
Error Analysis of Ambiguous Words in the Opinion Column of Padang Ekspres Newspaper

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Abstract

Writing the right words and sentences is one of the main factors in order to convey the message written, so the writing must be considered. One of the words that make the message not conveyed properly is ambiguous words. Ambiguous words often lead to multiple interpretations of meaning and are taxa whose implementation is still being questioned among the public. This qualitative study was examined with the aim of describing the forms of syntactic errors in ambiguous words found in the opinion rubric of the Padang Ekspres newspaper which is loved by the public. The method applied in this study is descriptive qualitative method with reading and note taking techniques. Reading techniques are used to obtain data using data analysis techniques in language use, while note-taking techniques are carried out by recording words or phrases to be analyzed in each sentence. The analysis techniques in this study, namely: data identification, data classification, data analysis, and conclusions. The results of this study took data sources from the Friday Edition of the Padang Ekspres newspaper, November 4, 2022 and involved 2 opinions which were positioned as research subjects. Based on the research results collected, the researcher found word error data that caused ambiguity in the opinion rubric of the Padang Ekspres newspaper. Furthermore, aspects that include language errors include errors on the side of words and errors on the side of ambiguous sentences. From all the data collected, the results of the data were visible, in which the researcher decided to choose two data to be analyzed. The data are errors in the aspect of ambiguous words and errors in aspects of ambiguous sentences. Following up on this research, it is hoped that in the future the empowerment of opinion writing in the Padang Ekspres newspaper will be optimized by choosing the right sentences and paying attention to writing typing, so as not to cause double meanings, and conveying messages that are easy for readers to analyze.

Keywords: Error Analysis, Ambiguous Words, Syntax, Opinion Column, Newspaper

Introduction

News reading is a way that is commonly used by most people to get the validity of the reality they find, both in the form of incidents and incidents. News texts are generally written systematically, clearly, logically, and communicatively according to existing concepts and contexts so that the message conveyed is well received by readers. However, there are many newspaper stories whose writing is unclear and precise, causing doubts for readers. Thus, researchers feel concerned when they see that there are various kinds of language errors in writing opinions. It is undeniable that one of the causes of language errors is the influence of social media between social media users, coming from various different educational backgrounds. Of course this will greatly affect the proper and correct use of Indonesian, for example by making abbreviated words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. Therefore, researchers feel compelled to take part in studying more deeply and examining and correcting these mistakes because this cannot be separated from the responsibility of a teacher, especially an Indonesian language teacher. Through this research, it is hoped that it can enrich and add to the body of knowledge for writers and other language activists in realizing good and correct Indonesian writing rules.

In addition, Oktaria (2017) states that the information contained in the news is expected to provide benefits for individuals and can even reach the wider community. Ambiguity or difficulty in meaning is a sign of the possibility of multiple interpretations of meaning. This can be done orally or in writing. Multiple interpretations can lead to questions and confusion in determining the intended meaning. Chaer (2009) suggests that ambiguity is often interpreted as a word that has multiple meanings or two meanings. The multiple meanings in ambiguity come from larger grammatical units, namely phrases or sentences, and occur as a result of the interpretation of grammatical structures. This form of ambiguity of noun phrases is found in newspaper media, especially the Padang Ekspres newspaper. Errors in the language of the news can be seen from the study of syntax. Markhamah & Sabardila (2010) explained that language errors are usually found in newspapers. In connection with this statement Maulidiah (2017) has an explanation that the analysis of language errors should not be mleave the analysis of the whole discourse so as not to overlap the meaning.

