HOMONYMY IN MALEFICENT MOVIE: MISTRESS OF EVIL

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Abstract

This study aims to categorize the various types of homonymy that appear in *Maleficent: Mistress of Evil*. Joachim Ronning directed this American fantasy movie, which was released in theaters in October 2019. The writer uses Saeed's concept of homonymy in his book Semantics: Fourth Edition. The writer utilized descriptive qualitative research in capturing the essence of the concept. This research found thirteen data that belongs to first (homonym) and third (homonym) categories of homonymy. However, the author is unable to find any data belongs to second (homophone) and fourth (homophone) categories of homonymy.

Key words : homonymy, movie, semantics.

A. INTRODUCTION

Humans use language to communicate in their daily lives, making it a fundamental need for social creatures. Even now, language, especially English, plays a crucial role. In actuality, we can communicate with people all over the world using English because it is an international language. To watch English language movies, read the news, or listen to music, we must also understand what the words mean.. A word, on its own, does not not actually say anything, does not

convey 'a whole thought' (Cruse 2000, page 87). It means, meaning is needed to give 'a thought' for words; that is why the word has meaning. Meaning, in relation to the speaking subject, is the contents of the conscience. From the perspective of a language, meaning is the objectification of knowledge in linguistic signs. From the perspective of the individual speaking subject, meaning is the expressive intentional purpose to say something. (Martinez, Jesus 2015, page 50-58). However, some listeners or readers have trouble understanding English. Because,

despite the language being grammatically correct, they either don't understand it or don't know what it means. Uncertainty words may cause people to understand things differently. For this reason, it is essential that we understand what the word means. The meaning of a word is determined by its arrangement in sentences or other words.

As stated in *Introducing English Semantics* written by Kreidler (1998, page 3) semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. Word meanings and the way structural and semantic terms blend together to determine a sentences meaning. Lexical semantics is one of the semantic processes that can help us categorize and resolve problems related to the relationships between the meanings of the words in the language or the significance of every single word in the language.

As explained by Saeed (2016, page 445) lexical semantics are the study of word meaning and meaning relations between words. Lexical semantics includes subjects like homonymy and synonymy. As mentioned by Kreidler (2013, p.52) homonymy, the pronunciation and spelling of the word are identical but meanings are unrelated. From that definition the writer knows people's interpretations vary from one another. Too many interpretations that cause individuals to misunderstand the

meaning of words or phrases. Because a same word can be used in a variety of settings, it is important to comprehend the idea of homonymy. Homonymy enables people to comprehend that words may belong to various syntactical categories, even if they may appear to be same.

As cited in *Semantics* by Saeed (2016, page 60) we can distinguish different types of homonym depending on their syntactic behavior, and spelling such as same syntactic category with the same spelling, same category but different spelling, different categories but with the same spelling, and different categories with different spelling.

First, Saeed (2016, page 60) said the same syntactic category with the same spelling means they are exactly identical both with the spelling and the pronounciation but they have different meaning. It is called homonym. For example, lap (n.) means circuit of a course while the others lap (n.) means part of body when sitting down. Both are noun and they have exact spelling but they fall under different meaning.

Second, homonymy can belong into the same category but using different spelling (Saeed 2016, page 60). This could be explained as they fall under the same

syntactic category but the spelling is not identical. It is named homophone. For example, "ring" and "wring". Both "ring" and "wring" are noun, but unlike the previous example they are written differently.

Third, referring to Saeed (2016, page 60) homonymy can be in different categories but have exact spelling. For example, "bear". "Bear" is a verb that means to accept in difficult situation, but "bear" is a noun that mean an animal. Even they belong to different syntactical category, they can posses identical spelling. It is named as homonym.

The last, based on Saeed (2016, page 60) homonymy is classified into different categories and with different spelling but the same pronunciation. It is named as homophone. For example, "not" and "knot". They belong to different group, "not" belongs to adverb meanwhile "knot" belongs to noun. Despite having different spellings and meanings, they are identical in pronunciation.

Walter Skeet has stated as cited by Mamedova (2019, page 3) homonymy can be identified into three groups; absolute homonymy, homograph, and homophone. First, homonymy means words that have a common sound and graphic shell (Walter Skeet as cited in Mamedova, 2019, page 3).

It means the words are written and pronounced identically, such as "school". The term "school" can refer to both a large group of fish and an educational institution.

Second, Walter Skeet as cited in Mamedova in (2019, page 3) said homograph means a word that match graphically, but have different sound shell. For example, "bow" [bau] means a bending of the head or body in respect, and the word "bow" [bəu] refers to a weapon used to shoot an arrow. It demonstrates how the same word is used in both, but the pronunciation varies.

