THE ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL AND STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY IN
YOUR LETTERS OF THE JAKARTA POST

A THESIS

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Henny A. Tambunan
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ABSTRAK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS ..............................................................................................i
ABSTRAK .....................................................................................................................iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS ..............................................................................................iv
ABBREVIATIONS .......................................................................................................vi

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Analysis ................................................................. 1
1.2 Problems of the Analysis ................................................................. 3
1.3 Objectives of the Analysis ............................................................... 4
1.4 Significances of the Analysis .......................................................... 4
1.5 Scope of the Analysis ....................................................................... 5

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Semantic Theories ................................................................. 6
2.2 Meaning .................................................................................... 7
2.3 Lexical, Grammatical and Contextual Meaning ......................... 7
2.4 Ambiguity .................................................................................. 8
2.4.1 Lexical Ambiguity ............................................................... 9
2.4.2 Structural Ambiguity .......................................................... 10
2.5 Parts of Speech ................................................................. 11
2.6 Kinds of Phrase ................................................................. 13
2.7 Kinds of Sentence ................................................................. 14
2.8 Labeled and Bracketed Sentences/ Phrases ......................... 15
2.9 Related Study ................................................................. 16
CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Method ................................................................. 18
3.2 Data Collecting Method ...................................................... 18
3.3 Data Analysis Method ........................................................ 19

CHAPTER IV THE ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL AND STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY IN YOUR LETTERS OF THE JAKARTA POST

4.1 Analysis of Lexical and Structural Ambiguity ............... 20
4.1.1 Lexical Ambiguity .............................................................. 20
4.1.2 Structural Ambiguity .......................................................... 34
4.1.3 Kinds of Lexically Ambiguous Words ......................... 57
4.1.4 Kinds of Structurally Ambiguous Sentences/ Phrases .... 58
4.1.5 The Frequency of Lexical and Structural Ambiguity ...... 60

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion .............................................................................. 62
5.2 Suggestion .............................................................................. 62

BIBLIOGRAPHY ............................................................................. 64

APPENDICES
ABBREVIATIONS

Art = Article
N = Noun
V = Verb
S = Sentence
Adj = Adjective
Conj = Conjunction
NP = Noun Phrase
VP = Verb Phrase
L = Lexical
St = Structural
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Analysis

People, as social creatures, interact with each other to express their thoughts, ideas, feelings, and emotions by using a language. As Wierzbicka (1996: 3) tells about the function of language that is as an instrument for conveying meaning.

The language has a meaning whether it is a spoken language or a written language. We learn the meaning itself in semantics. As Palmer says (1976:1), “Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning.”

Sometimes we don’t state the meaning clearly so that we make the listeners or the readers interpret our meaning into different meaning. To understand a written language is rather difficult than a spoken language because if the listeners don’t understand what we say, they can ask us directly what we mean. On the other hand, if the readers don’t understand what we had written in a book, a novel, a magazine, and so on, they can’t ask us directly that will come the misunderstanding. This misunderstanding is known as ambiguity.

According to Leech (1981: 30), “An expression is said to be ambiguous when more than one interpretation can be assigned to it.” This ambiguous expression can happen in one word or one phrase/ sentence. That’s we know as lexical and structural ambiguity.

Ullmann (1977: 156) divides ambiguity into three kinds; phonetic, grammatical and lexical. However, the writer just uses grammatical and lexical as the subject of analysis.
Hurford and Heasley (1983: 128) state, “Lexical ambiguity is resulting from the ambiguity of a word.” Lexical ambiguity is caused by homonymy and polysemy. For example: The captain corrected the list.

The word ‘list’ has two meanings. It makes the sentence can be interpreted in two meanings. They are “The captain corrected the inventory” and “The captain corrected the tilt”. We don’t know what the exact meaning of that word because the context is unclear.

In analyzing the lexical ambiguity, the writer doesn’t just want to find the ambiguous word, but also classifies the word based on the class of word. This classification is known as part of speech. According to Crystal (1980: 259), “Part of speech is divided into 10 types; they are noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, preposition, conjunction, interjection, article, and participle.”

Hurford and Heasley (1983: 128) also state, “Structural ambiguity happens because its words relate to each other in different ways, even though none of the individual words are ambiguous.” For example: Miranda saw the boy with a telescope.

That sentence has two meanings. They are Miranda [saw the boy] with a telescope and Miranda saw [the boy with a telescope]. The first meaning of the sentence is “Miranda saw the boy by looking through a telescope” and the second meaning of the sentence is “Miranda saw the boy who had a telescope”.

According to Hurford and Heasley (1983: 128), “Structural ambiguity is basically a question of ‘what goes with what’ in a sentence, and this can be shown by labeled and bracketed sentence/ phrase.” By using this way, the writer can know the different structures that make one sentence ambiguous.
Yule (1985: 77) states the aim of labeled and bracketed sentence/phrase is to make the structure of grammatical sentences explicit in a language. The writer uses this diagram than the other diagrams because this way is more effective to describe clearly how sentences are put together as combinations of phrases which, in turn, are combinations of words.

In written language this ambiguity can happen in every writing occasion like magazine, newspaper, letter, novel, and so on. Based on this research, the writer chooses the source data from newspaper which is *The Jakarta Post*.

*The Jakarta Post* is a daily English language newspaper in Indonesia with an average circulation of around 50,000 copies; it is the largest English language newspaper in Indonesia (accessed at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakarta_Post](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jakarta_Post), on February 2, 2009, at 8:36 PM). And it has been known well by the common people. There are some sections offered by this news such as headlines, business, national, opinion, clads, your letters, and so on. And the writer chooses *Your Letters* section as the object of this analysis because the writer can find the examples of lexical and structural ambiguity. *Your Letters* is a section of *The Jakarta Post* in which readers can send their letters by using English language as to express their opinions, suggestions and critics, about the articles stated on the previous day.

### 1.2 Problems of the Analysis

In this thesis, the writer tries to analyze the ambiguity in “Your Letters” section of *The Jakarta Post* through the following:

1. Which words and sentences/ phrases are possibly ambiguous?
2. What classes of word are lexically ambiguous?

3. What kinds of sentence/phrase are structurally ambiguous?

4. Which type of ambiguity is the most dominant?

1.3 Objectives of the Analysis

The objectives of this thesis are to answer the problems of this research which are mentioned above. They are:

1. To find out words and sentences which are possibly ambiguous.

2. To analyze the classes of word that can be lexically ambiguous.

3. To analyze the kinds of sentence/phrase that can be structurally ambiguous.

4. To determine the most dominant type of ambiguity.

1.4 Significances of the Analysis

After finishing this research, the writer hopes that this thesis can give the readers some significances, they are:

1. To add the readers’ ability in understanding the ambiguous sentence, phrase or word in written language.

2. As the reference for the study of semantics and syntax in teaching and learning activity.

3. As the reference for people who are interested in analyzing lexical and structural ambiguity in their research later.
1.5 Scope of the Analysis

In this thesis the writer focuses on lexical and structural ambiguity by using Ullmann’s theory, kinds of word, phrase and sentence by using Crystal’s, and labeled and bracketed sentences/ phrases by using Yule’s theory. The data of this research are taken from the section of Your Letters of The Jakarta Post issued in March 2009. The writer limits the data within two week editions from March 2009 and there are 52 letters. After the writer selects the data, in fact there are 28 letters which contains the ambiguous words and phrases.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Semantic Theories

The term ‘semantics’ did not come to be widely used until the 20th century, but the subject it represents is very old, reaching back to the writings of Plato and Aristotle, and attracting the special interest of philosophers, logicians, and (these days) linguists. In the 17th century the word semantick was used in the phrase semantick philosophy to mean "divination". It was then treated as the ‘science’ of meaning when Breal’s book was published in English version titled Semantics: studies in the science of meaning in 1900.

