

## CHAPTER 2

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter reviews on related theories, which cover the theory of transformational grammar and lexical features.

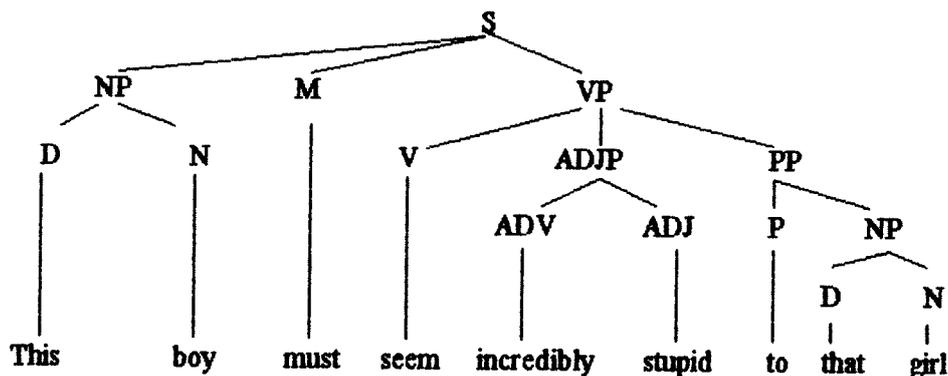
#### **2.1 Review of Related Theories**

According to Dianne D Bornstein, people have the ability to produce or understand an infinite number of sentences in language. This ability refers to “competence”. One of the factors that involve in competence is the ability to recognize the ambiguity. There are two types of ambiguity. First is lexical ambiguity. Lexical ambiguity occurs when a word has several meanings. For example: a sentence *Jim caught a fly* would have different meanings, depending on whether the context were a baseball game or a picnic. Here, in analyzing the lexical ambiguity in the articles of *Hello English* magazine the writer also looks at the context so she know the intended meaning of a word. Another type of ambiguity is the structural ambiguity because it is based on the structure, which occurs when a word or a group of words can modify or

refer to more than one word. For example, a sentence *John painted the car in the garage* can mean “John painted the car that is in the garage” (with “in the garage” modifying “car”), or “John did the painting of the car in the garage” (with “in the garage” modified “painted”). In order to know the different meaning, one should perceive the two structures. Bornstein suggests to use a transformational grammar for this phenomena since transformational grammar consists of two levels for each sentence. Those two levels are a deep structure that represents the meaning, and a surface structure that represents the sound because when a surface structure relates to more than one deep structure, it is the case of ambiguity.

Backing up the Diane’s theory of transformational grammar, Andrew Radford in his book *Transformational Grammar* says that all sentences have a categorical constituent structure. All sentences are hierarchically structured out of words and phrases, and each of the component words and phrases in a sentence belongs to a specific category. This is illustrated by means of tree diagrams; called “phrase markers” which show the hierarchical structure of the sentence. It also provides a visual representation of the phrase structure of the sentence.

An example of the labeled tree diagram:



(Abbreviations: S = Clause/Sentence; M = Modal; D = Determiner; ADV = Adverb; P = Preposition; PP = Prepositional Phrase; N = Noun; NP = Noun Phrase; V = Verb; VP = Verb Phrase; ADJ = Adjective; ADJP = Adjectival Phrase)

The type of labeled tree diagram above is referred to as a Phrase marker (P-marker), because it marks the hierarchical grouping of word into phrases, and phrases into sentences. From the labeled tree, there are two level categories. They are word-level categories and phrasal categories.

#### 2.1.1. Phrase- Marker

##### 2.1.1.1. Word-level categories

Words belong to various categories of different types like Noun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb, Preposition, and Modal (Auxiliary). There are morphological evidences concerns the fact that certain types of inflection attach only to specific categories.