And the final category, as demonstrated by Walter Skeet, homophones means a word that have the same sound form, but have different spellings. For example, the word "night" means a the period from sunset to sunrise, and the word "knight" means a man who served his sovereign or lord. Both words are pronounced the same way, but they are graphically written in different way.

As stated by the three experts, it demonstrates that homonymy focuses on word's spelling, meaning, and its pronunciation. The writer found that homonymy is beneficial for creating, engaging and creating information that is fascinating because it allows for wordplay.

The audiences must explain what the word in question actually means. Deciphering the real situations will keep the listeners interested. We are able to enhance our linguistic abilities by increasing our vocabulary.

Their theories are both interconnected, connect with one another, even though one of Saeed's theories does not fit into the Skeet's theory. Each concepts from the two experts serve as the additional complement to one another. Although, in Saeed's homonymy concept he does not explain about homograph.

The writer chose Maleficent movie: Mistress of Evil to be researched because this movie was highly trending at the North American Box Office and beat the Joker movie in October 2019. Maleficent movie: Mistress of Evil also won the Excellence in Sci-Fi award at the 2020 CDG Award. The cast in this movie by Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning and other famous actress and actors. The movie also describes character evolution in the character of Maleficent, who was once an evil fairy but turned into a kind, loving and protective fairy. That is what makes the writer very impressed with the generosity of a Maleficent.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Method of the Research

This research uses the qualitative research method. The researcher begins by gathering detailed information from participants and then forms this information into themes or groups. These themes are developed into broad patterns, theories, or generalization that are then compared with personal experiences or with existing information on the topic (Creswell 2018). Instead of concentrating on numerical data, these approaches place an emphasis on comprehending the viewpoints, interactions, and circumstances of participants. The purpose of descriptive qualitative research is to gather internal data about the state of the condition being studied as it currently exists in the object under investigation. The research process includes procedures, watching movie, observing the dialog, collecting data, qualifying the information and the writer's interpretation of its significance.

2. Time and Place of the Research

This research starts from 27th of November 2024 to 31st of December 2024 because the research is qualitative, the location of the study is not important because the writer can conduct the study anywhere. The writer's residence, North

Bekasi City, was location of most the research.

3. Setting of the Research

Disney+ Hotstar serves as the research's setting. The writer obtained the English subtitles on the Disney+ Hotstar setting page.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The writer's research methodology involves collecting and observing, with written materials serving as an instrument of analysis. The researcher can gather qualitative documents as they are being conducted. Qualitative documents might be collected by the researcher while the study is ongoing.
Techniques for observation are used to gather data, which is then compiled using data collection methods. The writer will choose and highlight the words that will be examined during the data collection process.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

Following the completion of the text translation and data classification process, the author will analyze the data to identify homonymy that includes valid reasons. The writer intends of using Oxford Dictionary and U Dictionary a bilingual dictionary to identify appropriate terms.

6. Instrument of the Research

Considering the research is qualitative, the author serves as the instrument. The author analyzes the data by providing acceptable justifications for homonymy used in the data analysis.

C. RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

These are proofs of homonymy found in the Maleficent Movie: Mistress of Evil. The writer will also provide reasons and examples of homonymy and synonymy connected to the research.

Datum 1 tie

Tie it off, come on!

"Tie it off, come on!"

Tie

1. (v.) The act of fastening string or rope (Oxford Learner Dictionary).
2. (n.) A long and thin cloth that is worn around the neck (Oxford Learner Dictionary).

The word "tie" can be classified as both into verb and noun. In this situation, it used "tie" as a verb because through the

context the character is pulling the rope as they were crossing the river. Refer to Oxford Learner Dictionary the word "tie" as a noun, a long and thin cloth that is worn around the neck, is not shown in the movie. It clearly shows the word "tie" is the verb not the noun. As the result, the word "tie" means "fastening, pulling" that fits the situation in the movie. It belongs to **Saeed's third category of homonymy; different categories but with the same spelling (homonym).** The first "tie" is a verb but while the other is a noun. But they are spelled exactly the same.

Datum 2 arms

KING JOHN: Ingrith, I said we had no need of arms.

"Ingrith, I said we had no need of arms."

