

STRUCTURAL AND LEXICAL AMBIGUITY IN THE POLITICAL ARTICLE OF JAKARTA POST

Rika Imadawati Purba¹, Nenni Triana Sinaga^{2*}, Kammer Tuahman Sipayung³
^{1,2,3} English Education Study Program,
Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Nommensen HKBP University
E-mail: imadawati.purba@student.uhn.ac.id¹, nenni.sinaga@uhn.ac.id^{2*},
kammer.sipayung@uhn.ac.id³

ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the structural and lexical ambiguity in the political article in the Jakarta Post. A qualitative analysis method was used in this study. The observation was done by collecting political articles from the Jakarta Post online. Interactive models were employed with three steps: data condensation, data display, and drawing concluding/verifying. The findings show many structural and lexical ambiguity cases in political articles of the Jakarta Post, which can lead to misunderstandings and wrong interpretations. 57 structural ambiguities and 63 lexical ambiguities were found in ten political articles. The accuracy in choosing words and using word structure impacts writing quality. The writing quality helps the readers understand the information in political articles.

Keywords: *Lexical Ambiguity, Structural Ambiguity, Political Articles, Jakarta Post Newspaper.*

INTRODUCTION

Language ambiguity is a common problem that can lead to misinterpretation and confusion. In political discourse, ambiguity can be particularly problematic as it can affect how people perceive and understand important issues. Leech (1981:30) in Puspitasari and Beratha (2019:20) states that ambiguity is an expression when the meaning is more than one interpretation can be assigned to it. The ambiguity can happen in one sentence/phrase and word.

Ambiguity can arise due to various reasons, including lexical and structural factors. Structural ambiguity happens when the sentence is interpreted in two or more ways due to its syntactic structure. Lexical ambiguity happens when the words have two or more meanings. Hurford and Heasley in Norquist (2019) state that ambiguity can be divided into two types, namely, structural and lexical ambiguity. He describes that lexical ambiguity is when words consist of more than one meaning, are used in a specific context, in the same form, and can sound the same as more than one word.

In communication, people should avoid structural and lexical ambiguity. It can cause misunderstanding and inconvenience. Kadlub, M (2017: 45) states that ambiguity does not concern the meaning only but also the interpretation. They have two types of ambiguity: structural ambiguity and lexical ambiguity. Structural ambiguity is a sentence consisting of a particular arrangement result. Meanwhile, lexical ambiguity is the double meaning that sources from the words.

On the other meaning, structural ambiguity occurs due to sentences that are complicated or unclear in their structure. In contrast, lexical ambiguity often occurs due to the use of words with multiple meanings or the use of words that are not specific. Yang (2014) states that structural ambiguity has five causes: the relation of modifier is unclear, the characteristic of words also unclear, denial scope, the memorable words of synthetic function, and improper abbreviation.

On the other hand, ambiguity can be found in many contexts, such as in daily conversation, formal and non-formal contexts, oral and written contexts, and so on. Ambiguity is also found in many texts, such as books, magazines, and newspapers that are printed or online, for example, Jakarta Post Newspaper. The Jakarta Post is an English-language newspaper in Indonesia event-printed or online media. Sinaga (2022:208) states that the Jakarta Post Newspaper is the daily newspaper media in the English language, and it is the biggest publisher in Indonesia. It covers a wide range of topics, including politics. As a reputable news source, the Jakarta Post plays a significant role in shaping public opinion on various political issues.

However, like any other newspaper, the Jakarta Post may need help communicating complex political ideas to its readers. The readers will need help comprehending the news in the newspaper if the content consists of ambiguity. Lexical and structural ambiguity can pose significant challenges in political reporting and analysis. Even though there is ambiguity in political articles in this daily newspaper. The newspaper still succeeds in presenting diverse and informative political news. Therefore, writers and editors need to pay attention to the use of words and sentence structure in political articles to minimize ambiguity and ensure readers can clearly understand the message.

