

LEXICAL AMBIGUITY IN THE OXFORD BOOK OF LATIN AMERICAN POETRY

Ambiguitas Leksikal dalam Buku The Oxford Book of Latin American Poetry

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Abstrak: *Ambiguitas terjadi ketika ada lebih dari satu interpretasi dari sebuah kata, frasa atau kalimat. Ada beberapa klasifikasi ambiguitas yang ditemukan di bidang semantik. Penelitian ini berfokus pada ambiguitas leksikal yang terdapat dalam sebuah buku puisi. Penelitian ini menganalisis makna leksem yang ambigu. Data dalam penelitian ini diambil dari buku antologi dwibahasa berjudul The Oxford Book of Latin American Poetry. Penelitian ini menerapkan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis data dan menggunakan Cambridge Dictionary daring untuk menemukan definisi setiap kata. Delapan puisi dalam buku ini diambil sebagai sampel dan peneliti menguraikan 10 leksem yang memiliki arti yang ambigu. Ambiguitas leksikal yang ditemukan dalam sampel dibagi menjadi dua jenis: polisemi dan homonim. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa polisemi dan homonim dapat menjadi faktor penyebab terjadinya ambiguitas leksikal dalam suatu leksem.*

Kata Kunci: *homonim, ambiguitas leksikal, puisi, polisemi*

Abstract: *Ambiguity occurs when more than one interpretation of a word, phrase, or sentence exists. There are some classifications of ambiguity found in the semantic field. This study focuses on the lexical ambiguity found in a poetry book. This study analyzed the meaning of ambiguous lexemes. The data in this study were taken from a bilingual anthology book entitled The Oxford Book of Latin American Poetry. The researchers applied a qualitative method to analyze the data and used the online Cambridge Dictionary to find the definition of each word. Eight poems in this book were taken as the sample, and the researchers elaborated ten lexemes with ambiguous meanings. The lexical ambiguity found in the sample was divided into two types; polysemy and homonym. The results of this study showed that polysemy and homonym could be the causing factors of the occurrence of lexical ambiguity in a lexeme.*

Keywords: *homonym, lexical ambiguity, poetry, polysemy*

INTRODUCTION

Language is crucial in everyday life because it allows humans to convey meaning and communicate their thoughts with others. However, sometimes the intended meaning that the speaker tries to convey might not always be clear for the addressee as some different interpretations occur between both firms due to the multiple senses that a word, phrase, or sentence has. Anderson (2018) states that ambiguity occurs if a word, phrase, or sentence has more than one meaning. It happens in oral communication and in a written form such as written literary works, written conversations, or any type of writing text. In this research, the

researchers analyzed poetry which is considered a part of literary works. Poetry is defined as a type of literature that arouses the readers' imaginative thought and experience through the use of selected and organized language for its sound, meaning, and rhythm (Nemerov, 2020). Poetry is slightly different from any other literary works since there is no clear sentence pattern in poetry in which each sentence should consist of at least one subject and verb like in the proper grammatical sentence rules.

Consequently, it is free to write any kind of poetry without paying attention to the structure of the sentence. It has a free written form, except for a few binding rules such as the sound, rhythm, and rhymes. Besides, poetry sometimes has intermediate vocabulary levels to make it more potent in delivering the message to the readers (Anindita, Satoto & Sumarlam, 2017). In other words, a smooth-sounding word will be combined perfectly into verses in poetry.

Furthermore, poetry is defined as any kind of verbal or written language arranged rhythmically and intended to tell or express any emotion, state of being, or idea (Ollila & Jantas, 2006). Text is divided into parts (such as lines) that are not determined by the structure of the language (Nigel, 2015). According to Merriam Webster (n.d.), poetry is writing that conveys an imaginative awareness of experience through the use of language that has been chosen and structured to elicit a specific emotional reaction through meaning, sound, and rhythm.

Interestingly, human language is unique and has been studied throughout history since a long time ago. The study of human language is called linguistics (Fromkin, et al., 2000). The branches of linguistics vary in different types. One of the branches that are focused on in this research is Semantics. Semantics is defined as the study of the linguistic aspects of the meanings of expressions. Denham and Lobeck (2013) state that Semantics is a study about how we construct and comprehend the senses of words and the group of words, such as phrases, clauses, and sentences. Meanwhile, according to Griffiths (2006) semantics is the study of the meaning of both sentences and words.

