

2.1.1 Theory of Syntax

The study of the structure of phrase or sentences and the rules which govern how words are combined to form phrase or sentence. Syntactic ambiguity arises not from the range of meanings of single words, but from the relationship between the words and clauses of a sentence, and the sentence structure implied there. When a reader can reasonably interpret the same sentence as having more than one possible structure, the text meets the definition of syntactic ambiguity. Syntax is the rules of grammar for the arrangement of words into phrases and of phrases into sentence (Oxford dictionary: 1212).

In Syntactic Ambiguity, the same sequence of words is interpreted as having different syntactic structures; in contrast, semantic ambiguity is where the structure remains the same, but the individual words are interpreted differently (Layman, 1962:120). It is significantly enough that structural ambiguities may be created by design when one understands the kinds of syntactic structures that will lead to ambiguity, though for the respective interpretations to work, they must be compatible with semantic and pragmatic contextual factors.

2.1.2 Theory of Semantic

Semantic is the study of meaning in language (Hurford and Heasley, 1984:1). A semantic theory should attribute to each expression in the language. An expression is meaningful as the semantic theory should say

so. When it is ambiguous, the meaning of phrase and sentence must be understood.

A semantic description of a language is some finitely stated mechanisms that allow us to say the true condition for each phrase or sentence of the language. Just as for grammatical description, a semantic theory will characterize some composite sentences on the basis of their constituents: their meanings in which they are put together. The basic constituents will ultimately be the meanings of words.

Although people are sometimes said to be ambiguous in how they use language, ambiguity is strictly speaking about a property of linguistic expressions. A word, phrase, clause or sentence is ambiguous if it has more than one meaning. Obviously, this definition does not say what meanings are or what it is for an expression to have one or more than one. This definition can also be referred to the word or sentence that has the different meaning. The sentence that are ambiguous are representing two different sentences. (Bach, 2000) for a particular language, this information is provided by a grammar, which systematically pairs forms with meanings, ambiguous forms with more than one meaning (<http://online.sfs.edu/~kbach/ambguity.html>).

2.1.3 Theory of Ambiguity

Ambiguous is unclear, confusing, or not certain, especially because it can be understood in more than one way. A sentence that employs ambiguous words leads readers to misunderstand. In other word, if you use

the ambiguous word in a sentence and most likely people who read a sentence may not understand what is written about. It makes other readers are confused, because the word used is not clear. Many English words can have ambiguous meanings in isolation.

Ambiguity can arise in variety of spoken and written language. If we listen to the speaker's utterance or reading a book, we are sometimes difficult to understand what the speaker or the writer means. Brown and Miller (1988) divide structural ambiguity into two types. First, ambiguity of bracketing which occurs when a component has more than one bracketing system, but the same labeling. For example, "*The dog bit the man in the bath room*" (Brown and Miller, 1988: 82). Another is ambiguity of labeling. It occurs when a component has more than one labeling. For example, "*She looked hard*" (Brown and Miller, 1988: 82).

Hurford and Heasley (1984:128) divide the semantic ambiguity into two kinds, lexical and structural ambiguity:

2.1.3.1 Structural ambiguity

Ambiguous sentence have more than one phrase structure tree, each corresponding to different meaning. The sentence *the boy saw the man with the telescope* is ambiguous. Its two meaning correspond to the following two phrase structure trees. The meaning of this sentence is "The boy used a telescope to see the man." The first phrase structure tree represent this meaning. The key element is the position of the PP directly under the VP. Although the PP is under the VP, it is not a complement because it is not

used is the same or by using theory of syntax, but in Bustam's research, there are some structures which commonly become the trigger of the ambiguity which focus in clause, phrase and sentence. Meanwhile, in this study, the writer tries to focus on phrase and sentence. To apply some clause, phrase and sentence, Bustam's has similarity by using tree diagram to analyze a class word.

The next research comes from Sarah Lizara Sevida, a student of English Letters Department State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta with her thesis title *Structural Ambiguity of News Headlines "Yahoo News" (The Study of X Bar Theory)*. This thesis applies for the X Bar theory of syntax. The X Bar theory is used because every phrasal category has a head of its same syntactic structure. The primary of X Bar theory of phrase structure is how to generate the correct constituent of English sentence. Finally, the result of this research is the headline of Yahoo News are vulnerable having ambiguous structures that make the readers have approximately more than one interpretation of meaning in their mind.

By knowing Savida's research to analyze structural ambiguity in News Headlines Yahoo News and by using the X-Bar theory, the writer actually does this study with a little bit of similarity, because there are some similarities in identifying some ambiguous sentences and phrases that ambiguous in type of phrase. But in this study the writer used tree diagram to apply and identify the structural ambiguity found in the data: intended the jokes book.

Further research is made by two students of State University of Malang, Silvia Randika Puspita and Mirjam Anugerahwati. The research entitled *Structural Ambiguity in The Jakarta Post Newspaper's Headline News* purposes to investigate the structurally ambiguous phrases in The Jakarta Post Newspaper's Headline news. This research intends to apply for qualitative descriptive. Thus, the research finds 19 phrases of 16 articles in the Jakarta Post newspaper's headline news which evidently make sentences become potentially structurally ambiguous. Besides, the writer discovers that there are two types of structurally ambiguous phrases that emerge in the headline news of The Jakarta Post newspaper.

The next study is by Henny Andriani Tambunan as the student of University of Sumatera Utara and the title of her thesis is "The Analysis of Lexical and Structural Ambiguity in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post". She discuss about lexical and structural of ambiguous theory, she focuses on phrase and sentence in Your Letters of Jakarta Post that include of ambiguous. She uses the Stephen Ullmann (1977). Then, George Yule (1985) for analyzing the structural ambiguity. She finds the dominant data is happen in phrase as the structural ambiguity then in Lexical ambiguity case of the study. Descriptive qualitative is uses by the researcher to find out the data of the study according to in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post.

The next previous researcher is from Susan Kristanty as the student of Petra University and the title of her thesis is "*The Structural and Lexical Ambiguity Found in Cleo Magazine Advertisements*". She finds the kinds of

sentences or phrases which are structurally ambiguous and kinds of words that are lexically ambiguous. She wants to know what advertisements are ambiguous. Therefore, she applies the theory of structural and lexical ambiguity from Hurford and Heasley's theory (1984). She also used the theory of syntactic structures by Adrian Akmajian (1995) and Nelson Francis (1954). In her research, the writer makes a relation between semantic theory and syntax theory.

Based on the relevant previous researches above, the position of this study from the first previous research by *The Analysis of Ambiguous Structure through The Structural Ambiguity Concept* by Muhammad Rayhan Bustam. Then, Henny Andriani Tambunan as the student of University of Sumatera Utara and the title of her thesis is "The Analysis of Lexical and Structural Ambiguity in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post". Meanwhile in the next research by Sevida's by using electronic media; Yahoo News (the study of X-Bar theory). Then, Silvia Randika Puspita and Mirjam Anugerahwati with the research entitled *Structural Ambiguity in The Jakarta Post Newspaper's Headline News*, and Susan Kristianty in her thesis "*The Structural and Lexical Ambiguity Found in Cleo Magazine Advertisements*". Over all previous research, this study will explain more about syntactic ambiguity that found in the object of study, exactly in the term of phrase and sentence form in each tree diagram. Then, the writer is not only giving the meanings of each ambiguous sentences or phrases for each diagram, but also showing the readers about kind of ambiguous

