

Sense Relations Analysis of Homonymy in *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021) Screenplay

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ABSTRAK

The Tragedy of Macbeth mengangkat isu tentang perebutan kekuasaan hingga pertumpahan darah yang menyebabkan karakter utama mengalami paranoid, halusinasi, dan berbicara sendiri. Dalam film tersebut, ujaran yang dituturkan oleh beberapa karakter banyak menggunakan diksi unik cenderung aneh yang bisa membuat penonton mempertanyakan maksud dari ujaran tersebut. Dalam kehidupan sehari-hari maupun di lingkungan akademik, seringkali terjadi kesalahpahaman makna oleh penutur dan pendengar. Di ranah linguistik, semantik yang merupakan ilmu tentang makna berperan penting untuk mengklasifikasikan makna yang memang dimaksudkan oleh penutur. Penelitian ini berfokus pada penggunaan homonim dari karakter film *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021) dengan menggunakan teori Kreidler tentang relasi makna khususnya homonimi yang dijadikan teori utama dalam penelitian ini. Data diambil dari skenario *The Tragedy of Macbeth* dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan pendekatan semantik dengan relasi makna. Peneliti mengindikasikan bahwa karakter-karakter pada objek banyak melantur dalam berkomunikasi sehingga dapat menyebabkan salah penafsiran. Terjadinya homonimi bisa disebabkan oleh perkembangan makna yang menyebar, pengaruh kata asing dalam bahasa atau pula untuk kebutuhan komunikasi. Teori relasi makna dapat menyimpulkan bahwa suatu kata dapat diartikan secara lebih spesifik tergantung pada konteks kemunculannya. Dalam penelitian ini, relasi makna berperan dalam penemuan homonim, homofon, dan homograf pada objek.

Kata kunci: kehomoniman, relasi makna, semantik, *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021)

ABSTRACT

The Tragedy of Macbeth raises the issue of power struggles and bloodshed which causes the main character to experience paranoia, hallucinations, and talk to himself. In this film, the utterances spoken by several characters use unique diction, which tends to be strange, and can make the audience question the meaning of the utterance. In everyday life nor in the academic environment, there are often misunderstandings of meaning by the speaker and the listener. In the realm of linguistics, semantics which is the science of meaning, plays an important role in classifying the meaning intended by the speaker. This research focuses on the use of homonyms from the characters of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021) film using Kreidler's theory about sense relations, especially homonyms which is used as the main theory in this research. The data were taken from the screenplay of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* using descriptive qualitative methods with a semantic approach to sense relations. The researcher found that the homonymy indicates that the characters in the objective digress a lot in communication which can cause any misinterpretation. The occurrence of homonymy can be caused by the development of meaning that spreads, the influence of foreign words in the language or also for communication needs. Sense relations theory can conclude that a word can be interpreted more specifically depending on the context in which it occurs. In this research, sense relations played a role in the discovery of homonyms, homophones, and homographs in the objective.

Keywords: homonymy, sense relations, semantic, *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021)

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is a complex system that can be analyzed and understood through scientific methods. Brown and Yule (1983) introduce the key concepts of phonetics, phonology,

morphology, syntax, and semantics, which are the building blocks of language structure. In Greek times, philosophers examined the meaning and nature of language. These philosophers agreed that language is a system of signs. It is said that humans live in signs that cover all aspects of human life, for example; buildings, medicine, health, geography, and so on. But regarding the nature of language, whether language resembles reality or not, they do not agree (Oviogun, 2020). English has several different accents in each country. A word in the same language has a different pronunciation but with the exact spelling or vice versa. This can also be related to the pronunciation of English in several English-speaking countries using different accents. Due to this diversity, semantics theory is essential in this research. According to Yule (2022), semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. Since semantics is the study of meaning, it is known that every word, phrase, and sentence also has meaning. One word can have multiple meanings because language is arbitrary.

