

## HOMOPHONE AND HOMOGRAPH OF THE LEXICAL AMBIGUITY IN DUNE MOVIE

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### Abstract

The purpose of this research is to find words that are included into Homophone and Homograph in Dune movie subtitles. A qualitative method was applied to this research, by obtaining data from watching movies and observing subtitles, then taking screenshots with subtitles that have Homophone or Homograph in them, along with analyzing the words with Cambridge and Oxford dictionaries as references. The information from these dictionaries is used to verify meaning, pronunciation and spelling of the data found. This research applied the theory of Hobbs (2006) and Fox (1995). Based on the result of data analysis, some homophone words found in this movie are air – heir, been – bean, weather – whether, by – buy – bye, and many more. Meanwhile, some homograph words found in this movie are use, desert, lead, and live. Thus, there are 33 data found with a higher number of Homophone words (29 words) and Homograph (4 words).

**Keywords:** semantic, lexical ambiguity, homophone, homograph, dune

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## A. INTRODUCTION

In linguistics, the study of meaning in a language named semantic. It can elaborate meaning at the levels of words, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse. The deconstruction of words, signals, and sentence structure are involved by semantics. It influences our reading comprehension as well as our comprehension of other people's words in everyday's conversations. In addition, it plays a large part in our daily communication, understanding, and language learning without us even realizing it. There are a lot of parts in semantic, such as: discourse semantic, grammatical semantic, lexical semantic, synonymy, antonymy, polysemy, homonymy, hyponymy, homophone, and homograph. Homophone and homograph are the points that the writers were interested in and design it as a main topic for this research.

Misunderstandings in words that are being delivered between people often happen, especially when they are using English. This happens due to words that have more than one meaning and people often mistook some word's meaning as the other meaning. For instance, the word "bat" means "an animal with wings that flies at night". On the other hand, it means "a tool

made of wood that is usually used in ball games". This phenomenon is called lexical ambiguity. As stated by Kroeger (2018, p. 79), lexical ambiguity is a word that may have more than one meaning. This phenomenon either confuses listeners or readers when the words are being delivered and when they read the texts. Lexical ambiguity is a category for homophone and homograph, which is the topic of this research.

An opinion was conveyed by Greenbaum and Nelson (2002, p. 294), homophones share the same sound but not the spellings, the writers defined a homophone as a word that is pronounced the same but has different spelling and meaning. For example: the words "know" and "no". They are pronounced the same (have similar sounds), that is /nəʊ/ but differs in meanings and spellings. "Know" denotes "to have information", while "no" denotes "not any". A homograph is a word that is spelled the same but has different pronunciation and meaning. For example, in the word "live". This word has different meanings and pronunciations. The first is pronounced /lɪv/ with meaning "to be alive or have life". The second is pronounced /laɪv/ with meaning "broadcast or seen it happening right then". Based on Greenbaum and Nelson (2002, p. 294),

homograph shares the same spellings but doesn't have the same sounds.

Another reason why the writers chose to analyze homophone and homograph is because the writers are interested in finding out meanings of words, word play and getting new English vocabulary. As stated by Jo Ann Gordon (1998, p. iii), there are difficulties and frustration in learning English vocabulary that revolves around homophone and homograph, nevertheless, there are fun ways to understand them better, like puzzles, word play, unscrambling words, and so on.

Therefore, the research aimed to find homophone and homograph words that can be found in this movie along with to figure out how many homophones and homographs that can be found in one scene. The result of the research is expected to be beneficial for improving English learners' vocabulary mastery related to lexical ambiguity.

Homophone is defined as a word that is pronounced similarly with other words but different in spellings and meanings (Hobbs, 2006, p. 3). Meanwhile, homograph is a word that has different pronunciations and meanings, but spelled the same. The writers referred to similar studies including *Lexical Sources of Ambiguity in English and Daily*

*Communication by Ovu* (2011), *Lexical Ambiguity in the Headlines of the Jakarta Post Newspaper* by Ramadani (2015), and *An Analysis of the Lexical Ambiguity used in Coco Movie Script* by Faina (2021). These studies focused on analyzing lexical ambiguity covering homophone and homograph.

## **B. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter explained about method of the research, time and place of the research, kind of the research, procedure of the research, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis, and data source

### **1. Method of the Research**

As stated by Merriam (2009, p. 2), qualitative research focuses on the meaning of its context, it requires a collection of data that is sensitive for underlying meaning when searching and collecting data. It is strengthened by Sugiyono (2013, p. 213), he claimed that Qualitative researchers will be more professional if they master all theories so that their insight will become wider, and can be a good research instrument. Theory for qualitative researchers will serve as a provision to be able to understand the social context wider and deeper.

In this matter, the writers are required to have a broad perspective to

show how far the writers had understood the theories and materials of this research.

