

THE ANALYSIS OF PARTICIPANT ROLE IN THE JAKARTA POST HEADLINES' TITLES

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Abstract

This research aims at describing the roles as in NP construction of the title in the Jakarta Post and describing the denotative and connotative meaning of the title in the Jakarta Post. The research conducted by the writer is descriptive qualitative research. The data of this research are simple declarative sentence of the title in the Jakarta Post online newspaper, while the data source is taken from the Jakarta Post online newspaper published June 2018. The result of this research shows that there are twenty-two patterns that are classified into three roles in the starting sentence. They are 13 locations, 7 agents and 2 experiencers. NPs functioning as agent and experiencer when the type of simple declarative sentence is active sentence, while NPs1 functioning as theme when the type of simple declarative sentence is passive sentence. The writer analyzes the meaning by referring to the denotative and connotative meaning. The denotative meaning is analyzed by paraphrasing or reconstruction, while connotative meaning is analyzed by using personal aspect and intercontextuality of the sentence. The result of data analysis in the case of denotative and connotative meaning by using paraphrasing or reconstruction is that the meaning of the titles in the Jakarta Post is more clearly and comprehensive, not only the meaning of the words but also show the aspect of personal and intercontextuality.

Keywords: *online, meaning, newspaper, semantic, title*

Background

Newspaper is one of the media which gives information, issue or even fact to the society. As a source of information, newspaper is not only in conventional form which is served in the paper but also it transforms into a digital newspaper. The reason of the transformation is the people rely too much on the technology and the readers need the instant and efficient media, so they can read the news anytime anywhere. Besides, the newspaper tries to create an interesting title in the heading of the news. It believes as the first things that

will be read first by the readers before going to the content of the news.

One of media in Indonesia is The Jakarta Post. The Jakarta Post is a daily English language newspaper in Indonesia. The newspaper is aimed for foreigners and educated Indonesians. This newspaper is featured by PT Bina Media Tenggara, and the head office is in Jakarta. The Jakarta Post was incipience of a cooperation between four Indonesian media under the urging of Information Minister Ali Murtopo and politician Jusuf Wanandi. After the first issue was released on 25

April 1983, it spent several years with minimum advertisements and increasing circulation. Then, in 1991 it changed the chief editor and started to take a more vocal pro-democracy point of view. The Jakarta Post was one of the few Indonesian English-language that succeeded to survive the 1997 Asian financial crisis and currently it has a circulation of about 40,000. The Jakarta Post also has the online edition.

Here, the researcher is interested in analyzing the title of the news because it contains of nouns or noun phrase by using semantic theory. Semantics is a discipline of the philosophical theory of semiotics, which studies signs and symbols and how they relate to languages. It is also, together with phonology, morphology and syntax, a pillar of linguistics (Kratch, 2007). Semantics focuses on the relations between signs and the meaning they refer to and studies theories of denotation and connotation, that is to say the different types of meaning and purpose that specific words and constructions play out in language. In semantic, noun phrase has a role that is called thematic role.

Thematic role is used to describe the part played by a particular entity in an event (O'Grady, 1997). Many linguists refer thematic relation by several names such as: 'participant role', 'semantic role' or 'thematic role'. According to Hurford (1983) participant roles indicate relationships between a verb and the referring expressions in a sentence. There is simple declarative sentence found in title of the Jakarta Post newspaper that can be analyzed based on theory thematic role. Thematic role is the stem of semantic, while semantic according to O'Grady (1997:245) is the study of meaning in human language. The researcher wants to analyze the title of the Jakarta Post newspaper by using thematic role theory. Besides that, the researcher also analyzes the meaning of those titles. Denotation

meaning based on O'Grady (1997) is one well-known approach to semantics attempts to equate the meaning of a word or phrase with the entities to which it refers. Connotation meaning according to O'Grady (1997) is one notion that is closely linked with the concept of meaning. According to the explanation above, the researcher has interest to analyze on title of the Jakarta Post newspaper. The Jakarta Post is an English newspaper that is read by people in Indonesia. Sometimes, the articles are written by Indonesian journalists. The researcher applies some theories to analyze the participant role in The Jakarta Post June edition 2018.