Sense relations is the meaning of any expression varies with context, other expressions it occurs with, and what expressions it contrasts with (Kreidler, 2002). Sense relations divides into two types namely those indicating identity and inclusion between word meanings, and those representing opposition and exclusion between word meanings (Maulana, 2022). Understanding sense relations through films contributes because films are a means of entertainment that is popular with almost all groups. Many film enthusiasts want to learn the meaning of the language in a film they are watching or have watched. Through this understanding, they can apply it in their daily lives. In this research, the researcher will analyze sense relations in the form of homonymy which will be focused on in this research. Homonymy means similarities, both in spelling and pronunciation. As stated by Kreidler (2002) in *Introducing English Semantics*, “in homonyms, such as bank ‘a financial institution’ and bank ‘the edge of a stream’ pronunciation and spelling are identical but meanings are unrelated. According to Tabanakova (2021), homonymy is defined as the coincidence of words in form. We emphasize that the generic concept of coincidence in that definition is not a linguistic category. Over time, the phenomenon of homonymy takes its place in lexical semantics and is defined through semantic relation: homonymy is “a semantic relation of internally unrelated (unmotivated) meanings expressed formally by similar signs (lexemes) and differing in the text due to different contextual environments”. Homonymy can occur in words in a sentence or a single word. The authors tend to obtain out how the homonymy is used in the objective in a film by analyzing the dialogue in the screenplay.

The objective of this article is *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021), a historical thriller film by an American director based on Shakespeare’s play, *Macbeth*. This film won 20 awards and was nominated for 112 nominations. According to Ryan (2011), film is a constructed visual object in which each of the constructed elements functions to generate meaning. It is known that film is an audiovisual work; we can understand the meaning of a film through the images and sounds displayed in the film. Film is a work of art and culture whose social bodies and mass communication media are made based on cinematographic rules with or without sound and can be shown". The film has important social institutions and is different from other mass media. Film as a mass media has a function as a tool to spread entertainment that has become a habit in the past and to present stories, events, music, drama, comedy, and other technical presentations to the public (Salsabilla, 2022). Through the use of visual and auditory elements, filmmakers are able to convey complex narratives and convey messages that resonate with audiences on a deep level. In this way, film has the ability to shape our perceptions, challenge

our perspectives, and inspire change in society. To capture the meaning and understand any conversation in a film, of course, when we are watching, it requires the ability to hear how the dialogue is pronounced by the actors in the film. Therefore, the researcher can find out the plot by reading some synopsis. Nick Riganas (2021) summarizes a brief synopsis of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* as follows, “As ghastly witches prophesy that Macbeth, the Thane of Glamis, will soon become the King of Scotland, ambitious Lady Macbeth prompts her husband to act. So, to speed things up, conflicted Macbeth seizes the opportunity, and as blood stains his hands, the throne is his for the taking. However, murder is an unbearable burden, and before long, rabid paranoia blackens the conscience and imperils the sanity of the cursed couple”.

Based on the background of the research, the researcher analyzed a research question which is how homonymy words are used in *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021) Screenplay used Kreidler’s theory. The researcher hopes this research will contribute both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research was expected to provide meaning to the readers about sense relations, especially homonymy in *The Tragedy of Macbeth* film. Practically, this research was used as reading material for the next researcher or readers who wanted to study and deepen the literature, and also for the researcher who wanted to research the same topic, the researcher hoped this research would develop the ability and give additional information, especially using the same sense relations or many different theories and approaches.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Screenplay in Film

Field (1982) stated that the nature of the screenplay deals in pictures, and if we wanted to define it, we could say that a screenplay is a story told with pictures, in dialogue and description, and placed within the context of dramatic structure. He also stated that screenplay is not a novel, and it is most certainly not a play. In a novel, the dramatic action occurs within the main character's thoughts, driving the storyline through their perspective. In contrast, a screenplay relies heavily on visual storytelling, using images and dialogue to convey the plot and character development. This distinction is crucial in understanding the unique challenges and opportunities that screenwriters face in adapting stories for the screen. Additionally, Field emphasizes the importance of dramatic structure in a screenplay, highlighting the need for a clear beginning, middle, and end to engage the audience and create a cohesive narrative. According to Field, screenplay has several elements, namely scene headings, action, characters, dialogue, parenthetical and extensions, and also transitions and shots. The similar were stated by Chiu (2020), screenplay writing can follow a well-defined three Act structure which is a more fine-grained storytelling plan, starting from hook, inciting event, first plot point, first pinch point, midpoint, second pinch point, third plot point, climax to resolution, tha called Structural Points. Understanding these elements and structures is crucial for creating a successful screenplay that captivates and engages the audience from beginning to end. By following a clear Three-Act structure, By incorporating all of these elements effectively, writers can create a cohesive narrative that resonates with audiences and leaves a lasting impact.