## **2. Setting of the Research**

This research was contrived since English Seminar class and at that time, Chapter I to III was made first. It was from January 2021 until January 2022. Furthermore, this research was presented in a seminar proposal on February 26th 2022. After revisions and guidance from lecturers, this research was made from March until August 2022. This research was being done in STBA JIA and National Library of the Republic of Indonesia.

## **3. Procedure of the Research**

Neuman (2000), Arikunto (2002), and Irawan (2006) in book of Hadi et al. (2021, pp. 10-11), they demonstrated eight procedures of the research, as follows:

- a. Demonstrating the background of research. It was required for explaining the topic of research, including the reason why the writers chose the topic.
- b. Composing the problem of the research. The problem of this research was to find homophone and homograph in the Dune movie.
- c. Explaining the Purpose of Research. The objective is to resolve the problem of research. As for the

significance, it is beneficial for people who read this research.

- d. Resolving the Theoretical Framework. It is useful as the foundation of research, such as theories from books or experts. It supported the purpose and direction of this research with the accurate concept. The theories that supported this research can be seen on Chapter II.
- e. Explaining the Research Method. By recognizing it, the writers understood more of how to make this research. The writers used a qualitative method for this research.
- f. Collecting the Data. The writers collected the data by watching the movie via HBO GO and from the subtitles, also spoken words by the actors.
- g. Analyzing the Data. To obtain the result of this research, the writers used Cambridge Dictionary and Oxford Dictionary for analyzing the data.
- h. Making a conclusion. All in all, the writers made a conclusion from this research based on data analysis and the results.

## **4. Technique of the Data Collection.**

As stated by Sidiq and Choiri (2019, p. 59), the techniques, are:

a. Observation

The data was observed by watching Dune movie through the writers phone on HBO GO. Next in order, the writers analyzed the movie subtitles to search for homophone and homograph. the writers examined the words from subtitles and searched for them in web dictionaries, Cambridge Dictionary and Oxford Learner's Dictionary for accuracy. the writers conveyed examples of sentences from the words. After finding all the homophone and homograph words, the writers analyzed each subtitle that has lexical ambiguity

b. Documentation

The data was observed by watching Dune movie through the writers' phone on HBO GO. Next in order, the writers analyzed the movie subtitles to search for homophone and homograph. the writers examined the words from subtitles and searched for them in web dictionaries, Cambridge Dictionary and Oxford Learner's Dictionary for accuracy. the writers conveyed examples of sentences from the words. After finding all the homophone and homograph words, the writers analyzed each subtitle that has lexical ambiguity

## 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

Miles and Huberman (1994, p. 10) stated three techniques of data analysis, as follows:

- a. Data Reduction. In this study, it is notable to do data analysis through data reduction, by summarizing the main things, and focusing on the important things, also by searching the patterns.
- b. Data Display. Data display can be done by brief description, flowcharts, diagrams, and so on. However, in qualitative research, it is often to display data by narrative text. In this matter, the writers displayed the data in text form to clarify the results of research, assisted by pictures
- c. Drawing Conclusion. It is the process of extracting the complex data that had been analyzed in text form and transforming it into statements that are concise and clear, but still contain a broad understanding. The drawing 31 conclusion answered the questions of research and it occurred after data analysis.

## 6. Data Source

Good data should be related to the problems of research that are going to get solved. Samsu (2017, p. 94) claims that there are two types of data source: Primary source is the main source of the

data. In this research, the writers' primary source is Homophone and Homograph of the Lexical Ambiguity in Dune movie. By watching the movie, the writers collected the data by taking screenshots of the scenes and analyzed the subtitles to find lexical ambiguity, homophone, and homograph. Next is a secondary source, it was intended to support this research. Secondary sources of this research are theories, such as Gwyneth Fox (1995), James B. Hobbs (2006), Dune movie, Cambridge Dictionary, and Oxford Learner's Dictionary. Journals are also being used, but more as relevance of the research.

### C. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned previously, the data analyzed were obtained from subtitles and lines from a movie titled Dune referring to Hobbs (2006) and Fox (1995). To check the accuracy of the analysis, the writers use Cambridge and Oxford online dictionaries. the writers found 29 homophones as seen in the following table:

