

CHAPTER II

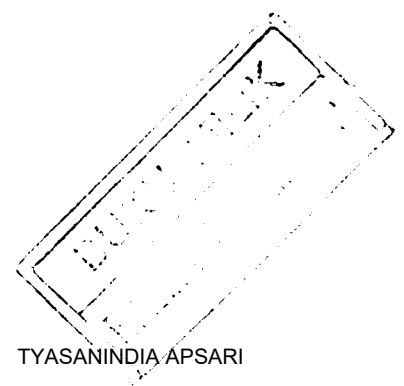
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The Newspaper

The word 'newspaper' seems to indicate a paper containing news and it is published everyday. The main purpose of a newspaper is to give the latest information and to convey news to the readers. That is why, Bradley (1971: 16) states that "newspaper is defined as a collection of information and enjoyment which may be published daily, weekly, biweekly, or monthly".

A newspaper is also read by a lot of people with different ages or professions. People assume that reading a newspaper is part of their necessities because they have the curiosity to know what the newest things 'today' are. Thomas and Robinson (1982: 121) say that "newspaper has become indispensable in daily life, as it is a medium to convey one's opinion or to give any information to others". Therefore, what is found in newspaper is anything which happens 'today'. In fact, what is meant by the information here is a real story of human which happens in daily life. That is why it is always important for society to keep up with the latest information or news provided in newspaper.

As a printed media, newspaper can be read when it is convenient for the reader, but it is better if people read it at the time when it is published. This is because newspaper is a product that is different everyday and it is no longer of interest as soon as the next day's newspaper is printed (Bradley, 1971: 17).



2.1.1 The Content of Newspaper

In general, the contents and the parts of newspaper are nearly same. They discuss about politics, economics, social issues, cultures, education, science and technology, sports, crimes and entertainment. Furthermore, they give information about what is happening in their country, city, and local community (Bradley, 1971:26). The difference is on the variation of language they use to deliver the message in each newspaper. For instance, if newspaper A and B write about the same topic, they will use different way and opinion in delivering the message.

A newspaper supplies many kinds of information. It tells the reader not only what is happening in their local community and country, but even in other nations of the world. It may also includes advertisements like offering goods or services in special price, job vacancies, or even announcing lost dogs. That is why, Bradley (1971: 16) states that “the content of newspaper are really always important and interesting because they are a continuing history of human life”. Moreover, there are special pages or sections for special groups of readers in the newspaper. They can be a special section for news concerning women’s interests, sport events, or even a special page for regional news.

As usual, everything that appears in a newspaper should include both information that is significant and interesting to the great numbers of the readers. Obviously, it should give what is the best for the public. In this case, the contents of the newspaper must be new and timely. Everything must be different everyday and the news reported is the current information that has interest to the public.

2.1.2 The Language of Newspaper

Newspaper is read by a number of audiences. In this case, the language used in newspaper should be conventionally true and also simply understandable in order to avoid some misinterpretations on the mind of the readers. As Thomas and Robinson (1982:121) add, "The language used in newspaper should be standard language" because the main purpose of the writer is to guide the audience to understand the objective reality on which the story is all about. This statement is supported by Westley (1953: 88) who says that "the news should be written in simple words and simple sentences to make it easier to read", so that communication between the writer and the reader is expected to be attainable.

Westley (1953:54) also states that newspaper writing must convey meaning to an extremely diverse audience. It means that the language used in newspaper should be clear in its meaning at all levels of audience which the range is from the fringes of illiteracy to maximum reading competence. However, the sentences in newspaper including structure and vocabulary must be chosen in such a way in order to convey as much meaning as possible to the ordinary readers of marginal linguistic skills, while at the same time they are also to suit the needs of readers of culture and education. In the sense of clarity, people often relate it with the term understanding. According to Jones (1970:8), reporter has finished only half of his job if he merely writes a story that can not be understood.

The language used to write news in newspaper should be 'readable'. The news must be arranged in such a way that there will not be misinterpretation from the readers. McCombs and Becker (1978:8) argue that audience has the ability to

misperceive messages and can distort the message in various ways. In other words, what they understand can be quite different from what the message was designed to tell them. Therefore, it can be concluded that clarity becomes very important in choosing language in newspapers if so that the readers can really understand what the story is all about.

2.1.3 Writing News in The Newspaper

Actually, writing can be simply defined as an activity of expressing one's ideas or opinions on a paper. Furthermore, Rivers (1968:242) says that writing refers to the act of putting down the expression of ideas in a consecutive way according to the graphic convention of the language from something which has been spoken.