When conversation happens between two people, understanding and creating meaning out of words is not a simple matter. Sometimes people make meaning out of words that they don't exactly know and as a result, the addressee also doesn't get the meaning the speaker intends to say. Thus, it is important to learn Semantics since it can increase student's ability and awareness towards the words' meaning, sentence relationships, and discourse and context. Moreover, Semantics can also improve the intention to learn vocabulary efficiently and know how to apply the knowledge in the real social context (Alsayed, 2019).

In delivering messages through oral or written conversation, sometimes a situation occurs in which the meaning is not delivered very well. Therefore, the addressee cannot comprehend correctly the intended meaning that the speaker is trying to convey. This situation also could be categorized as ambiguity. According to Zimmermann & Sternefeld (2013) ambiguity means the phenomenon when one form may carry more than one meaning. Specifically, it is called ambiguous when one form has different expressions. According to Kroeger (2018) ambiguity occurs when a word, phrase, or sentence has two or more meanings or senses. Furthermore, Anderson (2018) stated that ambiguous means that there are two

or more distinct meanings available. Anderson (2018) also mentioned that there are two basic types of ambiguity. The first type is known as structural ambiguity or syntactic ambiguity, while the other one is categorized as lexical ambiguity.

Lexical ambiguity refers to the situation in which a single word has more than one sense, and as a result, it can refer to various kinds of things (Kroeger, 2019). In language, there is no rule that a word only has one sense or meaning. According to Rodd (2017), lexical ambiguity is common in English as more than 80% of English words have more than one dictionary entry, with several words having various numbers of different meanings. Therefore, it is genuinely possible for lexical ambiguity to occur when communicating with other people through a written or oral conversation. For example, the word “hot” can refer to a high temperature, a burning taste, an intense activity, very popular or successful, unpleasant or dangerous, sexually attractive or exciting, recently stolen, or the most recent news (Pasaribu 2014). This word has a variety of referents because it has multiple senses. Consequently, the truth of what the word refers to in a sentence is based on the particular context where the word is used. Therefore, it is vital to learn and understand the lexical ambiguity that arises in a word to obtain language’s critical and advanced comprehension.

Additionally, according to Kroeger (2018), there are two types of lexical ambiguity, which are polysemy and homonym. Particularly, it is not always easy to distinguish polysemy and homonym. Ginting (2018) stated that homonym comes from the Greek word “homos”, which means equal or similar, and the word “onuma” which means a name. In Linguistics, homonyms could mean words that have the same pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings. A homonym could be described as a case when a word has different senses which are far apart from each other and completely not related to each other according to the native speaker’s intuition (Griffiths, 2006). In other words, homonyms are unrelated senses of the same phonological word (Saeed, 2016). Based on those interpretations, the word “bank” could be classified as a homonym since it has more than one sense that is unrelated to each other. The word “bank” could mean a financial institution or a riverside. There is no clear connection between the two meanings that the word “bank” carries.

Polysemy is described as the association of two or more related senses with a single word form (Pasaribu, 2014). Meanwhile, in a Linguistics for Everyone: An Introduction, Second Edition book written by Kristin Denham and Anne Lobeck (year?), a word that is categorized as polysemous has two or more meanings that are still related to each other. As it comes from the Greek word “poly” and “semy”, polysemy can be defined as “many meanings” in English. Furthermore, polysemous pairs require a close semantic relationship between the meanings of the word. This is different from homonyms in which the different meanings in homonymous pairs are not related to each other (Zimmermann & Sternefeld, 2013). The context of polysemy can be seen in the following examples.

1. He still goes to school. (Means: the institution)
2. School is on strike today. (Means: the teachers and students)
3. Our school is classified as a historical monument. (Means: the building)

The three sentences contain the word “school”, but the meaning of the word “school” in each sentence is different. According to Zimmermann and Sternefeld

(2013), the word “school” can mean the institution, the teachers and students, or the building itself. All those meanings are still related to each other. Therefore, the word school is classified as polysemy.

