

The Ambiguity of the Word “Je’ne” in Makassar Language

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Abstract

This research project focuses on communities in Makassar, South Sulawesi. The main aim of this research is so that people are able to understand and use the word "Je'ne" appropriately in the context of the sentence. One of the most ambiguous Makassar words, the word "je'ne" can have different meanings depending on the context of the sentence and the way the speaker speaks. This lack of clarity can cause misunderstandings and difficulties in communicating, especially for those who have not mastered Makassar language, so this research is here to help readers use the word "Je'ne" in Makassar language. Researchers conducted interviews and literature analysis as part of a qualitative strategy for collecting research data. One of the techniques used in this research to obtain data is interviews.

Keywords: semantics, ambiguity, makassar language.

INTRODUCTION

Semantics is a component of language structure that is related to the meaning structure of expressions and conversations. In semantic studies, connotative meaning is a non-actual meaning that appears in a clause. The field of linguistics that includes the study of meaning is known as semantics. Meaning itself includes the purpose of conversation, the effect of language units on perceptual understanding, and individual or group behavior. One area of semantic study is the meaning of words. One type of word meaning is connotative, which means a meaning that is not true. This is different from denotative meaning, which means the actual meaning. Clauses that have connotative meaning have a sense value that can be positive or negative.

Another opinion was expressed by Chaer (1989:60) who stated that in semantics what is discussed is the relationship between words and the concept or meaning of the word, as well as objects or things referred to by that meaning which are outside language. The meaning of a word, expression or discourse is determined by the existing context.

Semantics and ambiguity have a close relationship. Semantics is a field of linguistics that studies meaning, while ambiguity is a phenomenon where a word, phrase or sentence has more than one meaning. Semantics helps us understand the meaning of an expression, thereby enabling us to interpret it correctly. However, sometimes the meaning of an expression is not always clear and can cause ambiguity. Language is a complex communication tool and full of possibilities. One of the interesting phenomena in language is ambiguity, which is a situation where a language form has more than one meaning. Ambiguity can occur at the word, phrase or sentence level.

According to J.R. Firth Meaning is not a magical property inherent in words, but rather the function they fulfill in a context. Noam Chomsky said that Meaning is a property of expressions, not words. While according to Anna Wierzbicka: Meaning is a way of

looking at something from a certain point of view. We can conclude that the meaning of words is very diverse and complex. To fully understand its meaning, various things must be considered, such as the speaker's perspective and the linguistic, social and cultural context.

Word meaning and ambiguity are closely related. Ambiguity refers to unclearness or doubt about the meaning of a word or sentence, while word meaning refers to the understanding of what a word means. Word meaning and ambiguity are interrelated. Ambiguity can arise because the meaning of words is unclear. Ambiguity can be eliminated by clarifying the meaning of words. Although ambiguous can be used with the specific intent of achieving a specific goal, it can also lead to misunderstandings.

Ambiguity occurs in an expression, where the expression is definitely language. Language is a very important aspect or very important characteristic for humans. In many cases, many human activities are carried out through language. In other words, language dominates many human activities/aspects (Mwakapina, 2021). Language is a gift that is only given to humans. as a differentiator from other creatures. Through language, humans can communicate or transfer thoughts, ideas and knowledge from one person to another (Mwakapina, 2021). Communication can be established if the language used can be understood by the person speaking so that the conversation can be carried out well. Every language that lives in society is used to communicate according to the social role of the speaker (Zulaeha, 2017). Therefore, it has become commonplace for each region to have its own regional language.

Talking about language as a means of communication is closely related to semantics, a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning of language, which is closely related to talking about language as a means of communication. Apart from semantics, the field of linguistic studies is developing very rapidly as a result of language research. This research often produces new theories and ideas about language as a whole, as well as new ideas about phonology, morphology, and syntax. Because the field of semantic research is very different from other research fields, semantic theories and concepts have only used the same concepts and theories for quite a long time. Researchers limit semantic research to semantic relations. semantic relationship, or meaning relationship. Language units have semantic relationships with each other called "meaning relationships". The language units used. Meaning relations are semantic relationships that exist between language units (Chaer, 2019). Meaning relations and ambiguity are two interrelated concepts. Some types of meaning relations can cause ambiguity, that is, a situation where a language form has more than one meaning. This can cause misunderstandings in communication. In this study, the researcher only focused on studying the ambiguity that occurs in Makassar language.