As a branch of linguistics, semantics is defined as the study of meaning. Hurford and Heasley (1983: 1) say that semantics is the study of meaning in language. In semantics we have to explain and clarify the nature of meaning although there is no very general agreement either about the nature of meaning or about the way in which it should be described.

According to Hurford and Heasley (1983: 11), semantic theory is a part of a larger enterprise, linguistic theory, which includes the study of syntax (grammar) and phonetics (pronunciation) besides the study of meaning. The different grammar and pronunciation in a language may differ the meaning of that language. Therefore, other studies are involved in semantics.

Katz (1972: 7) states that a semantic theory must explain why the meaning of a linguistic construction makes it a case of a certain semantic property or relation, makes it exhibit the phenomenon of synonymy, ambiguity, or
redundancy, and so forth. On the other word, semantics should be able to define any expression in a language and specify those meanings based on their case whether it is meaning properties or relation.

2.2 Meaning

As has already said on the explanation above, there is no very general agreement either about the nature of meaning or about the way in which it should be described. Besides, the word “meaning” is described in various definitions by semanticists, for instance, Leech (1981: 23) notes three points of meaning through the following:

1. Meaning involves the speaker’s intention to convey a certain meaning that may or may not be evident from the message itself.

2. Consequently, interpretation by the hearer is likely to depend on the context.

3. Meaning in the sense is something, which is performed rather than something that exists in static way. It involves action (the speaker produces and effects on the hearer) and the interaction (the meaning being negotiated between the speaker and the hearer on the basis of their mutual language).

2.3 Lexical, Grammatical and Contextual Meaning

Chaer (2007: 289) defines “Makna leksikal adalah makna yang dimiliki atau ada pada leksem meski tanpa konteks apa pun” (Lexical meaning is a meaning that possessed by a lexeme without any context). It is the actual thing
that is observed through human senses. For example, the lexeme ‘horse’ has a lexical meaning ‘a large animal with four long legs’. And the lexeme ‘house’ has lexical meaning ‘the building made for people to live in’.

Unlike lexical meaning, grammatical meaning is meaning that possessed by a stem because of grammatical process, such as affixation or tenses. For example, in the affixation of suffix -s attached to a stem ‘chair’ produces ‘chairs’. It changes the meaning of the word ‘chair’ from one chair (singular) to be many chairs (plural).

Chaer (2007: 290) states “Makna kontekstual adalah makna sebuah leksem atau kata yang berada di dalam satu konteks” (Contextual meaning is meaning of a word within a certain context). For example, the question of ‘What is a war?’ may have two different contextual meanings. They are as follows:

a. If a teacher asks a child of preschool, the child will answer ‘That’s horrible’.

b. If we ask to a soldier, he will consider a war as an attitude to get the peace.

2.4 Ambiguity

Ambiguity can arise in variety of spoken and written language. If we listen to the speaker’s utterance or read a book, we are sometimes difficult to understand what the speaker or the writer means.

According to Djajasudarma (1999: 56), “Kekaburan makna dapat muncul akibat dari: (a) sifat kata atau kalimat yang bersifat umum/ generic, misalnya kata ‘buku’ yang mempunyai makna ganda; (b) kata atau kalimat tidak sama
seratus persen, kata akan jelas maknanya di dalam konteks meskipun kadang-kadang konteks itu kabur bagi kita; (c) batas makna yang dihubungkan dengan bahasa dan yang di luar bahasa tidak jelas, misalnya tidak ada batas untuk menentukan seseorang yang pintar dalam bidang tertentu; (d) kurang akrabnya kata yang kita pakai dengan acuannya/ referentnya” (A meaning may be unclear because: (a) the word or sentence is common (general). For example, the word ‘book’ has multiple meanings; (b) the word or sentence which is interpreted is not the same with the speaker/the writer’s intention. The interpretation should depend on the context though the context is unclear; (c) the meaning limit connected to language and non language is not clear. For example, there’s no limit to say that someone is clever at something; (d) the use of the word or sentence is not familiar to us).

Ullmann (1977: 156) defines ambiguity as a linguistic condition which can arise in a variety of ways. From a purely linguistic point a view, he distinguishes ambiguity into three main forms: phonetic, grammatical and lexical.

And the kinds of ambiguity that will be analyzed in this thesis are lexical and structural ambiguities that exist in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post.

2.4.1 Lexical Ambiguity

Lexical ambiguity arises when a single word has more than one meaning. For a word, ambiguity typically refers to an unclear choice between different definitions as may be found in a dictionary (accessed at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ambiguity, on February 2, 2009, at 8:00 PM). Ullmann (1977: 158) concludes that ambiguity arises due to lexical factors:
a. The same word may have two or more different meanings. This situation has been known since Breal as *polysemy*. The noun *board*, for example, may mean “a think plank”, “a tablet”, “a table”, “food served at the table”, “persons sitting at the council-table”, and various other things. Normally, only one of these will fit into a given context,

b. Two or more different words may be identical in sounds that known as *homonymy*. For example: The word *mean* may mean “middle” and “inferior”. The word *seal* can be defined as “name of an animal” and “piece of wax fixed on a letter”. Needless to say, words which sound alike but are spelt differently (‘root – route’, ‘site – sight – cite’) must also be regarded as homonyms.

It should be noted that both polysemy and homonymy may be accompanied by syntactical differences. When a word belongs to several parts of speech – as for instance *double* which can be an adjective, an adverb, a verb and a noun – these uses will differ not only in meaning but in grammatical function. Homonyms too may come from different word-classes: *grave* (adjective) – *grave* (noun), *bear* (noun) – *bear* (verb).

