# CHAPTER ONE

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a tool which is used by human being to communicate. Language is used to convey something to other. The language conveyed is called information. Information is good if the message of the given information is the same to the received information heard. To reach that point, language has to be packaged well and correct. A good language is a language that is not creates ambiguity. That is why, information should be conveyed as simple as possible. But nowadays, it is often that information is conveyed not as explained above. Language understood together between the speaker and the hearer is called as shared knowledge. Shared knowledge which is got any extension will cause a different meaning. It can make misunderstanding between the speaker and hearer because they have a different perception about the essence of information conveyed. This essence is called semantic anomaly. Semantic anomaly is the abnormality profile of the linguistic items in term of combination and interaction of the elements of language in the different context which may create ambiguity and connotative meaning. It is an obvious fact that some combinations of words "go together" naturally, and it is easy to imagine a situation in which they could function as part of a discourse. Other sets of words do not go together in this way; it is impossible or at least very difficult to imagine a situation in which they could be in used, although we must not underestimate the flexibility and ingenuity of the human mind in this respect. The

interaction is complex and not yet fully understood. Actually there are two potential focuses of interest in studying semantic specifically the anomalous of semantic; one is whether a particular combination makes senses. This is included the composition of the word combination. The other is whether a combination is normal or abnormal. All of the oddness is called the abnormality of language. It is undeniable that the normality or abnormality of words as the part of semantic component can be affected by the wider context in which they are set and mostly affected by the style of language or commonly called as stylistic problems of language.

For examples: "Heavy *on air"*

"The pussy cat doll is on the air now"

In the first example this might strike the ear as odd, if no context is given related to *heavy on air*. But, suppose the conversation is about space and the need to develop ways of recycling vital materials like water and air. In this context it is not difficult to make sense of a statement to the effect that a particular device is *heavy on air*. But, that statement seems more abnormal because of the combination of the words. The word *heavy* naturally deals with having relatively great weight. And the word *air* naturally deals with atmosphere in an enclosure; breeze or wind which is almost weightless. The combination of those words is not normal.

In the second example, *the pussy cat doll is on the air now* sounds abnormal because of the composition of the word combination. The word *pussy* means a cat; meanwhile *cat* means an animal, a catcher of rats and mice. So, it can be said that *pussy* and *cat* are the same thing. It is abnormal to use redundancy to describe the same thing. This kind of abnormality touched the anomaly of composition of the

word combination. Another example, *colourless green ideas* might not be anomalous in sense or meaning if used to describe a boring lecture on environment issues. But, in terms of harmony or suitability, it is not normal. *Colourless* means lacking colour, in fact *green* means the hue of the visible spectrum lying between yellow and blue. So the form of *colourless green* is a kind of semantic anomaly.

Those examples above represent a number of semantic anomalies which occurs in our surrounding naturally and unconsciousness, how if it occur in the news program on television. In fact, nowadays, language is spread, it is developed. There are many extensions here and there, no exception in the journalistic world. The use of language is not as normal as formerly. There are many abnormalities in that sphere. People speak, use and combine the words as they like so that broke the rule.

It is seen now that language of journalistic uttered on television program is out of rule. It is needed to see whether it also occurs in the news program, in this case *Seputar Indonesia*. It is very important to analyze since *Seputar Indonesia* is a news program which won awards for the favorite news program categories. It must be simple, accurate and evident in giving information. Semantic anomaly creates positive and negative effect in terms of getting meaning. The use of semantic anomaly in conveying message or information, in fact positively makes the words aesthetic and artistic. The stylistic of the words combination is able to fascinate and dramatize the situation.

It can not be denied the use of semantic anomaly beautifies the language, but it is often destroy the essence of the real meaning of the message.

Some effects are caused by semantic anomaly that occurs in the journalistic world, are connotative meaning and ambiguity. This is the exact reason to conduct this study.

## 1.2 Problems of the Study

This study focuses on the journalistic language on television. Based on the background, the problems are formulated as the following.

1) What types of semantic anomaly are found in the news program *Seputar Indonesia*?

2) Which type of semantic anomaly is dominantly found in the news program *Seputar Indonesia*?, and

3) Why is the type dominant?

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

Related to the problems, the objectives are.

1) to investigate the types of semantic anomaly found in the news program *Seputar Indonesia*

2) to ascertain dominant type of semantic anomaly in the news program *Seputar Indonesia*, and

3) to contextualize the use of the dominant type.

## 1.4 Scope of the Study

. This study has specific intention to the journalistic language in news program on television. The news programs chosen in this study was *Seputar Indonesia* which is displayed in July – August, 2009. *Seputar Indonesia* is a news program which won the award for favorite news program category and displayed by Rajawali Citra Televisi or RCTI everyday at 5.30 am, 12 pm and 5 pm. In this news program, it is the presenters' utterances as the data. The reporter and the interviewee utterances are not included as the data because they report the information directly, they don't use the script as the news presenter does.

## 1.5 Significance of the Study

Debating semantic anomaly is really important because it gave so much advantage. By reading this thesis, it is expected that the finding of this study can provide some inputs for the teacher in teaching semantic and grammar. It is also can be used as the material to the lecturer who responsible to elaborate the study deals with semantic anomaly, language in meaning and language complexity. The result of this study are relevant to the needs of the students who want to conduct a research relates to grammar and semantic. The students who learn pragmatics and semantics need to comprehend the type of semantic anomaly to enable and enrich their knowledge to communicate better than before. For the reader, it is very important to know the use of stylistic language in conversation or in writing.

For public, especially for the journalist, the findings of this research can be used as the guide in making journalistic writing, whether it is for the visual program on television or in the printed media as in magazine, newspaper and tabloid. The journalist can use the findings of this research to help them writing better.