

**THE FORMS AND MEANINGS OF STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY
IN NEWS HEADLINES OF *THE JAKARTA POST***

PAPER

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
to Obtain Strata One (S1) Degree**



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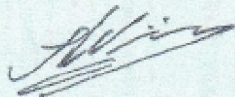
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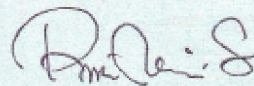
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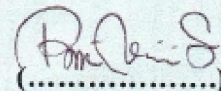
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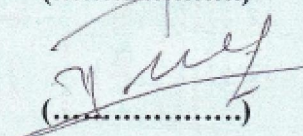
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ABSTRAK

Darsi Ariani. 2012. "The Forms and Meanings of Structural Ambiguity in News Headlines of *The Jakarta Post*". *Makalah Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris*. Padang: Universitas Negeri Padang.

Makalah yang berjudul "The Forms and Meanings of Structural Ambiguity in News Headlines of *The Jakarta Post*" ini membahas tentang jenis frase-frase dan kalimat-kalimat yang ambigu secara struktural yang ditemukan dalam surat kabar *The Jakarta Post*. Penulis memilih topik ini karena penulis ingin mengetahui bahwa ambigu bisa terjadi di situasi apapun dan dimanapun baik di dalam percakapan sehari-hari maupun di dalam teks tertulis. Oleh sebab itu, penulis menganalisis dengan menggunakan diagram *labeled bracket*. Jenis penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif.

Data yang dikumpulkan berupa frase- frase dan kalimat- kalimat yang mengandung ambigu atau banyak arti secara struktural mulai dari tanggal 1 sampai 8 Maret 2012 yang hanya terfokus pada kolom business (bisnis). Penulis mengumpulkan data sebanyak 50 dan ditampilkan hanya 15 frase dan kalimat/ klausa. Dari hasil analisis, penulis menemukan bahwa judul berita atau artikel bentuk frase lah yang dominan muncul daripada bentuk kalimat yang ambigu secara struktural. Untuk menjelaskan hal tersebut digunakan sistem *labeled bracket* yang jika pindah ke konstituen lain maka dapat mengubah makna frase atau kalimat itu sendiri. Hal ini yang membuat pembaca keliru dalam memahami judul artikel tersebut karena karakteristik berita harus ditulis secara singkat, jelas, padat dan efisien.

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The writer would like to express her deepest gratitude to her advisor, **Rima Andriani Sari, S.Pd., M.Hum.**, who had given guidance in the whole process of this writing. The writer would also like to express her deepest gratitude to the examiners, **Rusdi Noor Rosa S.S., M.Hum.**, and **Yuli Tiarina, M.Pd** who had given the suggestions and judgments so that the writer can improve this paper to be better. The writer would also like to address her greatest thanks to all of the staff in the department for all the helps and the contributions. The writer would also like to address her greatest thanks to the chairperson of the English Department, **Dr. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A.**, the Secretary of the English Department, **Dra. An. Fauzia Rozani Sy, M. A.**, and all of the staff in the department for all the helps and the contributions.

Above all, the writer would like to dedicate her deepest thanks to her beloved parents; “lovely father” **Adam Yati** and “lovely mother” **Zubaidah** for their prays, loves and supports.

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Darsi Ariani

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

People are social creatures in daily life, because they cannot live alone in their society. It means that in interaction with others. They need to communicate with other people by using language. Language is very important in people's daily life because by using language they can express their thoughts, ideas, feelings, and emotions to others.

Language can be in spoken or written language form. Both of these are different in terms of clarification of meaning. Understanding written language form is more difficult than spoken. In spoken, the listener can ask directly to the speaker when the listener does not understand about the speaker's utterance; on the other hand, a reader can not ask directly to a writer when the reader does not understand about the writer's writing.

In addition, in speaking, there are some factors that help the listeners to understand the meaning of a certain utterance, there are vocal signals like stress, pitch, and juncture that give very effective control over meaning. In writing, there is no living voice that helps the readers to get the meaning of sentences because the writer only depends on the written form alone- arrangement, word choice, word form, punctuation, spelling, and capitalisation. That is the reason why the readers sometimes have difficulties

in determining the meaning of a sentence. The readers may get more than one meaning for one sentence, which is referred as ambiguity.

Ambiguity is a word, phrase, or sentence that has more than one meaning. According to Leech (1981:30), an expression is said to be ambiguous when more than one interpretation can be assigned to one word, phrase and sentence. Moreover, according to Small, et al. (in Gomez, 1996:16), there are two kinds of ambiguity that must be distinguished; lexical and structural ambiguity. In lexical ambiguity, the double or multiple meaning comes from the meaning of the words themselves. Meanwhile, the structural ambiguity deals mainly with the patterns of the arrangement of words into phrases or sentences.

