

THE LEXICAL AMBIGUITY IN NEWS HEADLINES OF CNN WORLD; SEMANTICS STUDY

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Abstrak

News headlines serve as condensed gateways to information, yet they often harbor layers of ambiguity, influencing how readers interpret and engage with news. This study scrutinizes the pervasive presence of lexical ambiguity within the headlines of CNN World, employing a semantic lens to unravel its multifaceted nature. Through a meticulous analysis of linguistic structures and contextual nuances, the research dissects various instances of ambiguity, delineating the intricate interplay between words, phrases, and diverse interpretations. This research aims to identify the types of lexical ambiguity and analyze the meanings of lexical ambiguity in news headlines from CNN World. The theory used in this research is the theory from Kreidler (2002) and Lyons (1996). The research used a descriptive qualitative method to classify and the data source which taken from CNN World news headlines published in 2023. The result of research, there are 4 homonyms (60%) and 2 polysemy (40%) found in 6 news headlines from CNN. The most common form was homonymy. And the meaning occurs in this research is contextual meaning.

Keyword: Ambiguity, Lexical ambiguity, homonymy, polysemy, meaning

A. INTRODUCTION

The word ambiguity is familiar to our hearing, there are often ambiguities or misunderstandings in our daily lives, such as when we read a text, in the text there is a message in it. The scientific study of this ambiguity is closely related to scientific studies in the field of semantics. Semantics is part of linguistics, linguistics is the study of language. According to Mukti & Nugraha (2022) "Semantics is the study

of meaning in language, semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning, and since meaning is a part of language. Semantics concerns the study of how words, phrases, sentences, and texts shape meaning in communication. According to Kreidler (2002:303), "Semantics is the study of the meaning expressed by language". and According to Lyons (1996:3), "semantics is the study of meaning". Can be interpreted that semantics is a field that studies language

that has meaning and is contained in a language. Everyone's expressions can have different meanings. So semantics studies meaning, and this meaning can lead to different interpretations. One of the problems in the field of semantics is ambiguity, which is about interpreting the meaning or meaning of a written utterance. More than one interpretation can lead to confusion and doubt in taking the intended meaning (Nashshar, M. N.2021). It can be said that semantics is an important branch of linguistics that deals with the interpretation and meaning of words, sentence structures, and symbols. The message conveyed can have more than one meaning. This can happen in a language because in language there are words that have more than one understanding or meaning when the message is read or conveyed with different intonation emphases. Not only in intonation, in a text can also cause misunderstanding is identified as ambiguity.

Ambiguity is a language phenomenon that often occurs in daily communication. Ambiguity occurs when a linguistic form can be interpreted into two or more meanings. When we come across a statement that can be understood by ourselves, but by other people who understand it in another way that is different from us, this statement is ambiguity. Ambiguity can be lead to someone misunderstanding the language. Ambiguity is something that has a double meaning and has two or more meanings. Nurjannah (2022) "ambiguity is a word that has a double meaning". Since it has a double meaning, an ambiguous sentence, word, or phrase can be confusing. According to Ladini & Heryono (2022) "An ambiguous word/sentence is a sentence that has many possible meanings, and a word,

sentence, or phrase will be ambiguous if it has more than one meaning". And According to Trismantono (2018) ambiguity in communication is vagueness that occurs as a result of words, word combinations, or sentences that cause ambiguity in communication. Ambiguity occurs in many languages, not only in English. According to Lyons (1996), ambiguity is the universally proven fact that many acceptable utterances from English or other languages can be interpreted in two or more different ways. The statement shows that ambiguity can occur in many languages. That is, every language has the According to Kreidler (2002:298) "ambiguity is the condition whereby any linguistics form has two or more interpretations". The explanation can be interpreted that ambiguity is a condition in which any linguistics has two or more meanings or interpretations. This shows that ambiguity can be influenced by how the context of meaning is given and creates a separate meaning. This tells that ambiguity can be influenced by how the context meaning is given and makes a meaning of its own. According to Suwandi, S. (2011) Contextual meaning is the meaning that arises as a result of the relationship between the utterance and the situation when the utterance is used. So in this case the context corresponds to the situation, including the place, time and even the environment in which the language is used. The statement shows that ambiguity can occur in many languages. That is, every language has the opportunity for ambiguity. Ambiguity can occur due to several factors. Kreidler's (2002) book entitled "Introducing English Semantics" divides it into 3 types, namely lexical ambiguity, referential ambiguity, and structural ambiguity. According to Kreidler (2002:55) "When homonyms can occur in the same position