Writing for the newspaper is not simply connecting a sentence to another but it involves producing "a sequence of sentences arranged in a particular order and linked together in certain ways" (Byrne, 1980: 1). It means that writing contains a number of related sentences which form a meaning. In this case, organizing sentences carefully in order to make the meaning as explicit as possible is needed to write a good composition. It concerns the goal of any writer, that is to transfer his or her thought to the mind of other people via paper.

Moreover, the writer has to write in such a way that his ideas cannot be misunderstood or misinterpreted. It means he is supposed to create a context for his ideas and explain those ideas as clearly and precisely as possible in order to establish communication with the reader.

The news writing in a newspaper is actually different from writing for literature. News writing has to be factual, timely, limited by deadlines in gathering facts, interviewing and correcting. This condition is determined by the purposes of news writing, they are to present factual information quickly, to eliminate fiction of any kind, and to interest a mass audience of all ages and social-economic levels.

The person who is writing the news for a newspaper is reporting a fact. However, he cannot know how much information each audience member has about the story he is writing. On the other hand, he has the responsibility to convey information completely to the readers. In this case, the writer must tell the readers of the newspaper exactly what has happened, when it happened including the day, hour and month, and also who the people who are involved. In other words "a reporter must tell how it happened in details" Bradley (1971: 10).

News writing should also tell clearly and without errors about the conditions and happenings of the whole world. Moreover, when the writer writes and presents the information, he has to write clearly, so that the readers do not have unanswered question in their mind. In other words, the news writer is demanded to be able to communicate what he knows to other people and writing is regarded as a means to convey ideas from one mind to other.

Writing in newspaper, primarily, is a means for conveying information, ideas, beliefs, and impressions to others when the ideas are too complex to express orally, when face-to-face exchange is impossible, or when a more permanent form of communication is needed. Thus, writing will aid the writer in realizing

important communicative goals that would be impossible to be expressed in speech. Thus, it can be concluded that the main reason of newspaper writing, actually is to communicate, to convey ideas, information or impressions from one mind to the minds of the readers.

2.1.4 The Elements of Writing The News

In writing the news, the writer cannot only simply pour words into paper without giving the readers much thought beforehand, or he is concerned more with the displaying of vocabulary rather than communicating with the readers if he wants to be successful in communicating. In this case, Lorch (1984: 35) clarifies some elements which have to be concerned in writing news in a newspaper.

First is concise, meaning eliminate wordiness and tell the story as concise as possible without leaving out important information. In other words, the writer must write to the point and eschew the irrelevant, both in issues and in words.

Second is factual. The content of the news must be entirely based on the fact, and the writer must present an accurate and balanced view of an event. Moreover, all the relevant information must be true.

Third is balance. Referring to a complete story where the reporter presents both sides of issue, particularly if it is controversial. Thus, the content of the news must give proper emphasis to details and place them in proper relation to other facts.

Next is clarity. The news should be written using simple and precise words, so that the readers would understand properly without any

misinterpretation. The last is no opinion. Everything that is based on factual information is properly attributed to avoid the appearance of reporter opinion. Opinion belongs in editorial pieces, not in news stories, which should be free of bias and reported opinion.

Those five criteria of the ethics are applied in journalism. Moreover, Lucas as quoted by McMahan and Day (1984: 4) also clarifies the four basic principles in writing news: (a) Honesty. When one writes, he has to put down his own ideas based on the fact. (b) Clarity. When one writes, he needs to let the readers know at the outset what he is going to discuss and then discusses it. Then, he should not use the word which has many meanings which can puzzle the reader. (c) Brevity. The writer should not write needlessly long sentences, but short sentences. Then, he should write what he wants to write directly, so the reader can get the point easily. (d) Variety. As the writer, he should not use the same word for several times. It is necessary to be creative in varying the sentences to avoid the boredom of the readers.

Although there are some points to be considered in writing news in newspaper, the one that relates most directly to the goal of communication is clarity (McMahan and Day, 1984: 5). In addition, Newsom and Carell (1991: 92) also agree with that statement and point on that “the number one aim of writing style is clarity”.

According to Neufeld (1987: 15), speaking about clarity in writing, actually, is speaking of the kinds of words the writer uses to convey the message. Although it may sound wonderful to use large, uncommon words, if the audience

does not understand what the writer has written, it will be wasted. Therefore, be cautious about words that sound impressive but have vague meaning. In this case, as the writer, he needs to choose the words carefully in presenting the information in order to make the writing clear.

