

The Analysis of Ambiguity in Rachel Lippincott's Novel "Five Feet Apart"

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ABSTRACT

This study deals with the analysis of Ambiguity in Rachel Lippincott's Novel "Five Feet Apart". The objectives of this research are to find out the lexical and syntactical ambiguities found in Rachel Lippincott's Novel "Five Feet Apart", to find out the most dominant causal factors of ambiguities appeared in Rachel Lippincott's Novel "Five Feet Apart", and to describe how the lexical and syntactic ambiguities appeared in Rachel Lippincott's Novel "Five Feet Apart". Descriptive qualitative method was used in this study. The data of this study were taken from Rachel Lippincott's Novel "Five Feet Apart". There are seven types of lexical ambiguity appeared in the novel. They are Polysemy, Homonymy, Synonym, Hyponymy, Antonym, Redundancy, and Part of speech. Meanwhile there are six types of syntactical ambiguity. They are Personal pronoun, Adjective, Noun, Preposition, Verb and Adverb. Redundancy ambiguity is the most dominant lexical ambiguity and personal pronoun is the most dominant syntactical ambiguity used in this novel. There are two ways how the writer used lexical ambiguity in Rachel Lippincott's Novel "Five Feet Apart". First, the writer repeated the words to insist the readers that everything is the same. Second, the writer made sure the readers what the writer described. In syntactical ambiguity, the researcher found that in Rachel Lippincott's Novel "Five Feet Apart", the writer often missed the subject pronoun in the novel

Keyword: Semantic, lexical ambiguity, syntactical ambiguity, and Novel

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1. INTRODUCTION

As a means of communication, both printed and electronic media hold an important role to the development of language. They become a source for people to get factual information or news, whether national or international news because nowadays printed and electronic media are more global. As an international language, English also holds an important role in the development of globalization that is as a means of communication in business, politic, science and technology.

We can learn about meaning in semantic. A part of linguistics refers to the study of meaning, changes in a sense, and the relationship between sentences or words and their definitions called semantics. Zimmermann and Sternefeld (2013: 1) stated that the subject of semantics is the systematic study of the meaning of linguistic expressions like morphemes, words, phrases, sentences, or even texts.

Generally, people try to communicate perfectly and completely. They want to give information as many as they can to the other. What people try to do is also conducted by the media, especially printed media. One of the printed media used by people is novel in book form.

There are many sentences in written article or texts such as letters, novels, books, newspapers and short stories that are potentially ambiguous and caused the readers confused in determining the message. Even there are some of the readers who interpret the wrong message of those ambiguous sentences. It is important for the readers to know the way in resolving the ambiguous sentences because it can help them in determining the actual meaning of the sentences.

Humans understand utterances automatically, immediately, effortlessly, and without explicitly thinking about meaning or about what they are doing when understanding language. Rarely are we forced to consciously reflect on meaning in a systematic way; sometimes such a situation arises when we are concerned with the “interpretation” of literary texts e.g., poems, lyrics or novel. Barnet et al (2008: 1590) describes a novel as a long work of prose fiction, especially one that is relatively realistic.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study was conducted at the library Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara in December 2022.

The source of data was taken from the script of Rachel Lippincott’s novel with the title “Five Feet Apart”. Data are the sentences from the novel which consisted of ambiguity in the sentence.

Ary (2015: 53). A qualitative method was used in this research which means a qualitative problem statement or question indicates the general purpose of the study. Formulation of a qualitative problem begins with the identification of a general topic or an area we want to know more about.

To analyze the ambiguous sentences in Rachel Lippincott’s Novel “Five Feet Apart”, the writer applied descriptive qualitative research. At this point, this study used a theory proposed by Kroeger (2018). The writer only needs to describe the data based on the problem statements and find out the result of the problem statements.

The data were collected from Rachel Lippincott’s Novel “Five Feet Apart”. In this case the data are the whole story of the novel that consists of 215 pages in 31 chapters. For the data collection technique, the researcher used a document technique as Ary (2010: 442) explains that document analysis can be of written or text-based artifacts (textbooks, novels, journals, meeting minutes, logs, announcements, policy statements, newspapers, transcripts, birth certificates, marriage records, budgets, letters, e-mail, messages etc.) or of non written records (photographs, audiotapes, videotapes, computer images, websites, musical performances, televised political speeches, YouTube videos, virtual world settings, etc.).

