# CHAPTER 3

# RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHOD

This chapter presents the object and method applied in conducting this research. The research method is divided into two parts, i.e. data collection and data analysis. The data source for this research is also mentioned.

## 3.1 Research Object

The object of this research is the ambiguity on zeugma which first concerns with identifying the existing syntactic features and then followed the resulting ambiguity. The data were collected from four Margaret Atwood's short stories. The writer focuses on finding any existing textual data that could best represent the resulting findings.

## 3.2 Research Method

In conducting the analysis, this research used an analytic descriptive method. This method works by collecting the data then analyzing it. An analytic descriptive method is defined by Sugiyono (2009: 205) as "*sebuah metode yang digunakan untuk menganalisis data dengan cara mendeskripsikan atau menggambarkan data yang telah terkumpul sebagaimana adanya*." In this case, the writer collected the

data indicating zeugma from four short stories, classified them into two categories − the first one is the types of zeugma and second the resulting ambiguous meanings, then the classified data were further analyzed based on such classifications. The analytic descriptive method is therefore vital to patently demonstrate to what extent the data are indeed zeugma and the resulting meanings are ambiguous.

### 3.2.1 Data Collection

As stated above, the data were collected from four short stories. Two criterias are made in deciding upon which data that will be used. First, the data must be structurally a zeugma and the resulting meaning must be semantically ambiguous.

A series of processes was done. First, the writer read the data sources carefully. Second, as the data sources being read, the writer marked every sentence which might indicate zeugma. Third, the writer collected all the marked sentences. Fourth, the writer made three tables of matrix to sort out the data based on three classifications, namely, page source, types of zeugma, and types of ambiguity. Each matrix eased the writer to ensure which data best represent the criteria made for this research that are the data must be structurally a zeugma and the resulting meaning must semantically show ambiguity. It turned out that out of 60 data collected, 13 data met the criteria for this research. Seven data are collected from *The Bad News*, 2 data from *The Art of Cooking and Serving*, 3 data are from *The Headless Horseman* and 1 data from *The Other Place*. The classifications resulted in two kinds, i.e. syntactic and semantic classification. The syntactic classification was determined by

identifying to which type the data was categorized as zeugma. This then resulted in two classifications, i.e. noun zeugma and verb zeugma. There are five data denoting noun zeugma and then followed eight data denoting verb zeugma. As for the semantic classification, it was determined by the cases of ambiguity. There are two kinds found, i.e. lexical and syntactic ambiguity. The lexical ambiguity resulted in three subtypes, i.e. literal meaning and figurative meaning, literal meaning or idiomatic meaning, and ambiguous homonyms. The syntactic ambiguity resulted in five subtypes, i.e. appositive or object, one head with a coordinate modifier, one modifier with a coordinate head, ambiguous relative pronoun and ambiguous relative clause.

At the last stage, the writer combined both the syntactic and semantic classifications which then resulted in definite classifications used in the subsequent findings and discussions in Chapter V. The classification consists of two kinds which are Zeugmatic Constructions that encode Lexical Ambiguity and Zeugmatic Constructions that encode Syntactic Ambiguity. Each classification is then followed by several subclassifications in which the data take a place: Zeugmatic Constructions that encode Lexical Ambiguity consists of three subclassifications, i.e. Noun Zeugma that encode Literal Meaning and Figurative Meaning consisting of 2 data, Noun Zeugma that encodes Literal Meaning or Idiomatic Meaning consisting of 1 data, and Verb Zeugma that encode Ambiguous Homonyms consisting of 2 data; and Zeugmatic Constructions that encode Syntactic Ambiguity consist of six subclassifications, i.e. Verb Zeugma which is marked by Appositive or Object consisting of 1 data, Verb Zeugma which is marked by One Modifier with a

Coordinate Head consisting of 1 data, Noun Zeugma which is marked by One Modifier with a Coordinate Head consisting of 1 data, Noun Zeugma which is marked by One Head with a Coordinate Modifier consisting of 1 data, Noun Zeugma that encodes Ambiguous Relative Pronoun consisting of 1 data, and Noun Zeugma that encode Ambiguous Relative Clause consisting of 3 data.

### 3.2.2 Data Analysis

After classifying the data, the writer analyzed them in two ways, syntactically and semantically. The syntactic analysis was conducted to answer the first research question which is concerned about the syntactic features involving the zeugma. In this stage, applying theories from Burton (2007), Miller (2002), Quirk and et al (1985), and Benner (2006), the writer applied the coordination analysis to see whether the data represent zeugma and also to which type the data are categorized as zeugma. From there, the syntactic features will be revealed whether the zeugma of the data are of phrase or clause structure and what other elements that might occur. Another, a semantic analysis was also conducted to answer the second research question which is concerned about the ambiguity resulting from the zeugma. In this stage, applying theories particularly from Lyons (1977) and Kreidler (1998), the writer first determined to which type the data are ambiguous, i.e. lexical ambiguity or syntactic ambiguity. Following that, the data was deeply analyzed using related theories.

### 3.3 Data Source

Literature or literary work was chosen as the data source in this research since it is believed to be contained with various forms of language usage. The data were taken from four short stories written by a Canadian poet, novelist, literary critic, essayist, and environmental activist, Margaret Eleanor Atwood. Atwood is known for her notable works such as *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Cat's Eye*, *Alias Grace*, *The Blind Assassin*, *Oryx and Crake*, and *Surfacing* with genres varied from historical fiction, speculative fiction, science fiction, and dystopian fiction. Among many Atwood's works published throughout her career, a collection of short stories she was released in 2006 entitled *Moral Disorder and Other Stories* was chosen as the source of data for this research. The book consists of eleven short stories, but only four titles chosen as the data source for this research, that are, *The Bad News*, *The Art of Cooking and Serving*, *The Headless Horseman* and *The Other Place*.