2.2 Semantics

As this study concerns meaning, it is important to know what semantics is. Basically, semantics is the branch of linguistics. It focuses on the study of meaning of the word, phrase, and sentence. The term of semantics itself has several definitions.

According to Lyons (1981: 136) “semantics can be defined as the study of meaning”. Yule (1996: 114) also adds that “semantics is the study of meaning of words, phrases, and sentences”. Moreover, Katz (1972: 1) states that “semantics concerns with what sentences and other linguistics object express, not with the arrangement of their syntactic parts or with their pronunciation”.

Furthermore, Katz (1872: 11) explains that “semantic theory is a theory that explains about the properties and relations of semantic which is focused on the semantic structure of natural language in general. That is why, semantic theory emerges to answer the basic question “what is meaning?”. The meaning of an expression is to which the expression refers. Thus, the expression will have meaning if it refers to something.

Practically, semantics can be divided into several kinds based on the ways in explaining the meaning. As according to Kempson (1977:11), there are three

main ways of semantics to explain the meaning in natural language, they are stated as follows:

1. Word Meaning/Lexical Semantics

It is taken as the construct in terms of which sentence meaning and communication can be explained. For example:

- What does *spinster* mean?

Spinster means *unmarried woman*.

2. Sentence Meaning

It is taken as basic, with words characterized in terms of the systematic contribution they make to sentence meaning. For instance:

- What does *James murdered Max* mean?

It means that someone called James deliberately killed someone called Max.

3. Communication Meaning/Speech Act Semantics

It means that both sentence and word meaning are explained in terms of the ways in which sentence and words are used in the fact of communication. For example:

A : Are you going to bed soon?

B : What do you mean?

A : I mean that the sooner you go to bed, the better. I'm tired.

However, from the three aspects of meaning, word meaning, sentence meaning, and communication meaning, the term ambiguity only focuses on the word meaning and sentence meaning.

2.3 Ambiguity

As stated by Katz (1972:5), ambiguity as one of the phenomena of language becomes in the study of semantics. Ambiguity can cause confusion and misunderstanding. Ambiguity sometimes appears only when the word is put in a sentence. It can have several meanings. This could be caused by the sentence itself that does not refer to anything because it is not put in the context. For instance, a sentence "Ivan is hot", can mean:

- (1) Ivan feels hot because of the weather.
- (2) Ivan is hot because of the food he is eating.

However, when that sentence is put in a context, it cannot be said the sentence is

ambiguous. For example:

- (1) "Now it is 40⁰ C". Ivan is hot". It means that Ivan feels hot because of the weather.
- (2) Ivan eats chili too much, Ivan is hot". It means that Ivan is hot because of chili.

The ambiguity of the word is resolved by the rest of the sentence that contains it and sometimes the ambiguity of a word infects the containing sentence (van Orman Quine, 1960: 129). In other words, the ambiguous word has many meaning and it can be understood through the sentence that contains and follows it.

According to Fromkin & Rodman (1993: 129) there are two kinds of ambiguity, and they are:

1. Structural ambiguity

It means an ambiguity which is caused by sentence construction. For example:

They are moving sidewalks. It could be analyzed as:

- Those things are sidewalks that move, or
- Those workers are relocating the sidewalks.

2. Lexical ambiguity

It is two or more meanings as the result of lexical ambiguity which is the alternative meanings of an individual lexical item. For example:

I found the *table* fascinating.

The word *table* can be interpreted in some ways:

- an object of furniture, or
- table of figures

However, ambiguity is often related with vagueness. According to Kempson (1977:124), sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between ambiguity and vagueness, but in semantic discussion, a distinction is drawn between “ambiguity” and “vagueness”. In this case, this study focuses only on vagueness in analyzing the object of the study. Therefore, it is important to understand about vagueness and differentiate it from ambiguity.

2.4 Vagueness

Vagueness emerges when the word, the phrase, or the sentence is written unspecifically, so that it can cause some interpretations. According to Kempson

(1977: 124), “vagueness can be defined as a lack of specification”. Crystal (1997: 17) also states that vagueness permits an unspecifiable range of possible interpretations.

In addition, vagueness is a kind of doubtful meaning because it arises in degree words in either of two ways, comparatively and absolutely:

e.g: My dog is fiercer than your dog. (comparative use)

My dog is fierce. (absolutely use)

“Fierceness” is a matter of degree. It can mean:

- (1) A fairly high degree of aggressiveness.
- (2) Mere loud barking.
- (3) Growling.

