

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of The Research

The use of languages that contain indistinctness of the delivered messages can cause the misunderstandings to the languages receivers. The indistinct meanings in delivering languages generally happen not in purposes. The speakers or the writers of the languages usually understand what they mean in the languages they deliver. In the process of meaning transferring, the speakers and the writers can be trapped in language phenomenon that causes indistinctness of language meanings. This case can bring the language receiver into a confusing situation in interpreting meanings.

One of the language phenomena that are often linked to indistinctness of meaning interpreting is ambiguity. Ambiguity in languages gives the receiver more than one meaning. One meaning is different to another. It is often confusing to any language receivers. To get the exact meaning, languages receivers must understand the context of the language which is being delivered. Linguists believe that there are three kinds of ambiguity. First is phonetic ambiguity, the second is lexical ambiguity and the last one is grammatical ambiguity.

Based on those three ambiguities in language usage, the later research will focus on the grammatical ambiguity. The grammatical ambiguity occurs because of the sentences structures that potentially make the sentence meanings

ambiguous. The following sentences are considered containing ambiguous meanings that are influenced by their structure:

1. *Charlie is a friend of Dustin who always drinks coffee in the morning*
2. *My mom just bought apples and oranges that are still fresh*

In the first sentence, the meaning is more than one. If the given question related to the sentence is who drinks coffee in the morning? And the answer can be Charlie or Dustin. Number one possibility is Charlie always drinks coffee in the morning. The possibility number two is Dustin always drinks coffee in the morning. In the second sentence, the language receivers might get baffled in understanding what the exact meaning of the sentence. First possibility 'still fresh' refers to apple. The second possibility it refers to oranges and the third possibility it refers to the both of them.

The two sentences above, if their structures are carefully seen, the adjective clause exists. It makes those sentences become ambiguous. If the adjective clause '*who always drinks coffee in the morning*' was omitted, the meaning would have been very clear. The first sentence would have been *Charlie is a friend of Dustin*. Meanwhile in the second sentence '*that are still fresh*' was omitted as well, it would have been *My mom just bought apples and oranges*. No more indistinctness found in the meaning of those two sentences when their adjective clauses were omitted.

The adjective clause is very potential in creating the ambiguous sentences. However it is, but not all sentences with adjective clauses will be ambiguous. For example: *John hit the car which is parked in backyard*. This sentence even has

adjective clause ‘*which is parked in the backyard*’ in its structure, the meaning is still clear. No receivers will get baffled in interpreting the sentence meaning.

In the question of what sentences with adjective clause does the ambiguity happen? To answer the question, it is a must to investigate the sentence structures before giving any answers. Syntax gives a technique to analyze relation of words in a sentence by using tree diagram. It can show the hierarchical structure and how words combined to form a sentence. Collin and Hollo say that the type of constituent structure analyses we have been discussing can sometime be used to shed light on ambiguous sentence. Each different interpretation corresponding to a separate constituent analysis

Most particularly, this research will focus on analyzing surface structure in the sentences containing adjective clauses that make ambiguous meanings found in the opinion columns in the *Jakarta Post* newspapers as source of data. Considering all matters above, the research is entitled as **Structural Ambiguity Of Sentences Containing Adjective Clause As Found In Jakarta Post.**

1.2 Identification of the Problem

In relation to make the research clear, two research questions is classified:

1. How to determine the ambiguity based on the structures?
2. What are the main cause of ambiguity in sentence containing adjective clause ?

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objective of this research is to determine and visualize the structures of the ambiguous sentence containing adjective.

1.4 Scope of the Research

The research is confined in analysis of the ambiguous sentences containing adjective clauses that are found in the several opinion columns in *Jakarta Post* newspapers which were published on 1st February 2013 to 30th February 2014.

1.5 Method of the Research

In conducting the research, the writer has followed some methods proposed by Sudaryanto (1993). They are: collecting data, analyzing data, and presenting the result of analysis.

1.5.1 Collecting Data

In collecting data, the writer applies the observational method. According to Sudaryanto (1993: p.133) observational method is a method of collecting data by observing the use of the language. Purposive sampling is a technique that is used by the writer in selecting sample for the purpose of data collection. Sutopo (2006: p.45) stated in purposive sampling, the researcher selects the units with some purposes in mind. The writer selects certain opinion columns in the *Jakarta Post* newspapers which are published in whole last year start from February 2013 to February 2014. To see the phrase structures rules and classifying processes of



ambiguous sentences containing adjective clauses, the writer chooses several sentences that containing a ambiguous meaning.

The writer held several steps in collecting data. They are data searching, data collecting, and data sorting. First, the writer lists all adjective sentences and sentences with ambiguous structure in those articles. The writer searches the wanted data in several articels published in national English newspaper called Jakarta Post. The writer chooses Jakarta post because it is the most popular English newspaper published in the entire Indonesia and it always informs the political dynamic of the country to the public. Because of that reason, the writer decides Jakarta Post as the source of the data in thesis making.

In data collecting, the writer takes ten articles in the newspaper where from those articles the writer succesfully highlight forty two sentences which contain adjective clause. The articles taken based on the resent dates of early time of thesis making. Then the writer rewrites those forty two sentences on a paper note carefully in order to keep the authenticity of the sentences.

After collecting the data, the writer rehighlights the ambiguous sentences of those forty two sentences. The highlighted sentences then separated from the other sentences. There are twelve ambiguous sentences finally found, then they will be taken as the main data for this thesis to do be comprehensively analized. Since the writer used purposive sampling in technique of collecting data, the writer will not analyze all adjective clauses of sentences in those articles. The selection is based on the writer's judgment that the samples are the best samples for the research. The data will be sorted based on their structure. The writer uses a

note taking data to analyze the tree diagram and find the causes of ambiguous sentences containing adjective clause.

1.5.2 Analyzing Data

The writer uses distributional method in analyzing data. Sudaryanto (1993: p.31-40) proposed that the distributional method is a method of analyzing data where the key factors of the data is defined by the language itself. Distributional method has been used to analyze the tree diagram and the the causes of ambiguous sentences containing adjective clauses.

The writer analyzes some opinion columns in the *Jakarta Post*. After collecting the ambiguous sentences or the sentence containing adjective clauses in those opinion columns, the writer analyzes the tree digram and classify it into its constituents by using the books of *English Grammar an Introduction* by Peter Collin & Carmella Hollo (2000), *English Transformational Grammar* by Huddleston (1976) and Fowler (1971). As an additional source, the writer also used Jacobs and Rosenbaum (1967).

The analysis will be started by drawing the tree diagram. By analyzing the tree diagram, the writer will find out each of structural phrase categorization that is proper in independent clause that construct ambiguity containing adjective clause. Then, the analysis will be continued by analysis of the constituent structure in the sentences construction. Based on those steps, the writer will find out tree diagram that show potentially ambiguous constituent and phrase rule which cause the ambiguous sentence

1.5.3 Presenting Data Analysis

Sudaryanto (1993) proposed two methods in presenting data analysis. They are informal and formal methods. He stated that the verbal statements are used in informal method, while the signs and symbols are used in formal method. In presenting the analysis of the data, the writer uses both of them. The writer uses informal method because the result of the analysis will be delivered by using verbal statement, whereas formal method will be used because there are several signs and symbols are used in presenting the result of analysis.

