

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical framework, definition of key terms and organizational of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

News has become a part of people's life. Everyday people always keep in touch with it whether they get from television, radio, magazine, newspaper, or even internet. Those media provide valuable information which is useful for the audience in this modern society. In other words, it can be inferred either directly or indirectly people need information about what is happening in their surroundings, as Bradley (1971:31) says that news is complete story of events of interest and concern to the public. Therefore, news is obliged to be accurate and up to date as it is to furnish people with the most recent issues.

Reflecting on the fact that people always need information, it means that they need to interact with other people. It is true that human beings are social creatures who cannot live alone. They always depend on each other to survive. In this case, communication is the only way to have interaction.

Communication can be transferred in two ways, oral and written. Related with the media of communication, there are two kinds of communication media.

They are electronic and printed media. The examples of electronic media are television, radio and internet. They can be classified as oral communication. Whereas, magazine and newspaper are categorized into printed media or written communication. Both electronic and printed media can be included as indirect communication.

In indirect communication, there is no “live” communication. It means that it is not face-to-face communication or it can be said that there is no two-way dialogue to allow for immediate clarification or correction of misunderstanding. As a consequence, the senders are under a special burden to make the information as clearly as possible.

On the other hand, direct communication involves both sides communication. It means that there must be at least two people interacting with one another. In this case, there is an opportunity which allows the audience for immediate clarification in details or correction of misunderstanding.

Moreover, Whitney (1991:3) says that communication always involves two factors. They are a source and a receiver. A source can be a human being or a media that carries a message. Conversely, a receiver is a person who receives the message from other people or mass media that enable to communicate to one another.

The term of mass communication is often used synonymously with mass media. According to Marion in his book *Broadcasting in America* (McCombs and Becker, 1979:380), the characteristics of mass communication involve large audience, message reproduction, rapid distribution and delivery, and low cost to

the consumers. In other words, mass communication is the spreading of a message to an extended audience through rapid means of reproduction and distribution at a relatively low cost to the consumers.

Since there are many kinds of mass media available in society, the writer would like to use newspaper as the media for her analysis. Newspaper that is taken for her study is *Jawa Pos* Newspaper. This is based on the consideration that *Jawa Pos* is a well-known daily newspaper in Surabaya. In addition, according to the research in *Jawa Pos* Newspaper on June 12, 2001 proved that *Jawa Pos* has the most readers (66,8%) in Surabaya. For further analysis, in this study the writer only focuses on the Metropolis on page 17-18. It is because those pages focus on the events in Surabaya only.

Basically, newspaper is one of the media for communication. It is read by all people with all professions. That is why the language used in newspaper should be understandable for them. Moreover, the writer is expected to be able to deliver his message as clearly, coherently and meaningfully as possible. So that, the communication between the reader and the writer will not be disturbed. However, if the communication in both of them are broken down, the readers may simply fail to understand what the writer is saying or the reader may misunderstand what the writer is saying. In this case, Whitaker and Ramsey, (2000:3) state that the clarity in presenting the message is very important because the audience members will misinterpret the message if they do not understand what is exactly being communicated by the sender. This statement is strengthened by McCombs and Becker (1979:8) who say that the audience members have the

ability to misperceive message and distort the message in various ways. So, what they understand can be quite different from what the message was designed to tell them.

In some cases, the vague words, phrases or sentences can be found in the newspaper whether they are written intentionally or unintentionally. However, they can also make people confused and has some interpretation in the meaning. Therefore, the writer is interested to analyze vagueness found in “Metropolis” news of *Jawa Pos* Newspaper. The term of vagueness itself can be defined as lack of specification (Kempson, 1977:124).

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the writer then formulates the problems as follows:

1. Is there any vagueness emerging in each news of the “Metropolis” section of *Jawa Pos* Newspaper?
2. What types of vagueness appear in “Metropolis” news, *Jawa Pos* Newspaper?
3. Which type of vagueness most frequently appears in the news of “Metropolis” in *Jawa Pos* Newspaper?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Related to the statement of the problems above, the objective of this study is intended to answer the above research questions. They are stated as follows:

1. To find out whether there is any vagueness or not in each news of *Jawa Pos* Newspaper, especially on the “Metropolis”.
2. To identify some vagueness emerging in each news of “Metropolis” section of *Jawa Pos* Newspaper based on the parameter provided.
3. To find the type of vagueness that most frequently appears in the “Metropolis” section of *Jawa Pos* Newspaper.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to carry out some benefits for readers of *Jawa Pos* Newspaper in giving further understanding about the language of *Jawa Pos*, in general, and the students at Widya Mandala Catholic University, in particular those who are interested in making further studies of semantics, especially on vagueness. Hopefully, this study can bring a good input for them.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer decides to limit the study in several ways.

1. The writer takes *Jawa Pos* Newspaper section of “Metropolis” issued on 21-27 May 2001 to be analyzed. She considers that a week edition could represent for every edition since the newspaper is managed by the permanent team of editors.
2. The focus of discussion is to analyze the vagueness found in the “Metropolis” of *Jawa Pos* Newspaper.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study has the framework of semantic. Semantics concerns about examining the meaning of the words and sentences. In this case, the study is focused on the theory of vagueness. The term of vagueness can be defined as lack of specification. According to Kempson (1977:124) there are four types of vagueness. They are referential vagueness, indeterminacy of meaning of an item or phrase, lack of specification in the meaning of an item and the last type is disjunction in the specification of the meaning of an item.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation about the terms used in this thesis, it is necessary to define the following key terms so that the readers will easily understand the discussion. The definitions are as follows.

1. Vagueness

According to Kempson (1977:124), vagueness means lack of specification in term of meaning which can cause several interpretations.

2. Newspaper

Newspaper is a collection of information and enjoyment (Bradley, 1971:16).

3. Jawa Pos Newspaper

It is a well-known national daily newspaper published from Surabaya. It has several fields discussed in it, such as economic, politic, cultural, sport and also entertainment whether it is locally, nationally or internationally.

4. News

News can be defined as current information made available to a public and it is the factual report of an event at the time it occurs (Charnley, 1975:6).

1.8 The Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter discusses about the Introduction, containing the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definition of key terms, theoretical framework, and organizational of the study. Chapter II deals with the Review of Related Literature. Chapter III discusses the Research Methodology which consists the research design, the corpus of data, the instruments, the procedures of collecting the data, the procedures of analyzing data and the techniques of data analysis. Chapter IV presents the data analysis, the summary of data analysis and interpretation of the finding and the last chapter discusses summary and conclusion, the suggestions of the study.