

**STRUCTURAL DISAMBIGUATION ON PRESIDENT  
DONALD TRUMP'S CAPTION ON INSTAGRAM**

**THESIS**

By:  
**Imamul Haq**  
NIM 16320244



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM  
MALANG  
2021**



**STRUCTURAL DISAMBIGUATION ON PRESIDENT  
DONALD TRUMP'S CAPTION ON INSTAGRAM**

**THESIS**

Presented to  
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang  
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra  
(*Sarjana Sastra*) (S.S.)

By:

Imamul Haq  
NIM 16320244

Advisor:

**Vita Nur Santi M.Pd.**  
NIP198306192011012008



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE  
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM  
MALANG  
2021**

### STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled "**Structural Disambiguation on President Donald Trump's Caption on Instagram**" is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those ones that are cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is an objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, 13 June 2021  
The researcher,



Imamul Haq  
16320244

## APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that undergraduate Thesis of Imamul Haq, entitled “**Structural Disambiguation on President Donald Trump’s Caption on Instagram**” has been approved by advisor, for further approval by the board of examiners.

Malang, 13 June 2021

Approved by Advisor,



Vita Nur Sari, M.Pd.  
NIP198306192011012008

Head of Department English Literature,



Rina Sari, M.Pd.,  
NIP197506102006042002

Acknowledged by

The Dean of Faculty Humanity  
UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang



Dr. H. Syafiyah, M.A.  
NIP 196609101991032002

LEGITIMATION SHEET

This istocertify that Undergraduate Thesis of Imamul Haq entitled “**Structural Disambiguation on President Donald Trump’s Caption on Instagram**” has been approved by theadvisor, for further approval by the board of examiners as the requirement for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)*

Malang, 13 June 2021

The Board of Examiners

1. Zainur Rofiq, S.S., MA (Main Examiner)  
NIP.19861018201802011180
2. Dr. Yayuk Widyastuti Herawati, S.Pd., M.Pd (Chair)  
NIP. 197705032014112002
3. Vita Nur Santi M.Pd. (Advisor)  
NIP.198306192011012008

Signatures



Approved by  
The Dean of Humanity Faculty,



Dr. H. Syafrizah, M.A.  
NIP.196609101991032002

## **MOTTO**

*“Love what you do and do what you love!*

*Life is once, make it amazing!”*

## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is proudly dedicated to my beloved father, Bapak Mahfudz and my dearest mother, Ibu Rayhanah, thank you very much for your endless love, infinite prayer and unlimited support.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Alhamdulillahirabbil Alamin....*

All praises is for Allah swt., the most gracious and Merciful, the one Who always guide and blesses us. God's mercies and blessings may always be poured down upon our beloved Prophet Muhammad, the greatest figure in the world, who guides us to the right way (Islam). Finally, this researcher could finish this thesis entitled "Structural Disambiguation on President Donald Trump's Caption on Instagram". This researcher also would like to thank for her parents, Ibu Rayhanah and Bpk Mahfudz. who never stop supporting and loving her, they are also the most influential people who help this researcher finish her thesis, to the advisor, Mrs, Vita Nur Santi, thank you very much for your valuable guidance, for spending your time in helping this researcher to finish the thesis on time, to the academic advisor, Mr, M. Edi Thoyib thank for your guidance and help in determining the topic of this thesis, to all the lectures of English Literature who have taught and educated me from the first semester, all of my squad friend who help me in my downs, to all the female English Learner of English literature department 16, thank you very much for your valuable experience during this 4 years, I am proud to be one of you guys

## ABSTRACT

**Haq,Imamul.** (2021). *“Structural Disambiguation on President Donald Trump’s Caption on Instagram”* Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature. Faculty of Humanities. Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Vita Nur Santi M.Pd

**Keywords:** Structural Disambiguation, Attachment Ambiguity, Analytical Ambiguity, Gap finding and Filling.

This research aims to investigate the structural disambiguation. Structural disambiguation is a sentence that might have some parses. In other words, an utterance or sentence is structurally confused and from the confusion leads to produce some parses as the solution of ambiguity. For instance; *The baby saw the girl with binoculars*. This sentence has more one meaning and parse. It depends on the prepositional phrase *with binoculars*. It could be, *The baby saw the girl who has binoculars*, if the prepositional phrase attaches to the local noun, while if the prepositional phrase attaches to the verb phrase, it would be *The baby used binoculars to see the girl*. This is a common problem which a native speaker and second language learner may perform. The Gorrel’s theory is used in this research to find out the types of structural ambiguity and how the structural ambiguous sentence disambiguated.

This present research belongs to the qualitative descriptive. The qualitative descriptive method is applied because the deep understanding is attempted to be presented in this research. The data in this present research is in the form of caption (sentence, phrase, and clause). The data source is taken from the Instagram of Donald Trump’s account.

From the analysis, the result of the study shows that the researcher found two types of structural ambiguity, attachment ambiguity and analytical ambiguity. In case of attachment ambiguity, the researcher found 3 data, and most of them are in term of prepositional phrase attachment, while analytical ambiguity is 4 data. In this research, the researcher did not find one type of structural ambiguity in Donald Trump’s captions-gap finding and filling.

## ABSTRAK

**Haq, Imamul.** (2021). *Disambiguasi Struktural pada Keterangan Akunya Presiden Donald Trump di Instagram* Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Humaniora. Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing: Vita Nur Santi M.Pd.

**Katakunci:** Disambiguasi Struktural, Ambiguitas Lampiran, Ambiguitas Analisis, Mencari dan Mengisi celah.

---

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meneliti disambiguasi struktural. Disambiguasi structural adalah sebuah kalimat yang mungkin memiliki beberapa parse. Dengan kata lain, sebuah ujaran atau kalimat yang membingungkan secara structural and kebingungan tersebut menggiring untuk menghasilkan beberapa parse sebagai solusi dari keambiguan. Misalnya; *Bayi itu melihat gadis itu dengan teropong*. Kalimat ini memiliki lebih dari satu makna dan parse. Ini bergantung pada frase preposisi *dengan teropong*. Ini dapat menjadi, *Bayi itu melihat wanita itu yang memiliki teropong*, jika frase preposisinya menempel pada kata benda lokal, sementara itu jika frase preposisinya menempel pada frase kata kerja, ini akan menjadi, *Bayi itu menggunakan teropong untuk melihat gadis itu*. Ini adalah masalah umum yang mana seorang penutur asli dan pelajar bahasa kedua dapat melakukannya. Teorinya Gorrel digunakan dalam penelitian ini untuk menemukan tipe-tipe ambiguitas structural and bagaimana cara kalimat ambigu struktural didisambigukan.

Penelitian ini termasuk penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Metode kualitatif deskriptif diaplikasikan karena pemahaman yang mendalam diterapkan untuk disajikan dalam penelitian ini. Data pada penelitian ini adalah dalam bentuk keterangan (kalimat, frase, dan klausa). Sumber data ini diambil dari akun Instagramnya Donald Trump.

Dari analisis ini, hasil dari kajian ini menunjukkan bahwa peneliti menemukan dua tipe dari ambiguitas struktural, ambiguitas lampiran dan ambiguitas analisis. Pada kasus ambiguitas lampiran, peneliti menemukan 3 data, dan yang paling sering pada bagian lampiran frase preposisi, sementara ambiguitas analisis adalah 4 data. Pada penelitian ini, peneliti tidak menemukan satu tipe dari ambiguitas struktur pada keterangan Donald Trump- mencari dan mengisi celah.

## مستخلص البحث

حق ، إمام. (٢٠٢١). توضيح هيكلية في بيان حساب الرئيس Donald Trump على رسالة إنستغرام. قسم أدب الإنجليزية.

كلية العلوم الإنسانية. بجامعة الإسلامية الحكومية مولانا مالك ابراهيم مالانج . المربية: فيتا نور سانتي الماجستير

الكلمات الرئيسية: الغموض الهيكلية ، غموض التعلق ، غموض التحليل ، إيجاد وسد الثغرات.

تهدف هذا البحث إلى فحص توضيح الهيكلية. إن توضيح الغموض الهيكلية هو جملة قد تحتوي على عدة تحليلات. وبعبارة أخرى ، فإن الكلام الذي يكون مربك من الناحية الهيكلية والارتباك يؤدي إلى إنتاج عدة تحليلات كحل للغموض. على سبيل المثال؛ ينظر الطفل إلى الفتاة بمنظار. هذه الجملة لها معانٍ تحليلات. يعتمد على عبارات الجر مع مناظير. يمكن أن يكون معنى من هذا الكلمة يعني، قد رأى الطفل المرأة التي كانت لديها مناظير، إذا كانت عبارة الجر مرتبطة باسم. وفي نفس الوقت إذا كانت عبارة الجر مرتبطة بعبارة فعل ، فسيكون هذا الكلام بمعنى ، استخدم الطفل المناظير للنظر الى تلك البنات. هذه مشكلة عامة يمكن أن يفعلها كل من المتحدث الأصلي ومتعلم اللغة الثانية. تُستخدم نظرية Gorrel في هذا البحث لاكتشاف أنواع الغموض الهيكلية وكيف يتم توضيح الجمل الغامضة هيكلًا.

يشمل هذا البحث من البحث الوصفي النوعي. استخدام تطبيق المنهج النوعي الوصفي لأن الفهم العميق قد تم للتقدم في هذا البحث. البيانات الواردة في هذا البحث في شكل معلومات (كلام وعبارات وجمل). أُخذ مصدر هذه البيانات من حساب انستغرام الخاص Donald Trump.

ظهرت النتائج من هذا التحليل في هذا البحث على أن الباحث وجد نوعين من الغموض الهيكلية، الغموض التعلقي ، الغموض التحليلي. في حالة الغموض التعلقي، وجد الباحث ٣ بيانات ، وغالبًا في عبارة الجر المرفقة. أما في الغموض التحليلي ٤ بيانات. في هذا البحث، لم يجد الباحث نوعًا واحدًا من الغموض الهيكلية في تصريحات Donald Trump- للطلبوا ملاء الفجوة.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>THESIS COVER</b> .....	<b>i</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>APPROVAL SHEET</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>LEGIMATION SHEET</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>MOTTO</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>DEDICATION</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	<b>ix</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENT</b> .....	<b>xii</b>

### CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study .....	1
B. Research Questions.....	6
C. Objectives of the Study.....	7
D. Significances of the Study.....	7
E. Scope and Limitation .....	8
F. Definition of Key Terms .....	8
G. Research Method .....	12
H. Research Method.....	12
1. Research Design .....	13
2. Research Instrument.....	13
3. Data and Data Source .....	14
4. Data Collection.....	14
5.Data Analysis .....	15

### CHAPTER II: REVIEW ON RELATED LITERATURE

A. Structural Disambiguation.....	16
1. Types of Structural Ambiguity.....	18
2. Attachment Ambiguity .....	19
3.Analytical Ambiguity .....	21

4. Gap Finding and Filling .....	30
B. Structural Ambiguity as a Closure Problem .....	33
C. Theories of the Structural Disambiguation .....	33
1. Structural Disambiguation in Marcus Parser.....	30
2. Ford, Bresnan, Kaplan’s Theory of Closure .....	30
D. Structural Ambiguity .....	33
CHAPTER III: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	
A. Findings .....	38
1. Caption on 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020 .....	39
2. Caption on 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2020 .....	39
3. Caption on 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 .....	39
4. Caption on 13 <sup>rd</sup> October 2020 .....	39
5. Caption on 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2020.....	39
6. Caption on 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2020.....	39
B. Discussion.....	69
CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	
A. Conclusion.....	75
B. Suggestion .....	76
REFERENCES .....	77
CURRICULUM VITAE.....	80

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

The chapter outlines the background of the study, research question, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, definitions of key terms and also given or closed by some references.

### **A. Background of the study**

This research aims at investigating structural disambiguation on President Donald Trump's Captions on Instagram. According to Corriveau (1993) structural disambiguation is a sentence that might have some parses. It means that a sentence is structurally confused; with the result it produces more than one parse as the solution of ambiguity. While (Hirst, 1987) argued that a sentence which has more than one parse and unique parse of its sentence after considering a discourse context and semantic. In other words, structural disambiguation is subcategory which semantic and syntax are related. The process of syntactic analyzing could not be separated from or often relates to semantic approach, because the determination of the disambiguation of structural ambiguous sentence needs them. Thus, the use of structural disambiguation does not only use a syntactic approach but also need a semantic helps in analyzing or disambiguating an ambiguous sentence. For instance, is attachment ambiguity, a type of structural ambiguity, like relative clause attachment and prepositional phrase. It is in doubt where to put the prepositional phrase, whether it refers to the subject or to object. It must call on semantic knowledge to parse and to disambiguate the ambiguous sentence. Thus, how structural disambiguation works is explained by determining what type of structural ambiguity is

and how the structural ambiguous sentence can be disambiguated which needs semantic help.

Structural disambiguation is different from structural ambiguity. Structural ambiguity also called as syntactic ambiguity. Structural ambiguity is a phenomenon in linguistic expression that might be interpreted or understood in two or more syntactic configurations and each has different meanings (Zimmer, 2016). Meanwhile, Szymanek (2016) asserted that when an utterance could produce more than one syntactic interpretation or when it shows more than one syntactic relationship between constituents within a structure called as syntactic or structural ambiguity. It means that a sentence could produce more than one structure. While, structural disambiguation discusses about types of structural ambiguity and how the ambiguous sentence is disambiguated by several ways, such as tree diagrams, Chinese Boxes, and IC analysis (Hirst, 1987). Then, I claimed that structural ambiguity could take place anytime and it could be performed by native speakers or second language users of English and the structural disambiguation is the solution of it. However, a few of people are aware of ambiguous sentence and try to disambiguate it. Hence, structural disambiguation and structural ambiguity are important to be investigated.

Structural disambiguation tends to be more important topic than structural ambiguity to be investigated and explored. This topic is selected depend on some reasons; first, the phenomena of ambiguity could take place both of native speaker and second language learner of English. This case often occurs due to several factors such as the structure of the sentence, word changes, and the use of words or punctuation, especially in social media. Second, it would sharpen an insight about basic concept of English



syntax in order to avoid us in making an ambiguous sentence, clause, and phrase. In other word, we could think about the structure in producing phrase, clause, and sentence with the result, we could prevent from structural ambiguous sentence. Third, making deep understanding of English syntax, then it would make us more careful in producing an utterance. Fourth, we could understand that structural ambiguity is different from structural disambiguation. Fifth, it helps us to understand that the determination of structural ambiguous sentence and the way to disambiguate need semantics(Hirst, 1987). As Hirst (1987) stated that parse strategy could not be used without semantics help. Thus, structural disambiguation is very useful to be investigated and explore more.

