

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

People in carrying out all activities always involve language as a means to interact with each other. The main function of language is as a communication tool used by every human in life . In communicating people can express their ideas, thoughts , desires , opinions and information which are expressed through language differently in a community and culture. It is considered that there are four reasons of communication, namely: entertainment, integration into community, relationship maintenance, and identity construction (Patrick, 2010: 1). In communication, people assign various attributes to language forms; they may feel that a language or variety of a language is ‘elegant’, ‘expressive’, ‘vulgar’, ‘guttural’, or ‘musical’, or that one language form is ‘more polite’ or more ‘aesthetically pleasing or displeasing’ than another one (Thomas, 1999:194).

This communication will be effective if people are able to master and understand language in spoken and written way. In spoken language, speaker communicates directly to the listeners using pauses, hesitations, tone of voices, stress, and intonations. Different from spoken language, written language does not use direct communication but only some written documents with more complex grammar to deliver the words to the readers. It can make the readers confuse in determining the meaning of the written sentences with omitted words called ellipsis that can be interpreted more than one meaning called ambiguity.

Ellipsis occurs when sentence of word, phrase, clause needed to complete the construction of meaning is omitted from a sentence or clause in order to avoid repetition. The example of ellipsis can be found in the texts below:

1. *Santi suka pelajaran Bahasa Inggris lebih dari Sinta suka pelajaran Bahasa Inggris.*
Santi likes English lesson more than Sinta likes English lesson.

Ellipsis :

Santi suka pelajaran Bahasa Inggris lebih dari Sinta.
Santi likes English lesson more than Sinta does.

In the sentence above, the phrase *pelajaran Bahasa Inggris* is omitted, referring to sentence *Santi suka pelajaran Bahasa Inggris*, in order to avoid repetition.

2. *Perampok berlari ke halaman sekolah secepat polisi berlari ke halaman sekolah.*
The robber runs to school yard as fast as the policeman runs to school yard.

Ellipsis:

Perampok berlari ke halaman sekolah secepat polisi berlari.
The robber runs to school yard as fast as the policeman runs.

In sentence 2 , the phrase *ke halaman sekolah* is omitted, referring to the sentence *Perampok berlari ke halaman sekolah*, in order to avoid repetition.

Repeating words can often sound clumsy or inelegant. People try to avoid repeating the same word in a single sentence and also in a response to a previous sentence. When writer omit words this way, it must be possible for reader to reconstruct the full sentence by implication or context. Sometimes reader need to have read to what was written immediately before the complete sentence. But, in reading an elliptical sentence, a reader should realize in what context is the text written, in order order to avoid ambiguous meaning.

Ambiguity appears when there are two or more meanings belong to a word or phrase. It occurs not only in oral but also in written sentences. There are four types of ambiguity namely: lexical ambiguity, structural ambiguity, phonetic ambiguity and referential ambiguity. People convey information from a text by a variety of means. One unclear sentence can be interpreted differently by different people. They give positive and negative reaction due to their understanding about the meaning of the unclear sentence. That's why, in order to communicate meaning precisely, it is important to write the sentence in clear meaning to avoid ambiguity.

Nowadays, some problems of ambiguity tend to appear in social media network such as twitter and it causes a miscommunication and different interpretation to the readers about what the writer's meaning in the text written in tweets on twitter. Each person must have a reason for every action, as well as twitter every tweet has the intent and purpose.

Twitter is one of popular social media network beside Facebook that can be accessed via internet by using modern gadget such as laptop and desktop computers, though the brevity of tweets makes the application particularly suited to mobile devices, with users providing a running commentary on their daily routines. It has more than 300 million worldwide users (<http://wikipedia.org/wiki/twitter>). It is very popular in the U.S., Indonesia, Brazil, Japan, Venezuela, Netherlands. Twitter can be considered as microblogging, users can post as many as 140 characters of text, called tweets, which are distributed to everyone who has elected to receive them. Here the tweets on twitter will be

taken as a kind of text which will be analyzed. At the time of observing the texts used in tweets on twitter, it is found that there are ellipsis and ambiguity.

Recently, the number of twitter users grows rapidly every day. Based on the researcher own experience in using twitter, it was found that most of twitter users tend to type the tweets by omitting some words and phrase or it is called as ellipsis. The tweets are not only about the user's privacy but also information to be read by other people. If it is written in ellipsis, it can raise misunderstanding to the outsider readers or followers because of ambiguous meaning of the word or phrase. The fact of this phenomenon attracted the researcher to conduct a research concern with the analysis on ellipsis and ambiguity found in tweets on twitter.

1.2 The Problems of the Study

Based on the explanation above, these problems of the study are formulated as the following.

- 1) What types of ellipsis are found in the tweets on twitter?
- 2) What types of ambiguity are found in the tweets on twitter?
- 3) How are the tweets on twitter realized as ellipsis?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

In relation to the problem of the study, the main objectives of this study are to:

- 1) describe the types of ellipsis found in the tweets on twitter,
- 2) describe the types of ambiguity found in the tweets on twitter, and
- 3) describe how the tweets on twitter are realized as ellipsis

1.4 The Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the analysis on ellipsis and ambiguity found in the tweets on twitter which were written in English. The limitation of the study is only the investigation of the types of ellipsis and types of ambiguity found in the tweets on twitter and also the investigation of how the tweets on twitter realized as ellipsis.

1.5 The Significances of the Study

The significance of the study is generally to give great theoretical and practical contribution to researchers as well as readers. The findings of this study are expected to be useful theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the findings of this study are expected to enrich knowledge of theories on ambiguity and ellipsis. Therefore, the findings of this study can provide basis for further researchers of different stages who want to do in depth research in linguistic development as the follow – up of this study.

Practically, the findings of this study are expected to be useful for twitter users and followers as information to help overcome the difficulties in interpreting sentences containing ellipsis and ambiguity. Thus, the findings of this study are expected to significantly contribute to researcher for future research about ellipsis and ambiguity.