

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains four sub-headings and those are background, research problem, aims of study, and significance of study.

1.1 Background

Language is a source of human life and power. All humans beings need language to communicate to each other. Communication is built up by human beings to express their ideas, feelings, emotion and intentions and desires by means of sound symbols. This means sound symbols had been hereditary by the forefather of those human beings. Wardhaugh in Srijono (2001:1) stated that “language as a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication”. As a system, language differs from one to another. Francis (1958:13) stated that, “language is an arbitrary system of articulated sounds made use of people as means of carrying on the affairs in the society.” Considering the assumption above, it can be stated that language is important for human beings and for the process of speaking that occurs in communication among people.

Chomsky in Sudaryat (2009:5) says “Semantics is one component of grammar. In addition, there are syntactic and phonological components, semantics studies can also be used for distinguishing future analysis techniques distinctive features. The ability to interpret the meaning of a word or sentence is not easy, one must be able to understand the meaning and purpose of the written text. This ability

will be realized if the understanding in order to understand of the theory of meaning that a language user has is adequate and sufficient. Semantic studies also investigate a person's level of understanding in order to understand the meaning and the text be able to conclude the real meaning in the text, both in the form of analysis that will be investigated and understood by humans. Kambartel in Pateda, (2010:7) states "Semantics is a language consisting of structures that reveal meaning when the meaning is associated with objects in human experience". Meaning is the link that exists between the elements of the language itself, especially in semantic words.

Palmer in Djajasudarma (2009:7) says "Meaning is something that concerns intra-language". Meaning as a liaison of language to the outside world in accordance with the agreement of the users so that they can understand. Meaning has three levels of existence, namely meaning being the content of a linguistic form, meaning being the content of a language, and meaning being the content of communication capable of producing certain information.

According to Sudaryat (2008), homonyms are words whose shape or sound is the same or similar to other objects but has a different meaning. Parera (2004) suggested that homonyms are two utterances in the form of words that have the same pronunciation and or spelling and writing. Meanwhile, Putrayasa (2010) suggested the homonyms are two or more words that have the same shape, but have different meanings. Thus, the form of homonyms can be distinguished based on the pronunciation and based on the writing.

According to Verhaar in Pateda (2001), homonyms are expressions (words or phrases or sentences) whose shape is the same as another expression, but with different meanings between the two expressions. In other words, the shape in the same (even in BI the writing is the same, the pronunciation is the same). But the meaning is different. Djajasudarma (1999) says that homonym is a relationship of meaning and form when two or more meanings are expressed in the same form. This is also expressed by Chaer (2007) that homonyms are two words or units of speech that are related to each other the form “coincidentally” is the same: the meaning is of course different because is a different word or form of speech. Based on some of the opinions above, it can be concluded that homonyms are expressions (words or sentences) that have the same form but have different meanings.

Wewewa Language is an Austronesia language spoken by the Wewewa tribe in southwest Sumba. Wewewa language is a vocalization language and the majority language found in Indonesia, Southwest Sumba Regency. It is said to be a vocalization language, because Wewewa language do not recognize consonants at the end of words. And it is said to be a vocalization language because of the eleven sub-districts in Southwest Sumba, seven of them use English authority. Wewewa language as one of the regional languages in Indonesia has a function: and a very important role in social activities. As for the very functions prominent, namely the social function and cultural function. In social functions Wewewa language is used as

a means of communication between citizens in activities related to social activities such as social language in everyday life.

Based on the explanation the writer would say the homonyms in Wewewa language, if a word stand alone, it will become ambiguous. But if those words are in the sentence, we can know the meaning of that word. So, in order to comprehend and know more about homonyms, the writer as a native speaker of Wewewa language is interested to conduct a research under the title, “**A Descriptive Study on Homonyms in Wewewa Language (A Language Spoken By Wewewa Society in Southwest Sumba Regency)**”.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background above the problems to answer in this study are:

1. What are the types of homonyms in Wewewa language (a language spoken by Wewewa society in southwest Sumba regency)?
2. What are the meaning of homonyms found in Wewewa language (a language spoken by Wewewa society in southwest Sumba regency)?

1.3 Aims of Study

The aims of study in the case means purpose and the advantage of a research. Based on the research problem above, the aims of this research are:

1. To find out the types of homonyms in Wewewa language (a language spoken by Wewewa society in southwest Sumba regency).
2. To find out and the meaning of homonyms in Wewewa language (a language spoken by Wewewa society in southwest Sumba regency).

1.4 Significance of Study

The significance of this study are as follows:

1.4.1 Implication

This study is expected to support the theory by Ameer (2010:3-6) he suggests that there are six types of homonyms. The types are follows: Complete (full, absolute), partial homonyms, word homonyms, homonyms of word forms, lexical homonyms, and grammatical homonyms.

1.4.2 Application

1. This study may help the writer to develop knowledge and skills in conducting scientific research related to language.
2. The result of this study is expected to give valuable information to readers about the Wewewa language.
3. The finding of this research will be useful as a supplementary material for those who are interested in investigation dealing with topic of homonyms.

4. The finding of this research will help readers to know about the homonyms in Wewewa language.
5. To help English students in Artha Wacana Christian University who want to know about homonyms in Wewewa language.