#### **CHAPTER 2**

#### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Theoretical Framework is a great conceptual model of a theory or something (logical sense) of relations among factors that identify an importance on the issue of research. "The framework of the theory is to flow logically from research documentation proceeding in the field of research related". Theoretical framework (the framework in general discuss interrelationships) among the variables in theory (prevailing theory, previous research, logical) things, to help researchers in composing the hypothesis and tests carried out. To research which is testing (confirmation) theory, the theory in use to build a hypothesis, to the case of this hypothesis built based on the theory of a logical explanation and the results of research before her and will be tested with the facts. According to Kinney (1986) is the state or events that can be observed in the real world.

# 2.1 Review of Underlying Theories

To support the analysis, this part reviews on several theories related to this research, those are syntax, structural ambiguity, phrase, sentence, diagram tree and *The Laugh a Day Book of Bloopers Quotes and Good Clean Jokes*.

## 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 than meaning more one (<a href="http://online.sfs.edu/~kbach/ambguity.html">http://online.sfs.edu/~kbach/ambguity.html</a>).

# 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

selected by the verb. The verb *see* select an NP only. In this sentence, the PP has an adverbial function and modifies the verb. In its other meaning "The boy saw the man who had a telescope" the PP with the telescope occur under the direct object NP, where modifies the noun *man*. In this second meaning, the complement of the verb *see* is the entire NP – *the man with the telescope*. In both case, the PP act as an adjunct

The PP in the first structure is generated by the rule

VP- V NP PP

The second structure the PP is generated by the rule:

NP- Det N PP

Two interpretations are possible because the rule of syntax permit different structures for the same linear order of word.

Hurford and Heasley (1998: 128) say that structural ambiguity or grammatical ambiguity arises because of the structure in a phrase or sentence. The ambiguity usually appears on a linguistic unit that landscape phrase and sentence. Moreover, Hurford, et al. (1983:128) states "Any ambiguity resulted from the ambiguity of a word is a lexical ambiguity, and a sentence which is ambiguous because its word relates to each other in different way even though none of the individual word are ambiguous is structurally (or grammatically) ambiguous".

# 2.1.3.1.1 Ambiguous in Phrase

Every word forms phrases actually apparent, but the combination could be construed more than one sense. For example,

a phrase "old and men woman", "old" in phrase can be refer to only men or both of them (man and women).

#### 2.1.3.1.2 Ambiguous in Sentence

The readers or listeners often deal with confusion of meaning in a sentence, although the meaning of every word in a sentence is obvious. Pateda (2001: 2003) divide grammatical ambiguity to be 3 category:

- Ambiguity which caused by structural/ grammatical
- Ambiguity in similar phrases
- Ambiguity appear in context

Meanwhile, grammatical ambiguities emerge in the unit of linguistics is called sentence or phrase. So, grammatical ambiguity can be seen in three sides. First possibility is ambiguity that is caused by the process of the words in the grammatical formulation. In English, there are prefix and suffix that evidently can make ambiguity, even sometimes confusing.

Second possibilities, ambiguity in phrase is the same as equivocal phrasing. Every word that forms phrase actually is clear, but the combination can be interpreted more than one meaning. For example, "He killed a number of old friends and acquaintances" the word "old" can be mean long time or not young. In this sentence, it can be connected by friends and acquaintances. In the sentence

above, the question will be what is meant by old, what are friends or acquaintances.

To avoid ambiguity like the preceding examples, we need context or element of supra segmental that follow and seem to be beneficial. Third possibilities, ambiguity that emerges in context question whether it is individual context or structural context. For example, in a minor sentence "close the door!" People can ask, "Close the door please?" "Will you close the door?" "Why do you close the door?". To avoid ambiguity in context, we have to know in what context people say (44 Stephen Ullman, Op. Cit., pg. 157-15812).

## 2.1.3.2 Lexical Ambiguity

It happens when a word has more than one meaning. For examples:

- (1) He found a bat. (Bat: baseball bat; flying rodent)
- (2) She couldn't bear children (bear: give birth to; put up with).

In some possibilities in language area, every word would have one and only one meaning. But, as well known, this is not the case of ambiguity. When a word has more than one meaning, it is said to be lexically ambiguous. When a phrase or sentence can have more than one structure it is said to be structurally ambiguous.

