

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five important subchapters, namely background of study, statements of the research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Those subchapters are important to be explained because they describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of Study

Language is a medium for interacting with each other. Through language, people can convey their opinions, ideas and thoughts to others. Sometimes people do not get the point of what a speaker says because of the ambiguity of the utterances. The ambiguous words make the listeners confused. It means that sometimes listeners unable to define clearly the meaning of words that spoken by the speakers.

According to Fromkin (2011), the words or phrases are ambiguous when they have more than one meaning. The meaning that is ambiguous makes the listeners and speakers confused. Ulmann (1962) divided ambiguity into three kinds; phonetic, structural, and lexical. However, the writer just focuses this study on structural ambiguity. This kind of ambiguity refers to the phrase or sentence that has ambiguous meaning. In other words, a phrase or sentence is syntactically ambiguous when a reader or listener can reasonably interpret one sentence as having more than one possible structure. For example in English Semantics book by Kreidler (1998), the noun phrase “England history lecturer”. The phrase

contains structural ambiguity because it can be represented in two different brackets. The first bracket is [England] [history lecturer] means that there is history lecturer from the England. The second bracket is [England history] [lecturer] means that the lecturer of England history.

Based on the background above, the writer aims to analyze the structural ambiguities in Ed Sheeran song albums. The reason why the writer chooses this topic is because the writer frequently finds ambiguous phrases or sentences in daily conversation, media social, newspaper, etc. The writer is interested to analyze and find the real meaning of those ambiguous phrases or sentences in order give deeper knowledge to the readers of her research.

The writer chooses Ed Sheeran song albums as the source of data because Ed Sheeran is popular singer from United Kingdom. Ed Sheeran is also a songwriter and a recording producer. His songs have got many appreciations from various global awards. However, his song lyrics also contain ambiguous sentence that sometimes make people difficult to understand his sentences while reading or listening his song lyrics.

Ed Sheeran began his career in 2011 with his debut album + (read "plus") released in September 2011. From this album Ed Sheeran won the British Awards as Best British Male Solo Artist and British Breakthrough Act. In June 2014 he released other album, x (read as "multiply"). This album was best-selling album in United Kingdom and United States in 2015. Ed Sheeran's latest album ÷ (read as "divide") was released in March 2017. This album becomes the fastest-selling album by a male artist in United Kingdom. It also topped the charts in 14 countries, including the United States, Canada, and Australia.

In this study, the writer chooses three albums of Ed Sheeran song albums, namely $\div$ (divide), $\times$ (multiply), and $+$ (plus). These albums are chosen as the source of data because the totals of Ed Sheeran songs in albums are 36 songs, there are 12 songs in each album. There are some songs of Ed Sheeran that are not included in the album, such as duet songs with other singers, or Ed Sheeran songs but sung by other singers. This study focuses only on songs that included in album of Ed Sheeran.

The first album of Ed Sheeran is **Divide** album or $\div$ album, this album has 12 songs including “Eraser”, “Castle on The Hill”, “Dive”, “Shape of You”, “Perfect”, “Galway Girl”, “Happier”, “New Man”, “Hearts Don’t Break Around Here”, “What Do I Know”, “How Would You Feel”, and “Supermarket Flowers”. The second album of Ed Sheeran is **Multiply** album, this album has 12 songs including “One”, “I’m a Mess”, “Sing”, “Don’t”, “Nina”, “Photograph”, “Bloodstream”, “Tenerife Sea”, “Runaway”, “The Man”, “Thinking Out Loud”, and “Afire Love”. The Third albums is **Plus**, this album also consist of 12 songs. There are, “The a Team”, “Drunk”, “UNI”, “Grade”, “Wake Me Up”, “Small Bump”, “This”, “The City”, “Lego House”, “You Need Me, I Don’t Need You”, “Kiss Me”, and “Give Me Love”

There are two related studies that have been conducted by others. The first study was conducted by Taufiqoh in 2017, entitled “Ambiguity in Headline on 2017 French Election in BBC News Online”. The other was conducted by Henny in 2009, entitled “The Analysis of Lexical and Structural Ambiguity in *Your Letters of The Jakarta Post*”. Both studies are analyzed by lexical and structural

ambiguity. Unfortunately, none of the two analyzed structural ambiguities on song lyrics. That is why this study is conducted.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

The writer formulates two of the issues to review in Structural Ambiguity in Ed Sheeran song albums:

1. What are the types of structural ambiguities found in Ed Sheeran song albums?
2. What are the factors that cause the structural ambiguity in Ed Sheeran Song albums?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of research problems, the objectives of this study are:

1. To explain the types of structural ambiguities found in Ed Sheeran song albums
2. To explain the factors that causes the structural ambiguity in Ed Sheeran song albums.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study provides theoretical and practical significances. Theoretically, this study is very important because it can increase knowledge and understanding about syntax and semantics especially structural ambiguity. Practically, this study helps people to interpret sentences and phrases that have multiple meanings. This study can also help other researchers to analyze structural ambiguity in their study.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is Syntax. This study focuses on structural ambiguity. To analyze the types and factors of the structural ambiguity, the writer uses the theory of Ullman (1977) and Kreidler (1998). Furthermore, the limitation of this study is the ambiguous phrases or sentences in *Ed Sheeran song albums*. There are 3 albums of Ed Sheeran, namely Divide, Multiply and Plus Albums.