In relation to language errors in the field of syntax, Andyani (2016) mentions that talking about language cannot be separated from the aspects of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Nisa (2018) and Ismail & Siti (2013) agree that language errors are incorrect use of a language orally or in writing that deviates from the rules of Indonesian grammar. Ambiguity can arise in various variations of writing or speech. Kempson (1977) mentions three main forms of ambiguity, namely those related to phonetic, grammatical, and lexical. According to Utomo, et al. (2019) language errors are a form of violation of the language code. Likewise, language errors are the use of language where the use of language is not in accordance with the rules of Indonesian, both spoken and written (Laili, Fajriyani, & Ridho 2020). Analysis of language errors has been carried out by many previous researchers. Like Khairun Nisa (2018) who conducted a study with print media objects, and Kurniasari, Nia Andrianti & Isnaini (2018) also did the same thing, namely misspellings in newspaper media. The difference from previous research is that this study examines language errors in ambiguous words in newspapers.

Based on the background above, the formulation of the research problem is how are the forms of language errors in the opinion rubric of the Padang Ekspres newspaper? This study aims to describe and explain the form of language errors in the field of syntax, precisely ambiguous words contained in the opinion rubric of the Padang Ekspres newspaper entitled "Considering October Inflation" and Education to Respond Proficiently in Digital Media. What was achieved in this study was to find and explain syntax errors in the opinion rubric of the Padang Ekspres newspaper. This is important considering that the Padang Ekspres newspaper is currently widely read by the public. The benefit of this research is that it is hoped that it will enrich the body of linguistic knowledge, especially in the field of language error analysis and this research is expected to be a reference for opinion writers in future newspapers.

Methods

This research is classified as qualitative research using descriptive method. Bogdan and Taylor (Djamal, 2015) say that qualitative research is research that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people or behavior that can be observed. Qualitative analysis focuses its research on indicating meaning, description, clarification, placement of data in their respective contexts and often describes it in the form of words rather than in numbers (Mahsun, 2007). Data in this research were classified into two types: primary and secondary data. According to Sugiyono (Simbolon, et al, 2016) primary data is data obtained from the first data source which still requires further processing and is developed with the author's own understanding. Meanwhile, secondary data are data that is already available, which are obtained through the literature in the form of books, research results, journal articles, and other forms that are related and relevant to research needs (Narimawati in Iskandar, 2012). The primary data in this study were data on errors at the syntactic level found by researchers, namely 14 data with details of 7 errors in word aspects, and 7 errors in sentence aspects. They were obtained from the Friday, November 4, 2022 edition of the Padang Ekspres newspaper, especially in the opinion column. Whereas, the secondary data were obtained from printed books, samples of theses, and journals that were relevant or related to the title of this research.

Results and Discussion

Data presented in this study were the language errors seen from the syntactic level found in the Padang Ekspres newspaper. These data were obtained by reading the opinion column of the Padang Ekspres newspaper. According to Setyawati (2010), errors at the syntactic level include errors in the field of words and errors in the fields of sentences. Errors in the phrase field can be caused by many things, for example, there is the influence of regional languages, the use of inappropriate prepositions, word order errors, the use of excessive or redundant elements, the excessive use of superlative forms, double pluralization, and the use of inappropriate reciprocal forms.

Meanwhile, errors in the field of sentences include sentences without a subject, sentences without a predicate, sentences without a subject and without a predicate (blurred sentences), doubling of the subject, between the predicate and the inserted object, sentences that are not logical, sentences with ambiguity, omission of conjunctions, excessive use of conjunctions, sequences that are not parallel, the use of foreign terms, and the use of unnecessary question words, Setyawati (2010).

Based on the qualitative analysis procedure, the researcher identified and classified the data according to the research objective units. In line with this procedure, the research data were identified and classified based on their purpose, namely, to describe the forms of syntactic errors contained in the opinion column of the Friday, November 4, 2022 edition of the Padang Ekspres newspaper. Apart from technical errors in writing, the researcher also found substantial errors regarding the rules for writing good and correct language contained in the opinion rubric of the Padang Ekspres newspaper. The errors referred to were seen in syntactic units, namely, ambiguous word errors in words and sentences. This was described by the researcher starting from word aspect errors, phrase aspect errors, and sentence aspect errors as follows:

Mistakes in Word Aspects

Based on the identification results, the researcher found that there were 7 errors seen from the word aspect. Of the 7 errors, the researcher took 7 samples of word aspect errors to describe. The error in question is as follows:

- (1) *Namun perlu juga diperhatikan bahwa lompatan turun yang cukup tajam inflasi bulan Oktober sebesar 0,11 persen dari bulan September 1,17 persen mengindikasikan permintaan yang mulai melemah, selain faktor kerjaminan supply di pasaran.* (Opinion 1)

The word *kerjaminan* cannot be found in KBBI, and this word does not have a clear meaning so that readers do not understand about that word. Thus, it should be replaced with the word *jaminan* because it has meaning in the online version of the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI). Therefore, the sentence should be revised to be "*Namun perlu juga diperhatikan bahwa lompatan turun yang cukup tajam inflasi bulan Oktober sebesar 0,11 persen dari bulan September 1,17 persen mengindikasikan permintaan yang mulai melemah, selain faktor jaminan supply di pasaran*".

- (2) *Karena itu pula, imbas pergeseran angka inflasi bulan September atas kenaikan harga BBM mungkin tidak terlalu bombastis.* (Opinion 1)

The use of the word *bombastis* is an inappropriate word even though it is already contained in the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) because it has so many meanings that the reader does not understand the sentence. Therefore, the improvement of the words above into a correct sentence is "*Karena itu pula, imbas pergeseran angka inflasi bulan September atas kenaikan harga BBM mungkin tidak terlalu besar*".

- (3) *Pun imbasnya terhadap Indeks Harga Konsumen (IHK) alias Consumer Price Index (CPI) juga tidak akan terlalu tinggi.* (Opinion 1)

The word *pun imbasnya* is imprecise because it is put at the beginning of the paragraph so that the readers feel confused. Thus, the word should be replaced with *inflasi inti* as explained in the previous sentence. Therefore, the above sentence is revised to be "*Inflasi inti terhadap Indeks Harga Konsumen (IHK) alias Consumer Price Index (CPI) juga tidak akan terlalu tinggi*".

- (4) *Dengan adanya perkembangan konsep industri 4.0 ini diharapkan peserta didik memiliki peluang yang besar dalam mengembangkan bakat dan potensinya dalam perkembangan teknologi.* (Opinion 2)

The use of the word *dalam* in this sentence is incorrect because it makes the previous sentence unclear so that the reader will be confused about the meaning of the sentence. Instead, the word should be replaced with the word *untuk*. Therefore, the sentence should be revised to be "*Dengan adanya perkembangan konsep industri 4.0 ini diharapkan peserta didik memiliki peluang yang besar dalam mengembangkan bakat dan potensinya untuk perkembangan teknologi*".

- (5) *Kemudian Guru BK juga memberikan bentuk keterampilan peserta didik sehingga mampu memfilter dan selektif ketika menemukan informasi di media digital, terutama informasi yang tidak benar atau negatif.* (Opinion 2)

The word *memfiletr* in the sentence above is incorrect due to misspelling the writing is wrong; it should be corrected into *memfilter*. This word comes from a foreign language "filter" which means *saring*. Thus, it is better to change the word *memfilter* into *menyaring* or *memilih*. Therefore, the correct form of the above sentence is "*Kemudian Guru BK juga memberikan bentuk keterampilan peserta didik sehingga mampu memilih dan selektif ketika menemukan informasi di media digital, terutama informasi yang tidak benar atau negatif*".

- (6) *Peserta didik dipersiapkan agar mampu memanfaatkan aplikasi-aplikai percakapan media sosial, menjadi sarana yang bermanfaat dalam menjalani kehidupannya.* (Opinion 2)

The words *aplikasi-aplikai* was mistyped, in which it missed the letter "s". It should be written into *aplikasi-aplikasi*. After that, the sentence should get an additional word that is *sehingga* to make it clear. Therefore, the sentence should be revised to be "*Peserta didik dipersiapkan agar mampu memanfaatkan aplikasi-aplikasi percakapan media sosial, sehingga menjadi sarana yang bermanfaat dalam menjalani kehidupannya*".