Whitman and Yeager stated that ambiguity is a thing or sentence that has more than one normal interpretation. This ambiguity is easy to doubt and difficult for other people to understand because it has a double meaning. The causes of this ambiguity are incorrect intonation, incorrect sentence structure and the use of words that have polysemous properties. Fromkin and Rodman stated that "A word or a sentence is ambiguous if it can be understood or interpreted in more than one way". It is a word or sentence that is ambiguous if it can be understood or interpreted in more than one meaning. Based on this explanation, the author believes that ambiguity is a phenomenon where a thing or sentence has more than one normal interpretation. This can cause doubts

and difficulty understanding for others because of the double meaning contained. The causes of ambiguity, as they mention, can be inappropriate intonation, incorrect sentence structure, and the use of words that have polysemous properties. Based on the description above, it is deemed necessary to carry out research regarding the meaning of language from a semantic perspective, especially the semantics of the regional language, namely Makassar.

Makassar language, also called *Basa Mangkasara*, is an Austronesian language spoken by around 2 million people in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. It is the official language of South Sulawesi province and is used in various fields, including government, education, and media. The Makassar language has a long and rich history. It has been the language of trade and government in the region for centuries. The language also has a strong literary tradition, with many poems, songs and stories passed down from generation to generation. Makassar is a complex and interesting language with its own unique structure. It has a different grammar system from Indonesian and has a rich vocabulary of its own. This language also has its own writing system, called the Lontara script. The Makassar language is an important part of Makassar culture and identity. It is the language people use to communicate with family and friends, to express themselves creatively, and to connect with their heritage. The Makassar language consists of four dialects, namely (1) Lakiung dialect (2) Turatea dialect (3) Makassar Konjo dialect (4) Selayar dialect.

This research will focus on identifying ambiguous words in the Makassar language spoken by the community.

The aim of this research is to find ambiguous words in the Makassar language spoken by the Makassar people. The following are the research questions in this study, which are based on the background and research emphasis above.

1. How can ambiguity occur in the Makassar language? How is the example of using homonym sentence in Konjo language?
2. How is the meaning of Ambiguous different in Makassar?

The objectives of this study are as follows.

1. To examine more deeply the ambiguity of the word "*je'ne*" in the Makassar language.
2. To provide a better understanding of the ambiguity of the word "*je'ne*" in the Makassar language.

METHOD

The type of research used in this research is a type of descriptive research that is qualitative in nature. Describe Descriptive or describe an object, for example the situation and circumstances of the event to be analyzed by the researcher. Study research intended to investigate the situation. In descriptive research it is used as an approach in describing how the situation is at the time of factbased research.

According to Moleong (2017:6) qualitative research is research that aims to understand phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perception, motivation, actions, etc. holistically and by means of descriptions in the form of words and language, in a special natural context using various methods natural. Qualitative research according to Hendryadi, et. al, (2019:218) is a process naturalistic inquiry that seeks an indepth understanding of social phenomena experience. Qualitative research emphasizes quality over quantity, and data is collected from relevant official documents, direct observation, and interviews rather than questionnaires. Aspects of the

process rather than the results produced. This is because the relationships between the components being researched will be much clearer if observed during the process.

Gill et al. Al. (2008) stated that there are several types of data collection methods in qualitative research, namely observation, visual analysis, literature study, and interviews (individual or group). Therefore, the subjects of this research were people in the Mamajang area, Makassar, South Sulawesi who were designated as informants, obtained by interview.

The data analysis carried out in this research was adjusted based on the research problem that had been determined. First, researchers collect word that have ambiguous meanings. secondly, the researcher interviewed several people who were used as informants to see whether the data found contained meaningful relationships or not. third, the researcher analyzes and describes using word or sentences in the Makassar language words that have ambiguous meanings to be used as findings for this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of data analysis, researchers found 1 ambiguous word in the Makassar language. The following words are categorized as ambiguous in Makassar language.