##### *a. Nouns*

Nouns can be characterized in terms of shared features, such as whether they are proper or common (John, boy), concrete or abstract (book, truth), countable or uncountable (pebble, sand), human or non-human (boy, cat), and animate or inanimate (dog, car)

##### *b. Verbs*

English verbs can be divided into the copula (be); linking verbs (seem, become); intransitive verbs (walk, sleep), transitive verbs (see, hit), verbs that take two objects, a direct object and an indirect object (buy, teach), etc. Verbs in English also have five distinct forms: they have an

uninflected base form, and four different inflections (the present tense –s, past tense –d, participle –n, and gerund –ing inflections). However, there are some verbs that do not have regularity English inflectional morphology. They are irregular past or participle form of verbs such as go, went, gone, speak, spoke, spoken, etc.

*c. Adjective*

The examples of adjectives are clever, kind, mad, nice, etc.

*d. Adverb*

Adverbs can be added to most sentences, such as fundamentally, early, etc. Adverbs are classified into four types of adverbs that are adverbs of manner (good), adverbs of place (there, here), adverbs of time (yesterday, today), and adverbs of frequency (more, less).

*e. Modal*

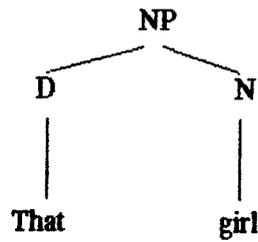
The Aux. (auxiliary) can be written as a modal auxiliary (should, will, may, etc.).

2.1.1.2. Phrasal categories

Just as words belong to different categories, so do phrases. The word-level categories can be expanded into phrasal categories by using phrase structure rules. The phrasal categories are as follows: Noun Phrase, Verb Phrase, Adjective Phrase, Adverb Phrase, and Prepositional Phrase.

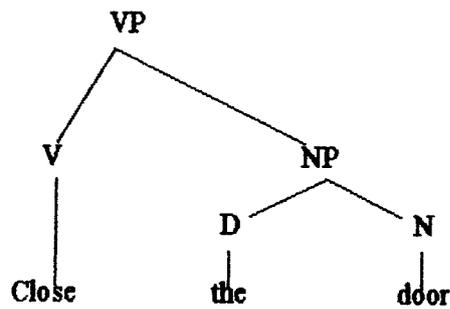
*a. Noun Phrase*

A group of words is called a noun phrase when the headword (main word) is a noun or pronoun. The noun phrase can consist of a single noun or pronoun, or of a noun or pronoun with modifier. For example:



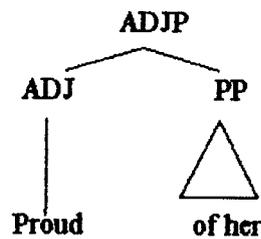
*b. Verb Phrase*

The verb phrase is when main word is a verb. For instance: speak rather rudely to his mother, close the door, give a present to Fany, etc.



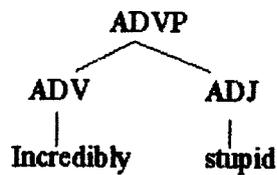
*c. Adjective Phrase*

The adjective phrase is a phrase whose head in each case is an adjective, such as handsome man, proud of her, kindness to Mary, etc



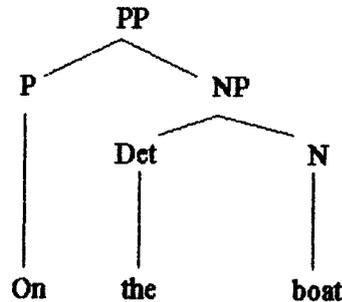
*d. Adverb Phrase*

The adverb phrase is when main word is adverb. The example of adverb phrase is shown in the following example.



e. *Prepositional Phrase*

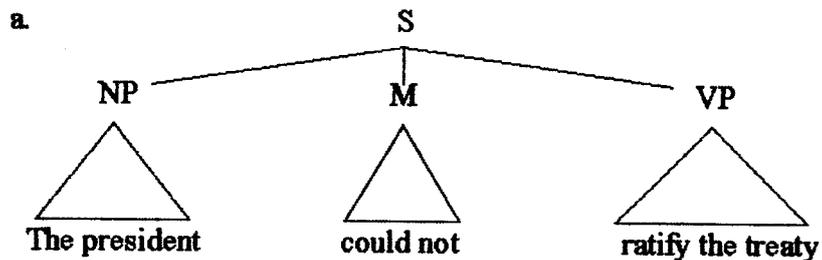
The prepositional phrase is a group of words when the main word is a prepositional and that together with its NP complement, for instance on the top shelf, to that girl, etc.

