CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope & limitations and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the key to human communication, by the existence of language people interact each other to express their feelings and ideas. To interact each other they have to understand the meaning of the language in language communication. Language has a meaning whether it is an oral language or a written language. As Wierzbicka (1996:3) tells about the function of language that is as an instrument for conveying meaning. Scientific study of language that is well known as linguistics. Linguistics which has few branches that has correlation with language and meaning are semantics and pragmatics. Linguistic semantics is concerned with the language system that people have in common that makes them able to communicate with one another, pragmatics is the study (and description) of how people actually use language in communication (Kreidler, 1998:39). This study is focused on the actual objects or ideas which a word refers, so semantics is the appropriate theory that matches with this study. According to Palmer (1976:1) "Semantics is the technical term used to refer the study of meaning". Meaning can convey in a small unit such as

word. A single word can have several meanings and it can be a problem. Word can be interpreted in several meanings and sometimes it brings confusion to predict a certain meaning in which someone tries to convey in a certain context. It leads people to get several related meanings or different meanings instead. When it occurs, it called ambiguity.

Ambiguity is one of language phenomenon that usually occurs in human daily communication. According to Leech (1981:80), "An expression is said to be ambiguous when more than one interpretation can be assigned to it". This ambiguous expression can happen in one word or one phrase or sentence. Ambiguity may occur because of the nature of words in a particular language. For example, The English language has many words that have more than one meaning, when that words are not delivered clearly by the speaker, they may show their ambiguous meanings.

Sometimes ambiguity occurs in an unconscious way, a speaker sometimes doesn't realize that his or her utterance carries more than one meaning. Therefore, the speaker gets the unpredictable response which makes him/her annoyed and finally affects the relationship between the speaker and the interlocutor. Stephen Ullmann (1977:156) divides ambiguity into three types: (1) phonetic, (2) structural, and (3) lexical. Phonological ambiguity emerges from language sounds mixed that are expressed because sometimes the words which form a sentence are said quickly. Meanwhile, lexical ambiguity observes the language in the level of the word. This type of ambiguity happens when the words have more than one lexical meaning based on dictionaries (Ramadani, 2015:2). The last type is structural ambiguity, according to Hurford and Heasley (1983:128), this type of ambiguity happened because its words relate to each other in different ways, even though none of the individual words are ambiguous.

In recent years, ambiguity has been a special interest for researchers in the past decades. There are some previous studies related to this study. The first study of ambiguity has been carried out by Dimple Kapadia and Jufrizal, (2013). They had done their research entitled *Types of Semantic Ambiguity Found in The Editorials of Jakarta Post Daily Newspaper*. Their purpose of the study is to analyze types of semantic ambiguity which are used in the editorials of The Jakarta Post daily newspapers. They use Kreidler's theories to analyze the ambiguities in The Jakarta Post daily newspapers. The second research has been finished by Nanda Ramadani (2015), she conducted a research to find the ambiguous words that have many lexical meanings from the headlines of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper. She analyzed the homonymy and polysemy found in the headlines of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper by using Lyons and Leech theory to analyze the lexical ambiguity in the headlines of *The Jakarta Post* newspaper.

Moreover, some other scholars have been making attempts to see the appearance of ambiguity in various data source; for example, newspaper opinion article (Tambunan, 2009; Kapadia and Jufrizal, 2013; Purwaningsih, 2014), English textbook (Rekha, 2014), newspaper headlines (Ramadani, 2015), humor graphic novel (Lutviana and Subiyanto, 2012). Furthermore, related to linguistics, studies of ambiguity in language use are produced in: Word "random" (Kaplan et al., 2014), argument (Ervas et al., 2015). According to the previous researches that have been mentioned above, the writer intents to analyze word, phrase and sentence that classified as lexical and structural ambiguity that found in zootopia movie. In analyzing lexical ambiguity, the writer analyzes the ambiguous word. The word which analyzed is based on the types of lexical ambiguity i.e homonymy and polysemy. While analyzing structural ambiguity, the writer uses labeled and bracketed sentence/phrase. The aim of labeled and bracketed sentence phrase is to make the structure of grammatical sentences explicit in a language (Yule, 1985:77). Lexical and structural ambiguity are the most common types that easily found in daily conversation, in utterances or even in movie dialogue.

One of the interesting media to find out ambiguity is the movie or film. Bordwell and Thompson (2008:3) states that film is an art form with a language and aesthetic all its own. In movie, sometimes the film director does not realize if a single dialogue can occur multiple meaning. In this research, the movie of Zootopia produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios is the object of research. Zootopiais a 2016 American 3D computer-animated buddy comedy-adventure movie. The directors of this movie are Byron Howard and Rich Moore, and the co-director is Jared Bush. The story line of the movie is about the partnership between a rabbit police officer and a red fox. They try to uncover a conspiracy involving the disappearance of savage predator inhabitants of a mammalian metropolis. Zootopia movie is one of appropriate object for analyzing lexical ambiguity. In Zootopia movie there are many utterances in the dialogue that produced by the whole characters and it possible to occurs more than one meaning in each utterance. Furthermore, to enrich the existing studies on ambiguity, this research attempts to analyze the lexical and structural ambiguity in Zootopia movie. This becomes the more specific topics in examines the types of ambiguity through the movie.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Concerning at the background, this study is conducted to answer the problems which formulated in the following questions:

- 1. What is the lexical ambiguity found in Zootopia movie?
- 2. What is the structural ambiguity found in Zootopia movie?
- 3. What are the most dominant types of ambiguity which appeared in Zootopia movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study is to investigate lexical and structural ambiguity in zootopia movie.

Specifically, this study tries to fulfill the following objectives:

- 1. To analyze the lexical ambiguity as found in Zootopia movie
- 2. To analyze the structural ambiguity as found in Zootopia movie.

3. To determine the most dominant types of ambiguity in Zootopia movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The researcher expects that this study gives some contributions for theoretical field and practical field. In the theoretical field, this study is expected to provide the readers to improve their ability in understanding the ambiguous sentence, phrase or word in written language. Practically, this study is giving more information about the language study that used through the conversation in the movie as media of studying the language. Further, this study may help the people who are interested in lexical and structural ambiguity for their research.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

In this study, the researcher focused on ambiguity and types of ambiguity that are lexical and structural ambiguity by using Stephen Ullmann's theory as the main framework in this study. The writer also intended to find out the most dominant types both of structural and lexical in Zootopia movie. The data of this research is taken from Zootopia movie. For the sake of clarity and due to the limited scope, the researcher focuses in lexical and structural ambiguity by taking the entire utterances of characters in Zootopia movie.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

- a. **Semantics** is the branches of linguistics are especially concerned with words, the study of word meaning (Ullmann, 1972:1).
- **b. Ambiguity** is a linguistics condition which can arise in a variety of spoken and written language. We are sometimes difficult to understand what the speaker or the writer means (Ullmann, 1977: 156).
- **c.** Lexical Ambiguity is when a single word has more than one meaning, for a word and there are factors which can be lexical ambiguity is a polysemy and homonymy (Ullmann, 1977:158).
- **d. Structural Ambiguity** is when a phrase or sentence has more than one underlying structure (Ullmann, 1977:156).