LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL AMBIGUITIES OF THE NEWS HEADLINE OF THE JAKARTA POST AND NEW YORK TIMES

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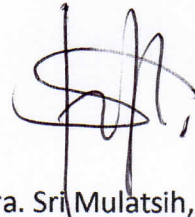
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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at investigating lexical and grammatical ambiguities that occur in the news headlines of The Jakarta Post and New York Times, and analyzing the possible meaning of those ambiguous headlines. The researcher used descriptive qualitative method to find out the types of ambiguity and the possible meanings that occur. The data of this research are the news headlines which are taken from two different news provider websites; The Jakarta Post and New York Times were published on March, 2014. The result showed there are 30 ambiguous headlines, in which mostly produced by the Jakarta Post (18 headlines) consisting of 11 lexical ambiguities, and 7 grammatical ambiguities. While in New York Times, there are 12 ambiguous headlines consisting of 10 lexical ambiguities and 2 grammatical ambiguities. The Jakarta Post produced more grammatically ambiguous headlines compared to New York Times. It may happen since the writer or editor is non-native speaker, or even they create more ambiguous headline in order to get the readers' attention to read the whole article. On the other hands, the occurrences of ambiguous headlines in New York Times are less than the ones in The Jakarta Post, especially in grammatical ambiguity. It showed that the writer or writer of New York Times do not have problems in structuring the sentence. However, in New York Times there are also ambiguities that arise because of the use of technical terms in term of lexical ambiguity that may create confusion among the readers.

Keywords: *Ambiguity, grammatical, lexical, New York Times, The Jakarta Post*

INTRODUCTION

Language has important role as a communication tool in our life. Through language, people are able to interact each other sharing their thoughts, feelings, ideas, opinions, and emotions. There are two types of language that usually be used in conveying meaning, which are spoken language and written language.

Spoken and written language has similarity in its function, to deliver messages. However, there are differences in the way of delivering messages. Understanding spoken language is considered as easier than written language. In spoken language, speakers are able to deliver their intentions by uttering words directly to the hearers. And if the hearers confused in interpreting the message, they can ask directly toward the speakers to re-explain until they understand each other. On the other hand, if we have a difficulty in interpreting written language as we can found on books, novels, news papers, and magazines, we cannot ask back since written language is a one way communication media.

Written language in some case can make the readers confused in determine the actual meaning of the sentence that the writers write since they do not share the same opinions. Written language also has more complex grammars and does not use pauses, stress, hesitations, tone of voices, slides and intonations rather than spoken language. That is why people sometimes find their self difficult in understanding the message in written language because it can be interpreted in more than one meaning. In Semantic, this phenomenon is known as ambiguity. According to Leech (1981: 30), "An expression is said to be ambiguous when more than one interpretation can be assigned to it". It means, if there is a sentence that has two (or more) paraphrases which are not paraphrases each other.Ullman (1977: 196) classifies ambiguity into three structural levels; phonetic or phonological, lexical, and grammatical ambiguity.

Ambiguity occurs everywhere, either spoken or written sources. There are many sentences in written article or texts such as letters, novels, books, and newspapers that are potentially ambiguous and caused the readers confused in determining the message. Even there are some of the readers who

interpret in the wrong message of those ambiguous sentences. It is important for the readers to know the way to resolve the ambiguous sentences because it can help them in determining the actual meaning of the sentence. This research is intended to find ambiguities that may occurs in daily newspapers especially in the news headlines found in the news websites. This study however, is only focuses on the occurrence of lexical and structural ambiguity within news article headlines.

In reading newspapers, people tend to choose the news they want to read based on the headlines. The more interesting headlines displayed in the newspapers, the more it will attracts people's attention to read it. News headline is the text at the top of the newspaper article indicating the nature of the article bellow it. Its purpose is to quickly and briefly draw attention to the story. It is generally written by the news writer, the page layout designer, or the editors. Headline plays a vital role as a part of a news article as the front line in delivering information quickly to the readers. What is written on the headline, it will represent the whole article below it.

People tend to skim heads to have rapid comprehension of the news if they do not have much time to read the whole news. In fact, no one can read all stories that are processed each day (Gilmore and Root, 1977). It raises the possibility that the readers would get the wrong information about the news when the headlines are ambiguous. Some newspaper editors who work on strict deadlines or any other pressure situation may create ambiguous headlines, a confusing or misleading headline with often humorous connotations. These ambiguous headlines will make the readers confused in comprehending the actual message behind the headline.