This research used an Instagram as the subject, namely some captions that posted on President Donald Trump account. Instagram is one of social media that is used by many people all over the world. It means that Instagram is one of the social media that is loved by the world community, including in Indonesia. Almost everyone has an Instagram account from the old and especially the young. This study is interested to investigated, it caused by the caption. Caption is some words or sentences used to explain of the picture or video where it is usually related. There are many positive benefits that we could get from this social media; we could interact with other people, get insight from the Instagram account which provides content in the form of knowledge, and especially for people who want to learn language, especially English. Hence, we could learn and also investigate the using language of the user on this application. We could learn and investigate about the word formation, word changes, and the structure of the sentence.

The selection of President Donald Trump's account is based on some significant reasons to be investigated as the subject of the study in this research. First, he is a well-

known politician who has posted several statements in Instagram. It makes people to follow his account, read his posts or caption, and imitate his language, because of his position as a well-known politician and president of USA. Second, he is a native speaker of English and well-educated person. Third, he is an elite speaker, then many people are interested to pay attention of his activity. It could influence and make readers on his account or followers to imitate his style, especially in this case is his language style. From those reasons, it could be concluded that we need to understand and learn about linguistic, in order to avoid an ambiguity in expressing or understanding his English. It is caused in linguistic, we learn about phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. Furthermore, it brings through; we could find an ambiguity on his captions. Thus, I am interested in investigating his account to give readers explanation that phenomena of ambiguity could occur on native or non-native speaker.

Several previous studies have been investigated in syntactic or grammatical ambiguity. First, (Tirangga, 2014), the journal investigated about lexical ambiguity and grammatical ambiguity in headline news of Jakarta Post and New York Times. The theory was adopted in this journal is Ullmann's theory. Second, (Charina, 2017), this journal analyzed lexical and syntactic ambiguity in creating humor. Third, (Pramadwityas, 2017), this research investigated structural or syntactic ambiguity on headlines of The Jakarta Post by using stanford dependency. Fourth (Rohmaniah, 2017), this thesis investigated syntactic ambiguity on students' writing which adopted Gerrol's theory and identified the syntactic ambiguity used parse strategy.

From those previous studies, the researcher intends and aims to investigate structural disambiguation that would be taken on President Donald Trump account of

Instagram. This present research is quite different from the previous studies because in this research only focuses on structural disambiguation that would apply Gorrel's theory (1995), where he divided the types of ambiguity into three categories, as structural ambiguity–attachment ambiguity, gap finding and filling, and analytical ambiguity. In representing grammatical categories of ambiguity need a tree. As stated by (Gorrell, 1995) that a tree is used in representing grammatical categories, and branches in connecting the nodes. In other words, the syntactic or structural relation could be represented in the form of the phrase-structure-tree. Thus, this research also utilizes a phrase-structure-tree in describing node of each word.

## **B. Research Questions**

Based on the discussions above, specifically, this study is proposed to answer the two following questions in this thesis about structural disambiguation on President Donald Trump account of Instagram. The problems that will be answered in this study are:

1. What types of structural or syntactic ambiguity could be found on President Donald Trump account of Instagram?
2. How are structural ambiguous sentence disambiguated?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

In the line with the research questions of the study, this study purposes to investigate and answer the problems:

1. To find out several types of structural or syntactic ambiguity on President Donald Trump account of Instagram.

2. To explain and illustrate the way of disambiguating the structural ambiguous sentence.

#### **D. Significances of the study**

Theoretically, this research is really important for the author to improve and apply knowledge about structural ambiguity and disambiguation, and for the next researcher who want to take and deepen this study. In fact, this research provides and applies some theories in structural ambiguity and disambiguation, specifically in P. Gorrel's theory.

While practically, this study could be used for the next researcher to get more understanding of syntactic or structural ambiguity and the way to disambiguate structural ambiguous sentence or structural disambiguation. Besides that this study is also done to provide input on the linguistic study to develop the study on linguistic specifically in syntax study.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation**

To avoid the extent of the research, the researcher focused on structural disambiguation on President Donald Trump account of Instagram. In other words, the discussion tries to find types of structural ambiguity and the way to disambiguate structural ambiguous sentence. This research uses Paul Gorrell's theory in analyzing the data. Even though the research is related with semantic approach, but the researcher limits the research not to investigate lexical ambiguity and the way to decide the structural ambiguous sentence.

## F. Definition of Key Terms

To sharpen understandings and anticipate misunderstandings about this research, the terms are defined as follow:

1. **Structural Disambiguation:** a situation in which sentence has more than one parse, and there is usually unique parse for its sentence after semantic and discourse context are considered.
2. **Structural Ambiguity:** An expression of language that produces more than one syntactic configuration or interpretation and it defines more than one syntactic relationship between constituents within a structure of sentence or phrase.
3. **Analytical Ambiguity:** It happens in the part of elements within a phrase or sentence is ambiguous.
4. **Attachment Ambiguity :** It happens in a particular syntactic configuration, such as a prepositional phrase or relative clause.
5. **Gap finding and filling:** one of types of structural ambiguity in which sentence has more than one dependent clause particularly relative clause and structural ambiguity occurs because of one of the dependent clauses.
6. **Marcus parser:** a way of disambiguation used parse and it is guided by the semantics.
7. **Parse:** To break (a sentence, clause, and phrase) down into its constituent parts of speech or grammatical parts, such as subject, noun, verb and etc.

8. **Final expected argument** : the parse of the structure becomes the final of the expected cases, closure was delayed as long as possible, with the result that much of the rest of the sentence as possible was accepted into the case.

## **G. Previous Studies**

The point of this part is some related studies to the present research are explained. They are selected to help the researcher to understand and find out the topic. The explanation would be about the focus of the research, theory of the study, object of the study, and others. They are Tirangga (2014), Charina (2017), Pramadwityas (2017), and Rohmaniah (2017).

First, Tirangga (2014) was done his research on lexical and grammatical ambiguities in headline news. This research applied a descriptive qualitative to support in exploring the types of ambiguity and possible meaning. This researcher used Ullmann's theory in investigating the research. The result of the research found 7 grammatical ambiguities and 11 lexical ambiguities on Jakarta Post headlines. While in the New York Time, there was 10 lexical ambiguities and 2 grammatical ambiguities.

Second, Charina (2017) done her analysis on lexical and syntactic ambiguity in humor. This research also used descriptive qualitative method. Furthermore, the researcher applied the theory of Seewoester (2009). While the data was found in this research 12 sentences in lexical ambiguities and 13 sentences in syntactic ambiguity.

Third, this research was done by Pramadwityas (2017). A qualitative method was employed to reveal the findings of the research. A Stanford dependency was used to analyze the structural ambiguity in headline news of The Jakarta Post. Thus, the data was

found 23; 8 data with *adjective + noun + noun head*, 3 data in *adjective + noun + noun + noun head*, two data in *noun + noun + noun head* order, and 1 datum in attachments, two data in possessive noun (*noun possessive + noun + noun head*), and 1 datum in *noun possessive + noun + noun + noun head* order. The last is the adverbial phrase attachment was found 1.

Last, the research of Rohmania (2017) was enough similar to the current research. The research was on syntactic ambiguity on student writings of senior high school. This research used a qualitative method to investigate the syntactic ambiguity. The Gorrel's theory used to find the types of syntactic ambiguity and how the parse strategy took on the role of syntactic ambiguity. 12 data were found on this research. Most of them happened when a phrase or sentence had more than one meaning.

This current research has some differences between the previous studies. First, the data used the platform of social media especially on caption of Instagram. Second, the theory of Paul Gorell and tree diagrams were used to analyze the research. Last, this research investigated the caption including sentence, clause, and phrase. Thus, this research used Structural Disambiguation on Donald Trump's Captions on Instagram.

## **H. Research Method**

### **1. Research Design**

The researcher chooses the qualitative descriptive method to investigate and analyze the case of this study. Qualitative descriptive is an appropriate way to be applied for this research because the purpose of qualitative descriptive is to interpret and describe the

research (Silverman, 1993). In another way, qualitative research is a way to describe and explain the data utilizing words, phrases, and sentences that is classified into several characteristics to the inference. The researcher investigates the descriptive text which is the types of structural ambiguity and the way to disambiguate structural ambiguous sentence based on Paul Gorrell's theory. Afterwards, the researcher is as the human instrument to determine the types syntactic or structural ambiguity and the way to disambiguate structural ambiguous sentence on President Donald Trump account of Instagram based on Paul Gorrell's theory.

## 2. Research Instrument

This research is a qualitative research, then the instrument of this research is taken from the researcher himself or called as human instrument. It means that the researcher himself who did reading Instagram captions. The researcher is the main instrument, thus he collects, analyses the data, and makes the result of this research.

## 3. Data and Data Source

The data were President Donald Trump's captions, especially in the form of structural ambiguous sentence and it could disambiguate. The data is from all captions on his Instagram account, then investigate and select the structural ambiguous sentence and the sentence could be disambiguated with the theory.

## 4. Data Collection

In this research, the researcher has some steps in collecting the data. First, I read all captions on Donald Trump Instagram. It makes me easier to recognize and grammatical categories on his sentence created. Second, I categorize the ambiguous sentences into lexical and structural ambiguities. Then, I select structural ambiguous



sentence that could be disambiguate. The last, I write and investigate structural ambiguous sentence.

## 5. Data Analysis

The results of data collection are very important as the tools to undertake this investigation. To continue this research, there are some steps to be done. First, the researcher decided on the scope of ambiguity in President Donald Trump's captions. Second, the researcher classified the ambiguous sentence into types of syntactic ambiguity. Third, the researcher disambiguated the types of structural or syntactic ambiguity on his account. Last, the researcher used the parsing strategy to investigate the syntactic ambiguity and construct a syntax tree. The parsing strategy is very precious and worthy of finding out of syntactic ambiguity.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter presents discussion of theories to spell out the analysis of the research. These theories include structural disambiguation which is extended to theories of structural disambiguation, types of ambiguity, and structural ambiguity.

#### A. Structural Disambiguation

In creating an utterance or sentence, many people try to create it as clear as possible in order to prevent misunderstanding and misinterpretation. However, the reality many people create or read sentence then bring out some understandings and interpretations. On the other hands, it means that a sentence could have some parses. As stated by Chruuch and Patit (1982: 140) a sentence could have some parses, if we do not realize about the semantic constraints. Thus, the understanding of semantics and discourse context are also important to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation. For example:

Robit is an English teacher.

The sentence above has more than one meaning and parse. It focuses on the phrase “an English teacher” as the compliment of the sentence. The sentence could be two interpretation and parses, it depends on the context. It means that, it could be interpreted *Robit is a teacher who teaches English* or *Robit is an English teacher who comes from England*. From the example, it could be known that an ambiguity is not from lack of understanding of semantic and syntax theories but also discourse context.

Further, the defining of some parses in an English sentence needs some knowledge and consideration. To find some parsers or choose the preferred parses in each particular case, we also need to understand about word knowledge, semantic, and discourse context. They could help to find the one preferred parse in each particular case of structural ambiguity. Thus, in this study I develop method of structural disambiguation put forwarded by Fodor. The structural disambiguation was needed when a sentence had more than one possible parse. A sentence is structurally ambiguous surely has the ambiguous region (Gorrel, 1995: 44). Thus, the ambiguous region refers to the area of ambiguity that occurs in the sentence. Then, the type of ambiguity of the sentence is determined by the ambiguous region. From these, structural disambiguation and structural ambiguity are related each other. Furthermore, the theory is proposed in this study would present into two sections: type of ambiguity and how to disambiguate ambiguous sentence.

### **1. Types of Structural Ambiguity**

Structural ambiguity also called as syntactic ambiguity that it could happens anytime when a sequence of word or sentence could map to multiple syntactic configurations and has multiple meanings (Nadzeya Kiyavitskaya, 2008). Then, the focus of this research is to disambiguate some ambiguous sentence and find the type of structural ambiguity. Thus, syntactic ambiguity could be distinguished or categorized into four items, as follows an attachment, analytical, coordination, and elliptical ambiguity(Zimmer, 2016). Those types of structural ambiguity would be described and explained below.

## 2. Attachment Ambiguity

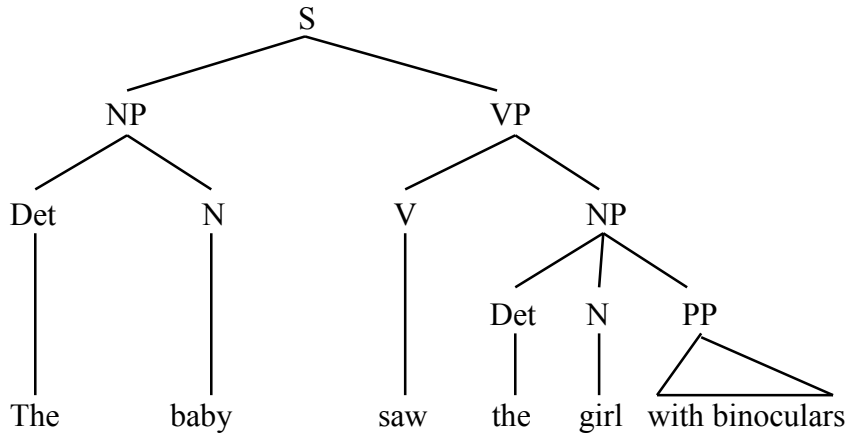
The first type of structural ambiguity is an **attachment ambiguity**. It happens when a particular syntactic constituent of a sentence, such as a prepositional phrase or relative clause, could be legally attached to two parts of a sentence. This category is also divided into three types: prepositional phrase attachment ambiguity, reduced relative clause attachment ambiguity, and prenominal adjective attachment ambiguity (Zimmer, 2016).

The first type is **prepositional phrase attachment ambiguity**, it occurs when a prepositional phrase at the end of transitive sentence could attach either to the verb phrase as an instrument or the local noun phrase as modifier. It would be shown as follows:

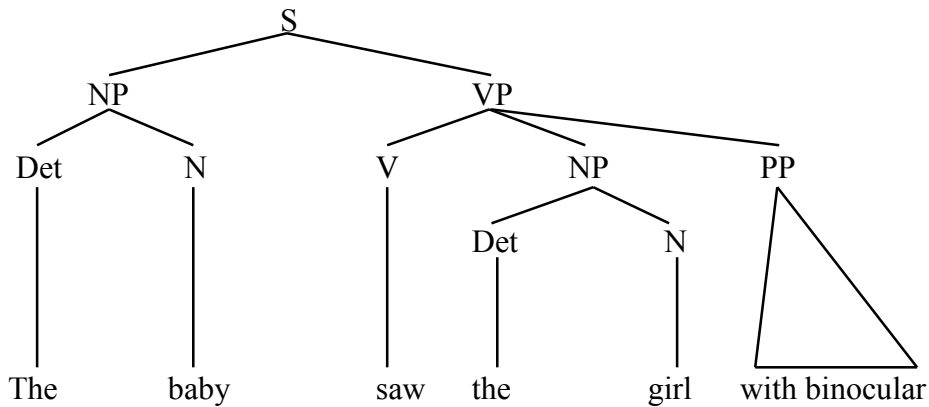
The baby saw the girl with binoculars.