Not all words, phrases, or sentences which have the possibility to become the object of vagueness. As according to van Orman Quine (1960:125), “the penumbral objects of a vague term are the objects whose similarity to ones for which the verbal response has been rewarded is relatively slight”. In other words, it can be said that the object of vagueness are terms which seem to have different meaning, but still have basic meaning in common, so that it is hard to really differentiate from one another. For example the word ‘smart’ and ‘bright’. Both of them means ‘clever or intelligent’ in general.

However, it will be difficult to decide when it is considered as ‘smart’ or when it is considered as ‘bright’. Finally, it can be concluded that vagueness only occurs in some kinds of words, phrases, or sentences which have unclear meaning and may emerge misinterpretations.

2.4.1 Types of Vagueness

Based on the terms, there are two kinds of vagueness: general term and singular term. Both kinds of vagueness are based on van Orman Quine's (1960: 126) statement. She states that "vagueness affects not only general terms, but singular terms as well". A singular term naming a physical object can be vague in point of the boundaries of that object in spacetime, while a general term can be vague in point of the marginal hangers-on of its extension.

A singular term is more focused on the degree of word, such as *green*, *hot*, and *high*. The word *green*, for example, is vague one does not know: how green is green? It is resolved if it is used in comparative sentence, like one thing is greener than another. On the other hand, a general term of vagueness happens when the word is too general and it is not clear enough to explain the number of thing. For example: the general term of "some". It is vague on the scope of how many numbers which reckon into "some"., such as 2, 5, 10, or even 100. van Orman Quine (1960: 128) thinks that vagueness does not perturb the truth values of the usual sentences in which vague words occur.

Based on meaning, vagueness can be divided into several groups, each of which has its own distinctions. Kempson (1977:124) argues that there are 4 main types of vagueness which should be concerned:

- a. Referential Vagueness, where the meaning of the lexical item is in principle clear enough, but it may be hard to decide or not the item can be applied to certain objects. For example, the word *beautiful* and *pretty*.
 - *Beautiful* means giving pleasure to the senses or the mind.

- *Pretty* means pleasing and attractive.

So even, in principle, we know what a term should be used to refer to, still it is often difficult, in practice, to be certain about which things in the world are the type in question. Someone may say that she is beautiful, but another may say that she is pretty and just the opposite.

- b. Indeterminacy of meaning of an item or phrase, where the meaning itself of an item seems indeterminate. For example:

Mike's car can be interpreted:

- the car he owns
- the car he drives
- the car he designed, etc

Into this class, we might also enter word like "good" since its meaning seems to be so variable.

- c. Lack of specification in the meaning of an item, where the meaning is clear but it is only generally specified. For example: the item like friend. There are many people which can be categorized as friend. For this reason, it is still unspecified for name, sex, race, age, etc. Another example is: She *cleaned* the floor. The word *cleaned* can be used to describe action as sweeping or mopping.
- d. Disjunction in the specification of the meaning of an item, where the meaning involves an either-or statement of different interpretation possibilities. For example: the word *or* → "The applicants for the job

either had a first-class degree or some teaching experience". It can be interpreted:

- The applicants are implied to have had either a first-class degree, but no teaching experience.
- The applicants are implied to have had either teaching experience, but not a first-class degree, or possibly both.

As the conclusion, these types of vagueness have their own distinctions which can be seen clearly on this table:

Type	Title	Explanation
1.	Referential vagueness	The meaning can only be applied to certain objects
2.	Indeterminacy of meaning	One expression may have several meanings so that it needs more context
3.	Lack of specification in the meaning of an item	The meaning is too general
4.	Disjunction in the specificaton	Involves an either-or statement of different interpretation

2.5 Ambiguity versus Vagueness

As stated above, one of the phenomena that have to be explained in semantics is ambiguity. In fact, semantic ambiguity often related to the term of "vagueness". Actually, though seemingly synonymous in common usage, vagueness and ambiguity are entirely different.

A word or phrase is said to be ambiguous if it has at least two specific meanings that make sense in context, and a word or phrase is said to be vague if its meaning not clear in context. Vague terms can only be applied in marginal or

certain objects, whereas ambiguous terms may be at once true toward various objects or even false on them (Quine, 1960:129).

The statement above is supported by Beardsley (1978:50) who says that vagueness is quite different from ambiguity. It pertains only to terms that have decided sense but mean qualities that differ in degree rather than in kind. Therefore, if in vagueness, it contains some kinds of unclear meaning in terms of its unspecification. Eventually, it can be concluded that ambiguity and vagueness are different although both of them can cause confusion.

CHAPTER III

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE DATA