2. Semantics

According to Yule (2022), semantics focuses on the precise meaning of words rather than the meaning of a single speaker by studying the meaning of phrases and sentences in addition to the meaning of individual words. Semantics is also defined as the study of meaning (Kroeger,

2023). Semant talks about meaning which studied the logical aspects of meaning, such as sense, reference, implication, and logical form; lexical semantics, which studied word meanings and word relations; and conceptual semantics study about the cognitive structure of meaning (Bastian, 2019). However, humans are more interested in how natural language sentences reflect reality, various states of affairs, events, or alternative viewpoints, and how sentences connect to how we mentally represent reality. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that deals with the systematic study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences that are used in language-based communication. This conclusion can be drawn from the experts' explanations above. Semantics is concerned with the meanings of words, not the intentions of individual speakers. Communicating with that language, therefore, requires an understanding of the relationship between symbols or language units and their meanings. This research will be focusing on sense relations as the formal semantics to be researched.

3. Sense Relations

Kreidler (2002) defines sense relations as “the relations of meaning between words, as expressed in synonymy, homonymy, hyponymy and antonymy. Sense is associated with the intricate web of connections that exist among the constituents of language, primarily words. This only addresses intralinguistic relationships. As a result, there may be a sense relationship between words and sentences (Hu, 1988). In the meantime, sense relations are classified into two classes which express identity and inclusion between word meanings and the opposition and exclusion. Likewise, it discusses the sense relations between words with similar meanings or included in others and the sense relations between words whose meanings are opposite or excluded from other words (Cruse, 1995). The branches of sense relations are synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, ambiguity, hyponymy, and homonymy.

4. Homonymy

According to Yule (2022) homonymy is two words with the same form that are unrelated in meaning. Kreidler (2002) stated the same as “in homonymys, such as bank ‘a financial institution’ and bank ‘the edge of a stream’ pronunciation and spelling are identical but meanings are different. While homonymy is one of an ambiguous word whose different senses and they are not related each other (Hurford, Heasley & Smith, 2007). Homonymy relation between semantically unrelated words which happen to have the same pronunciation it also shares both the same spelling and pronunciation. Homonymy is one of the studies in semantics. As stated by Keraf (2009), homonymy is two or more words that have the same form. It also states that “Homonymy is when there are several words with the same form” and Homonymy also includes another branches such as Homophone and Homograph (Palmer, 1981). Likewise, a homonym is a word that shares the same spelling or pronunciation dan they have a different meaning.

a. Homophone

Homophone are words with the same pronunciation but different spellings and meanings. Kreidler (2002) stated that “in other pairs, numerous in English, such as steak and stake, pronunciation is identical but spelling is different, reflecting the fact that the words were once different in their phonological form”. According to Pratiwi (2019), homophone is a word that is pronounced the same as another word but has a different meaning or spelling or both and the words are categorised as the homophones if they have the same pronunciation but different spellings. For instances the words “flower” and “flour” are homophones because they are pronounced the same but have different meanings and

spellings. Homophones can often lead to confusion in writing and communication, especially for those learning English as a second language. It is important to be aware of homophones in order to use the correct spelling and meaning in written and spoken language. This definition would not cover the following words which are thought to be homophones in some literatures.

