

**THE STUDY OF STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY IN THE
ARTICLES OF OPINION IN “THE JAKARTA POST”
NEWSPAPER**

A TERM PAPER

Submitted to the English Department Faculty of Letters
in Part-Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the *Sarjana Sastra* Degree

By
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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LETTERS
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The Project Entitled

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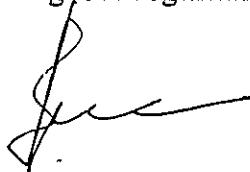


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Is a scientific research that I conduct under the guidance of Dra. Inna Nirwani Djajadiningrat, M.Hum and Fridolini, M.Hum. Since the project is truly original, not a half or complete plagiarism of someone else's, the contents have fully become my responsibility.

With all sincerity, I made this statement in Jakarta, on February 22nd, 2010.

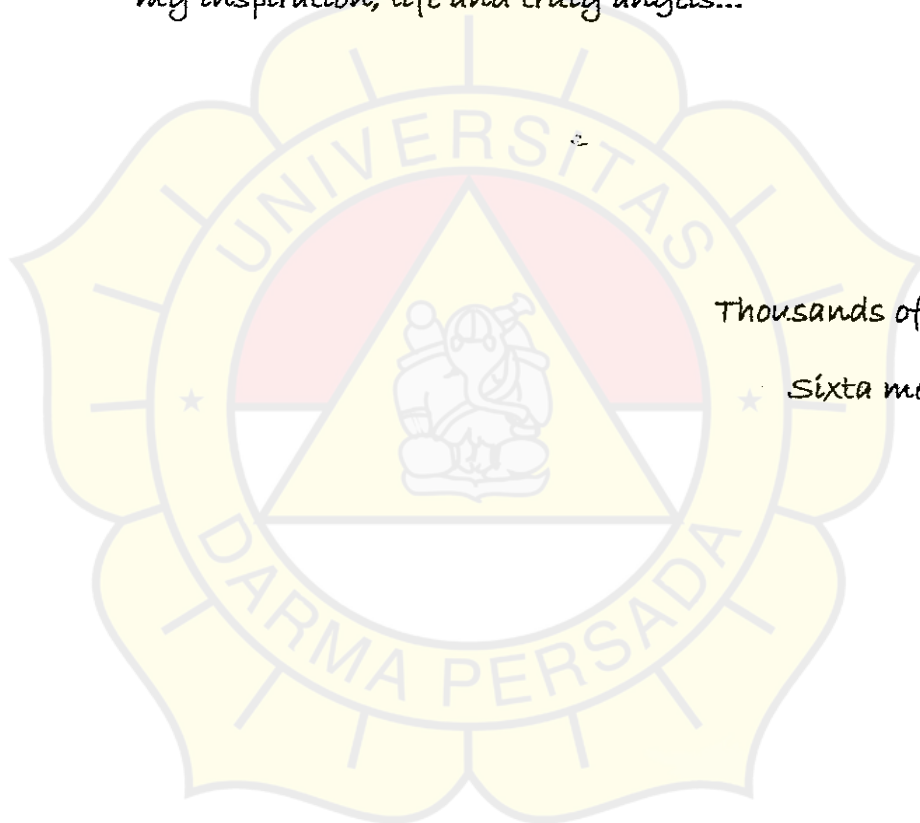
SIXTA MEILIZA

The logo of Universitas Darma Persada is a large, faint watermark in the background. It features a central emblem with a figure, surrounded by a circular border containing the text 'UNIVERSITAS DARMA PERSADA' and two stars.

To my dearest and beloved mom, late father,

My two adorable brothers Antra and Tian, my two adorable sisters Tanti
and Ana, my two mischievous nephews andi and endry and my aunty
and grandma

I dedicate this end of term paper as my love for you because you all are
my inspiration, life and truly angels...



