A SEMANTIC AND SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF SENTENCES USED IN ONLINE NEWSPAPER HEADLINE REPORTING COVID-19

THESIS

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THESIS

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A Semantic and Syntactic Analysis of Sentences Used in Online Newspaper Headline Reporting COVID-19

adalah benar-benar karya saya, kecuali semua referensi dan kutipan yang disebutkan sumbernya. Apabila terdapat kesalahan dan kekeliruan di dalamnya, maka akan sepenuhnya menjadi tanggung jawab saya. Demikianlah surat pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sesungguhnya.

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ABSTRACT

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Newspaper Headlines are often the first thing seen in newspapers and have a big influence on readers in deciding whether to read the news or not. In terms of language, news headlines have a different construction from the standard English sentence structure. this linguistic phenomenon is termed as "block language". Therefore, this study analyzes the syntactic and semantic element of headlines by classifying the types of headlines and their constructions and explaining the differences in the structure or construction of headlines with standard language. The data for this study were collected from four English-language newspapers, namely The International New York Times, The Jakarta Post, Aljazeera News, BBC news, and The guardian. A total of 20 headlines are classified and described with tree diagram and their phrase structures.



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

On its first publication in 1665, newspaper began to be served as one of the most prevalent platforms to reporting nationwide event and information which are necessary for readers. Its prevalence remains the same today and even more popular, seen by its scope which have extended worldwide and its various form of publication, ranging from virtual media such as online newspapers to the printed ones. Recently, a number of publishing industries, BBC and Jakarta Post for instance, have been recording the most impending event by 2020, the corona virus outbreak, which have been a terrible fear for the entire world. To encourage people's awareness to read the news, they formulate such an appealing news headline that people be more likely to spent their time reading in order to update them with the on-going situation.

For that reason, many news headlines, including in online or printed media, appear to be a huge consideration for publishers because they indicate the value and authenticity of the article below them. "Headline writers and translators should not forget the rules regarding how to make headlines eye-catching and intriguing" (Marta, 2014). In addition to this, it is often to see that the text in headline is well, yet grammatically, structured. However, the public view seemed to have moved toward the view that readers be more concerned with the precision rather than the grammatical features of the sentence. Therefore, news headlines are written in short words which are quickly read, and easily fitted into a small space (Tiono, 2003). In COVID-19 coverages, few sentences in headline seem rather odd, but still correct in grammatical, because a series of words and some intended meanings may have been omitted in order to make the headlines precise and less redundant. Those are what appears in average people' eye which is termed as the surface structure in linguistic. Whereas, its counterpart is termed as the deep structure which is barely known to many people.

Both surface structure and deep structure are the derivation of syntax, one of the branches of theoretical linguistic, which was introduced by the notable linguist Noam Chomsky in 1957 as part of his work in transformational grammar. Syntax, together with semantic and the deep structure, was most likely to be less considered for English language speaker despite the fact that it is one of the factors that arranged a sentence. In reading COVID-19 news, English language speakers are more alert of final form of sentence and little were they aware of deep structure by which reporters try to suggest their thoughts. "Headlines have become a challenge for the reader making an attempt to decipher the main idea of the story". In the other words, the sentences written in newspapers headlines are sometimes, by any chance, syntactically and semantically different with readers' perspective.

In the course of this paper, I also take granted for other linguistic feature as the syntax alone cannot comprise the questions that this research tries to figure out, namely semantics. As a demonstration, if the shift in grammatical structures were made, then in the same occasion, one meaning also occurs. By this way, it can be claimed that syntax and semantic have relatively much in common and possess undisputable relationship. In contrast to syntax, semantic deal less with pattern and structure, instead it accounts for more abstract dimension. However, the study of semantic should be considered on less than its counterpart. One similar attempt is taken by Marta (2014) in which she contributed to the study of how sentence government in news headline affect their meaning. A semantic study was carried in notable newspaper to uncover meaning intended by news writers. Being well aware of what her objectives, she argued that structural ellipsis which means that some words have been missed out can result in variability in meaning. Thus, unlike this study, she only used the existence of semantic analysis to explain this phenomenon.

In the same year, Ehiheni (2014) also deployed a research on syntactic pattern of newspaper headlines which focused on head formation and their types. The research was therefore aroused due to the growing realization on the needs of syntactic perspective on Nigerian newspaper headlines, thinking that they only received the pragmatic and critical discursive analysis. A more complex tool of syntactic analysis, so-called *X-bar theory*, was used by which the interference in sentence can be evident. In the end, it was found that head, discussed in later section, is very important for headlines. Ehiheni (2014) referred his paper to a later work by Tiono (2003). Both of syntactic and semantic measurement were put in place to analyze the headlines. One difference was that their coverages can be anything, taken mostly from the Jakarta Post and Indonesian daily news, besides the increasingly debated pandemic COVID-19 as it showed no sign of

development during which year. Devoted to solving similar problem, Tiono (2003) explained that verb deletion is also used in the headlines so that readers have free interpretation of what the complete sentence of the headline is, and thus, would create different interpretation of the meaning. Therefore, with the same intention, this research has come to the presence with the purpose to address both syntactic and semantic structures consisted in news headline reporting COVID-19.

Most importantly, it needs to mention that much of the work in this research is highly indebted to Tabula (2015) which employed almost the same interest as the current study. The similar linguistic approach in which its main topic concerns was used. Furthermore, it also covers the grammatical patterns and cohesive conjunctions commonly employed by news writers, and even the cultural practices reflected in headline writing. Few distinct features by which his study differ from the current study are that the tens of the sample are not collected electronically, but rather those of printed ones and that their publicity scope was stricter; only to the extent of America and Filipino publishing industry. Hence, the result presents considerable significance for practical and pedagogical implications for language learning instruction as he mentioned on his study that newspaper can assist L2 teachers in identifying the syntactic similarities and differences of headlines in order to guide L2 learners toward better linguistic knowledge of news headlines (Tabula, 2015).

B. Research Question

Based on the problem stated above, the research questions of this study are:

- 1. What are the semantic and syntactic structures used in the sentence of online newspaper headlines reporting COVID-19?
- 2. How can online newspaper headlines be interpreted incorrectly?

C. The Aim of The Study

Based on the research question above, the aims of this study are:

- 1. To find out the semantic and syntactic structure used in the sentence of online newspaper headlines reporting COVID-19
- 2. To find out how online newspaper headlines can be interpreted incorrectly

D. Significance of Study

Based on the aim of study above, the significance of this study can be seen as follows:

- 1. This study is expected to provide a body of knowledge and information about syntax and semantic clearly for English language speaker.
- 2. It can be a reference for the next researchers who conduct the relevance study in the future
- 3. Despite of all, I genuinely want to address the syntactic and semantic features found in the news headline which are little known to many readers.

E. Research Terminology

In order to avoid misunderstanding, I have defined the following operational definitions of this research as follow:

1. Syntax

Based on 'Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics', syntax is "the study of how words combine to form sentences and the rules which govern the formation of sentences". Syntax is one of the branches of theoretical linguistics, which is termed by the notable linguist Noam Chomsky as part of his work in transformational grammar. In his book published in 1957, he described that this grammar consists of surface structures - the sounds and words in a sentence - and deep structures that contain the meaning of the sentence.

2. Semantic

In 'A Dictionary of Linguistic and Phonetics', written by David Crystal (2011), semantic is "a major branch of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning in language". In common sense, semantic dictates how a meaning in a sentence is interpreted, which is mainly associated with the deep structure.

3. COVID-19 disease

According to WHO (2019) (world health organization), COVID-19, short for Corona Virus disease 2019, "is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus." The virus named SARS-CoV-2 was first seen in Wuhan, exactly at Hubei Province, China, in December 2019, following with its quick spread all over the world until it was announced as public health emergency of international concern in February 2020. Reportedly, as many as ... lives have been claimed in the present. More vulnerable to boomer, the COVID-19 are associated with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). The symptoms of this disease are ranging from mild, such as shortness of breath, common flu, and fever to more sever ones, such as the failure of respiratory system. As a consequence, to prevent the spread, policy makers administered some health protocol, the physical distancing for avoiding contact for example. Therefore, much effort has been put in place in the pursuit for a vaccine which is still nowhere to be found unfortunately.

4. Online News Headline

Online news refers to the newspaper published as an electronic document on a computer network, especially the internet, and sometimes it can specifically be the digital version of a printed newspaper. The transition to online platform therefore increases newspaper in sales as its coverage now begin to extent largely. However, not all articles published online receive the same amount of attention because there are factors that determine their popularities. One of them is their headlines which often are constructed to capture the interest of the readers since they determine whether people eventually read the stories in the newspaper. Online news headline refers to the sentence that heads the article above it and summarizes most of the content. As for that reason, online news headlines are written straightforward and short in order to make them more appealing for readers and to draw greater attention. Thus, they are an interesting matter to be carefully studied in that they arouse the long-held problem in linguistic studies discussed in later section.

CHAPTER II

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Semantic

1. Definition of Semantic

Semantic is one of the branches of theoretical linguistics which is mainly concerned with meaning. The term was originated from the Greek verb meaning 'to signify' in late 19th century. According to Fromkin (2003), the study of linguistics meaning of morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences is called semantic. In another way, Kroeger (2018) said that semantic is defined as the study of the relationship between linguistic form and meaning. To put it simply, semantic is the study of meaning in language which apply not only to sentences in common, but also to all syntactic factors of the sentences.

Semanticists have attempted to locate particular meaning on language from different point of view to make brief the current theory. In addition, they coined several subfields of semantic, such as lexical semantic, and semantic field. Lexical semantic is largely dealing with word, phrases, and the relationship between them. In conclusion, one thing which is certain from semantic is that it is bound and undisputable with the essence of meaning. Risdaneva (2017) stated that semantic features comprise of a written method that can be exercised to express the existence or nonexistence of pre-established crucial distinguishing features by using plus minus signs. This detect how odd or strange the meaning of a sentence would be. By this claim, it is evident that semantic analysis may be able to provide ambiguous meaning which is necessary for the current research.