In line with the explanation above, here is the comparison between homonymy and polysemy. Either homonyms or polysemy, in semantics, are a part of the lexical relationships that portray the connection between the meaning of the words. However, both are different. (Kroeger, 2019) make guidelines to distinguish between homonymy and polysemy. First, in most cases, two senses of a polysemous word share at least one significant feature or component of meaning, but homonyms do not. Second, the word is likely polysemous if one sense appears to be a metaphorical extension of the other. Third, according to Beekman and Callow (as cited by Kroeger, 2019), one sense can typically be defined as the principal sense for polysemous terms, with the other senses classified as subsidiary or figurative. Fourth, most dictionaries utilize etymology (historical source) as a criterion. However, it is not a reliable basis for synchronic language research. Because the metaphorical extension is a typical component in semantic change through time, there is often a correlation between etymology and the abovementioned requirements.

This study used a bilingual poetry book entitled *The Oxford Book of Latin American Poetry* which consists of the original poetry in Spanish as the main language that is widely spoken in Latin America and the translations in English. As a non-native English speaker, comprehending poetry becomes a challenging experience. Moreover, the fact that the human brain has an average of 45,000 to 60,000 vocabularies stored in the mental lexicon also influences the comprehension ability towards some sentences (Fromkin, et al., 2000). Additionally, since the poetry has been translated from Spanish into English, it will bring more confusion to the readers. This could cause more complicated interpretations from the readers due to the words chosen by the translators. Whether the translators choose inappropriate words until they become ambiguous or they intentionally choose the multiple senses words to let the readers imagine and find their own interpretations of the poetry. Therefore, it is interesting to analyse how ambiguity emerges in poetry, particularly lexical ambiguity.

Polysemy and homonyms are types of vocabulary ambiguity that affect the reader’s interpretation, as evidenced by the ten sentences described in the discussion section. The four lexemes were identified as polysemy because they were related to each other, even though they had multiple senses. In addition, the remaining six lexemes were classified as homonyms because they had different meanings derived from the same written word.

Note that two previous studies related to lexical ambiguity were used as references for this paper. First is Arizona’s (2016) study, which discussed ambiguous lexemes in advertisements and the reader’s interpretation of lexical ambiguity in the advertisements. Besides, this research has two purposes. The first is to identify the words in the cosmetic advertisement that causes vocabulary ambiguity. The second purpose is to determine the reader’s interpretation of vocabulary ambiguity in advertising. Moreover, this research seems to help readers to consider the actual meaning to avoid misunderstanding the advertised object. Then, Arizona (2016) examined 20 advertisements from 10 cosmetic brands and found

11 advertisements were ambiguous and nine advertisements were not. After that, 43% of the readers did not discover the ambiguity, while 56.64% of the readers could identify the ambiguity. As a result, Arizona (2016) stated that three aspects were mainly found in each reader's analysis of ambiguous phrases and sentences. They were particularized conversational implicature, existential presupposition, and generalized conversational implicature.

The second is Charina's (2017) study, which focused on lexical and syntactic ambiguity in humor. This research aims to look at the role of ambiguity in creating a sense of humor. In this study, Carina found 25 sample data in which 12 were categorized as lexical ambiguity and 13 were syntactic ambiguity. She collected the data from phrases or sentences of anecdotes, riddles, and short stories/anecdotes. Then, she analyzed the data to figure out the ambiguous meaning. As a result, the researchers concluded that multiple interpretations create humor. What has been found in this study aids readers in understanding humor from lexical and structural ambiguity because ambiguity can be one effective way to produce humor.

METHOD

This study used a descriptive qualitative method that focuses on ambiguous words in sentences. Denscombe (2010) depicts that qualitative data analysis can take various forms, depending on the type of data being utilized and the goals for which it is being investigated. Besides, qualitative data can use visual images and words to collect data. In this research, the first step was to select poems from the "The Oxford Book of Latin American Poetry".

In collecting data, the researchers read the poem and highlighted the ambiguous verses. Then, the researchers selected the poems to be observed further. Eight poems were found to be investigated. Secondly, the poems were read several times. Thirdly, relevant notes about all ambiguous words were made. Fourthly, the researchers discovered the meanings of ambiguous lexemes in the online Cambridge Dictionary. Fifthly, the researchers analyzed the data to ensure that the data were correct and appropriate based on the lexical ambiguity theory. Sixthly, the researchers eventually identified and crosschecked the ambiguous words and discussed them in the discussion section.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Polysemy and homonym are the sorts of lexical ambiguity that impact the reader's interpretation, as demonstrated by the ten sentences described in the discussion section.