If the news headlines have more than one meaning, it may cause a misunderstanding for the people who read it. Probably, this ambiguous is tolerable with articles, but it is not the case with news. The news should be objective, which means that, they do not create different meaning among the people who read the news. The objective of writing news is only reporting something that has happened. However, some headlines, especially front page headlines, are ambiguous because the writers do it on purpose. They want to make them sensational, so that it would increase the newspaper selling.

The importance of headlines and the effect of ambiguous news headlines on the readers make the researcher interested in conducting research relate to ambiguity. This research is expected to identify the occurrence of ambiguity, especially lexical and grammatical ambiguity within a news headlines on the internet. This study aims at analyzing the differences of ambiguity occurrences in Indonesian news website *The Jakarta Post,* comparing to the American news website *New York Times.* Furthermore, this research also discusses the interpretations which may arise in ambiguous words or sentence in the headlines.

METHOD

This research uses descriptive qualitative research which aims at identifying ambiguities found in the news headlines of the Indonesian news website *The Jakarta Post* and American news website *New York Times,* using Ullmann's (1977: 156) theoretical framework.

Descriptive research is a research method to describe the subject or the object of the research based on the fact or reality. Isaac and Michael (1987: 46) stated that, "descriptive method has a purpose to describe systematically a situation or area of interest factually and accurately".This study was conducted by formulating the problems, collecting the data, and analyzing the data.

The unit of analysis of this study is every phrases, clauses, and sentences found in the news headlines in Indonesian news website *The Jakarta Post* and American news website *New York Times* that may consist of ambiguities.

The data of this research is in form of written data. The data of this research were taken from the internet with the total numbers are 50 headlines, which are consist of 25 headlines from Indonesian news websites *The Jakarta Post* and 25 headlines of American news websites *New York Times* published on March 2014. All ambiguous phrases, clauses, and sentences in the headlines become the data of this research.

The researchers analyzed the data through some steps. First, finding the data which has possibility of ambiguity from the internet. Second, reading and comprehending the selected data. Third, identifying every phrases, clauses, and sentences which are possibly ambiguous. Fourth, classifying the types of ambiguities based on Ullmann (1977: 196) theories. Fifth, the researcher

identifies the possible meaning of those ambiguous sentence, phrase, or even clause. And the last is interpreting the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This research identifies there are 30 ambiguity are found both in the Jakarta Post and New York Times news headlines. The ambiguity mostly occurred in The Jakarta Post news headlines; with the total number of ambiguity are 18 ambiguous news headlines consisting of 11 lexically ambiguous headlines, which are mostly functioned as noun and verb, and also 7 grammatically ambiguous headlines that occur in form of noun phrases.

On the other hands, there are 12 ambiguous news headlines are found in New York Times, consisting of 10 lexically ambiguous, mostly functioned as noun and verb, also 2 grammatically ambiguous headlines. Below are the table of each type of ambiguity found in The Jakarta Post and New York Times news headlines published on March 2014.

Ambiguity in Jakarta Post and New York Times

No	Headlines	Types of Ambiguity	Class of Word	Number of Occurrences	Precentage
1	Jakarta Post	Lexical	Noun	5	16,67%
			Verb	5	16,67%
			Adjective	1	3,33%
		Grammatical	Noun Phrase	7	23, 33%
2	New York Times	Lexical	Noun	5	16, 67%
			Verb	5	16, 67%
		Grammatical	Noun Phrase	2	6, 66%
Total Ambiguity				**30**	**100%**

The table above shows the frequency of ambiguity occurrences in both The Jakarta Post and New York Times news headlines published on March 2014. It indicates that in The Jakarta Post, there are 11 cases of lexical ambiguity in which are dominantly functioned as noun words and verbs, although there is a lexical ambiguity which is functioned as adjective. Moreover, there are also 7 cases of grammatical ambiguity in Jakarta Post headlines, in which all of it functioned as noun phrases.

The table also indicates ambiguity in New York Times headlines. There are 10 cases of lexical ambiguity which are functioned as noun and verb. Moreover, there are grammatical ambiguity are found in New York Times news headlines. There are only 2 cases of grammatical ambiguity which are functioned as noun phrases. The discussion of each analysis is as follows.