### 2.4.2 Structural Ambiguity

Structural (grammatical) ambiguity is caused by grammatical factors. According to Ullmann (1977: 156), there are two possibilities that equivocal may result from the ambiguousness of grammatical forms or from the structure of the sentence:
a. Many grammatical forms, free as well as bound, are ambiguous. Some prefixes and suffixes have more than one meaning, and this may, on occasion, create misunderstanding. The suffix -able does not mean the same thing in desirable or readable as it does in eatable, knowable, debatable. There are also homonymous prefixes and suffixes. The prefix in-, meaning ‘into, within, towards, upon’ (e.g. indent, inborn, inbreeding, inflame), has a homonym in the prefix in- expressing negation or privation (e.g. inappropriate, inexperienced, inconclusive). Though the two enter into different combinations they can occasionally give rise to confusion and uncertainty. Form words too may have several meanings which may make for confusion in some contexts.

b. Another source of grammatical ambiguity is equivocal phrasing (‘amphibology’). Here, the individual words are unambiguous but their combination can be interpreted in two or more different ways. For example, in the sentence: “I met a number of old friends and acquaintances”, the adjective old may be taken to refer either to both friends and acquaintances or only to the former. Most ambiguities of this kind will be clarified by the context and, in the spoken language, by intonation.

2.5 Part of Speech

According to Crystal (1980: 259) that part of speech is the traditional term for a grammatical term for a grammatical class of words. He divides it into 10
types; they are noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, preposition, conjunction, interjection, article, and participle.

Noun is a term used in the grammatical classification of words, traditionally defined as the ‘name of a person, place, or thing’. For example: table, girl, water, house, ink, flour, etc.

Pronoun is a term used in the grammatical classification of words, referring to the closed sets of items which can be used to substitute for a noun phrase (single noun). There are many types of pronoun: personal pronouns, possessive pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, interrogative pronouns, reflexive pronouns, indefinite pronouns, and relative pronouns. For example: I, mine, this, myself, who, anyone, that, etc.

Verb is a term used in the grammatical classification of words, to refer to a class traditionally defined as ‘doing’ or ‘action’ words. For example: swim, sing, read, teach, eliminate, kidnap, etc.

Adverb is a term used in the grammatical classification of words to refer to a heterogeneous group of items whose most frequent function is to specify the mode of action of the verb. They are many types of adverb: adverbs of manner, place, time, etc. For example: slowly, now, everyday, extremely, etc.

Adjective is a term used in the grammatical classification of words to refer to the main set of items which specify the attributes of nouns. For example: beautiful, exhausted, tired, expensive, etc.

Preposition is a term used in the grammatical classification of words, referring to the closed set of items which precede noun phrases to form a single constituent of structure. For example: in, on, beside, under, above, behind, etc.
Conjunction is a term used in the grammatical classification of words to refer to an item or a process whose primary function is to connect words or other construction. For example: and, or, but, then, if, although, etc.

Interjection is a term used in traditional classification of parts of speech, referring to a class of words which are unproductive, do not entire into syntactic relationships with other classes, and whose function is purely emotive. For example: oh, ah, gee, hey, etc.

Article is a term used in the grammatical classification of words, referring to a sub-class of determiners which display a primary role in differentiating the uses of nouns. There are two types of article: definite and indefinite. For example: the, a, etc.

Participle is a traditional grammatical term referring to a word derived from a verb and used as an adjective and noun. For example: a laughing face and smoking is forbidden.

2.6 Kinds of Phrase

Crystal (1980: 170) states that phrase is a term used in grammatical analysis to refer to a single element of structure containing more than one word, and lacking the subject-predicate structure typical of clauses. He distinguishes phrase into several types: noun phrase, verb phrase, adverbial phrase, adjectival phrase, and prepositional phrase.

Noun phrase is the construction into which nouns most commonly enter, and of which they are the head word. For example: two eggs, red shoes, a good policeman, etc.
Verb phrase consists of a main verb and one or more auxiliaries. For example: *is coming, may be coming, get up to, etc.*

Adverbial phrase functions in sentence as the adverbial, its head word and modifier are adverb. For example: *yesterday morning, very quickly, rather quietly, etc.*

Adjectival phrase functions in sentence as the adjectival, its head word is adjective. For example: *very important, extremely hot, etc.*

Prepositional phrase consists of a preposition, the object of the preposition and the modifiers (if any). For example: *in the corner, under the big tree, etc.*

### 2.7 Kinds of Sentence

According to Crystal (1980: 319), sentence is the largest structural unit in terms of which the grammar of a language is organized. He classifies sentence based on the function into four types which are statement, question, command, and exclamatory.

Statement is a sentence which contains a subject occurring before a verb. For example: *The man is coming.*

Question is a sentence with inversion of the subject and first verb in the verb phrase, commencing with a question word, or ending with a question tag. For example: *Is he coming?*

Command is a sentence which typically has no subject, and where the verb is in the imperative mood. For example: *Come here!"*
Exclamatory refers to any emotional utterance, usually lacking the grammatical structure of a full sentence, and marked by strong intonation. For example: *What a fool he was!*, *How nice!*, *Good grief!*, etc.

2.8 Labeled and Bracketed Sentences/Phrases

Yule (1985: 75) states that an alternative type of diagram is designed to show how the constituents in sentence structure can be marked off via labeled brackets. The first step is to put brackets (one on each side) around each constituent, and then more brackets around each combination of constituents. For example:

```
[The] [dog] [followed] [the] [boy]
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With this procedure, the different constituents of the sentences are shown at the world level – *[the]*; at the phrase level – *[the boy]*; and at the sentence level – *[The dog followed the boy]*.

We can, of course, label each constituent with grammatical terms such as ‘Art’ (= article), ‘N’ (= noun), ‘NP’ (= noun phrase), ‘V’ (= verb), ‘VP’ (= verb phrase) and ‘S’ (= sentence). In the following diagram, these labels are placed beside each bracket which marks the beginning of a constituent. The result is a labeled and bracketed analysis of the constituent structure of the sentence.
The dog followed the boy.

2.9 Related Study

In supporting the theory of this research, the writer collects some thesis and books that can give much contribution to the writer in analyzing this thesis. They are:

Hurford and Heasley (1983: 1) state that semantics is the study of meaning in language. Semantic theory talks about our expression in language. If our expression is meaningful, semantic theory should say so. If it has the specific intention, semantic theory should interpret it. And if it is ambiguous, semantic theory should clarify it.

Ullmann (1977: 128) divides the ambiguity into three forms: phonetic, lexical and grammatical.

Crystal (1980: 259) states that part of speech is the traditional term for a grammatical term for a grammatical class of words. He divides it into 10 types; they are noun, pronoun, verb, adverb, adjective, preposition, conjunction, interjection, article, and participle.

Crystal (1980: 170) distinguishes phrase into several types which are noun phrase, verb phrase, adverbial phrase, adjectival phrase, and prepositional phrase.
Crystal (1980: 320) classifies sentence based on the function into 4 types which are statement, question, command, and exclamatory.

Yule (1985: 84) states that labeled and bracketed sentences/ phrases are an alternative type of diagram which is designed to show how the constituents in sentence structure can be marked off via labeled brackets. This way is useful in analyzing of structural ambiguity.

Kristianty (2006) in her thesis “The Structural and Lexical Ambiguity Found in Cleo Magazine Advertisements” found that there are five structural ambiguities including three declaratives sentences, one adjective phrase and one noun phrase; ten lexical ambiguities that are included in the advertisements; there are four nouns, two verbs, three adjectives and one adverb. She concludes that lexical ambiguity occurs more frequently than structural ambiguity of advertisements in Cleo Magazine. From her thesis, the writer knows how to analyze this research and gets the examples.
CHAPTER III
METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Method

The writer applies the descriptive method in doing this research. The data are taken from *Your Letters* in *The Jakarta Post*. As Dane (1990: 236) says, “Descriptive research involves attempting to define or measure a particular phenomenon, usually by attempting to estimate the strength or intensity of a behavior or the relationship between two behaviors.” This method might include its distinctiveness from other phenomena, the extent to which it occurs in various situations, or its strength or quantity. The purpose of descriptive research is to generalize and to relate the findings gathered from the research situation to other situations.

3.2 Data Collecting Method

The data is collected by applying the documentary method because the source of this analysis is written materials which are taken from *The Jakarta Post*. The object in this analysis is the section of *Your Letters* from *The Jakarta Post* issued in March 2009. The writer takes the data within two week editions from March 2009 because it can represent the subject of this analysis about lexical and structural ambiguity. She finds 52 letters and after she selects the data, there are 29 letters which contains the ambiguous words and phrases.
3.3 Data Analysis Method

The writer does some steps in analyzing the data, they are:

1. Reading the selected data.
2. Identifying the words, phrases, and sentences which are possibly ambiguous.
3. Classifying them into the types of ambiguity whether lexical or structural ambiguity.
4. Analysing the lexical ambiguity by finding the meanings from the dictionary and the structural ambiguity by using labeled and bracketed phrases to find the meanings.
5. Classifying the lexically ambiguous words into parts of speech and the structurally ambiguous sentences/ phrases into kinds of sentence/phrase.
6. Calculating the data in percentage to get the most dominant kind of ambiguity.
7. Drawing some conclusion.

To count the percentage of the data, the writer uses the following formula from Bungin (2001: 189):

\[ N = \frac{f}{n} \times 100\% \]

\( f \) = Individual frequency of ambiguity category

\( n \) = Total number of all data

\( N \) = Percentage of ambiguity category
CHAPTER IV
THE ANALYSIS OF LEXICAL AND STRUCTURAL AMBIGUITY IN YOUR LETTERS OF THE JAKARTA POST

4.1 Analysis of Lexical and Structural Ambiguity

The data which is collected from The Jakarta Post within two week editions consists of 29 letters. The data will be analyzed based on lexical and structural ambiguity. Here are the words or sentences that will possibly make the readers confused.

4.1.1 Lexical Ambiguity

1. What defined the past relationship was crisis management and that is what both countries need to avoid in the future. (Soccer may make RI-Aussie closer on Monday, March 2, 2009)

This letter informs us about the relationship between Indonesia and Australia. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the meaning of the word need to. The word need to has two meanings:

a. must (as modal)

b. require

In the first meaning the sentence is interpreted as “What defined the past relationship was crisis management and that is what both countries must avoid in the future” while in the second meaning the sentence is interpreted as “What defined the past relationship was crisis management and that is what both countries require to avoid in the future”.

2. What is needed is a relationship characterized by front foot concrete policies. (Soccer may make RI-Aussie closer on Monday, March 2, 2009)

This letter also informs us about the relationship Indonesia and Australia. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because the meaning of noun phrase front foot functioning as adjective has two meanings, denotative and connotative:

a. the part of body that faces forward (denotative meaning)
b. necessary (connotative meaning)

In addition, the term of this noun phrase is not familiar to find so it makes the sentence ambiguous. The first meaning (denotative) is the part of body that faces forward. If we attach this meaning, the sense of the sentence is not understandable. The second meaning (connotative) is necessary. If we attach this meaning, the sense of the sentence is clear which means “What is needed is a relationship characterized by necessary concrete policies”.

3. Second, Australia is now belatedly very noisy on the issue of climate change, … (Soccer may make RI-Aussie closer on Monday, March 2, 2009)

This letter tells us about the relationship between Indonesia and Australia. The above sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity caused by the word noisy which has more than one meaning which is:

a. full of noise
b. caring (worried)

In the first meaning the sentence is interpreted as “Second, Australia is now belatedly very full of noise on the issue of climate change, …” while in the second
meaning the sentence is interpreted as “Second, Australia is now belatedly very caring (worried) on the issue of climate change, …”. Since the word noisy has the common meaning full of noise, this sentence is potentially categorized as ambiguity.

4. The taxation liability should be fulfilled by the head of the family. 

(Response to NPWP and departure tax on Tuesday, March 3, 2009)

This letter informs us about the fiscal tax payment. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the word liability which has two meanings, as follows:

a. debt
b. obligation

In the first meaning the sentence is interpreted as “The taxation debt should be fulfilled by the head of the family” while in the second meaning the sentence is interpreted as “The taxation obligation should be fulfilled by the head of the family”.

5. The VOC was a multinational company that employed fortune seekers and soldiers from Western Europe, as well as soldiers from Africa. (Dutch govt did not colonize RI on Tuesday, March 3, 2009)

This letter informs us about Dutch government who did not colonize Indonesia. This sentence can be potentially ambiguous because the meaning of the word as well as. This word has two meanings:

a. also
b. equally well as

In the first meaning the sentence is interpreted as “The VOC was a multinational company that employed fortune seekers and soldiers from Western Europe, also soldiers from Africa” while in the second meaning the sentence is interpreted as “The VOC was a multinational company that employed fortune seekers and soldiers from Western Europe, equally well as soldiers from Africa”.

6. It wasn’t until the early 19th century, after the VOC went bankrupt that its possessions were taken over by an unenthusiastic Dutch government.

*(Dutch govt did not colonize RI on Tuesday, March 3, 2009)*

This letter also informs us about Dutch government who did not colonize Indonesia. This sentence above is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the word went which has meaning more than one, which is:

a. move from one place to another place
b. become

The common meaning of went is to move from one place to another place if we replace this meaning in the sentence, the sentence doesn’t make a sense. The other meaning is to become because the word went is connected to bankrupt so the sentence means “It wasn’t until the early 19th century, after the VOC became bankrupt that its possessions were taken over by an unenthusiastic Dutch government”.

7. …after the Voorlopers (or “pelopors” in Indonesian) were cornered in Yogyakarta by the KNIL. (Dutch govt did not colonize RI on Tuesday, March 3, 2009)

This letter informs us about Dutch government who did not colonize Indonesia. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the word cornered which has two meanings, they are:

a. put into a corner
b. surrounded

The word cornered has the common meaning to put into a corner because this meaning is often used and found in any conversation. By using this meaning, the sentence means “After the Voorlopers (or “pelopors” in Indonesian) were put into a corner of Yogyakarta by the KNIL” while by using the other meaning surrounded, the sentence is interpreted as “After the Voorlopers (or “pelopors” in Indonesian) were surrounded in Yogyakarta by the KNIL”.

8. In addition, Transjakarta is not designed to integrate with the Jabodetabek railway networks, which actually are quite vast. (When will MRT system be integrated? on Tuesday, March 3, 2009)

This letter informs us about MRT system which hasn’t been integrated. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the word vast. This word has two meanings:

a. very great
b. very large in area
In the first meaning the sentence is interpreted as “Transjakarta is not designed to integrate with the Jabodetabek railway networks, which actually are quite great” while in the second meaning the sentence is interpreted as “Transjakarta is not designed to integrate with the Jabodetabek railway networks, which actually are quite large”.

9. The goal of the first step is, in fact, just to explain the physical aspects and how to conduct natural hazard analysis. (On ‘Feeling better, doing worse?’ on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)

The letter informs us about having a proper risk assessment as the first crucial step in disaster risk reduction efforts. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the word conduct. This word has two meanings, as follow:

a. to manage
b. to lead

In the first meaning the sentence is interpreted as “The goal of the first step is, in fact, just to explain the physical aspects and how to manage natural hazard analysis” while in the second meaning the sentence is interpreted as “The goal of the first step is, in fact, just to explain the physical aspects and how to lead natural hazard analysis”.

10. Turkish airliner crash (on Feb. 25) was another black day in the history of aviation. (Turkish airliner crash on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)
This letter informs us about Turkish airliner crash. The above sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the noun phrase *black day* functioning as noun. This phrase has two meanings:

a. day coloured black

b. mourning day

The meaning of the noun phrase above is potentially ambiguous especially to the people who just learn English. They can interpret that phrase by using the denotative meaning which is *day coloured black*. Of course, if we use this meaning, we can’t get the sense of the sentence. But if they know another meaning of that phrase as*mourning day*, they will get the sense of the sentence that the sentence is interpreted as “Turkish airliner crash (on Feb. 25) was another *mourning day* in the history of aviation”.

11. The *presenters* at the conference did not challenge any government decision related to the EFC. (*East Flood Canal is not enough* on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)

This letter informs us about insufficient East Flood Canal. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the noun *presenters* which has two different meanings:

a. people who present a radio or television program

b. people who attend

This noun has the common meaning as *people who present a radio or television program*. But if we read the sentence, we can conclude that the writer doesn’t intend to interpret the meaning of *presenters* as the above. Actually the
The writer of this letter wants to say that the “People who attend at the conference did not challenge any government decision related to the EFC”. This sentence above is potentially ambiguous because the readers tend to interpret the word based on the common meaning.

12. In addition, guiding the civil society to better prepare for floods in order to reduce flood damage should be considered as another way to reduce it, which is the ultimate goal of any flood management effort. (East Flood Canal is not enough on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)

This letter informs us about insufficient East Flood Canal. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the word ultimate. This word has two meanings, they are:

a. last or final
b. basic or fundamental

In the first meaning the sentence is interpreted as “Guiding the civil society to better prepare for floods in order to reduce flood damage is the final goal of any flood management effort” while in the second meaning the sentence is interpreted as “Guiding the civil society to better prepare for floods in order to reduce flood damage is the basic goal of any flood management effort”.

13. It ended up with its chairman, Jusuf Kalla (JK) – after all the provincial chapters demanded it – stating his readiness to run as a presidential candidate. (Is JK-HNW pair possible? on Thursday, March 5, 2009)
This letter informs us about the possibility of Jusuf Kalla and Hidayat Nur Wahid pairing. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the verb *to run* which has meaning more than one meaning like:

a. to continue for the specified period of time  
b. to stand

Since people often use this word in any kinds of context, the writer gets the different meanings from the verb *to run* which are *to continue for the specified period of time* and *to stand*. If we connect the first meaning *to continue for the specified period of time* to the sentence, it means “All the provincial chapter from Golkar Party demands Jusuf Kalla *to continue* his steps as a presidential candidate”. On the other hand, if the writer connects the second meaning *to stand* to the sentence, it means “All the provincial chapter from Golkar Party demands Jusuf Kalla *to stand* a presidential candidate”.

14. Unfortunately, many engagements at my university in Chieti, Italy, where I am a full professor of the history of art and president of the master’s program in this subject, delayed my writing of this letter. (*Preserve Borobudur, please!* on Thursday, March 5, 2009)

This letter informs us about Borobudur which must be preserved. This sentence above is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the adjective *full*. This adjective has two meanings, they are:

a. full of jobs  
b. full of time (busy)
This word is common and has the multiply meanings so it tends to make one sentence/ expression is ambiguous. In this letter the writer doesn’t explain clearly what is the meaning of the word *full*. This word can be interpreted as *full of jobs* or *full of time (busy)*. By the first meaning, the sentence means “Because the writer has *full of jobs* as a professor of the history of art and president of the master’s program, he delays to write this letter”. And by the second meaning, the sentence means “Because the writer works as a professor of the history of art and president of the master’s program, he has *full of time (busy)* on it so he delays to write this letter”.

15. I suggest, however, all parties concerned, especially all the political parties in the House of representatives, review the law that was **promulgated** after the Helsinki Accord in 2005. *(Fragile security in Aceh* on Friday, March 6, 2009)*

This letter informs us about fragile Aceh Peace. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the word *promulgated*. This word has two meanings, as follow:

a. made the law widely known

b. proclaimed

In the first meaning the sentence is interpreted as “All the political parties in the House of representatives, review the law that was *made widely known* after the Helsinki Accord in 2005” while in the second meaning the sentence is interpreted as “All the political parties in the House of representatives, review the law that was *proclaimed* after the Helsinki Accord in 2005”.

16. One verse in the Koran says to “avoid vain talk”, therefore I suggest Evan hold his tongue. *(Don’t generalize about Muslims* on Friday, March 6, 2009)

This letter informs us about the difference between Malaysian Muslims and other Muslims. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the word tongue. This word has two meanings, they are:

a. a language

b. a manner of speaking

In the first meaning the sentence is interpreted as “Evan should hold his language” while in the second meaning the sentence is interpreted as “Evan should hold his manner of speaking”.

17. Of course, the correct thing to do was to file a complaint with Blue Bird, which I did immediately. *(A shocking incident* on Saturday, March 7, 2009)

This letter informs us about a Blue Bird driver urinating not in a right place. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the word file. This word has two meanings, as follow:

a. to place a complaint in order in a file

b. to send a complaint so that it can be officially recorded

In the first meaning the sentence may be interpreted as “The correct thing to do was to place a complaint in order in a file of Blue Bird” while in the second meaning the sentence is interpreted as “The correct thing to do was to send a complaint with Blue Bird”.