in utterances”, Lexical ambiguity is when words or phrases in a statement or speech have many interpretations. There are two types of lexical ambiguity: polysemy and homonymy. The lexical differences between the two lexemes determine this. According to Kreidler (2002), lexical ambiguity can happen when a writer or speaker used a word that has two or more meanings, such as a homonym or polysemy. Since has two or more meanings that people can interpret in different ways, it can lead to ambiguity. As an illustration, the term "ball" can refer to a formal celebration or be used as a noun for games. One common type of lexical ambiguity is homonymy. Homonymy arises when two or more words have the same pronunciation or spelling but different meanings. These words are called homonyms. Homonymy can be further divided into two subtypes: homophones and homographs.

Ambiguity occurs because it is difficult for listeners or readers to capture the same understanding, each person who hears or reads must have a different view or interpretation of the message they get. Lexical ambiguity according to Wiyanto, M. S. (2022) is ambiguity that results from a word's meaning as opposed to its structure. This is a collection of words that, like a speech or conversation, can have several interpretations because each word has several lexical meanings. Lexical ambiguity arises not from the structure of the term but from its meaning. "The ambiguity resulting from words is lexical ambiguity," according to Husford, J. a. (2007:135). In addition to the lexical ambiguity, it also presumes polysemy and the presence of homonyms in the pronunciation. Furthermore, "Lexical ambiguity occurs when words or phrases have multiple meanings in a sentence or speech," according to

Kreidler (2002:55). There are two types of lexical ambiguity that can be found in words or phrases. These are referred to as homonymy or polysemy.

Words with similar pronunciation and spelling but distinct meanings are called homonymy. The meanings of words that are homonymy are unrelated to one another, in contrast to polysemy. For instance, the term "book" can refer to "a printed text with multiple pages" or "a reservation (a place, lodging, etc.)." Homonyms are spelling and pronunciations that are the same but have different meanings, according to Kreidler (2002:52). It can be found in other pairs that have different spellings but the same pronunciation. Cases of homonymy can happen by accident or just by thinking. English thus has two homographs as well. The two words in this pair of homographs are spelled the same but have different pronunciations. A number of senses are connected to homonymy and polysemy in pronunciation. Polysemy arises when the meanings of words are interrelated, whereas homonyms differ.

Polysemy is where a single word or phrase has multiple related meanings or senses. This means that a word can have several different but related interpretations or connotations based on the context in which it is used. According to Chaer (2013:101), polysemy is a linguistic device that occurs in both words and phrases and has multiple meanings or double meanings. The word "polysemy" has several distinct meanings. Lyons (1996) defines polysemy as the use of a single lexeme to have multiple meanings. Put differently, there is a connected meaning for the lexeme polysemy. One word that has a similar meaning is "head." Regarding an individual's head, business head, charger head, and so forth Kreidler (2002:52). In a different sense, the word

"head" is regarded as having multiple meanings and is synonymous with polysemy. To be connected in multiple ways, native speakers need to experience a range of senses (Cruse, 2006:133).

This phenomenon of ambiguity can be found in our daily lives. According to Dermawan, D. T. (2019:1) "This ambiguity occurs in written or spoken language, but the difference between written and spoken language is that written language tends to be difficult to avoid, such as newspapers, magazines, and articles on the internet." every day, we are sure to hear and see updated information or news from all fields, whether from political news, disasters, gossip, and others. Since we know the content of the news, of course, we'll read the headline. From the headline, we will be interested in reading the news. There are so many media that can provide us with news, one of which is CNN World News. CNN is an international news media, which can provide news from all over the world. CNN is a US Cable News channel, founded in 1980 by an American media conglomerate. CNN World presents the latest news from all over the World. CNN World provides very accurate results and trusted news. But, every headline on the news, many headlines contains ambiguity. Why is that, because everyone who reads will have a different interpretation. In this study, researchers will discuss types of lexical ambiguity. In addition, researchers will also discuss the meaning of lexical ambiguity in CNN news headlines.