Ambiguity in The Jakarta Post Headlines

The data of this study were taken from two different news provider websites, in order to see in which sites ambiguities are dominantly occurred. The total numbers of headlines to be analyzed are 50 headlines; consist of 25 headlines from The Jakarta Postand 25 headlines of New York Timespublished on March 2014. Here is the result of data analysis of ambiguous headlines in The Jakarta Post

Lexical Ambiguity

From 25 headlines of The Jakarta Post published on March 2014, there were 11 headlines categorized as lexically ambiguous headlines. The research indicated that lexical ambiguity mostly occurred in the usage of the noun and verb in the sentence. However, this study not only analyzes the kinds of ambiguity arise in the headlines; the possible meanings of ambiguous headlines will also be presented. Below are few examples of lexical ambiguities analysis in The Jakarta Post Headlines.

Excerpt 1
*Jokowi urged to **step down***

      This headline is ambiguous and it is classified as lexical ambiguity in the case of homonymy. The ambiguity can be seen from the usage of verb *"step down"*. It leads the readers to have different interpretations. *"Step down"* (v) has two meanings; a) *Go to lower place or position*, b) *Resign from important position or office*

Therefore, based on the definitions of the word *"step down"* above, the sentence may be interpreted into:

1. *Jokowi urged to <u>go to lower ground</u>*
2. *Jokowi urged to <u>resign from his position</u>*

      This ambiguity phenomenon in the news headline makes the readers confused in determining the actual message behind. In the case above, the readers may think that what the writer or editor intends to talk about the word *"step down"* is *'go to lower ground'* or *'resign from a position'*.

      However, the writer's intended meaning of this ambiguous headline is *"Jokowi was urged <u>to resign from his position</u>"*. The article is about Gerindra party that has demanded Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to step down immediately as the governor because he is very busy handling election campaign activities. To get the right interpretation of the ambiguous words, phrases, and sentences, the readers have to know the topic of the article by read the whole article.

Excerpt 2
*PDI-P targeted as campaign **heats up***

      This headline is ambiguous and it classified as lexical ambiguity in the case of homonymy. The ambiguity can be seen from the usage of adjective *"heats up"*. The word *"heats up"* (adj) can be interprets into two meanings: a) *Become more intense and exciting*, and b) *The quality of being hot; high temperature.*

Therefore, based on the definitions of the word *"heats up"* above, the sentence may be interpreted into:

1. *PDI-P targeted as campaign <u>become intense</u>*
2. *PDI-P targeted as campaign <u>temperature is hot</u>*

      Having more than one interpretation makes the reader cannot get the exact meaning of the sentence. The reader maybe confused in determining the actual interpretation of this headline, whether the word *"heats up"* means *'intense'* or *'hot'*. To get the right message, the reader may read the whole article or only read the main topic that usually stated in the first paragraph.

      The Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI-P) nearly saw its rally in Sleman, Yogyakarta, on Tuesday turn chaotic after local party officials confronted a large group of motorcyclists intentionally disrupting the event.

      (Jakarta Post: March 26, 2014)

      The paragraph above tells about the campaign condition of PDI-P which facing interference from a large group of motorcyclist. In the case above, the right interpretation of the word "heats up" is 'intense' which refers to situation. So, the writer's intended meaning of this ambiguous headline is *"PDI-P targeted as campaign become <u>intense</u>"*.

Excerpt 3
*Turkish court backs Twitter but **site** still blocked*

      The headline above tells about Turkey's ban on Twitter. This is an example of lexical ambiguity in the case of homonymy. The ambiguity of the headline can be seen from the noun word *"site"*. This word may cause the readers into wrong interpretation. Based on oxford dictionary, the word *"site"* (n)has two meanings:

- An area of ground on which a town, building, or monument is constructed
- A website, a location connected to the Internet

Therefore, based on the definitions of the word *"site"* above, the interpretations that may arise as results are as follows:

a. *Turkish court backs Twitter but <u>the location</u> still blocked*

b. *Turkish court backs Twitter but <u>the website</u> still blocked*

Having two different interpretations can makes the reader confused in determining the actual message. However, the actual interpretation or the writer's intended meaning for this ambiguous headline is "*Turkish court backs Twitter but <u>the website</u> still blocked*".

Some of the readers may aware and interpret the ambiguous word *"site"* into *'website'* based on the existence of the word *'twitter'* which refers to the one of the social media networking website. However, the headline still categorized as an ambiguous headline since it has multiple meaning attached.