The sentence has two meanings and parsers. It depends on the prepositional phrase *with binoculars*. If the PP *with binoculars* attaches to the local noun phrase, it means that The baby saw the girl who has binoculars. Therefore, it would be interpreted as The baby used binoculars to see the girl, if the PP attaches to the VP. The parsers are described below.

1) NP-attachment



1. NP-attachment



The second type is **reduced relative clause attachment ambiguity** (RC ambiguity hereafter), it also has the same function with PP ambiguity where it attaches at the end of a sentence either to the VP or the local NP. For instance:

The student saw the girl using binoculars.

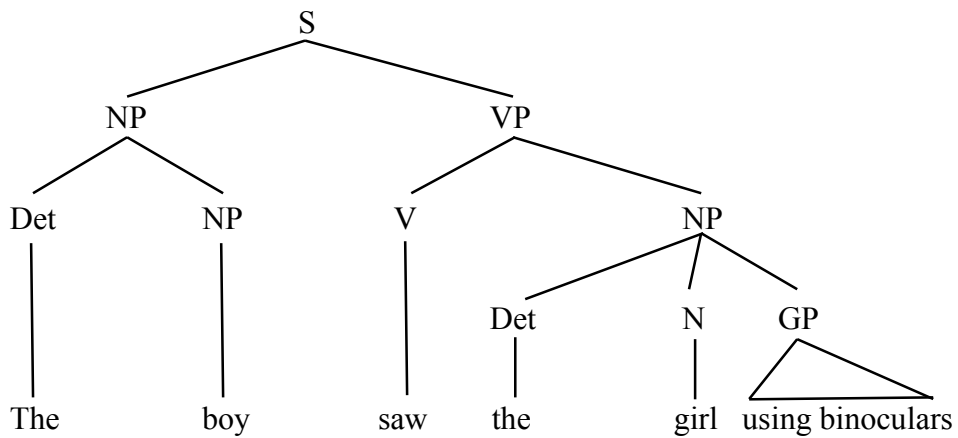
The sentence above also has two interpretations. First, it could be translated as The student saw the girl who was using binoculars. It is caused the RC *using binoculars* attaches to the local NP. Second, when the RC *using binoculars* attaches to the VP, it would bring out a

meaning that The student used binoculars to see the girl. Thus, to understand the difference between RC and PP

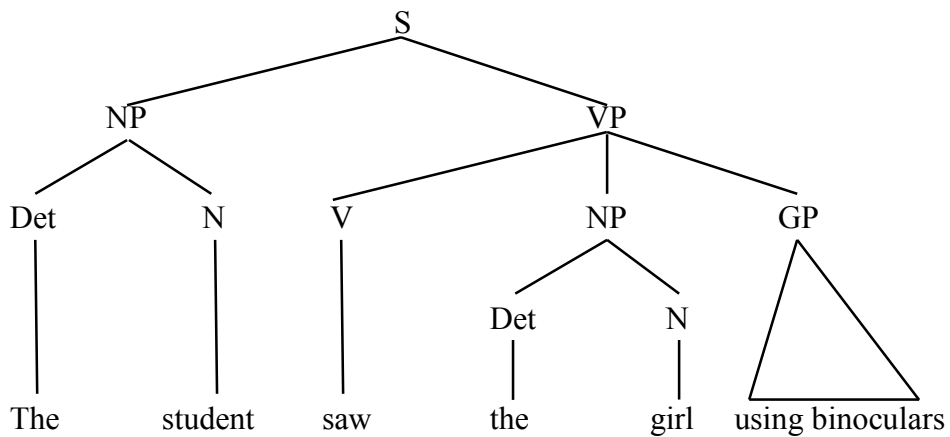
ambiguities are the RC ambiguity is bi-clausal and considered more complex than PP ambiguity.

The structures would be shown below.

### 2. NP-attachment



### 3. VP-attachment

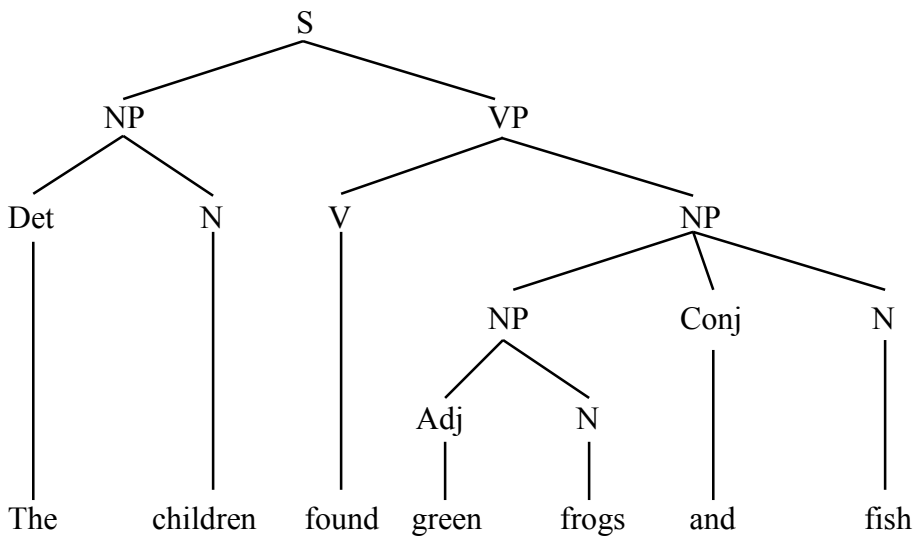


The last type of attachment ambiguity is **prenominal adjective ambiguity** (adjective ambiguity hereafter). It happens when an adjective precedes a conjoined NP, for instance.

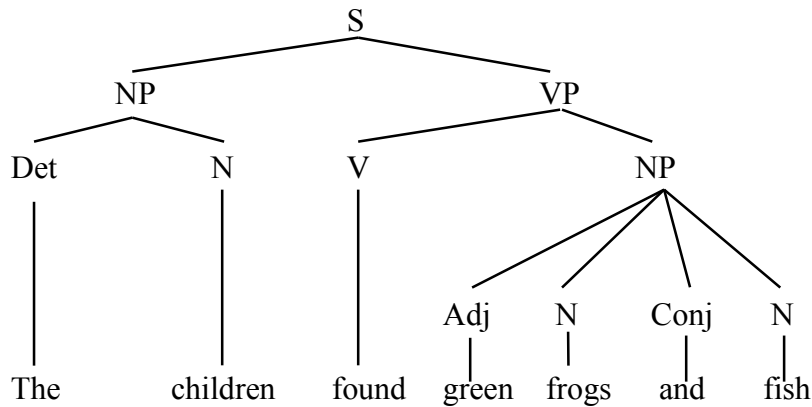
The children found green frogs and fish.

The word *green frogs and fish* is as adjective ambiguity. The word *green* is the head where it could modify the conjoined *frogs and fish*. Thus, it could be interpreted that the frogs and fish must be green, or only the first noun *frogs* is green, and the fish could be any color. The parsers or structures are shown below.

4. Only first noun is modified



5. Whole conjoined NP is modified



### 3. Analytical Ambiguity

This analytical ambiguity occurs when the role of the constituents within a phrase, clause, and sentence is ambiguous. On the other hand, there is more than one possible analysis in its utterance, thus it could occur when the nature of the constituent is in doubt. Clearly, it would make two uncertainties may occur together, though often resolving one will resolve the other.

For example:

- a. The students objected to the teacher that they could not hear.
- b. The students signaled to the teacher that they could not hear.

In (a), the preference is that the clause *that they couldn't hear* is a relative clause modifying *the teacher*; in (b), the preference is that it is sentential complement and modifies *signal*.

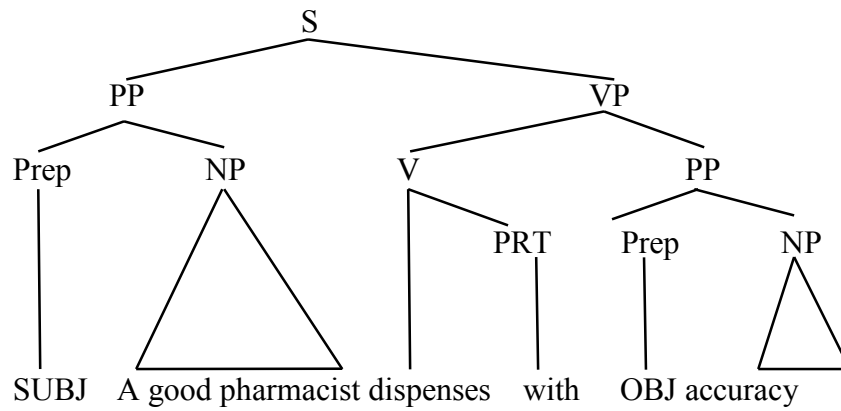
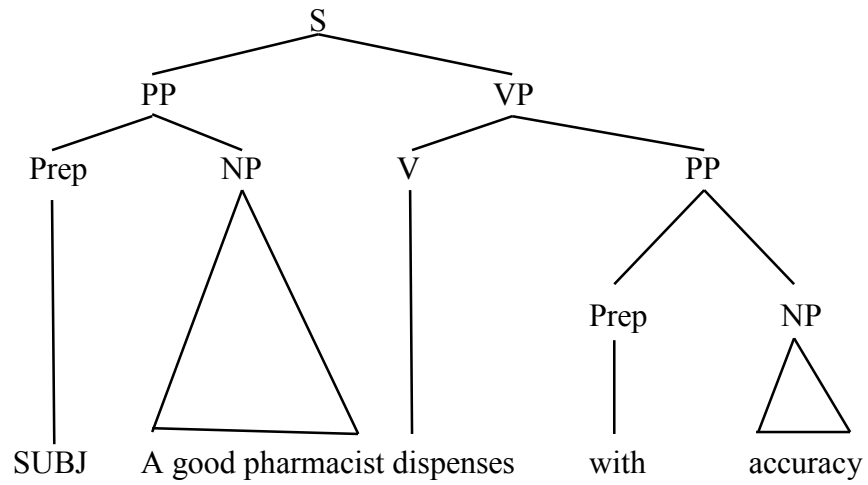
In English offers many opportunities for analytical ambiguity. Here are examples of some others .

1. Particle detection is a preposition functioning as a verb particle or as part of a prepositional phrase ?

- a. A good pharmacist dispenses with accuracy.

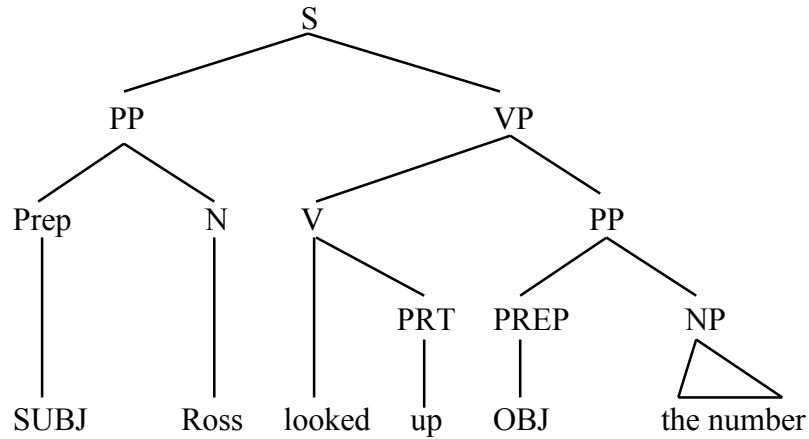
*(i.e. The way a good pharmacist dispenses is with accuracy, or What a good pharmacist dispenses with is accuracy.).*





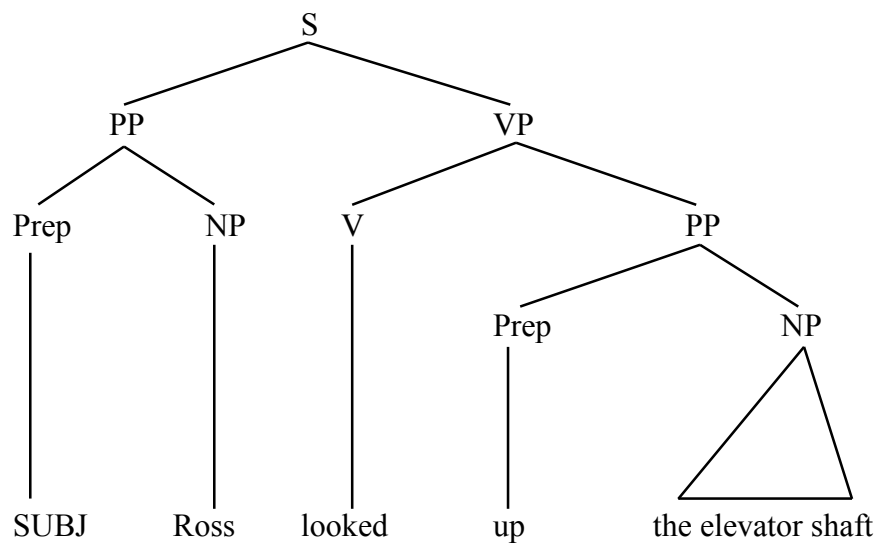
b. Ross looked up the number.

(i.e. *What Ross looked up was the number.*)



c. Ross looked up the elevator shaft.

