

**A CONTRASTIVE STUDY OF STRUCTURAL  
AMBIGUITIES IN ENGLISH AND INDONESIAN NEWS  
TITLES: A STUDY ON X – BAR THEORY**



**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for Master Degree in Linguistics**

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**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY  
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2018**

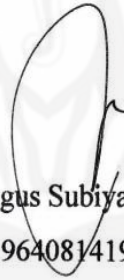
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A CONTRASTIVE STUDY OF STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITIES IN ENGLISH  
AND INDONESIAN NEWS TITLES: A STUDY ON X-BAR THEORY

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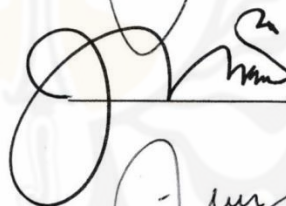
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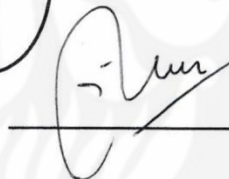
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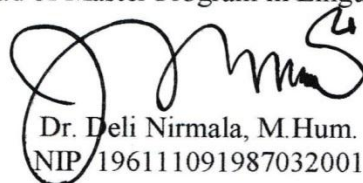
  
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Semarang, April 25<sup>th</sup> 2018



Renanda Ayu Kinanti

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# A CONTRASTIVE STUDY OF STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITIES IN ENGLISH AND INDONESIAN NEWS TITLES: A STUDY ON X-BAR THEORY

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## Abstract

This research aims to discover types and differences of structural ambiguities between English and Indonesian through news titles. The data were collected by observing titles from English and Indonesian news titles. They were analyzed using X – bar theory. This study used distributional and referential methods for analyzing data. The result shows that there are four types of structural ambiguities found in both languages, the shifting of parts of speech, the position of prepositional phrase, the position of attributive word order, and the types of adjunct. In terms of parts of speech, English has only one kind of change, noun-verb. However, in Indonesian, there are two kinds of changes, noun-verb and verb-adjective. In terms of the position of prepositional phrase, English has various PPs indicating instrument, location, purpose, and time, whereas Indonesian has only two types of PP, indicating location and purpose. In terms of the position of attributive word order, there is no significant difference between both languages. Finally, in terms of the types of adjunct, English has participle adjunct, meanwhile Indonesian has verb adjunct.

**Key Words:** *structural ambiguity, news titles, X – bar theory, syntax*

# **STUDI KONTRASTIF PADA AMBIGUITAS STRUKTURAL DALAM JUDUL KORAN BAHASA INGGRIS DAN INDONESIA: STUDI PADA TEORI X-BAR**

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## **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis dan perbedaan ambiguitas struktural antara bahasa Inggris dan Indonesia melalui judul berita di koran. Data diperoleh dengan mengobservasi judul berita, kemudian dianalisis menggunakan teori X-bar. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode distribusional dan referensial dalam menganalisis data. Hasil menunjukkan terdapat empat jenis ambiguitas struktural yang ditemukan dalam kedua bahasa, yaitu ambiguitas struktural yang terjadi karena perubahan parts of speech, letak frasa preposisi, letak attributive word order, dan jenis-jenis adjunct. Dalam hal parts of speech, bahasa Inggris memiliki satu jenis perubahan, kata benda - kata kerja. Sedangkan dalam bahasa Indonesia, ada dua jenis perubahan, kata benda - kata kerja dan kata kerja – kata sifat. Dalam hal letak frasa preposisi, bahasa Inggris mempunyai beragam frasa preposisi yang mengindikasikan instrumen, lokasi, tujuan, dan waktu, sedangkan bahasa Indonesia, hanya ada dua jenis frasa preposisi, yang mengindikasikan lokasi dan tujuan. Dalam hal letak attributive word order, tidak ditemukan perbedaan yang signifikan antara kedua bahasa tersebut. Terakhir, dalam hal jenis – jenis adjunct, bahasa Inggris memiliki participle adjunct, sedangkan bahasa Indonesia memiliki adjunct kata kerja.

**Kata Kunci:** *ambiguitas struktural, judul koran, teori X-bar, sintaksis*

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Newspaper contains many titles which explain what the article's contents are. People tend to read the title first before reading the content. News title determines a big role in a newspaper. Newspaper editors will give as best as they can in order to make the news titles attractive and more interesting to read, so that they will get more readers and bring a lot of advantages, especially for popularity and sales. As Reah (1998: 19) stated that newspaper writers tend to write a headline in a way that will attract the reader's attention. They will create an attention-getting, highly memorable headline. Moreover, they are most likely to create alliteration, homophones, and play with the sentence structures. Not to mention because of the limited space, the writers have to make the titles short and use lexical words only such as nouns, main verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. They often abandon the use of determiners, auxiliary verbs, etc. Those kinds of factors will lead to what people called as ambiguity. According to Hurford & Heasley (2007: 121) when sentences or utterances have more than one sense, and therefore, cause confusion, it is termed as ambiguity.

People may find ambiguous sentences everywhere, not only in oral communications, but also in written forms like in books, magazines, and newspapers. Newspaper writers nowadays like to create or give something different to the readers

through the titling styles. According to Chovanec (as cited in Fruttaldo, 2017: 146) "headlines have distinctive syntactic properties, which make them a grammatical oddity." This kind of action will lead to ambiguity. Thus, newspapers which contain ambiguous news titles may impact on the way readers interpret the titles. They most likely can rarely interpret what the newspaper is trying to tell or inform. When titles consist of phrases or sentences which have more than one meaning, it will bring confusion for readers.

Therefore, in this study I am interested in doing research in ambiguous titles of newspapers. However, before deciding the kind of research, I have searched for relevant references from some previous studies on both ambiguity and newspapers (see Chapter 2). Most of the previous studies analyzed two different kinds of ambiguities: lexical and structural in newspapers of one particular language. Despite investigating the same medium, that is newspaper, and the same object analysis, ambiguity, this research is different from the previous studies. This paper investigated titles in both Indonesian and English newspapers. I conducted a contrastive study between those languages. Since Indonesian and English have language structure differences, they may have impact on the forms of structural ambiguities.

According to Edupedia (2017), every language has different number of words. English has a set of words around 500.000. Meanwhile, French has only 70.000 words. In this case, the differences give big diversity of nuances to the users of English. Language which lacks such diversity may result in using one word to convey several meanings. The weakness of using one word for broader meanings or even

very different meaning can result in ambiguity. For instance, in French, being bored and annoyed are both *ennuyé*. In Japanese, there is no different word for ‘leg’ and ‘foot’ (*ashi*). Unlike French and Japanese, English has richer vocabulary than those two languages. Therefore it will minimize the chance of ambiguity. This kind of diversity may also happen in Indonesian and English. Therefore, I would like to conduct a study by comparing the ambiguity between both languages.

Generally, I found that there have not been any researchers investigating structural ambiguity between two languages. Thus, these findings lead me get an idea of doing research which people have never done before, that is analyzing structural ambiguities in Indonesian and English news titles. This kind of research is important to investigate, considering both languages may have different language structures. This difference may also lead to get different kinds of ambiguity. In this paper, I took the data from English and Indonesian newspaper and analyzed them structurally by using X-bar theory.

## **1.2. Research Problems**

The research problems can be formulated as follows:

1. What kinds of structural ambiguities are found in Indonesian and English news titles?
2. What are the distinctions of structural ambiguities between Indonesian and English news titles?
3. How does X-bar theory enlighten structural ambiguities?

## **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this paper are to answer the problems of this research mentioned above, they are:

1. To discover kinds of structural ambiguities in Indonesian and English news titles.
2. To investigate the distinction of structural ambiguities between Indonesian and English news titles.
3. To enlighten structural ambiguity by using X bar theory.

## **1.4. Significance of the Study**

The result of this study may help people translate or interpret ambiguous phrases or sentences and deconstruct them in order to get the correct meanings in accordance with the context. Furthermore, this study may also improve the ability in understanding ambiguous sentences, phrases, or written words. This research

provides reference for the study of semantics and syntax in teaching and learning activity. It may potentially provide people who are interested in lexical and structural ambiguity for knowledge and for their future research, especially as the previous study.

### **1.5. Scope of the Study**

The data of this research are phrases and sentences which are structurally ambiguous taken from news titles of English and Indonesian newspapers. I used *The New York Times*, *The Daily Mail*, and the *Telegraph* as the source of English data. Meanwhile as the source of Indonesian data, I used *Suara Merdeka*, *Tribun Jateng*, *Kompas*, and *Detik.com*. I analyzed all of the data using X-bar theory from Transformational Generative Grammar by Noam Chomsky. Since X-bar theory is useful to analyze sentence or phrase structure, I was able to discover the types of structural ambiguity and the distinctions between both languages.

### **1.6. Definition of Key Terms**

There are several terms and concept as the key of this research:

a. Structural ambiguities

Structural ambiguity happens if there is a phrase which is ambiguous because its words relate to each other in different ways, even though none words are ambiguous (Hufford & Heasley, 2007: 129-130).

b. X-bar Theory

X-bar is a theory made by Chomsky consisting of three simple parts: specifier, adjunct, and complement to describe the structure of a language (Newson, 2006: 454).

### **1.7. Organization of the Study**

This thesis is organized into the following chapters:

Chapter I, Introduction, presents background of the study, research problems, objectives, significances, scope, and organization of the study.

Chapter II, Review of Literature, illustrates various related theories used as the basis for analyzing the data. They consist of previous studies on ambiguities and X-bar theory, the concept of ambiguity in newspaper headlines, structural ambiguity, and X-Bar theory.

Chapter III is Research Methodology. It manages how this study is conducted by elaborating the data collection, data analysis, and data presentation methods.

Chapter IV is Findings and Discussion. The findings present the results of the objectives of this study, meanwhile discussion elaborates the findings. This study discusses types and distinction of structural ambiguities in Indonesian and English newspapers. Furthermore, the collected data are enlightened using X-Bar theory.

Chapter V is Conclusion of the research and some recommendations.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

#### **2.1. Previous Studies**

There have been several previous studies on structural ambiguity and news titles. Bucaria (2004) investigated lexical and structural ambiguity in ambiguous headlines. She focuses on two things. The first one is discovering difference between previous research, and she found that syntactic ambiguities were found in good percentage compared to the previous one. Another objective that she achieved is discovering two new configurations for the processing of the disjunctive or connector.

Andarini et al (2012) studied structural ambiguity in The Jakarta Post newspaper's headline news. They investigated types of structural ambiguous phrases in which they apparently found two types: noun phrase and prepositional phrase. They also discovered how to resolve the ambiguous phrase, which is by adding hyphen, preposition of, the word who is/are, which is/are, and placing prepositional phrases in the beginning of sentence.

Al Aqad (2013) conducted research on syntactic analysis of adverbs between Arabic and English by using X-bar theory. This study focuses on the position of adverbs in Arabic and English. In order to compare adverb's position, he uses X-bar theory. The results show that applying X-bar theory on Arabic sentences show changeable positions of adverbs between Arabic and English. It shows the

subject position of Arabic in X-bar theory which is initially. Arabic has a lot of transferable constituents. The order of the sentences easily changes from SVO to other states. The applications of X bar theory on Arabic sentences show the differences and indiscernible constituents structures among languages.

Aydin (2013) presented a comparative study on English and Turkish syntactic structures within the terms of minimalist program. The aim is to discover how Turkish and English behave with regard to the concept. The result found that English and Turkish structures are different in some ways. They are different in terms of head-last or head-first, SVO or SOV, and subject drop or non-drop languages. However, despite the differences, there is similarity between both languages. Adjective phrase structure in English is the same as Turkish, consisting of adj-noun.

Elmawati (2013) investigated structural ambiguity in the headlines compiled by Bucknell University. She intended to find the causes of structural ambiguity. It turned out that syntactic category, placement of prepositional phrase, and verbs sub categorization are the causes of structural ambiguity.

Khamahani and Tahirov (2013) investigated structural and lexical ambiguity written by native and non-native journalists. They wanted to know the differences between ambiguity written by native and non-native by distributing questionnaire to university students. They presented two set of data, lexical and structural ambiguities, to be answered by the respondents. The result is that the headlines written by native journalists are more ambiguous than headlines which are written by non-native.

Ọ̀ṣunnúgà (2013) presented ambiguity in Yorùbá news headlines. He analyzed lexical and structural ambiguities from a hundred verbally ambiguous headlines that result in involuntary humor. The result is that 66% the majority of ambiguities are found in lexical category, meanwhile, 34% are found in structural category. It is also found that the frequency of lexical ambiguity is higher than structural because it is deliberately contrived by Yorùbá newspaper writers in order to achieve effective communication and aesthetics.

Dharmawan (2014) conducted research on three of many ways to analyze a sentence. They are traditional grammar, immediate constituent and X-bar theory. He claimed that traditional grammar is the old method to analyze a sentence. Hence, there are a lot of weaknesses compared to the other two methods. It cannot resolve the ambiguity existing in the grammatical forms. Its methods are inaccurate, incomplete and inconsistent, and the descriptions are inexplicit and intuitive. Meanwhile, analyzing a sentence by using immediate constituent also has limitation. Although this method is more advanced compared to traditional grammar, immediate constituent cannot analyze phrase further than just a level of word. The last one is analyzing a sentence by using X – bar theory. This theory is the most recent and effective method among the others. It can distinguish syntactically among complements, specifiers, adjuncts. It can also avoid the repetitive use of phrasal categories (NP, VP, PP, AdvP or AdjP) within a sentence. X-bar can differentiate relationships of words in a noun phrase. Unlike traditional grammar, using X-bar can recognize ambiguity.

Salih (2015) investigated factors of structural ambiguity in English and Arabic. Factors which cause structural ambiguity in English are duality in parts of speech, absence of functional words, immediate constituent, surface and deep structure, compound and grammatical words, and the use of pronouns. Meanwhile, factors which cause structural ambiguity in Arabic are duality in parts of speech, surface and deep structure, elision of some parts of speech, and the use of pronouns.

Kurniati (2016) analyzed semantic analysis on sense of ambiguity in The Jakarta Post headlines. She wanted to discover how many interpretations there are inside one word, phrase, and sentence. She used description method for analyzing the data. The result shows there are four data that can be interpreted into three meanings, while there are six data of ambiguity can be interpreted into two meanings

Aulia (2017) investigated scope ambiguity in the Jakarta Post newspaper. She analyzed the scope ambiguity in the articles and the cause of the scope ambiguity. She took 65 articles from The Jakarta Post published in May 2015. The result shows that there are 6 scope ambiguities caused by quantification, 4 scope ambiguities caused by coordination, and 7 scope ambiguities caused by quantification and coordination. Overall, there are 17 scope ambiguities found in The Jakarta Post's headline articles.

This study is different from the previous studies. By looking at those previous studies, I saw that most of them conducted research on lexical and structural ambiguities in one particular language only, mostly from *The Jakarta Post*. Meanwhile, instead of one language, I analyzed structural ambiguities in two

languages: Indonesian and English, and compared the differences between them. I assumed that different languages may impact on different phrase structure as well. In this research, I analyzed only structural ambiguity because it has been proven in the previous research that structural ambiguity is the least kinds of ambiguities found in newspapers. Therefore, in this study I was interested in doing research in structural ambiguity, because I wanted to explore more about this kind of ambiguity. Furthermore, most of the previous studies also used old theories to analyze structural ambiguities. They used bracket, description, and traditional phrase structure tree. Instead of using old theory, in order to analyze the data I used the most recent theory to analyze structural ambiguity called X-bar theory.

## **2.2. Ambiguity in Newspaper Headlines**

Language is always changing from time to time; including the language of newspaper. In his book, Conboy (2010:1) stated that the language of newspapers has always encapsulated what they would sell to the readers and how the information which they share could best be packaged and presented to achieve the commercial end at a certain time. Mass media, especially newspaper which competes with others will give their best as they can to the readers in order to increase the sales. Conboy argues that this competition will affect the language of newspaper as well, because they want to give the readers some kind of information differently rather than usual in order to be unique. This phenomenon will lead to the use of ambiguity in newspaper. As previously mentioned, ambiguity happens when sentences or utterances have more

than one meaning, and therefore cause confusion. In spite of giving the actual or literal sentence, newspaper editors prefer using different language which the reader can guess by themselves but still in easy way for getting attention from the readers.

According to Reah (1998: 19) newspaper writers tend to write a headline in a way that will attract the reader's attention. They will create a short, attention-getting, highly memorable headline. Moreover, they are more likely to create alliteration, homophones, and play with the sentence structures. Not to mention because of the limited space of the newspaper, the writers may use lexical words only; such as nouns, main verbs, adjectives, and adverbs. The writers often abandon the use of determiners, auxiliary verbs, etc. Those kinds of actions may impact to the way readers interpret news titles. The following is an example of ambiguous news headline (Reah, 1998: 19-20)

*(1.) Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge*

The noun phrase *red tape* is ambiguous. It belongs to lexical ambiguity. It may contain literal and figurative meanings. The first one, the phrase can be meant to remain strong. Therefore the possible meaning of the title can be; strips of sticky material colored red are used to hold up the construction of new bridge. Meanwhile, for the other meaning, red tape is official rules and processes that seem unnecessary and delay result. Thus, another meaning for the title is 'the official rules delay the construction of new bridge'. This example implies that the ambiguity may have either plausible meaning or not.

