CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is concerned with the introduction of the research. The background to the study, research questions, objectives, significance to knowledge, and framework of theories will be described.

1.1 Background to the Study

As human being, we need to communicate with each other in order to interact. In this case, we can make verbal or non-verbal communication. In verbal communication, we can convey a message through conversations or texts. Meanwhile, in non-verbal communication, we can convey the message through body language or expression. However, in this research, the writer only focuses on verbal communication in which the writer conveys the message to the reader through sentences, clauses, or phrases. Here, the reader will understand the message if the writer conveys it explicitly in the text. Vice versa, there will be misunderstanding if the writer conveys message implicitly. The reader will interpret the message into some meanings; it means that the message will be ambiguous. For instance, the writer writes a sentence “a man hit a girl with an umbrella”, the reader will interpret the sentence into two meanings; first, the reader thought that the writer told about the man hitting a girl using an umbrella; second, the reader thought that the writer told about the man hitting a girl who used an umbrella.

The above case is an example of ambiguous sentence. However, it can also happen in a phrase since there are some words which are left implicit. The implicit words cause a phrase to have many possibilities of ambiguity. Thus, the reader will be hard to interpret the message. The cases demand the writer to study more about the understanding of a message. In this case, the writer only focuses on the understanding of a phrase. It is concerned with genitive *of-construction*. Genitive *of-construction* is a kind of genitive constructions; it consists of two noun phrases which are separated by preposition *of*. It can indicate various relationships other than possession.

There are two previous researchers who did the researches relating to this research. The first one is entitled *Konstruksi Posesif Bahasa Inggris* written by Sari (2006); the case which is examined in this research is the possessive constructions in English; it is focused on the possessor in possession relation, the possessive relation of possessor-possessee, and the interpreted meanings of possessive construction. The second research is entitled The Analysis of Definite and Indefinite Possessive in Lauren Weisberger's The Devil Wears Prada written by Amelia (2008). This research is focused on definite and indefinite in double possessive.

As stated above, the research written by Sari (2006) analyzed the possessive construction in English. In addition, Amelia (2009) analyzed definite and indefinite in double possessive. However, those researchers did not analyze whether the genitive *of-construction* are ambiguous or not. From the explanation

and the previous researches, it convinces the writer that ambiguity of genitive *of-construction* is interesting to be analyzed.

Actually, Larson uses term *skewing* to describe inappropriateness between semantic structure and grammatical structure. Meanwhile, Quirk uses the term *ambiguity*. In this research, the writer prefers to choose the term *ambiguity* which is taken from Quirk since it is more compatible to describe genitive *of-construction* which has many possibilities of ambiguity. Therefore, the title **"The Ambiguity of Genitive *of-construction*"** is chosen as the title of the research.

In this research, the writer attempts to examine the ambiguity of genitive *of-construction* by analyzing the meanings which are encoded in the form of proposition and implicit case and state roles involved in the ambiguity of genitive *of-construction*. By analyzing the meanings in the form of proposition, the writer can examine case and state roles involved in the genitive *of-construction*. According to Larson (1984:189), proposition is a grouping of concepts into a unit which communicates. In addition, by analyzing the proposition, the writer can show kinds of propositions encoded in the genitive *of-construction*. It can happen since genitive *of-construction* can encode State Propositions, Event Propositions, and two propositions (State and Event Propositions). Then, by examining case and state roles involved, the writer can examine the implicit case and state roles which cause the ambiguity.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the case of ambiguity of genitive *of-construction* which is analyzed, the writer finds some problems:

1. What meanings are resulted from the ambiguity of genitive *of-construction*?
2. What propositions are encoded by the ambiguity of genitive *of-construction*?
3. What implicit case and state roles are involved in the ambiguity of genitive *of-construction*?

1.3 Objectives

The study of the ambiguity of genitive *of-construction* is proposed:

1. Analyzing the meanings resulted from the encoding of genitive *of-construction*.
2. Analyzing the implicit case and state roles involved in the encoding of genitive *of-construction.*
3. Analyzing the propositions encoded in the genitive *of-construction* based on its case and state roles.

1.4 Significance to Knowledge

This research involves noun phrase which is constructed by genitive *of-construction* categorized as ambiguity of genitive *of-construction.* This research is analyzed based on semantic structures. Therefore, the readers can understand how

to analyze genitive *of-construction* which has posibilities of ambiguity. Hopefully, this research will be helpful for the readers, especially for students of English Department to help them in analyzing genitive *of-construction*.

1.5 Framework of the Theories

In analyzing the study of ambiguity of genitive *of-construction*, the writer applies some theories which support this research. The grand theory of this research is from Larson (1984). According to Larson "sometimes the genitive of-construction can be ambiguous and hard to interpret". In analyzing this research, the writer also uses syntax theory as a supporting theory. The writer uses syntax theories from Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech, and Svartvik (1985), Huddleston (1984) about genitive *of-construction*. According to Quirk, "the function and meaning of *of-genitive* is similar to genitive case".

In addition, the writer uses semantic theories in order to analyze the meanings which can be interpreted in genitive *of-construction* and analyze the semantic structures which construct the genitive *of-construction*. The writer uses semantics theories from Larson (1984), Cruse, and Halliday (1985) about propositions and case roles which are involved in the ambiguity of *genitive of-construction*. The writer also uses another supporting theories from Linda Thomas (1993), Amelia (2008), Sari (2006), Maulana (2009), and Puspitasari (2008).