

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews the general outlines of present study. It begins with background of the study, statement of problem, research question, and purposes of research, significance of research, and previous research.

### 1.1 Background of Research

People, as social creatures, communicate each other to express their thought, ideas, feelings, and emotions by using a language, the main tool of communication, which is needed by people in their lives. People can use the language in different ways, such as by speaking, listening, writing, and also reading. As Wierzbicka tells “the function of language, that is as an instrument for communication, interaction, and conveying meaning.”<sup>1</sup>

Sometimes people do not state the meaning clearly. People make the listeners or the leaders interpret their meaning into different meaning. According to Akmajian, this situation is known as ambiguity.<sup>2</sup> Ambiguity occurs when listener or leader is difficult to understand what is reading or hearing. Spoken language often appears ambiguity, because of what people heard is not be sure true with speakers meant. In written language, people knows punctuation mark which will clarify the meaning. Because of that, it is

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<sup>1</sup>Wierzbicka, Anna, *Semantics: Primes and Universal*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), pg.3.

<sup>2</sup>Akmajian, Adrian., et al., *Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*, (Cambridge: the MIT Perss, 2001), pg.366.

important for studying ambiguity in sentence. So, it does not appear misunderstanding in interpretation meaning in sentence.

Ambiguity can arise in various situations, either spoken or written. In connection with this, Ullmann says, “there are three forms of ambiguity; both of them are relating with phonetic, grammatical, and lexical.”<sup>3</sup> In this research, the researcher uses grammatical, and lexical ambiguity as the subject of the analysis.

The ambiguity can be found in any kind of things related to daily life. In spoken, for instance, *I scream in the room*. If this sentence is spoken too fast, people heard is not be sure true with speakers meant. What is *I scream in the room* or *ice cream in the room*. This is happened because *I scream* and *ice cream* have same phonetic symbol, **ai skri:m** and **ais kri:m**. So, it will make people heard is not be sure true with the speaker meant.

Besides the example above, another example of ambiguity can be seen in written form. Such as in *The Jakarta Post Weekender* magazine, for instance, “they live in pair in *pretty wooden houses*.”<sup>4</sup> The sentence can be interpreted more than one. The first, word *pretty* modifies *wooden houses*. And the second, phrase *pretty wooden* modifies house. In first interpretation, the meaning of the sentence is “They live in pair in *houses which is pretty wooden*” and the second meaning of the sentence is “They live in pair in *wooden houses which is pretty*.”

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<sup>3</sup> Ullmann, Stephen, *Pengantar Semantik*, adopted by Sumarsono, (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar. 2011), pg.196.

<sup>4</sup> Whitmarsh, Melanie, *Running Jakarta, The Jakarta Post Weekender*, June 2012. pg. 10

In written language, this ambiguity can happen in every writing occasion like magazine, newspaper, letter, novel, and so on. However, the researcher chooses magazine as the data source. Because according to Ardianto, “magazine has special characteristics: 1). the news is presented exhaustively. 2). Topicality value is longer agreed with frequency of magazine is published. 3). Magazine is more presenting image. 4). Cover becomes main lure of magazine.”<sup>5</sup> Besides, magazine has special characteristics; magazine also has advantages than other writing, including: magazine has own reader, readers are not required to consume messages or information quickly. So, the reader is more focus in accepting and interpreting information in magazine. Based on the reasons above, the researcher chooses magazine as the source of data.

In Indonesia, many English magazines are published weekly or monthly. Both of them are *The Jakarta Post Weekender*, *Tempo English Edition*, *Cool 'n Smart English Teen Magazine*, and so on. The researcher chooses *The Jakarta Post Weekender* magazine in this research. There are three factors why the researcher chooses *The Jakarta Post Weekender* as the source of data in this research. The first, the article in *The Jakarta Post Weekender* use simple sentences in conveying the information. As Irwansyah says, “*The Jakarta Post Weekender* is aimed at the young Indonesians who are comfortable in English which will be a reader of English newspaper in the

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<sup>5</sup>Ardianto, Elvinaro, *Komunikasi Massa: Suatu Pengantar Edisi Revisi*. (Bandung: Simbiosis Rekatama Media, 2007), pg. 121-122.

future.”<sup>6</sup> The second, *The Jakarta Post Weekender* is lifestyle magazine. So, in there are lots of snippets of information on where to go, what to do, which band to watch, and what to eat, something informative and fun. And the last, *The Jakarta Post Weekender* is a supplement magazine from *The Jakarta Post* newspaper, which is the first time in English format in Indonesia. And it has been known well by the common people.

There are some columns in *The Jakarta Post Weekender* such as said and done, cover, profile, health, culture, travel, 20/20, and so on. The researcher chooses *cover* column as the object of the analysis. For notes, the *cover* is not the face part of *The Jakarta Post Weekender* but the part of the content of *The Jakarta Post Weekender*. There is the reason why the researcher chooses the *cover* section. The first, the title article in *cover* column is always to be the headline of *The Jakarta Post Weekender*. As Ardianto says, “cover becomes main lure of magazine.”<sup>7</sup> Second, *cover* column is always presented in each edition, because the sections of *The Jakarta Post Weekender* sometimes are not always presented in each edition. Third, the researcher can find the example of ambiguity in the *cover* column. And last, to limit the researcher in the analysis of ambiguity.

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<sup>6</sup> Ade Irwansyah, 15+ Majalah Indonesia terbaik (in my humble opinion), multiplay.com, 2 Feb 2010, accessed 27 June 2012. [http://adeirwansyah.multiplay.com/journal/item/35/15-Majalah-Indonesia-Terbaik-in-my-humble-opinion?&show\\_interstitial=1&u=%2Fjournal%2Fitem](http://adeirwansyah.multiplay.com/journal/item/35/15-Majalah-Indonesia-Terbaik-in-my-humble-opinion?&show_interstitial=1&u=%2Fjournal%2Fitem)

<sup>7</sup> Ardianto, Elvinaro, *op. cit.* pg. 122.

