

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Language has many functions, one of them is to describe the meaning of a text. It shares information for the people to understand about all of the events in the world wide. It means that one can only interact with others or expresses one's feelings by using a language or by manipulating the words of the language other people know. It is a common factor that when people communicate with one another they use a language or body language to express their feelings, ideas, opinions or suggestions.

Being able to communicate effectively in English does not only mean to be proficient in the various language skill involved in the communication progress, but also mean to be able to use it effectively. In various communication, the use of English depend on the nature of interaction, knowledge about English grammar is believed as the basis for the skills. When one is explaining something to another person, whether in speech or writing, she/he instinctively tries to organize what she/he says in a way that will make it easier for the hearer or the reader to understand. Therefore, it needs some functions to express some meanings.

In understanding the meaning, it is very important to know the role of meaning because it has a great contribution to deliver some information for the readers. But, in fact, most of the readers always faced some problems when they try to get some meanings from English text. They still find it difficulty in

understanding the meaning in the sentences because some ambiguous meaning often occur in the text. As the result, they are not interested in reading English text and get bored. Beside that, the readers always translate the text by using their perception without caring the ambiguous meaning. As the consequence, they usually confuse to know the real meaning of the text.

Readers have to know the meaning of the language so that she or he can understand the text easily. Sentences, for instance, are built on the basis of structural patterns that express certain meanings. Two sentences can express a different meaning. This is due to the ambiguous meaning.

Ambiguous meaning always makes confuse the readers when she or he read a text. In understanding the real meaning of the text, she or he must interpret at least two or more because it has more one sense. Ambiguous meaning needs to be got rid of, and calls for more contextualization. Kriedler (1998 : 298) states that ambiguous meaning is known as the condition where the meaning must be interpreted into two or more times. It means that ambiguous meaning occurs if there are two or more meanings available in readers' attempt to understand the text is.

In fact, most of the readers still find difficult to understand the meaning of the sentences. They open dictionary to translate the meaning of the. Henchard (2001: 4) states that readers fail to get some information from a text because they always interpret the ambiguous meaning based on their knowledge and dictionary. They do not remember that to know the real meaning of the sentence, they must relate the text to context of situation. As a consequence, they do not understand the text.

In understanding the text, the context of situation will help the readers understand what the writer means. Most of the readers have difficulties in understanding a text even though they have read it several times. They do not know how to get the information from the texts. There are so many factors that influence the readers' competence in understanding them. They have limited ability to comprehend them. Consequently, they become slow down and find difficulties in getting some information from their reading texts. Therefore, getting the information is in fact not as easy as some people think. Most people read without giving much thought on how they do it since they assume reading is not very important. For them, reading is only an activity to read some words or sentences, so they give little concern to the result of reading the text. The text can be in any form. It can be in novel, magazine, textbook or newspaper. As a result they can not get the messages from their reading newspaper.

Newspaper is a publication containing news, information, and advertising. Contents of newspapers are among others feature articles on political events, crime, business, art/entertainment, society, and sports. The Jakarta Post is one of the newspapers which is sold in Indonesia. All people have access in the daily *The Jakarta Post*. It is written in English.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that investigating of ambiguous meaning can guide the readers have good knowledge about English, especially in getting the information from Newspaper. It means that understanding ambiguous meaning can make the readers understand the meaning of the text easily. Therefore, there is no misunderstanding for someone to get information from newspaper.

1.2 The Focus of the Study

Understanding words and sentences can have more than one meaning improves comprehension by allowing readers to think flexibly about what the appropriate meaning may be. Therefore, the problems of the study are focussed into :

- 1) what types of ambiguous meaning are found in headlines of the daily *The Jakarta Post*?
- 2) what is the dominant type of ambiguous meaning used are found in headlines of the daily *The Jakarta Post*?
- 3) why is the meaning of ambiguity must be interpreted based on context situation?

1.3 The Scope of the Study

This study discusses ambiguous meaning used in headlines of the daily *The Jakarta Post*. There are four types of ambiguity are discussed namely phonetic, structural, lexical and referential ambiguities.

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

Referring to the problems mentioned before, the objectives of this study are:

- 1) to describe the types of ambiguous meaning found in headlines of the daily *The Jakarta Post*.
- 2) to find out the dominant type of ambiguous meaning used in this newspaper.

- 3) to explain the reason why ambiguity must be interpreted based on context situation.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

A study on ambiguous meaning is very interesting and challenging one to be studied because it has many aspects of the language being used, especially on study of meaning. Therefore, the reason of the study is hopefully beneficial as the following:

- 1) theoretically, the readers can enrich their knowledge on ambiguous meaning in order to understand some information easily from newspaper.
- 2) practically, the readers and writers realize that the demand on news is not only to know all the events of the world, but also to understand the information which can enlarge their knowledge and bring them into positive thinking. In addition, the finding of research are expected to gain benefit because it provides some valuable information particularly to other researchers who would like to conduct an in-depth study on ambiguous meaning.
- 3) English text particularly found in the daily *The Jakarta Post* to be used as a source of teaching materials to enable them using language in detail.