### 2.3. Structural Ambiguity

Structural ambiguity happens if there is a phrase which is ambiguous because its words relate to each other in different ways, even though none words are ambiguous (Hufford & Heasley, 2007: 129-130). For instance, the phrase *old men and women*, can have two interpretations; *women and old men* and *old men and old women*, as represented below:

(2.) [*Old men*] and women

Old [*men and women*]

The first one indicates that *old* modifies only *men*, and the second indicates that *old* modifies the whole phrase that is *men* and *women*. The following is another example of structural ambiguity taken from Van Valin (2004:114)

(3.) *Robin decided on the train*. There are two kinds of possible meaning:

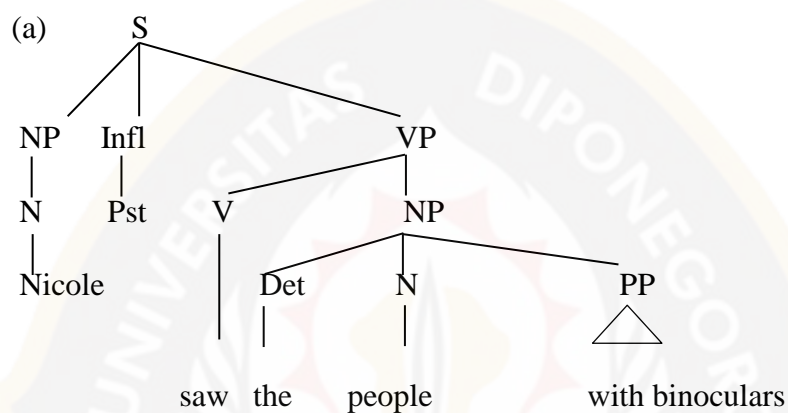
a. *On the train, Robin decided.*

b. *The train was decided on by Robin.*

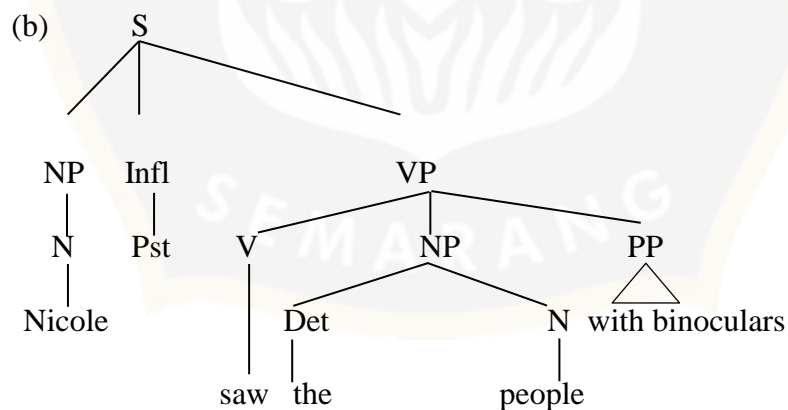
As we can see that the ambiguous phrase lies on the preposition *on*. The first possible meaning can be interpreted as Robin made the decision while on the train. In this case, the word *on* acts as head of prepositional phrase. While the second possible meaning can be interpreted as Robin chose the train. The word *on* acts as phrasal verb, because it follows the word *decide*.

Meanwhile, O'Grady (1997: 271) proposed analyzing structural ambiguity by using traditional phrase structure tree, as represented in simple ambiguous example below:

(4.) *Nicole can see people with binoculars*



The first possible meaning of the sentence above is that the people have binoculars when Nicole noticed them.



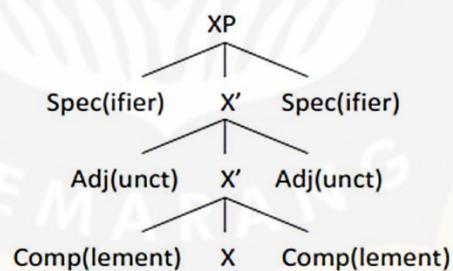
Another possible meaning from the phrase structure tree above is that Nicole saw the people by using binoculars.

Those three methods above, bracketing, description and traditional phrase structure tree, have been popular for analyzing structural ambiguity. I found a lot of research articles of using those kinds of theories. However, there are some weaknesses among those methods. Van Valin proposed theory of analyzing structural ambiguity only by using description (example no.1 and 3) and bracketing (example no.2). Meanwhile, O'Grady proposed analyzing structural ambiguity using traditional phrase structure tree (example no.4). These two methods do not distinguish between head, complement, and adjunct in which are very important in analyzing structural ambiguity. They also cannot resolve the ambiguity existing in the grammatical forms. Its methods are inaccurate, incomplete and inconsistent, and the descriptions are inexplicit and intuitive.

#### **2.4. X-Bar Theory**

Instead of using traditional theories previously mentioned, I used an advanced theory which is suitable for analyzing sentence or phrase structure. This theory is called X – bar. It is essential that we must know constituent structure. What is meant by constituent structure is when “organization of words makes up a sentence into successively larger and larger units, where each unit (constituent) belongs to a category”(Falk, 2001: 33). Newson (2006) stated that X-bar consists of two immediate constituent; head of the phrase and complement. Each of them carries the basic lexical categories; they are categories of words which carry meaning. They consist of N (noun), V (verb), A (adjective), P (preposition), ADV (adverb).

According to Chomsky (as cited in Dalrymple, 2001: 56), the organization of constituent structure has the basic principle of X-bar (usually written as X') in which lexical item appears as the head of a phrase and it may be associated with specifier and complement within the same phrase. This theory has general and abstract statements about the organization of phrases crosslinguistically and within a language. Using X as a variable over lexical or functional categories like N, V, I, or C, the basic principle of X' theory is that a lexical or functional category X is related to projections of that phrase, often written as X' (with one "bar level"), X'' (with two "bar levels"), and so on. Equivalently, we can talk about lexical or functional category X projecting the phrases X' and X''. For instance, we may say V' as a projection of the lexical category V. In other words, V is projecting the category V'. Maximal projection in the X-bar theory is XP. It can also be said that XP is the maximal projection of X. The following is what an X-bar structure should have.



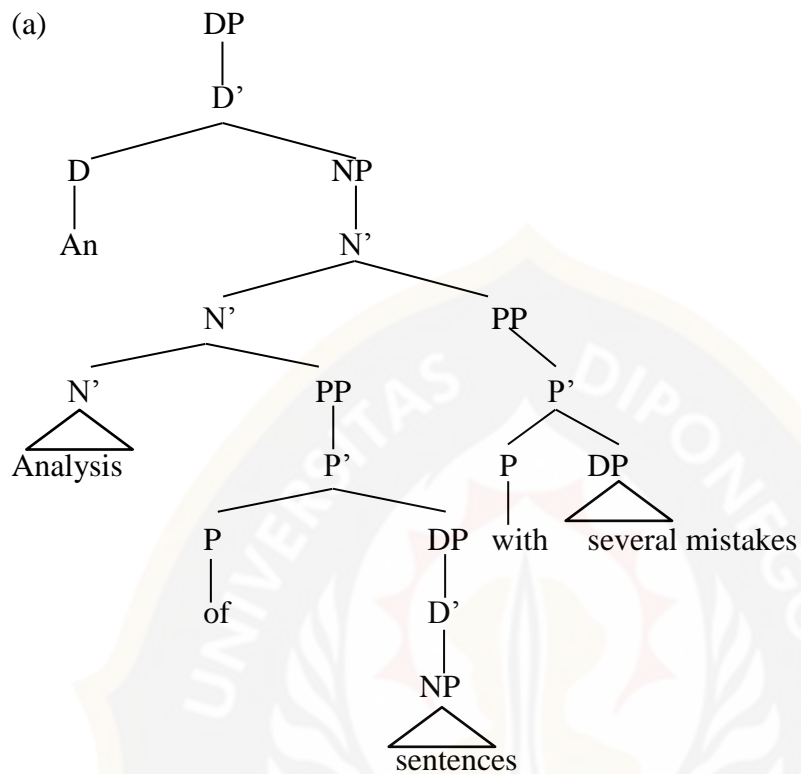
There are three levels of projection:

- X = minimal projection (i.e. head)
  - X' = intermediate projection
  - XP (X'')
- = maximal projection (i.e. phrase)

The structure above can be read specifier is located below the maximal projection and beside intermediate projection. Meanwhile, adjunct lies below intermediate projection and stands beside intermediate projection as well. Complement is located below intermediate projection, next to minimal projection. In a phrase, there is a head which is added by other elements such as specifiers, adjuncts, complements. The complements, which are obligatory, combine with the head to form a higher level constituent. The adjuncts and specifiers may be optional. The use of X - bar is better than the traditional one because X-bar can be used in a bigger unit. Therefore, we can resolve the ambiguous phrases and use it in many different languages. There are several advantages of X – bar theory. It correctly represents constituents smaller than XP, bigger than X. It can also distinguish syntactically among complements, specifiers, adjuncts. This theory can be used for many different languages. Furthermore, when we use X-bar, we can recognize ambiguity. The following examples are taken from Newson (2006: 359-361)

(1.) *An analysis of sentences with several mistakes*

The above example is structurally ambiguous because the phrase *with several mistakes* may refer to *sentences* or *an analysis*. This phrase *with several mistakes* is not a complement in either of the interpretations, instead it is an adjunct.



The first interpretation, the prepositional phrase *with several mistakes* is the adjunct of the noun phrase *analysis*. In this case it has the meaning when the analysis contains several mistakes.



interpretations. Therefore, in this research, I applied X-bar theory as the main theory to analyze all the ambiguous titles.



## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

#### **3.1. Source of Data**

The data of this research are phrases and sentences which are structurally ambiguous taken purposively from news titles of English and Indonesian newspapers. I chose different kinds of newspapers in both electronic and printed media. I used *The New York Times*, *The Daily Mail*, and the *Telegraph* as the source of English data. Meanwhile, as for the Indonesian data, I used *Suara Merdeka*, *Tribun Jateng*, *Kompas*, and *Detik.com*. I took the data around four months starting from September until December 2016 and got 75 titles which are structurally ambiguous. The population is all of the data that I took; they are structural ambiguous headlines taken from Indonesian and English newspapers I previously mentioned. The samples are the presented data in the findings and discussion taken randomly from the population.

#### **3.2. Method of Data Collection**

The method of collecting data was observation using note taking technique. Observation is how you collect the data systematically and deliberately. In this research, I observed several editions of both English and Indonesian newspapers and looked for titles which are ambiguous. After discovering ambiguous titles, I identified whether they are structurally ambiguous or not. If they are structurally ambiguous, I

took notes by writing them down. According to Creswell (2003: 246), there are two types of documents that the investigator may collect: public documents (e.g., newspapers, minutes of meetings, official reports) and private documents (e.g., personal journals and diaries, letters, e-mails). In this case, I collected documents from newspapers: English and Indonesian.

### **3.3. Method of Data Analysis**

There are two methods for analyzing the data: distributional and referential methods. Sudaryanto (2015:15) stated distributional method is used to explain and describe linguistic devices of utterances. This method helped me to show the ambiguity. Meanwhile, referential method is used to show the referents to which the utterances refer to. This method helped me to check whether the utterances analyzed are acceptable.

In this research, there are four steps in analyzing the data.

1. The first is classifying the data, in this case, I found out the titles which were structurally ambiguous from both Indonesian and English newspapers.
2. Second, identifying types of structural ambiguity found in Indonesian and English newspapers.
3. Third, investigating the distinction of structural ambiguities between both languages.
4. Finally, elaborating the structural ambiguity of those news titles by using X-bar theory.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

#### 4.1. Findings

In this research, I analyzed the selected data taken from various English and Indonesian newspapers. In total, there are 75 titles which are structurally ambiguous. There are three types of structural ambiguity which are found in English newspaper, structural ambiguity which happens because of the shifting of parts of speech, the position of prepositional phrase, the position of attributive word order, and the types of adjunct. Meanwhile, there are also three kinds of structural ambiguity which are found in Indonesian newspaper; structural ambiguity which happens because of the shifting of parts of speech, the position of prepositional phrase and the position of attributive word order. The tables below show the percentage of structural ambiguities found in the news titles of both languages.

**Table 1: Percentage of the Kinds of Structural Ambiguities on Each Language**

Kinds of Structural Ambiguities	Indonesian	English
Parts of Speech	3 (12.5%)	27 (53%)
Prepositional Phrase	18 (75%)	20 (40%)
Attributive Word Order	2 (8.3%)	2 (3.5%)
Types of Adjunct	1 (4.2%)	2 (3.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 (100%)</b>	<b>51 (100%)</b>

Table 1 shows the differences between each kind of structural ambiguities in each language. It is clear that prepositional phrase dominates the kinds of structural ambiguity in Indonesian, followed by parts of speech, attributive word order and verb adjunct. While in English, the shifting of parts of speech is the most frequent type of structural ambiguities, followed by prepositional phrase, attributive word order, and participle adjunct.

**Table 2: Percentage of Each Kind of Structural Ambiguities between Both Languages**

Kinds of Structural Ambiguities	Indonesian	English	Total
Parts of Speech	3 (10%)	27 (90%)	<b>30 (100%)</b>
Prepositional Phrase	18 (48%)	20 (52%)	<b>38 (100%)</b>
Attributive Word Order	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	<b>4 (100%)</b>
Types of Adjunct	1(33%)	2 (67%)	<b>3 (100%)</b>

Meanwhile, table 2 shows the differences of ambiguity between both languages: Indonesian and English. It shows that in English, part of speech and prepositional phrase occur most frequently. On the other hand, in terms of types of adjunct, English occurs most frequently. In terms of attributive word order, both languages have the same number of ambiguous titles.

#### 4.1.1. Kinds of Structural Ambiguity in English and Indonesian

In this research, both English and Indonesian have the same kinds of structural ambiguity that appear on news titles. They are the shifting of parts of speech, the position of prepositional phrase, and the position of attributive word order. Although having the same kinds of structural ambiguity, English and Indonesian have several distinctions.

##### A. The Shifting of Parts of Speech

The first type of syntactic structure which leads to ambiguity in English and Indonesian newspapers is the shifting of part of speech. It was found that English has only one kind of change: noun – verb. Meanwhile, in Indonesian newspapers there are two types of changes: verb – adjective and noun – verb. Also, there is significant difference between those two languages. In English newspapers, there are 27 titles which are influenced by this factor. Meanwhile, in Indonesian newspapers, there are only 3 titles which are influenced by part of speech. The following are the enlightenments of structural ambiguities by description and X – bar theory.

##### English titles:

Here are several examples of the shifting of parts of speech in English news titles.

There is only one kind of change, verb – noun.

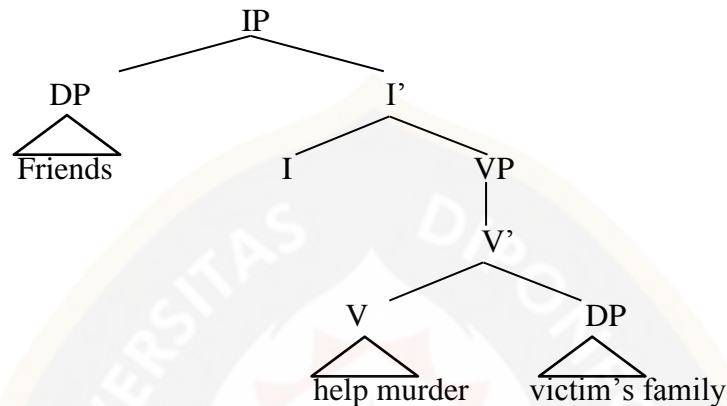
1. *Friends Help **Murder** Victim's Family.* (verb-noun)
  - a. They help to kill the victim's family

- b. They help family of the victim who is murdered
2. *Volunteers Needed to Help **Torture** Survivor.* (verb-noun)
    - a. They are torturing the survivor
    - b. They are helping a survivor who was tortured
  3. Women **Abuse** Topic of Speech (noun-verb)
    - a. The topic of speech is about women abuse
    - b. Women speak/ behave rudely toward the topic of speech
  4. Lawmen From Mexico **Barbeque** Guest. (verb-noun)
    - a. The guest is lawmen from Mexico
    - b. Lawmen grill / cook the guest
  5. Lung Cancer in Women **Mushrooms.** (noun-verb)
    - a. Female mushrooms having cancer
    - b. Lung cancer is growing rapidly

Those titles above contain the change of verb into noun or vice versa. It can be elaborated using X-bar as follows:

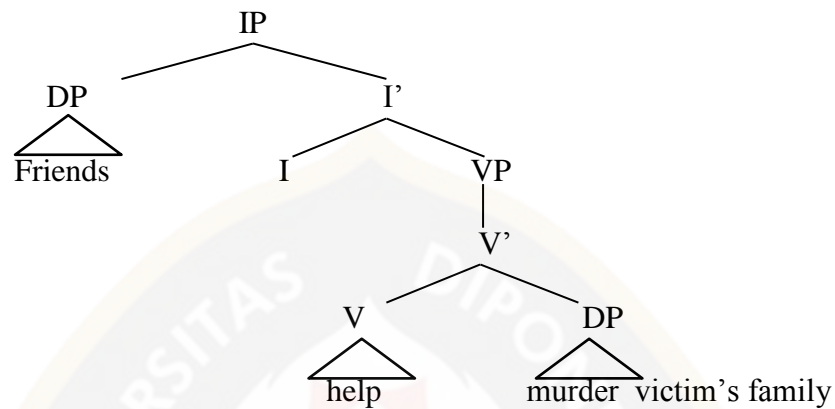
### 1. Friends Help **Murder** Victim's Family

(a.) They help to kill the victim's family.