## 1.2 Statement of Problems

In this research, the writer limits the research only in *cover* column of *The Jakarta Post Weekender* magazine through following:

1. What kinds of ambiguity are there in *The Jakarta Post Weekender*?
2. What are effects of ambiguity into meaning of sentence in *The Jakarta Post Weekender*?

## 1.3 Purpose of Research

The purposes of this research are to answer the problems of this research which are mentioned above, they are:

1. To find out what kinds of ambiguity are in *The Jakarta Post Weekender*.
2. To analyze what the effects of ambiguity into meaning of the sentence in *The Jakarta Post Weekender*.

## 1.4 Significance of Research

After finishing this research, the writer hopes that this thesis can give the readers some significances, they are:

1. To add the readers' ability in understanding the ambiguous sentence, phrase or word in written language.
2. As the reference for the study of semantics, syntax, and phonetics in teaching and learning activity.
3. As the reference for people who are interested in analyzing phonetic, grammatical, and lexical ambiguity in the research later.

## 1.5 Previous of Research

Karistiany in her thesis “*The Structural and Lexical Ambiguity Found in Cleo Magazine Advertisement*” found that there are five structural ambiguities including three declarative sentences, one adjective phrase and one noun phrase; ten lexical ambiguities that are include in the advertisement; there are four nouns, two verbs, three adjective and one adverb. She concludes that lexical ambiguity occurs more frequently than structural ambiguity of advertisement in *Cleo Magazine*.<sup>8</sup> Whereas in her thesis, “*Analysis of Lexical and Structural in Your Letters of the Jakarta Post*” found that are 47 ambiguity consist of 23 lexical and 24 structural.”<sup>9</sup>

Based on the earlier research, the researcher concludes they only research lexical and structural ambiguity. However, in this research the researcher uses phonetic, grammatical and lexical ambiguity in *The Jakarta Post Weekender* as subject of the analysis.

## 1.6 Definition of Keys Term

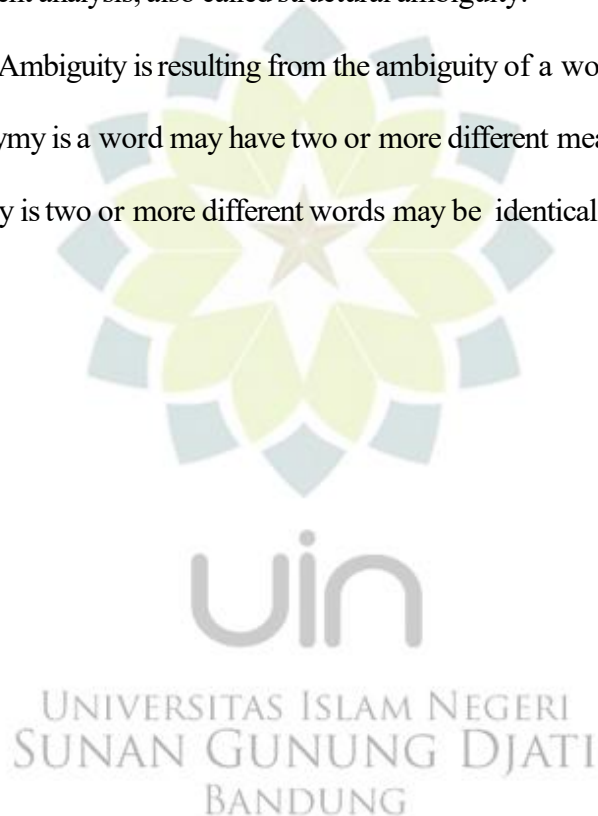
There are some key terms used in this research. The key terms involve in this research are ambiguity, phonetic ambiguity, grammatical ambiguity, lexical ambiguity, homonymy, polysemy. The definition is below.

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<sup>8</sup>Kristianty, Susan, *The Structural and Lexical Ambiguity Found in Cleo Magazine Advertisements*, (Surabaya, Universitas Petra, 2006).

<sup>9</sup>Tambunan, Henny, A., *The Analysis of Lexical And Structural Ambiguity in Your Letters Of The Jakarta Post*, Umatra Utara: University of Sumatera Utara, 2009).

1. Ambiguity is the condition whereby any linguistic form has two or more interpretations.<sup>10</sup>
2. Phonetic ambiguity is a type of ambiguity that arises out of mingling of language sounds which is spoken.<sup>11</sup>
3. Grammatical ambiguity is a term used in linguistics to refer to a construction with more than one grammatical interpretation in terms of constituent analysis; also called structural ambiguity.<sup>12</sup>
4. Lexical Ambiguity is resulting from the ambiguity of a word.<sup>13</sup>
5. Homonymy is a word may have two or more different meaning.<sup>14</sup>
6. Polisemy is two or more different words may be identical in sounds.<sup>15</sup>




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<sup>10</sup> Kriedler, Charles W., *Introducing English Semantics*, (London: Routledge, 1998), Pg. 298.

<sup>11</sup> Ullmann, Stephen, *op. cit.*, pg. 98.

<sup>12</sup> Cristal, David, *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics 6<sup>th</sup> edition*, (Blickwell Publishing, 2008), pg. 23. pg. 458.

<sup>13</sup> Hurford, James., et al., *Semantics: A Course Book*, (Cambridge University Press, 2007), pg 135.

<sup>14</sup> Ullmann, Stephen, *op. cit.*, pg. 201.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*



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