(http://www.essesx.ac.uk/MTbook/HTML/node51/html)

## 2.1.4 Surface and Deep Structure

According to An Introductory English Grammar book, each sentence has deep structure. Deep structure is an abstract grammatical structure that relates to its meaning. Meanwhile, surface structure relates to the pronunciation of a sentence. For example "The shooting of Oswald was terrible". Its sentence is able to have two different interpretation or meanings. It means that, the sentence "the Shooting of Oswald was terrible" has different deep structure, but having same surface structure.

*The shooting of Oswald was terrible* (Surface structure)

Possible meanings:

- Someone (not specified) shot Oswald (deep structure)
- Oswald shot someone (not specified) (Deep structure)

# 2.1.5 Tree Diagram

Tree diagram is an illustration in the form of an upside-down tree shape that shows the constituents of an utterance, with the most general at the top and more specific constituents at the bottom of the tree. (Levine, 2016:122).

According to Akmajian, (1995), we have now cited two kinds of evidences in the favor of the hypothesis that sentences are structured. First, if we do not assume that sentences are structured that words are grouped into constituent. Then we cannot account for how a sentence consist of a set of unambiguous words which can nevertheless be ambiguous. Second, it is impossible to state certain grammatical rules without appealing to

constituent structure. We cannot only say that sentences are indeed structure, but we can also indicate how they must be structured. That is, we have found at least three important aspects of sentence structure:

- a. The linear order of words in a sentence
- b. The categorization of words into parts of speech
- c. The grouping of words into structural constituents of the sentence

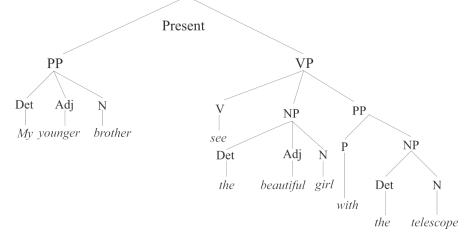
These three types of structural information can be encoded into what is called a tree diagram. The tree diagram here is used for structural ambiguity, especially in a sentence. The example of ambiguity sentence that is applied into tree diagram will in the following illustration.

My younger brother sees the beautiful girl with the telescope

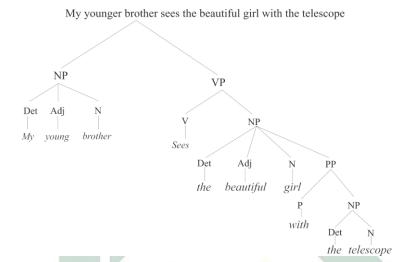
It has two structural interpretations and structural forms.

# a. Diagram 1

My younger brother sees the beautiful girl with the telescope



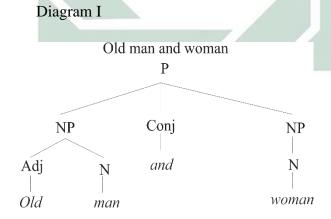
# b. Diagram 2



Old man and woman.

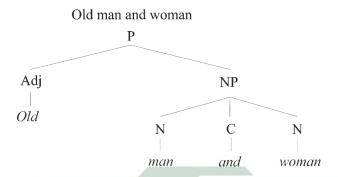
This phrase has two interpretations of meaning:

- Old modifies <mark>m</mark>an



- Old modifies both of man and woman

Diagram II



#### 2.1.6 Review of Related Studies

In this part of chapter related studies functions to clarify some previous researches which still have the same theory and obviously the different object and discussion. Besides, it also stands to emphasize the popularity of the object by describing the frequent analysis on the object done by some researchers. This following previous researches as follows.

The research with the title *The Analysis of Ambiguous Structure* through *The Structural Ambiguity Concept* by Muhammad Rayhan Bustam, asserts that structural ambiguity emerges due to a structure which has two or more different interpretations. The writer then emphasizes that the structural ambiguity quite often occurs in written text. Finally, the result of this research shows that the structural ambiguity can emerge in some structures which are Noun Phrase, Prepositional Phrase, Relative Clause, Noun Clause, and the combination of those with conjunction (coordinating).

By reading his research exactly this thesis, the writer finds some differences and similarities according to this study. By the theory that is

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 tittle 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 tittle 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 tittle 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

structural that happened in the data source: *The Laugh a Day Book of Bloopers Quotes and Good Clean Jokes* by Jim Kraus.