According to diagram (a), the ambiguity of the title lies on the word *murder*. For the first interpretation, it may act as a verb of the sentence which means to commit a crime of intentionally killing a person. However, it seems odd to see that there are two verbs standing side by side, *help* and *murder*. According to Chovanec (as cited in Fruttaldo, 2017: 146), the writing style of headlines has distinctive syntactic structure which makes it odd if we compare to the academic writing style. Therefore, it is totally fine if we find such headlines. Thus, the first possible meaning of the title above is ‘the friends are helping to kill the victim’s family.’

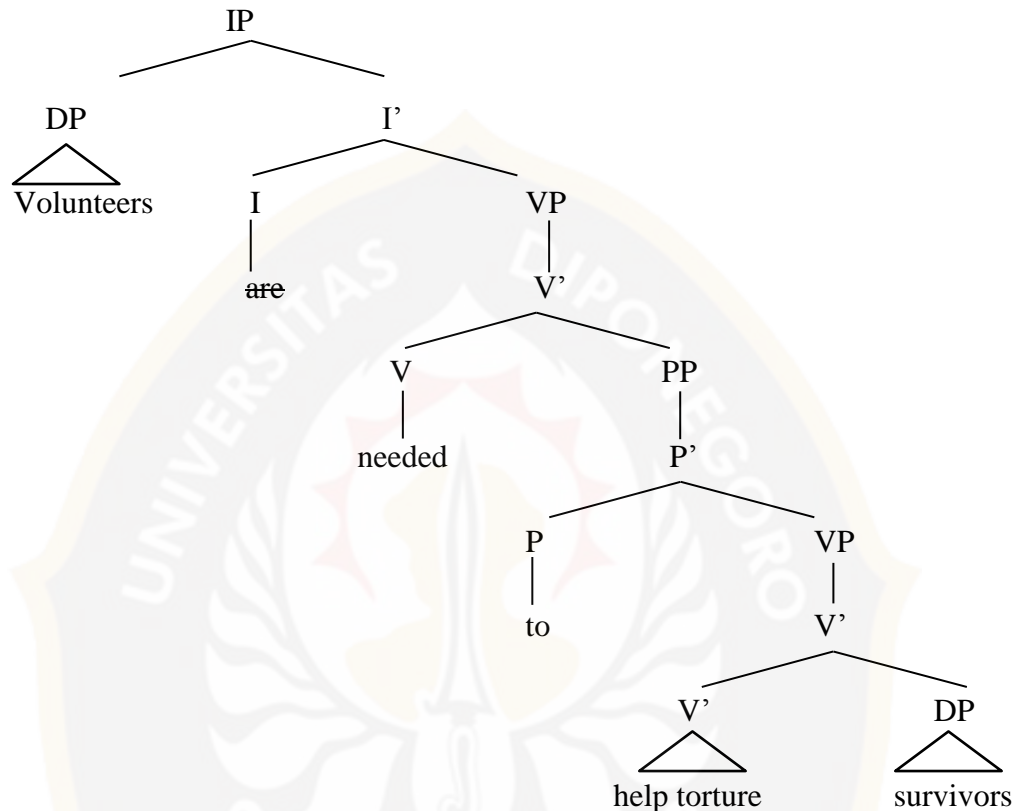
(b.) They help the family of the victim who is murdered.



Meanwhile in diagram (b), *murder* may also be a noun as a part of determiner phrase. In this case, the noun *murder* modifies the DP, *victim's family*. As I mentioned before, it is common in newspaper for writing the same double parts of speech side by side. This is different from academic writing style which has standard rules to apply. In writing newspaper, especially headlines, it does not have a certain rule to apply. News writers can write whatever they have in mind without even thinking about grammatical rules. Thus, another possible meaning for the title above is 'friends are helping the family of the victim who are murdered.'

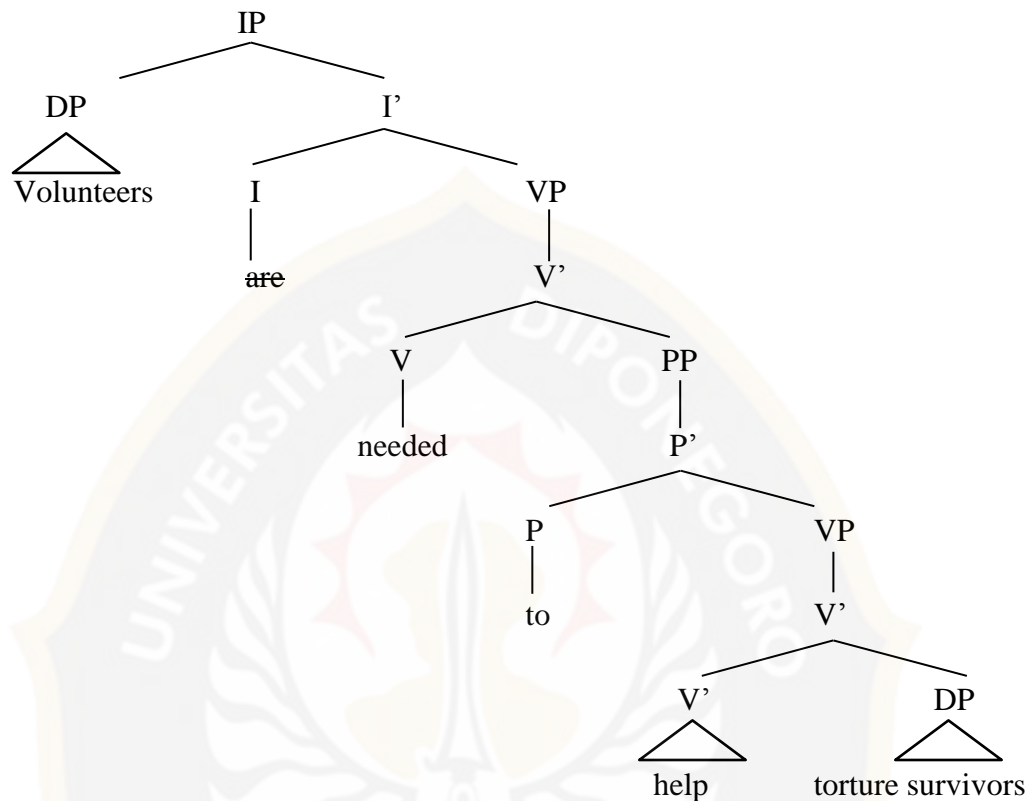
2. Volunteers Needed to Help **Torture** Survivor (v-adj)

(a.) They tortured the survivor.



According to phrase structure (a), the ambiguity of the title lies on the word *torture*. For the first interpretation, it may act as a verb of the sentence which means ‘to cause great physical or mental pain to someone intentionally’. However, it may seem odd to see there are two verbs that stand side by side, *help* and *torture*. According to Chovanec (as cited in Fruttaldo, 2017: 146), the writing style of headlines has distinctive syntactic structure which makes it odd if we compared to the academic writing style. Therefore, it is totally fine if we find such headlines. Thus, the first possible meaning of the title above is ‘the friends are helping to torture the survivors.’

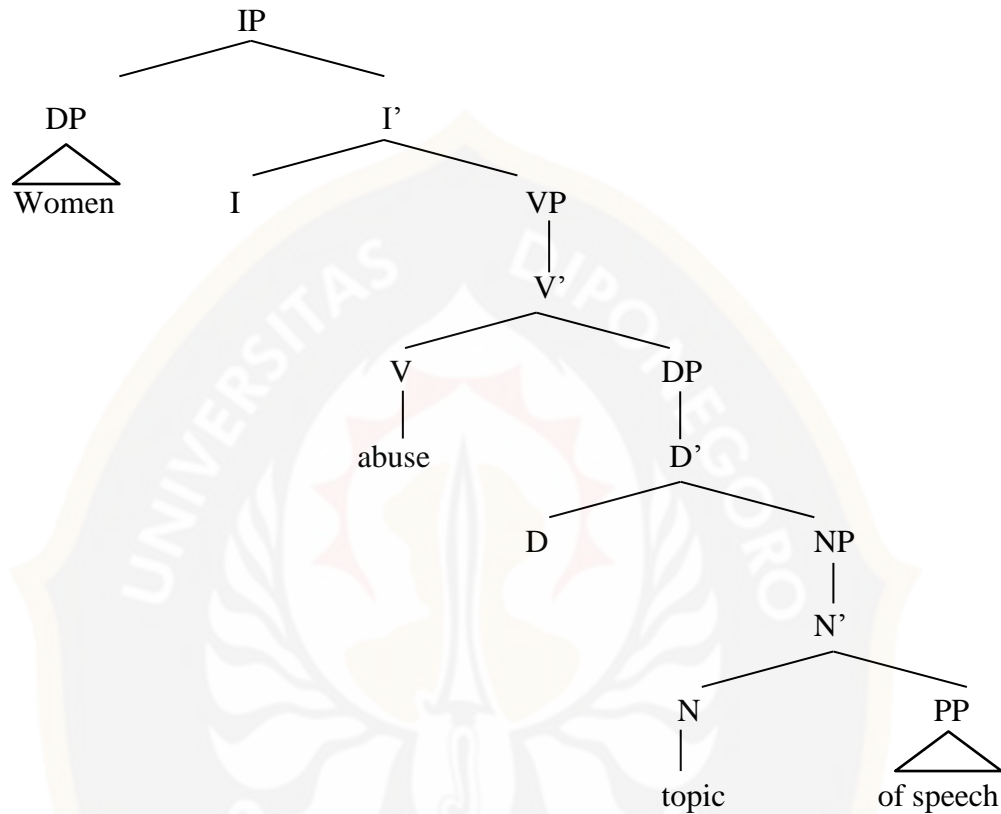
(b) They helped the survivor who was tortured



Meanwhile in diagram (b), *torture* may also be a noun as a part of determiner phrase. In this case, the noun *torture* modifies the noun after it, *survivors*. As I mentioned earlier, it is common in newspaper for writing the same double parts of speech side by side. It is different from academic writing style which has some rules to apply. In writing newspaper, especially headlines, it doesn't have a certain rule to apply. Thus, another possible meaning for the title above is 'volunteers are needed in order to help survivors who were tortured.'

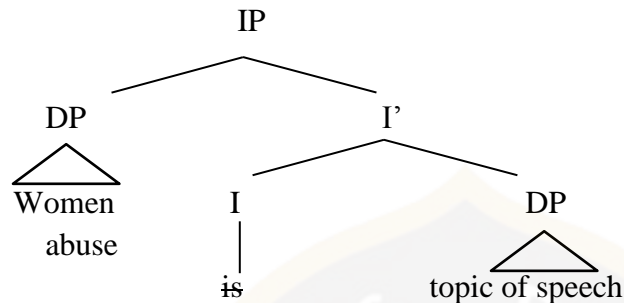
### 3. Women **Abuse** Topic of Speech

(a) The topic of speech is about ‘women abuse’.



In diagram (a), the ambiguity lies on the word *abuse* which acts as a verb of the sentence. It means ‘to treat someone or something badly’. As a result, it can be concluded that this sentence carries meaning ‘there are women who treat the topic of speech very badly.’

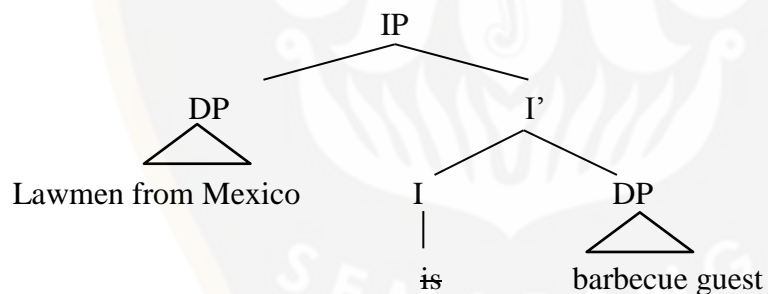
(b) Women speak or behave rudely toward the topic of speech.



While in diagram (b), *abuse* may also be a noun. The words *abuse* and *women* are united forming a noun phrase. There is omission of to be *is*. Hence, another meaning of the title above is 'women abuse is the topic of speech'. In other words, the topic of speech is about women abuse.

#### 4. Lawmen From Mexico **Barbecue** Guest

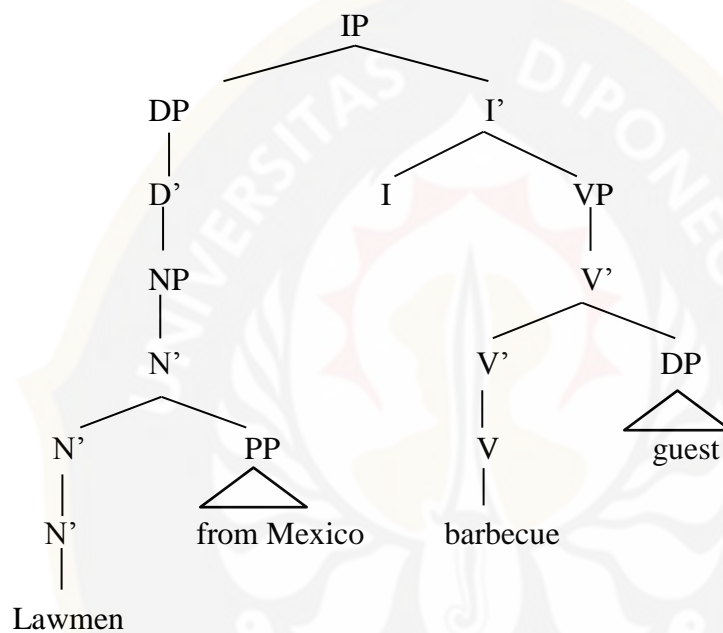
(a) The guest is lawmen from Mexico.



In diagram (a), the ambiguity is on the word *barbecue* which is included in a part of determiner phrase as it modifies the noun, *guest*. Barbecue means 'meals which is cooked outside over a fire'. In this first possible meaning, there is an omission of to

be, *is*. As a result, it can be seen that this sentence has a meaning ‘the barbecue guest is the lawmen from Mexico.’

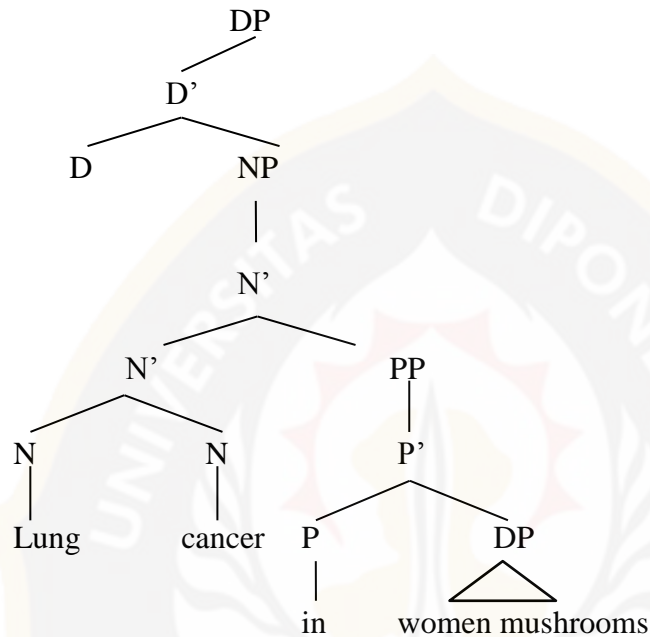
(b) Lawmen grilled or cooked the guest.



Whereas, in diagram (b), *barbecue* can also be the verb of the sentence, which means ‘to cook food on a barbecue’. Thus, another meaning of the title is ‘the lawmen kills the guest and makes barbecue of the dead body.’

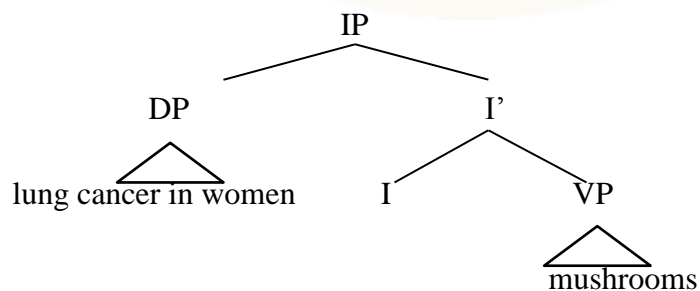
## 5. Lung Cancer in Women **Mushrooms**

(a.) Female mushroom having cancer



In diagram (a), the ambiguity lies on the word mushrooms. It carries ambiguity because it may act as a noun which means a kind of fungus. It also modifies the noun before, *women*. Therefore, the first meaning of the title will be ‘lung cancer which happens in women (female) mushroom.’