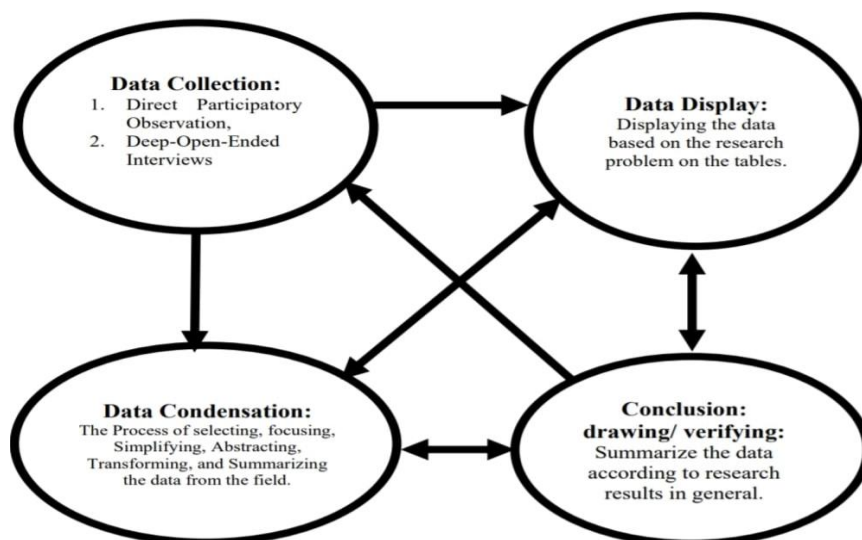
This study uses Leech's Theory to investigate the types of structural and lexical ambiguity of political articles in the Jakarta Post Newspaper. The study is motivated by the need to understand how language ambiguity affects political discourse in Indonesia and how it can be minimized to improve communication and understanding. Then this study is essential to analyze because it can help the readers know the use of ambiguity in newspapers to avoid misunderstanding information.

METHOD

The research method employed the descriptive qualitative approach. The data were collected by direct-participatory observation by applying some steps of observation. The data source was taken from ten Jakarta Post daily newspaper political articles.

The analyzed data employed an interactive model with three steps: data condensation, data display, and drawing a conclusion/verification. Data condensation has some steps: selecting the process, focusing, simplifying, abstracting, looking, and discarding unnecessary. Data display: Presentation of the data aims to make it easier to understand. Conclusion or verifying data: This conclusion is temporary and can be verified if strong or consistent data is found to make a credible conclusion.

Interactive Model: Mile, Huberman, and Saldana (2014:10).



FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This data was taken from the ten titles of the political article in the Jakarta Post Daily Newspaper on April-May 2023. This table shows some of the data discussed in this section.

Table 1. The Data from Ten Titles of Political Articles

No.	Lexical Ambiguity	Structural Ambiguity
1	<p>A total number is sixty-three lexical ambiguities from ten political articles in Jakarta Post Daily Newspaper.</p> <p>There are some of them: <i>rebounded, downturn, toeing, cost, hosting, bid, voiced, hit, blame, storming, mulls, ruling, endorse, running mate, race, strained, harbor, to run, dismissed, engaged, footsteps, ruling, bumped, house, official, season, ditch, figurehead, bud, race, stitch, house, ruling.</i></p>	<p>The total number is fifty-seven structure ambiguities from ten political articles in Jakarta Post Daily Newspaper. Some of them showed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presidential hopeful Ganjar Pranowo’s electability has steadily rebounded after suffering a downturn earlier in April. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As a presidential candidate, Ganjar Pranowo has experienced an increase in his credibility after experiencing a decline at the beginning of April. 2. The Central Java governor, who was recently granted the presidential nomination by his Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P), was toeing his party’s line when he publicly voiced his opposition to the Israeli involvement in the sporting event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The governor of Central Java, nominated by PDI-P, has publicly voiced his opposition to Israel's involvement in the FIFA Under-20 World Cup. 3. While other PDI-P officials made similar statements, Ganjar took the hardest hit, with soccer fans pinning the blame on him for costing the rare chance for Indonesia to

		<p>compete in a global soccer competition,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ganjar received the hardest hit from football fans and other PDI-P officials for wasting a rare opportunity for Indonesia to be able to compete in world soccer competitions. <p>4. At least two recent election surveys indicated that Ganjar had regained the momentum for his presidential bid even before his nomination last month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ganjar regained momentum for his presidential bid through two survey agencies.
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Structural Ambiguity

The research result shows the structural ambiguity found in the political article of Jakarta Post Daily Newspaper. There were 57 structural ambiguities in ten political articles. This study describes structural ambiguity with a pattern in two or more meanings due to different sentence interpretations.

