

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this section, the researcher presents about background of the research, statement of the problem, objectives of the research, significance of the research, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Language is like a bridge that helps people share important things with each other. Additionally, language functions as a mirror reflecting our identities, attitudes, behaviors, thoughts, and cultural origins. It acts as a uniting power, creating connections that go beyond borders, made stronger by the constant presence of devices like phones and TVs. While electronic gadgets help with worldwide communication, including calls, music, and videos, they also bring the problem of misunderstandings, especially noticeable in speeches online. When people watch speeches on platforms like YouTube, they might not catch the real meanings, causing messages to not get through well. Therefore, there is a specialized field of study that discusses the meaning in language, namely the field of semantic studies.

According to Leech (1993), semantics involves the study of meaning in language. It explores how words, phrases, and sentences convey meaning and how these meanings are structured and interpreted by language users. Semantics can be likened to a linguistic detective, unraveling the mysteries behind how words,

phrases, and sentences hold and convey meanings. Consider it as an expedition into the internal mechanisms of language, where people decode the mechanisms that assemble words and sentences and uncover the layers of understanding they carry. Semantics is a fascinating linguistic field, investigates diverse word relationships like synonymy, polysemy, meronymy and more. The sub-topic of semantics that discusses how a single word can have multiple meanings is called polysemy.

Polysemy refers to the phenomenon where a word has multiple meanings. The term "polysemy" originates from the Greek words: *poly* meaning "many" and *sema* meaning "signs" In natural language, it is common for words to have multiple interpretations due to lexical ambiguity. Klepousniotou (2002) stated that a single sentence can have various meanings simply because one of the words has multiple meaning. Pateda (2001) identifies factors that influence the occurrence of polysemy: (1) rapid word pronunciation; (2) grammar's influence on ambiguity; (3) lexical elements; (4) cross-language impact; (5) user-driven; and (6) language's adaptability to new forms and meanings.

Many words in any language possess multiple meanings, and the synchronic relationships between them can be complex (Dunbar, 2001). Klein & Murphy (2001) also points out that using a word in one sense does not convey the advantages of using it in another sense. When two different words are used, the second usage is reduced. Although many people believe that most words have only one meaning, it is more common for words to have multiple related senses, which is known as polysemy (Klein & Murphy, 2002). For instance, the word "paper" has a related

meaning referring to the company that publishes newspapers or the company that prints products on paper made from pulp.

The use of language verbally would provide an interpretation of meaning by following what the speaker expresses or what the speaker wants. This happens because of the use of intonation, movement, expression, nodding, views in the use of language verbally used by speakers. Another case when using written language as in a speech or speech's transcripts. When the writer only conveys messages through written language, the meanings that appear would vary according to what the reader knows and understands.

Various forms of media, ranging from novels to speeches, are subject to analysis to unravel instances of polysemy. Specifically, Clint Smith's TED Talk, "The Danger of Silence," serves as the primary object of research. Smith, a renowned writer, educator, and poet, is recognized for his impactful work on social issues, with a particular focus on race, inequality, and justice. Within "The Danger of Silence," Smith compellingly underscores the importance of vocalizing opposition to injustice, emphasizing how silence perpetuates oppression. His call to action urges individuals to utilize their voices for societal change and the establishment of a more equitable world. The selection of Clint Smith's TED Talk, "The Danger of Silence," is strategic due to Smith's adept use of language and the nuanced nature of the speech content. Smith's eloquence and intentional incorporation of polysemy enhance the exploration of linguistic complexities within the discourse of social justice. Through his powerful narratives and educational approach, the talk serves as a compelling case study for understanding

how polysemy operates within the context of pressing societal issues, contributing to the broader analysis of linguistic strategies across various forms of media.

In this research, the researcher utilizes Alwi (2010)'s theory to explore the different types of polysemy, as well as Pateda (2001)'s theory to elucidate the factors influencing the presence of polysemy in Clint Smith's TED Talk. This approach allows for a comprehensive analysis of the research findings. In order to provide an overview, the following section presents summaries of previous studies on polysemy.

The initial study that the researcher came across regarding wordplay analysis was conducted by Ginting (2018) who investigated homonymy and polysemy words in the movie Toy Story, finding a substantial presence of such words throughout the film. The analysis revealed that there were 20 sets of data (34.5%) showing homonymy. These homonyms fell into four categories: 9 sets with the same spelling but different meanings within the same category, 9 sets with the same category but different spellings, 2 sets with different categories but the same spelling, and no data found for sets with different categories and different spellings. Additionally, there were 38 sets of data (65.5%) demonstrating polysemy, which could be divided into two types: 29 sets of regular polysemy and 9 sets of irregular polysemy.