(b.) The lung cancer is growing rapidly.



In diagram (b), the word *mushroom* can also be a verb which means growing rapidly. It modifies the noun phrase before, *lung cancer*. Thus, another meaning for this title is ‘the lung cancer is growing rapidly.’

### Indonesian titles:

Meanwhile, here are several examples of the shifting of parts of speech in Indonesian news titles. There are two kinds of change, verb – noun and verb - adjective.

(1.) *Siswa Daerah **Tertinggal** Ikut Olimpiade Sains.* (adjective-verb)

- a. Student from underdeveloped region joined Science Olympiad
- b. Local student got left behind for joining Science Olympiad

(2.) *Lima Saksi **Mangkir** Hadiri Sidang.* (verb-noun)

- a. Five witnesses did not attend to the court
- b. Mangkir’s five witnesses attended to the court

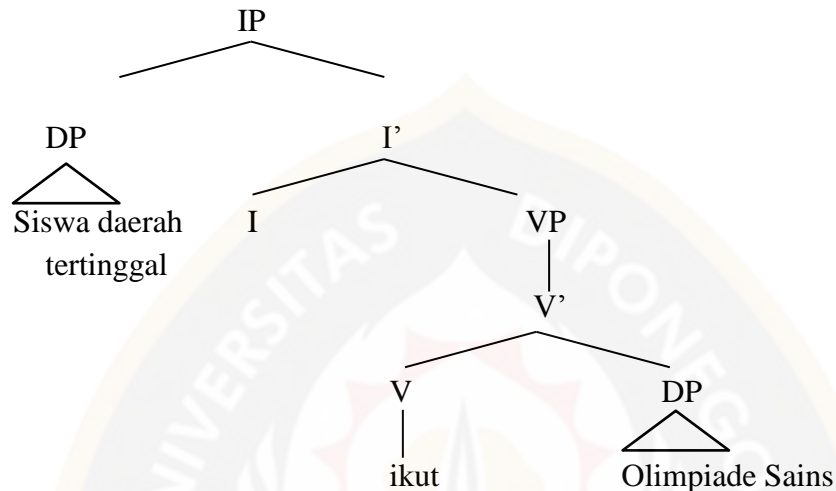
(3.) *Pelanggaran di Trotoar **Turun*** (verb-adjective)

- a. Violations on sidewalks are decreasing
- b. Violations on lower sidewalks

Those three titles above can be elaborated using X-bar as follows

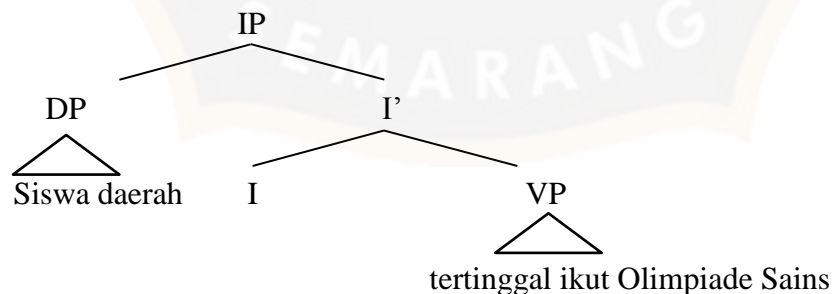
## 1. Siswa Daerah **Tertinggal** Ikut Olimpiade Sains

(a.) Student from underdeveloped region joined Science Olympiad



According to diagram (a), the ambiguity of the title lies on the word *tertinggal* which acts as an adjective. The adjective modifies the noun *daerah*. Thus, the first possible meaning of the title above is 'the student comes from a region which is underdeveloped.'

(b.) Local student got left behind for joining Science Olympiad

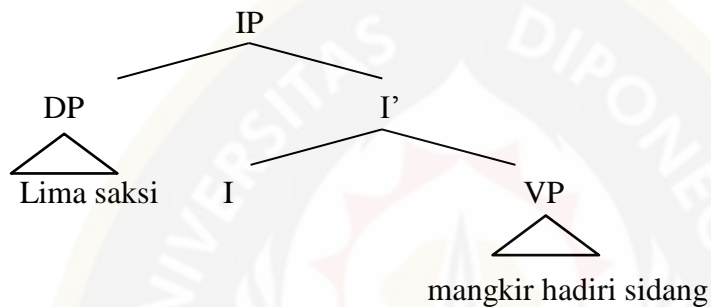


According to diagram (b), the ambiguity of the title lies on the word *tertinggal* which can be also act as a verb of the sentence. Therefore, another possible meaning of the

title above would be ‘the student got left behind to join Science Olympiad’. Meaning, he was not able to join the competition.

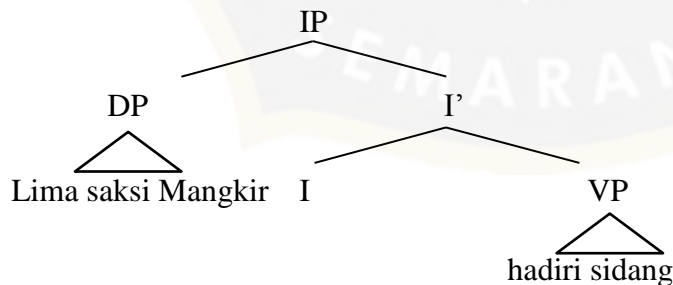
2. *Lima Saksi Mangkir Hadiri Sidang.*

- a. Five witnesses did not attend to the court



According to diagram (a), the ambiguity of the title lies on the word *Mangkir*. The first interpretation, it may act as a verb which means not present. Hence, the first possible meaning of the title above will be ‘five witnesses did not attend or present to the court.’

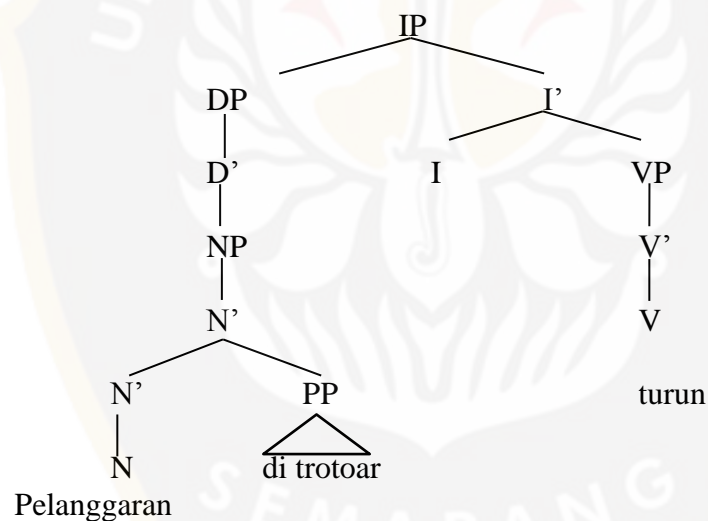
- b. *Mangkir's* five witnesses attended to the court



Meanwhile in diagram (b), the word *Mangkir* could also refer to someone's name. Since it is already clear that the sentence has a subject, *witnesses*, and a verb, *attended*, it is possible the word *Mangkir* could be a name of Indonesian person. Therefore, another possible meaning of the title above will be 'Mangkir's witnesses were present to the court'. In this case, Mangkir may be a defendant who committed a crime and had five people witnessing the crime he committed.

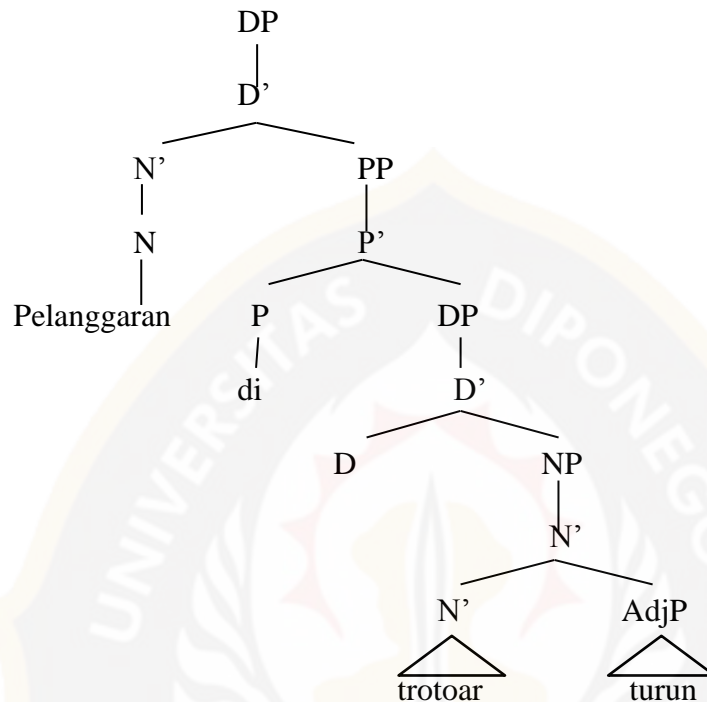
### 3. Pelanggaran di Trotoar **Turun**

- a. Violations on sidewalks are decreasing.



According to diagram (a), the ambiguity of the title lies on the verb phrase. To be exact, it is located on the verb *turun* which means decrease. Thus, the first possible meaning of the title above is 'the violations on sidewalks are decreasing. Meaning, the violations are fewer than before.'

b. Violation on lower sidewalks.



Another possible meaning according to diagram (b) is that the title above is included in a noun phrase. As you can see the word *turun* acts as an adjective which modifies the noun before. It means that the road of the sidewalks is lower. Therefore, the title may convey a meaning ‘there are violations on lower sidewalks.’

## B. The Position of Prepositional Phrase

Another syntactic factor which leads to ambiguity in English and Indonesian newspapers is the position of prepositional phrase. It has been discovered that there are several differences of each language. In English titles, there are various kinds of prepositional phrase used in the titles; they are prepositions which indicate instrument (with), place (in, on, near), purpose (for), and time (after). Meanwhile, in Indonesian

titles, there are only two types of prepositional phrase, that is preposition which indicates a certain location (in) and purpose (for).

### **English titles:**

Here are several examples of the position of prepositional phrase in English news titles. There are four kinds of changes: location, purpose instrument, and time.

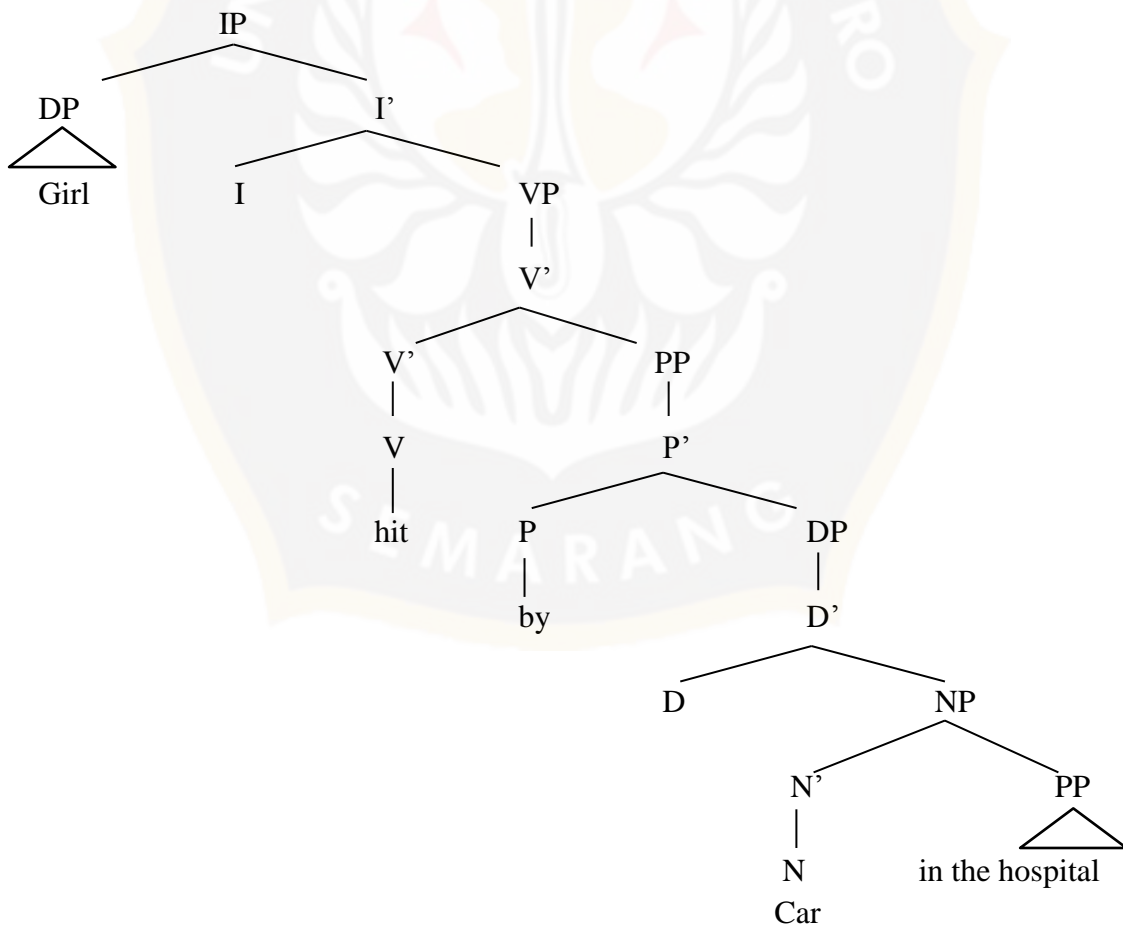
1. *Girl Hit by Car **in the Hospital***. (location)
  - a. The girl was hit by a car which was parked in the hospital (the accident could happen anywhere. It could be in the hospital or not)
  - b. The location of the accident is in the hospital
  - c. The girl who was hit by a car is now in the hospital
2. *Youth Steals Funds **for Charity***. (purpose)
  - a. A youth steals funds in order to able to donate for charity
  - b. Charity funds were stolen by a youth
3. *Police Kill Man **with TV Tuner***. (instrument)
  - a. The police kill a man by using a TV tuner
  - b. The police kill a man who was holding a TV tuner
4. *How to Combat the Feeling of Helplessness **with Illegal Drugs***. (instrument)
  - a. How to combat “the feeling of helplessness with illegal drugs”
  - b. How to combat the feeling of helplessness by using illegal drugs
5. *Syrian Parliament Speaker Says the Country Will Hold Presidential Election **on June 3***. (time)

- a. The election is held on June 3
  - b. The parliament speaker said about the election on June 3
6. Man Shoots Neighbor **with Machete**. (instrument)
- a. The neighbor was killed while holding a machete
  - b. The man killed his neighbor by using machete

Those titles above can be elaborated using X-bar as follows

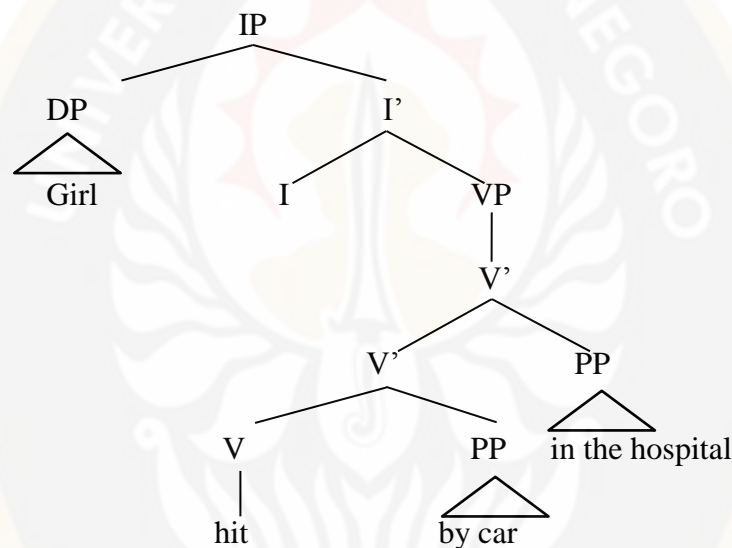
1. **Girl Hit by Car In The Hospital**

(a.) The girl was hit by a car which was parked in the hospital.



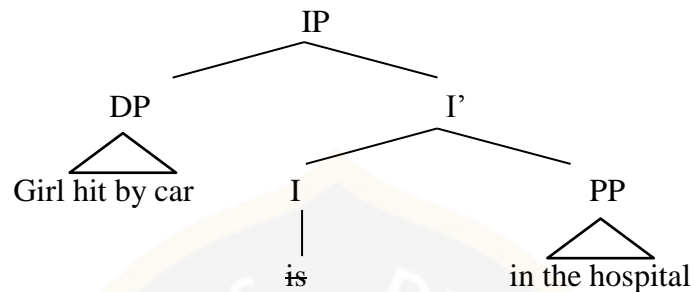
According to diagram (a), the prepositional phrase indicates location. The prepositional phrase modifies the noun before, *car*. It means the car is or was located in the hospital. Therefore, the first possible meaning is ‘the girl was hit by a car which was from the hospital’. The accident may not take place in the hospital.

