

Chapter I

Introduction

Background

In daily life, people need to communicate with others using language. People communicate with others to maintain and to establish relationship among people or society because one cannot live by herself or himself and they need each other's help. Therefore, language is important in our life as a means of communication.

The language has a meaning whether it is a spoken language or a written language. We learn the meaning itself in semantics. According to Palmer (1976, p. 1), "Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning". Sometimes we do not state the meaning clearly so that we make the listeners or the readers interpret our meaning into different meaning. To understand a written language is rather difficult than a spoken language because if the listeners do not understand what we say, they can ask us directly what we mean. On the other hand, if the readers do not understand what we had written in a book, a novel, a magazine, and so on, they can not ask us directly, hence it create misunderstanding. such kind of misunderstanding also known as ambiguity.

In written language this ambiguity can happen in every writing occasion like magazine, newspaper, letter, novel, and so on. Newspaper is particular an important role in giving information since it gives information or news that people need to know. There are many several newspapers such as Media

Indonesia, Kompas, Koran Sindo and also The Jakarta Post. However, I choose "The Jakarta Post" as the source of data because "The Jakarta Post" is one of the Indonesian newspapers, which are written in English language.

"The Jakarta Post" has several newspapers which discuss different topics. For example, they are national news, city news, sports, business, opinion, et cetera. In this study, the writer chooses the opinion with the general topic because it is an expression of the writer to write her or his opinion. In presenting the opinion through sentences, people sometimes may produce sentences with more than one meaning that can make the reader confused. Since the readers' LI is Indonesian do not understand sentences, it is possible that they may interpret and understand the content of "The Jakarta Post" Newspaper differently.

Therefore, The Jakarta Post is important to read opinion and one other newspaper in Indonesia. If the readers do not get what it means, they can have misinterpretation about what the printed media intended to say. From that reason, it is important that the reader can receive or understand the messages well (in comprehension or understanding competence). In order to have language competence in the comprehension or understanding, people must know the rules of grammar in representing the language competence of using the language in daily communication or written.

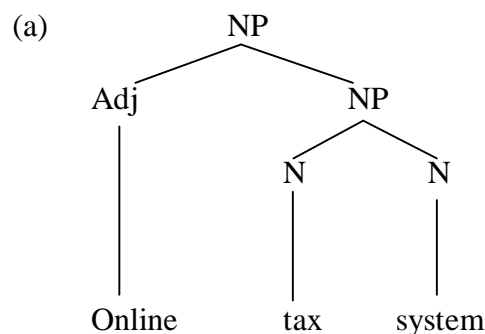
In interpreting the ambiguity, the writer used tree diagrams because it provides and shows a visual representation of constituent structure in the

sentence. Generally, the ambiguity has two kinds which are lexical and structural ambiguity.

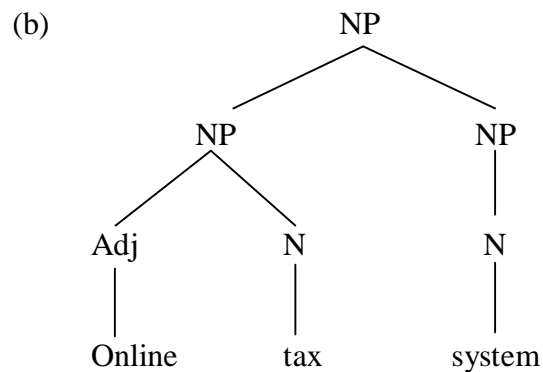
An expression is said to be ambiguous when more than one interpretation can be assigned to it (Leech 1981, p. 30). This ambiguous expression can happen in one word or one phrase/ sentence. That's we know as lexical and structural ambiguity.

Structural ambiguity happens because its words relate to each other in different ways, even though none of the individual words are ambiguous (Hurford and Heasley 1983, p. 128). Structural ambiguity is basically a question of 'what goes with what' in a sentence, and this can be shown by "tree diagram" By using this way, the writer can know the different structures that make one sentence ambiguous.

However, the writer only focuses to investigate structural ambiguity that shows the construction of sentences in the opinion. For example, in the opinion there is a sentence "Online tax system"



In (a) The adjective, *online* modifies the noun phrase, *tax system* and the noun, *tax* modifies the noun head, *system*. It means that the we have applied online system of tax so we are optimistic it can help us increase our tax income.



In (b) The noun phrase *online tax*, modifies the noun head, *system* and the adjective, *online* modifies the noun *tax*. It means that we have applied the system of online tax so we are optimistic it can help us increase our tax income.

Problem Statement

The problem statement of this research is “What is the structural ambiguity that occurs in the opinion of The Jakarta Post?”

Objective of the Study

This study is conducted to know the structural ambiguity in the opinion of The Jakarta Post. Therefore, I investigated the ambiguous sentences constructed in the articles of opinion by using immediate constituent analysis through tree diagram to show each constituent in order to found the meaning of those sentences.

Significance of the Study

By understanding the theory of ambiguity, the students also gain benefit since they have to write an articles, so that they can construct the sentences in giving information clearly.

I hope this study gave contribution to study of syntax and also to study of ambiguity in particular for study of ambiguity is still very limited, and also hope this study can help the reader to understand more about ambiguous sentences.

For academic purpose, I want to inspire others to conduct about structural ambiguity on other field of study. Also this study can hopefully be a reference for those who want to conduct a similar research.

Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is syntax by using immediate constituent analysis and apply tree diagram to show each constituent. Moreover, the writer limited the study on structural ambiguity in the opinion of The Jakarta Post in 10 opinions. The data taken from The Jakarta Post there are written by Indonesian writers of the opinion.