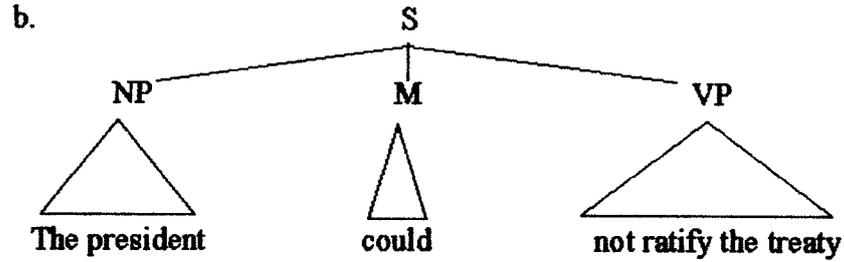


2.1.2. The using of tree diagram in generating the ambiguity

The theory of transformational grammar, as the writer mentions above, is the best way to generate the ambiguous sentence so that the meaning of an ambiguous sentence will be clear because the transformational grammar clarifies each of the constituents that a sentence has. By using transformational grammar, the writer hopefully can show where the ambiguity appears whether it appears in noun phrase, in verb phrase, in adverb phrase, or in other part of a sentence. For example: *The president could not ratify the treaty* has two interpretations. If this ambiguous sentence is generated by using transformational grammar, the different meaning of the sentence will be shown clearly.

The ambiguous sentence above can be clarified as below:



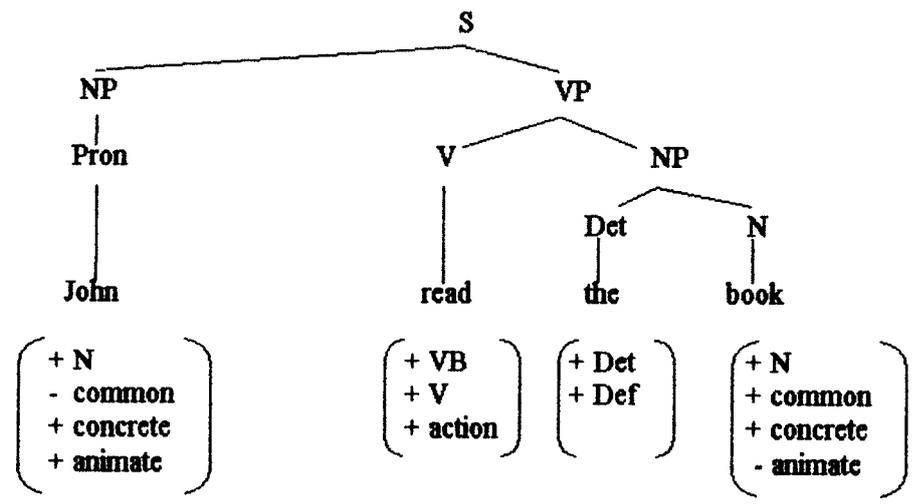


From the sentence above, it is clear that the constituent VP (ratify the treaty) constructs the ambiguity. For the sentence *a*, the negative, *not*, modifies the Modal, *could*, for the sentence *b*, *not*, modifies the VP (ratify the treaty). Thus, the sentence *a* means that what the president could not do is ratify the treaty, whereas, the meaning of sentence *b* is that what the president could do is not ratify the treaty. Therefore, transformational grammar is appropriate to show the different meaning in the ambiguous sentence since transformational grammar uses a labeled tree-diagram to show the deep structures of the ambiguous sentences have.