2. Types of Meaning

In 'Semantic: The study of meaning' written by Geoffrey Leech (1997), meaning was divided into seven types. The seven types of meaning according to Leech are as follows.

1) Conceptual Meaning

Conceptual Meaning is also called as denotative meaning or cognitive meaning. This meaning is most prime one of all others because it is said to be the central core in linguistic communication. Basically, a word alone, without being altered by some format of context and still comprehensible, is a conceptual meaning. For example, take a word "bear". Hence, the ideas that are people likely to think of are mammals, fur, and four-legged animal. In brief, conceptual meaning provide interpretation that distinguish one sentence from another possible sentence meaning in language. Its counterpart is connotative meaning

2) Connotative Meaning

In the opposite of denotative meaning, connotative meaning suggests that word possess feeling and individual flavors. A meaning of a word is interpreted according to what people feel. Each individual has their own perception on word. For example, a word "bear" is shown to be a cute and loveable creature for toddlers. Whereas, to some people it can be interpreted as deadly predators hunting on prey. Connotative meaning is changing over time or can be interpreted differently among particular races and societies.

3) Affective Meaning

Almost in the same account as connotative meaning, affective meaning also involves the feeling of speaker. It is used to express the friendliness and the feeling of displeasure to the listener. Speaking with a high tone voice and rather fast was considered obnoxious. Thus, to show good attitude toward listener, speaker must talk with a lower tone and a more polite choice of word. Put simply when ones want to request someone to lower their voice, "would you mind if you lower your voice a little bit?" would be the best way to be heard polite. However, someone may say such expression like " you please shut your mouth?" with high tone which shows the feeling of irritation. Of course, in general sense, the listener acted up and respond to those expressions with a different way even though both are showing the same meaning which beg for their lower voice. Affective meaning plays great function in communicating feeling.

4) Collocative Meaning

According to Leech (1997), "collocative meaning consists of the associations a word acquires on account of the meanings of words which tend to occur in its environment". By this claim, he demonstrated an illustration of word "handsome" and "pretty" which share the same meaning 'good-looking'. However, they are distinguished by the range of nouns with which they are likely to occur. In common sense, "handsome" is mainly related to masculinity which is only used to male, for example, "handsome man". Meanwhile, "pretty" indicates femininity which is only accepted in describing female, "pretty woman" for example. Other pair of examples are also explained in his book.

5) Social Meaning

"Social meaning is that which a piece of language conveys about the social circumstances of its use" (Leech, 1997). It is related to the situation in which an expression is used. For example, some dialectic words inform us about the regional and social background of the speaker. There is a line such "I ain't done nothing" which can be assumed that the speaker would likely to be African-American, underprivileged, and uneducated. Thus, the further study of this type is discussed in the scope of sociolinguistics.

6) Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning is associated with grammatical function and sentence order. Leech (1997) said that "an active sentence has different meaning from its passive equivalent, although they seem to be the same in context". It is mainly a matter of placement between subject and its complement in sentence. For example, take a sentence "Mr. Smith received a love letter in mailbox" which is an active form. In the passive form, it be "a love letter in mailbox was received". By altering the order of the sentence, new information might contain even though the words remained the same. Thus, they not be equally understood within the same context.

B. Syntax

1. Definition of Syntax

Syntax is the study of rules governing the way words are ordered to form a correct sentence in language. In more simple term, it is another name for grammar, but in a more complex way, which is devoted to recognize the structure

of sentence in language. Ratford (2004) said that "Much earlier work in syntax involved the postulation of complex structures and principles: as a reaction to the excessive complexity of this kind of work". In another way, syntax also involve semantic features as stated by Rauh (2010) that syntax concerns semantic relationships between abstract and basically semantic units. In syntactic analysis, a body of sentence can be described as a construction to be identified and examined. In dealing with syntactic structure, there be three things: analyzing linguistic expressions into their constituents, identifying the categories of those constituents, and determining their functions.

In traditional grammar, the notion of constituency is central to the study of syntax which addresses that a sentence is composed of not only words but identifiable items. Constituent is a series of unit with which the function of word is distinguished. To demonstrate this, take a sentence "kid is yawning". One can find two constituents in this sentence: the first one functioning as subject (*kid*) and the latter taking the predicate function (*is yawning*). There are 4 levels of constituent from the highest: sentence, clauses, phrases, words. In order to identify constituent in a sentence, there is a test for constituency which make evident the structural ambiguity in two similar structures of sentence by inserting adverb within phrases.

2. Surface Structure and Deep Structure

Every arrangement of word has surface and deep structure. Surface structure is what is seen in reader's eye and pronounced orally in human language. Meanwhile, deep structure is an abstract structure of sentence which is less obvious and conceal the intended meaning of the language. The grammar must be capable of showing how a single underlying abstract representation can become different surface structures. For example, I demonstrated the following sentence:

- **DS**: The decision on volunteer work was hastily made. It divided the organization.
- **SS**: The decision on volunteer work that divided the organization was hastily made.

By turning attention to the sentence above, it can be stated that the deep structure represented abstract level of structural organization in which all the elements determine the structural interpretation. Hence, no information is left out. Whereas the surface structure assigns the necessary information from 2 underlying events in sentence. However, the information in SS is sometimes taken out so largely that it makes the sentences seem incomplete, particularly on news headline. Take an example in following sentence:

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DS: More refugees urged to get COVID jab 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

SS: $1234567 \rightarrow 1204567$

More refugees urged to get COVID jab

The concrete noun *pedestrians* is omitted while its quantifier remain intact. Such phenomenon is quite frequent in writing news headline. Yet, the omission of auxiliaries *were* and *are going* interferes the semantics relations in SS. It is clear that the deep structure must be quite different from surface structure. Simply put, the surface representation in no way expresses the grammatical relations that are crucial for semantic interpretation. Secondly, in the case of ambiguous sentence, only a single surface structure may be assigned, but the deep structure must obviously differ so that the interpretation varies. To conclude, the inability of surface structure to indicate semantically significant grammatical relations is one fundamental fact that motivated the development of transformational generative grammar. A full generative grammar must consist of a syntactic, semantic, and phonological component.

In retaining the obscure patterns of deep structure in one sentence. "a conventional way of doing so is to use the traditional system of labelled bracketing: each word is enclosed in a pair of square brackets, and the lefthand member of each pair of brackets is given an appropriate subscript category label to indicate what category the words belong" (Ratford, 2004). The example can be represented as in the sentence below:

"Many notable environmentalists argue that they can mitigate the recent spread on omicron"

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Bracketed into the following instance:

[DET Many] [ADJ notable] [N environmentalists] [V argue] [C that] [PRN they] [AUX can] [V mitigate] [DET the] [ADJ recent] [N spread] [PREP ON] [N omicron]

By the mark given on each sentence, what this example tries to tell is that the words *environmentalists/disaster* belong to the same category, N/noun, or the words *argue/mitigate* belong to the category Verb or the words *notable/recent* belong to the category adjective. Frankly, a labelled bracket round a particular word is used to indicate the grammatical category of which the word belongs to in the particular position in which it occupies in the phrase or sentence. Also, it is important to note that such marker is an abbreviation of word function. The purpose of this is no less than to save space and print's ink. Afterward, the product of which method then is taken into the diagram tree, discussed in the next section, to expose both syntactic and semantic components in the examined sentences.

3. The tree diagram

The features of tree diagram were adopted from the idea of Chomsky in 1950s, as cited in Gruyter (2013), toward the generative grammar. He, relying upon the chomskyan's principle toward linguistics, theorized that "work on generative grammar has involved a traditional framework of interests and concerns.". Owing to that view, the tree diagram was presented similar to a reversed tree branch to show the derivation of each grammatical component. Furthermore, the use of tree diagram has outgrown in the interest of computer **ARCOMPANIE** The are a number of platforms, such as syntax tree generator, that aids analysts to ease with the tangling structures of the tree. Perhaps it also has some encouragement in the branch of engineering and mathematics.

In descriptive linguistic, there is a graph of grammatical structure known as syntax tree. Unlike a real tree, the branches of diagram are going downward which connect the elements that make up the tree called node, also known as

grammatical category. Each node is represented by a constituent which is labelled with symbols such as, Det, NP, VP, PP, AdjP, and AdvP. Robert (2016) said that "sequences of words that can function as constituents in the structure of sentences are called phrases". These representations, widely known as grammatical categories, are acronyms for the phrases according to which grammatical class they belong. For instances, 'NP' is short for 'noun phrase', which can be assumed that it takes the noun function in the sentence. Whereas 'det' is short for 'determiner' which always define the 'NP' or 'head' next to it. The same principle is applied to other instances. As a demonstration, take the following example for the tree of They bake a cake with Norwegian cherries.

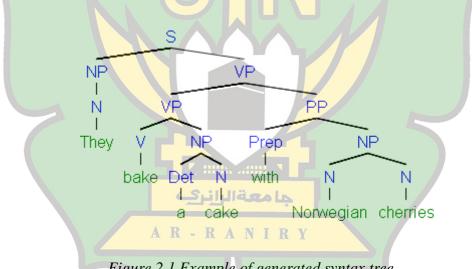


Figure 2.1 Example of generated syntax tree

O'grady (1997) stated that "it is possible to describe structural ambiguity in language by providing different language tree as several sentences are structurally ambiguous because the meanings of their component word can be combined in several ways". He explained that the manner in which words are grouped together in syntactic structure reflects the way in which their meanings are combined with

the semantic component of grammar. According to Newson (2006), "this notion claims that these principles are simple because there are a very small number of them that apply to all structures". Thus, with the aid of tree diagram, the possible meaning and syntactic structure in sentence is more evident.

4. Word category

With the notion of Chomsky on generative grammar, linguists coined few capital-letter abbreviations to label each of the syntactic components based on functions and to make ease when writing them down, namely *grammatical category*. Another purpose of categorizing word which is as not less important is for the avoidance of false judgment. A word *assassination* does not comply with the function of predicate but rather with subject and the word *Oxford* sometimes does not take prepositional role but rather a noun at some cases. Thus, word categorizing can be established into two types; grammatical category and functional category.

