

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some subchapters related to the area of the research. Those subchapters are the background of the study, the statement of research problems, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In most of talks or writings, a speaker or writer often does an act in which the speaker or the writer uses linguistic forms to enable listeners or readers to identify something. This act is best known as reference (Yule, 1996). Mostly, when speakers or writers are producing more than one sentence in their talks or writings, they use some linguistic expressions to refer to the initial expression (antecedent) which is called anaphoric reference. On the other hand, sometimes, in the beginning of new story or in the beginning of new topic, the speaker or the writer often reverses the pattern. In other word, they mention the subsequent reference first and then is followed by its antecedent which actually has to be mentioned first. This pattern is technically known as cataphora. As Yule (1996: 23) stated that cataphora is a reversal pattern of antecedent-anaphor. Furthermore, for the existence of cataphora, Kesik as cited in Bruti (2002: 44), stated that cataphora is a less productive phenomenon than anaphora. Based on the statement, it can be inferred that the occurrence of cataphora is less common than anaphora. However, this linguistic phenomenon still exists and either intentionally or unintentionally this kind of linguistic phenomenon is often done by people in their talks and writings.

In this study, the writer analyzes cataphora found in utterances, either in conversations or narratives, which are produced by the characters in the movie entitled “*Easy A*”. “*Easy A*” is a 2010 teen comedy movie directed by Will Gluck and written by Bert V. Royal, in which the screenplay was partially inspired by Nathaniel Hawthorne’s novel entitled “*The Scarlet Letter*”. This movie depicts a high schooler’s social problem, Olive Penderghast, as the main character in the movie, which is full of lies and drama, yet inserts the value that family and beloved one’s support and also honesty are the things we need to encourage us to solve the problem. It is not an exaggeration to say that this movie is one of the most famous movies worldwide as it earned its budget back more than nine times, proving that it gained many viewers. The performance of its main character and other supporting characters for making sassy dialogues sound natural led the movie to gain generally favorable reviews, proven by receiving three and half out of four stars. This movie was also nominated and won some prestigious categories in many prestigious awards, such as *Best Comedy Film* in Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards, *Best Comedic Performance* in MTV Movie Awards, *Choice Movie: Romantics Comedy* and *Choice Movie Actress: Romantic Comedy* in Teen Choice Awards.

The writer is interested in analyzing “*Easy A*” movie using cataphora theory since a number of utterances contained cataphora are found in the movie being analyzed. The popularity of the movie also makes the movie worth analyzing using cataphora theory proposed by Mitkov (2002) and Bruti (2004). By analyzing this movie using cataphora theory, the writer wants to show the readers, who are familiar or even unfamiliar with this movie, that cataphora exists in our daily life, whether or not we are aware that we experience such linguistic phenomenon. There

are many utterances contained cataphora in this movie, one of the instances is presented below:

Marianne Bryant : I can't believe **it**. **Olive lost her virginity**.

(Source: Easy A, 2010)

The example above contains cataphora since the pronoun “*it*” points cataphorically at something which is going to be disclosed by the speaker in the next line, that is, the words “*Olive lost her virginity*”. Basically, in normal pattern or anaphora, the expression “*Olive lost her virginity*” has to be mentioned first since it acts as the initial expression to introduce an entity or new information, and then followed by the expression which will refer to that already introduced reference. i.e. non-personal pronoun “*it*”. Therefore, since the pattern is reserved then this utterance is categorized as cataphora.

The writer is interested in analyzing cataphora due to some reasons. First, cataphora is one of linguistic phenomena which exists in our natural language, even some people might not be aware of its existence and its function when they produce a cataphoric reference. Second, previous studies which analyzed cataphora were far less than the studies about anaphora which lead to the writer curiosity to examine more about cataphora. Third, although cataphora is less common than anaphora but the writer believes it is worth to be analyzed. Lastly, there is no such study related to cataphora conducted in the university where the writer takes her bachelor degree, which encourages the writer to conduct the study about cataphora with the utterances produced by some characters in “*Easy A*” movie as the data.

There were some previous studies corresponding to cataphora, such as a study which has been done by Maite Taboada and Radoslava Trnavac in 2012, entitled *Cataphoric 'it' and Backgrounding from The Point of View Coherence Relations*. The writer also found a study from Morton Ann Gernsbacher and Suzanne Shroyer in 1989, entitled *The Cataphoric Use of the indefinite 'this' In Spoken Narratives*. Furthermore, the writer also found a study from Ratna Agustinawati entitled *Anafora dan Katafora dalam Tajuk Rencana Surat Kabar Kompas dan Implikasinya Bagi Pembelajaran Bahasa Indonesia di SMA* which is done in 2014. Two previous studies from from Taboada and Trnavac (2012) and Gernsbacher and Shroyer (1989) focused their studies specifically on cataphoric words “it” and “this” and the other previous study from Agustinawati (2014) analyzed cataphora in more general analysis. Meanwhile, the writer of this study analyzed cataphora which focused on its types and functions, and also did not analyze cataphora specifically on cataphoric words “this” and “it” but all kinds of cataphoric words found in the movie being analyzed. It is important to note that the differences between those studies and this study are the writer of this study observed and analyzed how characters in “Easy A” movie produce cataphora and what intentions behind the existence of the produced cataphora. Therefore, the writer is interested in conducting a study entitled *A Study of Cataphora in “Easy A” Movie*.

1.2 Statement of Research Problems

According to the background of the study above, the writer formulated two research questions:

1. What are the types of cataphora found in *Easy A* movie?
2. What are the functions of cataphora found in *Easy A* movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions above, the writer addressed two objectives of the study:

1. To elaborate the types of cataphora found in *Easy A* movie.
2. To elaborate the functions of cataphora found in *Easy A* movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study is able to provide not only theoretical but also practical significance. Theoretically, the writer expects that this study is able to provide better understanding and further explanation related to cataphora. Finally, the writer expects that the result of this study can be a useful contribution to the linguistics field, especially in reference study under the branch of pragmatics.

Practically, through this study, the writer tries to provide the readers a clear understanding about linguistic phenomenon such as cataphora and its instances, in which it indeed exists and is often done by people without their awareness. By providing clear understanding and explanation about cataphora, the writer hopes that the readers can be much more aware of cataphora and its uses when they produced some utterances or sentences contain cataphora in their talks and writings. By understanding about cataphora the writer expects that the readers are able to practice producing and using cataphora based on their needs. Lastly, the writer also

expects that the result of this study can be a reference for future writers who are interested in conducting the same study as such.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer conducts the study about cataphora in “*Easy A*” movie. This study is conducted under pragmatics domain which deals with cataphora and focuses on the types of cataphora proposed by Mitkov (2002) and the function cataphora in talks or writings proposed by Bruti (2004).

In this study, the writer limits the data only on the utterances contain cataphora uttered by characters in “*Easy A*” movie.