

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The research is concerned with Ambiguity In *Jakarta Post* Articles. This chapter contains the background of research, statemen of problems, research objective, significance of research, organization of writing and definition of key terms.

#### 1.1 Background of the Research

Semantics is one of linguistics components that discusses about meaning. Yule (1996: 114) states that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. It means that semantics is not about the word that has meaning, but semantics discusses about the words, phrases and sentence which can be explored with meaning. In semantics, we cannot be separated with language.

According to Yawkey (1984:268, in Supriyanto, 1991:1), language is arbitrary system of articulated sound made by a group human as a means of carrying on their society. It means that language is used by poeple for communication and agreed by the symbols.

There are two types of languages that people use to delivers messages, spoken and written language. Both of them have the similarity in their function, to deliver messages. Although they have same function, they have a different way to

deliver the messages. By spoken language, the speaker can deliver the messages directly with their sound and utter words to the listener. Meanwhile, by written language, the speaker uses media to deliver the message, it means the speaker deliver the message indirectly to the listeners.

In communication, people usually get the wrongness in receiving the messages. It could be a miscommunication. Commonly, it happens because one of them has a different perception in the words which they receive or they deliver. By spoken language the listeners can understand the message easily because they deliver the message directly. It is different from written language that uses media such as text to deliver the message. That is the reason why the researcher chooses this topic. In Semantic, this phenomenon is known as ambiguity. According to Leech (1981: 30), "An expression is said to be ambiguous when more than one interpretation can be assigned to it".

In addition, Cann (1993:8) states that a sentence is said to be ambiguous whenever it can be associated with two or more different meanings. Based on that quotation, ambiguity is the words, phrase or sentences which have more than one meaning. Ambiguity can make the listeners or the receivers not understand about the messages. In the fact, it can make a miss understanding communication. Kempson (1977: 123) also states as follows: It may seem as though little need to be said about ambiguity in that it is as a clear-cut phenomenon: both words and sentences can have more than one meaning. So ambiguity is words, phrases or sentences that have more than one meaning and makes the readers has many interpretations for it.

Furthermore, Ullmann (1972, in Pateda, 2010:202) states that ambiguity is linguistic condition which can arise in a variety of ways. Ambiguity arises in spoken and written form. In listening unclear spoken utterance or reading unclear sentence, we occasionally have some problems with the meaning or interpretation conveyed by the speaker or the writer. We can only ensure the meaning of the words, phrases, or sentences of any utterance in certain situation or context. Ullmann (1972, in Pateda, 2010: 202) divides ambiguity into three: phonological ambiguity, lexical ambiguity, and grammatical ambiguity.

Phonological ambiguity occurs when the speaker speaks too fast and makes other people feel doubt with the meaning of the utterance, so people may interpret in many ways. This kind of ambiguity only can be found only in spoken language, because we can find the phonological ambiguity when someone speaks. Meanwhile, Lexical ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning. This kind of ambiguity may arise in the written form, such as in the articles, in the news titles, and other form of written texts. On the other side, Grammatical Ambiguity in the level of grammar occurs when phrase, clauses or sentences create ambiguity because their structure may be interpreted more than one ways. It may also arise in the written text such as articles, news titles and other written text. In addition, this research analyzes the lexical and grammatical ambiguity in *Jakarta Post* articles, because phonological ambiguity only found in spoken language.

In this case, there are the causal factors of lexical and grammatical ambiguity. Ullmann (1972, in Pateda, 2001: 203-206) states : The causal factors

of lexical ambiguity are polysemi or multiple meaning and homonymy, and the causal factors of grammatical ambiguity are grammatical word form, equivocal phrasing, and contextual ambiguity.

Ambiguity is found not only in daily conversation, but also found in other media such as radio script, movies script and newspaper and so on. Newspaper is one of media that is mostly used by people to get the information. Hence, this research analyze about ambiguity of *Jakarta Post* articles.

Newspaper, especially daily newspaper, has a big contribution for the people. They can get information about local or international events everyday because the news and information are up to date and accurate. As a consequence, there are many daily newspapers published in Indonesia and one of the daily English newspapers is *The Jakarta Post*.