1) Grammatical Category

Grammatical features are the five most used word functions in English sentence formation or the so-called part of speech. Given that different categories have different function, they play their own part unique and undisputable for them; noun, NP, and the like take the subject role, Verb and VP take predicate, Preposition, and PP describe time and place, AdvP and AdjP act as a complement and modifies the heads which come after them. To be frank, each of the mentioned categories are briefly discussed in the following section.

a. Noun and NP

A noun or noun phrase refers to all entity that covers the name of a person, place, and thing. Some examples of noun are a lawmaker, *a car, flowers, office, mountain*, and etc. Based on its types, there are two types of noun: concrete noun, seen on the previous example, and abstract noun. Abstract noun is headed by WH-clause and is multiple in number, for example: *what Marissa is so sad about does not bother him*.

Almost similar to abstract noun in number, a noun phrase is group of words which are headed by a noun head. However, especially in news headline, an NP can be headed by an adjective although it shows clear grammatical violation, for example: *the unemployed are getting increasingly high*. According to Prášková (2019) "noun phrases have a noun as the head which can be preceded by determiners and accompanied by modifiers- either premodifiers or postmodifiers." Owing to that view, noun phrase can be attached with an AdjP, AdvP, PP, and another NP. "*the red bowl under the desk*" might be a good instance for it.

b. Verb and VP

Verb and verb phrase only appear after noun even tough in some cases there has been a time when a verb is switching place to a noun. Verb varies greatly in the term of types. As for an example, intransitive verb is a verb that is not followed by a noun, as in: *the engineer laughed*. Its counterpart transitive verb is the one followed by noun, for example: *the man killed a bug*. On different occasion, a verb can also be being other than action words which includes *is*, *am*, *are*, *was* and *were*.

In the term of form, verb is of two types: passive and active. Passive form covers all the words which represent action. Meanwhile, passive form has an addition of auxiliary, such as *be*, *has*/have, *had*. With the insertion of word, called *helping verb*, before the verb head, those pairs are then termed as a verb phrase. In the traditional rule of transformational grammar, a verb can be paired to the following constituent: the aux before the head, and the NP, PP or another VP after the verb head.

c. Adjective and AdjP

Adjective is a word that describe the manner, value, of noun and to what degree the noun next to it is because adjective can only come before the noun it modifies. The highest degree an adjective can describe called a superlative by adding the suffix /-est/, for example: *the lowest surplus of goods is on treatment*. In traditional grammar rule, an adjective can only be modified by an adverb. Thus, with that formation an adjective phrase occurs but still the AdjP stay behind the noun it paired with. As for the example, consider this following phrase: *a densely packed gift*.

d. Preposition and PP

Preposition functions as a link between the following noun phrase and the preceding structures and as a description of place. The word such as *in*, *on*, *below*, *next to*, *with* and *regarding to* is example of preposition. There is an exception for

preposition in which it can be attached in the sentence in any order without any meaning interference. To demonstrate it, take an example between *Mark left his socks in the hallway* and *in the hallway Mark left his socks*. The two are the same sentence with different order of preposition of place. Despite the visible switch the meaning of both sentences does not differ much.

In the construction of prepositional phrase, a noun is the only constituent to be able to combine with preposition. However, it is often to find ambiguity in PP especially when there are more than one subject in sentence, for example: *police find the thief with a flashlight*. By the following example, there are two possible meaning: that the police arrested the man who carries a flashlight and that the police used the flashlight to seek burglar's hideout. In conclusion, such interference in meaning can sometimes happen especially in newspaper headline that contains multiple PP.

e. Adverb and AdvP

An adverb is the word that describes the manner by which an action verb is done. The most noticeable part of an adverb is the addition of suffix /-ly/. An adverb is established into multiple types: adverb of place and time, showing when and when the action is attempted, adverb of manner, and adverb of frequency. Adverb of manner describe how the action is done, for example *quietly* and *fast*. Whereas adverb of frequency describes the intensity of the action, for example *usually* and *rarely*. In traditional grammar rule, an adverb is attached before the verb head although at some cases it is put after verb head only in the end the sentence, for example *the meat was grilled entirely*. An AdvP can be modified by another AdvP but still they need to be headed by a verb head. As for this example, see *the architect beautifully quickly sketched on a rough draft*.

2) Functional Category

Functional category is found less dominant than its counterpart in sentence as their roles are no less than a complement and they do not poses head like the previous categories. As a result of this, they received extremely little concern and mostly skipped in the writing news headline. The five grammatical categories are said to have contain descriptive content while functional ones are not which in syntactic sense does not make them belong to the same course of area. In Ratford (2004), "one test of whether words have descriptive content is to see whether they have *antonyms*". Constratively, an adjective word *empty* is sure to have an opposition with word *full*. Whereas a determiner *the* or a pronoun *they* or a complement *that* or an auxiliary *have* remains vogue to which words they may <u>A R - R A N I R Y</u>

a. Determiner and Quantifier

The first type of functional category is determiner and quantifier which are purposed for the item that is assumed to be familiar for the hearer. Traditionally, both of them are functioning no less than an accessory for the noun head and cannot come any further than the noun head of which they describe. Determiner always come in the very beginning of a clause even with an AdjP or AdvP after it, for example: *the beautifully written thesis*. The quantifier is used as an identification of the noun head quantity, for example: *every copy of maps*. In different occasion, both determiner, and quantifier can yield in the same noun head, as in *the each of which building part is not structurally sound*.

b. Pronoun

In grammar classroom instruction, there are commonly 4 types of pronoun introduced: subject pronoun, object pronoun, possessive adjective, and possessive pronoun. Of all the following types, subject pronoun and possessive adjective are the only ones that are frequently used while the other has almost no occurrence in headlines. However, even the used ones were sometimes neglected as more news writers commit grammatical violation by making a noun headed by an adjective instead of representing it using pronoun, for example: *the rich now can get vaccinated*. Such instance is discussed later in this study. Thus, speaking of subject pronoun and possessive adjective, their example can be found widely in daily basis such as *I*, *you*, *they*, and *we* for subject pronoun and *their*, *your*, and *its* **AR - RAN IR Y** for possessive adjective.

c. Complementiser

Abbreviated to COMP in earlier work and to C in more recent work, complementiser describes the kind of word which is used to introduce complement clauses, being adjective clause, *who*, *that/which* for instance and adverb clause, *if*, *after*, *before* and *whether* for instance. In traditional grammar

rule, a complementiser is also known as clause connector, linking the main clause to the subordinate clause in sentence, for example: *fund is only given to the students who are in need*. Another factor to consider is its behavior toward news headline. Clause connector tends to be deleted because it is represented in a reduced version mostly headline by converting the verb in subordinate clause to past for passive form and present particle for active one. Such manner toward connector is widely seen still because of the ease to read, for example: *Public minister declaring strict rules of parking is indicated of crime over women*. That is not the only problem found in this types. See these following examples:

- "I believe that claim"
- "I believe that Rahmat runs the remote restaurant"

In this case a connector *that* can take two roles either as a determiner or as complementiser. The first example is using a determiner *that* as it defines the noun next to it not a clause. Whereas the latter is using complement *that* because there is a clause come after and is bound with them to construct a subordinate clause. Moreover, another difference to note is that the usage of determiner *that* can be substituted into other determiner, making it to *I believe this/the claim*. In conclusion, the concern of clause connector is considerably demanding in this study as for its relation with deep structure.

d. Auxiliary

Auxiliary is also known as a helping verb as its function is for the modification of tense, mood, voice, and the possibility of the action verb it

defines. As for the example, auxiliary covers all *be*, *do/does*, *have/has* and *had*: she has perfected the car with tools. It comes not only to that extent but also to all the kind of modals which is known as modal auxiliary. Modal is mostly describing possibility and the success rate of an action which includes *shall*, *might*, *should*, and *may*. Take an example *Abigail might not know about the new store outside*. Ironically, little has there been a time when a modal is written in news headline because it yields less information.

C. Newspaper and Newspaper Headlines

1. Description of newspaper and newspaper headline

Newspaper is a series of printed paper consisting of the report of important event and advertisement, which is commonly published daily or weekly. The earliest publication of newspaper dates back to 17th Century when it is used to be an information sheet written for businessman in England. In the present, most news are published online on website and some have even abandoned the oldfashioned way because publishing online is not only more practical but also easy to be accessed anywhere.

A number of most widely-known web-based service are The Guardian, The New York Times, and The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) which is a government-run company. They usually only cover news relating to sports results, important information and weather forecasts. Thus, one of things that they have in common is that they are used to creating headlines in a likely similar style. According to Ehineni (2014), "The headlines are often constructed to capture the interest of the readers since they determine whether people eventually read the stories in the newspaper". While in another view, Tabula (2015) defined that "the headlines' primary goal is to articulate ideas by using as few words as possible without causing misleading and misinterpretation on the headlines' semantics".

In principle, headlines were purposely designed for two function. Firstly, it become the representative that summarizes the news article above it, and secondly, it can attract readers' attention. Owing to this view, many headlines are written straightforward and short, which, in some cases, contradicts with grammar norm. Perfetti (1987) state that "Newspaper headlines almost always omit definite articles and auxiliary verbs, and often omit copula main verbs". There are still many grammatical violations in headline but the omission of main verb and its auxiliary is the most recurring one. As a consequence, the number of interpretations retained by an individual varies because the semantic meaning on headlines are often distorted and incorrectly understood by common readers. Creating an interesting headline may result in ambiguity but there is no encouragement to disregard its syntactic structure.

