

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The new millennium has come. The world is turning into a global village where English is a must. We cannot deny the fact that English has developed into an international language used and taught in most countries all over the world. English has gained its eminent position since 1900s, during the industrial revolution, and it has now become more significant. It is used in business, science, politics, and in daily conversation. English language is the main means of communication among people in the society. People of all ages, from young children to adults, are trying to learn and being a master in English in order to survive in the future.

Brown and Yule (1984:1) say that there are two functions of language: transactional and interactional. The most important function of transactional language is the communication of information. This kind of language is “message oriented”. The language is used to convey what comes in one’s mind. Factual or proportional information is called transactional language. The second function which is called interactional language is used to express solidarity feeling. The use of this function of language is to establish and maintain social relationship, like saying congratulations, writing love letters and so on. Both functions can be stated in written or spoken forms.

As mentioned above, the function of transactional language is the communication of information. It can be in the written or spoken forms. Language as an oral or written code has several functions in expressing and interpreting thoughts, feelings, emotion, needs, etc. In this case, oral communication involves patterning sounds to form words that are put together into sentences to communicate a meaningful message in different social context. In its written form, the text is expected to incorporate all the rules of a language. Text is used in linguistics to refer to any passage, spoken, or written, of whatever length that does form a unified whole (Halliday and Hasan 1976:1).

There are so many ways that we can choose in order to communicate. Film is one of the ways to communicate. Language has rules to be observed by its users including films. Language is an important means of communication between the film-makers and the audience, as well as the speakers and the listeners who want to communicate. The film-makers must be able to use the language well, so that the message being communicated can be well accepted by the audience. In addition, the scenario, or the discourse, should take into account the linguistic and socio-cultural knowledge of its audience.

The past thirty years have seen fascinating and lively debates about the nature and boundaries of linguistics, but one tenet has remained unchallenged: that linguistics is concerned solely with making descriptive and not prescriptive statements. In this thesis, I also analyze utterances taken from an actual text. Thereby, I describe the lexical cohesions found in the text. In this case, it is expected that there are new facts on lexical cohesions discovered from this.

According to Gumperz (1982:3), discourse strategies begin by specifying the linguistic and socio-cultural knowledge that needs to be shared if conversational involvement is to be maintained, and then go on to deal with what it is about the nature of conversational inference that makes for cultural, sub-cultural and situational specificity of interpretation. In other words the addresser shows concern for the linguistic and socio-cultural knowledge of his/her addressees in order to maintain good interaction. Furthermore, the lexical items used should be those which the addressees are familiar with, so that the cohesion among the lexical items can be clearly noticed.

Renkema (1993:35) states that cohesion is the connection which results when the interpretation of a textual element is dependent on another element in the text. In this case, a good scenario, which is also a text, should show dependency among its elements. Renkema (1993:39) distinguishes two types of lexical cohesion, they are reiteration and collocation. Reiteration itself is further categorized into five aspects, i.e. repetition, synonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, and antonymy.

In this research, the writer uses these five types of reiteration in analyzing a film scenario. By analyzing these five types of reiteration in an American film, the writer expects that she can show and probably uncover some lexical relations which are actually used in the United States and commonly used by the people in the U.S, but are not listed in a dictionary. As the writer is interested in analyzing the lexical items used by teenagers, the writer chooses one of the famous American teenage films, i.e. "American Beauty".

“American Beauty” film was broadcast in the beginning of September 1999 in the cinemas in the U.S. As a dark comedy-drama film about suburban family life in America, the film itself is great and excellent. It attracts the audience from all over the world, including audience from Indonesia. This film tells about Lester Burnham (Kevin Spacey) who lives in a nice house in a small town, and within a year he will be dead. His marriage to a real estate agent, Carolyn (Annette Bening), is almost nonexistent, and his rebellious teenage daughter, Jane, (Thora Birch) hates him. One day, after resolving to spend more time with Jane, Lester meets Angela (Mena Suvari). As Lester puts it, after seeing her he felt like he had just awaked from a long comma.

“American Beauty” film has won five Academy Awards. It is directed by Sam Mendes and written by Alan Ball who is famous for “*Six Feet Under*” – TV serials. The main actors and actresses are Kevin Spacey, Annette Bening, Thora Birch, Mena Suvary, and Wes Bentley.

1.2 STATEMENTS OF THE PROBLEM

Based on the background of the study explained above, the statements of the problem of this research are:

1. What kinds of reiteration that can be found in the script of “American Beauty” film?
2. Which type of reiteration that is most frequently found in the script of “American Beauty” film?
3. Why do the actors or actresses probably use the reiteration?

4. Are there any unique samples of reiteration which cannot be found in a formal dictionary, but used in this film script?

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Based on the statements of the problems, the writer's formulates the objectives of this study, as follows:

1. To identify several kinds of reiteration that can be found in the script of "American Beauty" film.
2. To determine the type of reiteration that is most frequently found in the script of "American Beauty" film.
3. To determine the possible reason why the actors or actresses use the reiteration.
4. To seek, if any, unique samples of reiteration which cannot be found in a formal dictionary, but used in this film script.