The researcher applies theory of O'Grady (1997) as her theoretical framework. Furthermore, O'Grady (1997) explained that thematic role or semantic role is used to describe the part played by a particular entity in an event. On the other hand, Payne (1997) said that a semantic role is the underlying relationship that a participant has with the main verb in a clause. Semantic role is the actual role a participant plays in some real or imagined situation, apart from the linguistic encoding of those situations.

Semantic roles (also known as thematic roles or theta roles) attempt to capture similarities and differences in verb meaning that are reflected in argument expression, with emergent generalizations that will contribute to the mapping from semantics to syntax. They belong, then, to the semantics/syntax interface. Some of the characteristics that theories of thematic roles strive for, in order to fulfill their function are the following, according to Dowty (1991):

- i. Completeness: Every argument of every verb is assigned some thematic role or other.
- ii. Uniqueness: Every argument of every verb is assigned only one thematic role.

- iii. Distinctness: Every argument of every verb is distinguished from the other arguments by the role it is assigned. Two levels can be distinguished: strong distinctness, if Uniqueness also holds, and weak distinctness, if it does not. In this last case, each argument is assigned a different set of roles from other arguments of the same verb.
- iv. Independence: Each role is given a consistent semantic definition that applies to all verbs and all situations. Thus, role definitions do not depend on the meaning of the particular verb or on the other thematic roles it assigns.

The goal of semantic role theories is to obtain a set of semantic roles that can apply to any argument of any verb. Their function is to make possible the unique identification of the arguments of the verb so that the mapping to syntax can be carried out. Dowty (1991) calls this the argument-indexing function of thematic roles. There have been a large number of proposals with regard to the number and nature of the list of semantic roles needed.

In semantics there are some instruments which can be used to identify the meaning of words and sentences such as by using tree diagram, paraphrase, and thematic roles. Thematic roles which is also known as semantics roles, are part of semantics interpretation involves determining the roles that the referent of NP's play in the situation described by sentence. Thematic roles capture the relationship between a sentence and the event it describes. "Thematic roles originally applied to the interpretation of any NP in a sentence, according to its position in the sentence, its case form, if any preceding NP" (Kearns, 2000). There are some roles in thematic role (O'Grady, 1997): agent, theme, source, goal, instrument, experiencer, stimulus, location and time. Therefore, the researcher focuses only in the participant role that is agent, goal and location.

According to Lakoff (1987) an agent tends to: be human (animate), volitional, definite, independent, directly responsible; act as a source of energy directing action outward; remain unaffected by the predication. On the other hand, agents are typically animate and normally trigger the action expressed by the verb, both intentionally and unintentionally (Van Valin, 2001:24). For example:

The man murdered his wife.	Intentionally
The man killed the child in the accident.	Unintentionally

The last example is incorrect because the verb murder presupposes an intentional action, while the verb kill presupposes an intentional or unintentional action. Agents can be divided into: buyer, giver, drinker and so on.

Moreover, Van Valin (2001:24) argued that goal arguments differ from recipient arguments in the fact that the former has as finality a change of location, while the latter has as finality a change of possession e.g. Mary sent the book to John.

According to Longacre (1986), location means a semantic role which identifies the location or spatial orientation of a state or action. A location semantic role does not imply motion to, from, or across the location. The example of location is The paper is in *the folder*.

It can be easily to notice that agent, goal and location and source arguments function with Themes due to the fact that Theme arguments indicate a location, a possession, or a change of location or possession. These arguments are closely related to the meaning of the verb; i.e. an event of moving needs a change of location.

Nevertheless, the properties of verbs cannot be explained only in relation to the state of affairs they embody. Different verbs require a different number of elements. Transitive verbs require at least one element, the Direct Object, but there are cases in which only a Direct Object is not enough for the sentence to be grammatically correct. For example, the verb *put* requires two elements, a Direct Object and an Adverbial Modifier of Place: e.g. *I put the book on the table*. It means *I put the book and I put it on the table*.

One thing that always makes the readers interested in reading the newspaper is the headlines or the titles. Most of the titles in the newspaper are made in short and simple form in order to catch the readers' attention in reading the news or the information. It must also be readable and appropriate with the information or the news on it. Sometimes it uses metaphor, omission of words, noun phrase, or it can be declarative sentences or imperative sentences. But almost all of them are made in the form of simple sentences or noun phrases, including the titles that the researcher found on the Jakarta Post online newspaper. By the titles, the newspaper's writer expressed the most important point of the news. The titles are the starting point for the readers to have interested in reading the whole information, news or articles of the newspaper. The sentential context refers to a sentence where the key word has occurred. It supplies syntactic information to know if the key word has any explicit or implicit syntactic relation with the other words used in the sentence.