Thousands of Love,

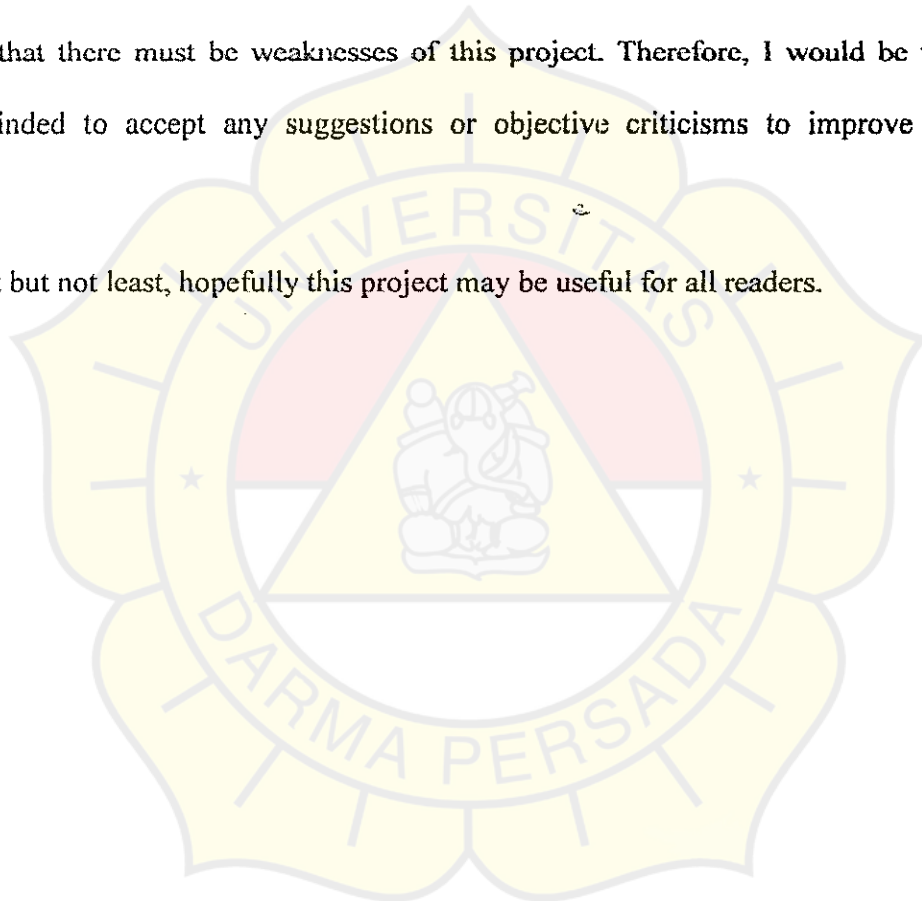
Sixta meiliza

PREFACE

This project, entitled *The Study of Structural Ambiguity in the Articles of Opinion in the Jakarta Post Newspaper* is a part-fulfillment of requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra* in English and Letters.

Nobody is perfect, including I am, but I will strive to reach it. That's why I fully realize that there must be weaknesses of this project. Therefore, I would be very open-minded to accept any suggestions or objective criticisms to improve this project.

The last but not least, hopefully this project may be useful for all readers.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise to the Almighty Allah SWT for the blessings and mercies upon me I am able to begin and finish this project. This is a great gift for me.

My most sincere gratitude goes to the Committee of Supervisors: Dra. Irna Nirwani Djajadiningrat, M.Hum as Supervisor I, whose patience, advice, love, and encouraging comments and spirit have made believe that I could finish this project. Ms. Fridolini M.Hum, as supervisor II, whose patience, advice and carefulness in correcting the style of my writing.

My special thanks also go to the Head of English Programme, Agustinus Haryana, SS,MSi who has been so patient giving me information I needed to complete my project.

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ABSTRACT

THE STUDY OF STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY IN THE ARTICLES OF OPINION IN “THE JAKARTA POST” NEWSPAPER

Nowadays, people need more actual and complete information. To get that information, there are several ways. Newspaper is one way to get information. In reading the newspaper, it is important to get what the newspaper intended to say. Therefore, newspaper should present the information clearly. However, constructing the sentences sometimes produces more than one meaning. Therefore, the writer wants to conduct this study about structural ambiguity because readers can get misunderstanding or misinterpretation, from The Jakarta Post in the articles of opinion.