Grammatical Ambiguity

From 25 headlines of the Jakarta Post published on March 2014, there were 8 headlines categorized as grammatically ambiguous headlines. The research shows that all of the grammatical ambiguity is occurred in form of noun phrase. On the other hand, this study is not only analyze the kinds of ambiguity arise in the headlines; the possible interpretations of ambiguous headlines will also be presented. In analyzing grammatical ambiguity, the researcher uses labeled and bracketed structure in order to see the differences of the structure that make one sentence ambiguous. Below are few examples of grammatical ambiguities found in The Jakarta Post news headlines.

Excerpt 12

Indonesian men, women show equal drive

The headline above is an example of grammatical ambiguity. It is the case of grammatical ambiguity where the phrase of the sentence creates ambiguity because of the equivocal phrasing. The noun phrase *"Indonesian men, women"* is consider as ambiguous one, since it has two different forms which make the sentence has two different meanings.Whether the adverb *"Indonesian"* only modifies the noun *"men",* or also modifies *"women"* as well.

a.

Indonesian   men   and   women

b.

**Indonesian   men   and   women**
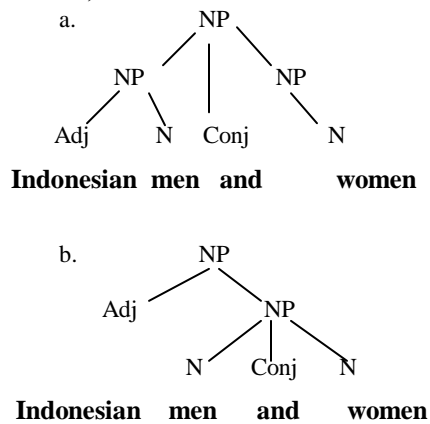
The structures above indicate two different interpretations of the phrase *"Indonesian men, women"*. From the first structure (a), the interpretation of the sentence is "*The equal drive is shown by women and Indonesian men"*. While the second structure (b), the interpretation in the sentence is *"Indonesian men and Indonesian women show equal drive"*.

However, the writer's intended meaning of the headline is the interpretation from the structure (b), in which the sentence interpretation will be "<u>*Indonesian men and Indonesian women show equal drive*</u>". It is because the article stated that both men and women are come from the same area.

Excerpt 15

*Scott, **Jagger's designer girlfriend**, found dead*

The headline above is ambiguous and classified as grammatical ambiguity. The noun phrase *"Jagger's designer girlfriend"* in the sentence is considered as ambiguous one since the phrase can be interprets in two different ways as we can see in the following structures.

a.
```
                NP
           NP       NP
        Adj   N        N
```
Jagger's   designer   girlfriend

b.
```
              NP
          Adj      NP
             N        N
```
Jagger's   designer   girlfriend
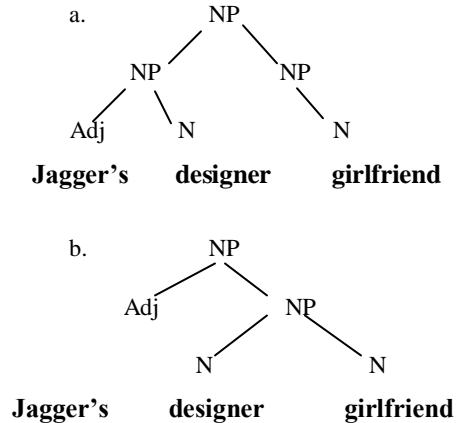
The structures above show different interpretations as result of grammatical ambiguity in the news headline. In the first structure (a), the noun head *"girlfriend"* modifies the whole phrase *"Jagger's designer"*. So, in this case *"Jagger's designer girlfriend"* means *"the girlfriend of Jagger's designer"*. Therefore,if we attached the first interpretation (a) into the headline, the meaning of the sentence is *"Scott, who is the girlfriend of Jagger's designer found dead"*.

Meanwhile, in structure (b) the word *"Jagger's"* modifies both noun words *"designer"* and *"girlfriend"*. In other words, the nouns phrase *"Jagger's designer girlfriend"* means *"Jagger's girlfriend who is designer"*. The interpretation of the sentence based on structure (b) is *"Scott, Jagger's girlfriend who is designer, found dead."* Bellow is the supporting paragraph to get the right interpretation.