Table 1. Ambiguity in Makassar

Ambiguity	Meaning in English
<i>Je'ne</i>	Water
	Sea
	Bath
	Lake

The following is the Makassar language found in Mamajang District, Makassar City, where there is ambiguity in the meaning between words, which will be presented one by one accompanied by example sentences as follows:

1. Je'ne as water (Air)

- *Angnginungi anakku je'ne Lalang dapurka.* (My child is drinking water in the kitchen.)
- *Je'ne inung ri galasia.* (Drinking water in a glass.)

The Makassar term for water is "je'ne". This term, which has several connotations connected to water, is a fundamental term that is frequently employed in casual speech. The Makassar people place a high value on water, as seen by the word je'ne's usage in their language. Water is used for many things, including cleaning, cooking, bathing, and drinking. Within Makassar tradition, water is also symbolic of life, purity, and good fortune.

To prevent ambiguity in the use of the word "je'ne" as water in Makassar, it is necessary for speakers to first pay attention to the context of the sentence. For example, if the sentence talks about drinking then "je'ne" most likely means water. And the second is to use adverbs. Using adverbs will help clarify the meaning of the word "je'ne". For example, "je'ne dinging" (cold water).

2. Je'ne as sea (Laut)

- *Asselang ri je'ne.* (Swimming in the sea.)
- *Je'ne tamparang sanna gau.* (The sea water is very blue.)

The word "*je'ne*" in Makassar means "*air*". This word can also be used to refer to the sea, with several different contexts and meanings.

The word "*je'ne*" in Makassar means "water" and can refer to the sea. This can create ambiguity in the sentence. To prevent ambiguity in the word *je'ne* as sea, pay attention to the context of the sentence and use phrases to clarify the meaning of the sentence.

3. *Je'ne* as bath (Mandi)

- *A'je'ne ri tamparanga.* (Bath in the sea.)
- *Eroka je'ne rong.* (I will take a bath first.)

In Makassar, the word "*je'ne*" has a broad meaning, but can also refer to specific activities, such as bathing. The richness and dynamics of language shown by the term *mandi* in Makassar. Understanding the context and double meaning of this word will help people speak and understand Makassar culture.

To avoid confusion in the use of the word "*je'ne*" as bathing in Makassar, it is necessary for speakers to first pay attention to the context of the sentence. For example, if the sentence talks about bathing then "*je'ne*" most likely means bathing. And the second is to use adverbs. Using adverbs will help clarify the meaning of the word "*je'ne*". For example, "*Anrio je'ne dinging*" (take a cold shower).

4. *Je'ne* as lake (Danau)

- *Abiseang ri je'ne Tempe.* (Boating on Tempe Lake).
- *Je'ne tempe sanna' luara' nah.* (Tempe Lake is very big).

"*je'ne*" in Makassar means water in general. This word can refer to various types of water, including lakes, seas, rivers, and rainwater. When "*je'ne*" is used to refer to a lake, the context of the sentence will help clarify the meaning.

To prevent ambiguity, it is important for speakers to pay attention to the context of the sentence to understand the meaning of *je'ne*. whether the sentence talks about the sea, lake, river, or water. And use appropriate adverbs and phrases to explain the meaning of "*je'ne*".

CONCLUSION

In Makassar language, the word "*je'ne*" refers to various types of water, especially seas, rivers, lakes, as well as water in general, which has a broad meaning and can give rise to doubts. This can cause misunderstandings when speaking, especially for those who are just learning Makassar. One way to reduce ambiguous words is to consider the context of the sentence: the meaning of "*je'ne*" depends greatly on the context of the sentence and other information. Use adverbs: To clarify the type of water in question, add an adverb, such as "*je'ne marine*", which means sea, "*je'ne tana*", which means small river, or "*je'ne massugi*", which means water cold. Use phrases: Use more specific words, such as "swimming in the *je'ne*" (swimming in the lake) or "fishing in the *je'ne*" (fishing in the river). If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask a native Makassar speaker to be sure.

Ambiguity may occur, understanding the context and using the techniques above can help clarify the meaning of "*je'ne*" in Makassar. Appreciating the richness and flexibility of these words and continuing to learn about the Makassar language will improve your communication and understanding of the local culture.

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