From the two theories of transformational grammar, Bornstein's theory and Radford's theory, the writer combines both of the theory. In Bornstein, a theory of transformational grammar, the constituent structure of sentence consists of a Noun Phrase and a Verb Phrase. The Verb Phrase consists of an Auxiliary, a Verb, and a Noun Phrase. The Auxiliary consists of a Tense and a Modal as an option. In other word, the auxiliary can only consist of a tense or it can consist of a tense and a modal. While, the theory of transformational grammar by Radford, the constituent structure of sentence consists of a Noun Phrase, an Auxiliary, and a Verb Phrase. The writer combines them. If a sentence has a modal, she uses the theory of Radford. However, if a sentence does not have a modal, the writer uses Bornstein's theory.



Besides the tree diagrams of the deep structures in generating the ambiguous sentence, there is additional theory which shows the difference meaning in lexical ambiguity. The writer takes the theory from Jacobs' and Rosenbaum's theory about the lexical features. The use of lexical items for a word that has more than one meaning in the deep structure helps the readers know the intended meaning of the word. The use of lexical items is shown as in brackets below:



(<- common> referring to uncommon noun, <+ concrete> referring to something concrete, <+ animate> referring to animate, <- animate> referring to inanimate, <+ VB> referring to verbal, <+ V> referring to verb, <+ action> referring to action verb, <+ Def> referring to definite).

## 2.2. Review of Related Study

The writer reviews Silvia Hartono's research (1999) entitled "The Structural Ambiguity in News Headlines on the *Jakarta Post*". In the study of the structural ambiguity in news headlines on the *Jakarta Post*, Silvia

analyzes 40 structurally ambiguous news headlines. She classifies the news headlines into two, noun phrase and sentence of adverbial place.

Silvia finds that there are three different syntactic structures in the Noun Phrase. The three syntactic structure of Noun Phrase of the news headlines are adjective + noun + noun head, noun + noun + noun head, and determiner + noun + noun head. She analyzes each of the syntactic structure and provides each of them with samples. There are sixteen examples of the Noun Phrase of the first syntactic structure. However, Silvia only clarifies the five ambiguous news headlines where the rest have not been clarified because they have the similar model of syntactic structure as those five examples.

Second model of the syntactic structure of Noun Phrase has two modifiers that both of the modifiers are nouns. She also clarifies five news headlines in explaining the Noun Phrase.

The next syntactic structure of Noun Phrase is determiner + noun + noun head. She clarifies two news headlines because she only finds two structurally ambiguous news headlines, which have this kind of syntactic structure.

Another type of structurally ambiguous news headlines is in the form of sentence with an adverbial place. Silvia only gives five news headlines and then clarifies them.

In analyzing the structurally ambiguous news headlines on the *Jakarta Post*, Silvia uses the theory of Transformational Grammar. She clarifies each of the structurally ambiguous news headlines using tree diagram. She uses qualitative methods in looking for the structurally ambiguous news headlines

on the *Jakarta Post* that she analyzes the structurally ambiguous news headlines in term of quality.

Through the study of the structurally ambiguous news headlines that Silvia Hartono did, the writer gets input on the theory and the methods that Silvia did. In analyzing the ambiguous sentences, the writer also clarifies the ambiguous sentences using tree diagrams in applying the theory of transformational grammar.

In the study, the writer clarifies both types of ambiguity, lexical ambiguity and structural ambiguity, while Silvia only clarifies the structural ambiguity. The writer wants to know the deep structures of structural ambiguity and the deep structures of lexical ambiguity, whereas Silvia is curious in finding the syntactic structures that construct the structural ambiguity. In Silvia's study, she uses news headlines of *the Jakarta Post* as her source of data, while the writer takes the articles of *Hello English* magazine as her source of data. Another difference between the writer's study and Silvia's study is that the writer analyzes sentences in the article of *Hello English* magazine, while Silvia analyzes news headlines of the *Jakarta Post* in which the news headlines are either a phrase or a sentence.