(b.) The location of the accident is in hospital.



However, in diagram (b) the prepositional phrase *in the hospital* modifies the verb *hit*. It means the accident happened in the hospital. Thus, another possible meaning for this title is ‘a girl was hit in the hospital by a car.’

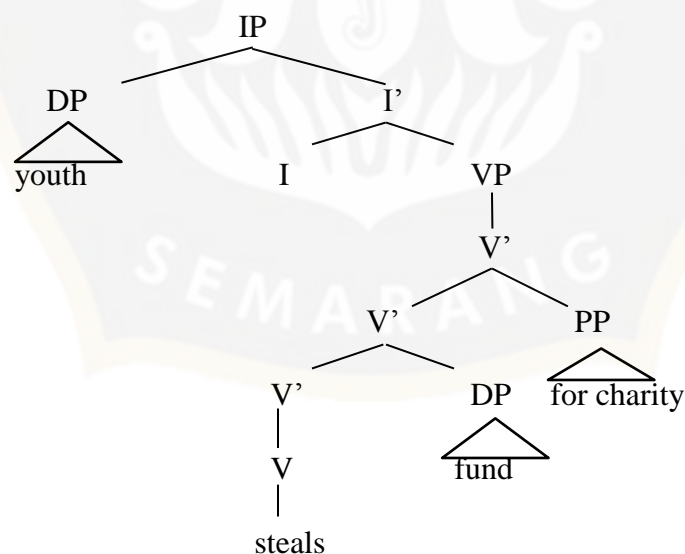
(c.) The girl who was hit by a car is now in the hospital.



In diagram (c), there is an omission of auxiliary verb *is*. Hence, another possible meaning from the title above will be ‘the girl who was hit by a car is now in the hospital.’

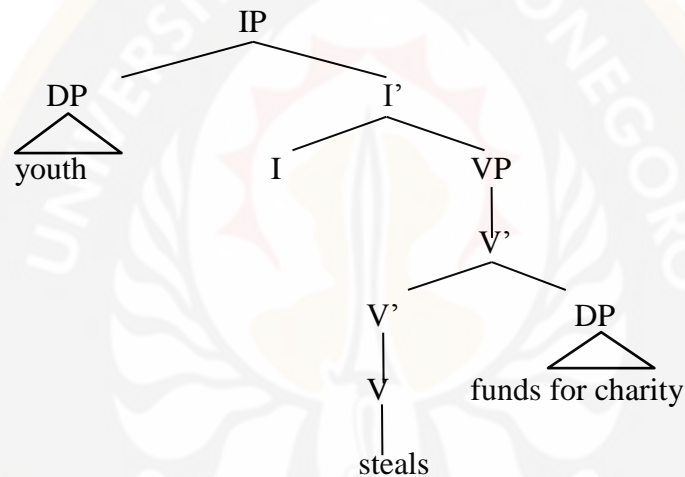
## 2. Youth Steals Funds for Charity.

(a.) A youth stole funds in order to be able to donate for charity.



According to diagram (a), the prepositional phrase indicates purpose. The prepositional phrase, *for charity*, modifies the verb of the sentence, *steals*. Therefore, the first possible meaning will be ‘youth steals for charity’. It means he/she steals fund somewhere in order to be given for charity.

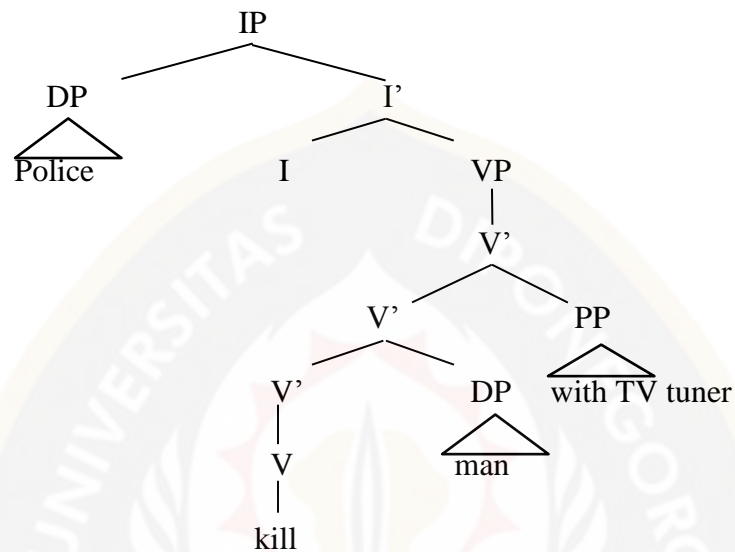
(b.) The charity funds were stolen by a youth.



However, in diagram (b) the prepositional phrase *for charity* is included inside determiner phrase. In this case, PP modifies DP, *funds*. Thus, another possible meaning for this title is ‘the youth steals fund which is meant for charity.’

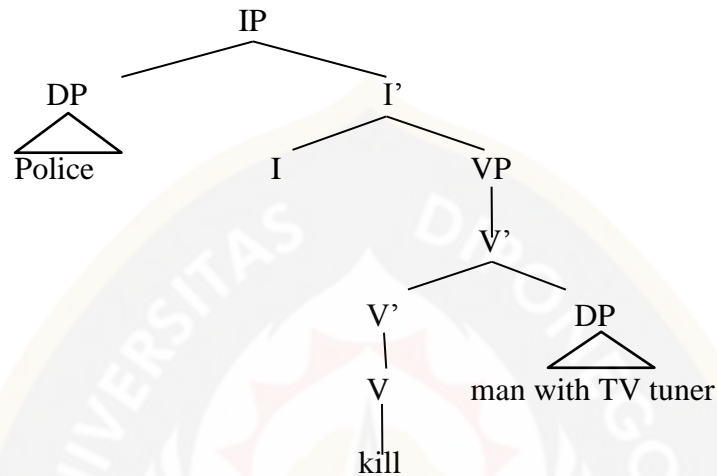
### 3. Police Kill Man **with TV Tuner**

(a.) The police killed a man by using a TV tuner



In the diagram (a) above, the prepositional phrase *with TV tuner* modifies the verb, *kill*. Thus, it means the killing was done by using TV tuner as the weapon. The first possible meaning for the news title will be ‘the police killed a man by using TV tuner.’

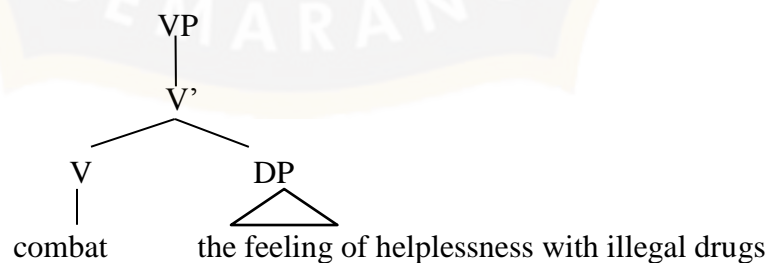
(b.) The police killed a man who was still holding a TV tuner.



Meanwhile, in the diagram (b) above, the prepositional phrase *with TV tuner* is functioned as the prepositional phrase which modifies the noun before, *man*. Hence, another possible meaning of the title above will be ‘the police kills a man who was still holding a TV tuner.’

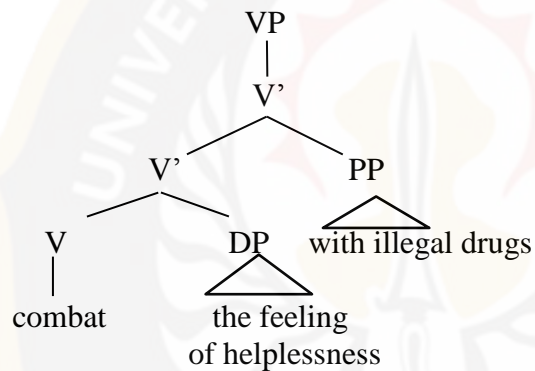
#### 4. How to Combat the Feeling of Helplessness *with Illegal Drugs*

(a.) How to combat ‘the feeling of helplessness with illegal drugs’.



According to diagram (a), the phrase *with illegal drugs* is functioned as the prepositional phrase which modifies determiner phrase before, *the feeling of helplessness*. Hence, the first possible meaning of the title above will be combat “the feeling of helplessness with illegal drugs”. It means ‘how to fight the urge consuming illegal drugs.’

(b.) How to combat the feeling of helplessness by using illegal drugs.

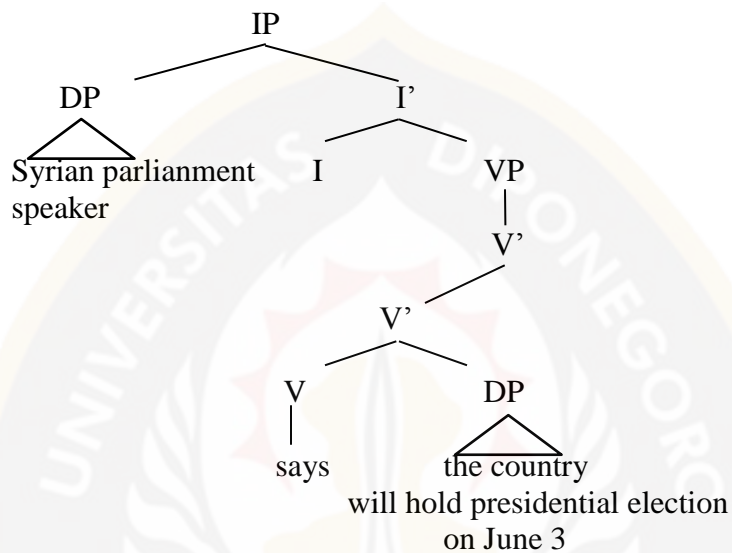


Meanwhile in diagram (b), the prepositional phrase indicates instrument. The prepositional phrase, *with illegal drugs*, modifies the verb *combat*. Therefore, another possible meaning will be ‘combat the feeling of helplessness by using illegal drugs’. In this case, the treatment will be using illegal drugs.

5. *Syrian Parliament Speaker Says the Country Will Hold Presidential Election on*

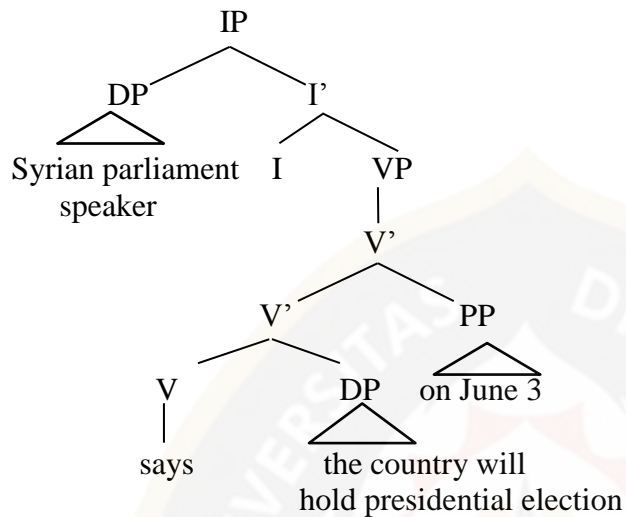
*June 3*

a. The election is held on June 3



According to diagram (a), the prepositional phrase indicates time. The prepositional phrase, *on June 3*, modifies the verb *hold*. Therefore, the first possible meaning will be 'the country will hold presidential election on June 3'. In this case, the election will be held on June 3.

b. The parliament speaker said it on June 3



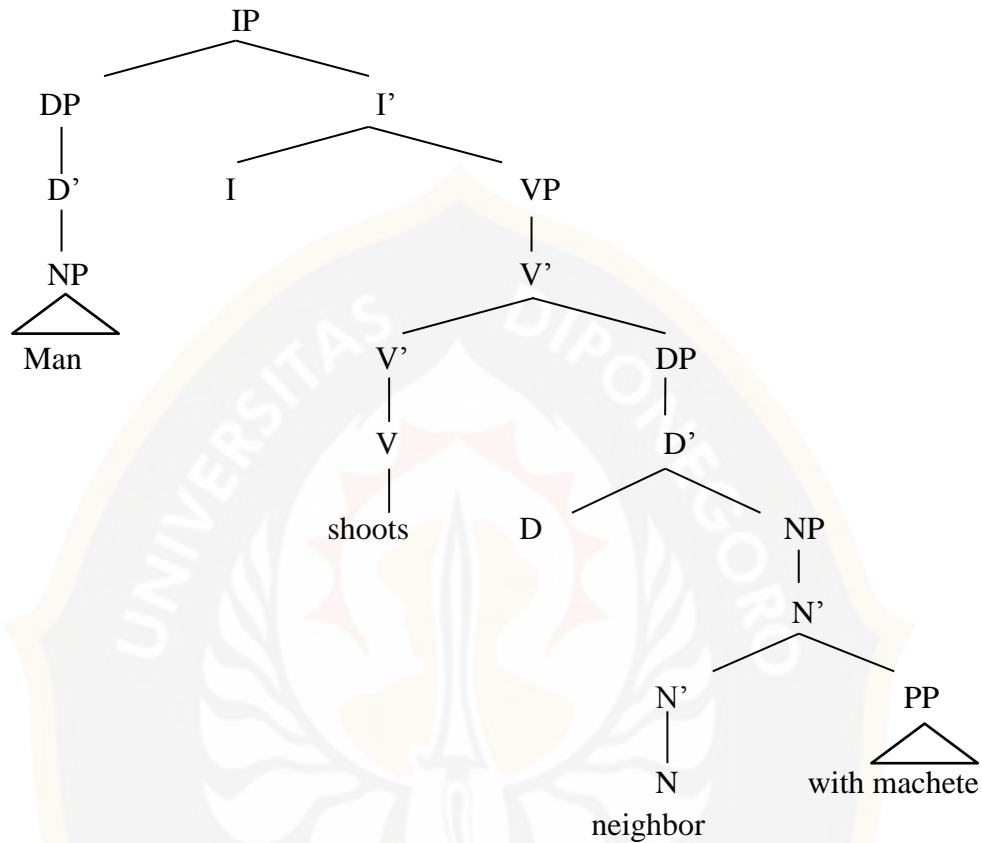
Meanwhile in diagram (b), the prepositional phrase, *on June 3*, modifies the main verb *says*. Hence, another possible meaning will be ‘the parliament speaker said on June 3 about presidential election.’

#### 6. Man Shoots Neighbor **With Machete**

The sentence above has structural ambiguity which has unclear combination of words. In this case, the writer is confused whether the meaning is either a man shoots his neighbor by using machete or the neighbor was killed while holding a machete.

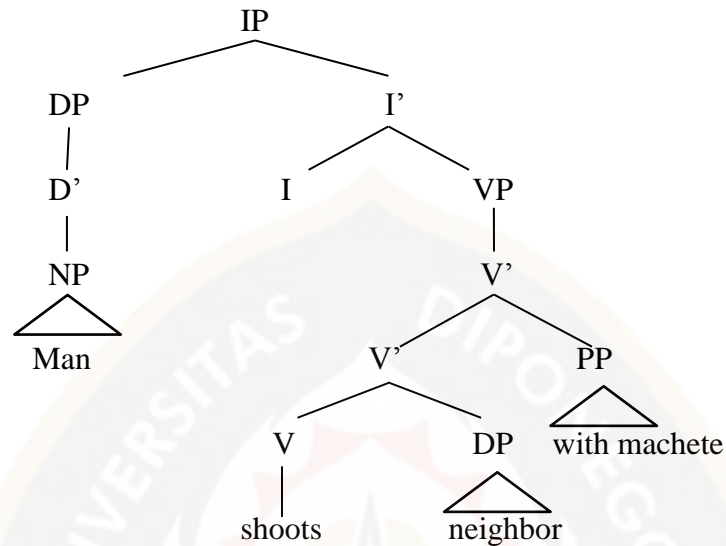
The following are the analysis of structures from each possible meaning.

a. The neighbor was killed while holding a machete.



In the diagram (a) above, the prepositional phrase *with machete* modifies the noun, *neighbor*. Thus, it means the neighbor is holding a machete. The first possible meaning for the news title will be ‘the neighbor was killed while holding a machete.’

- b. The man killed his neighbor using machete.



While in the diagram (b) above, the prepositional phrase *with machete* is functioned as the adverb of manner of the verb *shoot*. Hence, another possible meaning of the title above will be ‘the man killed his neighbor by using machete.’

### Indonesian titles:

Meanwhile, here are some examples from Indonesian news titles in terms of the position of prepositional phrase. There is only one type of preposition, indicating location.