b. Homograph

According to Kreidler (2002), English also has pairs of homographs, two words that have different pronunciations but the same spelling; for example, bow, rhyming with go and referring to an instrument for shooting arrows, and bow, rhyming with cow and indicating a bending of the body as a form of respectful greeting. Homographs add another layer of complexity to the study of homophones, as they involve words that not only have the same spelling but also different pronunciations. This can lead to confusion in pronunciation and comprehension for language learners and non-native speakers. It is important to understand the nuances of homophones and homographs to communicate effectively in written and spoken language (Adha & Astri, 2020). Homograph have been confusing English writers as the meaning of the term is sometimes not reflected by the data they present. Etymologically, the term homograph is from the Greek: ὁμός, *homós*, "same" and γράφω, *gráphō*, "write". Thus, homographs are words that share the same written form but they have different semantic scope or meaning. In other words, homographs are lexemes which have the same spelling but different pronunciations and meanings. One should not be confused by the prosodic features that form part of the pronunciation in natural languages of the world.

C. METHOD

The main thing of the article aims to analyze the homonymy used in *The Tragedy of Macbeth* using semantics approach and sense relations theory by Kreidler. The method allowed to explore the data, describe, explain, and analyze the collected data. The author used the screenplay of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* film by Joel Coen for the data, while for the source of the data were dialogues, sentences, words from the characters in the film that was considered to have homonymy. Moreover, data analysis is one of the critical steps in conducting this research since it helps the researcher to create sense of the information and answer the research question in a few steps.

The author followed data analysis procedures Creswell (2017). The researcher began by transcribing the dialogues and sentences from the screenplay of *The Tragedy of Macbeth* film by Joel Coen, focusing on words that were considered to have homonymy. This process involved carefully examining each piece of data and identifying patterns or similarities between them. Once the data had been collected and organized, the author proceeded to analyze it using established data analysis procedures outlined. This involved coding the data, identifying themes or patterns, and drawing conclusions based on the findings. Through this rigorous analytical process, the researcher was able to gain a deeper understanding of the data and ultimately answer the research question at hand.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

a. Homonym

According to Kreidler (2002), meaning is more difficult to determine. In homonyms, such as bank 'a financial institution' and bank 'the edge of a stream,' pronunciation and spelling are identical but unrelated meanings. Homonyms are two words that have the same spelling or pronunciation, but they are different meanings. Some good homonyms examples include "bear", which is both the name of an animal and a word meaning 'tolerating something' (Mukhtoralievna, 2023). This is the findings of homonym in the objective: as the exemple "The wine of life is drawn, and the mere lees Is left this *vault* to brag of" (Coen, 2021).

The conversation above is spoken by Macbeth with his wife after King Duncan is known to have been murdered, Lady Macbeth pretends to panic and Macbeth kills the grooms whom he will scapegoat as the suspected murderers. *Vault* in the context of the utterance is a noun which means a room or compartment for something valuables. While another meaning of *vault* is a verb which means a jump across or leap over. That was categorized as homonym because a word that has the same pronunciation and spelling however has an unrelated meaning.

b. Homophone

Kreidler (2002) stated that "in other pairs, numerous in English, such as steak and stake, pronunciation is identical but spelling is different, reflecting the fact that the words were once different in their phonological form". Homophones are words that sound the same or share the name pronunciation, regardless of their spelling. The word 'phone' in homophone means sound. Examples of homophones include the words 'write' and 'right', 'knight' and 'night', and the words 'see' and 'sea' (Mukhtoralievna, 2023; Semenza, 2022; Sofyansyah, et al., 2023).

This is the findings of homophone in the objective: The following is the example, "As far, my lord, as will fill up the time 'Twixt this and supper. Go not my horse the better, I must become a borrower of the night for a dark *hour* or twain (Coen, 2021; Akhanamoya, 2021).