- (7) *Nah kecakapan di sini yang diberikan kepada peserta didik mempersiapkan peserta didik mampu hati-hati, dan menyelekasi terlebih dahulu transaksi yang akan dilakukan.* (Opinion 2)

The word *menyelekasi* is incorrect due to misspelling, and it should be corrected into *menyeleksi*. Then, this sentence needs an additional word, *adalah* to make it clear. Therefore, the revised version of the above sentence is "*Nah kecakapan di sini yang diberikan kepada peserta didik adalah mempersiapkan peserta didik mampu hati-hati, dan menyeleksi terlebih dahulu transaksi yang akan dilakukan.*"

Mistakes in Sentence Aspects

Data related to the mistakes in sentence aspects are described below.

- 1) *Dalam hemat saya, tertekannya "pendapatn personal" masyarakat ini menjadi salah satu sebab mengapa inflasi di bulan Oktober langsung terjun bebas menjadi 0,11 persen setelah mencatatkan kenaikan yang cukup tajam di bulan September 1,17 persen.* (Opinion 1)

The above sample shows that the sentence starts with the words “*Dalam hemat saya*” which is an ambiguous sentence; common people can interpret this sentence as the word *hemat* in another context; in fact, this word has a different meaning since the word *hemat* is a homonym that has more than one meaning. The word *hemat* in a phrase *hemat saya* "opinion", and *hemat* also means being careful in spending money. The sentence above shows someone's opinion, so the correct sentence should be "*Dalam pendapat saya, tertekannya "pendapatan personal" masyarakat ini menjadi salah satu sebab mengapa inflasi di bulan Oktober langsung terjun bebas menjadi 0,11 persen setelah mencatatkan kenaikan yang cukup tajam di bulan September 1,17 persen."*"

- 2) *Pun secara moneter, BI perlu menimbang untuk tidak menaikkan lagi suku bunga, meskipun The Fed telah kembali menaikkan suku bunga.* (Opinion 1)

The sentence is started with a phrase *pun secara moneter*, in which the word *pun* at the beginning of the sentence does not have the meaning needed for the sentence, so it is better if the word is omitted to make the next sentence easy to be understood. The correct version of this sentence is "*Secara moneter, BI perlu menimbang untuk tidak menaikkan lagi suku bunga, meskipun The Fed telah kembali menaikkan suku bunga.*"

- 3) *Untuk itu, pemerintah perlu menyiapkan berbagai skema kebijakan antisipatif untuk memitigasi penurunan permintaan dan daya beli ini, baik dalam bentuk kebijakan bantuan sosial kemasyarakatan maupun kebijakan untuk memitigasi pemutusan hubungan kerja lebih lanjut di satu sisi dan kebijakan proaktif untuk mendorong investasi baru di sisi lain.* (Opinion 1)

The sentence above contains a sentence that contains the words *antisipatif* and *memitigasi* which is very difficult for the reader to understand the meaning. *Antisipatif* means to recognize risks and all forms of uncertainty due to the pandemic. According to the Oxford Dictionary, *mitigasi* is defined as the act of reducing the severity, seriousness, or suffering of something. To avoid doubts in interpreting the sentence, the sentence should be changed to: "*Untuk itu, pemerintah perlu menyiapkan berbagai skema kebijakan mengenali resiko untuk mengurangi keseriusan penurunan permintaan dan daya beli ini, baik dalam bentuk kebijakan bantuan sosial kemasyarakatan maupun kebijakan untuk memitigasi pemutusan hubungan kerja lebih lanjut di satu sisi dan kebijakan proaktif untuk mendorong investasi baru di sisi lain.*"

- 4) *Status quo suku bung aini diperlukan agar beban dunia usaha untuk mendapatkan likuiditas segar tidak terlalu sulit.* (Opinion 1)