Arms

1. (n.) Part of body (Oxford Learner Dictionary)
2. (n.) Weapon (Oxford Learner Dictionary)

The word "arms" is a noun but it has different meaning. Despite both things are noun, it is distinguished by context. This movie displays "arms" in the sense of tools

used for war. Because the King John said that they no longer fight so they do not need weapons. It is clearly shown in the movie that "arms" here is refer to a weapon rather than a bodily part. In conclusion, the meaning of the word "arms" is "weapons, guns, or ammunition" that fits the situation in the movie. Moreover, it can be classified into **Saeed's first homonymy group; same syntactic categories, with the same spelling but different meaning (homonym).** Even though both "arms" are noun, their meaning are not related to each other.

Datum 3 bear

Mmm... It's more than I can bear.

"Mmm…It's more than I can bear."

Bear

1. (n.) An animal (Oxford Learner Dictionary)
2. (v.) To accept in the difficult situation (Oxford Learner Dictionary)

"Bear" can be classified as both a noun and a verb. However, it is clear from the film's context that the term "bear" refers to a verb. There is no animal in sight. In addition, Maleficent implied that she can

faced the worse situation more than that, so that wearing veil is not a big deal for her. It is not telling about an animal, but situation. As the result, the meaning of the word "bear" is "enduring, bracing" that fits the situation in the movie. It falls under **Saeed's third category of homonymy; different categories but with the same spelling (homonym).** "Bear" as an animal is a noun, while the other "bear" is a verb. They belong to different syntactic category but both "bear" are spelled the same.

Datum 4 band

"The bands, please."

Band

1. (n.) Ribbon (Oxford Learner Dictionary)
2. (n.) A group man or women that perform songs together (Oxford Learner Dictionary)

The word "band" is noun. But in this movie it used the word "band" to refer ribbon for the wedding of The Prince Phillip and Aurora. Also, as the symbolism of a bound that tied them together. In the movie

there is no a group of man or women that perform songs together, but "ribbon". So, it is not a "band" in the sense of music group. As the result, the meaning of the word "bands" is "ribbon" that fits the situation in the movie. It belongs to **Saeed's first classification of homonymy; the same syntactic category and with the same spelling (homonym).** Both "ribbon" and "a group a man or women perform songs together" are noun and both pronounce the same, but they have totally different meanings.

Datum 5 mercy

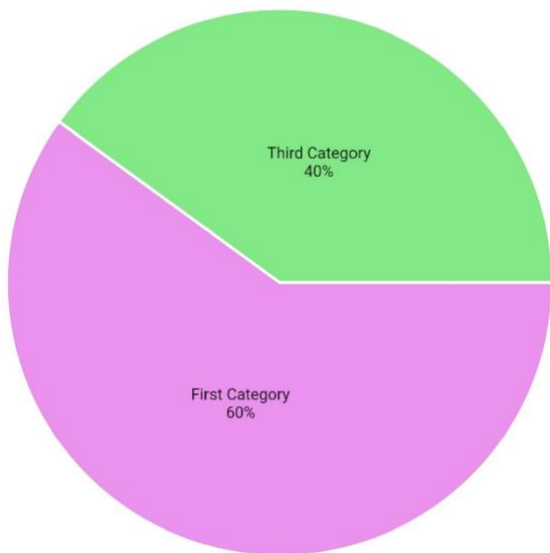**"... And we will show them no mercy!"**

Mercy

1. (n.) Kindness, forgiveness for someone (Oxford Learner Dictionary)
2. (n.) Grateful (Oxford Learner Dictionary)

Both "mercy" are noun. But is has different context. We can infer from that film that "mercy" means forgiveness. In the film, the word "mercy" refers to forgiveness.

Because from the context, the creature was attacked by humans. So, the character said for not giving forgiveness to humans that destroy their peace. As the result, the meaning of the word "mercy" is "forgiveness or compassion" that fits the situation in the movie. It is included in **Saeed's first classification of homonymy; the same syntactic category and with the same spelling (homonym).**

Based on the previously explained, the writer discovered three data, or 60%, that referred to Saeed's first category of homonymy. Additionally, the writer found two data, or 40%, that referred to Saeed's third category of homonymy.

Third Category 40%

First Category 60%

D. CONCLUSION

The writer has found thirteen data in Ronning's *Maleficent : Mistress of Evil* (2019). The writer limits the research into explaining five data through Saeed's concept of homonymy in his book called *Semantics : Fourth Edition* (2016). The writer wants to evaluate the film using Seed's concept homonymy. She has found three data that are related to Saeed's first category of homonymy (homonym): Datum 2, Datum 4, and Datum 5. Additionally, she has also found two data that are connected to Saeed's third category of homonymy (homonym): Datum 1 and Datum 3. Nevertheless, the writer cannot find any data that is suitable for Saeed's second (homophone) and fourth category of homonymy (homophone) in this movie.

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