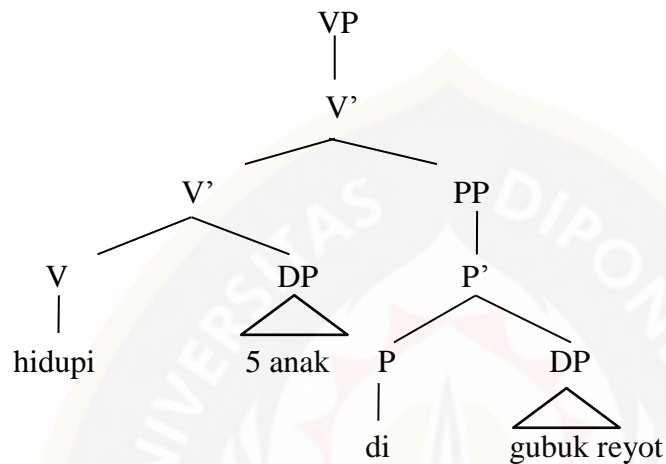
1. *Hidupi Lima Anak di Gubuk Reyot*
  - a. Supporting in a rickety hut
  - b. Five children who are from a rickety hut
2. *Sedekah Buku untuk Anak.*
  - a. Donating books which suit for children

- b. Donating any kinds of book for children
- 3. *Koramil Mijen Tanam Puluhan Pohon **di Pemakaman***
  - a. To plant dozens of trees which are in the cemetery
  - b. Dozens of trees were planted in the cemetery
- 4. *Tiga Demo untuk Jokowi **di Belanda***
  - a. Three demos in Netherlands for Jokowi
  - b. Three demos for Jokowi while he is in Netherlands
- 5. *Pengprov Terus Pantau Pemain **di IBL**.*
  - a. Pengprov keeps monitoring players who are in IBL
  - b. Pengprov keeps monitoring in IBL
- 6. *Kampanye Menyusui **di Ruang Publik** Digalakkan.*
  - a. Campaign about “Breast Feeding in the Public” is encouraged
  - b. Campaign about “Breast Feeding” which is held in public

Those titles above contain prepositional phrase which indicates location or place. It can be elaborated using X-Bar as follows

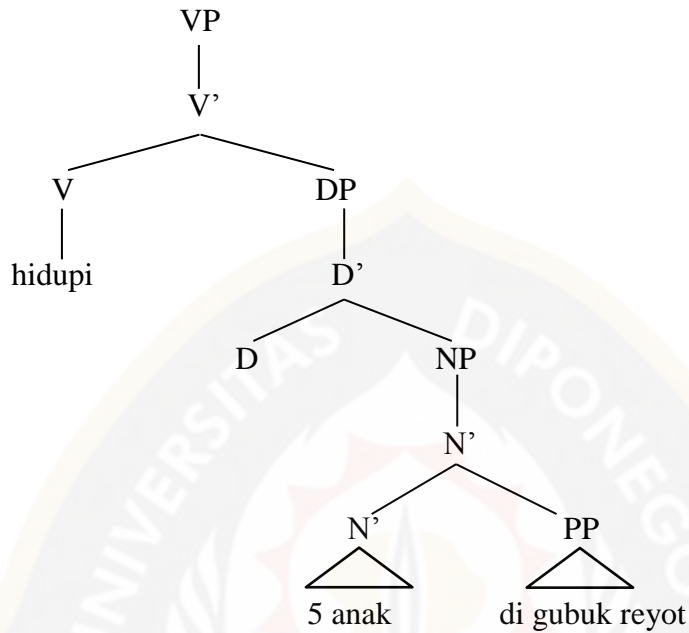
## 1. Hidupi Lima Anak **di Gubuk Reyot**

(a.) Supporting in a rickety hut



In the diagram (a) above, the prepositional phrase *di gubuk reyot* modifies the verb, *hidupi*. It means the supporting was happened in a rickety hut. Therefore, the first possible meaning for the news title will be ‘there are five children who were supported in a rickety hut.’

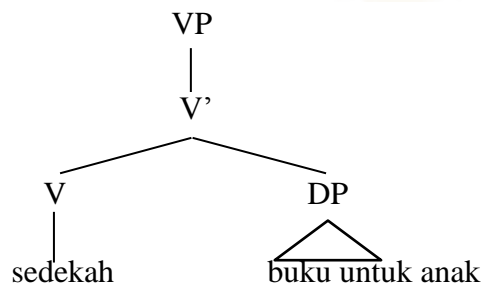
(b.) Five children who are from a rickety hut



Meanwhile, in the diagram (b) above, the prepositional phrase *di gubuk reyot* is functioned as the prepositional phrase which modifies the noun before, *lima anak*. It means, the children are from a rickety hut. Hence, another possible meaning of the title above will be 'supporting five children who were from a rickety hut.'

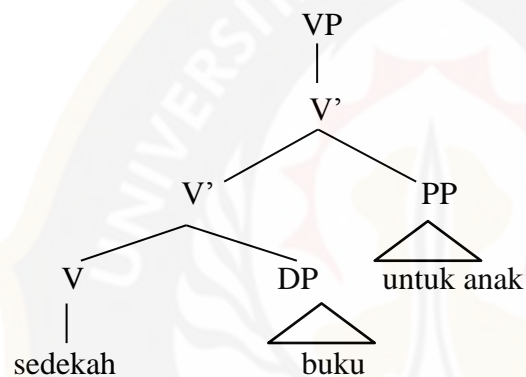
## 2. Sedekah Buku **untuk** Anak

(a.) Donating books which suit for children



In the diagram (a) above, the prepositional phrase *for children* modifies the noun, *books*. It means the books with children's theme. Therefore, the first possible meaning for the news title will be 'to donate books with children's theme.'

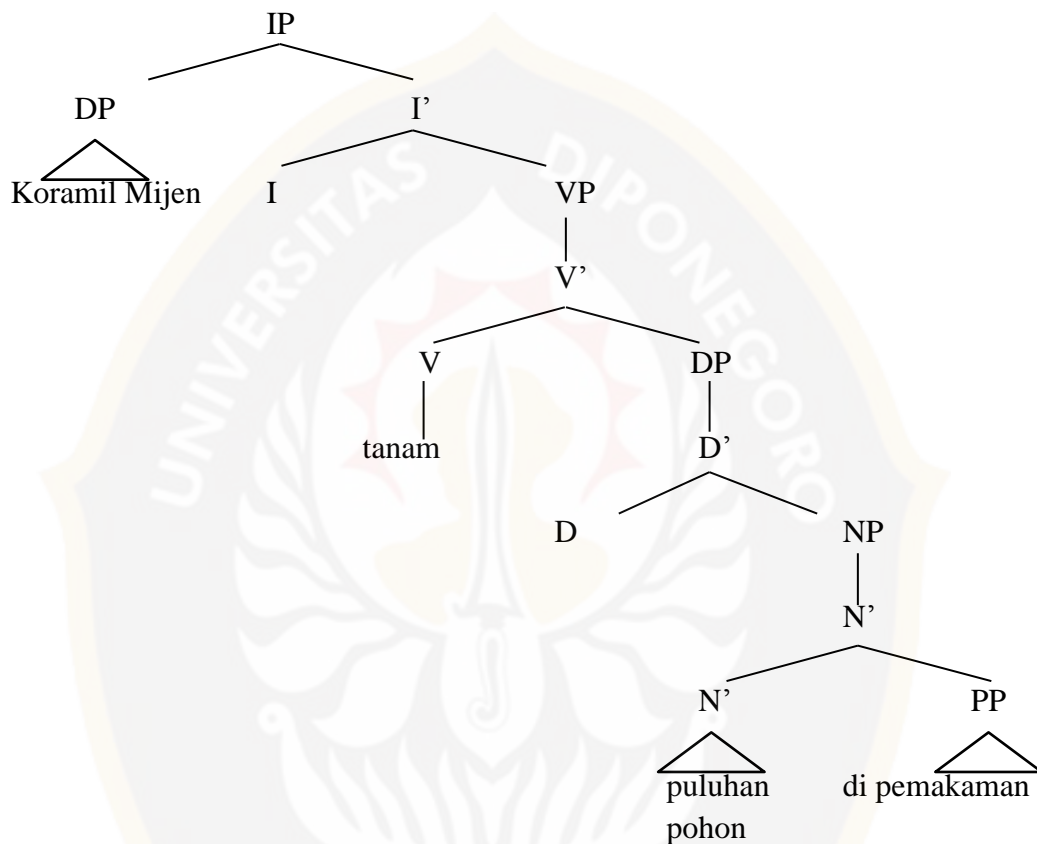
(b.) Donating any kinds of book for children



Meanwhile, in the diagram (b) above, the prepositional phrase *untuk anak* is functioned as the prepositional phrase which modifies the verb, *sedekah*. It means, the donation is for children. Thus, another meaning of the title is 'to donate the children any kinds of book'. It may not only children's book, but also teenager or adults' book.

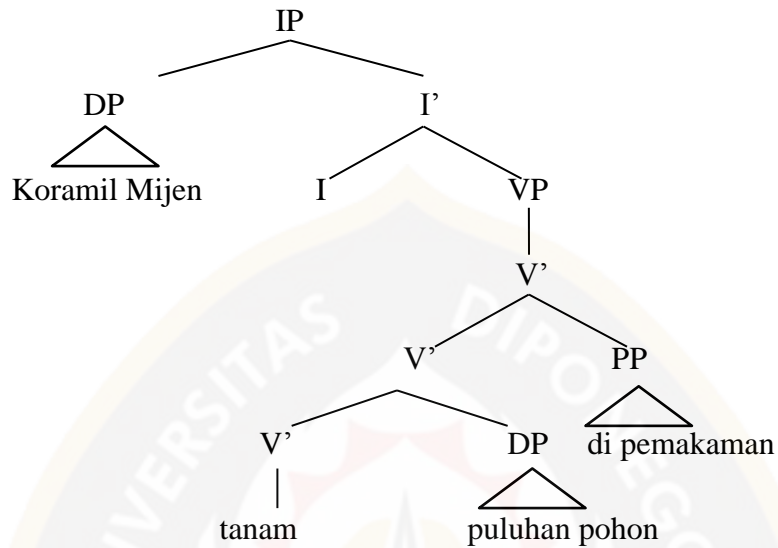
### 3. Koramil Mijen Tanam Puluhan Pohon **di Pemakaman**

(a) To plant dozens of trees which are in the cemetery



According to diagram (a) above, the prepositional phrase *di pemakaman* is functioned as the prepositional phrase which modifies the noun before, *puluhan pohon*. It means, the trees are located in a cemetery. Thus, the first possible meaning of the title above will be ‘Koramil Mijen planted dozens of trees which are in the cemetery.’

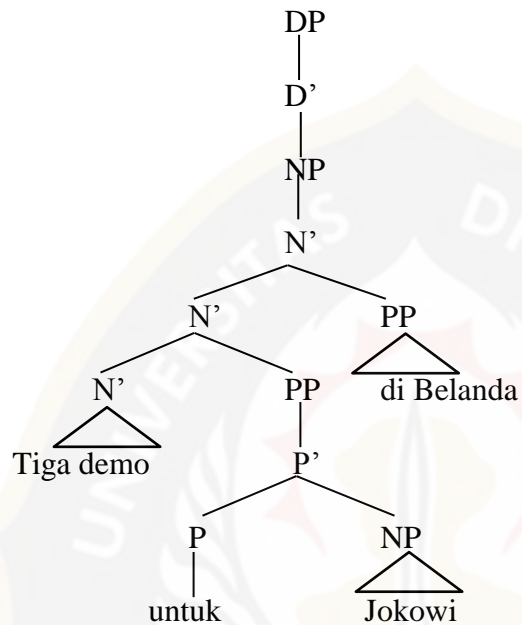
(b) Dozens of trees were planted in the cemetery



Meanwhile in the diagram (b) above, the prepositional phrase *di pemakaman* modifies the verb, *tanam*. It means the planting was held in a cemetery. Therefore, another possible meaning for the title is ‘dozens of trees were planted in a cemetery.’

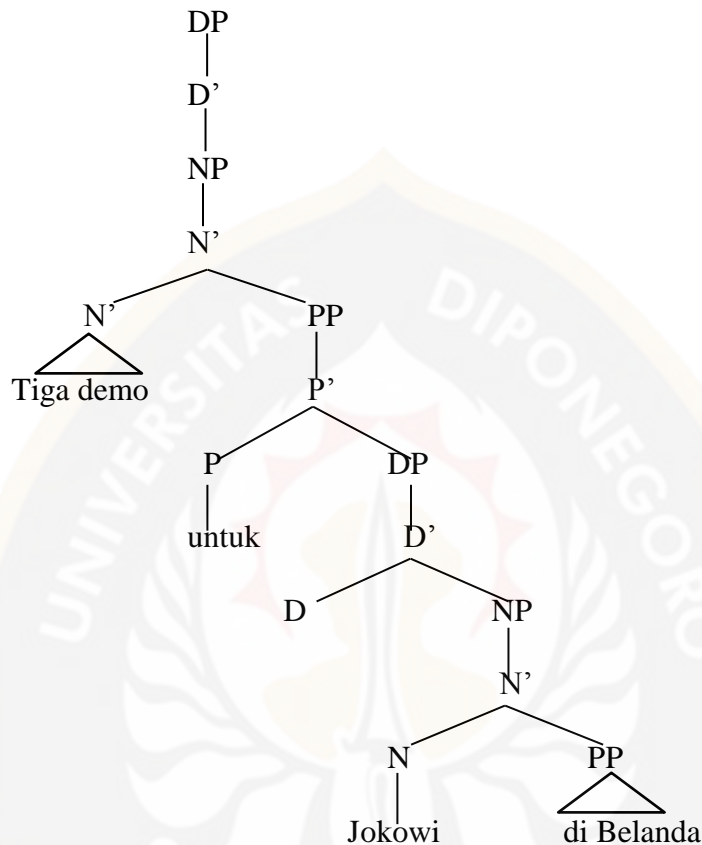
#### 4. Tiga Demo untuk Jokowi **di Belanda**

(a) Three demos in Netherlands for Jokowi



In the diagram (a) above, the prepositional phrase *di Belanda* modifies the noun, *tiga demo*. It indicates that the event was held in Netherlands. Thus, the first interpretation for the title above would be ‘the demo for Jokowi was held in Netherlands.’

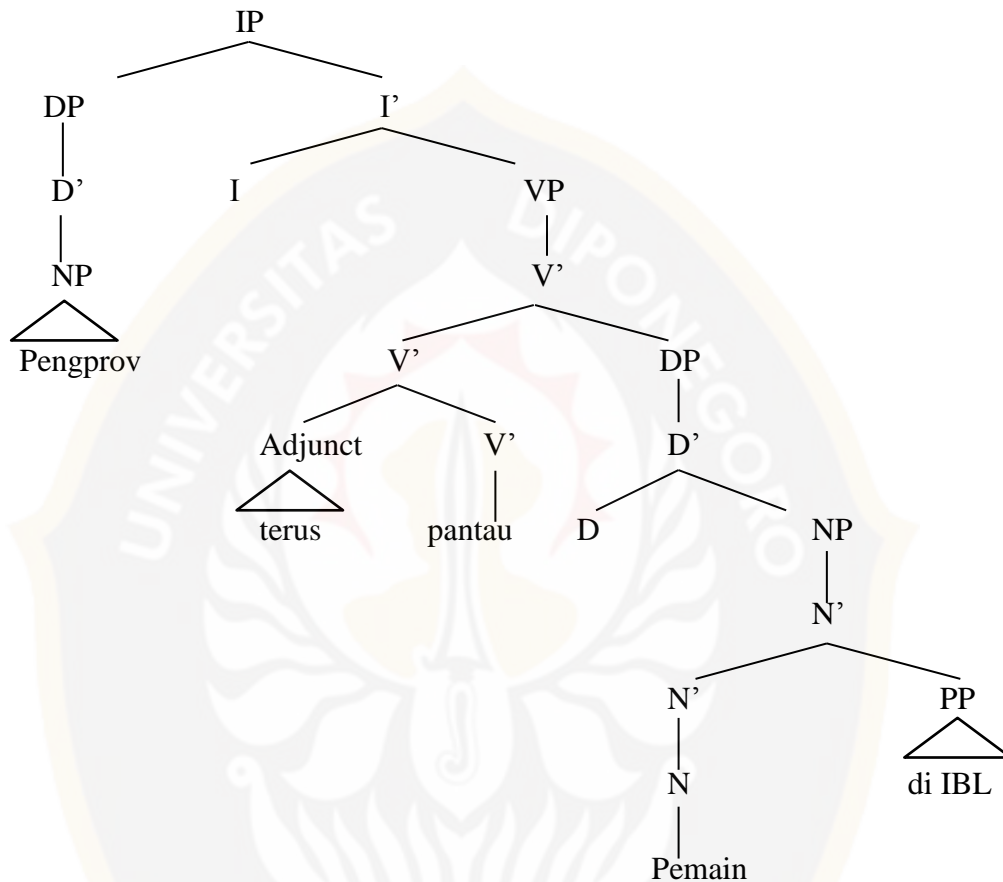
(b) Three demos for Jokowi while he is in Netherlands



Meanwhile, in the diagram (b) above, the prepositional phrase *di Belanda* is functioned as a prepositional phrase which modifies the noun before, *Jokowi*. It indicates the location of Jokowi. Hence, another possible meaning of the title above will be ‘there are three demos for Jokowi while he stays in Netherlands’. The event can be held anywhere. It can be in Indonesia, Netherlands, or any other places.