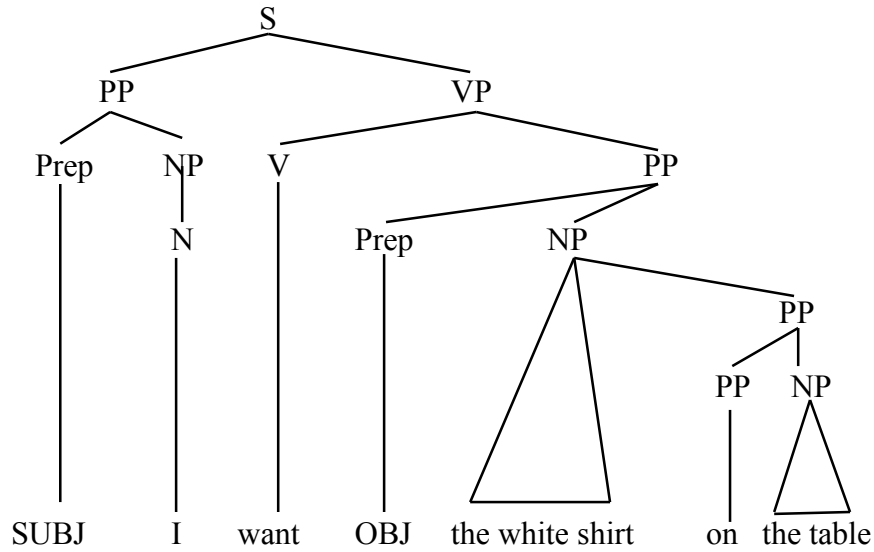
*(i.e. Where Ross looked was up the elevator shaft)*



Marking of a simple prepositional phrase from one that is actually an adjective phrase left after raising and to-be-deletion have been applied to a verb complement, as follow:

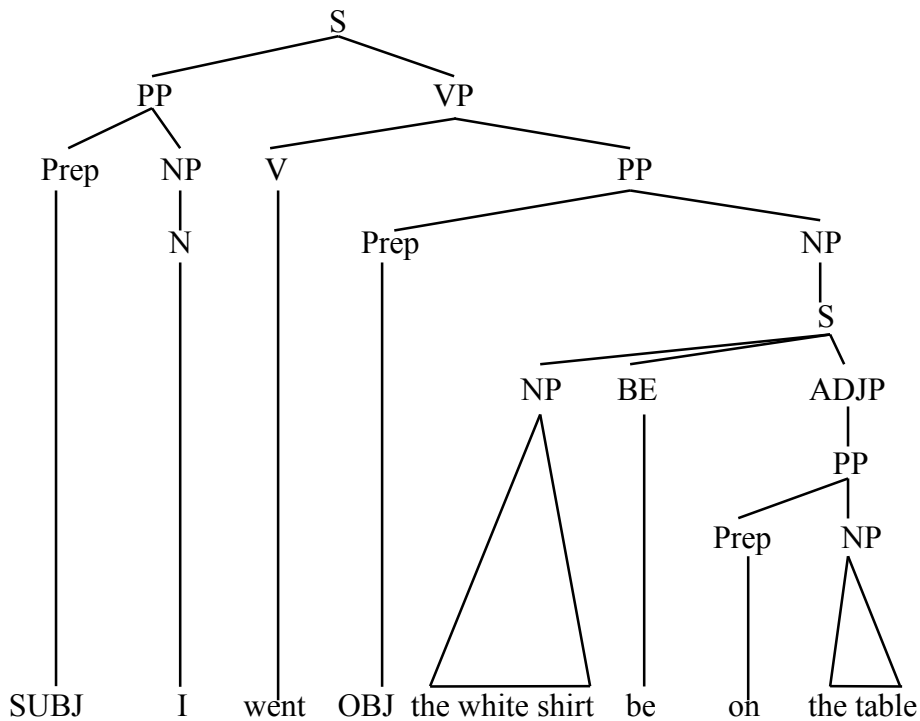
- a. "You could take the white shirt that is in the cupboard or the one that is on the table," said Mike. "I want the white shirt on the table," said Khabib.

*(i.e. I want the white shirt that is on the table)*



- b. "I put the white shirt on the mantelpiece. Is that okay?" asked Ross. "No," said Nadia, "I want the white shirt on the table."

(i.e., *I want the white shirt to be on the table.*)

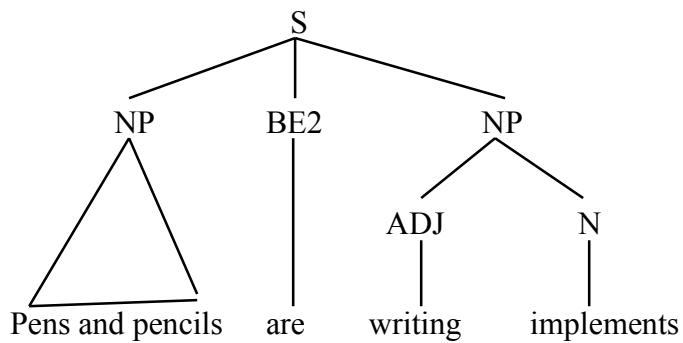
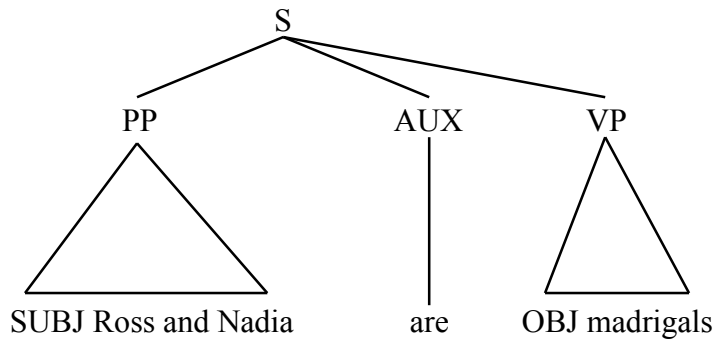


2. Distinguishing a present participle from an adjective:

- a. Ross and Nadia are singing madrigals .

b. Pens and pencils are writing implements .

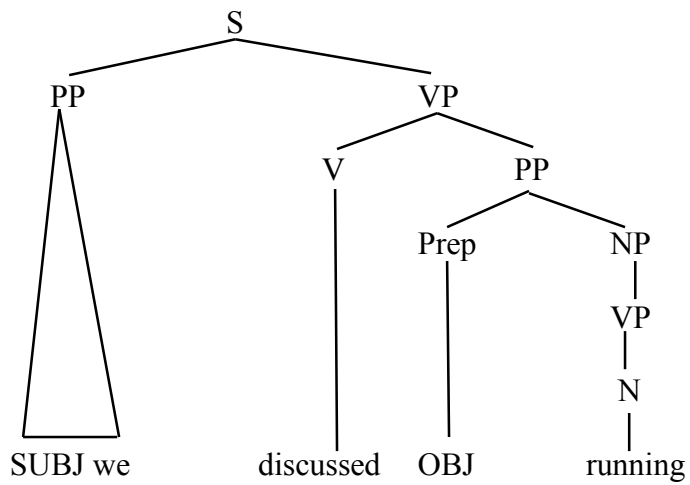
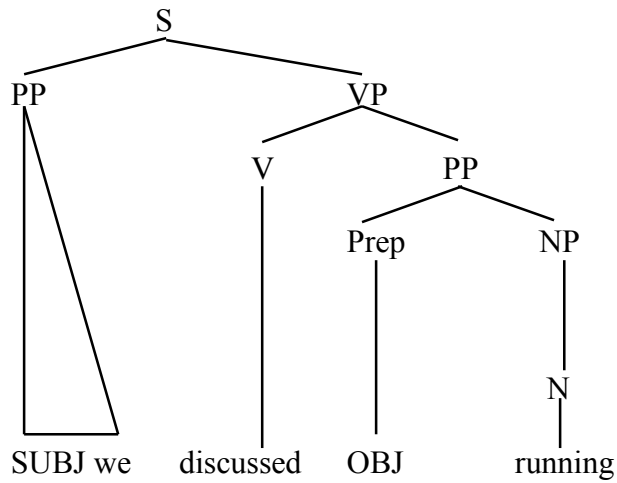
These are the contrasting parses:



3. Distinguishing between a present participle and a noun. This example is from Ford, Bresnan, and Kaplan (1982):

a. We discussed running .

*(i.e., We discussed the sport of running, or We discussed the possibility of our running .)*



In the first, running is a DEVERBAL NOUN; that is, it has noun properties: it can take determiners, adjectives, and PP complements, but not NP complements (Marilyn Ford, 1982):

- b. We discussed the excessive running of races.
- c. \*We discussed not excessive running.
- d. \*We discussed the excessive running races.

In the second parse, it is a present participle or VERBAL NOUN, with verb properties: it can take adverbs, not, and direct NP objects:

e. We discussed not running races excessively.

4. Detecting the end of a noun group. Two contiguous noun phrases can appear to be a single one. Compare:

a. Ross gave the dog some water, and Nadia gave the cat food.

b. Ross gave the shampoo, and Nadia give the cat food.

Those are the alternative parses for the second of the conjoined clauses. As follows:

c. To handle participles, we must first, obviously, add to the grammar rules that will recognize the possibility that a preposition is functioning as a particle and will ask the SED for an opinion if necessary.

The string the grammar rules that will recognize the possibility that a preposition is functioning as a particle is actually two separate NPs, with the separation after the word grammar, but this is not apparent until the second occurrence of will, by which time recovery is very difficult. (It is also possible to read the grammar rules that will recognize the possibility that a preposition is functioning as a particle and will ask the SED for an opinion if necessary as a single, stylistically bad, NP.)

One particular instance of this kind of ambiguity occurs when the first of two consecutive nouns can be analyzed as an adjective. The result is often a garden path:

d. The cotton clothing is made from comes from Mississippi.

*(i.e., The cotton from which clothing is made comes from Mississippi.)*

5. A reduced relative clause can appear to be the VP of the matrix sentence. This leads to the classic garden path:

- a. The laptop took on the table.

*(i.e., The laptop that was taken on the table)*

- 6. Determining the structure of a complex noun group, including modifier scope. It is well known that noun groups can have a complex internal structure. For example:

- a. AIRPORT LONG TERM CAR PARK COURTESY  
VEHICLE PICKUP POINT

This has the structure shown below with a very complicated semantic relationship holding between the elements:

- b. [[[airport [[long term] [car park]]] [courtesy vehicle]] [pickup point]]

The relationships possible between the elements of a complex noun group are many and wonderful, and generally rely heavily on pragmatics and world knowledge. Levi (1978) points out that the problem is compounded by adjectives in a noun group that can be functioning as nouns instead of adjectives.

- 7. Participles and adjectivals can be particularly troublesome when they occur at the end of a clause. It is not even clear exactly when they engender an ambiguity, and there seem to be wide idiolectic differences. Consider following examples, where small caps indicate stress (Randolph Quirk, 1972):

- a. The manager approached me, smiling
- b. The manager approached me smiling

In both sentences, it is the manager, not the speaker, who is smiling. These seem best treated as a supplementary clause (Randolph Quirk, 1972), parsed as being derived from the following example, a conjunction of two main clauses:

c. The manager approached me, and he was smiling.

The same analysis seems correct for clause-final adjectivals, which (Randolph Quirk, 1972) regard as verbless supplementary clauses:

d. The manager approached us full of apologies.

e. He drove the damaged car home undismayed.

Two types of ambiguity can arise from this. The first occurs when the subject and the object of the matrix sentence both could be the subject of the supplementary; informants found two following sentences ambiguous as to who was leaving the room and who was going home:

f. We met him leaving the room.

g. I saw him going home.

Compare also:

h. He drove the car home undismayed. (*the driver was undismayed*).

i. He brought the car back undamaged. (*the car was undamaged*).

The second type of ambiguity arises when the participle, instead of being a supplementary, could be attached to the object NP either as a reduced restrictive relative clause or as a verb complement:



- j. The manager approached the boy smoking a cigar.  
(i.e., *The manager, smoking a cigar, approached the boy, or The boy smoking a cigar was approached by the manager.*)
- k. The manager caught the boy smoking a cigar.  
(i.e., *The manager caught the boy in the act of smoking a cigar, or The manager caught the boy who was smoking a cigar (but the boy smoking a pipe escaped)*)

Note the difference between (j) and (k): in (j) smoking a cigar can be supplementive—the manager was smoking—but not a verb complement; in (k), the verb complement reading is available (since catch, unlike approach, can take a complement), but the supplementive reading is not.

This leads us into the murk surrounding clause-final participles. The problem can be seen in the sentences with alleged participle attachment problems that were used in Oden’s experiments on ambiguous sentences (1978):

- l. A boy saw a pilot driving to the airport

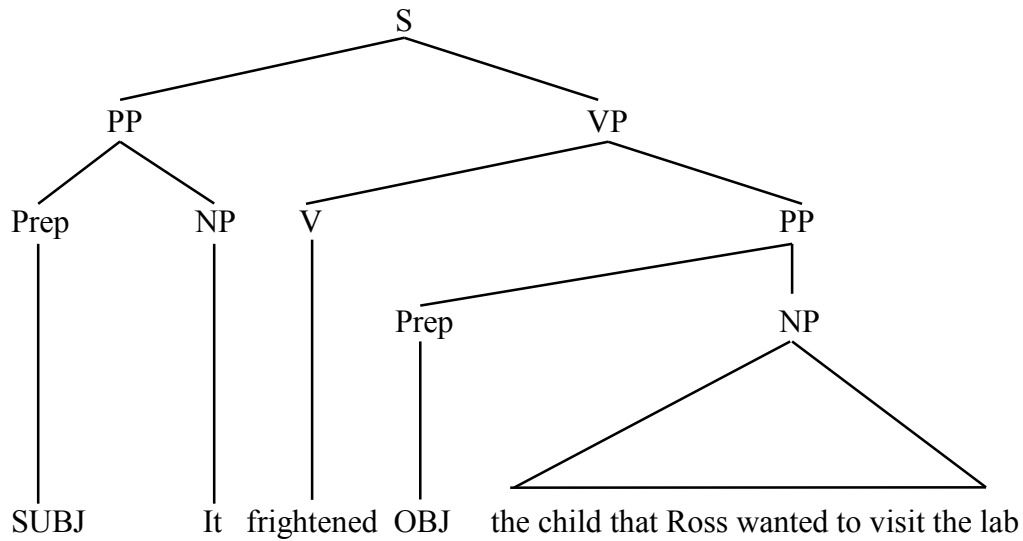
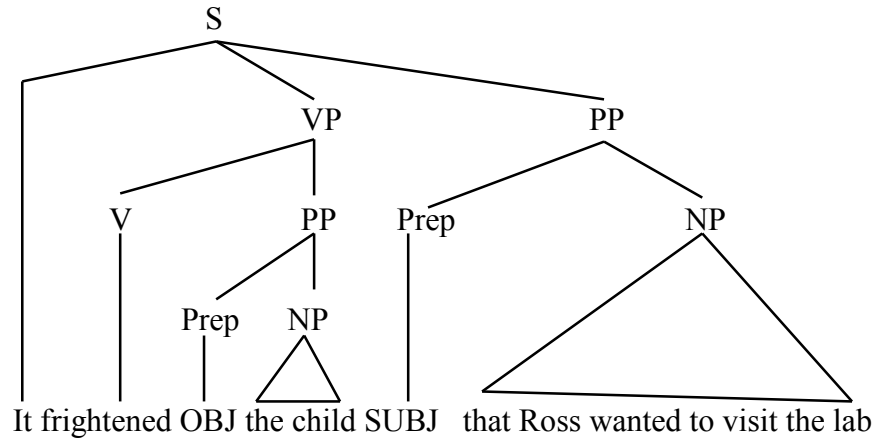
Supposedly, the boy or the pilot could have been driving to the airport. However, the former interpretation requires a comma after pilot, and even then is highly deprecated usage; hence we find the well-known example:

- m. I saw the Grand Canyon flying to the New York.