After collecting the data, the data were analyzed through some steps; identifying sentences consisting two types of ambiguity. They are lexical ambiguity and syntactical ambiguity. From the result of the data that had been composed, there were functional word that contained level types of function word found on the Speech by Anthony Lake’s where the conjunction excessively showed until this functional word was dominated by other types and there was clause that contained level types of clauses found on the Speech by Anthony Lake’s where the independent clause excessively showed until this clause was dominated by other types.

1. Classifying the words and phrases in lexical ambiguity. They are Polysemy and Homonymy
2. Classifying the words or phrases in syntactical ambiguity. They are Noun, Pronoun, Verb, Adjective, and Adverb

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data of this study were collected from the script of the novel “Five Feet Apart” written by Rachael Lippincott together with Tobias Iaconis, and Mikky Duaghtry. It was published by Simon & Schuster Books. It was analyzed into lexical ambiguity and syntactical ambiguity. In this case the data are the whole story of the novel that consists of 215 pages in 31 chapters. The data were analyzed by using the theory of Kroeger (2018) about lexical and syntactical ambiguity. The writer analyzed the types of lexical ambiguity that can answer the formulation of the problem. They are; what types of ambiguous sentence found in Rachel Lippincott’s Novel “Five Feet Apart”, to find out the most dominant causal factors of ambiguities appeared in Rachel Lippincott, and to describe how the lexical and syntactic ambiguities appeared in the novel.

From the result of the data that had been composed, there were 21 lexical ambiguities; 17 for polysemy and 4 for homonymy. Meanwhile there were 46 syntactical ambiguous occurred in this study. There were 24 personal pronouns, 2 nouns, 2 adjectives, 13 verbs, 2 prepositions, and 3 adverbs.

**Table 4.1. The Percentage of Lexical Ambiguity in the Novel
“Five Feet Apart” Written by Rachael Lippincott.**

NO	Types of Lexical Ambiguity	Total	Percentage
1	Polysemy	17	80,95%
2	Homonymy	4	19,05%
	Total	21	

Table 4.1 above shows that from 67 data on the novel of Rachel Lippincott, there are 21 lexical ambiguities found on the novel “Five Feet Apart” written by Rachel Lippincott. Polysemy 17 (80,95%) and Homonymy 4 (19,05%)

**Table 4.2. The percentage of Syntactical Ambiguity in the Novel
“Five Feet Apart” Written by Rachael Lippincott**

NO	Types of Syntactical Ambiguity	Total	Percentage
	Personal Pronoun	24	52,17%
	Noun	2	04,35%
	Adjective	2	04,35%
	Verb	13	28,26%
	Preposition	2	04,35%
	Adverb	3	06,52%
	Total	46	100%

Table 4.2 above shows that from 67 data on the novel of Rachel Lippincott, there are 46 syntactical ambiguities found on the novel “Five Feet Apart” written by Rachel Lippincott. Personal Pronoun 24 (52,17%), Noun 2 (04,35%), Adjective 2 (04,35%), Verb 13 (28,26%), Preposition 2 (04,35%), Adverb 3 (06,52%) From the data above, it can be concluded that the most dominant type of ambiguity is Syntactical ambiguity.

The data of this research were taken from the script of novel “Five Feet Apart” by Rachel Lippincott. It was analyzed from sentences in the novel. The sentences contained the ambiguous sentences, focused on lexical and syntactical ambiguity. There were two types of lexical ambiguity found in the novel, namely polysemy and homonymy. There were 6 types of syntactical ambiguity found in the novel by Rachel Lippincott, namely personal pronoun, noun, adjective, verb, preposition, and adverb.

4. CONCLUSION

Having analyzed the data, conclusions can be drawn as in the following.1. There were two types of lexical ambiguity in the novel Rachel Lippincott namely polysemy and homonymy. The most dominant type of lexical ambiguity found in the novel written by Rachel Lippincott was 17 (80.95%) polysemy, and followed by the homonymy was 4 (19,05%). The most dominant type of syntactical ambiguity found in the novel was 24 (52,17%) personal pronoun, followed by 13 (28,26%) verbs, 3 (06,25%), adverbs, 2 (04,35%) noun, 2 (04,35%) adjective, 2 (04,35%) preposition.

The writer found that there are two ways how the writer used lexical ambiguity in Rachel Lippincott’s Novel “Five Feet Apart”. First, the writer repeated the words to insist the readers that everything is the same. Second, the writer made sure the readers what the writer described. Meanwhile, in syntactical ambiguity, the researcher found that in Rachel Lippincott’s Novel “Five Feet Apart”, the writer often missed the subject pronoun in the novel.

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