According to Ahmad (1974), "Headlines of English are of two main types: the Multinodal Type and the Uninodal Type. By definition, a uninodal type of construction consists of one single node. Whereas an item of the Multinodal Type consists of two Case-categories with or without a Vp." (p.93). The nearest equivalent to items of the Uninodal Type, in units of phrases, are noun phrases, without the verb phrase. The instances of this type can be found widely in many newspapers issued in the present. As for the absence of Vp, the sentence of this type is often comprehended falsely. In the other hand, the nearest instances of items of the Multinodal Type are sentences which is normally seen in most headlines today.

2. Types of news headline

According to Mardh (1980), there are three basic types of headline by their structure; nominal, verbal and adverbial. A **nominal headline** is a headline that is headed by a noun which is pre, post, and post-modified or unmodified (Al-janaby, 2011). This type can be seen as in: *Scientists clarify origins of pterosaurs, the dinosaur era's flying reptiles*. A verbal headline is that of dominated by verb phrase and less noun phrase are seen. Following sentence is the example: *Iraq Elections Good News For US*. Lastly, the least used type is Adverbial headlines are headed by an element; a word, a phrase, or a clause that has the structural role of an adverbial.

3. Structural ellipse and ambiguity in news headline

As frequently mentioned above, the language in news headline is different from any other formal languages because it has a strange and peculiar structure. This is commonly caused by the space restriction which is almost impossible to comprise all grammatical features in a small space. The language with which style is termed as 'block language'. Such language is mostly employed in magazine and advertisement editorial. The most often grammatical violation using this language is the omission of some grammatical features such as verb, auxiliary verb, or even the subject itself. Such phenomenon is termed as structural ellipse.

Structural ellipse refers to the deletion of particular grammatical item which does not necessarily define the sentence as a whole, and are known in most social practices. Thus, Omission of grammatical words, as well as some other factors, can result in syntactically ambiguous headlines. Even tough the ambiguity in news headline is tolerable among public, it is still an interesting phenomenon to research because it aids not only newsreaders but also language learners to translate them to their native language. Syntactic ambiguity is classified into 3 major categories according to the degree they affect; class ambiguity, attachment ambiguity, and referential ambiguity.

a) class ambiguity

Dudek (2003) stated that "Class ambiguity is created by the change in the parts of speech for instance noun to verb." Consider an example in the following sentence:

"Eye drops off shelf." R _ R A N I R Y

Ambiguity is created by the morpheme/-s/ whether it is the morpheme expressing third person singular attached to verbs or the one indicating the pluralization of nouns.

b) attachment ambiguity

In different occasion, syntactic ambiguity also behaves in the way of how words and phrases are placed. To be frank, take an example of this following sentences:

"Law enforcement killed the man with a gun."

In this example the prepositional phrase 'with a gun ' is paired with the noun phrase "a man" to express that the man who carry a gun with him is killed. The other meaning of the headline is resulted headline refers to the possibility of the law enforcement to shot the man using a gun to death. These instances are resulted merely from the placement of one category 'PP'.

c) referential ambiguity

Referential ambiguity results from the confusion between two possible referents in the headline, as in:

"Grandmother of eight makes hole in one."

In this example the news is about an old woman whose ball, in golf, goes into the hole the first time she hits it. However, another interpretation is possible, where **one** is taken to refer to the antecedent **eight**: one of the eight.

D. COVID-19

An unprecedented global-scale disease has been found in China as early as December 2019 which become major health problem to human-beings. The term COVID-19, coined by WHO, is short for Corona Virus disease 2019 which is likely to be a mutation from the SARS coronavirus in 2003. The virus is thought to have originated from the animals sold in a live animal market in Guangdong province in China. Epidemiological analysis early in the outbreak of COVID-19 showed that the virus was somewhat alike with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) which was found in bats. There was massive widespread in several weeks in Wuhan, resulting chains of huge case clusters to almost all of the existences. As Barua (2020) said in his paper "the numbers of infected cases and death globally are increasing so rapidly that the epicenter of the pandemic is moving fast".

According to Saxena (2020), "Coronaviruses represent a larger family of viruses, some of which have previously caused human disease such as Middle east respiratory syndrome (MERS) and the like (p.2). As a result, more than one million lives, out of 33 million cases, reportedly have been recorded to be claimed according to the global death toll. Public fear has even risen due to the increasing number, which force various health protocol to be administered. Lock-down, school closure, and bankruptcy of some local companies are the most apparent cost to face. However, the outbreak is now becoming less threatening as if the spread was declining slowly, even though there is still no exact estimation of how long it takes for complete recovery.

Despite its considerable damage and quick infections, the death rate of this disease is slowly decreasing. More people are now able to get out of it because they seek medical attention before it gets severe. The symptoms of this disease are ranging from mild, such as shortness of breath, common flu, and fever to more sever ones, such as the failure of respiratory system. Tessaleno (2020) stated that

"infected people present mostly mild symptoms, or may even do not present any symptom, being able to spread the virus much more effectively." Speaking of which, it is widely known that most of the killed people are those who have other major illnesses, such as diabetes and the like, prior to their infection and those who aged 50 or older. Unfortunately, the cure for this disease has not yet to be invented.



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

In the previous chapter, I have provided the theories regarding linguistics aspects demanding for the completion of this study, covering semantic, syntax, and their foundations. For that reason, there was an involvement of semantic and syntactic way to necessarily take part in processing the data. Therefore, in this occasion I discuss the designated method for dealing with the 20 instances extracted from notable news publishing industries. This chapter presented four sections devoted to discussing the means by which the data is processed; research design, material of analysis, data collecting procedure, and data analysis.

A. Research Design

This study used qualitative method which focused on the descriptive qualitative. Qualitative research is a research that produces descriptive data, verbal expression and behavior that can be observed. As stated by Dymon and Holloway (2002), "Qualitative research focuses on words rather than numbers, although occasionally numbers are used to indicate the frequency that a theme is found in transcripts or the extent to which a form of action occurs". Hence, it did not involve calculations or any statistical means which was in line with the intended product of this study. By employing descriptive qualitative method, a more reliable result be produced.

A qualitative method, short for QD, was commonly used to determine the presence of certain words, themes, or concepts within some given qualitative data, such as books, essays, discussions, newspaper headlines, speeches, media, historical documents. Using QD method, I can quantify and analyze the presence, meanings and relationships of such certain words, themes, or concepts. As an example, one can evaluate language used within a news article to search for bias or partiality. I can then make inferences about the messages within the texts, and even the culture and time of surrounding the text. To analyze the instances using QD, they must first be coded, or broken down, into manageable code categories for analysis, labelled bracketing and syntax tree in this concern. Once the sentences are coded into categories, they can then be further generated into syntax tree to summarize data even further.

B. Material of Analysis

The material of analysis in this research was from online newspaper issued by widely known publishers, such as BBC news, The New York Times, CNN news, BBC news, Yahoo news, Aljazeera, the Washington Post and The Jakarta Post, in the period of December 2019 to November 2020. Other criteria to be considered is the headlines error which represent each ambiguities theorized by Leech and it should be the ones that suffer significant mistake in grammar. News headlines whose content was discussing COVID-19 was taken and analyzed semantically and syntactically. As one of the main purposes was to eliminate biased meaning which may be occurred in headlines, the ones with more error are most likely to be chosen considering to encouragement in this study to make accurate judgement over the novel sentence pattern which one may encounter.

C. Data Collecting Procedure

There are three techniques taken in order to collect the data. The first is by exploring the online newspapers that are stored electronically in news website. Afterward, I proceed to collect those headlines which tend to be interpreted incorrectly. Therefore, they must pose at least an ambiguity to have the opportunity to be examined. With all the chosen sample, I begin to analyze their semantic and syntactic factors and the cause of which the ambiguity occurs. The following technique relied on the previous researchers who conduct similar analysis. Simply said, it is prevalent among language researchers to use such technique in analyzing document.

D. Data Analysis

I collect the data from online newspaper issued by widely known publishers, such as BBC news, The New York Times, and The Jakarta Post, within December 2019 to November 2020. Chances are that there are be tens of them to be subjected into analysis and that the majority of them is conflicting in traditional grammar pattern. Also, other criteria to be considered is the headlines error which represent each ambiguities theorized by Leech and it should be the ones that suffer significant mistake in grammar. The collected samples of news headlines were analyzed from different linguistic dimensions. Every sentence had two distinct levels of syntactic structure, namely deep structure and surface structure according to the standard theory of transformational grammar, linked by rules of a particular kind called transformations (Lyons 1995). Following Lyon's claim, I began analyzing the headlines by these techniques. Firstly, the sentences were found out whether or not they experience a loss of words and unit of grammatical features. If one oddity occurs, its solution was thought according to the standard grammar rule as what is known as the deep structure. Thus, in such process, the deep structures as well as few possible meanings, although less obvious for many, which occured among readers can be revealed. Secondly, the conventional way by which the sentences were broken down into words and grouped based on their class was employed, as the previous section termed as the *labelled bracketing*. See one demonstrative example below.

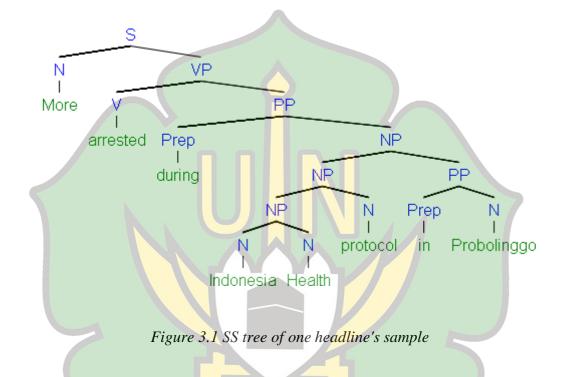
More arrested during Indonesia Health protocol in Probolinggo

Jakarta Post, July 7th 2021

SS: [s [N More] [VP [V arrested] [PP [Prep during] [NP [NP [NP [N Indonesia] [N Health]] [N protocol]] [PP [Prep in] [N Probolinggo]]]]]]

DS: [s [N More] [VP [VP [be was] [V arrested] [PP [Prep during] [NP [NP [NP [N Indonesia] [N Health]] [N protocol]] [PP [Prep in] [N Probolinggo]]]]]

As seen in above construction, the sentence in SS was likely to appear strange because it is indicated of the loss in *be* to arrange a passive form. On top of that, there was no fixed head for *several* which is mainly a quantifier, and thus with those ambiguities, they encouraged next technique to be applied. Thirdly, the products of the previous technique in form of SS and DS then was generated into a traditional framework in order to make evident their structures. To achieve this goal, I relied on the notion of tree diagram which provides several sentence patterns and their ambiguity in the term of syntactic factors. Still taking the same sentence, its tree should be seen as this following framework.



