

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

People interact with others daily through language. Humans can communicate with one another and understand each other's intentions because of the existence of language. Language is more than just a tool for communication; it also contributes to the growth of common sense and helps people to communicate their thoughts, feelings, and even future goals (Suhandra, 2019). In a broad sense, language serves as a type of communication system in different situations (Yule, 2016). Therefore, the use of language cannot be arbitrary. As adult humans, people must be able to distinguish how to use language with fellow adults, children, or older people.

The study of language is called linguistics. The goal of linguistics is to analyze grammar to determine the true meaning of a specific language. Linguistics is here to study all elements of language, whether for humans to communicate verbally or in writing because many languages occasionally sound ambiguous or the context is unclear. Linguists are those who conduct research in the field of linguistics. The linguist's ability to relate language, mind, and society, to understand the role of language as both mediator and metaphor, rests on "a sound interpretation of language as a system", which can only be achieved "when we set out to answer questions that have arisen in an attempt to interpret language in the broadest context of its place in human society" (Halliday, 2003).

Semantics as a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of language, discuss include the nature of meaning, types of meaning, meaning relations, changes in meaning, and other things related to the meaning of language. Semantics here to clarify and examine the meaning of a sentence or language that sometimes sounds or looks taboo, confusing and an attempt to describe and understand the nature of the knowledge about meaning in their language that people have from knowing the language (Griffiths, 2006). There is study of the meaning of words, which is lexical semantics. Polysemy is one of the categories of lexical semantics. Polysemy means words that have multiple meanings.

According to Palmer (1986), polysemy is also the case that the same word may have a set of different meanings. Because polysemy is a phenomenon that can cause a word to have different meanings, the context of a sentence can change due to the presence of polysemy. Polysemy may occur in both spoken and written language. Polysemy is also present in all forms of media, including song lyrics. Many song lyrics are straightforward and clear, but some song lyrics can be a little confusing when heard, which is why the writer picked song lyrics as the research topic. Because of this, the writer is interested in learning more about the polysemy in the song's lyrics. This has a big impact on music fans since lyrics in songs that are confusing in context can lead to misunderstandings among listeners. Therefore, the study of polysemy exists to shed some light on its actual meaning.

The writer is interested in looking at the lyrics of a couple of songs by the American pop band Cigarettes After Sex. In 2008, Greg Gonzalez formed the American pop band called Cigarettes After Sex in El Paso, Texas. The group is known for its ethereal, vivid, and sometimes dream-like musical style, and its lyrics

often deal with themes of romance and love. Greg Gonzalez, the band's founder, plays lead guitar, electric and acoustic, and vocals. Randall Miller plays bass, and Jacob Tomsy plays drums. In 2017 Cigarettes After Sex, their debut album was released. In 2019, Cry, their second album was published.

The writer presumes that many words in Cigarettes After Sex song lyrics are confusing or ambiguous in context. To understand the actual understanding or meaning, the writer wants to analyze the polysemy of the Cigarettes After Sex lyrics.

## 1.2 Research Question

The writer is interested in finding answers to the following questions based on the study's background:

1. What types of polysemy are found in the Cigarettes After Sex song lyrics?
2. What is the most dominant type of polysemy used in Cigarettes After Sex song lyrics?

## 1.3 Aims of the Study

This study aims to analyze:

1. To identify the type of polysemy in the Cigarettes After Sex song lyrics.
2. To identify the dominant type of polysemy used in the Cigarettes After Sex song lyrics.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This research is expected to be beneficial to other researchers, readers, music listeners, and especially linguists. This research will also be used to provide evidence of forms of polysemy in the lyrics of Cigarettes After Sex songs. This research is also expected to serve as a reference for semantic studies. The writer hopes that by reading this research, readers can obtain a deeper understanding of semantics, specifically the meaning and form of polysemy and homonymy in the lyrics of the song Cigarettes After Sex. This study is also expected to help music listeners recognize and understand that song lyrics can have multiple contexts, which is a concept known as polysemy.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

Because semantics and polysemy are large and diverse topics, the writer here establish limitations to make sure that the data found is processed effectively and doesn't depart from the planned course. The writer use the scope and limitations of the study in this research. This research is restricted to Cigarettes After Sex song lyrics from their three albums, "EP. I," "Cry," and "Cigarettes After Sex." The writer will focus on the types of polysemy based on the theory by Menfred Krifka (1998). The writer will also describe many types and forms of polysemy in this research.