But, as we have seen, clause-final participles CAN be supplementive, with the subject of the sentence as their elided subject, even without a guiding comma. It is unclear to me why this reading should be blocked in (l) and (m).

- 8. Apparent cleft sentences may also admit a non-cleft subject-verb-object analysis. Thus, the example of the two parses would be shown below.

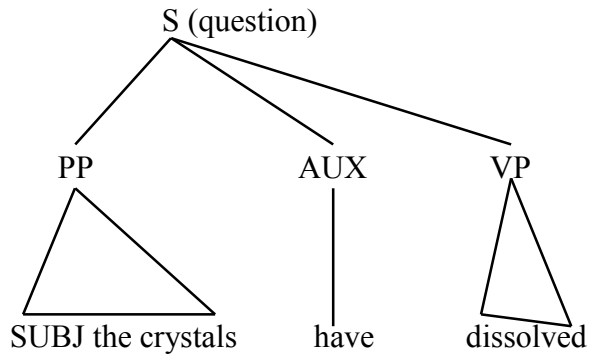
a. It frightened the child that Ross wanted to visit the lab.



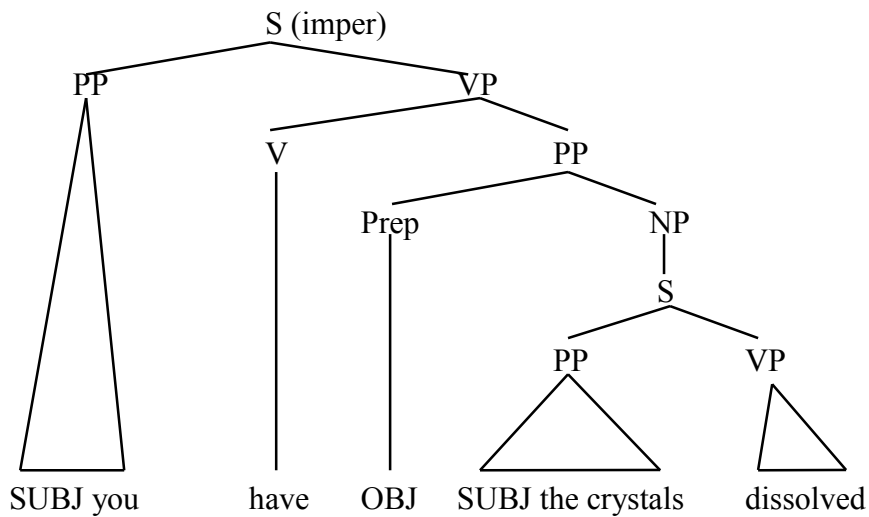
The corresponding meanings are that Ross wanted to visit the lab frightened the child (the cleft analysis), and the child, whom Ross wanted to visit the lab, was frightened by X, where X is some entity in the discourse focus (the subject-verb-object analysis).

9. In a few cases, a past participle can look like a gapped VP, rendering a question indistinguishable, but for punctuation or intonation, from a command:

a. Have the crystals dissolved?



b. Have the crystals dissolved.



10. There are at least four different structures that can underlie sentences of the form NP be ADJ to V, reflecting various ways that predicate may have been formed. The following examples are well known:

a. George is eager to please.  
*(i.e., George is be [eager [George please  $\emptyset$ ]]; George is eager that he please someone.)*

- b. Valencia is ideal to please.  
(i.e., *Valencia be [ideal [Ø please Valencia]]*; *Valencia is ideal for someone to please him.*)
- c. Thor is easy to please.  
(i.e., *[Ø please Thor] be easy*; *pleasing Ross is easy.*)
- d. Michael is certain to please.  
(i.e., *[Michael please Ø] be certain*; *that Ross will please someone is certain.*)

The correct parse is not always determined uniquely by the adjective and verb, as the ambiguity of (2-66) shows; it may be parsed like (2-62) or like (2-63):

- e. The horse is ready to eat.  
(i.e., *The horse is ready to eat something*, or *the horse is ready to be eaten.*)

#### 4. Gap Finding and Filling

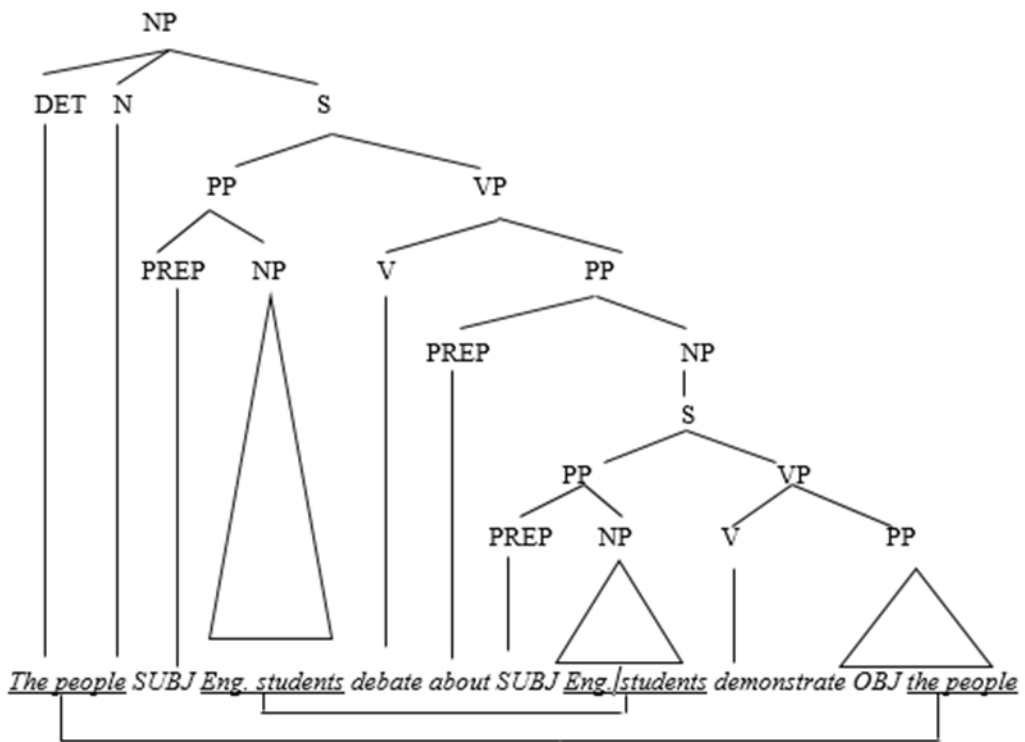
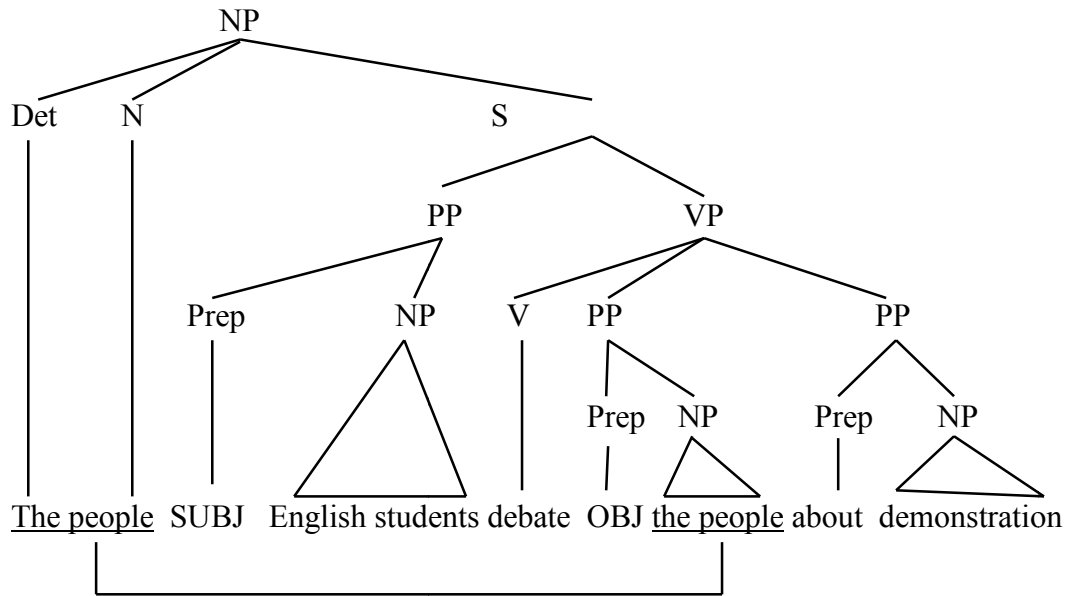
Gap finding ambiguities occur when a moved constituent has to be returned to its pre-transformational starting point, and there is more than one place that it might go (Hirst, 1987). For instance:

- a. Those are the people that English students debated about demonstration.

In this sentence, there are two possible gaps in the relative clause (which is denoted by “\*”) that the relative pronoun (whose referent is underlined) might fill:

- b. Those are the people that English students debated \*about demonstration\*.

Taking the first gap gives the meaning that English students debated with the people on the topic of demonstration. Meanwhile, the second gives English students debated (among themselves) about demonstration holded by the people. The corresponding parses are shown below.



The constituent that is moved into a gap is a *wh-*—either a relative pronoun, as in (b). Or a question *wh-*, as in this example:

- c. Which people did English students debate *\*about demonstration\**?

The gap to which the filler belongs may be a case slot at the same level as the *wh-*, as in the examples of the previous paragraph, or it may be a case slot of a subsentence from which it has been raised, as in (c) (based on an example from Frazier, Clifton, and Randall, 1983):

- d. Mary is the student whom the teacher wanted *\*to talk to the principal.*

This can lead to complication when two items—the *wh-* and another constituent—have been raised from the subsentence, and each must be matched with the corresponding gap. Thus in (d), which is the same as (c) but for the addition of an extra case at the end, the gap after *wanted* takes the teacher instead of the *wh-*, and the *wh-* now fills the new case slot:

- e. Mary is the student whom the teacher wanted *\*to talk to the principal about\**.

## **B. Structural Ambiguity as a Closure Problem**

Another way to look at many structural ambiguities is to view them as closure problems (Ford, Bresnan, and Kaplan 1982). In parsing, a constituent of the parse tree is said to be OPEN if it has not been declared complete, and so other constituents may still be attached to it. When constituent is complete, it is CLOSED, and that sub tree may no longer be changed. In English, it is almost always true that if several constituents are open, then the attachment of another constituent to one of them causes the closure of all open constituents at a lower level of the tree.

For example, suppose (a) has been parsed up to the point marked by the vertical bar, with the partial parse shown in (b):

- a. Nadia told the man with the limp | about Ross's indiscretion.
- b. [<sub>S</sub> [<sub>NP</sub>Nadia][<sub>VP</sub><sub>V</sub>told] [<sub>NP</sub>[<sub>DET</sub>the][<sub>N</sub>man][<sub>PP</sub> [<sub>PREP</sub>with][<sub>NP</sub> [<sub>DET</sub>the][<sub>N</sub>limp] | about Ross's indiscretion.

At this point, the open constituents are the S, VP, NP, PP, and the second NP that agree as yet missing their right brackets; the closed constituents are the NP Nadia, the V, and both DETs. Now let us suppose that the parse proceeds, and a PP is built from the words about Ross's indiscretion. This PP has to be attached somewhere, and the candidates are exactly those constituents that are still open. Clearly, the "correct" choice is the VP, and performing this attachment has the side-effect of closing all those constituents that are dominated by this VP, namely the two NPs and the PP. The VP itself, and the S that dominates it, are not closed. To show that the NPs and PP are closed, we need only show the inadmissibility of sentences that attempt a subsequent attachment to them:

- c. Nadia told the man with the limp about Ross's indiscretion due to gout.  
(*i.e.*, *the limp that was due to gout*).
- d. Nadia told the man with the limp about Ross's indiscretion that she met at the Laundromat.  
(*i.e.*, *the man with the limp that she met at the Laundromat*).

There are a couple of minor counterexamples to the above generalizations. The first is that under certain circumstances a noun phrase that contains an NP-like quantifier phrase can be split in two (Lehrer), thus all the following are generally considered acceptable:

- e. A number of stories about Watergate soon appeared.
- f. A number of stories soon appeared about Watergate.

- g. A sizable herd of large African elephants was discovered last year.
- h. A sizable herd was discovered last year of large African elephants.

In parsing such splits require the initial noun phrase to be reopened when its second part is discovered. The second, more tenuous, counterexample is the possibility in some idiolects of breaking a modifier off a subject NP and placing it further down sentence:

- i. Are you good men and true?
- j. Many students failed that were expected not to.

Such sentences are, strictly, ill-formed. They seem to be least bad in cases such as the ones just given, where none of the open constituents permit the attachment of the new one, so a closed one has to be reopened. Compare:

- k. Are you good men with no serious criminal record and true?
- l. Many students failed the comprehensive exams that were expected not to.

Awkward counterexamples aside, it can be seen that attachment disambiguation is equivalent to deciding which open constituents should be closed. That is, instead of saying that we close all constituents below the chosen point of attachment, we can say that we attach at the lowest level that we have chosen not to close. This view also accounts for many analytical ambiguities, insofar as determining the attachment point will often eliminate all but one analysis—this is the case with the examples (k) and (l) above even before the ambiguous constituent has been analyzed. One of the disambiguation methods we will look at in the next section that of Ford, Bresnan, and Kaplan (1982), works by trying to decide which constituents should be closed. Clearly, gap-finding ambiguities cannot in general be resolved by closure decisions, nor could analytical ambiguities such as present



participles that look like adjectives, or vice versa. Nevertheless, it happens that the closure decision mechanism of Ford, Bresnan, and Kaplan is also helpful in gap finding.

### C. Theories of Structural Disambiguation

Here are approaches to the resolution of structural ambiguities by a parser. They are described as follows:

#### 1. Structural Disambiguation in Marcus Parser

A Marcus parser cannot back up when we make a choice between two alternative paths but have no way of knowing the validity of either, we choose one at random and if the path is detected as ill-formed, the parser would not back up and not to try another path. Marcus parser must therefore detect structural ambiguity whenever it arises and decide immediately and irrevocably which alternative is better. As Marcus (1980) points out that it has advantage that the judgment can be comparative. It means that a Marcus parser can take the better alternative instead of being happy with the first minimally accepted one it finds.

Marcus's Parsifal parse is a way of disambiguation in which semantics is used to guide the parse. It is used for deciding on prepositional phrase attachments and finding the structure in noun-noun compounds, that is, in complex noun groups with no adjectives. Marcus's algorithm uses a buffer three items long which  $[N_2 \ N_3] [N_1 \ N_2]$ . It means that  $N_3$  attaches to  $N_2$  which is attached to  $N_1$ . For example:

- a. A coast near a small village with welcome board.

$N_1$  is *a coast*

N<sub>2</sub> is *a small village*

N<sub>3</sub> is *welcome board*

Thus, it can be interpreted as [a coast [near [small village [with [welcome board]]]]]].

## 2. Ford, Bresnan, Kaplan's Theory of Closure

Ford, Bresnan, and Kaplan (hereafter FBK) (1982) propose a closure theory based on lexical preference. An important principle of the theory is that of the final expected argument: in the parsing of the structure that is to become the last of the expected cases, closure is delayed as long as possible, so that as much of the rest of the sentence as possible is swallowed up into that case; if the structure being parsed is not the last one expected, then closure is early. After the final expected argument is closed, attachment to the VP continues to have low priority. For example, FBK mark VP (discuss and keep) as:

[AGENT discuss PATIENT]

[AGENT keep PATIENT STATE]

In such examples:

- a. The women discuss the dogs on the beach.

In this sentence, the dogs is the final expected case, so closure of the NP is delayed, and the PP that follows (on the beach) gets sucked into it.

- b. The women keep the dogs on the beach.

Meanwhile, in this sentence, the dogs is not the last expected case, so it is closed immediately.

This theory accounts not only for attachment ambiguity, but also some analytic ambiguity. Consider again another mark such as:

[AGENT object to PATIENT]

[AGENT signal PATIENT MESSAGE]

[AGENT warn PATIENT about OBJECT]

[AGENT warn about OBJECT]

[AGENT debate about OBJECT]

[AGENT debate PATIENT about OBJECT]

[AGENT catch PATIENT]

[AGENT sell PATIENT LOCATION]

[AGENT defeat PATIENT MANNER]

[AGENT grab PATIENT MANNER]

Another suggestion for attachment ambiguity is shown as follows. This crucially assumes that noun phrase with PP modifiers are parsed as in (c) rather than (d):

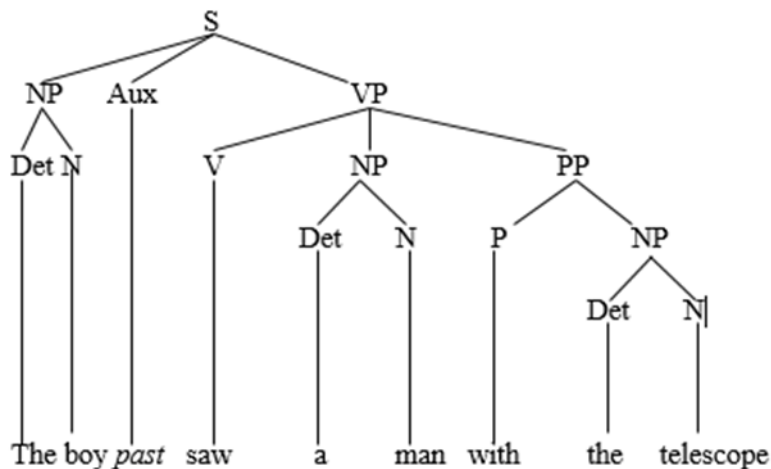
c. [NP [NP the noun phrase] [PP with [NP the prepositional phrase]]].

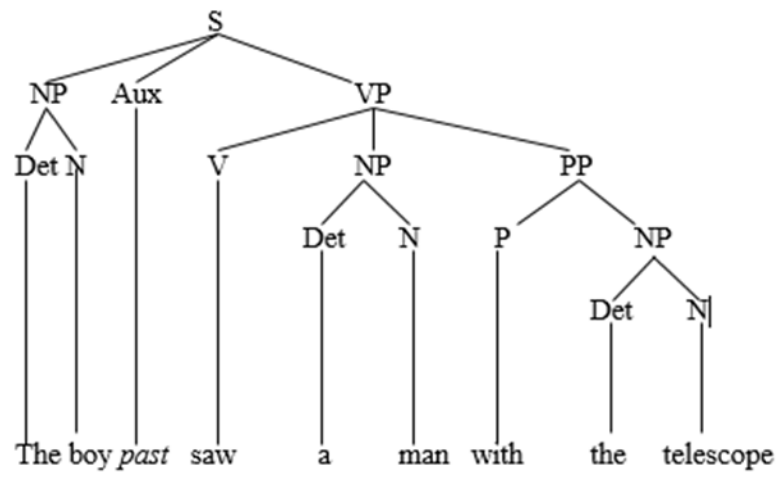
d. [NP the noun phrase [PP with [NP the prepositional phrase]]]

However, Hirst (1987) argues that an analysis for disambiguation is depending on the sentence itself.

## D. Structural Ambiguity

Syntactical ambiguity (or structural ambiguity) is a subtopic in syntax in which a sentence is composed of the rules of grammatical structure. Syntactical ambiguity is a situation where a sentence may have more than one possible structure (Valin, 2004; 114). Meanwhile, Kikusawa (1997) claims that a structural ambiguous structure refers to the kind of structure that could be analyzed in more than one way within a single grammatical framework. In other word, in perspectives of English syntax, it has two different underlying interpretations which may be represented differently in the immediate constituent structure. An instance is “The boy saw a man with the telescope”, it can be represented differently in immediate constituent structure. A phrase ‘with the telescope’ (PP) may refer to either ‘the boy’ (expanded from VP) or ‘a man’ (expanded from NP2). This unclear sentence makes the syntactic ambiguity arises.





## CHAPTER III

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the analysis of data based on theoretical framework as written in the previous chapter, and discussion based on the analysis of the data findings to explain the research concerned. The findings of this research were discussed based on the President Donald Trump's Caption on Instagram by applying theory structural disambiguation proposed by Paull Gorrell's theory.

#### A. Findings

This chapter covers two items, the findings and data analysis of the research. The data of this research were taken and obtained from Donald Trump's Caption from September to October. For two months, the researcher obtained 6 Captions which had or related to structural ambiguity, whereas the other captions were not relation with the topic of this research.

The data which were analyzed consisted of 7 datatoken from September to October of Donald J. Trump's caption. The explanation of the analysis was started by presenting the previous posts or captions from September to the most recent ones on October. In order to make the presentation easy to understand, the researcher made separation for each caption or text. It was symbolized in alphabet such as A, B, C, etc., then each datum that was consisted of structural ambiguity from the sentence of the caption was presented in numerical order such as A-1, B-2, C- 3, etc. Each datum was identified relating to the research questions, i.e. types of ambiguity such as *Attachment Ambiguity* happens when a particular

syntactic constituent of a sentence, such as a prepositional phrase or relative clause, could be legally attached to two parts of a sentence, *Analytical Ambiguity* occurs when the role of the constituents within a phrase, clause, and sentence is ambiguous, *Gap finding ambiguities* occur when a moved constituent has to be returned to its pre-transformational starting point, and there is more than one place that it might go, and how to disambiguate it. The data analyses were discussed in detail as follows:

### 1. Caption on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020



My son, Donald, just wrote a really important new book, "Liberal Privilege", talking, with great knowledge, of our world today. Let's make him a number one bestseller, again!

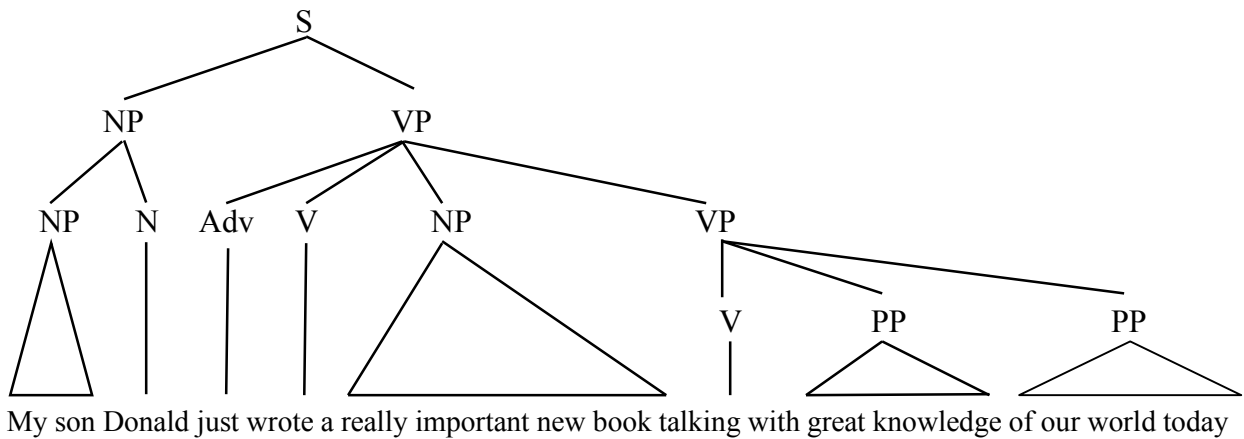
#### Datum A-1

My son, Donald, just wrote a really important new book, "Liberal Privilege", *talking*, with great knowledge.

In this caption stated that the son of Donald just finished writing of his new book with great knowledge entitled "Liberal Privilege", and it invites us to buy the book in order the book becomes the best seller again. This is related to the picture posted on his account, the picture is the cover of the book. Then, if the caption is read at a glance, it does not look like ambiguity. However, it consists of ambiguity, where the area of

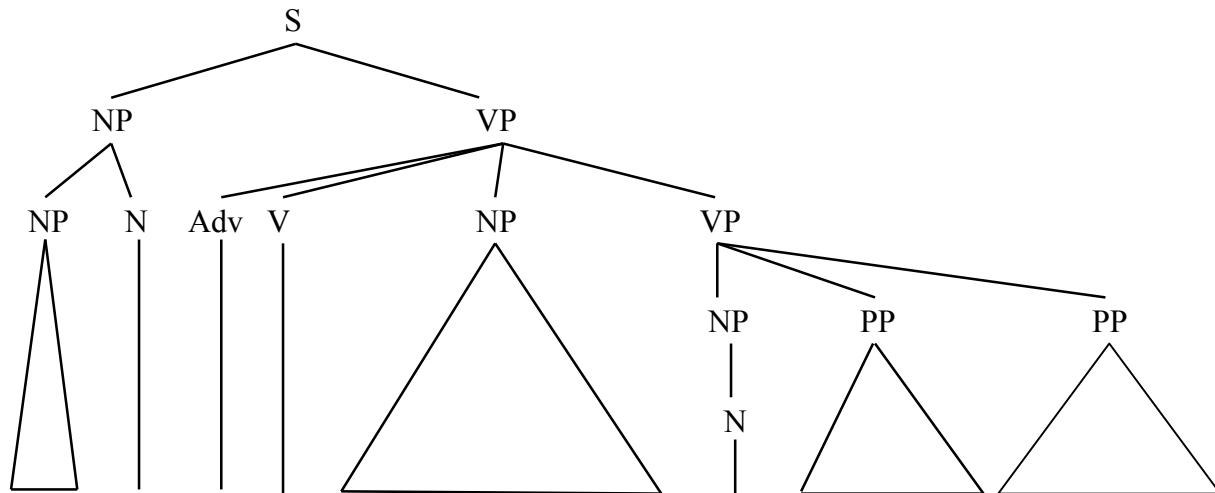
ambiguity of the sentence above is the word *talking*. Since, the word *talking* shows two functions, as present participle or noun. Thus, it is categorized as **analytical ambiguity**. The word *talking* would be distinguished as **present participle** or **noun** of the sentence above. First, the word *talking* would be as **present participle** or **verbal noun**, if it is preceded with verb properties: it could be attached by conjunction, auxiliary verb, and noun phrase. Second, it would be as **noun** or **deverbal noun**, if it has noun properties such as prepositional phrase, adjective, determiner, and etc. could be as Thus, the sentence above could be two possible or alternative parses, as below:

(1-1)



(1-2)



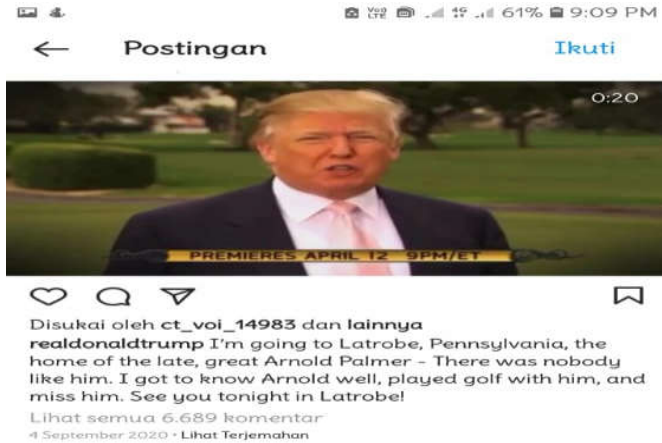


My son Donald just wrote a really important new book talking with great knowledge of our world today

- (1) My son, Donald, just wrote a really important new book, “Liberal Privilege” was talking, with great knowledge.
- (2) My son, Donald, just wrote a really important new book, “Liberal Privilege”, talking with great knowledge.

Depending on the meaning and structure, those sentences are different. The first sentence gives meaning that My son, Donald was talking with great knowledge in his new book, whereas the second sentence gives meaning that the new book “Liberal Privilege”. The disambiguation is done by referring to the context and the arrangement of structure.

## 2. Caption on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020



I'm going to Latrobe, Pennsylvania, the home of the late, great Arnold Palmer- There was nobody like him. I got to know Arnold well, played golf with him, and miss him. See you tonight in Latrobe!