Four lexemes were identified as polysemy because they had several senses that were nevertheless connected. Furthermore, the remaining six lexemes were classified as homonyms since they all had dissimilar meanings derived from the same written word. The findings are presented in Table 1, and the discussion on the ten ambiguous words categorized as lexical ambiguity would follow.

Table 1
Occurrences of lexical ambiguity

No.	Sentences containing ambiguous lexemes	Types of lexical ambiguity	Titles of the poetry
1	And in macabre ponderosas, a pastor suddenly brandishes his cane as a layman extinguishes gloomy candelabras.	Polysemy	Excerpt from Lunatic Tertulia (p. 110)
2	Do you remember that holy mess that we saw at Andújar?	Homonym	<i>New Patriotic Dialogue</i> (p. 53)
3	Thank God cows don't have wings.	Homonym	U. S. A. (p. 280)
4	Goddamn the oven's flame because my heart is raw .	Polysemy	Goddamn the Empty Sky (p. 289)
5	Take this rag , Mariano, and walk with the yellow bay and hook him up to the others.	Homonym	New Patriotic Dialogue (p. 49)
6	I do not ride and I do not court , I hate the lasquenet... word of honor!	Homonym	Excerpt from Intimate Ideas (p. 67)
7	I entrusted my son to the coat and protection of some oxen, whose warm breath reminded me of Maria's tepid and impenetrable purity.	Polysemy	<i>Maria's First Death</i> (p. 322)
8	Two sons dead by the whip .	Homonym	<i>Excerpt from Bulletin and Elegy of Indian Enslavement</i> (p. 297)
9	You've no voice of your own, no virtues it said	Polysemy	<i>Excerpt from The Displaced Applicant</i> (p. 356)
10	How I learn this craft	Homonym	<i>Learning</i> (p. 514)

As shown in Table 1, there are two types of lexical ambiguity found in the selected sentences. Those two types of lexical ambiguity are categorized as homonym and polysemy. From the ten sentences collected, the researchers found six lexemes have lexical ambiguity that is defined as homonym and the other 4 of them belong to polysemy.

Datum 1: *And in macabre ponderosas, a pastor suddenly brandishes his cane as a layman extinguishes gloomy candelabras.*

Datum 1 contains lexical ambiguity because the two senses of the word "cane"

generate two different readings, and one of these readings could be true while the other was false in a particular situation. This is classified as polysemy where a single word has two or more meanings that are still related to each other. As a result, this raises ambiguity when the readers are trying to interpret the meaning. According to the online Cambridge dictionary, the word “cane” could mean either a long stick used by people to help them walk or the long, hollow stems of particular plants such as bamboo. Thus, based on those meanings, readers can interpret two interpretations as shown below:

1. Meaning 1: And in macabre ponderosas, a pastor suddenly brandishes his long bamboo stick as a layman extinguishes gloomy candelabras.
2. Meaning 2: And in macabre ponderosas, a pastor suddenly brandishes his walking stick as a layman extinguishes Gloomy candelabras.

As a result, this raises ambiguity when the readers interpret the meaning.

Datum 2: *Do you remember that holy mess that we saw at Andújar?*

The word “mess” is classified as lexical ambiguity in the context of the sentence above since the readers could interpret it as a specific meaning according to the reader’s thought. It could be considered polysemy, a word with two or more meanings still related to each other. The relationship of meanings can be seen from the root of the word. It is what Kroeger (2019) states in his general guidelines about the use of etymology to distinguish polysemy and homonym.

The word “mess” in the online Cambridge Dictionary could mean as first is “something or someone that looks dirty or untidy”. The second is “a situation that is full of problems”. The third is a “room or building in which members of the armed forces have their meals or spend their free time”. Consequently, based on those meanings, readers can have three interpretations as shown below.

1. Meaning 1: Do you remember that holy thing that looks dirty that we saw at Andújar?
2. Meaning 2: Do you remember that holy problematic situation that we saw at Andújar?
3. Meaning 3: Do you remember that holy room in which members of the armed forces spend their free time that we saw at Andújar?

Oxford Dictionary (n.d.) states that the word “mess” is derived from Middle English words, specifically from the word ‘mes, an ancient French word, which means ‘portion of food’. It is also derived from ‘missum’, a late Latin word, which means ‘something placed on the table’. The senses of untidy states and persons are derived from the initial sense, namely ‘a dish of food’, then ‘liquid nourishment for an animal’. Besides, in late Middle English, the word also referred to any of the small groups into which a banquet’s guests were split; hence, a group that habitually eats together.