Generally, people try to communicate perfectly and completely. They want to give information to other as many as they can to the other. What people try to do is also conducted by the media, especially printed media. However in the grammatical, words structure and sentence structure can lead to be ambiguous even though they are correct. It is due to lexical or grammatical ambiguity. People may have the different interpretation due to the ambiguous words, phrase, and sentences.

The similar reserches has been done by some reseacrhers with different object. There are :

The first research has been done by Attia (2008). The result of this research was showing how to apply these techniques results in reducing parse

time and keeping ambiguities within a manageable boundary. The second research has been done by Irawan (2009). The result of this research was expected to identify the kinds of ambiguity found in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*. Moreover, this research tries to figure out the causal factors of the ambiguity in the articles of *The Jakarta Post*. The third research has been done by Henny (2009). The result of this research was showing the percentage with use Bungin formula. The fourth has been done by Hustarna (2009). The result of this research was how the bare verbs shift their interpretations and make use of conflicting constraints in OT to evaluate the different interpretations of the bare verbs *raso* and *kato* and to find out the optimal interpretation.

Those are the similar researches of ambiguity, in this research will discuss the similar topic with the different object entitled **THE ANALYSIS OF AMBIGUITY IN JAKARTA POST ARTICLES**.

## 1.2 Statement of Problems

The researcher decides the problem that indicates the response of the readers of *Jakarta Post* articles. The problem of the research is “The analysis of ambiguity in *Jakarta Post* articles”. Based on the background of study above, the question can be formulated as follows :

1. What kinds of ambiguity are found in *Jakarta Post* articles?
2. What are the causal factors of ambiguity in *Jakarta Post* articles?
3. How are the possibility meanings of the ambiguity in *Jakarta Post* articles?

### 1.3 Research Objective

Based on the research statement, this particular study aimed at finding out:

1. To find out kinds of ambiguity found in the *Jakarta Post* articles.
2. To find out the causal factors of ambiguity in the *Jakarta Post* articles.
3. To find out how the possibility meanings in *Jakarta Post* articles.

### 1.4 Significance of Research

The researcher expects that the study meaningfully contribute to semantics theoretically and practically.

Theorycally, this research can give the contribution for readers in linguistic study especially semantics. The study can learn more about language aspecially concerning lexical and grammatical ambiguity. Hopefully, this reseach can give adventages for the readers and for the reseacher.

It can be used as a reference for the readers especially the students at English Departement, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, The State Islamic University of Sunan gunung Djati Bandung who want to analyze lexical and grammatical ambiguity as the topic in their proposal writing and are interested in ambiguity in *Jakarta Post* articles.

## 1.5 Organization of Writing

In this section the researcher would like to present the organization of writing divided into five chapters, as follows :

Chapter I which covers of background of the research, which mention the researcher's reason for choosing the topic of; statement of problems which contains of the problems of the research; research objective which describe the description of the research problems; research significant which talk about the researcher's purpose doing the study and mention about the advantages of the study ; organization of writing, which contains of the sum up from chapter I until chapter V; and definition of key terms which describe the main point of the research .

Chapter II literature review which explore the theory that the researcher uses for the reseach. Those are, ambiguity as a part of semantical study, ambiguity, and meaning.

Chapter III research design deals with the researcher method. It consist of research design, source of data, sample of data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV consists of data analysis, the research presents the analysis of the research problems. There are the kinds of ambiguity, the causal factors of ambiguity and the probability meaning of ambiguity.

Chapter V reveals the conclusion and suggestion. This chapter the researcher concludes the research analysis and give some suggestions for other researcher.

### 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid ambiguity and misunderstanding, some terms have to used into this study. The terms are defined :

- Ambiguity is a word, phrase and sentence which have more than one meaning. Commonly ambiguity arises in spoken and written language, there are some causal factors of ambiguity. Ambiguity usually makes people doubtfull of the meaning, it can be misunderstanding if people get ambiguity in communication.
- *Jakarta Post* is one of the daily english mass madia in Indonesia. There are thirty articles which the researcher uses for the research. The articles which used in the research is in entertainment subject that published on 1-15 November 2015.