Based on introduction, the problem can be identified as follows:

1. What are the types of lexical ambiguity in CNN news headlines?
2. What are the meanings of lexical ambiguity in CNN news headlines?

B.METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative research. This method focuses on collecting and analyzing data that is descriptive and unstructured. This method is used by providing descriptions of the meanings and different types of lexical ambiguity that can be found in the data in News Headlines of CNN World. The descriptive analysis method is a method that explains something systematically by classifying, analyzing, and explaining the data obtained based on theories (Simatupang, Adzani (2019:125). The main goal is to understand a phenomenon. This research was conducted to find the phenomenon of ambiguity in CNN news headlines in the form of words. In collecting data, the author used a note-taking technique and non-participant observation technique.

C.RESULT AND DISCUSSION

RESULT

In this research on lexical ambiguity, the author provides findings that have previously been reviewed with several theories, according to Kreidler 2002 and Lyons 1996. The results will be analyzed in the form of types of lexical ambiguity, namely homonymy and polysemy and also the contextual meaning in the word contained in the News headline CNN World publish in 2023.

DISCUSSION

Homonymy

Data 1

China beats its own record for hot days over six months. (Published on CNN, July 03, 2023.)

The word beats in the data one is identified as a lexical ambiguity. Since the word beats has a similar sound but a different meaning, it is classified as a homonym. There are multiple meanings

associated with the word beats. The first, have meaning to defeat a competitor, or to do or be better than someone or something. The second has a meaning to make a rhythmic sound or movement or to hit something in rhythm to make a sound. The word beats has more than one interpretation. There are multiple ways to interpret the word beats. In its first sense, the word beats means to defeat a competitor; in its second sense, it means something that beats in time to produce a particular sound. The word "beats" in the headline above has an ambiguous meaning because of the context, which alters its meaning from its literal meaning even though its phonological meaning is the same.

The meaning of the contextual meaning in the data is situation, the word beats means to defeat a competitor. In the content of the news wrote Beijing's temperature soared above 41 degrees Celsius (105.8 degrees Fahrenheit), setting a new record for the capital's hottest day in June. From the content of the news provides information that China (Beijing) set a record by having the highest temperature in June. Based on the context of the news content, it can be interpreted that the word beats has the meaning of defeat competitor. The word beats is interpreted as China beats (defeat) its own record for hot days for six months.

Data 2

Taliban compounds misery for women in Afghanistan with order to close all beauty salons. (Published on CNN July 05, 2023.)

The word order in data 2 is identified as a lexical ambiguity. The word order is classified as homonymy since the word order has a phonological similarity in sound but is different in

meaning. The first meanings is a request to make, supply, or deliver food or goods (request), and the second meanings is the way in which people or things are arranged, either in relation to one another or according to a particular characteristic (arrangement). The word order in the first meaning refers to asking for food or goods, while in the second meaning, it refers to arrangement. The word order in the headline above has an ambiguous meaning since the meaning is different from the literal meaning even the phonological meaning is the same, but it has different meaning because of the context.

The meaning of the contextual meaning in the data is situation, the word order means to arrange. In the content, the news wrote that Taliban is restricting women in Afghanistan access to education and employment and their ability to move freely in society. The impending closure of beauty salons further diminishes the freedom of women and delivers a harsh economic. Therefore, the word order is interpreted as the Taliban added to the misery of women in Afghanistan with an order (arrangement) to close all beauty salons. The meaning is different but the same in phonological

Data 3

Women made to strip in Kenyan cheese factory over sanitary towel in bin. (published on July 07, 2023)

The word strip in data 3 is identified as a lexical ambiguity. The word strip is classified as homonymy since the word strips has a phonological similarity in sound but is different in meaning. The first meaning is to remove your clothes, or to remove the clothes of someone else, and the second meanings is a long, flat, narrow piece. The word strip in the first meaning refers remove clothes, while in the second meaning, it refers to

flat. The word strip in the headline above has an ambiguous meaning since the meaning is different from the literal meaning even the phonological meaning is the same, but it has different meaning because of the context.

The meaning of the contextual meaning in the data is situation, the word strip means to remove clothes. In the content, the news wrote that the manager allegedly went out and gathered all the women from that particular team and literally asked them to undress. Orwoba said that when the manager first asked who the towel belonged to nobody replied, and so they ordered them to strip so that the person responsible could be “punished”. Therefore, the word strip is interpreted as a woman was made to remove their clothes in a Kenyan cheese factory on a sanitary towel in a trash can. The meaning is different but the same in phonological. To get the main message, the reader must read the whole article. It's to avoid misunderstandings.

