CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

As ambiguities clearly exist around us, both in oral and written texts, I am certain that ambiguity cannot be avoided easily. Ambiguities happen not only when we are having a conversation which can cause misinterpretation between the speaker and the hearer, but also when we write a text. We can find ambiguity in people's speech or in newspapers, magazines, and any other texts. Whether we realize it or not, there is always something ambiguous happening almost every day in our daily life.

Generally discussing ambiguities is not only interesting but also necessary. What is more, ambiguity is quite popular and known by a lot of people. Ambiguity is considered as something interesting because it often causes misinterpretation among the people because talking about ambiguity is also talking about the meaning of something. Furthermore, it becomes necessary when in the end people want to know what the ambiguous parts actually meant. Talking about ambiguities is like exploring something that is not easy to be resolved. This is so because ambiguity, like the other linguistic aspects, has its own part

39

to be discussed. Many linguists have their own understanding of what ambiguity is about and they also have different views in analyzing the ambiguity.

In the newspaper <u>The Sun</u> it is not easy to find out what the journalists intend to say in their writings. Sometimes the readers have to be smart to catch the intended meaning of the articles. It is interesting to notice that an ambiguity may also occur in the title of an article.

In my research I find two data of ambiguity which comes from the title, namely <u>Sister Dies After Lad in Egypt</u> and <u>Fall Girl Lives, Thanks to Aston</u>. In my opinion, this might happen because of two things. Firstly, the writer wants to make the title sound unique so that the readers are eager to read it. Secondly, writing the title is usually limited by space. The writer has to make the title as short as possible but still looks unique so that people will be attracted to read it.

Having analyzed the data, I find out that all the three types of ambiguity which have been discussed in the previous chapter are found. As mentioned in chapter two according to Charles W. Kreidler, there are three types of ambiguity. They are lexical, referential, and syntactic ambiguity. Each type of ambiguity is divided into other sub-categories. However, there are only several structures that are suitable with the data I have found. For further research, I suggest that for those who have great interest in analyzing ambiguities can find more variable data which contain more various types of ambiguities that I have not discussed in this thesis.

The first type of ambiguity that I found is lexical ambiguity. There are two types of lexical ambiguity, namely those caused by homonyms and by figurative

sense and literal sense. However, in this research I only find ambiguities caused by homonymous words. When searching the data, I find that there are quite a lot of ambiguities that are caused by homonyms. Nevertheless, in this research I take two data as the representatives. Meanwhile, in this thesis there is no data which involves ambiguity caused by figurative sense and literal sense because in fact there are very few idioms that can be interpreted both figuratively and literally so that they may cause an ambiguity.

The next type of ambiguity that I find is referential ambiguity. Referential ambiguity has four structures. From those four, anaphora, or also known as unclear pronouns, is the most dominant factor causing the ambiguities. From all the data I have got, there are six data which can be analyzed through this structure. However, I do not find any data in the articles which contain the other three structures of referential ambiguity. Although not all structures of this type can be found in the data, referential ambiguity is the most dominant type of ambiguity which is often found in The Sun articles.

The last type of ambiguity is syntactic ambiguity. Out of all those types of ambiguity, this type is the most difficult type of ambiguity to analyse. To make it worse, it is also difficult to find the right interpretation. Syntactic ambiguity is divided into three kinds of structures, they are surface ambiguity, deep structure ambiguity, and prepositional phrase attachment. In this research, there are only two data which belong to surface ambiguity and three data which belong to prepositional phrase attachment, while there is no data that can be analyzed through deep structure ambiguity. In my opinion this is something that is quite difficult to detect.

41

Sometimes, there is a case where an ambiguity can happen because the readers do not have enough background knowledge of something. For instance, when an article puts a brand name of a thing in it, some people who read the article may consider that the brand name must absolutely refer to a specific thing that they are familiar with. Thus, there will be no ambiguity. Yet, for some people the brand name of the thing will be ambiguous when they never hear about such a thing. As a result, ambiguity can actually be avoided if there is enough background knowledge which is owned by the readers.

In finding the real meaning of each possibility I analyze, reading the whole content of the article is certainly very helpful. It is because the content usually contains some information that can be used as clues to prove which of all the possibilities is the most suitable meaning. Analyzing ambiguity through the content is the best way to solve this ambiguity problem. However, in some cases, not all the contexts are explicitly stated to show us the actual meaning among all the possibilities meanings of the ambiguity. When this happens, it will not be easy for us to get right intended meaning. Yet, it can also be that the context needed is implicitly stated, which makes it rather difficult to detect the right intended meaning.

Number of words: 1009

Maranatha Christian University