The techniques taken on following section are no unprecedented and perhaps my strong reliance on other previous study like one in Tiono (2003). Lastly, possible interpretations of syntactic pattern was clarified in types of news headline and investigated according to the previous theories discussed. With the leaks of syntactic structure provided by trees, I can then semantically explain, both in form of SS and DS, their possible meanings, the types of which they belong, and the actual intention purposed by their news writers. More importantly, there was a great necessity to discuss and to find out the culprit behind the reason why the sentence can be understood incorrectly. On that account, I can uncover one of the questions in which this research seeks. Similar to syntactic technique, the semantic analysis of which way was based on the view of Leech (1997) on meaning and its branches and was partly adopting the style of Marta (2014) on semantic discussion.



CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Using the data that have been collected previously, this chapter elaborates the findings along with their discussion. I, with the intention to discover linguistic structure of headlines, analyzed a total of 10 headlines accordingly based on two linguistic factors, being the diagram tree for syntactic analysis, and my elaborative interpretation for semantic analysis. With the discovery of deeper structure later, one hope to expect was that the syntactic ambiguity, distortion in meaning, and their solution was presented in this research. The tens of instances are subjected to have at least an indication of ambiguity among readers so that the discussion, hopefully, can be fruitful not only for English language user but also for non-English newsreaders.

A. Research Findings

No	Headlines - R A	N Syntactic Ambiguity	Source
1	COVID-19 protocol violators	Omission of auxiliary, PP	The Jakarta
	in probolinggo made to sit in	attachment (with casket)	Post
	hearse with casket.		
2	Boost for vaccine doses	Omission of auxiliary,	The Jakarta
	planned for the poor as virus	Referential ambiguity (NP	Post
	rages on.	poor)	

Table 4.1 List of the chosen headlines

3	Most Americans to be	Omission of auxiliary	The Jakarta
	vaccinated for COVID-19 by		Post
	July, CDC chief expects		
4	Indonesia's latest official	Class ambiguity (NP figures),	The Jakarta
	COVID-19 figures	Absence of VP	Post
5	Digitize social aid to expedite	Absence of noun head, Class	The Jakarta
	COVID-19 relief, World	ambiguity (VP aid)	Post
	Bank says.		
6	Trump says may block	Class ambiguity (NP says)	The Jakarta
	stricter FDA guidelines for		Post
	COVID-19 vaccine		
7	Covid Alert in Vanatu after	Absence of Vp, Class	The Jakarta
	Infected Body Washes	ambiguity (NP Alert)	Post
	Ashore		
8	Cuba begins vaccinating	Referential ambiguity	Aljazeera
	children as young as two		News
	against COVID-19		
9	India's Political Prisoners in	Absence of Vp	Aljazeera
	Bad Health, Lose Family		News
	Amid COVID		
10	US Oil Output Climbs toward	Structure error	Aljazeera
	Level Not Seen Since		News

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19	Fears of new Covid	Absence of Vp	The
	restrictions as councils		guardian
	struggle to fund self-isolation		
20	One in Four Elderly Black	Omission of auxiliary	The
	People in The UK Still not		guardian
	Vaccinated		

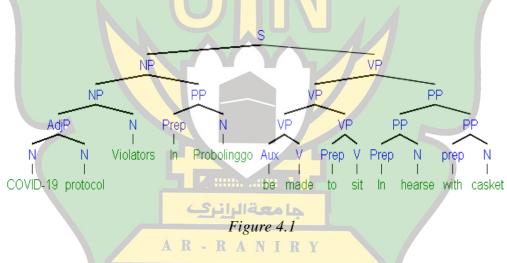
I obtained the instances by using purposive sampling in which they were obtained only under these following conditions: 1) They posed at least a grammatical violation, 2) They are more likely to be perceived differently in meaning. To get the sample data to be analyzed, I collected them most dominantly from The Jakarta post, and the least ones found in CNN, The New York Times, and The Guardian. The table below displays the 20 chosen samples and short explanation of the cause of ambiguous headline. The list was arranged in the order of the most frequently cited source to the least ones. Thus, the instances was presented and discussed thoroughly in the following discussion section.

AR-RANIRY

B. Discussion

 COVID-19 Protocol Violators in Probolinggo Made to Sit in Hearse with Casket

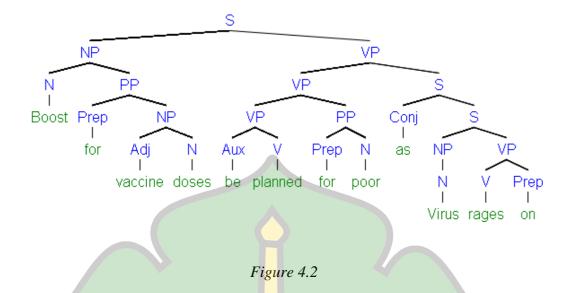
It is undeniable, in traditional grammar rule, that passive form sentence is highly in concern with *be*. The pair *be* and verb in past participle is a mandatory to formulate sentences that yield passive meaning. Thus, judging by the sample 1 headline, there are a number of locals violating law over health protocol which ended up being put to a room with corpses as a sanction. Owing to that fact, the form in the headline should be in passive which is contradict with the current sample. What is so odd in this headline is that there is no presence of *be*, *were* in this sentence, which appears that the people in guilty were making themselves sit in a hearse. Such view is nowhere to correct as they were put into custody by the law enforcement. At this rate, the *be* is needed as the violators did not have such power to command themselves and thus were forced by a higher entity. Therefore, the correct sentence, owing to grammar norm, should look like this tree in diagram 4.1.



Another bias to be found is to which derivation is PP *with casket* should be placed. Therefore, such decision is on the readers to make, whether that the caskets are stored in a hearse or that the violators brought themselves caskets to accompany them in a hearse. The latter view is ridiculous indeed but it does not hinder the fact that a person may interpret it that way. Definitely, both views are distinct in syntax tree. If the violators brought themselves caskets, the tree can be seen in figure 4.1. Whereas if the hearse is really a room with casket, then PP *with casket* defines its upper node, the PP *in hearse*. To put it simply, the branch of PP *with casket* should be below or under the derivation of N *hearse* because PP describe what the N has in reality. Such case is really frequent that there be another encounter in the next instances.

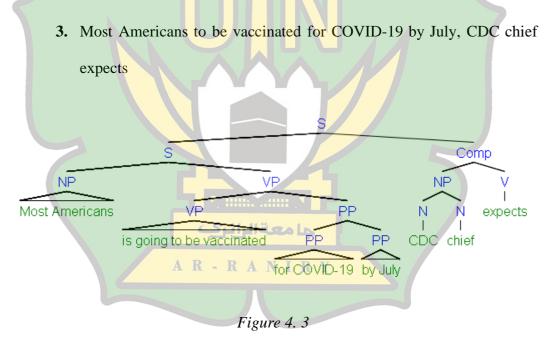
2. Boost for vaccine doses planned for the poor as virus rages on.

The second instance appears to pose the same mistake in which it underwent a loss in the heling verb *be*. This can be seen in the word *planned*, verb in past participle, that seemingly lose its partner construct a VP. The main subject in this sample is *boost* which basically is an abstract thing in common sense and thus make itself a singular noun. In traditional grammar norm, singular noun can only be of the two be, *is* and *was*. However, whichever of them is not the main concern here but why they are removed is. Again, for the sake of quick read, the crucial auxiliary verb *be* are taken away. However, the deep structure of this sample can be demonstrated in the below tree. In figure 4.2, the presence of *be* is next to the its main verb, like the way it should be. Even without careful read, there must be a realization that something is missing in this sentence since N *Boost* is an entity that in no way have the potence to affect itself and thus others have to give it action. Therefore, addition of *be* in this instance is preferable to avoid confusion.



Moreover, the mistake does not stop there only. There is one menace to semantic system in this sample, vividly seen in the object N *poor*. *Poor* in English language dictionary, since orthodox to contemporary ones, always take an adjective form. Surprisingly, publisher The Jakarta Post violated the norm by omitting the noun head that *poor* defined, resulting an illegal class shift. Word *poor* in the present sample take the noun function instead adjective. Adjectives are not normally used in this way without the determiner *the*. It needs to be noted that these expressions are always plural and they always represent those who pose such thing. For example, *the blind* means all blind people. Similarly, *the dead* means all dead people.

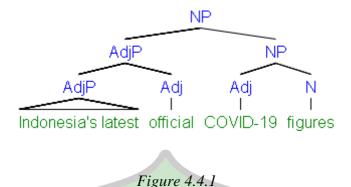
Seemingly, the structure the + adjective is used to talk about some wellknown groups of people. The problems of this structure are that it should be properly addressed who *the poor* are. This structure may collide one of the principles in meaning theorized by Leech (1997), the Connotative meaning. The meaning of *poor* varies greatly depending on the characteristic and perception of the readers. For example, most mature people with their right mind may interpret it as the *poor* people or those of economically incapable as the virus rages on. However, kids might have different ideas, thinking it is addressed to animals or other entities as their brain have not full developed. It does not only come to the extent of age, but it is also used to affect more factors such as gender, nationality and race. Thus, the noun head should not be removed as the adjective alone cannot make brief entity it defines.