Data 4

Iran's President Raisi embarks on Africa tour to boost trade in face of crippling US sanctions. (Published on July 12, 2023)

The word face in data 4 is identified as a lexical ambiguity. The word face is classified as homonymy since the word face has a phonological similarity in sound but is different in meaning. The first meaning is the name of human body parts, and the second meaning is to deal with something such as problem. The word face in the headline above has an ambiguous meaning since the meaning is different from the literal meaning even the phonological meaning is the same, but it has different meaning because of the context.

The meaning of the contextual

meaning in the data is situation, the word face means to deal with. In the content, the news wrote Raisi's African trip, which will also take him to Uganda and Zimbabwe, is the first by an Iranian president in more than a decade and an attempt to diversify economic ties in the face of crippling US sanctions. Therefore, the word face in the headline is interpreted as Iranian President Raisi embarks on an African tour to increase trade in to deal with crippling US sanctions. The meaning is different but the same in phonological. To get the main message, the reader must read the whole article. It's to avoid misunderstandings.

Polysemy

Data 5

People find us easy target: Women politicians face a torrent of online abuse but say they won't stop their work. (Published on CNN, May 25, 2023.)

The word abuse in the data 5 is classified as polysemy since it has multiple meanings. The word abuse has more than one related meaning, but these meanings have a semantic relationship that is closely related to each other. The word abuse is defined as to use something for the wrong purpose in a harmful or morally wrong way and it has another meaning as well: to treat or speak to someone cruelly or violently. The word abuse in the headline above has an ambiguous meaning since has a different meaning but is still related to each other. The meaning of the word abuse is the same as having a negative thing.

The word abuse has more than one meaning, but these meanings are still related, the word abuse both means violence or an action that is bad, either verbally or non-verbally. The meaning of the contextual meaning in the data is situation, the word abuse means to

harassment of women verbally through cyberspace. In the content, the news wrote one of Uganda's main opposition parties, says that the harassment she gets on social media and messaging platforms is worse when she advocates for gender equality. Therefore, the word abuse is interpreted as harassment experienced by female politicians who face online harassment, but they will not stop in their work. These meanings are different in other contexts but have interrelated meanings.

Data 6

Kim Kardashian says she'll fight for her daughter's ability to be 'creative' on social media. (Published on CNN, June 22, 2023.)

The word fight in the data is classified as a polysemy since it has more than one meaning but still has a meaning related. Polysemy occurs when the meanings of the words have a close semantic relationship. The word fight is defined as using physical force to try to defeat another person or group of people. And the word fight has another meaning which is to use a lot of effort to defeat or achieve something. The word abuse in the headline above has an ambiguous meaning since has a different meaning but is still related to each other. The meaning of the word abuse is the same as having a negative thing.

The word fight has more than one meaning, but these meanings are still related. The meaning of the contextual meaning in the data is situation. In the content, the news wrote that Kardashian said: As the parent, who is the main provider and caregiver for our children, I am doing my best to protect our daughter while also allowing her to express her creativity in the medium that she wishes with adult supervision. The word fight in

the headline has the meaning of a struggle or an effort to achieve something. In this context Kardashian's always makes an effort to train and educate her daughters to be creative in using social media. Although it has the same literal meaning or purpose, but the context in the headline does not mean the meaning of a physical fight or what we know is a fight. But the word fight in the headline means Kim Kardashian will struggle to make her daughter creative on social media. The meaning of fight is related but has a different context.

D.CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study, based on Kreidler's theory of lexical ambiguity, uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze CNN World headlines from 2023. The research identified and classified instances of lexical ambiguity, focusing mainly on homonymy and polysemy. The findings revealed that of the six headlines analyzed, four instances (60%) were classified as homonyms, while two instances (40%) were categorized as polysemy. The most common form was homonymy in the selected headlines, indicating a dominant form of lexical ambiguity. Dominant homonymy indicates the potential for multiple interpretations based on identical linguistic forms, thus affecting readers' understanding of the news. Contextual meaning emerged as an important factor in eliminating this lexical ambiguity, underscoring the role of context in shaping interpretations.

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