> *L'Wren Scott, who left her small-town Utah home as a teenager to become a model in Paris, then a top Hollywood stylist and finally a high-end fashion designer <u>best known as the longtime girlfriend of Mick Jagger</u>, has died in what was being investigated as an apparent suicide.*
>
> *(Jakarta Post: March 18, 2014)*

Based on the underlined part in the paragraph above, it is clear that the writer's intended meaning of the ambiguous headline is in the structure (b) *"Scott, Jagger's girlfriend who is designer, found dead."* It is because the article stated that L'Wren Scott is known as the longtime girlfriend of Mick Jagger.

Excerpt 16

*Death sought for **Bandung manager murder case***

The headline above is ambiguous and classified as grammatical ambiguity. The noun phrase *"Bandung manager murder case"* in the sentence is considered as ambiguous. Whether the word *"Bandung"* only modifies the noun *"manager",* or also modifies the whole phrase *"manager murder case"*.

a.

NP
NP   NP
Adj   N   N   N

Bandung   manager   murder   case

b.

NP
Adj   NP
N   N   N

Bandung   manager   murder   case
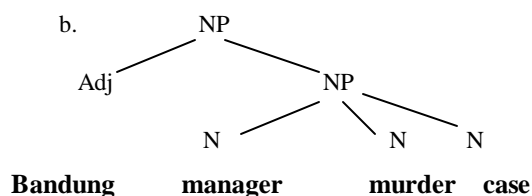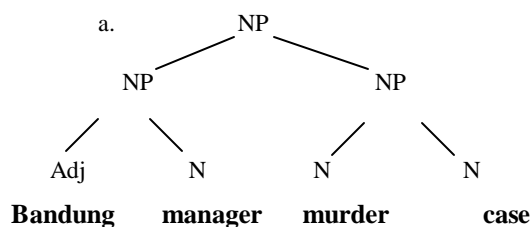
The structures above indicate two different interpretations of the phrase *"Bandung manager murder case"*. From the first structure (a), the interpretation of the sentence is *"Murder case of a manager from Bandung"*. And the second structure (b), the interpretation of the sentence will be *"A manager murder case in Bandung"*. To get the right interpretation, below is the supporting paragraph for the reader as a consideration.

> *Prosecutors at the <u>Bandung District Court</u> on Thursday demanded that a defendant be handed the death sentence for allegedly robbing and killing a company manager.*
>
> *(Jakarta Post: March 07, 2014)*

Based on the underlined part in the paragraph above, the writer's intended meaning is *"<u>A manager murder case in Bandung</u>"*. It is due to the fact that the judicial process for the suspect of a manager murder case is held in Bandung District Court. So it means that the murder is taking place in Bandung as well.

Ambiguity in New York Times Headlines

As mentioned in previous chapter, this research is not only analyzing the Jakarta Post but also New York Times news headlines published on March 2014. The researcher chooses New York Times as source of data because New York Times is considered as one of America's most popular news media. Here is the result of data analysis of ambiguous headlines in New York Times.

Lexical Ambiguity

From 25 headlines of the New York Times published on March 2014, there were 10 headlines categorized as lexically ambiguous headlines. The research shows that lexical ambiguity mostly occurred in the usage of the noun and verb in the sentence. However, this study is not only analyze the kinds of ambiguity arise in the headlines; the possible interpretations of ambiguous headlines will also be presented. Below are few example of analysis of ambiguous headlines of New York Times.

Excerpt 19
*Rise in bigotry **fuels** massacre inside Myanmar*

The headline above tells about recent condition in Myanmar. This headline is ambiguous and is classified as lexical ambiguity in the case of polysemy. The use of the verb word *"fuels"* makes the headline ambiguous, since the word *"fuels"* can be interprets in different meanings, they are; a) *Supply or power with gasoline*, b) *A thing that sustains or inflames passion, argument, or other intense emotion; stimulate, intensify, provoke, encourage.*
Based on the definition of the word *"fuels"* above, the interpretations of the headline that may arise as result of ambiguity are as follows:

1. *Rise in bigotry <u>gasoline</u> massacre inside Myanmar*
2. *Rise in bigotry <u>provoke</u> massacre inside Myanmar*

The readers may think that what the writer or editor intends to talk about the word *"fuels"* is *'gasoline'* or *'provoke'*. However, if we attached the first interpretation which is *"gasoline"* into the sentence, the meaning of the sentence become unclear and cannot be accepted to the readers. To get the right interpretation of the ambiguous words, phrases, and sentences, the readers have to know the topic of the article and read the whole article.