18. The dispute is, in fact, about the interpretation of Surah Al-Ahzab verse 40; Ahmadiyah interpretation of it is supported by the Arabic lexicon and Arabic usage. (Let’s agree to disagree on Ahmadiyah on Wednesday, March 11, 2009)

This letter informs us about Ahmadiyah way in order not to use any Islamic terminology. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the noun dispute. This noun has two meanings:

a. argument and discussion

b. disagreement

If we attach the first meaning into the sentence, the sentence will be interpreted as “The argument and discussion is, in fact, about the interpretation of Surah Al-Ahzab verse 40; Ahmadiyah interpretation of it is supported by the Arabic lexicon and Arabic usage” while if we attach the second meaning into the sentence, the sentence will be interpreted as “The disagreement is, in fact, about the interpretation of Surah Al-Ahzab verse 40; Ahmadiyah interpretation of it is supported by the Arabic lexicon and Arabic usage”.

19. I hope this proverb finds “open ears”! (A wake-up call to all men on Wednesday, March 11, 2009)

This letter informs us about the position of women in Indonesian parliament. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the phrase open ears functioning as noun. This phrase has more than one meaning, as follow:

a. Ears which is opening

b. Realization
The meaning of the noun phrase above is potentially ambiguous because the writer uses the particular term. The reader can interpret that phrase by using the denotative meaning which is ears which is opening. Of course, if we use this meaning, we can’t get the sense of the sentence. But if they know another meaning of that phrase as realization, they will get the sense of the sentence that the sentence is interpreted as “I hope this proverb finds “realization!”.

20. What bothers me is his argument. (Fundamentalism is always wrong on Thursday, March 12, 2009)

This letter informs us about the misuse of the Indonesian words fundamentalis and teroris. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the verb bothers. This verb has more than one meaning:

a. annoyance to somebody
b. worries somebody

If we attach the first meaning into the sentence, the sentence will be interpreted as “What annoyance to me is his argument” while if we attach the second meaning into the sentence, the sentence will be interpreted as “What worries me is his argument”.

21. They are not designed to encourage students to be critical, compassionate or even down to earth. (Company’s role in imperialism on Thursday, March 12, 2009)
This letter informs us about company’s role in imperialism. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of adjective *down to earth*. This adjective has more than one meaning:

a. sensible
b. realistic

If we attach the first meaning into the sentence, the sentence will be interpreted “They are not designed to encourage students to be critical, compassionate or even sensible” while if we attach the second meaning into the sentence, the sentence will be interpreted “They are not designed to encourage students to be critical, compassionate or even realistic”.

22. The misery and the spirit are real and genuine. (*Slumdog’ upsets rich Indians* on Saturday, march 14, 2009)

This letter informs us about if ‘Slumdog’ deserves Oscars. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the adjective *genuine*. This adjective has two meanings, they are:

a. truly
b. sincere

If we attach the first meaning into the sentence, the sentence is interpreted as “The misery and the spirit are real and truly” while if we attach the second meaning into the sentence, the sentence will be interpreted as “The misery and the spirit are real and sincere”.

For if the common man cannot get justice through the law, what else can it be called? (If the police force is a force for hire on Monday, March 16, 2009)

This letter informs us about the Indonesian police who disrespects for the law. This sentence is a kind of lexical ambiguity because of the noun man. This noun has more than one meaning:

a. an adult male
b. human being

This noun is commonly found in any conversation. Sometimes it is defined whether as an adult man or as human being (using abbreviation as man). If we attach the first meaning, the sentence will be interpreted as “For if the common adult male cannot get justice through the law, what else can it be called?” while if we attach the second meaning, the sentence is interpreted as “For if the common human cannot get justice through the law, what else can it be called?”

4.1.2 Structural Ambiguity

1. There have been many movies with powerful performances, strong cinematography, direction and music. (Oscars for Slumdog Millionaire on Monday, March 2, 2009)

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase strong cinematography, direction and music. This phrase has two different forms which also change the meaning of the phrase. These following diagrams will show the difference:
In the diagram (a) the word *strong* modifies the whole phrase *cinematography, direction and music*. By this diagram, the sentence means “Many Indian movies were produced with powerful performances, *strong cinematography, strong direction and strong music*”.

In the diagram (b) the word *strong* modifies only *cinematography* which forms noun phrase. By this diagram, the sentence means “Many Indian movies were produced with powerful performances, *strong cinematography, and with direction and music that are common (usual)*”.

2. On behalf of Animals Asia Foundation, in concert with the opinion of many other Indonesian and international groups concerned with *human and animal health and welfare*,… *(Please use proper rabies control on Monday, March 2, 2009)*

This sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *human and animal health and welfare*. This phrase has two different forms which also change the meaning of the sentence. These following diagrams will show two different meanings of that sentence:
3. The two countries could establish a **collaborative research facility**, involving the two governments, the industry and research facilities. *(Soccer may make RI-Aussie closer on Monday 2, 2009)*

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase **collaborative research facility**. This noun phrase has two different forms which make the sentence has two different meanings. The following diagram will show the ambiguity of this sentence:

a. \[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{NP} \\
\text{Adj } \text{collaborative} \text{ research facility} \\
\text{NP}
\end{array}
\]
b. \[ \text{collaborative} \quad \text{research} \quad \text{facility} \] 

In the diagram (a) the word *collaborative* modifies only *research* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “Indonesia and Australia could establish a *facility with collaborative research*, involving the two governments, the industry and research facilities”.

In the diagram (b) the word *collaborative* modifies the whole phrase *research facility*. By this diagram, the sentence means “Indonesia and Australia could establish a *research facility which is collaborative*, involving the two governments, the industry and research facilities”.

4. The VOC was a multinational company that employed *fortune seekers and soldiers* from Western Europe, as well as soldiers from Africa. *(Dutch govt did not colonize RI on Tuesday, March 3, 2009)*

This sentence is structurally ambiguous because of noun phrase *fortune seekers and soldiers*. This phrase has two different forms which make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. This ambiguity is shown through the following diagrams:

a. \[ \text{fortune} \quad \text{seekers} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{soldiers} \] 

**NP** **NP**
Diagram (a) shows the word *fortune* modifies only *seekers* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “The VOC was a multinational company that employed *soldier and fortune seekers* from Western Europe, as well as soldiers from Africa”.

Diagram (b) shows the word *fortune* modifies the whole phrase *seekers and soldiers* so the sentence means “The VOC was a multinational company that employed *fortune seekers and fortune soldiers* from Western Europe, as well as soldiers from Africa”.

5. Nor is Transjakarta integrated with the *various transportation systems* in Tangerang, Depok, Bogor and Bekasi, … *(When will MRT system be integrated on Tuesday, March 3, 2009)*

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrases *various transportation systems*. This noun phrase has two different forms which make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. This ambiguity can be show through the following diagrams:

a. \[
\text{b. } \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{fortune} \\
\text{N} \\
\text{NP}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{seekers} \\
\text{N} \\
\text{NP}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{and} \\
\text{Conj} \\
\text{NP}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{soldiers} \\
\text{N} \\
\text{NP}
\end{array} \right)
\]
Diagram (a) shows the word *various* modifies only *transportation* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “Nor is Transjakarta integrated with the *systems of various transportation* in Tangerang, Depok, Bogor and Bekasi, …”.

Diagram (b) shows the word *various* modifies the whole phrase *transportation systems* so the sentence means “Nor is Transjakarta integrated with the *transportation systems which is various* in Tangerang, Depok, Bogor and Bekasi, …”.

6. I would thank Jonatan Lassa for highlighting the importance of having a proper risk assessment as the first crucial step in disaster risk reduction efforts. *(On ‘Feeling better, doing worse?’ on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)*

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity caused by noun phrase *proper risk assessment* which has more than one form. It makes the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. We can see this ambiguity through these diagrams:

```
a. \[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{proper} \\
\text{risk} \\
\text{assessment} \\
\end{array}
\]
\]
```
```
Diagram (a) shows that the word *proper* modifies only the word *risk* which forms noun phrase that makes the sentence mean “Jonatan Lassa highlights the importance of having an *assessment of proper risk* as the first crucial step in disaster risk reduction efforts”.

Diagram (b) shows that the word *proper* modifies the whole phrase that makes the sentence mean “Jonatan Lassa highlights the importance of having a *risk assessment which is proper* as the first crucial step in disaster risk reduction efforts”.

7. The goal of the first step is, in fact, just to explain the physical aspects and how to conduct *natural hazard analysis*, as Lassa noted in his article. (*On ‘Feeling better, doing worse?* on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)

The sentence is structurally ambiguous because of the form of noun phrase *natural hazard analysis*. The phrase has two different forms which make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. These forms can be seen through the below diagrams:

```
7. The goal of the first step is, in fact, just to explain the physical aspects and how to conduct *natural hazard analysis*, as Lassa noted in his article. (*On ‘Feeling better, doing worse?* on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)

The sentence is structurally ambiguous because of the form of noun phrase *natural hazard analysis*. The phrase has two different forms which make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. These forms can be seen through the below diagrams:
```

```
a. [natural] [hazard] [analysis]  
Adj N N
```

```
b. [proper] [risk] [assessment]  
Adj N N
```
Diagram (a) portrays the word *analysis* modifies only the word *hazard* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “The goal of the first step is, in fact, just to explain the physical aspects and how to conduct *hazard analysis* which is *natural*, as Lassa noted in his article”.

Diagram (b) portrays the word *analysis* modifies the whole phrase *natural hazard* which makes the sentence mean “The goal of the first step is, in fact, just to explain the physical aspects and how to conduct *analysis of natural hazard*, as Lassa noted in his article”.

8. I hope this clarifies some of the inaccurate information about the NG-DRA development, as well as supports the *positive ideas and suggestions* in Lassa’s article. *(On ‘Feeling better, doing worse? on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)*

The sentence above is classified as the structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *positive ideas and suggestions*. This phrase has two different forms which make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. This ambiguity can be seen through these diagrams:

a. \[
\left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{positive} \\
\text{Adj}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{ideas} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{and} \\
\text{Conj}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{suggestions} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \right) \\
\text{NP NP}
\]
Diagram (a) shows the adjective *positive* modifies only *ideas* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “Hopefully, this article clarifies some of the inaccurate information about the NG-DRA development, as well as supports the *suggestions and positive ideas* in Lassa’s article”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective *positive* modifies the whole phrase *ideas and suggestions* so the sentence means “Hopefully, this article clarifies some of the inaccurate information about the NG-DRA development, as well as supports the *positive ideas and positive suggestions* in Lassa’s article”.

9. My *sincere respect and admiration* go to the pilot and copilot, who are the unlucky ones, … (*Turkish airliner crash* on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)

The sentence is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *sincere respect and admiration*. If we change the form of that phrase, the meaning of that phrase will be also changed so the sentence can be interpreted in two different meanings. These following diagrams will show the difference:

a. \[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{sincere} \\
\text{adj}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{respect} \\
\text{n}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{and} \\
\text{conj}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{admiration} \\
\text{n}
\end{array}
\]

b. \[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{positive} \\
\text{adj}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{ideas} \\
\text{n}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{and} \\
\text{conj}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{suggestions} \\
\text{n}
\end{array}
\]
Diagram (a) shows the adjective *sincere* modifies only the noun *respect* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “My *admiration* and *sincere respect* go to the pilot and copilot, who are the unlucky ones, …”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective *sincere* modifies the whole phrase *respect and admiration* so the sentence means “My *sincere respect* and *sincere admiration* go to the pilot and copilot, who are the unlucky ones, …”.

10. …, so that they become integral aspects of existing strategies to achieve *sustained development and social equity*. *(East Flood Canal is not enough on Wednesday, March 4, 2009)*

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *sustained development and social equity*. The form of that phrase changing in different ways will create the different meaning. The different forms will be shown through the following diagrams:

**a.**  
\[
\begin{align*}
  \text{NP} & \quad \text{NP} \\
  \text{sustained} & \quad \text{development} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{social} \quad \text{equity} \\
  \text{Adj} & \quad \text{N} & \quad \text{Conj} & \quad \text{Adj} & \quad \text{N}
\end{align*}
\]
Diagram (a) shows the word *sustained* modifies only the word *development* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “Indonesia has to improve flood and risk policies and practices so that they become integral aspects of existing strategies to achieve *social equity and sustained development*”.

Diagram (b) shows the word *sustained* modifies the whole phrase *development and social equity* so the sentence means “Indonesia has to improve flood and risk policies and practices so that they become integral aspects of existing strategies to achieve *sustained development and sustained social equity*”.

11. The sculptures themselves are already in a very precarious condition, due to both time’s erosion and the old yellowish varnishes that were unfortunately used during a previous restoration. (Preserve Borobudur, please! on Thursday, March 5, 2009)

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity. The writer gets the different forms from noun phrase *old yellowish varnishes* so that the sentence can be interpreted in two different meanings. These following diagrams will show the different forms of that phrase:

a. \[
\left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{old} \\
\text{Adj}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{yellowish} \\
\text{Adj}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{varnishes} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \right)
\]

b. \[
\left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{sustained} \\
\text{Adj}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{development} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{and} \\
\text{Conj}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{social} \\
\text{Adj}
\end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{equity} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \right)
\]
Diagram (a) shows the adjective *old* modifies only the word *yellowish* which forms adjectival phrase so the sentence means “The sculptures were built by using the *varnishes which were coloured old yellowish*”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective *old* modifies the whole phrase *yellowish varnishes* so the sentence means “The sculptures were built by using the *yellowish varnishes which were long aged*”.