The ambiguity in the above sentence is found in the words *bung aini*, which could indicate the meaning of someone's name. The sentence contains a spelling error, especially the word *Bung aini*; in fact, it should be *bunga ini* in the context of BANK interest. Thus, the correct sentence should be: "*Status quo suku bunga ini diperlukan agar beban dunia usaha untuk mendapatkan likuiditas segar tidak terlalu sulit.*"

- 5) *Cakap dalam bermedia digital, memiliki arti bagaimana peserta didik mengetahui, memahami dan mampu menggunakan bahkan terampil dalam penggunaan perangkat keras dan lunak dalam (1)lanskap digital, (2)mesin pencari informasi, (3) aplikasi percakapan media dan sosial, (4) transaksi digital.* (Opinion 2)

The word *cakap* has a double meaning in a sentence. In the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), *cakap* means 1. proficient; able to do something, 2 good in appearance; beautiful; good-looking, 3. good; beautiful, 4. decent, 5. agile; deft, 6. Speak. To avoid double interpretation in sentences it is better to use

the word that matches the context. Hence, this above sentence should be revised into "*Mahir dalam bermedia digital, memiliki arti bagaimana peserta didik mengetahui, memahami dan mampu menggunakan bahkan terampil dalam penggunaan perangkat keras dan lunak dalam (1) lanskap digital, (2) mesin pencari informasi, (3) aplikasi percakapan media dan sosial, (4) transaksi digital.*"

- 6) *Disini sekolah memfasilitasi pembelajaran teknik informatika dengan diediakannya fasilitas perangkat keras dan lunak di lingkungan sekolah, serta sekolah memberikan kesempatan kepada bimbingan dan konseling (BK) dalam membantu siswa yang mengalami permasalahan yang berkaitan dengan tantangan dan penyimpangan kehidupan dimasa sekarang ini. (Opinion 2)*

In the sentence above, the phrase *penyimpangan kehidupan* has an ambiguous meaning. The word *penyimpangan* can be defined as an action committed by a person or group of people, which is not in accordance with or does not conform to the norms prevailing in society, consciously or unconsciously. *Penyimpangan* can also be interpreted as a road that has many directions. For this reason, the sentence should be corrected to "*Disini sekolah memfasilitasi pembelajaran teknik informatika dengan diediakannya fasilitas perangkat keras dan lunak di lingkungan sekolah, serta sekolah memberikan kesempatan kepada bimbingan dan konseling (BK) dalam membantu siswa yang mengalami permasalahan yang berkaitan dengan tantangan dan ketidak sesuaian kehidupan dimasa sekarang ini*".

- 7) *Walaupun konsep ini berfokus pada konsep dalam pelaksanaan perkembangan industri, namun konsep ini berpengaruh terhadap semua aspek kehidupan manusia.*

The word *konsep* does not have a crucial function in the sentence above so it is better to remove the word to make the sentence be understood easily. The correct version of this sentence is "*Walaupun konsep ini berfokus pada konsep dalam pelaksanaan perkembangan industri, namun konsep ini berpengaruh terhadap semua aspek kehidupan manusia.*"

Conclusion

Based on the results of research and the discussion, it can be concluded that there were several language errors at the level of ambiguous word syntax, among others were word aspect errors, and sentence aspect errors. After the researcher collected and read the data sources, namely data taken from the opinion column of the Friday edition of the Padang Ekspres newspaper, November 4, 2022, the researcher found 14 data. From this data the data can be broken down into details including: 7 word aspect errors, and 7 sentence aspect errors. In short, analysis of language errors is something that needs to be considered in writing, one of which is writing opinions in newspapers. So, the author hopes that the Padang Ekspres newspaper team will be more thorough in receiving, checking, editing, and arriving at the process of printing opinions in the newspaper, so that mistakes in writing are not repeated. And opinion writers should pay more attention to writing Indonesian according to the rules for writing good and correct Indonesian and pay more attention to the cohesion and coherence of the opinions they write.

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