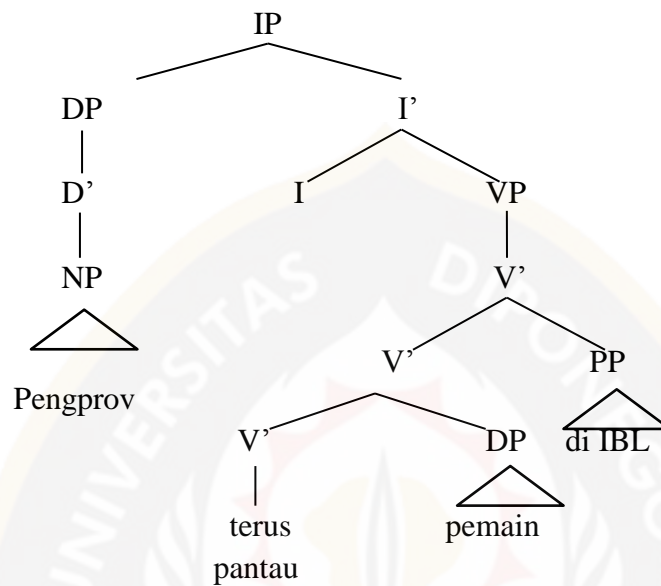
### 5. Pengprov Terus Pantau Pemain **Di IBL**

- a. Pengprov keeps monitoring players who are from IBL



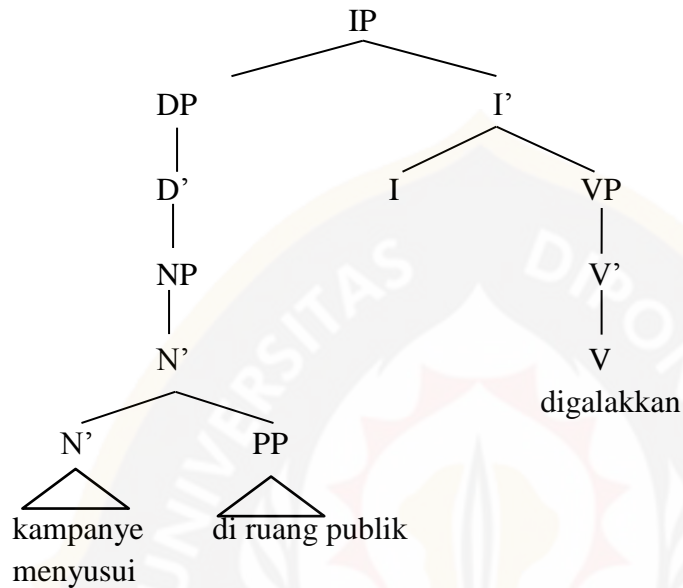
According to diagram (a) above, the prepositional phrase *di IBL* is functioned as the prepositional phrase which modifies the noun before, *pemain*. It means, the players are from IBL. Thus, the first possible meaning of the title above will be ‘pengprov keeps monitoring the players who are from IBL.’

## b. Pengprov keeps monitoring in IBL



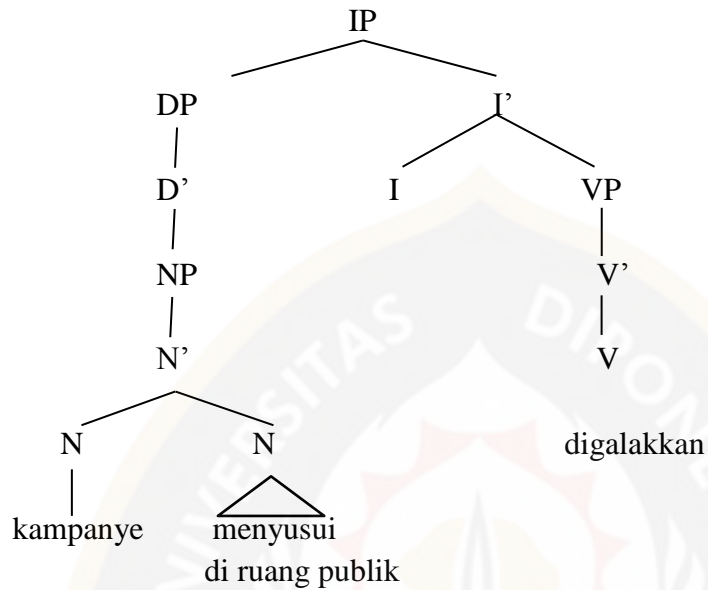
Meanwhile in the diagram (b) above, the prepositional phrase *di IBL* modifies the main verb, *terus pantau*. It means the monitoring takes place in IBL. Therefore, another possible meaning for the title is ‘pengprov keeps monitoring the players that takes place in IBL.’

6. Kampanye Menyusui **di Ruang Publik** Digalakkan  
 a. the campaign of breastfeeding is held in public



According to diagram (a) above, the prepositional phrase *di ruang publik* is functioned as the prepositional phrase which modifies the main noun, *kampanye menyusui*. It means, the campaign is held in public. Thus, the first possible meaning of the title above will be ‘the breastfeeding campaign is encouraged in public.’

b. The campaign of breastfeeding in public is encouraged.



Meanwhile in the diagram (b) above, the prepositional phrase *di ruang publik* modifies the noun, *menyusui*. It means the activity of breastfeeding is in public. Therefore, another possible meaning for the title is ‘the campaign of public breastfeeding is encouraged.’

### C. The Position of Attributive Word Order

There is no significant difference between Indonesian and English titles in terms of the phrase structure and the number of immediate constituent factors.

#### English titles:

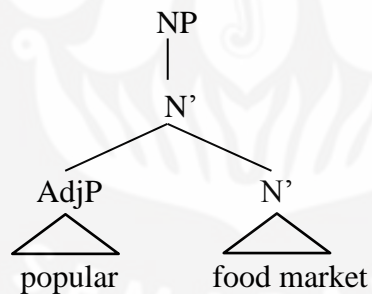
(1.) *Well-dressed Man Open Fire At **Popular Food Market***

- a. Food market which is popular
- b. Market which sells popular food

The title above can be elaborated using X-Bar as follows:

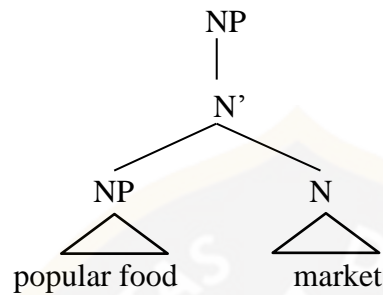
#### 1. Popular food market

- a. Food market which is popular



According to diagram (a), the adjective phrase, *popular*, modifies the main noun, *food market*. Therefore, the first possible meaning will be ‘the market is popular and it sells food.’

- b. Market which sells popular food



Meanwhile in diagram (b), the adjective phrase, *popular*, modifies the noun *food*. It means food which is popular. Thus, another possible meaning of the title will be ‘market which sells popular food.’

**Indonesian titles:**

(1.) *Bayi Panda Raksasa Lahir di Belgia*

- a. Panda’s giant baby was born in Belgium
- b. Baby of giant panda was born in Belgium

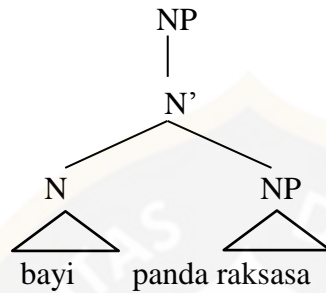
(2.) *Pasar Banteng, Pasar Daging Sapi Tertua*

- a. The oldest market
- b. Market which sells the oldest meat

Those titles above can be elaborated using X-Bar as follows

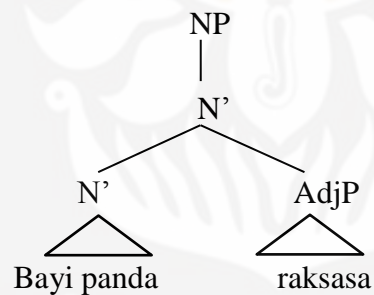
1. *Bayi Panda Raksasa Lahir di Belgia*

- a. A baby of giant panda is born.



According to diagram (a), the adjective, *raksasa*, modifies the noun *panda*. It means the panda is a giant. Thus, the first possible meaning of the title will be ‘the baby of a giant panda.’

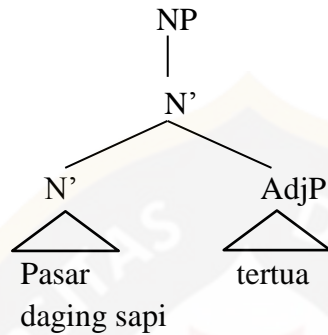
- b. A panda gave birth to a giant baby



Meanwhile in diagram (b), the adjective phrase, *raksasa*, modifies the main noun, *bayi panda*. It means the baby is big like a giant. Therefore, another possible meaning for the title above is ‘in Belgium there is a panda which gave birth to a giant baby.’

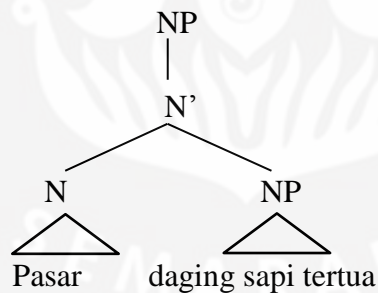
## 2. *Pasar Banteng, Pasar Daging Sapi Tertua*

- a. Banteng market is the oldest market which sells beef



According to diagram (a), the adjective, *tertua*, modifies the main noun *pasar daging sapi*. It means the market is the oldest. Thus, the first possible meaning of the title will be ‘the oldest market which sells meat.’

- b. Market which sells old meat



Meanwhile in diagram (b), the adjective, *tertua*, modifies the main noun before, *daging sapi*. It means the meat is old. Therefore, another possible meaning for the title above is ‘a market which sells old meat’. In this case it could be the meat taken from old cows.

### D. Participle Adjunct

The forms of *-ing* may refer to either main verbs or the form of participles. These are two examples taken from English news titles:

(1.) *Child **Teaching** Expert To Speak*

- a. A child is teaching an expert how to speak
- b. An expert of child teaching is going to speak (about something)

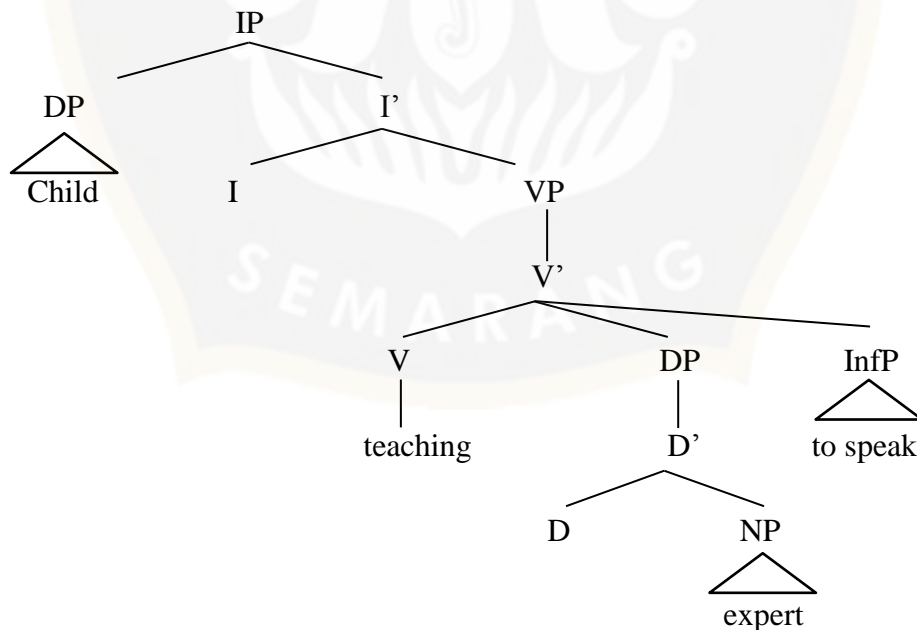
(2.) *A Man **Eating** Piranha Mistakenly Sold As Fish*

- a. The man who eats piranha is mistakenly sold as fish
- b. The man eats piranha which mistakenly sold as fish

Those titles above can be elaborated using X-Bar as follows

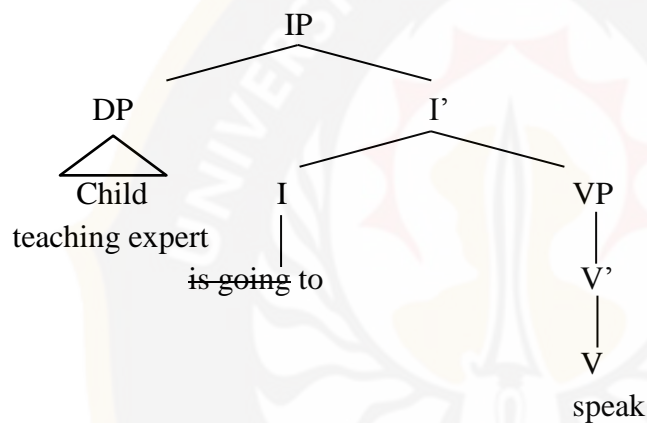
1. Child Teaching Expert To Speak

(a.) A child is teaching an expert how to speak



According to diagram (a), the ambiguity lies on the word *teaching* which means to train someone, acts as the main verb. Therefore the first possible meaning will be there is ‘a child who teaches an expert how to speak.’

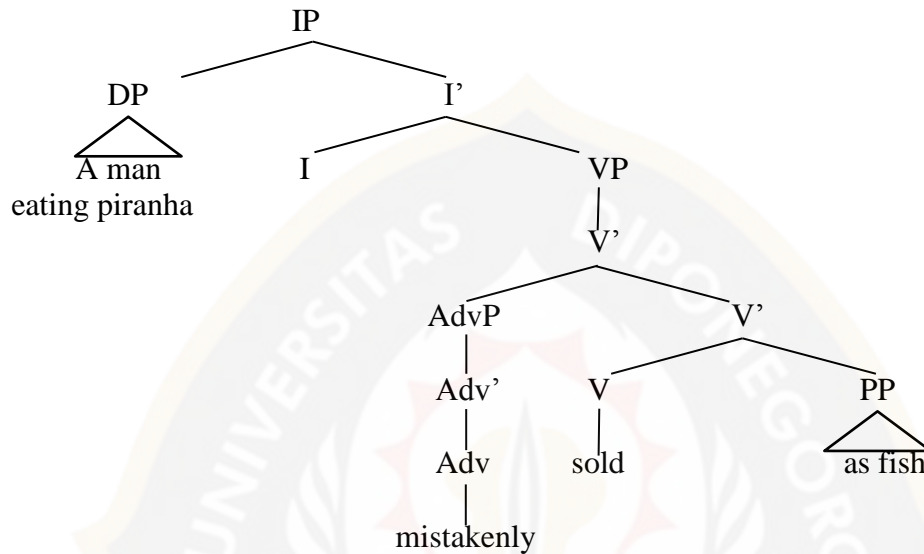
(b.) An expert of child teaching is going to speak (about something)



Meanwhile in diagram (b), *teaching* belongs to participle adjunct. Hence, another possible meaning for the title above is ‘an expert on child teaching is going to speak about something.’

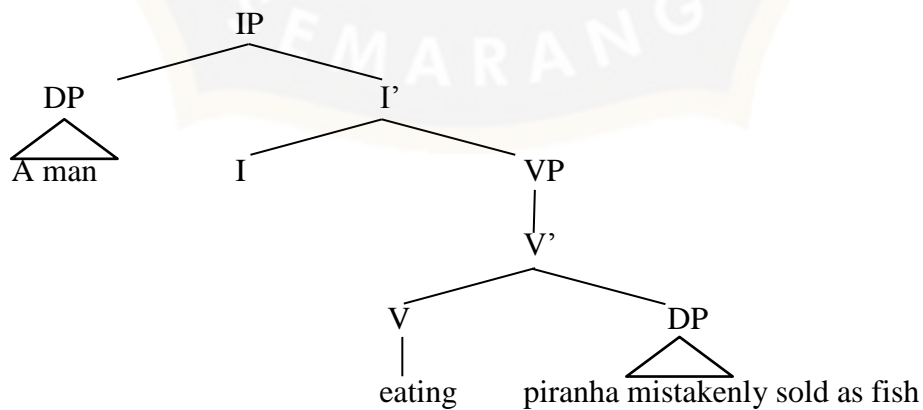
## 2. A Man Eating Piranha Mistakenly Sold As Fish

(a.) The man who ate piranha is mistakenly sold as fish.



According to diagram (a), the ambiguity lies on the word *eating* which acts as participle adjunct. It modifies the DP, *a man*. Therefore, the first interpretation of the title above is 'there was a man who was eating piranha'. Turns out, the piranha was mistakenly sold as fish. In this case, it is sold as an eatable fish instead of a pet

(b.) The man ate piranha which was mistakenly sold as fish.



Meanwhile in diagram (b), *eating* is a part of main verb. The DP shows that the piranha is sold as a fish by mistake. Hence, another possible interpretation of the title above is ‘the man is eating a fish which turns out to be a piranha.’