“At least two recent election surveys indicated that Ganjar had regained the momentum for his presidential bid even before his nomination last month.”

This sentence contains ambiguity with two meanings that cause different interpretations. The ambiguous meaning in the sentence is *“At least two recent election surveys .”* This sentence was grouped into an ambiguous structural pattern. It shows from the structural pattern that there is no subject in the sentence and does not explain the kinds of election.

The meaning ambiguity found in the word’s relation in the sentence makes the readers can interpret the meaning: (1) there are two new election surveys or (2) there are two election pollsters. It means the writer intends "they have the new election survey, or they have two election pollsters ."So, it can call as structural ambiguity. Then the following example also can see in this sentence:

“While other PDI-P officials made similar statements, Ganjar took the hardest hit, with soccer fans pinning the blame on him for costing the rare chance for Indonesia to compete in a global soccer competition.”

This sentence also contains structural ambiguity based on the interpretation. The structure ambiguity can be seen in *“While other PDI-P officials made similar statements .”* This sentence was grouped into a structural ambiguity pattern. It can be shown from the pattern of structure that there is no complement in the sentence. It can make the readers’ interpretation more than one meaning. (1) there is no statement in the sentence, (2) who are the PDI-P officials that give the statement? This interpretation will cause misunderstanding due to the incomplete content of the sentence. This is called ambiguity because of the incomplete structure of the sentence.

The Lexical Ambiguity

The table above shows that the findings of lexical ambiguity were 63 in ten political articles. The research result indicates an error in the choice of words in each sentence. The use of words error would give different meanings in the sentences. One word has two or more interpretations to describe the meaning of the word. To know more clearly of them, let us read the explanation below:

The word ***rebounded*** has two meanings to describe the sentence. The first interpretation is *“to bound back after hitting something .”* The second interpretation is *“increase or to become greater in amount .”* So, let us see the sentence: *“Presidential hopeful Ganjar Pranowo’s electability has steadily ***rebounded*** after suffering a downturn earlier in April.”* This sentence describes that the writer intends to argue about *“Ganjar Pranowo’s electability *increased* after suffering a downturn earlier in April.”* From that sentence, the writer intends to describe the meaning of *rebound* as the second interpretation.

The word ***cost*** has more than one meaning. It can be seen from these interpretations. The first interpretation is *“the amount of money you need to buy or do something.”* The second interpretation is *“create something.”* Let us see the sentence: *“His refusal to allow the Israeli soccer team to play in Indonesia, which ***cost*** the country the hosting of the FIFA Under-20 World Cup”*. From the sentence, the readers know that the writer

intends the meaning of the word to create or make Israel lose of hosting, it's not about the amount of money.

Then, the word "**strained**" also has two meanings. It can see from the interpretations. The first interpretation of "**strained**" is "*showing the effects of worry,*" and the second interpretation is "*a situation in which people do not trust each other or feel unfriendly towards each other .*" Nevertheless, the sentence states, "Speculations of a **strained** relationship between Sandiaga and Prabowo arose earlier this year ." This sentence explains feeling unfriendly between Sandiaga and Prabowo because both want to be candidates for the general election in 2024. So, this sentence shows that the writer intends to discuss the second interpretation.

The explanation of the data above shows that lexical ambiguity was found in the political articles of the Jakarta Post daily newspaper. This research result is not in line with the research findings of Puspitasari and Beratha (2019). Their finding shows that lexical ambiguity consists of two types, namely: absolute and polysemy. Then, this finding focuses on lexical ambiguity according to Leech, so we have different founding.

Those explanations were examples of data found in the Jakarta Post Daily Newspaper. The researcher found fifty-seven structural ambiguities and sixty-three lexical ambiguities from ten political articles. These data were taken from words and sentences that have more than one meaning or ambiguous meaning. This is due to the need for more grammar accuracy in news writing.

CONCLUSION

The research result found structural ambiguity and lexical ambiguity in the political articles in Jakarta Post Daily Newspaper. This result describes the structural and lexical ambiguity needed to avoid writing a political article. It has an impact on misunderstanding the meaning. The research result can reference the reporter or newspaper institution for evaluation. Special training also needs to do to improve the writing quality.

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