**Table 1.** Homophones in Dune Movie

| No | Spelling          | Pronunciation |
|----|-------------------|---------------|
| 1  | air – heir        | /er/          |
| 2  | do - due          | /du:/         |
| 3  | been - bean       | /bi:n/        |
| 4  | weather - whether | /'weð.ə/      |
| 5  | through - threw   | /θru:/        |
| 6  | which - witch     | /wɪtʃ/        |
| 7  | by - buy - bye    | /baɪ/         |

|    |                         |             |
|----|-------------------------|-------------|
| 8  | peace - piece           | /pi:s/      |
| 9  | too - two               | /tu:/       |
| 10 | would - wood            | /wʊd/       |
| 11 | know - no               | /noʊ/       |
| 12 | be – bee                | /bi:/       |
| 13 | rest – wrest            | /rest/      |
| 14 | for - four              | /fɔ:r/      |
| 15 | war - wore              | /wɔ:r/      |
| 16 | sent - cent – scent     | /sent/      |
| 17 | here - hear             | /hɪr/       |
| 18 | sea - see               | /si:/       |
| 19 | council - counsel       | /'kaʊn.səl/ |
| 20 | son - sun               | /sʌn/       |
| 21 | might - mite            | /maɪt/      |
| 22 | our - hour              | /'aʊər/     |
| 23 | very - vary             | /'ver.i/    |
| 24 | meet - meat             | /mi:t/      |
| 25 | check - cheque          | /tʃek/      |
| 26 | hole - whole            | /həʊl/      |
| 27 | weak - week             | /wi:k/      |
| 28 | high – hi               | /haɪ/       |
| 29 | there - their - they're | /ðer/       |

For the word “air” found in the line “You can see spice in the air” (Villeneuve, 2021, 00:01:02). This line was delivered by a woman named Chani, one of the Fremen. Fremen is an identity used to address the native of Arrakis. The writer identified that “air” pronounced similarly to the word “heir”. To ensure it, the writers inspected Cambridge and Oxford web dictionaries. The word “air” in Cambridge and Oxford dictionary infers “the mixture of gasses that surrounds the earth and that we breathe”. This is the word that referred to the subtitle, “You can see spice in the **air**”. Meanwhile, in Cambridge dictionary “heir” means “a person who will legally receive money, property, or a title from another person, especially an older member of the same family when that other person dies” and in Oxford

dictionary, it means “a person who has the legal right to receive somebody’s property, money or title when that person dies”. The word “air” is pronounced as /er/ in the scene, which is the same with the pronunciation of “heir”. On the other hand, these words have different meanings and spellings, which are the characteristics of a homophone. All in all, the writer concluded that this is **homophone**.

**Table 1.** Homograph in Dune Movie

| No | Pronunciation         | Word   |
|----|-----------------------|--------|
| 1  | /ju:z/ - /ju:s/       | use    |
| 2  | /'dez.ət/ - /dɪ'zɜ:t/ | desert |
| 3  | /li:d/ - /lɪv/        | lead   |
| 4  | /lɪv/ - /laɪv/        | live   |

The next analysis is the word “desert”, in line “the Fremmen share the deep desert with the giant sandworms” (Villeneuve, 2021, 00:05:48). In this scene, the translation audio device still explained about Arrakis and the Fremmen, but it was more about how the Fremmen lived in the desert alongside the giant sandworms. The writers discovered that the word “desert” also has different meanings and pronunciations. To assure this, the writers researched Cambridge and Oxford web dictionaries. Referring to the data above, “desert” /'dez.ət/ in Cambridge dictionary means “an area, often covered with sand or rocks, where there is very little rain and not many plants” and in Oxford dictionary it means “a large area of land that has very

little water and very few plants growing on it. many deserts are covered by sand”. This is the word that referred to the subtitle, “the Fremmen share the deep **desert** with the giant sandworms”. As for the other meaning of “desert” /dɪ'zɜ:t/, in Cambridge dictionary it expresses “to leave the armed forces without permission and with no intention of returning” and in Oxford dictionary it implies “to leave the armed forces without permission”. In the scene, the word “desert” pronounced as /'dez.ət/, while the other “desert” pronounced differently /dɪ'zɜ:t/. However, these “desert” words are spelled the same but have different meanings. This analysis showed the characteristics of **homograph**.

#### **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

This chapter portrayed the conclusion of this research and suggestions for several parties.

##### **1. Conclusion**

The writers identified the differences between homophone and homograph. Through this study, the writers learn more about the meanings of words and how to pronounce words properly, so there would not be misunderstanding when listening to someone or speaking to someone. Some homophone words found in this movie are air – heir, been – bean, weather – whether, by – buy – bye, and many more.

Meanwhile, some homograph words found in this movie are use, desert, lead, and live.

Homophone words were found in the Dune movie, more than homograph words. There are 29 homophones and 4 homographs found in the Dune movie, and the total of data found is 33. In a scene, there was one until two homophones and one homograph. Although, there were homophone and homograph found in one scene.

## 2. Suggestion

The writers suggest the students learn more about semantics as the basics of learning, as well as homophone, homograph and lexical ambiguity. Learning homophone and homograph can help the students to recognize lexical ambiguity and avoid mistakes related to ambiguity. This research can help them to understand better and obtain knowledge about homophone and homograph.

This research could also be useful for teachers, especially the ones who teach semantics. This research is advised for teacher's reference as their teaching material and to expand their teaching method. In addition, the writer suggests researchers to do further research homophone and homograph from other aspects.

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