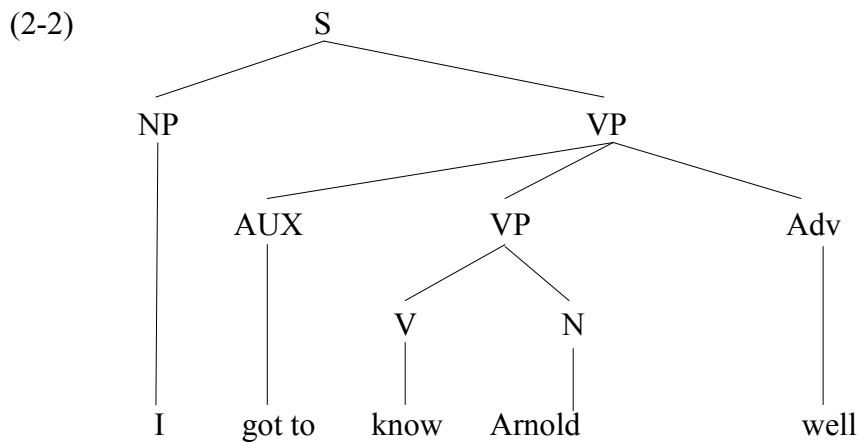
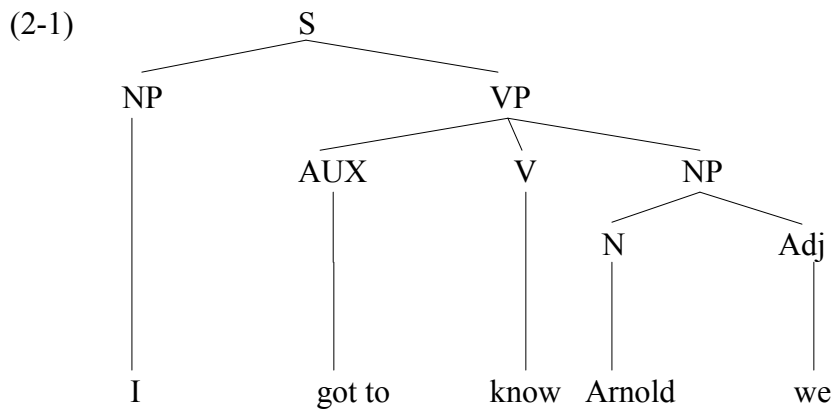
### Datum B-1

I got to know Arnold well.

In this caption explains about the journey of Donald J Trump to Latrobe, where in his trip he met with Arnold. Donald J Trump knew him well, it caused Donald Trump have played a golf with him and missed him. The caption above brought us to some confusions of the meaning of the sentence *I got to know Arnold well*. The sentence brought us to produce two meanings. This sentence is included in **attachment ambiguity** which the ambiguity is the problem of modifier placement. The area of ambiguity of the sentence above is *well*.

Based on the sentence, the prepositional phrase could be attached to an adjective phrase. The sentence raise structural ambiguity which leads to confusion whether *well* belongs to the verb *know* (attachment to verb phrase) or belongs to *Arnold* (attachment to

the adjective phrase). In other words, there are two possible parse which we can take from the sentence based on the meaning. First, the sentence gives meaning I got know well about Arnold. Second, the sentence gives meaning I got know that Arnold is well. The word well is confusing whether it attaches to verb or noun. This sentence could be shown in the following parses:



By referring to the context, it can be disambiguated through the concept of final expected argument. The final expected case is the N *Arnold*, while the closure is the

subject *I*. In the parsing of the structure that is to become the last of the expected cases, closure is delayed as long as possible, so that as much of the rest of the sentence as possible is swallowed up into that case. Thus, in this sentence, the last of expected case is *Arnold*, so closure of the subject *I* is delayed, and the adverb *well* that follows get sucked into the expected case *Arnold*. So that, it can be marked as:

[AGENT got to know [PATIENT STATE]]

Thus, it is clear that depending on the meaning for each parse of *I got to know Arnold well*, the second parse (2-2) or [*NP* he [*VP*got to know [*NP* [*N*Arnold] [*Adv.* well]]]] is preferred based on the Ford, Bresnan, and Kaplan's theory of closure, i.e. final expected argument.

### 3. Caption on 14 October 2020



Awesome bus tour around Florida with the legendary @gamebredfighter talking the perils of socialism and communism. Jorge's family story is an incredible one and he gets what the democrats plan is and know where that leads. It's honor to be in the fight with him.

**Datum C-1**

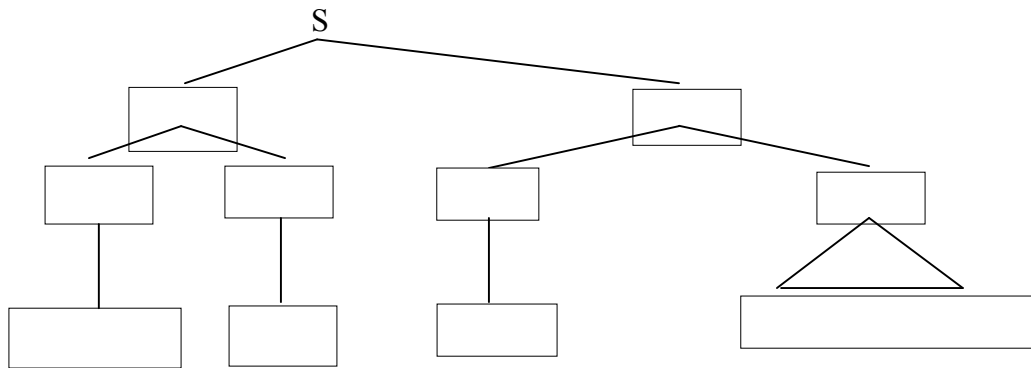
*Awesome bus tour around Florida* with the legendary @gamebredfighter talks the perils of socialism and communism.

In this caption, Donald Trump posted that he was awesome tour around Florida with the legendary of game bred fighter, where in tour is talking about the perils of socialism and communism. The sentence looks like ambiguity and it is included into **analytical ambiguity**, determining noun group structure. This case generally has a complicated semantics relationship. The sentence above has two possible parsers where the area of ambiguity in the phrase *Awesome bus tour around Florida*, namely the word *tour*. The word *tour* could modify either both the noun phrases or only the noun of *bus*. Therefore, in this case of ambiguity, then I need the semantic help to disambiguate the sentence. In Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary defines that *tour* is a journey made for pleasure during which several places are visited or as noun and travel around place or as verb. Thus, the disambiguation which needs semantic help produces two interpretations as follows:

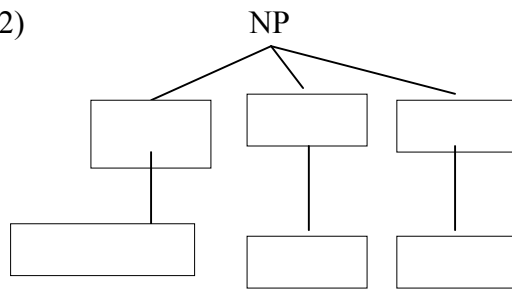
1. Awesome bus tours around Florida.
2. Awesome bus tour.

It could be a sentence and noun phrase. These are drawn in the following parse:

(3-1)



(3-2)



In this case of the elements of a complex noun group are many and generally rely heavily on semantics, pragmatics and word knowledge. As Levi (1978) points out that the problem is compounded by adjectives in a noun group that can be functioning as nouns instead of adjectives.

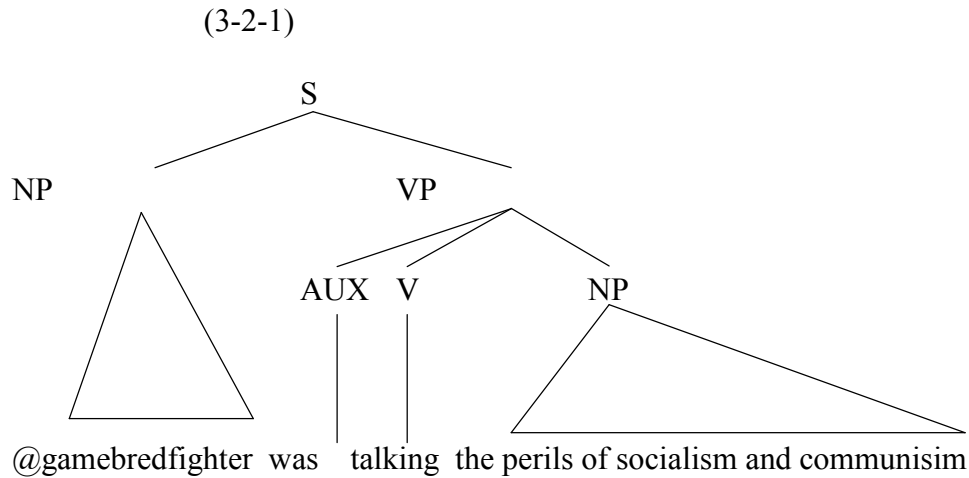
### Datum C-2

@gamebredfighter *talking* the perils of socialism and communism.

This sentence is also including in type of **analytical ambiguity**, in term of a reduced relative clause. In some cases of ambiguity, a relative clause could reduce and could appear to be the verb phrase of the matrix sentence. As the sentence above, the area of ambiguity is *talking*. The word *talking* could be analyzed into two categories, as noun

or as a present participle. However, the sentence above tends to show that the word *talking* as a present participle. This category depends on a garden path;

@gamebredfighter *that wastalking* the perils of socialism and communism.



From the tree diagrams, it shows that the disambiguation of the word *talking* is taking an auxiliary verb property before the present participle or verbal noun.

#### 4. Caption on 13<sup>rd</sup> October 2020



We deserve to know Biden and Kamala's position on key issues before the election.

### **Datum D-1**

We deserve to know Biden and Kamala's *position on key issues* before the election.

In the caption above showed a short video, which the video presented some pictures of Biden and Kamala to inform people about their position before the election. From the sentence, it could be presented two configuration of the word *position*. It means that the word *position* could attach to two constituents. Therefore, the sentence above is looked like no problem when we read it glances. Furthermore, we could feel confused, if it is read by carefully.

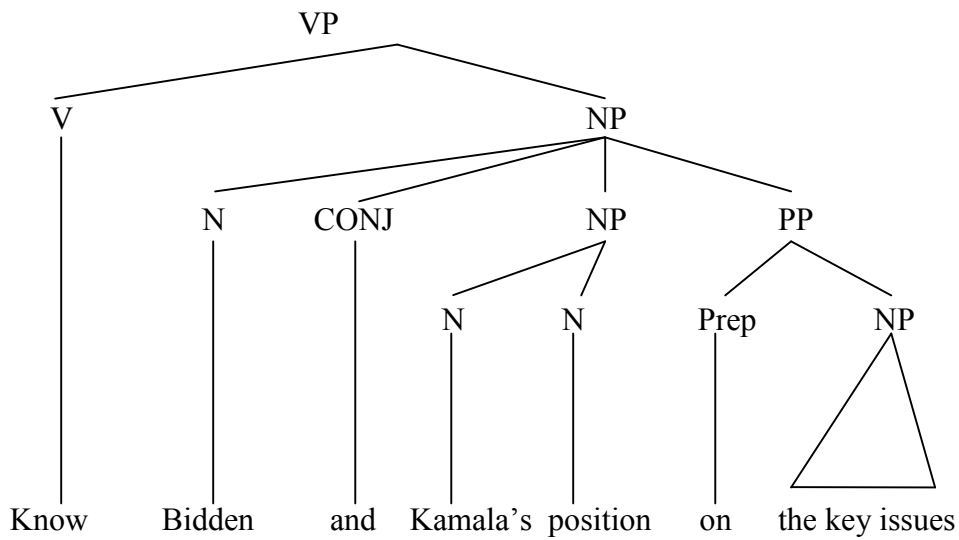
In the sentence above is included in ambiguous sentence, in which the area of ambiguity is in the PP *on key issues* where could be attached to the noun *Biden* or noun phrase *Kamala's position*. The sentence could be expanded on two sentences: (1) We deserve to know Biden's position on key issues before the election; (2) We deserve to know Kamala's position on key issues before the election. This ambiguity is included in **attachment ambiguity** in which the prepositional phrase modifies to which noun *Biden* or noun phrase *Kamala's position*.

Thus, the disambiguation, I use FBK's theory. The closure is first sentence *We deserve to know Biden's position on key issues before the election*, while the last of expected case is second sentence *We deserve to know Kamala's position on the key issues before the election*. So, the rest of the sentence, i.e. PP *in the town*, is swallowed up into that case. If we disambiguate this sentence with semantic help, it could be marked with:



[AGENT deserve to know Bidden and [Kamala's position PATIENT LOCATION]] or  
 [AGENT deserve to know Bidden's position PATIENT] [then Kamala's position  
 PATIENT LOCATION]

Thus, it could be *we deserve to know Bidden then Kamala's position on the key issues before the election*. It means that the PP belongs to the second sentence. However, if we disambiguate this sentence with semantic and context help, it could be that the PP refers to the second sentence, as the following tree diagram below.



## 5. Caption on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020



STRIKING ANOTHER HISTORIC AGREEMENT: President Donald J. Trump has brokered a peace agreement between Sudan and Israel – the third such agreement between Israel and an Arab-Muslim nation in less than three months.

Today, Israel and Sudan have agreed to make peace and to normalize their relations in another landmark agreement brokered by President Donald Trump. In the coming weeks, the two countries will begin negotiations on cooperation agreements in agriculture, economy, trade, aviation, migration issues, and other areas of mutual benefits. This historic peace agreement follows similar agreements between Israel and the United Arab Emirates and Israel and the Kingdom of Bahrain. The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Sudan are the first Arab nations to normalize relations with further enhance Israel's security and create opportunities for Sudan and Israel to deepen their economic ties and improve the lives of their people.

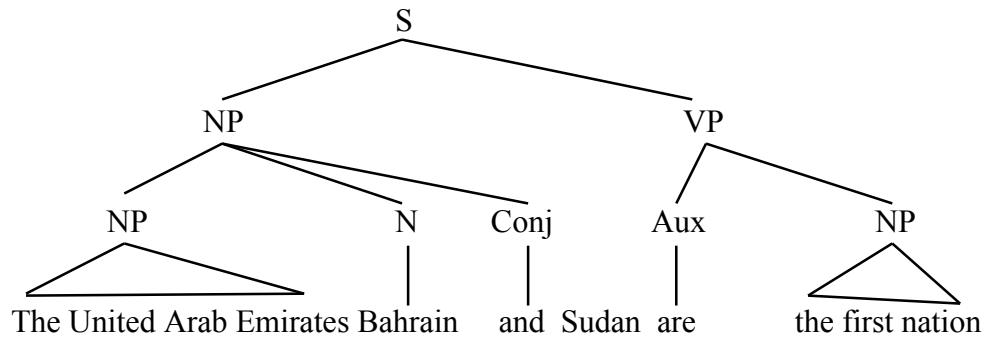
### **Datum E-1**

The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Sudan are the first Arab nations to normalize relations with further enhance Israel's security

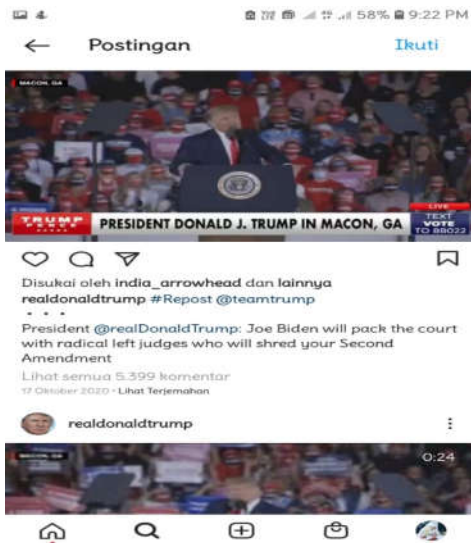
In the caption above, we could understand that Donald Trump held a conference to publish his achievement. He could help some nations to have a peace agreement in a short period of time. Therefore, the sentence above is structurally ambiguous in which the area of ambiguity is *the first Arab nation*. It raises three possible parses and meanings which is led by the noun phrase of *the first Arab nation*. First, it refers to N *Sudan*. Second, it attaches to N *Bahrain*. Third, it belongs to NP *The United Arab Emirates*. In brief, *the first Arab nation* could be on and *Sudan* or *Bahrain*, and *The United Arab Emirates*. This sentence could be categorized as **analytical ambiguity**.

