there are 21 ambiguous sentences consist of four grammatical ambiguities and 17 lexical ambiguities. Whereas the effects of grammatical ambiguity are the meaning of sentence has more than one sentence meaning, each interpretation meanings of sentence are clear and logic and each interpretation meanings of sentence refer to different thing. Whereas the effects of lexical ambiguity

are the meaning of sentence has more than one sentence meaning, each interpretation meanings of sentence are clear and logic and each interpretation meanings of sentence refer to something.

The second was conduct by Tambunan (2009), entitled "*The Analysis of Lexical and Structural Ambiguity in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post*". The focus of his research is to search for ambiguous words or phrases, types of sentences or phrases included in lexical and structural ambiguity and the type of ambiguity is most dominant in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post. The results of his research have found 47 types of ambiguous words and phrases consisting of 23 lexical ambiguity (48%) and 24 structural ambiguity (51.1%). Structural ambiguity is the most dominant type of ambiguity that appears in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post, which shows that most letter writers like to use phrase forms whose structure is unclear so that they trigger ambiguity.

The last was applied by Irawan (2009), the title is "*Lexical Ambiguity in the Headlines of The Jakarta Post News Paper*". The problems studied in this research are to identify the kinds of ambiguity, to figure out the casual factors of ambiguity and to describe the interpretations, which arise in the ambiguous words and sentences in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*. The result findings of his study are: there are two kinds of ambiguity are found in that articles that are lexical ambiguity showed 8 data and grammatical ambiguity showed 15 data, there are two casual factors of lexical ambiguity: homonym and polysemy and there is only one casual factor of grammatical ambiguity. The ambiguous words, phrases and sentences are interpreted into two or three ways. There are 20 data of ambiguity interpreted into two interpretations and 3 data with two interpretations. All data with three interpretations are lexical ambiguity.

The distinguishes between the writer's research with the previous study is different in terms of research focus, object selection, and data generated. The difference with the first previous study by Faelani (2013) is she discussed the ambiguous sentences as grammatical and lexical

ambiguity, using the object of The Jakarta Post Weekender. Whereas the writer discussed ambiguous words in lexical ambiguity using the object The New York Times.

Then the difference with the second previous study by Tambunan (2009) is looking for ambiguous words or phrases in lexical and structural ambiguity, using objects from Your Letters of The Jakarta Post. Meanwhile, the writer only focuses on ambiguous words, which included in lexical ambiguity by using The New York Times online newspaper.

The last, the difference with the previous study by Irawan (2009) is to figure out the causal factors of ambiguity and to describe the interpretations, which arise in the ambiguous words and sentences in the articles of The Jakarta Post. Whereas, the writer's research only focuses on ambiguous words that are included in the lexical ambiguity and explain the meaning of the ambiguous word published in The New York Times online newspaper.