The conversation above is spoken by Macbeth to Banquo because he cannot attend the celebratory banquet but Macbeth asks him to come later that night. *Hour* in the context of the utterance is a noun which means a period of 60 minutes. While another word with the same pronunciation namely *our* is a determiner which it belonging to us or associated with the speaker and one or more other people previously mentioned or easily identified. That was categorized as homophone because a word that has the same pronunciation yet different spelling with also a different meaning.

c. Homograph

According to Kreidler (2002), English also has homographs, two words that are pronounced differently but spelled the same; for example, bow, which rhymes with go and refers to a device for shooting arrows, and bow, which rhymes with cow and refers to bending the body as a form of respectful greeting. Homographs are words that share the same spelling but don't share the same pronunciation. The word 'graph' in homograph means written, which means these kinds of words are written in the same way. Likewise, the homographs 'bow', 'tear', 'record', and 'bark' all have at least two different meanings. The words are all still spelt the same, regardless of the meaning and how you pronounce them (Mukhtoralievna, 2023). This is the findings of the homograph in the objective, the following is the example,

O, full of scorpions is my mind, dear wife. Thou know'st that Banquo, and his Fleance, *live*. And in his royalty of nature reigns that Which would be feared. 'Tis much he dares; And to that dauntless temper of his mind He hath a wisdom that doth guide his valor to act in safety. There is none but he Whose being I do fear (Coen, 2021).

The conversation above is spoken by Macbeth because he is disturbed by the fact that Fleance, Banquo's child is still alive. Because the three witches' prophecy says that he will become the king. *Live (lrv)* in the context of the utterance is a verb which means alive, living, not dead. While another word with the same spelling namely *live (larv)* is an adjective which means something in broadcasting that sent out while happening and not recorded. That was categorized as homograph because a word that has the same spelling yet different pronunciation with also a different meaning.

The findings showed that homonyms, homophones and homographs occur using sense relations theory, which means relationships between meanings, generally having complicated relationships between language elements is that all the data that has been obtained has that kind of meaning. Sense relations theory can conclude that a word can be interpreted more specifically depending on the context in which it occurs. In this research, sense relations played a role in the discovery of homonyms, homophones and homographs in the objectives.

Because homonym have similar spelling and pronunciation, misunderstandings often occur in interpreting the meaning. Everything can be understood according to its respective context, but studying homonymy in general is also necessary to avoid misinterpretation. Homophone have the same pronunciation while the spelling is different, this can also cause misunderstandings in interpreting the meaning, especially when expressed verbally. The language used in *The Tragedy of Macbeth* (2021) Screenplay is very similar to that used by Shakespeare in Macbeth. The language style is poetic and not straightforward, making it an appropriate work to examine using the semantic realm, because readers will likely wonder about unclear meanings. Some characters in the objective such as the witches also digress a lot in their dialogue, therefore, homonym analysis is needed to understand the meaning that is actually intended. Through the lens of stylistics, sense relations theory is related to the meaning of the words used in this work. If it is not analyzed using semantics, especially sense relations theory, this literary work can still be analyzed using other theories in linguistics or literature.

The assumption that every word has a single meaning and that every meaning is expressed by only one word is completely wrong and hinders our ability to recognise the complexity of meaningful expressions and the meanings they convey. Two or more forms that are identical in speech but have different meanings are homonym, different lexemes; form with identical in speech but not in the writing is called homophone, on the contrary; forms that identical in writing but not in speech nor in meaning are homographs, also different lexemes. Since a lexeme may have a range of meanings, it is not always easy to decide whether two (or more) meanings attached to a single form constitute two (or more) homonyms or a single polysemous lexeme. If two homonyms can occur in the same place in an utterance, the result is lexical ambiguity.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on findings and discussion in the previous chapter, conclusion of this research was conducted by the researcher based on research question and objective of this research. The aims of this article was to identify the homonymy in *The Tragedy of Macbeth* film by Joel Coen. The researcher identified there were three kinds of homonymy, such as homonym, homophone and homograph that were used in the Tragedy of Macbeth film. As the researcher discussed in the first chapter, the aim of conducting this research is theoretically to avoid misinterpreting meaning, so the findings and discussion in this chapter show that there is a sense relation in the

meaning of the words in the objective in the form of homonyms, homophones and homographs. which is done accidentally by the character in the objective. It is hoped that readers after seeing this research will realize that even an ordinary word can be understood by other meanings through sense relations theory, even if unintentionally.

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