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The writer expects that from this study the readers will have deeper understanding on the relationship among lexical items found in "American Beauty" film. This research is also expected to give more insights to the students of the Faculty of Letters, especially those who take linguistics as their major, and interested in discourse analysis. Finally, the writer hopes that this study will encourage other researchers to conduct a similar study and carry out further analysis on lexical cohesion.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

In order to be more focused in analyzing movie scripts, the writer chooses one particular movie script, i.e. "American Beauty". This film is chosen because it depicts the daily life of a suburban family in the United States. The analysis is based on one type of lexical relation, i.e. reiteration. The writer uses the classification of reiteration proposed by Renkema (1993). He divides reiteration into five aspects, they are: repetition, synonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, and antonymy.

1.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The main theory used in this study is the theory of Lexical Cohesion. The idea was initiated by Halliday and Hasan (1976). Then, it is developed by other writers, one of them is Renkema who points out that Lexical Cohesion deals with connections based on the words used (1993:39). Concerning lexical cohesion, there are two types of lexical cohesion that can be distinguished: reiteration and collocation. However, in this thesis, only reiteration that is discussed.

Reiteration is basically a form of lexical cohesion which involves the repetition of a lexical item, and the occurrence of a related item. (Halliday & Hasan, 1976:278). Based on Renkema (1993:39), reiteration can also occur through the use of a word that is systematically linked to a previous one. In general, reiteration is divided into the following five types, such as:

a) Repetition

The repeating of something or things repeated.

b) Synonymy

The relation between two lexical units with a shared meaning. Absolute synonyms, if they exist, have meanings identical in all respects and in all contexts. Partial synonyms have meanings identical in some contexts, or identical only.

e.g. in that replacing one with the other does not change the truth conditions of a sentence. Thus *paper* is a partial though not an absolute synonym of *article*. Compare *I got my paper published, I go my article published.* (Mathews, 1997:367)

c) Hyponymy

The relation between two Lexical units in which the meaning of the first is included in that of the seconds.

e.g. any tulip and any rose is also a flower therefore the words *tulip* and *rose* are both hyponyms, and together are co hyponyms of *flower*. (Mathews, 1997:167)

d) Meronymy

Relation between lexical units where the objects, etc denoted by one are parts of those denoted the other.

e.g. *sleeve* is a meronym of *coat, dress, or blouse*. (Mathews, 1997: 223)

e) Antonymy

Relation in the lexicon between words that have opposite meaning.

e.g. *tall* is in its basic sense an antonym of *short* (Mathews, 1997:20)

1.7 METHOD OF THE STUDY

The writer uses qualitative-descriptive approach to carry out the study. The data are described qualitatively because the focus of this study is on the understanding of the lexical items found in the script as the corpus for analyzing reiteration in that film.

1.7.1 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

In order to have a uniform definition of the terms used in this research, the writer lists the working definitions of the terms used in this thesis. The definitions of the key terms are taken from various resources as shown in brackets after the definitions.

- *Cohesion*: Relations of meaning that exist within the text, and that defines it as a text.
- *Lexical cohesion*: *The cohesive function of the class of small set of nouns having generalized reference within the major noun classes.*
- *Reiteration*: *is basically a form of lexical cohesion which involves the repetition of a lexical item, and the occurrence of a related item, which may be anything from a synonym or near synonym of the original to general word dominating the entire class.*
- *Lexical items*: it's a word, etc which has such an entry.

- *Film*: a story, play, etc. recorded on film to be shown in the cinema or on television.
- *Film-script*: a written description of the action to take place in film, play etc.

1.7.2 CORPUS

The corpus is the body of the data for the analysis. There is one corpus used in this thesis. The corpus comprises utterances found in the script of “American Beauty” film. The duration of the film is 120 minutes. The number of utterances is 719.

1.7.3 TECHNIQUES OF DATA COLLECTION

The writer uses several procedures in collecting the data. First of all, the writer searches for the script of “American Beauty”. Unfortunately, although the movie VCD is available in Surabaya, but the script is not available in any book-stores in Surabaya. Therefore, the writer searches it from a search engine (<http://www.yahoo.com>) in the Internet, which provides various links. Then, the writer tries to open each link and chooses the best one that provides the script similar with the one used in the film.

From the link chosen, <http://us.imdb.com>, the writer downloads the script and save it in a Microsoft Word format for easy editing and referring. The saved script consists of 98 pages. From that number, the writer deletes superfluous information, so that the writer can focus on the utterances. The result file consists

of 32 pages. Then, the writer numbers each utterance. There are 719 utterances found in this script.

In short, the procedures are:

1. Searching the script from the Internet.
2. Downloading the script and saving it in a Microsoft Word format.
3. Deleting superfluous information.
4. Numbering the utterances.

1.7.4 TECHNIQUES OF DATA ANALYSIS

In analyzing the data, the first thing conducted by the writer is to identify each of the type of reiteration – repetition, synonymy, hyponymy, meronymy, and antonymy. Then, the data are classified according to each type of reiteration. Finally, the classified data are put in certain tables according to the types of lexical cohesion.

Briefly, the steps of data analysis are:

1. identifying the data
2. classifying the data
3. making the table

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW