

Structural Ambiguity on BBC News' Instagram Post

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Abstract: The arrangement of words in a grammatically correct sentence can sometimes still lead to multiple interpretations. BBC News, in its Instagram posts, contains sentences that are structurally ambiguous. Therefore, this study aims to find out types of structural ambiguity on BBC News' Instagram posts that are published from February 2021 until July 2022 and the interpretations arise from those ambiguities. This study uses qualitative method with document analysis technique. The analysis is done by some steps: investigating which word or phrase that makes the sentences become ambiguous, categorizing the ambiguities to their each types, finding out meanings that are produced by those ambiguities, parsing the sentences by using tree diagram, and interpreting the actual meaning of the news headlines or sentences by relating it to the context. The result shows that there are fifty posts from BBC News that contain sentences which are structurally ambiguous. Using theory of Hirst, those ambiguities are categorized as attachment and analytical ambiguity. The ambiguities are mostly caused by phrases that are unclear what their functions are in a sentence. From the result, it can be seen that structural ambiguity is a language phenomenon that is still widely found in our surrounding, not to mention the news headlines.

Keywords: structural ambiguity; BBC News; Instagram; headline; sentence

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, social media has become a necessity for many people. There is a lot of news and information that can be accessed through social media, one of which is Instagram. Instagram users can access a lot of news both from within and outside the country through many news accounts, such as the @bbcnews account. BBC News is the largest news broadcasting division worldwide. Through its Instagram account, BBC News presents a lot of the latest news coming from abroad. Obviously, the news is presented in English.

Written text such that is formal text that pays close attention to grammar. However, the arrangement of word, phrase, clause, or sentence can cause ambiguity even though it is grammatically correct. Ambiguity is language phenomenon when there is more than one reading can be assigned to a sentence (Bustam, 2012). Furthermore, Rodman (in Puspitasari & Beratha, 2019) said that a word or a sentence is considered ambiguous if it can be understood in more than one way. From the definition above, it can be concluded that ambiguity occurs when a language unit has more than one meaning.

According to Ullman (in Fitri, 2019), there are three kinds of ambiguity: phonological ambiguity, lexical ambiguity, and grammatical (structural) ambiguity. Phonological ambiguity refers to the sound of language that gives rise to two or more interpretations for the hearer. So, hearers hear the same sound of one expression but they have different interpretations of each other (Sinambela et al., 2014). Lexical ambiguity occurs when a word or lexeme has more than one meaning. A word is considered ambiguous when it involves two lexical items which have

identical forms yet have different or unrelated meanings (Rahman & Nurjannah, 2017). Meanwhile, grammatical or structural ambiguity occurs when a sentence gives rise to more than one interpretation caused by the phrase, clause, or sentence structure (Charina, 2017). However, this study limits only structural ambiguity as its focus.

Various interpretations can lead to misunderstanding for the readers, so that the message or content of the news is not conveyed perfectly. Therefore, it is important for readers to know how to solve this ambiguity problem, so that they can know the actual meaning contained in the news.

The reason why the researchers choose this object (@bbcnews' Instagram posts) is because BBC News is the largest news broadcasting division worldwide. This means that people can get the latest news or information about events happening in the world through this account. It is obvious that many Instagram users follow this account. Therefore, this study of structural ambiguity is expected to help people avoid misunderstandings in understanding news headlines or sentences so that they can find out the actual meaning by reading the entire content of the news.

Research on ambiguity had been conducted by several researchers, some of them are Rohmaniah (2017) with her thesis entitled *Syntactic Ambiguity on Students' Writing in State Senior High School 9 Malang*; Kristian (2018) with his thesis entitled *Lexical and Structural Ambiguity Found in the Jakarta Post Articles on the E-ID Graft Case*; and Fitri (2019) with her thesis entitled *Ambiguity in Short Stories by Ahmad Tohari as Translated by Rosemary Kesaulu*.

Different with those previous studies, this study aims to find out the types of structural ambiguity on BBC News' Instagram posts and the interpretations arise from those ambiguities. The researchers use semantics and syntactic approach in this study, since semantics is the study of the relation between language entity and meaning (Kroeger, 2018, p. 4) and syntax is "the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages." (Chomsky, 2002, p. 11). So, both are the most appropriate approaches to use to solve the statements of problem.

The main theory used in this research is theory of Hirst regarding to types of structural ambiguity. According to Hirst (1987, pp. 131–137) there are three types of structural ambiguity: attachment, gap-finding, and analytical. Attachment ambiguity occurs when a syntactic constituent can be attached to more than one part of a sentence. Gap finding ambiguity is an ambiguity that is caused by two possible gaps, means there are two possible gaps in a sentence which lead to different meaning and interpretation. Meanwhile, analytical ambiguity is type of structural ambiguity that is caused due to certain phrases which have parts that can be combined with other words in a sentence (Sylviana, 2020).

In order to complete the research objective, the theory of Sternefeld and Zimmermann is also used in this research. Sternefeld & Zimmermann (2013, p. 28) offers a solution, namely by paraphrasing the sentence into an unambiguous reading to clearly see the difference in meaning. So, to eliminate ambiguous meaning in a sentence, the sentence must be paraphrased with a clear sentence which does not have multiple interpretations.

METHODS

The method used in this research is qualitative method. Qualitative research is research that is descriptive and tends to use analysis. According to Creswell (in Salvador, 2016), "Qualitative research is an inductive method of reconnoitering the experiences of human beings towards social phenomena to discover the essence of such occurrences." The data in this kind of research is categorized as soft data (such as words, sentences, photos, etc.) which is different from quantitative research with hard data (numerical data) (Neuman, 2002, p. 167). Qualitative

research has numerous technique that are widely used, one of them is document analysis, which is applied by the researchers in this research.

The data is taken from social media, specifically from @bbcnews Instagram account. The data is in the form of sentence from @bbcnews' Instagram posts that are published from February 2021 until July 2022. There are fifty data found on that account. The researchers selected the data based on which have ambiguous meaning.

The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative method with document analysis. It means that the researchers collected the data by analyzing the documents through some steps as follow. First, the researchers read many posts on @bbcnews Instagram account. Second, the redactions or headlines containing structural ambiguity were noted. Then, the data that have been collected are grouped according to their respective categories.

The data in this study were analyzed content analysis technique, in which the data analysis is done descriptively by explaining and describing it in words or sentences. In the process of analyzing the data, here are some steps that the researchers do: to answer the first problem, the researchers firstly identify the forms of ambiguity contained on the news headlines or sentences. The researchers investigate which word or phrase that makes the sentences become ambiguous. After that, the researchers categorize the ambiguities to their each types using the theory of Hirst's; to answer the second problem, the researchers explain interpretation of ambiguous meaning of the sentences. Next, the researchers try to find out what meanings that are produced by those ambiguities. Then, the sentences are parsed using the theory of tree diagram to show the difference in meaning. Lastly, the researchers try to interpret the actual meaning of the news headlines or sentences by relating it to the context.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Types of Structural Ambiguity

The result of the study shows that there are fifty BBC News' Instagram posts which are published on February 2021 until July 2022 that are structurally ambiguous. It indicates that the data found are categorized as attachment ambiguity and analytical ambiguity. There is no gap finding ambiguity detected. The data are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Data Summary

No.	Structural Ambiguity		
	Attachment	Gap Finding	Analytical
1.	41	-	9

Table 1 shows that the data found are mostly dominated by attachment ambiguity. From fifty data, forty one of them are classified as attachment ambiguity, and nine of them are classified as analytical ambiguity.

The cause of attachment problem of those sentences are dominated by phrase or clause that modifies noun or verb. This is in line with Hirst (1987, p. 131) who said that "attachment problems are mostly problems of modifier placement". Such as in one BBC News' Instagram post that was published on July 7, 2021. There is a sentence *I want to thank the people who have cheered me on every single match* which leads to ambiguity for readers. The ambiguity lies in the prepositional phrase *on every single match*. It is unknown whether the phrase is attached to the verb *want to thank* or to the verb *have cheered*, since it can modify either of both verb. This is categorized as attachment ambiguity, as Hirst (1987, p. 133) stated that when a sentence contains a sub-clause, both can contain a place for the attachment of a prepositional phrase or an adverb.

In another post that was published on September 13, 2021, BBC News also writes a headline that is ambiguous. The headline is *Britney Spears announces engagement to Sam Asghari*. The ambiguity is caused by the prepositional phrase *to Sam Asghari*. The phrase is unclear what phrase it attaches to, since there is “more than one node to which a particular syntactic constituent may legally be attached” (Hirst, 1987, p. 131). The function of the preposition is unknown, whether it modifies the verb *announces* or the noun *engagement*. If it is attached to the verb *announces*, then it functions as sentence complement. However, if it is attached to the noun *engagement*, then it functions as post-modifier of the noun.

Another case is on BBC News’ Instagram post that was published on August 12, 2021. The post has headline *Olympian given new gold medal after first got bitten by mayor at victory ceremony* which contains structural ambiguity in it. The ambiguity lies in the prepositional phrase *at victory ceremony*. The phrase is considered ambiguous since there are two clauses which it can be attached to. The phrase can modify either the verb phrase *given* or *got bitten*. Those attachment can produce different interpretations. That is, it is categorized as attachment ambiguity.

Meanwhile, on BBC News’ Instagram post which was published on October 22, 2021, there are two ambiguous phrases in a sentence. It is *Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie set*, in which the prepositional phrases *with prop gun* and *on movie set* lead to ambiguity. There are two possibilities that allow the phrase *with prop gun* to function in a sentence. Therefore, it is characterized as analytical ambiguity, since the nature of the phrase is in doubt and there is more than one possible analysis of it (Hirst, 1987, p. 137). The phrase is unknown whether it is a pure prepositional phrase which then functions as sentence complement or a modifier which then functions as adjectival phrase.

As the phrase *on movie set* is also categorized as analytical ambiguity. It is doubtful whether the phrase is a pure prepositional phrase or an adjectival phrase which is a form of relative clause with to-be deletion. If it is an adjectival phrase, the original form would be *with prop gun that is on movie set* (but then the relative pronoun and the to-be is omitted). There are several possibilities to which those phrases may be attached. Those make readers have different interpretations while reading the sentence.

Another analytical ambiguity is found on BBC News’ Instagram post on December 18, 2021. The sentence *Teens escape from burning building* has a syntactic constituent that leads to ambiguity, it is the word *burning*. The word *burning* can be functioning as present participle or as adjective that attributes the noun *building*. The ambiguity is categorized as analytical, as Hirst (1987, p. 139) said that when it is difficult to distinguish between a present participle and an adjective, the ambiguity is classified as analytical.

According to Hirst (1987, pp. 131–135), there are several occasions where attachment ambiguity may occur: 1) when a prepositional phrase can be attached to more than one noun phrase, 2) when a prepositional phrase can be attached to more than one verb phrase, 3) when a prepositional phrase can be attached either to a noun phrase or to a verb phrase, 4) when a prepositional phrase can be attached either to a verb phrase or to an adjective phrase, 5) when a relative clause can be attached to more than one noun phrase, 6) when an adverb can be attached to more than one verb phrase, 7) when an adverb can be attached either to a verb phrase or to a whole sentence, 8) when a participle can be attached to either a surface subject or to a whole sentence. From here, it can be seen that the constituents that might cause attachment ambiguity are adverb, participle, prepositional phrase, and relative clause. In this study, the most common data of attachment ambiguity found are caused by prepositional phrases.

As for analytical ambiguity, there are some circumstances that allow it to occur, some of them are: 1) when it is unknown whether a preposition functions as a verb particle or as part

of prepositional phrase, 2) when it is unknown whether a verb-ing form functions as a present participle or as an adjective, 3) when it is unknown whether a clause functions as a relative clause or as a complement, 4) when it is unknown whether a prepositional phrase is purely a prepositional phrase or an adjectival phrase, 5) when there are two contiguous noun phrases that seem to be a single one (Hirst, 1987, p. 149). In this research, the case of analytical ambiguity is mostly also caused by prepositional phrase.

2. Interpretation of Ambiguous Meaning of Sentence

Since structural ambiguity means there is more than one interpretation in a sentence, so, in this part, the researchers describe what interpretations arise and what the actual meanings are from those cases above. The discussion in this part is divided according to each types of structural ambiguity that are found.

a. Attachment Ambiguity

In BBC post on July 7, 2021 that has sentence *I want to thank the people who have cheered me on every single match*, there are at least two different interpretations which are illustrated in the following tree diagrams.

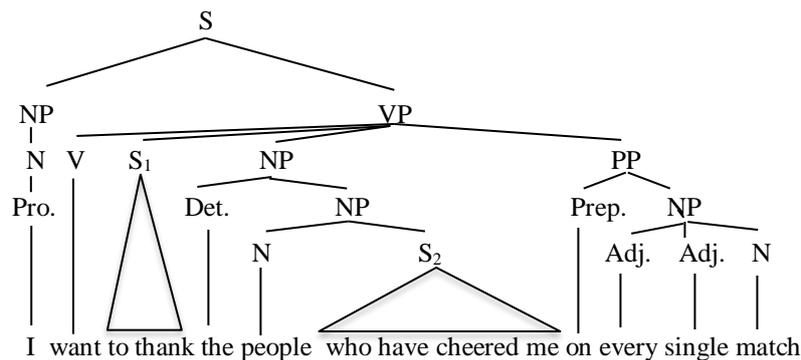


Diagram 1. Tree Diagram of First Interpretation of *I want to thank the people who have cheered me on every single match*

Diagram 1 shows how the prepositional phrase *on every single match* stands alone, describing the verb phrase *want to thank*. This produces meaning that the subject feels thankful for the people who already cheered them and the subject wants to thank them on every match the subject joins. As Sternefeld & Zimmermann (2013) said, to make the meaning clearly different is by paraphrasing it with unambiguous sentence. So, the sentence can be paraphrased by *On every single match, I want to thank the people who have cheered me*. Another interpretation can be seen in diagram 2 below.

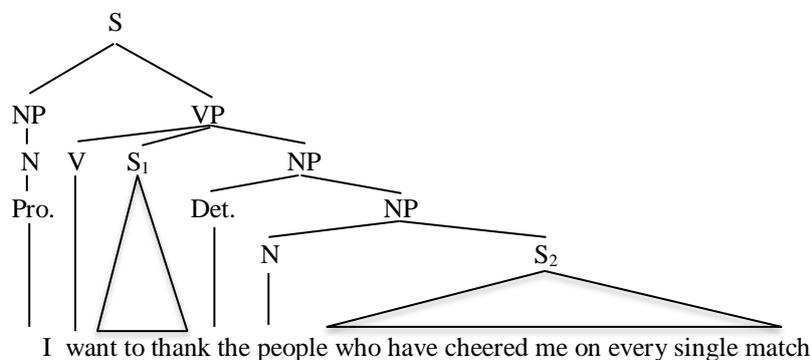


Diagram 2. Tree Diagram of Second Interpretation of *I want to thank the people who have cheered me on every single match*

Diagram 2 illustrates how the prepositional phrase *on every single match* is attached to the verb phrase *have cheered*, means that the prepositional phrase is included in the relative clause which functions as modifier of noun *the people*. If so, the meaning will be the subject wants to thank the people who on every match the subject joins in always cheer them. Or it can be paraphrased by *I want to thank the people on every single match by whom I have been cheered up*.

Now, to find out the actual meaning that is intended to by the sentence is by relating it to the context. On that post of BBC News', it tells about the 18 year old British tennis athlete, Emma Raducanu, who had to give up her dream to become a champion in Wimbledon (an international tennis tournament) 2021. Raducanu had to do so due to the shortness of breath she experienced in the fourth round of the match. This is confirmed by Clarey (2021) in the New York Times article. He said that "The British teenager, a sudden sensation after making the fourth round, struggled with her breathing and retired from the match, a reminder of the intense pressures on elite athletes."

The sentence *I want to thank the people who have cheered me on every single match* is actually a quotation taken from one of Raducanu's Instagram post (@emmaraducanu). In that post, she talks about her condition after the competition. She also says thank to many parties. "I want to thank the people who have cheered me on every single match, I wanted to win so badly for you! I also want to thank the All England Club, my team, the LTA, my parents and friends."

Looking at the context, Raducanu mentions many parties she thanks for. So, it can be known that the prepositional phrase *on every single match* modifies the people who have cheered her. Moreover, she continues her sentence with *I wanted to win so badly for you*, where the word *you* refers to those people. So, the actual meaning intended to by the sentence is the second interpretation, where the prepositional phrase is included in the relative clause.

As for the post on August 12, 2021 with the sentence *Olympian given new gold medal after first got bitten by mayor at victory ceremony*, here are the tree diagrams illustrating the ambiguity.

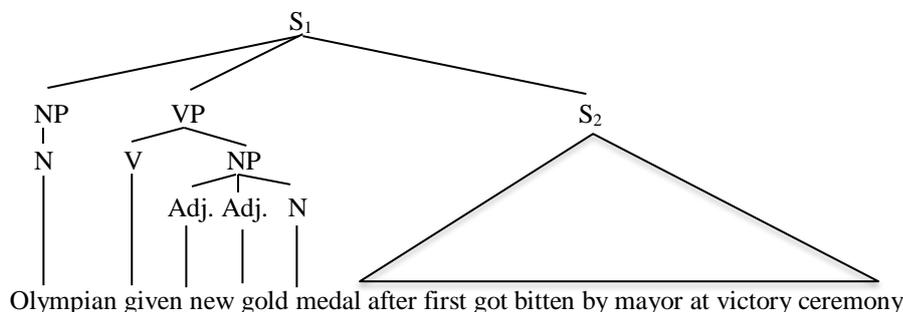
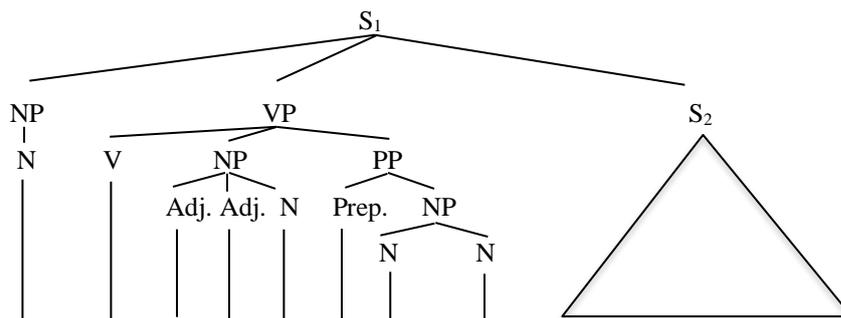


Diagram 3. Tree Diagram of First Interpretation of *Olympian given new gold medal after first got bitten by mayor at victory ceremony*

In diagram 3, if the prepositional phrase *at victory ceremony* is attached to the subordinate clause, then it functions as adverbial. The meaning is after the mayor bit it at victory ceremony, the olympian is given a new gold medal. So is the paraphrase.



Olympian given new gold medal at victory ceremony after first got bitten by mayor

Diagram 4. Tree Diagram of Second Interpretation of *Olympian given new gold medal after first got bitten by mayor at victory ceremony*

Meanwhile, in diagram 4, if the phrase is attached to the main clause, then it functions as sentence complement. The meaning is the olympian is given new gold medal at victory ceremony after the mayor bit it first. Otherwise, it can be paraphrased by *Olympian given new gold medal at victory ceremony after first got bitten by mayor*.

Those two different readings obviously lead to different interpretations. However, if we know the context of the news, we will know which reading that has the actual meaning. Seeing the context, BBC News on that post reports about Takashi Wakamura, the mayor of Nagoya, Japan, biting a medal belonging to Miu Goto, a softball athlete from Japan. BBC says that “Olympic officials say they will swap Ms Goto's medal for an untarnished one, after the mayor apologised and said he would pay for a replacement.”

Quoted from abc.net.au, at an event held in celebrating Miu Goto’s achievement at the Tokyo 2020 Games, Mr. Kawamura pulled down his mask and put Goto's medal between his teeth. The event intended to is the victory ceremony. This is in line with the statement of Jackson (2021), saying that “Mr. Kawamura put the medal between his teeth at a ceremony to mark Japan's victory over the USA in the women's softball final.”

By relating the datum to the context, it can be seen that the mayor bit the medal at the victory ceremony marking Miu Goto's victory. From here, it is clear that the prepositional phrase *at victory ceremony* is attached to the sub-sentence which functions as an adverbial. Then, the actual meaning intended to by the news headline is the first interpretation.

The next ambiguous sentence to solve is on BBC News’ post on September 13, 2021, with headline *Britney Spears announces engagement to Sam Asghari*. The ambiguity of the sentence can be seen in the following tree diagrams.

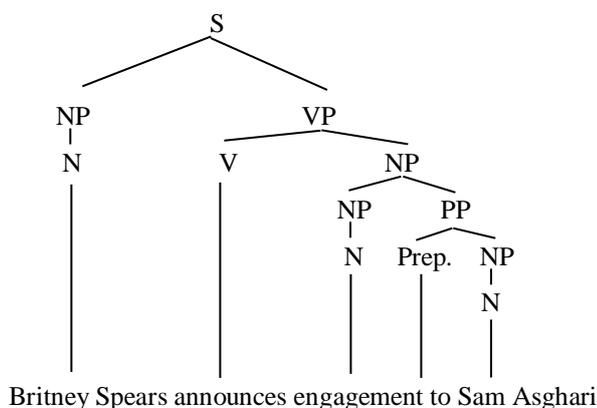
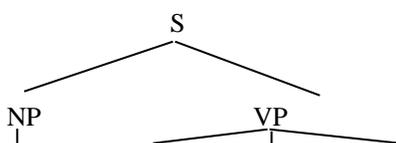


Diagram 5. Tree Diagram of First Interpretation of *Britney Spears announces engagement to Sam Asghari*

Diagram 5 shows the attachment of the prepositional phrase *to Sam Asghari* to the noun phrase *engagement*. If the phrase is attached to the noun *engagement*, then the meaning will be Britney Spears is engaged to her lover named Sam Asghari, and she announces it to public. Otherwise, it can be paraphrased by *Britney Spears and Sam Asghari announce their engagement*.



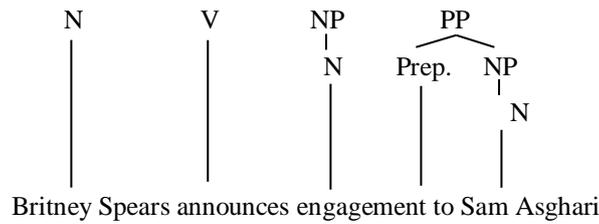


Diagram 6. Tree Diagram of Second Interpretation of *Britney Spears announces engagement to Sam Asghari*

However, if the phrase is attached to the verb *announces*, as illustrated in diagram 6, then it becomes a sentence complement and means Britney Spears announces to Sam Asghari that she is engaged (to someone else). It can be paraphrased by *Britney Spears announces to Sam Asghari that she is engaged*.

Those different readings might cause confusion to the readers, while there is only one that is really intended to. Therefore, it must be revealed what the actual meaning is. In that post, BBC News writes the caption “Britney Spears is engaged! In a surprise Instagram post, the pop star showed off her ring to her long-term boyfriend Sam Asghari.” From the caption, it is just found out that the actual meaning is the first interpretation, Britney Spears and Sam Asghari announce their engagement. The statement is also confirmed by Brandon Cohen, Asghari’s talent manager, saying that “The couple made their longstanding relationship official today and are deeply touched by the support, dedication and love expressed to them,” (Miranda, 2021). Now, it is clear what the actual meaning from the news headline is after relating it to the context. Therefore, it is important to read the whole content of the news to avoid misleading information.

b. Analytical Ambiguity

To know what interpretations arise from BBC News’ post on December 18, 2021 with the sentence *Teens escape from burning building*, here are the tree diagrams showing different readings.

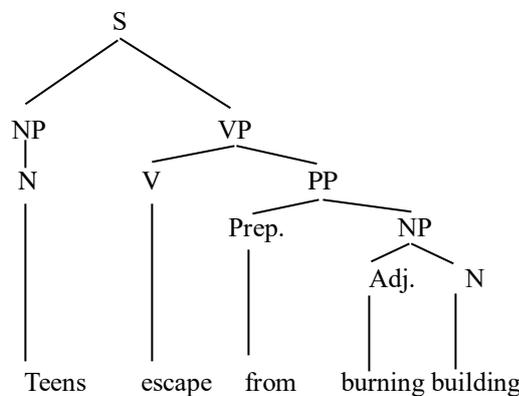
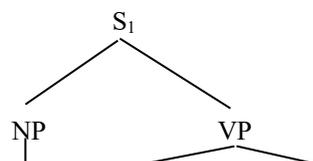


Diagram 7. Tree Diagram of First Interpretation of *Teens escape from burning building*

In diagram 7, it describes if the word *burning* functions as an adjective. If so, then *burning* is an attribute of the noun *building*. The meaning then is the teens are on a building, and when the building is on fire, they escape. Or, it can be paraphrased as *Teens escape from building that is on fire*.



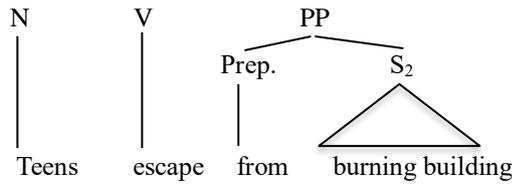


Diagram 8. Tree Diagram of Second Interpretation of *Teens escape from burning building*

Meanwhile, diagram 8 shows if the word *burning* is a present participle. If so, it means that burning building is an action that is done by teens and they escape after did it. Then the meaning and the paraphrase will be *Teens escape after burning a building*.

The actual meaning intended to by the sentence is the first interpretation. Since, if we look at the context, the fire actually comes from the forth floor of the building. This is confirmed by Fire Department of New York Commissioner, Daniel A. Nigro (in Miranda, 2021), who said that “Early yesterday morning in the East Village, a fire on the fourth floor caused the death of a young man, left a woman clinging to life, and injured two teenagers.” This gives rise to the meaning that the teenagers are victims of the building fire. Moreover, Russell (2021) added that the building fire was caused by lithium-ion batteries from an electric bike.

The last ambiguous meaning to reveal is on BBC News’ post on October 22, 2021. The different interpretations of the sentence *Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie set* are described in the tree diagrams below.

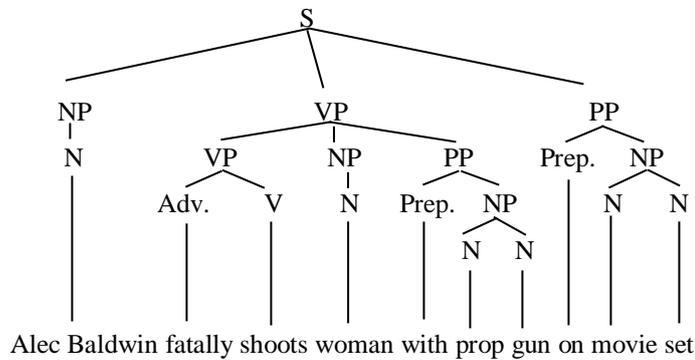
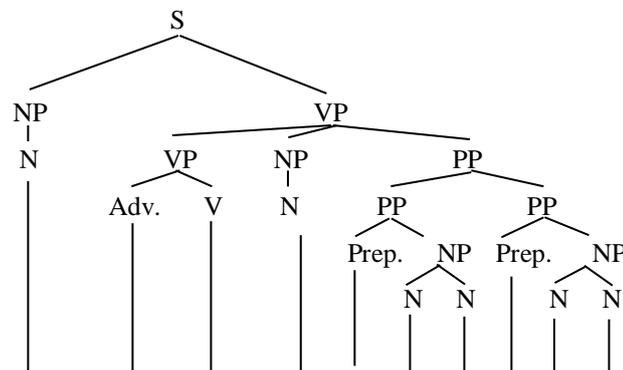


Diagram 9. Tree Diagram of First Interpretation of *Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie set*

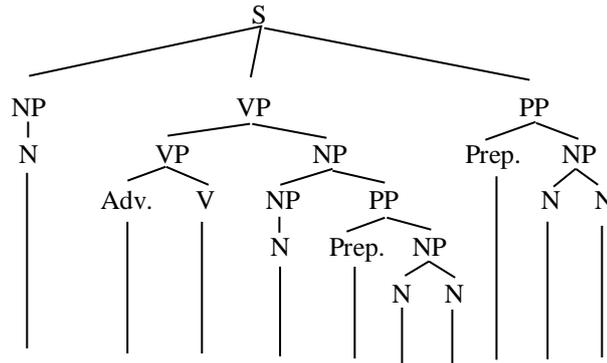
In diagram 9, if *with prop gun* attributes the verb *shoots*, it means that the prop gun functions as instrument to shoots the woman. Then, if *on movie set* is a pure prepositional phrase which describes where the incident is located, it means that it functions as an adverbial. So, the whole meaning will be Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman by using prop gun, and he does it on movie set. If it is paraphrased, the sentence could be *On movie set, Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman by using prop gun*.



Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie set

Diagram 10. Tree Diagram of Second Interpretation of *Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie set*

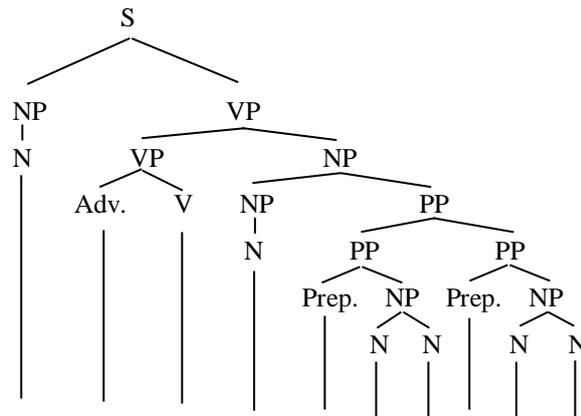
Then, if *with prop gun* attributes the verb *shoots* (as showed in diagram 10) and *on movie set* is an adjectival phrase that modify *prop gun*, the meaning will be Alec Baldwin fatally shoots the woman by using the prop gun that is on movie set. The sentence could also be like that if it is paraphrased



Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie set

Diagram 11. Tree Diagram of Third Interpretation of *Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie*

Diagram 11 illustrates if *with prop gun* is a post-modifier of the noun *woman*, then it describes woman and functions as adjectival phrase of it. If *on movie set* is a pure prepositional phrase, then it describes where the event takes place and functions as adverbial. The sentence meaning and paraphrase will be *On movie set, Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman who is holding prop gun*



Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie set

Diagram 12. Tree Diagram of Fourth Interpretation of *Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie*

The last possible interpretation is illustrated in diagram 12. If *with prop gun* modifies the noun *woman*, and *on movie set* is an adjectival phrase of *prop gun*, then the phrase *lhwoman with prop gun on movie set* is a unified string of words, meaning that the adjectival phrase starts from the word *with* until *set*. The phrase *with prop gun on movie set* describes that the woman is holding a prop gun that is on movie set. The meaning and paraphrase could be *Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman who is holding prop gun that is on movie set*.

Since there are too many interpretations arise from the sentence, we have to find one that the sentence really refers to. Looking at the context, BBC News’ states on the caption of the post that “A woman has died and a man has been injured after actor Alec Baldwin fired a prop

gun during the filming for the western film *Rust*, in New Mexico.” The post talks about Baldwin accidentally shooting his film crew, cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, with a property gun. Quoted from Romero et al. (2021), the incident began with Baldwin shooting a movie and playing a criminal who needs a gun. An assistant director handed over what is claimed to be a cold weapon, which means there is no live ammunition in it. However, when Baldwin fired his gun, it hit and killed Hutchins. From the context above, it is clear that the actual meaning intended by the sentence is the first interpretation. It is *On movie set, Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman by using prop gun*.

From all the data above, attachment ambiguity is the most common type of structural ambiguity because often a syntactic constituent does not know where to put it in a sentence because of the complexity of the sentence. Therefore, the most constituent that leads to ambiguity is prepositional phrase which is due to modifier placement. This is in line with Hirst (1987, p. 131) which stated that “attachment problems are mostly problems of modifier placement” and with previous study conducted by Kristian (2018). Kristian (2018, p. 70) in his research found out that 80% cause of structural ambiguity is prepositional phrase which is unknown whether it functions as modifier or as sentence adjunct.

Meanwhile, Fitri (2019, p. 45) in her research using theory of Ullmann, she only found one cause of structural ambiguity, it is equivocal phrasing. It is when a string of words constructing a phrase has clear combination, yet can be interpreted in more than one way. Not much different from the results of research conducted by current researchers. In essence, most of the structural ambiguity is caused by the constituent phrases.

As for the research that was conducted by Rohmaniah (2017), she tried to find out the types of syntactic ambiguity and how the parsing takes role for those ambiguities. She used the theory of Gorrell and found out that there are three kinds of syntactic ambiguity are found on the students’ writing, they are onset of ambiguity; ambiguous region; and resolution of ambiguity. She also found out that the role of parsing is effective to distinguish the meanings of those ambiguous sentences.

The difference with the research that is conducted by the current researchers is in the focus of the problem and the theory that is used. Kristian (2018) and Fitri (2019) discussed several kinds of ambiguity. Meanwhile, in the current research, the researchers focus only on one type of ambiguity, that is structural ambiguity. As for the difference with Rohmaniah's (2017) is that she used theory of Gorrell to find out the types of structural ambiguity. Whereas, the current researchers use theory of Hirst to find out the types of structural ambiguity.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion above, it can be concluded that structural ambiguity is a language phenomenon that is still widely found around us. Not all sentences that are grammatically correct have clear interpretation. In fact, international news headlines are not spared from this phenomenon. In one and a half year period, there are at least fifty news headlines on the @bbcnews Instagram account which turned out to have multiple interpretations. This is a concern for BBC News to continue to improve the quality of its writing. Since, as people know, BBC News is the largest news broadcasting division worldwide, in which there are many people seeking for information about world issues through it, including through its Instagram account. So, it will be dangerous if the readers have the wrong interpretation when reading news headlines. Therefore, in general context, it is important for writers to pay close attention to what they write. Writers must ensure that their writing does not confuse the reader. Correct writing is writing that has a clear meaning so that readers have uniformity in interpreting it. If it turns out that the sentence structure created creates ambiguity, then the writing must be paraphrased to get a clear sentence structure and to not cause multiple interpretations. As for the readers, it should be noted that in reading a passage, they should not

stop reading at the headline or title. Readers must carefully read the entire contents of the passage in order to really understand and not cause misunderstandings about the passage.

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APPENDIX

Sentences that are considered ambiguous on BBC News' Instagram post from February 2021 until July 2022

No.	Sentence	Type	Publication Date	Link
	Alec Baldwin fatally shoots woman with prop gun on movie set	Analytical	October 22, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CVUsoj7LFmt/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
	I find lost dogs with the drone	Attachment	November 24, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/tv/CWo0R14qbYw/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
	Britney Spears announces engagement to Sam Asghari	Attachment	September 13, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CTvkYetlZhW/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
	Baby elephant dies after losing half its trunk in poacher's trap	Attachment	November 18, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CWZyMaOidre/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
	I want to thank people who have cheered me on every single match	Attachment	July 7, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CO_sZUIoTV9/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
	Olympian given new gold medal after first got bitten by mayor at victory ceremony	Attachment	August 12, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CSeSUhaIRTk/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
	I get really moved when I see a new idea for a puzzle which has lots of potential	Attachment	August 18, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CSsxn07AwGj/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
	The mummy was found with a series of offerings	Analytical	November 30, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/tv/CW5J3QzDbdg/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
	People are too	Attachment	October	https://www.instagram.com/tv/CW5J3QzDbdg/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

	impetuous and anxious to produce something that can actually go down in history		28, 2021	
0.	Sir David is such a kind and thoughtful MP to us all	Attachment	October 16, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CVDrWWholat/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
1.	I can take critique of my performance all day long	Analytical	July 13, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CRQfQ2iI1po/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
2.	Taliban pictured with military equipment left by US forces in Afghanistan	Attachment	September 1, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CTP91GioTBx/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
3.	Mark Wright urges people to check yourself after tumour removal	Attachment	December 11, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CXUNAlrq7Qa/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
4.	Teens escape from burning building	Analytical	December 18, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/tv/CXoWlarDRkA/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
5.	Ghislaine Maxwell is convicted of grooming teenage girls for abuse by Jeffrey Epstein	Attachment	December 30, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CYFcVRTreU0/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
6.	Prince William comforted grieving boy who lost his mother last year	Attachment	January 22, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CZATaesMcux/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
7.	Missing girl reunites with man who rescued her after decades	Attachment	January 27, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CZM9bS6svFg/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
8.	Harry and Meghan reveal 'concerns' over covid misinformation on Spotify	Analytical	January 31, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CZY0uzMo7Wf/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