Based on the explanation above, this sentence is unclear because the word ‘mess’ is polysemous.

Datum 3: *Thank god cows don’t have wings.*

Denham and Lobeck (2013), define homonymy as a set of words with similarities in pronunciation and spelling but are different in senses. In line with it, Griffiths (2006) explains a homonym occurs when a word has different senses and is far

apart from each other. Based on the definitions above, the lexeme cows could be classified as a homonym and cause ambiguity to the readers while reading the poetry because it could generate some different meanings that are not interconnected to each other. Considered a homonym, the word “cows” could mean either a large female farm animal kept to produce meat and milk or an unkind or unpleasant woman. Obviously, ‘cattle’ and ‘the pleasant’ women are two different meanings. There is no relation between the two meanings of the word.

Furthermore, based on those meanings, readers can interpret two interpretations as shown below:

1. Meaning 1: Thank god cattle don't have wings
2. Meaning 2: Thank god the unpleasant women don't have wings

Hence, in the sentence “thank god cows don't have wings”, readers can interpret whether cattle don't have wings or the unpleasant women do not. This sentence is not clear to readers.

Datum 4: *Goddamn the oven's flame because my heart is raw.*

The use of the word “raw” involves lexical ambiguity in the meaning interpretation since there is no clear additional information that refers to what context the word “raw” is used. Types of lexical ambiguity that occur are polysemy because the word “raw” has more than one meaning that is categorized as interrelated to each other. This word could cause confusion while the readers try to comprehend the meaning of the poetry. The word “raw” could mean feelings that are difficult to control or also can be interpreted as painful feelings. Consequently, based on those two different meanings, readers can interpret two interpretations as shown below:

1. Meaning 1: Goddamn the oven's flame because my heart is difficult to control.
2. Meaning 2: Goddamn the oven's flame because my heart is painful.

Beekman and Callow, as cited by Kroeger (2019), signal that a word is polysemous if it has a primary sense and the other is figurative or secondary, depending on the context of the sentence. Here, the second meaning, “painful,” can be primary, and the first meaning can be a figurative sense. Therefore, the sentence above is ambiguous as the word “raw” is polysemous.

Datum 5: *Take this rag, Mariano, and walk with the yellow bay and hook him up to the others.*

Lexical ambiguity occurs in this sentence since the word “rag” has more than one dictionary entry or multiple senses. According to the online Cambridge Dictionary, the word “rag” could mean a torn piece of old cloth or a lousy quality newspaper. In the sentence “take this rag, Mariano and walk with the yellow bay and hook him up to the others,” it may mean someone asks Mariano to take a cloth or a newspaper.

1. Meaning 1: Take this cloth, Mariano, and walk with the yellow bay and hook him up to the others.
2. Meaning 2: Take this newspaper, Mariano, and walk with the yellow bay and hook him up to the others.

The word “rag” has very distinctive meanings; thus, it is categorized as a homonym. Denham and Lobeck (2013) define homonymy as words with different

meanings but sound the same. Based on this definition, this sentence could appear ambiguous.

Datum 6: *I do not ride and I do not court, I hate the lasquet... word of honor!*

There is more than one interpretation of the sentence. It can cause ambiguity and confuse the readers about what the sentence means. The word “court” has two different senses that are not related to each other. The word “court” could mean trying to get attention or support from other people or risk something unpleasant. Two different interpretations are shown below:

1. Meaning 1: I do not ride and I do not seek attention from people, I hate the lasquet... word of honor!
2. Meaning 2: I do not ride and I do not risk something, I hate the lasquet... word of honor!

This sentence is ambiguous because of the word ‘court’. This ambiguity can be categorized as a homonym. Rodd (2017) says the meanings of the various alternatives are semantically unrelated and have no common origin in the history of the language. Meanwhile, the word ‘court’ has the same sound but different meanings (Saeed, 2016).