From this study, the writer wants to know what types of ambiguity and the frequency of each type which occur in The Jakarta Post newspaper in the articles of opinion. To analyze the data the writer uses “immediate constituent analysis” through tree diagram as the main theory (Van valin, 2001) which is supported by the theory of ambiguity from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambiguity>. this study takes 25 articles from the articles of opinion of “The Jakarta Post” newspaper by Indonesian writers. The writer collected the data which has two or more meanings. Through the analysis, she finds that there are two types of ambiguity in the articles of opinion in The Jakarta Post newspaper.

Actually there are five types, namely, noun phrase, verb phrase, adjective phrase, adverb phrase, and prepositional phrase but in this study the writers only finds two types, namely, noun phrase and prepositional phrase. Noun phrase can be

divided into two, based on part of speech, namely, adjective + noun + noun and adjective + noun + con + noun, while prepositional phrase can be divided into two based on the effects whether it affects meaning or not. Prepositional phrase that does not affect meaning can be divided into two based on parts of speech, namely, preposition + adjective + noun + noun and preposition + adjective + noun + con + noun. The prepositional phrase is more predominant and not affecting meaning in the form of preposition + adjective + noun + noun.

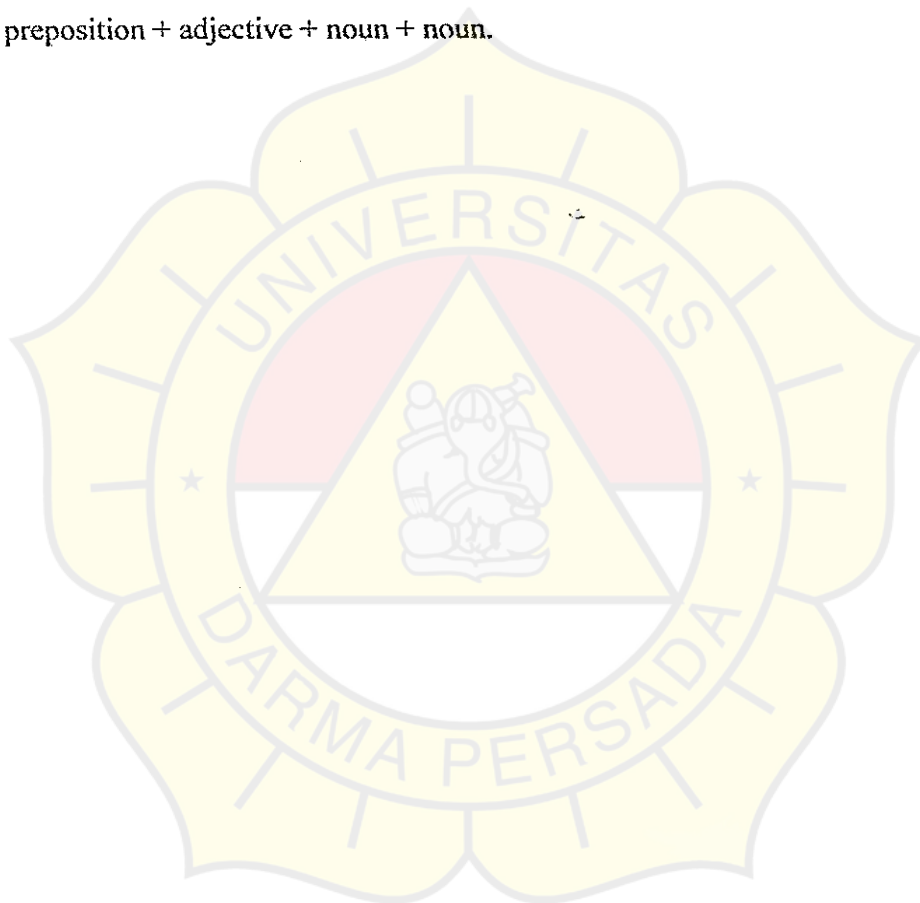


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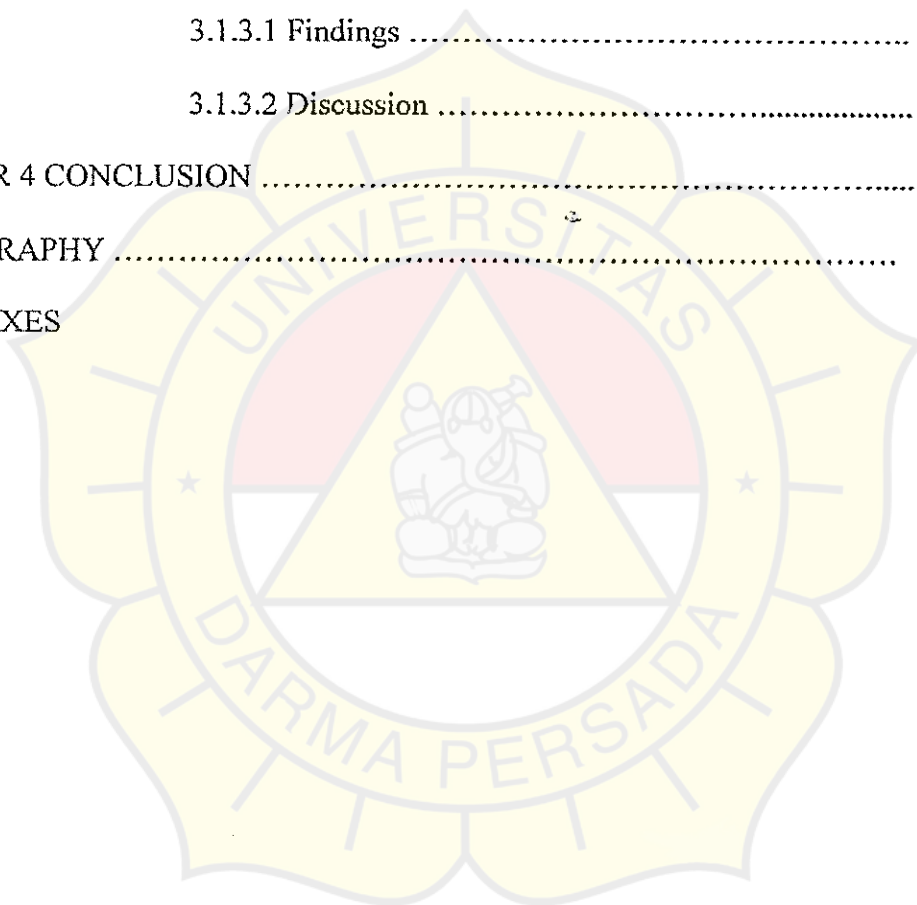
