

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Homonymous words are words that are spelled and pronounced exactly in the same way, but have different meanings, such as the word *bank* in *He got a loan from the bank* and *He is walking along the bank of the river*. The word *bank* may mean (a) an organization that provides various financial services, for example: keeping or lending money, and (b) the side of river, canal, and the land near it. Further, homonymous words can be classified into two kinds namely, homophones and homographs.

The words of homophones are several words, which are the same in pronunciation but they are different in spelling and meanings. While, the words of homographs are words that are the same in spelling but different in pronunciation and meanings. In line with this statement, Lyons in *Language and Linguistics*, states that:

Many-to-one correspondence, of this kind, between written and spoken forms is traditionally described as **homophony** ("sameness of sound"). Example; *rode* and *road*, *father* and *farther*, *court* and *caught*, in the so-called Received Pronunciation (RP) of British English.

The converse of homophony, to which less attention was given by traditional grammarians, is **homograph** ("sameness of spelling"). Example: the homographs *import* / im'pɔ:t/ and *import* /'impɔ:t/, whose spoken correlates differ in respect of the position of the word-stress.

It is because there are in English and in many other languages with a conservative spelling-system both homophones that are not

homographs, on the one hand, and homographs that are not homophones, on the other hand, that homophony and homographs force themselves upon our attention in the description of such languages. But, as we shall see later, there may be grammatical or semantic reasons for distinguishing forms that are identical in both the phonic and the graphic medium.

Example: *found* (the past-tense form of 'find') and *found* (one of the present-tense forms of 'found') are both homophones and homographs; the words of which they are forms, 'find' and 'found' are (partial) **homonyms**. (1984: 71-72)

The quotation above clarifies that homophony refers to the sameness of sound, homograph refers to the sameness of spelling, and homonymy refers to the sameness both of sound and of spelling.

Several homonymous words found in the *Time Magazine* exemplify the discussion as the following:

1. (A). "As any fire fighter or *rock* climber can tell you, a simple rope can save your life-as long as it doesn't fray or break without warning." (Time, Nov 28,2005:58)

(B). "Isn't it a bit odd to stage a *rock* concert around what's essentially a police meeting? (Time, June 27,2005:59)
2. (A). "There is a degree of freedom of speech *here* today via the Internet." (Time, Aug 01,2005:8)

(B). "Those Chinese want the government to *hear* their voices and act to promote a democratic system that will protect their property rights." (Time, Aug 01,2005:8)
3. (A). "In instant, without warning, the *present* had become the unthinkable future." (Time, Aug 01,2005: 31)

(B). "Each day King would present his guests with a schedule of tasks.

(Time, Nov 28,2005:25)

The word *rock* in the sentences (1) is homonymy. The word *rock* in the sentence (A) and (B) are the same in pronunciation and spellings namely /rɒk:/ as the pronounced, and r-o-c-k as the spelling. But their meanings are different. The meaning of the word (A) is "*the hard solid material that forms part of the surface of the earth and some other Planets*", while that of the word (B) is "*a type of loud modern music with a strong beat played on electric guitars and drums.*" Meanwhile, the words *here* and *hear* in the sentence (2) are homophones. They are same in pronunciation, namely /hiə(r)/. But, both of them are different in spelling. The word in the sentence (A) is spelled h-e-r-e, while the word in the sentence (B) is spelled h-e-a-r. They also have a difference in meaning. The meaning of the word *here* in the sentence (A) is "*the reference of place (in, or to this place)*", while that of the word *hear* in the sentence (B) is "*to perceive sounds with the ears.*" And the word *present* in the sentences (3) is homograph. They are same in spelling, namely p-r-e-s-e-n-t, but they have the different in pronounced and meanings. The pronounced of the word *present* in the sentence (A) is /'preznt/ while that of the sentence (B) is /pri'zent/ and the meaning of the word *present* in the sentence (A) is "*the opposite of absent or being in that place*", while that in the sentence (B) is "*a gift*".

Due to the phenomenon above, the researcher feels challenged to investigate the use of homonymous words in the *Time* magazine.

1.2 The Reason of Choosing the Topic

The study on the use of homonymous words in the *Time Magazine* is chosen as the topic of the discussion in this research because the topic bears great problems for learners of English to comprehend. That is why; the researcher is quite interested in doing a research on these problems. Besides that, the students of Widya Mandala University so far never discuss the use of homonymous words as the topic of their research. Therefore, the research on the topic is considered relevant in order to get the alternative solution on these problems.

1.3 The Statement of the Problem

In relation to the use of homonymous words in the *Time magazine*, three problems are formulated as the following:

1. What homonymous words are found in the *Time magazine*?
2. What kinds of homonymy do they belong to?
3. What are the meanings of those homonymous words?

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

In line with the statement of the problems, this research tries to answer the three questions as stated above, namely:

1. To seek homonymous words used in the *Time magazine*.
2. To clarify the kinds of homonymy they belong to.
3. To reveal the meanings of those homonymous words.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

In fact, there are many aspects that can be discussed in semantics, especially lexical relations such as *synonymy*, *polisemy*, *hyponymy*, *antonymy* and *homonymy*. But this research discusses only homonymy. Homonymy is intended as the similar words that have the similarity in written forms but have different meanings. Homonymy intended here includes homophones and homographs. In this research, the discussion is concerned with homonymy, homophones and homographs. Homophones means two or more words are similar in pronunciation, but different in spelling and meaning; while homograph means two or more words are similar in writing, but different in pronunciation and meaning.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

Generally, the researcher hopes that this research will give valuable information about the use of homonymous words to the readers, especially the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala University. Theoretically, this research can help the readers to develop or increase their abilities in semantics, that is homonymy. Practically, the result of the research can stimulate other researchers to do further research on the same topic.

1.7 The Meaning of Key Terms

1. Semantics is the study of meaning in language (Huford and Heasley, 1983:1).
2. Meanings are ideas or concepts, which can be transferred from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the hearer by embodying them, as it were, in the forms of one language or another (Lyons, 1984:136).
3. Homonym is a word that is spelt and pronounced like another word but which has a different meaning (Hornby, 2000:651).
Homophones are two or more word forms that are pronounced the same, but have different spellings and meanings (Kennedy, 2003:68).
Homographs are pairs of words that have the same written form but different pronunciations and meanings (Kennedy, 2003:68).
4. Word is a single unit of language, which means something and can be spoken and written (Hornby, 2000:1551).