However, if we attached the first interpretation which is *"gasoline"* into the sentence, the meaning of the sentence become unclear and cannot be accepted to the readers. In other word, the writer's intended meaning of the headline is "*Rise in bigotry <u>provoke</u> massacre inside Myanmar*"

Excerpt 20

*Newly detected objects **draw** searchers for Malaysian plane*

The headline above is about the searching progress of the missing Malaysian plane MH370. However, though the context of the headline is clear and acceptable for some readers, the possible ambiguity still can be found on this headline. The ambiguity can be seen from the use of the verb word *"draw"* in the sentence. The word *"draw"* can be interprets in different meanings, they are; a) *Produce a picture or image by making lines and marks on paper with pencil, sketching*, b) *Direct or attract (someone's attention) to something.*

Based on the definition of the word *"draw"* above, the possible interpretations that may arise as results of ambiguity are as follows:

1. *Newly detected objects <u>sketches</u> searches for Malaysian plane*
2. *Newly detected objects <u>attracts</u> searches for Malaysian plane*

Having more than one meaning can make the readers confuse whether the word *"draw"* means *"sketch"* or *"attract"* since the context is unclear. However, if we attached the first meaning of the word *"draw"* which is *"sketch"* into the sentence, the message of the sentence became unclear and cannot be accepted to the readers. So, the writer's intended meaning *is "Newly detected object <u>attracts</u> searches form Malaysian plane"*

Excerpt 23

***Top** Russians face sanctions by US for Crimea crisis*

The headline above tells about sanctions to Russians towards crisis in Crimea. Although this headline is understandable for some people, but there is a possible ambiguity that may arise in the sentence. The ambiguity can be seen in the word *"Top"* in the sentence. This ambiguity is categorized as lexical ambiguity since the word *"Top"* can be interprets into different ways. It is classified as lexical ambiguity in the case of polysemy. Based on Oxford dictionary, the word *"Top"* has more than one meaning as follows:

- The highest or most important rank, level, or position
- The highest or uppermost point, part, or surface of something

Based on the definition of the ambiguous word *"Top"* above, the possible interpretations that may arise as results of the ambiguous word are as follows:

a. *<u>Russian officials</u> face sanctions by US for Crimea crisis*
b. *<u>Summit</u> Russians face sanctions by US for Crimea crisis*

Ambiguity in this news headline may leads the readers confused in determining the actual message behind. In this case, the readers may be confused whether the word *"Top"* means *'officials'* or *'summit'*. However, the first interpretation (a) is more acceptable than the second interpretation (b). Because if we attached the word *"summit"* into the headline, the message of the sentence become unclear and the reader will be more confused. Below is the first paragraph of the news article that can help the readers to get the right interpretation.

> *WASHINGTON — The United States prepared Monday to impose sanctions on <u>high-level Russian officials</u> involved in the military occupation of Crimea, as the escalating crisis in <u>Ukraine</u> prompted turmoil in global markets, pounding the Russian ruble and driving up energy prices. (NY Times: March 03, 2014)*

The paragraph above indicates that the writer's intended meaning about the headline is *"Russian officials face sanctions by US for Crimea crisis"*. It is based on the underlined noun phrase "high-level Russian official" in the paragraph above.

Grammatical Ambiguity

From 25 headlines of the New York Times published on March 2014, there were only two headlines categorized as grammatically ambiguous headlines.The research indicates that both grammatical ambiguities are occurred in form of noun phrase. On the other hand, this study is not only analyze the kinds of ambiguity arise in the headlines; the possible interpretations of ambiguous headlines will also be presented. In analyzing grammatical ambiguity, the researcher uses labeled and bracketed diagrams in order to see the differences of the structure that make one sentence ambiguous. Below are few example of grammatically ambiguous headlines of New York Times.