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 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/himself and they need each other's help. Therefore, language is important in our life as a means of communication. Moreover, language also has many functions such as expressing ideas, feelings, etc. Basically, there are two kinds of language. There are spoken and written languages. Both of them are different in terms of the clarification of meaning. In fact, in spoken language, the listener can ask directly what the speaker says or means, on the other hand, the written language is difficult to clarify because it is impossible for the readers to ask the meaning to the writer directly. Besides, the understanding of written language can be various because of the diversity of human thought and the experiences. It is usually called ambiguity. Ambiguity is the property of being ambiguous, where a word, term, notation, sign, symbol, phrase, sentence, or any other form used for communication, is called ambiguous if it can be interpreted in more than one way (Owen and Sweeny in Visser 2004:1).

People used printed media to deliver written information. In fact, there are several kinds of media, such as newspaper, magazine, brochure, etc. Newspaper holds an important role in giving information since it gives information or news that people need to know. Moreover, there are several newspapers such as "The

Jakarta Post”, “Kompas”, “Media Indonesia”, etc. However the writer chooses “The Jakarta Post” newspaper as the source of data because “The Jakarta Post” newspaper is one of Indonesian newspaper, which is written in foreign language, English. “The Jakarta post” newspaper has several articles which discuss different topics. For example, they are national news, city news, sports, business, opinion, etc. In this study, the writer chooses the articles with the topic of opinion 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’ is Indonesian, it is possible that they may interpret and understand the content of “The Jakarta Post” newspaper differently.