It is categorized as categorized as analytical ambiguity when it is analyzed only the noun phrase, i.e. determining the structure of a complex noun group, including modifier scope. In disambiguating this sentence, It need semantic help, to mark *the first Arab nation* attached only to *Bahrain*. In Merriam Webster Dictionary the word *first* is a proceeding all others in time, order, or importance, and It could be as noun or adverb. However, in this sentence the word *first* is a noun. Thus, the disambiguation which needs the semantic help is that *The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Sudan are the first Arab nation* means that *Sudan is the Arab nation who normalizes relation with further enhances Israel's security*. It is drawing in the following parse

(5-1)



## 6. Caption on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2020



President @realDonaldTrump: Joe Biden will pack the court with the radical left judges who will shred your Second Amendment.

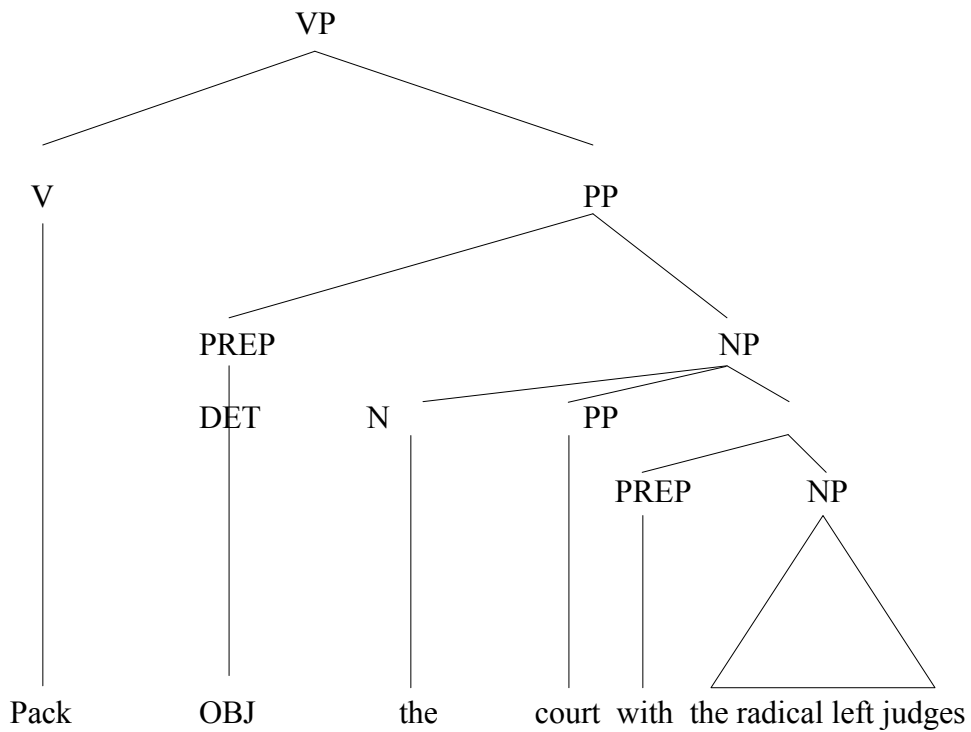
### Datum F-1

Joe Biden will pack the court with the radical left judges.

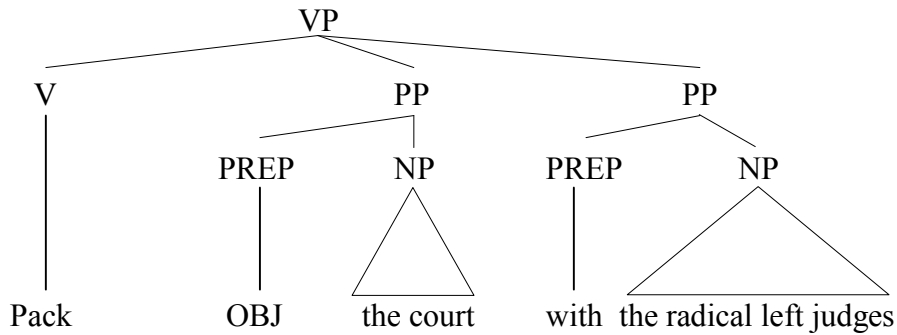
In the caption, Donald Trump conveyed the disrepute of Joe Biden to win the election. This way is used to invite people to dislike and do not elect the Joe Biden as

president. Therefore, the caption above contains of ambiguity, where the area of ambiguity is the PP *with the radical judges*. There are two possible parses presented in this sentence. First, the subject *Joe Biden* and the PP *with the radical judges* will pack the court. Second, the subject *Joe Biden* will pack the court where the judges are radical left. In other words, the PP *with the radical left judges* modifies the NP *the court*. This sentence is categorized as **attachment ambiguity**, in particular PP attachment. The parses are described below.

(6-1)



(6-2)



In sentence (6-1), the final PP is attached to the NP *the court* as a modifier: it is the court who has the radical left judges and the preposition *with* flags an attribute of the court. In sentence (6-2), the court doesn't have or pack the radical left judges; rather *with* is a case flag marking the radical left judges as the INSTRUMENT of the packing action. The differing parse of each sentence reflects above tree diagram. Note, however, that it is only semantic constraints that have prevent each sentence from being parsed like the other.

## B. Discussion

This part of chapter would show all about the findings above that Donald Trump frequently made some ambiguous sentences when posting on his Instagram account. It could show us that structural disambiguation is an important topic to be consideration and exploration, where the native speaker is also able caught up on making ambiguous sentence. Based on the findings above, the researcher found eight sentences which were structurally ambiguous, taken from six captions on his Instagram. Those data were were analyzed using theory of Gorrel (1995) which answered two research questions: types of structural

ambiguity—attachment ambiguity, gap finding and filling, and analytical ambiguity—and how to disambiguate its sentence.

According to Gorrel (1995), types of ambiguity are categorized as tree items, attachment ambiguity is in which a sentence contains structural ambiguity due to placement of modifier, gap finding and filling is sentence has more than one dependent clause particularly relative clause and structural ambiguity occurs because of one of the dependent clauses, analytical ambiguity occurs when the nature of the constituent is in doubt, that is, when there is more than one possible analysis of it.

From the findings above, there was one type of structural ambiguity which was not found in the Donald Trump' captions were gap finding and filling. Meanwhile, among three types of structural ambiguity, analytical ambiguity is the most common problem which occurs in Donald Trump's caption. Those could be seen in *Datum A-1, C-1, C-2, and E-1*. Those could happen due to the constituent is in doubt, and need semantics help or word knowledge in understanding or analyzing the data.

In disambiguating the ambiguous sentences do not only need semantic help, but the parsing was also used to explain and describe the syntactic role of each constituent in each sentence. It could differentiate the ambiguous meaning of each sentence in the form of tree diagrams. These could see in the findings above. Furthermore, among 5 methods—Ford, Bresnan, and Kaplan's theory of closure, Marcus parser, inference of context, semantic help, and grammatical structure—to disambiguate the structural ambiguous sentence, there is one method frequently used in the findings, i.e. FBK's theory of closure (in Hirst, 1987: 155), as

stated by Hirst (1987: 157) stated that FBK's theory of closure determines the attachment, except in cases where they do not. These examples were showed in *B-I* and *D-I*.

Furthermore, this research was also compared to the previous studies, where this current research has similarities and differences. This present research had few similarities to (Rohmaniah, 2017). From (Rohmaniah, 2017), she did her study in investigating syntactic or structural ambiguity on students' writings which adopted Gerrol's theory, this present research also using this theory in categorizing and classifying. The previous study also used parse strategy to differentiate the meanings of an ambiguous sentence. The current research also used parse strategy but in describing the syntactic role of the sentence and disambiguate the ambiguous sentence.

Moreover, this present research was also some differences to the previous studies. This research had some differences to (Szymanek, 2015), (Charina, 2017), and (Tirangga, 2014). After investigating, the research of (Szymanek, 2015) focused on structural ambiguity of word formation that meantime occurred in compounding, affixation and comprise complex lexemes, whereas the present study focused on structural disambiguation on caption of Instagram. Then, the research of (Charina, 2017), and (Tirangga, 2014) are also different from the present study. The two previous studies had investigated on lexical and grammatical or syntactic ambiguities, one on creating humor and headline news of Jakarta post and New York Times. While, the present study investigated on how to disambiguate some ambiguous sentences.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter provides the conclusion and suggestion of the study. This chapter would conclude the findings of the previous study in answering the research problems. This chapter also gives suggestion to the reader, especially to the next researcher in conducting the similar topic of linguistic studies.

#### A. Conclusion

In this part, the researcher aimed to make conclusion based on the analysis of the previous findings. As in previous findings, it could be described that the tree types of structural ambiguity are attachment ambiguity, analytical ambiguity, and gap finding and filling (Gorrel, 1995). Then, the data were chosen from several captions posted by Donald Trump in Instagram. From the analysis, the researcher only found two types of structural ambiguity, attachment ambiguity and analytical ambiguity. In case of attachment ambiguity, the researcher found 3 data, and most of them are in term of prepositional phrase attachment, while analytical ambiguity is 4 data.

Furthermore, the researcher did not find one type of structural ambiguity in Donald Trump's captions- gap finding and filling. Meanwhile, among tree types of structural ambiguity, analytical ambiguity was the most common problem which occurred in Donald Trump's captions.

Besides, the 5 methods Ford, Bresnan, and Kaplan's theory of closure, Marcus parser, inference of context, semantic help, and grammatical structure to disambiguate the structural ambiguous sentence, where the FBK's theory was frequently used in this study. As

stated by Hirst (1987: 157) stated that FBK's theory of closure determines the attachment, except in cases where they do not.

## **B. Suggestion**

After analyzing the structural disambiguation based on Gorrel's (1995) theory within the result that most structural ambiguous sentences which are categorized as analytical ambiguity and FBK's theory of closure used to disambiguated ambiguous sentence. The researcher considers that the research has still weakness, and need to the criticism from the researcher to develop the study. This current study showed that one type of ambiguity was not found, gap finding and filling. Thus, the next researcher is recommended to specific the research to investigate the term of gap finding and filling in order to have deep knowledge about structural ambiguity and how to disambiguate.

## References

- Charina, I. N. (2017). LEXICAL AND SYNTACTIC AMBIGUITY IN HUMOR. *International Journal of Humanity Studies*.
- Corriveau, J.-P. (1993). Non-deterministic Prepositional Phrase Attachment. *Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the Cognitive Science Society* (p. 359). Boulder: University of Colorado.
- Cresswell, J. W. (2009). *Research Design: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches (3rd Ed)*. London: Sage Publication.
- Gorrell, P. (1995). *Syntax and Parsing*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Hirst, G. (1987). *Semantic interpretation and the resolution of ambiguity*. New York: University of Cambridge.
- Khasanah, U. (2016). THE SYNTAX ANALYSIS ON DECLARATIVE SENTENCE IN ANN JUNGMAN'S LUCY KEEP THE WOLF FROM THE DOOR. *Language and Culture*.
- Lapshin, V. A. (2012). Gramatical Analysis of Languages with Lexical and Syntactic Ambiguities. *Automatic Documentation and Mathematical Linguistics*.
- Miliza, G. (2016). *Buat Duit Dengan Facebook dan Instagram*. Malaysia: Publishing House.
- Mulyadi, W. P. (2017). A SYNTACTICAL ANALYSIS ON SENTENCE STRUCTURE USED IN TWO ADELES'S SONGS. *Journal of English Education*.
- Pramadwityas, F. F. (2017). A Syntactic Analysis of Structural Ambiguity on Headlines of The Jakarta Post by Using Stanford Dependency. *English and Literature Department*.
- Silverman, D. (1993). *INTERPRETING QUALITATIVE DATA* . London: SAGE Publication Ltd.
- Suhendro, I. R. (2013). A SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF NOUN PHRASES FOUND IN GEORGE BERNARD SHAW'S "ARMS AND THE MAN" (USING X-BAR APPROACH). *MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA*.
- Szymanek, B. (2016). Structural ambiguity in English word-formation . *Linguistic ournal* , 300.
- Tirangga, B. (2014). LEXICAL AND GRAMMATICAL AMBIGUITIES OF THE NEWS HEADLINE OF THE JAKARTA POST AND NEW YORK TIMES. *Faculty of Humanities* .

Wulandari, D. P. (2015). SYNTACTIC ANALYSIS OF MARK TWAIN'S ABOUT BARBERS ON LEECH'S METHOD. *Journal of Literature, Linguistics and Cultural Studies*.

Zimmer, E. (2016). CHILDREN AWARENESS OF SYNTACTIC AMBIGUITY. *Linguistics Journal* .

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

---

Full Name: Imamul Haq

Place/ Date of Birth : Situbondo, March 28, 1998

Gender : Male

Home Address : Semampir, Kraksaan, Probolinggo, Jawa Timur

Phone : +62 812-3334-4849

Email : [16320244@student.uin-malang.ac.id](mailto:16320244@student.uin-malang.ac.id)

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

---

2002-2004: TK KUSUMA

2004-2010 : MI NAHDATUL ULAMA'

2010-2013 : SMP DARUL LUGHAH WAL KAROMAH

2013-2016 : SMK DARUL LUGHAH WAL KAROMAH

2016-2020 : UIN MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG

### ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

---

2012-2013 : Organisasi Siswa Intra Sekolah (OSIS)

2014-2015 : Palang Merah Remaja

2015-2016 : Journalistic of Edukreasi Magazine

2016-2018 : English Letters Student Association (ELSA)

2016- Present : Ikatan Mahasiswa Darul Lughah wal Karomah