

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains some subchapters, namely background of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study. They are necessary so many to be explained because they describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of the study

Language is an essential tool in communication. The language also has a very important function in people's life. In daily life, people communicate each other by language. A spoken language and a written language are two types of language which are often used to interact and communicate with each other to express the ideas, feelings, and emotions. It means that language has been integrated with our life and language can help people to make a good connection with others. By a language we can get a lot of information easily from around the world.

According to Norman Stageberg (1968), understanding spoken language is easier than understanding written language. It means that people will get difficulty to apply written language in communication. In spoken language, people who do conversation with others can directly ask them if they do not get the meaning or understand what the speakers talk. In other words, a listener can ask to the speaker about the topic which is being discussed. In spoken language, the hearer still be able to try and to understand about the utterances that the speaker says using some factors

such as stress, pitch, and juncture that can help the hearer to get easier what the speaker said. While, in written language, the reader cannot ask to the writer if he does not understand or get the meaning what the writer was written. In written language, the reader only relies on the grammar of the sentences which he/she read. That is why people face difficulties when they try to understand the sentence. Sometimes, the sentences uttered by someone may have more than one meaning. According to Janet D Fodor (1982), the term of ambiguity refers to the multiple meaning of a given utterance. It means that the sentence which has more than one meaning or multiple meaning is ambiguous and needs more interpretation.

Ambiguity is divided into two types, they are lexical ambiguity and structural ambiguity. Lexical ambiguity occurs when the word has double meanings, while the structural ambiguity comes from the arrangement of word into sentences. For example, *John said Cena studied yesterday* has two meanings. First, yesterday John said to someone that Cena has studied, while the second is Cena studied yesterday said John. Therefore, a sentence may be structurally ambiguous make someone confuse to get the meaning and need more interpretation.

Ambiguity in language is a crucial problem, so the writer examines this problem. The sentence which has multiple meaning is difficult to be understood. As a result ambiguity occurs when a word, a phrase, or a sentence has two meanings or multiple meanings and the reader cannot decide from the sentence which is the correct meaning of the sentence.

According to Donald J Foss and David T Hakes (1982), people are not aware of the ambiguous sentences. They only do one interpretation to understand the sentence. That is why they hardly realize if the sentences are ambiguous or have multiple meanings. Sometimes, the hearer does not know if the sentence is ambiguous which uttered by the speaker. Therefore, the writer is interested to analyze the ambiguity in the news title of political issues in Jakarta Post. The writer interested in political issues because on April there is an election day, so there are many issues about politics. As the result there are many people who want to get the latest news about political issues.

The writer is interested in doing this research on news title of political issues in Jakarta Post because Jakarta Post is one of newspapers in Indonesia that use English to present their news. This newspaper presents the latest news and also make the reader knows about information or events that currently occurs.

In this study, the writer takes news title of political issues in Jakarta Post as the source of the data because in the month of April many newspapers talk about politics and also the politics is booming at the time because there is election-day in the end of April. In Jakarta Post newspaper we often find structurally ambiguous sentence in the titles of political issues for example in the title “*Suryadhana asked to step down after appearance with Prabowo (28 March 2014)*” may have two meanings. The first is *after appearance Prabowo, Suryadhana asked to step down*, it is ambiguous structurally because the sentence means after Prabowo appearance alone in the stage, Suryadhana go step down. While the second is *Suryadhana go step*

down after the appearance with Prabowo, it is ambiguous structurally because the sentence means Suryadhana go step down after he and Prabowo appearance together in one stage. Based on the data which are ambiguous in the Jakarta Post news title about political issues, the writer try to analyze the ambiguity by the title “A Study of Ambiguity in The News title of Political Issues in Jakarta Post Newspaper”

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the statement of the research problems is formulated as follow:

1. What types of ambiguity are found in the news title of political issues in Jakarta Post Newspaper?
2. What types of ambiguity are dominantly used in news title of political issues in Jakarta Post Newspaper?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the research problem formulated above, this study has several objectives. They are:

1. To identify what types of ambiguity are found in the news title of political issues in Jakarta Post Newspaper.
2. To identify the types of ambiguity are dominantly in the news title of political issues in Jakarta Post Newspaper.

1.4 Significance of the study

Theoretically, this study gives contributions to the others in order to when they do write a titles news, they do not make some sentence that ambiguous. Practically, help news makers to avoid the ambiguity when they write a sentence in newspaper. Hopefully, this study gives knowledge to the reader in the phenomenon of ambiguity or multiple meaning.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this research, this study is emphasized on the analysis of ambiguous sentence which are taken from news title of political issues in Jakarta Post. Therefore the scope of this study is semantics that concerned with the meanings of the ambiguity which are applied in the news title of political issues in Jakarta Post Newspaper.

The writer analyzed the ambiguity which to be applied in the Jakarta Post Newspaper in news title about political issues based on ambiguity theory. This study is limits the writer only takes a source of data from 1 – 19 April 2014 in the topic of political issues. He also analyzes why the sentence of news title in Jakarta Post included to ambiguity.