Additionally, a study focused on lexical relations in the song "Amnesia" from the album by 5 Seconds of Summer. This study explored various lexical relations, including synonymy, antonymy, hyponymy, polysemy, and homonymy. The research results indicated that there were 243 cases of lexical relationships,

with 99 cases of synonyms, 75 cases of antonyms, 61 cases of polysemy, 7 cases of homonyms, and 1 case of hyponym. The most dominant lexical relationship was synonyms, and the lowest was homonyms (Febriasari, 2018).

Furthermore, Ahyaroni, (2019) focused on analyzing polysemy in the song lyrics of Maher Zain's albums, "Thank You Allah" and "Forgive Me." The study's findings were sorted by the different ways words have multiple meanings. There were three groups: (1) words that describe actions (12 examples), (2) words for things (6 examples), and (3) words that describe things (8 examples). In total, 26 song lyric examples were studied to see how words could have different meanings.

The last study, conducted by Septiandari (2021) and titled "Polysemy in the Song Lyrics of Taylor Swift's Album Folklore" aimed to identify the predominant type of polysemy found in Taylor Swift's album, "Folklore. The collected data showed that there were 12 words with more than one meaning. These words fitted into three groups in this study: words for containers and what is inside them, words for plants and the food they make, and words for things in the front and back. The most common type of multiple meanings in the song "The 1" by Taylor Swift was about things in the front and back.

This research sets itself apart from previous studies by focusing on a different object of research. It examines Clint Smith's TEDTalk titled "The Danger of Silence" from a specific episode of TEDTalks. The primary goal of this study is to analyze the types of polysemy utilized in Clint Smith's TEDTalk and investigate the factors that influence the occurrence of polysemy within this particular context.

1.2 Statements of Problem

Over an extended period, there has existed a prevailing sense of uncertainty regarding the precise meanings attached to particular words found within Clint Smith's TED Talk titled "The Danger of Silence". This lingering doubt has been reinforced by the contextual backdrop of prior investigative undertakings. In addition, this confusion grew because of what previous research found. However, recently, a strange idea started spreading on social media, suggesting something secret might be going on. This caught people's attention and made them ask questions. As a result, the upcoming research focuses on understanding the following problems:

1. What types of polysemy are used in Clint Smith's TED Talk "The Danger of Silence"?
2. What are the factors that influence the occurrence of polysemy in Clint Smith's TED Talk "The Danger of Silence"?

1.3 Research Purposes

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the purposes of this research are:

1. To classify the types of polysemy used in Clint Smith's TED Talk "The Danger of Silence"
2. To comprehend the factors that influence the occurrence of polysemy in Clint Smith's TED Talk "The Danger of Silence"

1.4 Research Significance

The research has two significances. Theoretically, the study's findings should be valuable as (1) an enrichment to linguistic research, particularly in the stylistic branch; (2) a bibliographical variation for readers; and (3) a resource for the next relevant sort of research.

Practically, this study is expected to: (1) provide an authentic source of the study related to semantics and polysemy; (2) provide a deeper understanding for readers in analyzing series based on linguistic aspects; and (3) inspire other researchers to develop and conduct other research in the same scope with different subjects.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In this study, several important words are utilized. To make these important words clearer, the researcher offers specific explanations for them.

a) Semantics

Semantics, a fascinating linguistic field, investigates diverse word relationships like synonymy, polysemy, and more. It looks into how meaning is conveyed through words, phrases, sentences, and even larger sections of text, and how people understand and interpret that meaning (Palmer, 1981).

b) Lexical Relation

Lexical relations are the connections and associations between words within a language's lexicon. These connections are established based on various factors such as meaning, usage, and syntactic roles (Leech, 1993).

c) Polysemy

Polysemy occurs when a lexeme has two or more related meanings. This concept highlights how a word can express various senses that are connected by a common underlying concept or idea (Saeed, 2016).

d) Meaning

In the realm of semantics, "meaning" refers to the way words, phrases, sentences, and larger portions of language convey ideas and concepts. It's about how we understand and interpret these linguistic elements to make sense of the world around us (Cruse, 2006).

e) YouTube

YouTube is a popular online platform where users can upload, share, and watch a wide variety of videos. It offers educational, entertainment, and informative content that researchers and scholars often use for academic purposes (Holsch, 2023).

f) Speech

In literature, a speech is a public discourse performed by an orator. Speeches help create a space for people to discuss policies that affect society, either after the decision or during the decision-making process (Nordquist, 2019).

g) TED Talk

A TED Talk is a concise presentation delivered by experts across various fields, part of the TED platform aimed at disseminating ideas and knowledge. TED Talks offer valuable insights and innovative concepts shared by scholars, scientists, artists, and professionals (Hanna, 2022).