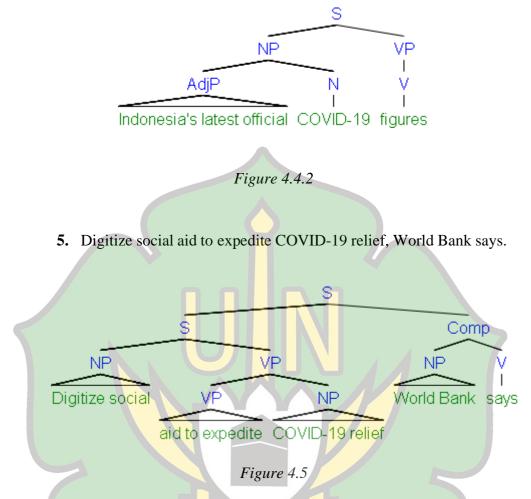
In figure 4.3, the nuisance in this headline has something in common with the previous samples. Yet again, the omission of auxiliary verb occurs in The Jakarta Post. Though, there is a large number of such case. Different from previous ones, in this occasion, the omission has come to a greater loss in syntactic units, being two units in VP *are going*. Talking about the VP, it can be inferred that the current news writer used the future tense to describe the time sequence. However, the auxiliary verb was omitted somehow in the end, similarly thinking that the helping verb does not necessarily affect the meaning. Some readers may have gotten the wrong idea regarding the time sequence and tense. Luckily, the headline holds more information, PP *by July*, to assist the readers into thinking that it happen in the future. It also seems that there are two sentences in this headline but no conjunction is seen to connect them. It might be inconvenient to use Conj in Headline indeed but the simple sentence *CDC chief expects* without a Conjunction is a violation. However, such style is widely used in the present-day journalism.

4. Indonesia's latest official COVID-19 figures

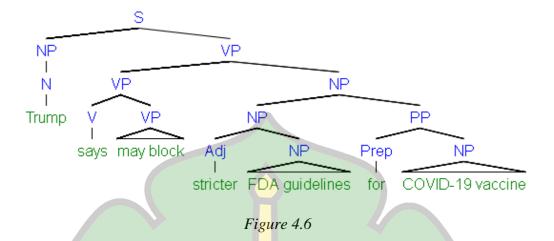
Sample 4 holds such a short sentence in length but it can make several people mind collide thinking of these actual meaning. There are few tree structures that can be established from the current headline, displayed in figure 4.4.1 and figure 4.4.2. Different tree patterns provide a totally different linguistics information either although the structure of the sentence remains intact. First figure is that of headline types founded by leech (1997), the nominal headline. As seen in below figure, there is even not any predicative role taken place which makes it a mere NP. However, the NP alone here might be able to make a sense to readers despite the incompleteness. The key part of this is Noun head *figures*, meaning people who are largely known. By using their right mind, most readers might come to this interpretation more likely than the other one because *N figure* presents a nominative role rather than predicative, seen in the second figure.



Unlike the previous one, N figures take the verb head in figure 4.4.2, resulting other unit to take the noun role. As a result, this instance make an almost perfect setntence, but do not make a proper meaning in exchange. It sounds ridicilous indeed to consider N COVID-19 a noun head since the chain of AjdP it carries does not correctly match with the subject. However, it does not hinder the fact that there are a slight number of readers thinking this way because they tend to make SVO pattern with their imaginative perception. Then, what stops this sentence from being complete is something to do with V figures. Figures, in traditional English languange norm, should be formed in transitive state, in contrast with intranstive, demanding a feature with either direct or direct object after it. For example, verb to give always indicates object to do action. Similarly, the verb in this instance must refer to some non-living entity in which this case did not. Most people may be able to tell what is missing even though the SV pattern has been met. Therefore, it is more correct to call this sample a clause rather than a sentence. In conclusion, this intepretation is obviously inaccurate and is not what the author most likely intended since its meaning is far from finishing.



The conflict in the next case is that its components in which they do not comply together with each other. It can be seen in word *digitize* that is not clear to what function it belongs. For brief explanation, this research provides light to this puzzling sentence. Word *Digitize* alone can make the meaning of this instance greatly colliding. As widely known, *Digitize* is normally a verbal unit which takes the predicative role. Thus, never has been a time when a predicate comes in the very beginning of sentence as in figure 4.5.1. No sentence should begin with a verb which make this instance completely chaotic. One solution that can be implemented is by transforming the function of *digitize* either to Noun or Adjective to make a sound sentence.



6. Trump says may block stricter FDA guidelines for COVID-19 vaccine

This instance needs to be broken down clearly since it can easily lure readers into thinking to these perceptions; that Trump would create a stricter guideline for FDA and that trump's verbal speech would do it instead, by considering *N says* as the main subject. The latter indeed seem peculiar and can be said false in meaning. However, in the view grammatical knowledge, the structure is sound as the component is complete. Whereas the first perception suffers a considerable flaw in its connections between sentence despite being more logical to one's mind. The problem is the loss in clause connector which ruined the whole meaning. There must be a unit that links two clauses in this sentence, *that* for example. Afterward, a pronoun that represent word *Trump* must be added either, *He* in this case. Applying this manner, a complete complex sentence would be formed, but this is not the major concern for news writers. Though, in the end readers have those perceptions despite the loss in structure.

7. Covid Alert in Vanatu after Infected Body Washes Ashore

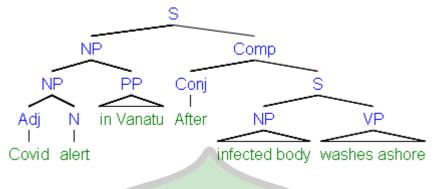
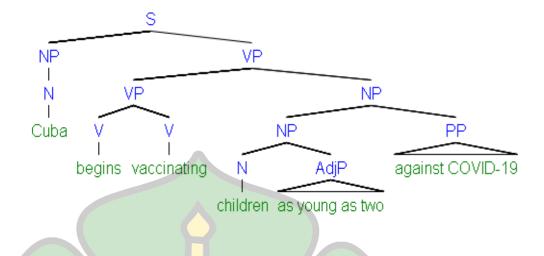


Figure 4.7

Although the headline appears to be a complete complex sentence, sample 7 actually underwent an obscure error as of figure 4.4.1 and figure 4.6. Similarly, the first sentence brings about the class ambiguity in a way that is barely noticeable. Chance is that most readers have misunderstanding concerning the headline types. Hence, this is one of the many attempts to strike the ordinary sentence pattern even though it is exposed with a large portion of view in public. More or less, solution of this case can be seen in the similar instances above.



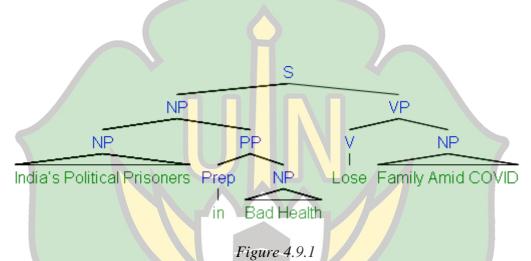
8. Cuba begins vaccinating children as young as two against COVID-19



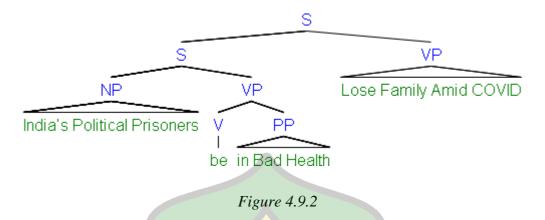
The loss of grammatical unit not only affect the syntactic component of sentence, but also its semantic value. As in this instance, it underwent a great semantic distortion on the targeted object. Turning attention on *N children*, it is not clearly defined what the characteristics are in the next few phrases. What comes after is the only amount of what is not known because of removal indeed. Seemingly, word *two* must be intended to state the ages of the youth in charge whom readers believe to be withing 2 years old. This belief may easily come to one's mind but it cannot be clarified if few readers may have the wrong idea, **AR-RANINY** thinking that it might represent other characteristics. This phenomenon is quite frequent that it is merely on of the many encounters during this research progress. To get it clearer, it is suggested to add more unit to clarify what the charact90eristic is.

9. India's Political Prisoners in Bad Health, Lose Family Amid COVID

Sample number 9 has the most law-abiding structure compared to any others, considering that the components are not placed in a way that conforms to the grammatical norm. Some indications were found and broken down into grammatical component as seen in figure 4.9.1 and figure 4.9.2. For a better understanding, this research tries to give light on this puzzling structure in the further discussion.



The culprit is in the component *PP in bad health* as it is not clear which function it takes. For example, see figure 4.9.1, if the PP defined the noun before it, then the sentence is complete because it meets the requirement where the subject and predicate are fulfilled. In that case, another problem might be raised. There is a coma which separate the two sentences. However, it somehow incorrect since there is noun head in the second sentence, only the *V lose* appeared, it has not been clear on why a coma (,) was placed there. This phenomenon is occurred because of the coma. All the arrangement of words coming before the coma can make a complete sentence. What is need to be noted is that the addition of coma ruined the grammatical rule in this case.



The second tree has different issue though it is as much mistaken as the previous one. In this case, phrase *in bad health* take adjective role in the form of adjective clause. Therefore, this manner make the sentence in a better shape and complete. In return, there must be an addition of clause connector such as *who/which* after the noun head to prevent the sentence from having two verbs at the same time. However, it has not been clear whether or not the author of this news title intended to do the exact principle.