Semantics is a discipline of the philosophical theory of semiotics, which studies signs and symbols and how they relate to languages. It is also, together with phonology, morphology and syntax, a pillar of linguistics (Kratch, 2007). Semantics focuses on the relations between signs and the meaning they refer

to and studies theories of denotation and connotation, that is to say the different types of meaning and purpose that specific words and constructions play out in language. In analyzing the meaning of the sentence, the researcher applies the denotative and connotative meaning from Kreidler. Denotation is a literal meaning of the word. For example, the word "woman", it has a denotation "adult female". Meanwhile, connotation refers to the personal aspect of meaning, the emotional associations that the word arouses (Kreidler, 1998).

Denotative meaning is the objective (dictionary) relationship between a word and the reality to which it refers (Crystal, 1987). Connotative meaning, on the other hand, is the communicative power of a word by virtue of what it refers to (Leech, 1974). The difference between denotation and connotation is explained by many scholars. For instance, Osgood et al. (1957) distinguish between denotation which indicates the referent of a linguistic sign and connotation as the diverse emotive reactions to it. Bowers (1989), on the other hand, remarks that the distinction between the two terms according to J.S. Mill being that, "connotation" represents the inherent conceptual meaning of a word, in our terms its "intension" and "semantic structure", while "denotation" represents the meaning of a word in terms of the set of objects it names, in our terms its "extension" or "application".

Bell (1991:98-99) makes a good distinction between denotative meaning and connotative meaning saying that "The first refers to meaning which is referential, objective and cognitive and, hence, the shared property of the speech community which uses the language of which the word or sentence forms a part. The second, in contrast, refers to meaning which is not referential but associational, subjective and affective. This kind of meaning, being

personal, may or may not be shared by the community at large.”

Moreover, connotative meaning, unlike the denotative, is culturally-bound. Connotations tend to change from time to time and from society to society. To a significant extent the connotative meaning is independent of the denotative meaning. Some words are said to have no denotative meaning, but only connotative meaning such as “hurrah”, and “boo” which only express or arouse feelings. Two utterances may have the same denotative meaning but very different connotative meanings. Also, word’s connotation may vary while its denotation remains unchanged.

Related with the meaning, according to Hurford (1983) participant roles indicate relationships between a verb and the referring expressions in a sentence. For example from the titles that the researcher found on June 21st-27th:

Another crocodile spotted in Jakarta river

Another crocodile	spotted	in Jakarta river
NP 1	-	NP 2
Theme	-	Location

In the sentence above, if it is analyzed by using thematic roles, there are two entities that is played on it, they are another crocodile and in Jakarta river. So, the rule of the sentence above as follows:

NP1 – from (NP2)

The reference of that sentence is (1) another crocodile refers to the animal that is found in an area and (2) Jakarta refer to the name of city in Indonesia.

According to the explanation above, the writer has interest to analyze the titles found on the Jakarta Post online newspaper. The researcher interested in conducting a research entitled “The Analysis of Participant Role in the

Jakarta Post Headlines’ Titles” to know what the roles played by each entity of the titles of the Jakarta Post and to explain the meaning of the sentence. The researcher interested in conducting the research of thematic roles since always there are difference roles that found and so do the researcher found in her research.

Research Method

In writing the study, the researcher needs to limit the study in order to make it easier in analyzing the data. In analyzing semantic role and its meaning, the writer limits the data on simple declarative sentence as titles of the Jakarta Post. This research analyzes the role of those titles. The type of research is descriptive qualitative, because the writer describes the role played by NP and describe the meaning of the data. The object of the research is participant role found in the title of the Jakarta Post. The data of the research are simple declarative sentence, while the sources of the data are the Jakarta Post newspaper published in June 2018. The data are taken randomly and only 20% of the total title in the Jakarta Post. The method used by the writer in collecting the data is documentation, with the steps: reading, selecting, collecting, and coding. The technique of analyzing the data is descriptive qualitative.

