

**THE STUDY OF AMBIGUITY IN *THE OLD MAN AND
THE SEA* BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang struktur kalimat ambigu dalam *The Old Man and the Sea* (lelaki tua dan laut) karya Ernest Hemingway. Studi ini bertujuan untuk memerikan ketaksaan yang terdapat dalam novel tersebut dan mencoba melihat kemungkinan penyebabnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode simak dan catat. Novel ini terdiri dari 112 halaman. Analisis juga menggunakan metode distribusi dengan teknik bagi unsur langsung. Dalam penelitian ini ditemukan penyebab terjadinya ketaksaan karena adanya keragaman konstruksi kalimat yang rancu dan tidak lengkap. Dari 20 tipe struktur kalimat ambigu yang di kutip dari teori Norman C. Stageberg hanya 10 kalimat ketaksaan yang terdapat dalam novel.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Human is a perfect creature having a complex communication system. People have more organs of speech which support their communication skill, for example: ear, mouth, brain and tongue. One of communication tools which are used by human to communicate is language. Moreover, language helps people to convey what they want to tell to the other people. People can express their mind using verbal or nonverbal language. In the process of language recognition, people need to encode what they mean to do to be an action, including use spoken or written media and gesture. Considering the usage frequency, spoken language may often be used in the daily live. However, it is important to reveal the daily language and its components.

People must be involved in their own business every day. Each person has different activities. However, people must make time to get along with their friends. Besides, people are also a part of society because people are also a social creature which cannot live independently. As a result, they need to keep communicate with their society. Language is a complex system of human communication skill. In the spoken language, people produce some words through a complex language production process. It is involving the process of encoding and decoding meaning. Moreover, people are able to produce words to express what they mean, (Harford and Heasley , 1983: 3).

People have ability to distinct the proper language used in certain occasion. In a formal situation, people have to use a polite and formal language. Meanwhile, people may use colloquial or informal language in the relax situation. Therefore, people feel comfort in communicating to the other people. However, the sense of polite of a language depends on some factor, such as culture, religion, and situation. People need to consider this matter before they start to produce a language.

Reading English as a foreign language in Indonesian culture sometimes causes misunderstanding. The Indonesian learners of English may misinterpret the English sentences because they lack of knowledge in grammar. The English sentences containing relatively long noun phrases may cause the incorrect interpretations. Therefore, the learners should reach certain level of reading ability needed to catch the intended meaning contained in the sentence.

The misunderstanding is not only caused by the lack of grammar knowledge, but also the complexity of the English itself. Comparing to the Indonesian language, the English sentence constructions are typologically different.

The English nominal structures may contain one head preceded by two or more modifiers. For instance, *the hitherto well-balanced world price structure*. This complex nominal structure can be interpreted in two ways. It could be interpreted as 'the structure of hitherto well-balanced world price' or 'the world price structure which is hitherto well-balanced'. In other words, *well-balanced* can modify *world price* only, or *world price structure*.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

In this chapter the writer presents the result of the analysis of Structural Ambiguity in Ernest Hemingway. The analysis focused on describing the syntactic patterns of English sentences as found in Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and the Sea* and explain the causes of ambiguity. The writer also found that the Stageberg's theory is applicable to indentify the ambiguity in the novel.

All of the ambiguous cases found in the data could be eliminated by their contexts. Even the most difficult ambiguities can be disambiguated if they are related to their contexts. Context may be an apart of sentence, a whole sentence, a discourse, or a text. Hence, a structure can be ambiguous if the phrase stands alone.

Eight nine of ambiguity are not discovered in the corpus. Most of the 10 ambiguous structures found in the data occur in phrasal level. The Phrases contain modifier which plays important roles in producing ambiguity. The modifier may be nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, gerunds, past participle, and prepositions. The modifier may modify the certain head which brings ambiguous meaning. Each of structures ambiguity analyzed above has two interpretations. There is no ambiguity structure containing more than two interpretation founds in sources of the data.

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