Excerpt 29
Nurse education level affects death rates, study says
The headline above is ambiguous and classified as grammatical ambiguity. The noun phrase *"Nurse education level"* in the sentence is considered as ambiguous one since the phrase can be interprets in two different ways. The phrase has two different forms which make the sentence ambiguous. Whether the noun *"Nurse"* modifies only *"education",* or modifies the whole phrase *"education level"*.

a.
```
            NP
          /    \
        NP      NP
       /  \      |
      N    N     N
    Nurse education level
```

b.
```
          NP
        /    \
       N      NP
             /   \
            N     N
    Nurse  education  level
```
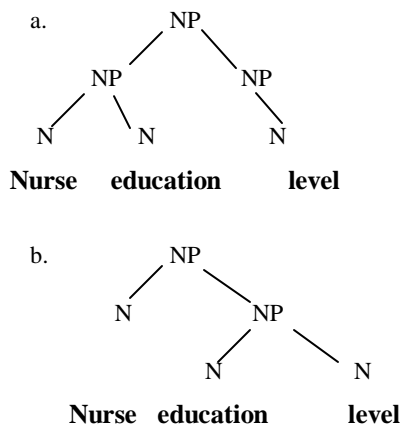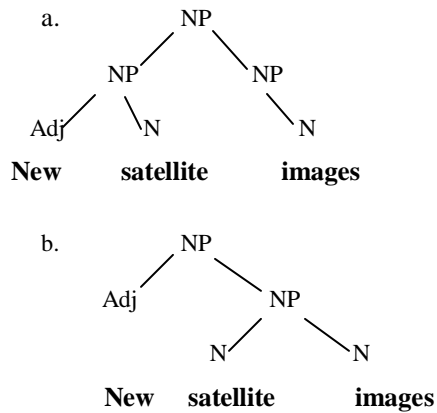
The structures above indicate two different interpretations of the phrase *"Nurse education level"*. From the first structure (a), the interpretation of the sentence is *"The level of nurse education"*. And the second structure (b), the interpretation of the sentence will be *"The education level of nurse"*.

Although there are two different interpretations as the result of the headlines, but the writer's intended meaning of the ambiguous headline is can be seen from the structure (b) which is *"the education level of Nurse affects death rates, study says."*

Excerpt 30
New satellite images said to be 'credible lead' in Malaysia jet hunt
The headline above is also classified as grammatical ambiguity. It can be seen from the noun phrase *"New satellite images"*. The phrase has two different forms which make the sentence can be interprets in two different ways. Whether the adjective "new" modifies only "satellite", or also modifies "images".

a.
```
              NP
          ／      ＼
        NP          NP
      ／  ＼          ＼
    Adj    N          N
   New   satellite   images
```

b.
```
              NP
          ／      ＼
        Adj         NP
                  ／   ＼
       New      N       N
            satellite  images
```

From the structures above shows different interpretations as results of ambiguous headline. Structure (a) shows the adjective *"new"* only modifies the noun *"satellite"* which forms noun phrase. It means that the word *"images"* do not have the specific adjective whether it is new or not. Therefore, noun phrase *"New satellite images"* in the first structure means *"Images from the new satellite"*.

On the other hand, in structure (b) the adjective *"new"* modifies the whole phrase *"satellite images"*, so both words *"satellite"* and *"images"* shares the same specific adjective *"new"*. In this case, the interpretation of the sentence in structure (b) is *"New images from the satellite"*.

Although there are two different interpretations as the result of the headlines, but the writer's intended meaning of the ambiguous headline is can be seen from the structure (b) which is *"New images from the satellite"*.

CONCLUSSION

There are 11 lexically ambiguous headlines found in The Jakarta Post. The class of word that creates ambiguity is in form of noun (5 times), verb (5 times), and 1 adjective. The dominant causal factor of lexical ambiguity in the Jakarta Post is caused by homonymy (9 times), polysemy is only 2 times. There are also 7 grammatically ambiguous headlines of the Jakarta Post, in which all of it is functioned as noun phrases.

In New York Times, there are 10 lexically ambiguous headlines. The class of word that creates ambiguity is in form of noun (5 times), and verb (5 times). Meanwhile, the causal factor of lexical ambiguity is caused by homonymy (6 times), while polysemy is 4 times. In addition, the grammatical ambiguity found in New York Times is only 2 headlines, in which all of it is functioned as noun phrases.

The Jakarta Post produced ambiguous headlines more than New York Times, especially in grammatical ambiguity. It is maybe because the writer or editor is non-native speaker, so they are possibly facing some problems in assembling news into English language. Furthermore, the writer and editor maybe creates ambiguous headline intentionally, because an interesting news headline will attract more attention among the readers to read the whole article. However, the reason behind the occurrence of ambiguity is not the main objective in conducting this study. New York Times produced less ambiguous headlines, especially grammatical ambiguity compared to The Jakarta Post. The writer and editor do not have problems in sentence structure since they are native speaker. However, the use of some technical terms in New York Times headlines may create confusion for its readers.

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