9.	Teenager completes 'final wish' fundraising £60,000 for fellow cancer patient before death	Attachment	February 10, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CZyhp4Loutq/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
10.	Nasa astronauts prepare for 2025 moonwalk underwater	Analytical	February 12, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CZ4nCKgshfl/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
11.	P&O Ferry staff refuse to leave ships in protest after 800 sacked in video message	Attachment	March 18, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CbN-etWsdhq/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
12.	Prince William expresses 'profound sorrow' over slavery in Jamaica	Attachment	March 24, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CbfGJ8mogAj/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
13.	Queen gets her own Barbie to celebrate 70 years on the throne	Attachment	April 21, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/Ccmn6x-ooB3/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
14.	Club runner pinches himself after beating Sir Mo Farah in London road race	Attachment	May 4, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CdG83BwMT5h/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
15.	This is the most painful and difficult thing I've ever gone through	Attachment	May 5, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CdJq80Do3Sr/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
16.	Russia's President Vladimir Putin addressed WW2 Victory Parade in Moscow	Attachment	May 9, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CdVO9F6K0jJ/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
17.	Picture map of visits made by Queen during her reign	Attachment	May 10, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CdYRdFrKUm5/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

8.	released for Platinum Jubilee Finland leaders announce intention to join Nato after Russia's invasion of Ukraine	Attachment	May 12, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/Cdc7aL2IqMp/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
9.	Hospitals are overcrowded and the health system is on the brink of collapse in many areas	Attachment	May 1, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/COVHb74K9fu/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
0.	Many Colombians say they're struggling to feed their families during the pandemic	Attachment	May 4, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/COdPnDhtuV1/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
1.	The bans followed the Capitol Hill riots in January	Attachment	May 8, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/COonLDRJoN6d/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
2.	Elon Musk reveals he has Asperger's while hosting on Saturday Night Live	Attachment	May 9, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/COonLDRJoN6d/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
3.	Israeli police say thousands of Palestinians barricaded themselves in the building overnight ahead of the Jerusalem Day Flag March	Attachment	May 11, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/COs0GGhI4Mr/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
4.	Britain took control of the area known as Palestine after the First World War	Attachment	May 14, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CO3BGOGITzn/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
5.	Rugby player praised for breastfeeding	Attachment	June 16, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CQL178PoKIC/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

6.	during game UEFA declines German request to light stadium in LGBT rainbow ahead of match with Hungary	Attachment	June 22, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CQbLYPEIYQP/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
7.	UK advertising watchdog says social media influencer Molly-Mae Hague broke rules for second time	Attachment	March 3, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CL9kiWvopQu/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
8.	They are awaiting the results of an investigation released later this week	Attachment	March 17, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CMfrQ6BKGWY/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
9.	My family and I would like to thank you for all the support and kindness shown to us in recent days	Attachment	April 21, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CN7giG4oE22/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
0.	Moderna Covid-19 vaccine becomes third to be approved for use in the UK	Attachment	January 8, 2021	https://www.instagram.com/p/CJyL4usoDIT/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
1.	People around the world have protested in solidarity with the farmers	Attachment	February 5, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CK6lA3iovpq/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
2.	South Korea launches Covid test for pet cats and dogs	Attachment	February 9, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CL9Ezjqs0-i/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
3.	There is a controversial theory that the virus came from a lab in Wuhan	Analytical	February 9, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CLFDpQqMZrB/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=
4.	Singer Demi Lovato reveals	Attachment	February 18, 2022	https://www.instagram.com/p/CLb2tA0MOnZ/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=

- she had three strokes and a heart attack after her 2018 overdose
5. Lady Gaga offers reward after her dogwalker is shot and two bulldogs stolen in Los Angeles
Attachment February 26, 2022 <https://www.instagram.com/p/CLb2tA0MOnZ/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>
6. Woman kills man who opened fire at birthday party in US
Attachment May 28, 2022 https://instagram.com/stories/bbcnews/2847977971605780749?utm_source=ig_story_MjY=
7. A vigil has taken place to remember the victims of a mass shooting at Robb Elementary school in Texas, UK
Analytical May 27, 2022 <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CeDRcVZIUjf/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>
8. The event marked the beginning of Platinum Jubilee celebrations and featured more than 500 horses and 1000 performers
Attachment May 16, 2022 <https://www.instagram.com/tv/Cdm826yNIox/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>
9. Marharyta spoke no English when she arrived in the UK last month
Attachment May 13, 2022 <https://www.instagram.com/tv/Cdfx0wNKzpe/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>
10. This is Oksana and Viktor's first dance after they got married in a hospital in Lviv, Ukraine
Analytical May 4, 2022 <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CdGyPUVD2Q0/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>