ABSTRACT

Newspaper plays an essential part in daily life; it cannot be separated with humans’ life. Therefore, newspaper should provide information clearly that makes the reader easy to understand. In order to give information clearly, sentences have to be constructed appropriately to avoid multiple interpretations. The purposes of this research are to find out what type of structural ambiguity that often occurs and the frequency of each type of structural ambiguity. In analyzing the data, the writer uses constituent structure analysis through tree diagram. The data collection was conducted by scanning the opinion articles and reader’s letters of the “The Jakarta Post” from December 2007 until February 2008. The writer finds 23 sentences from opinion articles and reader’s letters that contain ambiguous phrases. After analyzing these ambiguous phrases, the writer finds that there are two types of structural ambiguity that often occur. They are noun phrase ambiguity and prepositional phrase ambiguity. It is found out that 11 ambiguous sentences or 45.83% belong to the noun phrase type with the most common pattern of Adjective + Noun + conjunction + Noun. The remaining 12 ambiguous sentences or 52.17% are of the prepositional phrase type with the most common pattern of Preposition + (Adjective + Noun + conjunction + Noun). It is concluded that the prepositional phrase is the type of structural ambiguity that most frequently occurs. The writer offers some suggestions to overcome the structural ambiguity in both noun phrases and prepositional phrases.
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CURRICULUM VITAE
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

S – Sentence

N – Noun

V – Verb

P – Preposition

Adj – Adjective

Adv – Adverb

Aux – Auxiliary verb

NP – Noun Phrase

VP – Verb Phrase

PP – Prepositional Phrase

AdjP – Adjective Phrase

AdvP – Adverb Phrase

Art – Article

Conj. – Conjunction