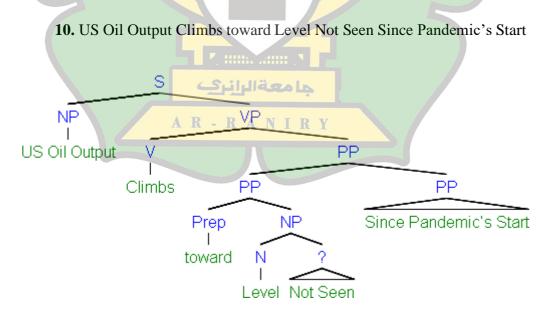


Figure 4.10

Of all instances obtained from a variety of publishers, this can be said to be the most peculiar one as the structure is horrendous without the need to urge. Even though the blame should go only to one phrase, the whole sentence is almost nowhere near the comprehension. By turning attention to the following figure 4.10, the error indeed is visible in construction of phrase not seen. This is an immense violation to the notable English grammar norm thinking that the phrase matches to no category in the sentence. For instance, the noun category of word *level* can only be defined commonly by a preposition or preposition clause and another noun or a noun clause. Contradictingly, what came after N level was a VP not seen. In another way, the VP can otherwise be classified as an adjective, the participle adjective, meant to describe the noun. However, in reality this manner demands a clause connector such as *which* or *that* to construct a correct syntactic system which means that this opinion is not true either. Therefore, a revision to be done is to alter the VP category into AdjP to make it possible match for N before it. Thus, in that case one word that might be appropriate is an adjective *unseen*, placed before N *level*. Probably, this class shift provides more sense to the mind of ordinary readers. AR-RANIRY

11. Thousands Join Hindu Festival Ritual Bath as COVID surges

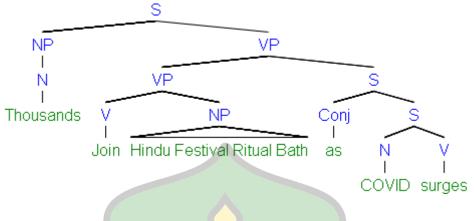
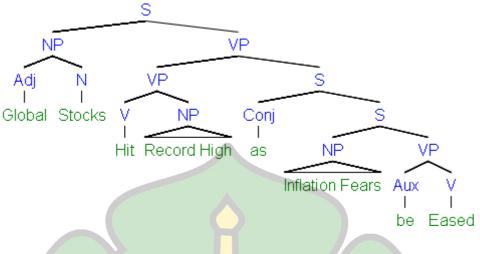


Figure 4.11

Sample number 11 presents one of the most frequent mistakes in formulating news headline, the referential ambiguity. Put aside the second sentence, the first one alone can confuse the readers by *N* thousand because it is still vague to what entity this word might refer to. The management of referencing can vary by culture, language, dialect, style, context, and educational attainment. How entities are introduced and tracked in discourse depends on the author and the linguistic expressions with which he or she selects to accomplish this task and how author select referential expressions to refer to entities in ongoing scene. In this instance, it can be seen from the chain of *NP Hindu festival ritual batch*. Using only these units, one might be more likely to say that word thousands depicts those of people who worship Hinduism because of the perception resulted by the *NP*. Thus, in surface structure, what most likely can be interpreted from this structure is that a large number of COVID-19 cases.

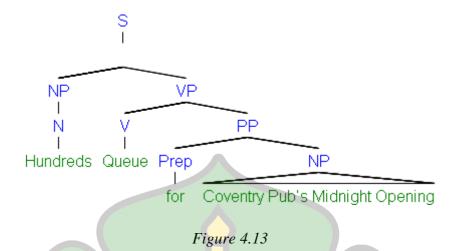
12. Global Stocks Hit Record High as Inflation Fears Ease





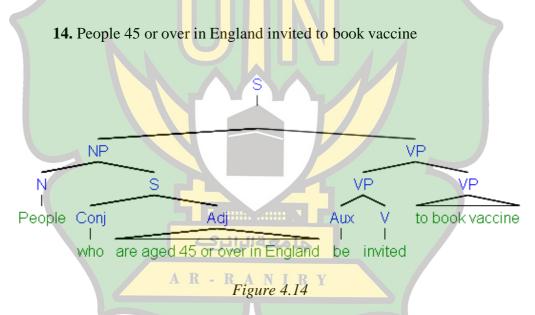
Yet again, instance number 12 is one of those encounters with the loss of modals in its phrasal verb. The attitude of news readers seeing this case may similar to that of figure 4.1 in which it still can be comprehended correctly in spite of the missing unit in sentence. Therefore, similar manner should be done either by adding its actual modal pair to its main verb to provide the same idea without grammatical conflict. Usually, addition *are/were* do it since the *N fears* has plural form to respect with grammar norm. Though, modal's loss might be undisputable in the scope title writing.

13. Hundreds Queue for Coventry Pub's Midnight Opening



Following the pattern of sample number 11, the model of tree is almost equivalent with that of in figure 4.11 in which a particular body of information has been diminished in the sentence. On that account, the chances can only be of two views; that word *Queue* functions as a noun head and that it takes a predicative role. First of all, what is sure about first view is that it was established with the same principle as the previous case (see figure 4.4.1) in which it is structured using nominal headline. As a consequence, word *Hundreds* has to shift its function to modifying, presumably from noun head. This view provides insight that a large number of waiting lines are in place, but it does not state the amount and who are currently in queue, which is conflicting with the latter view.

Roughly, both views portray almost similar demonstration of situation in pubs although they are dissimilar in a single unit only. It can be seen in the usage of word *Queue*, which now can take the form of verb and help formulate complete sentence, even not a complete noun (see figure 4.13). Although a particular body of linguistic information was removed in the sentence, this manner is what more probably correlate with readers' perception because the present news readers have now become more familiar with missing noun head. One may wonder that if word *hundred* was not to represent noun, then what other object can head this cardinal number. As is widely known, *hundred* most likely describe those living human waiting for pubs' opening after long COVID-19 closure. Therefore, one key solution to not get confused in the loss of these linguistic data is to take more account of a length of object that comes after the SV pattern, the NP in very end of sentence of this case for instance. Making more use of those units enlightens readers to a definite conclusion because they may provide knowledge regarding the noun head.



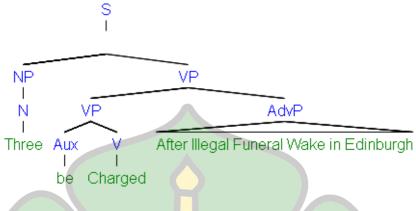
The only culprit in this case is the cardinal number 45 that defines the total amount of something that noun head *people* possessed. Presumably, a number of readers would think that number must have been misplaced unintentionally as a result of human error. According to an earlier section in this research, the placement of any head regardless the class should always be put in very end of group with few modifiers coming no further than their head. Perception such this demands the switch between *N people* and 45 to formulate a coherent meaning, describing that a total of 45 people having to be vaccinated. However, in reality this is not what the author actually intended. There is no such doing of misplacement, but it is something else to do with the deleted units between *N people* and 45. Unfortunately, it is very unlikely for occasional news readers to come to this thinking since it requires the much acquaintance with the oddity of English block language.

The truth behind it is that the number was written as the representation of maturity for *N people*. As a matter of fact, 45 currently described age of living entity in such a way that one would not notice. The deletion extended up to the whole clause, the adjective clause in this sentence. Therefore, what is lost is the connectors and clauses next to it (see figure 4.14). The figure depicts how the deep structure of this sentence looks like before the omission. It is the *reduced adjective clause*, common in modern English writing style, that distorts ones' perception since the loss is far great. As a consequence, such comprehension happens to occur at the only low rate for ordinary people.

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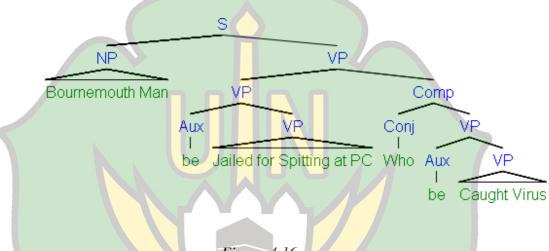
15. Three Charged After Illegal Funeral Wake in Edinburgh



Fig<mark>u</mark>re 4.15

Referential ambiguity occurs when a word or phrase, in the context of a particular sentence, can refer to two or more properties or things. It is sometimes clear from the context which meaning is intended, like sample number 15 for instance, but not always. There are two factors encouraging ambiguity such this; first is whether or not the pronoun be stated before its omission and whether or not the intended pronoun be apparent and familiar enough to various level of readers. In this case, it can be assumed that *N three* clearly defined the people arrested for holding funeral, which in general sense shows that the amount of number stated by the author indicated living human rather than other entities. The addition of supplementary phrases, such as *NP illegal funeral wake* and *N edinburg*, aid readers to comprehend the linguistic information implied in the subject of this sentence since it does not go so astray from what the readers might perceive. Still, incomplete unit in sentence creates biases in somebody perception. Also, it is one of those omissions again involving auxiliary verb. The aux *be* is much necessary for the sake of rightful meaning because, put simply, the three

men might get themselves handcuffed by health enforcement, rather than they handcuffed themselves on their . The difficulty of comprehending this sample is not quite immense but still puzzling in any chance for some occasional readers.



16. Bournemouth Man Jailed for Spitting at PC Who Caught Virus

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Figure 4.16
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The placement of units in this sentence was established poorly, especially in term of syntactic structure, considering the attachment of a number of phrases are quite unfathomable. Put aside the repeating error, omission of auxiliary, as in figure 4.1 and figure 4.15, it is better to turn more attention to the attachment of connector *who* and its units. Unlike sample 14, the clause was not reduced, but so misleading instead. It is not fixed to what entities the clause was referring to, whether to *NP Bournemouth man* or to *N PC*. As a result, some readers may have perceived that PC, short for Professional Corporation, is the one infected with virus. In reality, it is incorrect to assume this way since it is the man who spat to the PC, which in general sense the man is the one who carried virus with the intention of inflicting it to other objects. To eliminate this kind of error, it is more preferable to attach a body of clause right after the object it defines. Thus, this case tends to be understood incorrectly while the adjective clause should be inserted after *NP Bournemouth man*. This manner should promote a better comprehension for ordinary reader who start liking newspaper.