Datum 7: *I entrusted my son to the coat and protection of some oxen, whose warm breath reminded me of Maria’s tepid and impenetrable purity.*

The word “coat” in the middle of the sentence can cause lexical ambiguity since it has more than one interpretation. The lexical ambiguity is categorized as polysemy since both senses are unrelated. According to the online Cambridge dictionary, the word “coat” means an outer piece of clothing with sleeves that is worn over other clothes or could mean the hair, wool, or fur covering an animal. It is not clear whether the coat means a warm cloth or the animal’s fur. Therefore, here is shown the possible interpretations of the sentence:

1. Meaning 1: I entrusted my son to the warm cloth and protection of some oxen, whose warm breath reminded me of Maria’s tepid and impenetrable purity.
2. Meaning 2: I entrusted my son to the fur and protection of some oxen, whose warm breath reminded me of Maria’s tepid and impenetrable purity.

In the first sense, one entrusts a coat which means an outer garment with sleeves worn over another garment. At the same time, the second meaning is that someone entrusts the hair, wool, or fur that covers an animal. These two meanings are different from one another. Hence, this sentence is ambiguous and categorized as a homonym since the word ‘coat’ has the same phonological aspect but is different in meaning (Saeed, 2016).

Datum 8: *Two sons dead by the whip.*

There is a lexical ambiguity in this sentence due to the use of the word “whip”. This word has two different meanings that could be interpreted differently by the readers. The word “whip” means a piece of leather or rope that is fastened to a stick and used for hitting animals or people or just refers to a car. Those two meanings are far apart and not interrelated to each other. Thus, it is called a homonym. Two different interpretations can be seen below:

1. Meaning 1: Two sons dead by the rope that is fastened to a stick that is used

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for hitting people.

2. Meaning 2: Two sons dead by the car.

Sentence 'two sons dead by the whip' is ambiguous to the reader as readers could interpret which one causes the death of a child, whether rope or car.

Datum 9: *You've no voice of your own, no virtues it said.*

The word "virtues" carries two different interpretations. One of the meanings is a good moral quality in a person meanwhile the other is an advantage or good thing. This word has two related meanings; According to (Pasaribu, 2014), polysemy is a single word form with two or more associated senses. Besides, Kroeger (2019) highlights that a word can be polysemous because it has one primary sense and the other is secondary. Therefore, the word 'virtues' can be considered polysemy. Hence, the interpretations are shown below.

1. Meaning 1: You've no voice of your own, no good moral it said

2. Meaning 2: You've no voice of your own, no advantage it said

Datum 10: *How I learn this craft*

In the sentence above, the word "craft" causes ambiguity for the reader. Since it has two unrelated meanings, the word "craft" is classified as a homonym. A homonym happens when a word is unrelated to each other, or the meaning is different (Griffiths, 2006). The first meaning of "craft" is skill or experience, while the other meaning is a vehicle for travelling on water or through the air. Thus, the readers could interpret the sentence as:

1. Meaning 1: How I learn this skill

2. Meaning 2: How I learn this vehicle

In line with that, skill and vehicle are two different things and have different meanings. Thus, this sentence raises ambiguity.

As Riemer (2016) stated, lexical ambiguity refers to the situation when a single word may have multiple meanings. As a result, the researchers intended to help the readers criticize the lexemes that are considered ambiguous to comprehend the appropriate meaning being referred to by the lexemes. Subsequently, the researchers aim to find out the ambiguous lexemes and analyze the meanings of each lexeme. Knowing the ambiguous words and the analysis can help readers be aware of what causes lexical ambiguity to appear in poetry. Hence, the readers can understand the causal factors of lexical ambiguity in a word and understand the contents of the poetry.

Charina's (2017) research and this study were similar to a certain extent. Both studies discussed semantic ambiguity. However, Charina's (2017) research studied lexical ambiguity and structural ambiguity, and this study only examined lexical ambiguity that occurred because of homonymy and polysemy. Besides, the two studies had different object discussions. Charina (2017) focused on phrases and sentences of anecdotes, short stories, and riddles; on the contrary, this study was concerned with lexemes and sentences or phrases in poetry.

CONCLUSION

This paper examined the lexical ambiguity found in the anthology poetry book. From the ten sentences elaborated in the discussion section, it is shown that the

types of lexical ambiguity that influence the reader's interpretation are polysemy and homonym. Four selected lexemes were indicated as polysemy since they had more than one sense that was still related to each other. Furthermore, the other six lexemes were identified as homonyms since each of them had unrelated meanings from the same written word. Consequently, the results showed that both polysemy and homonym could create different interpretations of a word leading to lexical ambiguity in a particular lexeme.

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