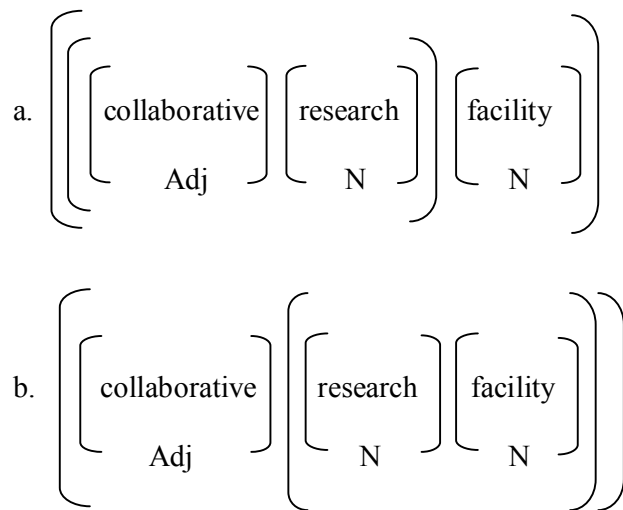
According to Hurford and Brendan H. (1983:128), structural ambiguity is basically a question of ‘what goes with what’ in a sentence, and this can be shown by labeled and bracketed sentence or phrase. Moreover, Yule (2010:89) states that an alternative type of diagram is designed to show how the constituents in sentence structure can be marked of via labeled brackets. The first type is to put brackets (one on each side) around each constituent, and then more brackets around each combination of constituents. For example: Tibetan history teacher. This phrase has two meanings. The first meaning of this phrase is “[Tibetan history] teacher. The second meaning of the phrase is Tibetan [history teacher]. It means that the form and the meaning of ambiguity are influenced by the place of the labeled bracket; if the labeled brackets move to other constituent, it can change the meaning.

The structural ambiguity is the most likely ambiguity that would be found in newspaper especially in news headline. News headline is one of the newspaper's most vulnerable points, because head writing is limited with both space and brief words in conveying a fair and accurate expression. Besides, a headline has an important purpose that is to inform the reader quickly about a story in newspaper. In reading newspaper, people tend to skim heads to have rapid comprehension of the news if they do not have much time to read the whole news. In addition, they are also not interested in reading the whole paragraphs in the news because the paragraphs are too long. It raises the possibility that the readers would get the wrong information about the news. These problems can be found in many kinds of written media especially in newspaper.

There are many kinds of newspaper are published in Indonesia both of local and national such as Singgalang, Kompas, Media Indonesia, Tempo, Seputar Indonesia, The Jakarta Post, and so on. *The Jakarta Post* is a daily English language newspaper in Indonesia with an average circulation of around 50.000 copies. Not all people know and understand English language well so that it may influence the readers tend to read the headlines.

From the explanation above, the writer focuses on analyzing the forms and meanings of structural ambiguity in *The Jakarta Post* as part of semantic study. In that case, the writer takes the headlines of The Jakarta Post because it is one of the national newspapers in Indonesia. Besides, it is a popular newspaper in Indonesia and it is a good source of information and knowledge

to improve English skill. Furthermore, in this study, the writer takes news headline as source to be studied, because there are some news headlines which contain structural ambiguity such as “collaborative research facility”. This phrase has two meanings and it can be shown from using labeled bracket.



In the diagram (a), the word *collaborative* modifies only *research* which form as noun phrase while in the diagram (b), the word *collaborative* modifies the whole phrase *research facility*. From diagram (a) and (b), it can be concluded that meanings of that phrase or sentences are different based on cutting of them.

As mentioned above, not all people are interested in reading the whole texts of newspaper since they do not have much time. In addition, they are also not interested in reading the whole paragraphs in the news because the paragraphs are too long that makes the possibility that the readers would get the wrong information about the news.

B. Limitation of the Problem

This study belongs to semantic field. It is limited to structural ambiguity that can be found in all parts of subheadings of the news headline especially in business column. The data were taken from printed newspaper from 1 to 8 March 2012. Furthermore, this study is also limited in studying the forms and meanings of structural ambiguity.

C. Formulation of the Problem

Related to the explanations above, the writer analyzed the structural ambiguity in news headline of The Jakarta Post. Moreover, to make it clear, the problems of this study are formulated as follow:

1. What are the forms of the structural ambiguity that can be found in phrase or sentence in news headline of The Jakarta Post?
2. What are the meanings of the structural ambiguity that can be found in phrase or sentence in news headline of The Jakarta Post?

D. Purposes of the Study

This research is expected to give contribution to linguistic field. It is expected to give a better understanding for the readers about structural ambiguity in news headline of The Jakarta Post. Hopefully, the readers will get scientific description of this structure of ambiguous sentences so that they will not be confused and will be able to recognize it faster when they are reading those sentences.

E. Definition of Key Terms

Ambiguity : is the property of having more than one linguistic meaning both lexical and structural.

Structural ambiguity : is double or multiple meaning which is caused by the arrangement of words into phrases or sentences found in The Jakarta Post.

News Headlines : is the title of piece of newspaper article printed in bold letters found in The Jakarta Post.

The Jakarta Post newspaper : is a daily national newspaper written in English, which is published for the first time on April 25th, 1983 and it is owned by PT Bina Media Tenggara with an average circulation of around 50.000 copies.

F. Techniques of Data Collection

The data of this study were taken from the printed newspaper dated from 1 to 8 March 2012. Moreover, the data of this study were the phrases and sentences which contain structural ambiguity. In collecting the data, the writer read the newspaper first. Then, the writer identified the structural ambiguity in news headline of The Jakarta Post both in phrases and sentences. Next, the writer wrote them on the note cards in order to make it easier and clearer to analyze the data.

G. Techniques of Data Analysis

In doing this study, the data were analyzed into some steps, they are:

1. Identifying the phrases or sentences of the structural ambiguity.

In identifying the phrases or sentences of the structural ambiguity, the writer reads the newspaper first. Then the writer underlined the phrases or sentences which included the structural ambiguity.

2. Analyzing the forms of the structural ambiguity in news headline of The Jakarta Post based on the theory that is proposed by Yule (2010:89). He states that an alternative type of diagram is designed to show how the constituents in sentence structure can be marked of via labeled brackets.
3. Analyzing the meanings of the structural ambiguity in news headline of The Jakarta Post that is proposed by Cruse (2000:6). He states that the meaning of complex expression such as sentence is composed of

lexical meaning, which is the meaning of the individual words, and structural meaning, which is the meaning of the way the words are combined.