17. The Partial Return to School in New York City

This instance poses two most probable interpretation. It is either that the *the* + adjective structure with *partial* as a noun head (see figure 4.2) or that N *partial* take function a noun head and it takes as adjective or a noun marker. This section break down each of them briefly. The syntax tree of the first view might look like tree in the figure 4.17.1. If the principle of structure *the* + adjective structure applies, then NP *the partial* functions as main subject which refer to a group of people that return to school. Not to exaggerate, such assumptions may occur quite frequently since word *Return* can be so puzzling. In the present dictionary by Cambridge, *return* can take two classes, verb and noun form, without experiencing loss or addition of syllables. In this case, the *return* take verb role since the headline has the verbal sentence type, being that the subject *partial* agrees with its verb. Thus, the pair S + V in this sentence seems match both in semantic and in syntactic style despite little error in subject. Defenitely, the meaning make so much sense that readers might fall to this perception.

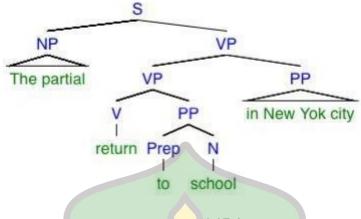
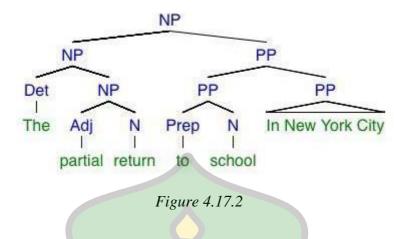


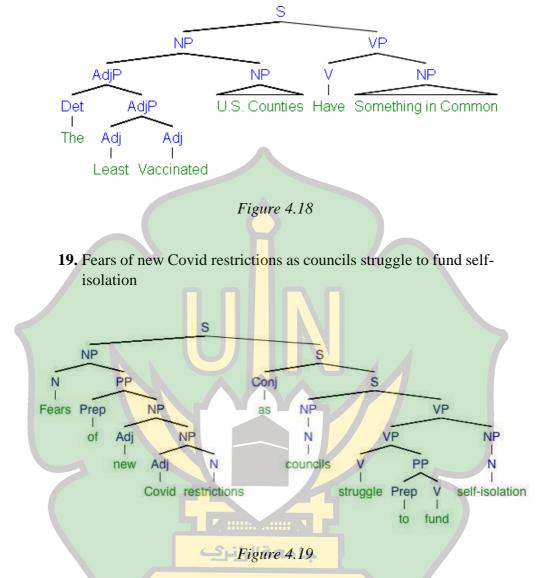
Figure 4.17.1

The latter is that perception which only those who are well-acquainted with news language style can perceive. It is one of those nominal headlines again in which the structure is predominantly formulated by noun or noun phrase. The three of which structure is quite odd because it is not headed by an S alphabet, short for sentence. Instead, NP alone can make for it due to the incomplete sentence structure (see figure 4.17.2). There is completely no presence of VP in the tree which can be huge mislead for the first-timer. As for the reason of why news writers formulate NP alone, it might be due to the simplicity by which the publishers provide. Not to blame them, they tend to believe that the readers might get what the headline means just by seeing the NP alone although both first and second perception leads to one roughly similar realization, that the closure of school is now lifted in New York. The trees differ but the meaning barely does.



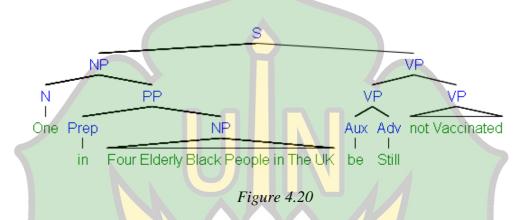
18. Least Vaccinated U.S. Counties Have Something in Common

It can be said that sample 18 suffers the least damage in its structure compared to other instances that lose their syntactic units in such a larger number. Differently, this sentence does not seem incomplete but it does in a way that is very obscure. One simple error is the removal of *the* that defines AdjP next to it, corrected in figure 4.18. The removal is of course conflicting with one of the grammatical rules, namely the superlative degree. This expression demands the use of *the* before the NP it defines. The undisputed formula of this structure is the + Adjective in superlative + NP. There is no fixed explanation of why the authors did this despite the slight error in structure. However, such mistake only is only made in a very little attempt.



On a closer look, this sample is quite mind-twisting because the type of sentence is still not fixed. Currently, there are two sentences in this case to establish what is termed as a complex sentence; the one which comes after and before conjunction *as*. The incompleteness was aroused by that of independent sentence which is still in doubt of its structure. The sentence was absence of verb or verb phrase, resulting collisions to the whole lines. Without being specifically said, this phenomenon distorted the linguistic system in both sentences because

one dependent clause alone cannot establish itself without its dependent ones in which this case does not respect with. Therefore, this headline is more likely to be misunderstood when it comes to sentence type.



20. One in Four Elderly Black People in The UK Still not Vaccinated

The most fundamental condition for omissibility of auxiliary verb is that the helping verb must be in the form of *be*, being that, as far as this research finds, no omission of *have* form and *modal* form is ever sighted. Several interesting tendencies can be observed from the same phenomenon found in some sample. As in figure 4.20, the likelihood of form of be being omitted depends heavily on the subject or pronoun, living entities more likely, and on whether it is in the first, second, or third person pronoun. On top that, omission commonly affects human object in the form of second and third person in the cases of headlines, while first quite rare, as seen in above sentence. *N one* only receives small proportion of information and thus may draw misinterpretation among readers despite being a second person form. However, it is an essential task for the chain of NP next to it to specify elaboration of who *N one* was stated for. As a result, the sentence became more lengthy which therefore constraint readers from having the ease to read the headlines. Simply with that reason, author would have a decision to attempt omission which makes this sample to be one of the many similar instances.



CHAPTER V

CONLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

This research concludes that there are a number of errors that can be found in newspaper titles despite its exposure to the large portion of readers, such as deletion modal verb, referential ambiguity, class ambiguity and semantic ambiguity. Both syntactic and semantic field have to be implemented into this matter since grammatical value is too crucial to be neglected. Unfortunately, grammar is not considered to priority when it comes to news title. For example, as for modal verb deletion, it is often seen in publishers such as Jakarta Post, and Aljazeera News. Whereas in the semantic field, class ambiguity has one of the most encounters, especially in Aljazeera News, as such law-abiding grammar rules are commonly found on their front page on daily basis.

All these encountered mistakes are only by small observation. Therefore, there are still a number of news publishers that might arouse the same issues although not much correction can be given considering the large number of them. What is sure regarding news title is that grammatical value has not been in consideration since the ease to read and availability of paper space are more important. However, it does not limit the studies of linguistic dimension to leap in scope of newspaper writing.

B. Suggestion

With the limit of knowledge and experience, I can give the suggestions such as, for the next researcher, there are many grammatical violations in the newspaper title that can become as object of the research, such as, the most often one, deletion modal verb, referential ambiguity, class ambiguity and semantic ambiguity. Seemingly, the grammatical violations have been undisputable and rooted in title writing since, after all, the ease to read in more important than the linguistic vale in newspaper. For my colleagues and underclassmen in PBI who may intent to conduct same interest, I hope this research can be fruitful. Therefore, I expect nothing more than hoping that both enthusiast and ordinary news readers can take confusing word arrangement despite its ambiguous meaning. Normalizing the grammatical value in title writing might instead result in drawback such as unavailability of space, redundancy, etc. However, it should not go more astray than how it is today from grammatical norm. Hopefully, the result of the research can not only be useful for linguistic field, but also for the other field that can become as object of the research.

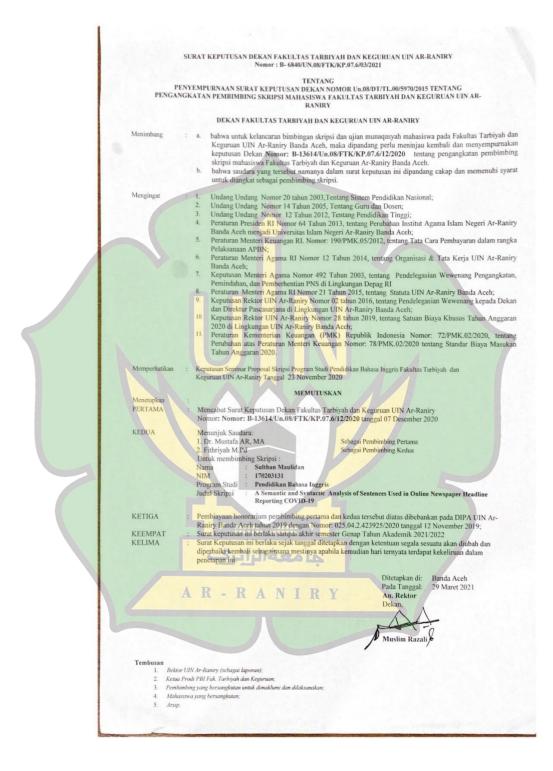


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- 1. COVID-19 protocol violators in probolinggo made to sit in hearse with casket.
- 2. Boost for vaccine doses planned for the poor as virus rages on.
- 3. Most Americans to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by July, CDC chief expects
- 4. Indonesia's latest official COVID-19 figures
- 5. Digitize social aid to expedite COVID-19 relief, World Bank says.
- 6. Trump says may block stricter FDA guidelines for COVID-19 vaccine
- 7. Covid Alert in Vanatu after Infected Body Washes Ashore
- 8. Cuba begins vaccinating children as young as two against COVID-19
- 9. India's Political Prisoners in Bad Health, Lose Family Amid COVID
- 10. US Oil Output Climbs toward Level Not Seen Since Pademic's start
- 11. Thousands Join Hindu Festival Ritual Bath as COVID surges

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- 12. Global Stocks Hit Record High as Inflation Fears Ease
- 13. Hundreds Queue for Coventry Pub's Midnight Opening
- 14. People 45 or over in England invited to book vaccine

- 15. Three Charged After Illegal Funeral Wake in Edinburgh
- 16. Bournemouth Man Jailed for Spitting at PC Who Caught Virus
- 17. The Partial Return to School in New York City
- 18. Least Vaccinated U.S. Counties Have Something in Common
- 19. Fears of new Covid restrictions as councils struggle to fund self-isolation
- 20. One in Four Elderly Black People in The UK Still not Vaccinated