### E. Verb adjunct

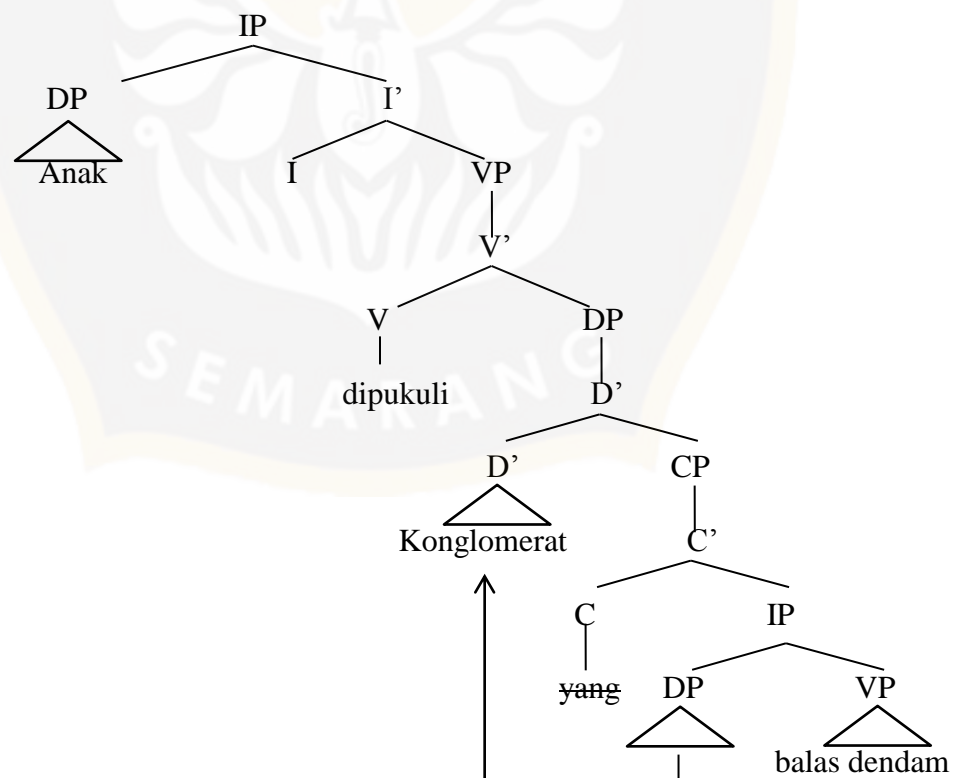
Verb adjunct means an adjunct which functions as a verb, for instance:

(1.) *Anak Dipukuli Konglomerat Balas Dendam*

- a. A child is beaten by a revenged conglomerate
- b. A child who is beaten by a conglomerate takes revenge.

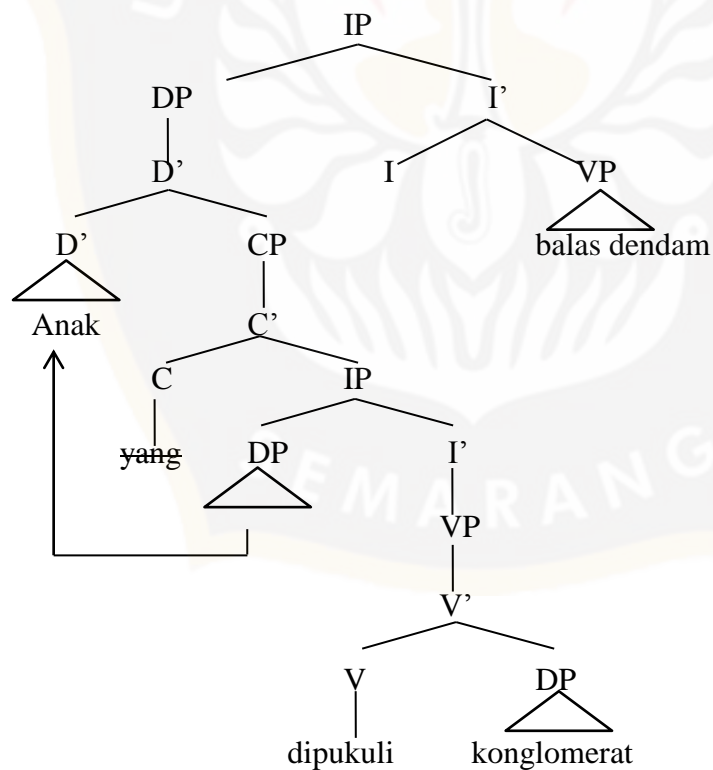
These two interpretations can be elaborated using X-bar theory as follows

(a) A child is beaten by a revenged conglomerate



According to diagram (a), the ambiguity lies on the phrase *balas dendam* which is functioned as VP and included in an adjunct (CP). Complementizer Phrase (CP) is a phrase which is headed by either of the three: *if*, *that*, or *for* (Newson, 2006: 435). This title is missing a relative word, *yang*, which is a part of CP. The VP *balas dendam* modifies the noun before, *konglomerat*. Therefore, the first interpretation of the title above would be ‘there is a conglomerate who takes revenge by beating a child.’

(b) A child who is beaten by a conglomerate takes revenge.



Meanwhile in diagram (b), the verb phrase *balas dendam* acts as the main verb. Whereas, *dipukuli konglomerat* is functioned as an adjunct (CP) which modifies the main noun *anak*. Hence, another possible interpretation for the title above would be ‘the child who is beaten by a conglomerate takes revenge.’

## 4.2. Discussion

As we can see from the findings, there are four types of structural ambiguities found in Indonesian and English news titles: the shifting of parts of speech, the position of prepositional phrase, the position of attributive word order, and participle –verb adjunct. In this part, I would like to elaborate the similarities and differences between those two languages as follows

### 4.2.1. The Shifting of Part of Speech

In table 2 (see p.24), shifting of part of speech in English news titles appears more frequently than that in Indonesian. It happens because in English one word may refer to not only one but also two or three parts of speech. For instance, the word *open* may refer to adjective, noun, or verb. One word possessing more than one part of speech may maximize the chance of the appearance of ambiguity. Meanwhile Indonesian has affixes attached to a word can minimize the chance of ambiguity. Mostly, Indonesian words need to be added by affixes in order to change the part of speech. For instance, the word *bunuh* is a verb and also the root word of *murder*. If it is attached to many kinds of affixes, the meaning would change. If the word is

attached with prefix *me-*, it becomes *membunuh*, which means to murder (verb). If it is attached to affixes *pe-an*, *pembunuhan*, the meaning will change into the crime of killing someone (noun). While in English, the word murder may refer to either a verb or a noun. Therefore it may cause confusion which leads to ambiguity.

There is only one type of change found in English news titles, noun – verb. While in Indonesian, there are two kinds of changes, noun – verb and adjective – verb. English does not have adjective – verb change, because the pattern of adjective phrase in English is different from Indonesian. Indonesian has *head – modifier* concept, for example (see no.1 p.35) phrase *daerah tertinggal* is a noun phrase which consists of noun (*daerah*) and adjective (*tertinggal*). On the other hand, English has *modifier – head* concept, for example *underdeveloped region* consisting of adjective (*underdeveloped*) and noun (*region*). As you can see from the example, the pattern of noun phrase in both languages are different. Indonesian puts adjective after the noun, while English puts the adjective before noun. These distinct concepts may have huge impact in terms of ambiguity. From the example (see no.1 p.35) it is clear that the noun phrase *daerah tertinggal* may cause ambiguity, while in English, *underdeveloped region* does not.

Despite all of the differences, shifting of part of speech in English news titles appears more frequently than that in Indonesian. It tends to be so due to the fact that in Indonesian, the confusion can be minimized because of the existence of affixes.

#### 4.2.2. The Position of Prepositional Phrase

It has been discovered that there are four types of prepositional phrase found in English. They are preposition which indicates instrument, location, purpose, and time. Meanwhile in Indonesian, there are only two kinds of prepositional phrase found in the news titles, indicating location and purpose. Indonesian does not have PP indicating instrument which may lead to ambiguity because again, Indonesian is rich in affixes. See the examples below of PP indicating instrument in both languages

- a. *I saw the man with glasses.*
- b. *Saya melihat orang dengan kacamata. (I saw the man by using glasses)*
- c. *Saya melihat orang berkacamata itu. (I saw the man who wears glasses)*

Example (a) is ambiguous, because the noun *glasses* may refer to either *I* or *the man*. Meanwhile in Indonesian (b), the preposition *with* (*dengan*) will be interpreted as one meaning only. It cannot be interpreted as *the man who wears glasses* because in Indonesian, affixes attached to the noun may cause different meaning or interpretation (see example (c)).

In terms of PP indicating time, I saw no different pattern between English and Indonesian, although there is no PP indicating time found in Indonesian.

#### 4.2.3. The Position of Attributive Word Order

There is no distinction between English and Indonesian in terms of position of attributive word order. They both have the same pattern, which consist of double

nouns and followed or preceded by an adjective. The adjective may refer to either of the nouns, therefore cause ambiguity.

#### 4.2.4. Participle Adjunct and Verb Adjunct

Verb adjunct has almost the same concept with participle adjunct because they have the same structure, which is to modify the noun. However, there is difference between participle adjunct and verb adjunct. Participle adjunct, which happens only in English, is in the form of V-ing. V-ing occurs as the short form of a reduced clause. For example:

1. *The woman **who works** in the hospital is my aunt.*

The phrase *who works* can be reduced by following 'V + ing' formula, thus it becomes *work + ing*. Therefore, the reduced clause will be *the woman working in the hospital is my aunt*. The word *working* functions as the form of present participle.

The form of V-ing has three functions: as a part of main verb, a part of present participle form, and a part of gerund. Among those three, V-ing which is functioned as a part of main verb and present participle are the ones which may cause ambiguity.

Below is an example of V-ing which structurally ambiguous (see no.2 p.68),

2. *A man **eating** piranha mistakenly sold as fish.*

The word *eating* is structurally ambiguous, because it may refer to the form of present participle (see (a) p.68) and a part of main verb (see (b) p.69).

Meanwhile, similar concept is applied in Indonesian. Nevertheless, it is not participle adjunct, instead, it is called verb adjunct. Verb adjunct means an adjunct which its form looks like a verb, and this form of adjunct may cause ambiguity. Just like English, verb phrase in Indonesia has 2 functions: as a main verb and as an adjunct. However, unlike English, Indonesian does not have reduced clause, thus all of the verbs do not change. Indonesian does have omission instead, for instance (see no.1 p.71)

3. *Anak dipukuli konglomerat balas dendam.*

The language of media, especially news is often made short due to space issue. The example above is one of titles which has omission. The full sentence should be *anak yang dipukuli konglomerat balas dendam*. There is omission of the word *yang* which has similar concept as present participle form in English (see example 1 p.76). However, unlike English, when the word *yang* is omitted, the verb *dipukuli* does not change. Therefore, it will be just like the title written above, *anak dipukuli konglomerat balas dendam*.

As you can see from the samples I have given in the previous chapter, structural ambiguity happened because the newspapers editors tend to change or omit something like the omission of auxiliary verbs, determiners, prepositions, the change of tenses, etc. These kinds of action support the theory proposed by Chovanec, that news title editors tend to give different titling styles which will lead to ambiguity.

By comparing the previous studies and theories with the findings of this research, there are several new factors found in this research that can trigger structural ambiguities, they are: the shifting part of speech, the position of attributive word order, and the types of adjuncts. It is stated in the previous studies that X-bar theory is the most suitable way to analyze sentence structures compared to the traditional ones such as: description, bracketing, traditional phrase structure tree (as proposed by van Valin, O'Grady, and Hufford & Heasley, page 13-14). According to this research, X-bar theory is also proven to be the most recent theory which able to analyze sentence structure into the tiniest part. It is also able to show the double meanings by making the phrase structure tree. Therefore, X-bar theory also becomes the most suitable theory to analyze structural ambiguity.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **CONCLUSION**

This chapter presents the conclusion and suggestion based on the findings and discussion of the data analysis.

#### **5.1. Conclusion**

From the findings above, it can be concluded that there are four kinds of structural ambiguity which are found in English newspaper, they are; structural ambiguity which happens because of the shifting of parts of speech, place of adjunct; prepositional phrase, attributive word order, and participle adjunct. Meanwhile, there are also four kinds of structural ambiguity which are found in Indonesian newspaper, they are; structural ambiguity which happens because of the shifting of parts of speech, the position of adjunct: prepositional phrase, attributive word order, and verb adjunct.

Although both languages have the exact same factors, however, they also have several distinctions. In terms of parts of speech, unlike Indonesian, in English language, there are many words that have the same form for different categories (noun, verb, adjective). It is not added by any affixes, therefore the words remain the same and this becomes one of the reasons of structural ambiguities. Meanwhile, in

Indonesian, there are a lot of affixes attached to a word which indicate a verb, noun, adjective, etc. Hence it will minimize the chance of ambiguity.

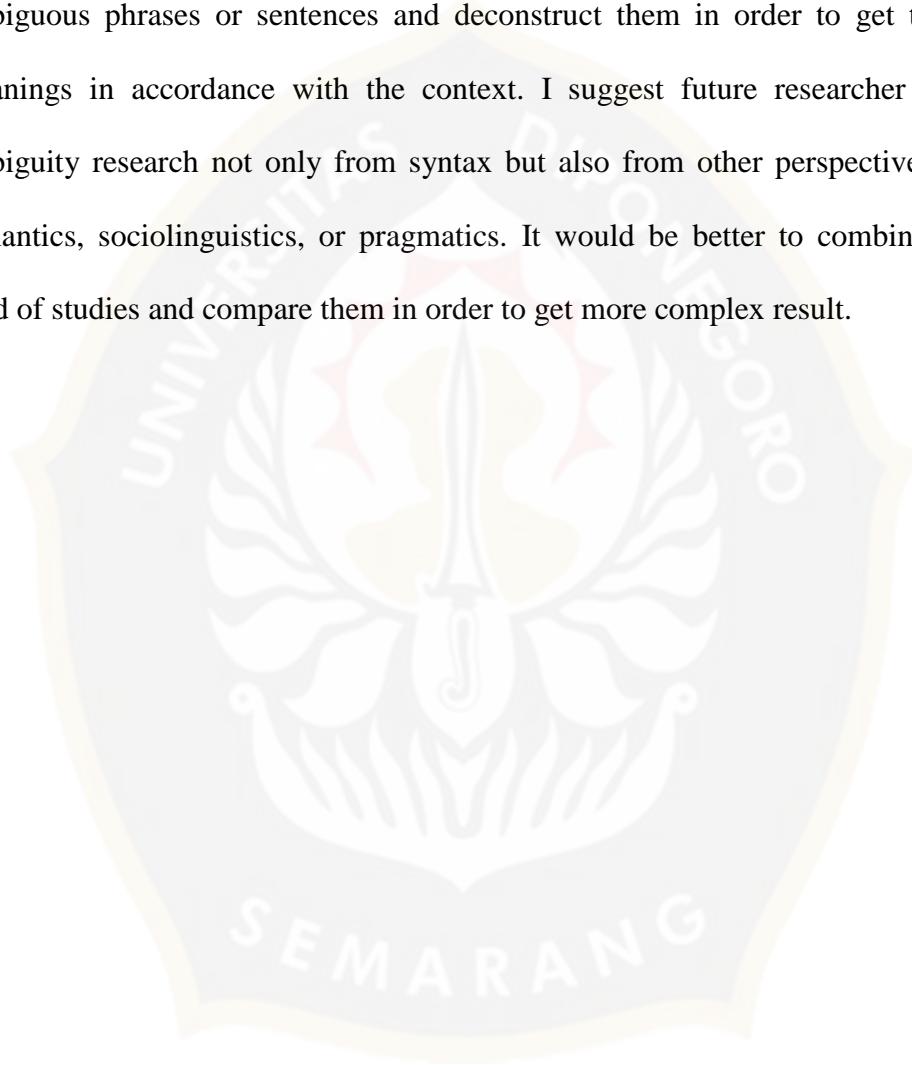
In terms of prepositional phrase, English has various kinds of prepositional phrase used in the titles; they are prepositions which indicate manner (with), place (in, on, near), purpose (for), and time (after). Meanwhile, in Indonesian titles, there are only two types of prepositional phrase, that is preposition which indicates location (in) and purpose (in). The difference between both languages happens because like in terms of part of speech, affixes mostly dominate any forms of word categories in Indonesia, while in English, there are not many affixes attached so that would make the words or phrases more ambiguous.

In terms of attributive word order, there is no significant difference between both languages. Finally, in terms of the types of adjunct, English has participle adjunct, while Indonesian has verb adjunct. Though they are different, basically they have the same concept.

It is proven that the use of X – bar theory is the most suitable method for analyzing structural ambiguity clearly other than using the previous methods, because it could distinguish head, complement, and adjunct which are crucial for analyzing structural ambiguities. X – bar theory is also able to reveal the kinds and factors of structural ambiguity; shifting of parts of speech, the place of prepositional phrase, attributive word order, and the types of adjunct.

## 5.2. Suggestion

The implication of this study is to help people translating or interpreting ambiguous phrases or sentences and deconstruct them in order to get the correct meanings in accordance with the context. I suggest future researcher would do ambiguity research not only from syntax but also from other perspectives, such as semantics, sociolinguistics, or pragmatics. It would be better to combine different field of studies and compare them in order to get more complex result.



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