Therefore, it is important to see the meaning of the sentences, so that readers can get what the printed media wants to say. If the readers do not get what it means, they can have misunderstanding or misinterpretation about the printed media intends to say. From that reason, it is important that the reader can receive or understand the messages well (in comprehension and 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.

Generally, ambiguity has two kinds which are lexical and structural ambiguity. *Structural ambiguity occurs when the meaning of the component words can be combined in more than one way (O’Grady et al.1997).* The ambiguity can be examined with grammatical analysis and semantics. For example:

Nicole saw the people with binoculars.

The sentence can be grasped in two ways. One interpretation is that Nicole used binoculars to see the people. In this sense, *binocular* modify Nicole (Nicole with binoculars). The other meaning, the people had binoculars when Nicole saw them. It means that *binoculars* modify the people (people with binoculars).

Ambiguity also depends on the context; the same linguistic item (a word, phrase, or sentence) may be ambiguous in one context and unambiguous in another context. For example:

They went to the bank.

The word *bank* in the sentence has two possible meaning, the edge of a river, or a financial institution. From the sentence it self, it is difficult to get the meaning of *bank*. It needs a context to clear up the message conveyed. In other word, the sentence is ambiguous due to lacking of information. It can be disambiguated by providing additional information as in, 'They went to the bank to save some money. *A sentence can be ambiguous because of many reasons, some of which are multiple meaning, lack of information, and incompleteness (Owen and Sweeny in Visser 2004:1).*

1.2 Identification of Problem

Based on the background above, then the problem that comes up is the ambiguity of meaning in the articles of "The Jakarta Post" newspaper. The writer assumes the ambiguity in the articles can cause more than one meaning.

1.3 Limitation of Problem

The problem that the writer discusses here is the ambiguity in the article of “The Jakarta Post” newspaper. Moreover, the writer would limit the research on structural ambiguous sentences in the 25 opinion articles of the Jakarta Post from January 2003 until May 2003. The data will be taken from the articles that are written by Indonesian writers of the articles.

1.4 Formulation of Problem

According to the limitation of the problem stated above, the writer formulates the problem of the research as follows:

1.4.1 What are the types of structural ambiguity that may often occur in the opinion articles of The Jakarta Post newspaper?

1.4.2 What is the most predominant type of structural ambiguity in the opinion articles of The Jakarta Post newspaper?

1.5 Objectives the Research

In order to meet my purposes, I conduct analysis steps as follows:

1.5.1 Analyze the types of structural ambiguity.

1.5.2 Analyze the most predominant type of structural ambiguity in the opinion articles of The Jakarta Post newspaper.

1.6 Framework of the Theories

In conducting the research, the writer use the theory as follows: 1. *A sentence can be ambiguous because of many reasons, some of which are multiple meaning,*

lack of information, and incompleteness (Owen and Sweeny in Visser 2004:1); 2. To make the sentences unambiguous and grammatical, it is necessary to have some sort of formal signals which help the reader or hearer to recognize the sentences structure (Taha 1983); 3. Lexical ambiguity is the result of homophony or polysemy in that a single form has two or more meanings, either related or not (O'grady, Dobrovolsky, and Katamba, 1997: p. 179).

1.7 Methodology of the Research

This study is focusing on ambiguity in articles of opinion in "The Jakarta Post" newspaper by using qualitative approach specifically the writer used descriptive type because the main purpose of this research is to study the whole data thoroughly.

1.8 Systematization of the Research

The systematization of this research begins with chapter 1, an introduction which covers background, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objectives of the problem, framework of the theories, methodology of the research, and systemized of the research. Following the introduction is chapter 2, conceptual framework and methodology which contain definition and explanation of the theories and ideas concerning the types of ambiguity. Then in chapter 3 is the analysis of the ambiguity in the article of The Jakarta Post newspaper. Finally the writer would conclude all from chapter 1 until chapter 3 in chapter 4.