Finding and Discussion

There are seven titles taken in The Jakarta Post Online. Furthermore, there are 22 participant roles found in the data. It consists of 13 locations, 7 agents and 2 experiencers. The writer explains the research finding of this research below:

Table 1. The Distribution of Participant Role in the Jakarta Post June Edition

No	The Participant Role	Type of Sentence	∑f	%
1	Location	Active	13	59
2	Agent	Active	7	32
3	Experiencer	Active	2	9
Total			22	100

From the finding above, it is clear that the location becomes the highest number in the data with 13 or 59%. NPs functioning as agent and experiencer when the type of simple declarative sentence is active sentence, while NPs is functioning as theme when the type of simple declarative sentence is passive sentence. In fact, the theme cannot find in the data since the noun phrase in the title all in the active sentences. Moreover, the analysis of the participant role and the meaning can be seen as follows:

Location

There are two roles of location. First, the role of location is played by any expression referring to the place where the action described by a sentence takes place. Second, the beneficiary is the person for whose benefit or to whose detriment the action described by the sentence is carried out.

Excerpt 1:

Government questions Anies' plan to solve flooding in Jakarta.

Government	questions	Anies' plan to solve flooding	in Jakarta
NP 1	-	NP 2	NP 3
Beneficiary	-	Affected	Location

From the title above, it is seen that there are 2 locations found in the data. The first is the noun 'Jakarta'. This noun has role as the location. It happened because the noun refers to place where the action described in the sentence. Here, the flood condition is happened in condition, so the role of the noun as the location. Second, the noun phrase 'Government' has role as the beneficiary. It happens because the noun shows that the government receives the benefit from the action questioning. As the result, it is concluded as the beneficiary.

Furthermore, the denotation and connotation meaning can be found in the

data. The meaning of that sentence denotatively is Anis has plan to solve the flooding in Jakarta. Connotatively, the government is doubt to Anis' plan to solve the flooding in Jakarta.

Agent

There are two roles of agent in the sentence. Firstly, the agent of a sentence is the person deliberately carrying out the action described. Secondly, the affected participant is the thing (not usually a person, although it may be) upon which the action is carried out, in many cases thing changed by the action in the most obvious way.

Excerpt 2:

Jokowi's family cast vote in Surakarta

Jokowi's family	cast	vote	in Surakarta
NP 1	-	NP 2	NP 3
Agent	-	Patient	Location

From the title above, it is seen that there are two roles of the agent. The first role is as an agent. The noun phrase 'Jokowi's family' has role to show the person who carrying out the action. Here, it is clearly seen that 'Jokowi's family' the actor who did the action. As the result, it is categorized as the agent. The second is the word 'vote'. The noun 'vote' is categorized as the affected participant or patient because the word is the thing which action is carried out. So, it explains that Jokowi's family carries out the vote.

The meaning of that sentence denotatively is Jokowi's family votes in Surakarta. Connotatively, the Jokowi's family is Surakarta people.

Experiencer

There are two roles in experiencer. Firstly, the experiencer is typically a person who is mentally aware of perceives or experiences the action or state described by sentence, but who is not in control of the situation. (Experiencer characteristics can also

sometimes be attributed to animals.) Secondly, the theme participant is a thing or person whose location is described or a thing or person that is perceived by an Experiencer.

Excerpt 3:

Woman dies in attempted 'angkot' robbery.

Woman	dies	in attempted 'angkot' robbery
NP 1	-	NP 2
Agent	-	Location

There is an experiencer found in the data. The noun 'woman' has role as experiencer. It is happened because the woman experienced the action. So, this is categorized as the experiencer. The theme does not find in the data. Moreover, the meaning of that sentence denotatively is woman dies because of "angkot" robbery. Connotatively, the woman is murdered when the "angkot" robbery happened.

Conclusion

There are twenty-two patterns that are found by the writer in the titles of the Jakarta Post newspaper published June 2018. Those twenty-two patterns are classified into three that are starting by location, agent and experiencer. 13 locations, 7 agents and 2 experiencers.

Based on the analysis, the writer analyzes the denotative meaning by using either paraphrasing or re-construction. However, in analyzing the connotative meaning the researcher uses personal aspect and intercontextuality of the sentence. The result of data analysis in the case of denotative and connotative meaning by using paraphrasing or reconstruction is that the meaning of the titles in the Jakarta Post is more clearly and comprehensive, not only the meaning of the words but also show the aspect of personal and intercontextuality.

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