12. It comes as a shock to many ordinary citizens to be told that the *huge greedy corporations* actually make money for them, not for some faceless consortium. (*You can also cut CO2 production* on Saturday, March 7, 2009)

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *huge greedy corporations*. The phrase has two different forms which make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. The different forms will be shown through the below diagrams:

a. \[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{NP} \\
\text{Adj} \\
\text{NP}
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
\text{huge} \\
\text{greedy}
\end{array}
\begin{array}{c}
\text{corporations}
\end{array}
\]
Diagram (a) shows the adjective *huge* modifies only the word *greedy* which form adjectival phrase so the sentence means “Investing in big oil and big coal benefits only the *corporations who are too greedy*”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective *huge* modifies the whole phrase *greedy corporations* so the sentence means “Investing in big oil and big coal benefits only the *big corporations which is greedy*”.

13. Since humans have learned to identify *specific elements and life forms* in sediment and life core samples, they have decided that in some of these past rapid climate change events,…(*Global warming is not a myth* on Tuesday, March 10, 2009)

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *specific elements and life forms*. This phrase has two different forms which make the phrase also has two different meanings. These following diagrams will show the difference:

a. 

```
[specific] [elements] [and] [life] [forms]
```

b. 

```
[huge] [greedy] [corporations]
```

NP

NP

NP

Diagram (a) shows the adjective specific modifies only the word elements which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “Humans have known life forms and specific elements in sediment and ice core samples”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective specific modifies the whole phrase elements and life forms so the sentence means “Humans have known specific elements and specific life forms in sediment and ice core samples”.

14. Additionally, cracks in a new dry lake bed release moisture during the night because... (Global warming is not a myth on Tuesday, March 10, 2009)

This sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase new dry lake bed. This phrase has two different forms which make the sentence has also two meanings. These diagrams will show the difference, as follows:

a.  
\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{NP} \\
\text{new} \\
\text{Adj} \\
\text{dry} \\
\text{Adj} \\
\text{lake} \\
\text{N} \\
\text{bed} \\
\text{N} \\
\end{array}
\]

b.  
\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{NP} \\
\text{new} \\
\text{Adj} \\
\text{dry} \\
\text{Adj} \\
\text{lake} \\
\text{N} \\
\text{bed} \\
\text{N} \\
\end{array}
\]
Diagram (a) shows the adjective *new* modifies the phrase *dry lake* so the sentence means “Cracks in a *bed of new dry lake* release moisture during the night because…”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective *new* modifies the whole phrase *dry lake bed* so the sentence means “Cracks in a *bed of dry lake which is new*, release moisture during the night because…”.

15. …because the *warm daylight air* gets trapped down in the cracks causing normal subsurface moisture to pour upward all night long. *(Global warming is not a myth* on Tuesday, March 10, 2009)*

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *warm daylight air* which has two different forms. It makes the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. The different forms of that phrase will be shown through these below diagram:

a. \[
\left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{warm} \\
\text{Adj}
\end{array} \right)
\left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{daylight} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \right)
\left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{air} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \right)
\]
\[
\text{NP} \quad \text{NP}
\]

b. \[
\left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{warm} \\
\text{Adj}
\end{array} \right)
\left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{daylight} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \right)
\left( \begin{array}{c}
\text{air} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \right)
\]
\[
\text{NP} \quad \text{NP}
\]

Diagram (a) shows the adjective *warm* modifies only the word *daylight* so the sentence means “The *air in warm daylight* gets trapped down in the cracks causing normal subsurface moisture to pour upward all night long”.
Diagram (b) shows the adjective warm modifies the whole phrase daylight air so the sentence means “The warm air in daylight gets trapped down in the cracks causing normal subsurface moisture to pour upward all night long”.

16. …because the warm daylight air gets trapped down in the cracks causing normal subsurface moisture to pour upward all night long. (Global warming is not a myth on Tuesday, March 10, 2009)

This sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase normal subsurface moisture. This phrase has two different forms which make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. The below diagrams will show the different forms of that phrase:

a. \[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{normal} \\
\text{Adj}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{subsurface} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{moisture} \\
\text{N}
\end{array}
\]

NP \quad NP

b. \[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{normal} \\
\text{Adj}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{subsurface} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{moisture} \\
\text{N}
\end{array}
\]

NP \quad NP

Diagram (a) shows the adjective normal modifies only the word subsurface so the sentence means “The warm daylight air gets trapped down in the cracks causing moisture in normal subsurface to pour upward all night long”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective normal modifies the whole phrase subsurface moisture so the sentence means “The warm daylight air gets trapped..."
down in the cracks causing *normal moisture in subsurface* to pour upward all night long”.

17. Water vapor is a *fantastic greenhouse gas*, the more moisture in the air, the warmer it will get. (**Global warming is not a myth** on Tuesday, March 10, 2009)

The sentence above is a kind structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *fantastic greenhouse gas*. This phrase has two different forms which make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. These different forms will be shown through the below diagrams:

a. ![Diagram (a)]

Diagram (a) shows the adjective *fantastic* modifies only the word *greenhouse* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “Water vapor is *gas in a fantastic greenhouse*”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective *fantastic* modifies the whole phrase *greenhouse gas* so the sentence means “Water vapor is a *fantastic gas of greenhouse*”.

18. Worldwide, golf tourism is a US$20 billion business and given the fact that we are home to a **fabulous world of golf and leisure**. *(The Indonesian Open 2009 on Thursday, March 12, 2009)*

The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *fabulous world of golf and leisure*. This phrase has two different forms which make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. The different forms of that phrase are shown through the following diagrams:

a. 

```
   Adjective (adj)    Noun (N)  Preposition (prep)  Noun (N)  Conjunction (conj)  Noun (N)
   NP    NP
```

Diagram (a) shows the noun phrase *fabulous world* modifies only the word *golf* so the sentence means “Golf tourism is a US$20 billion business and given the fact that we are home to a leisure and fabulous world of golf”.

Diagram (b) shows the noun phrase *fabulous world* modifies the whole phrase *golf and leisure* so the sentence means “Golf tourism is a US$20 billion business and given the fact that we are home to a fabulous world of golf and a fabulous world of leisure”.

19. If you read American papers as you say, I am confused as how you could not see the constant navel gazing and hand-wringing over America’s past
This above sentence is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase constant navel gazing and hand-wringing. This phrase has more than two forms so that it makes the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. These following diagrams will show the different forms of that phrase:

Diagram (a) shows the adjective constant modifies only the noun phrase navel gazing so the sentence means “In American papers, the hand-wringing and the constant navel gazing over America’s past sins are real or imagined”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective constant modifies the whole phrase navel gazing and hand-wringing so the sentence means “In American papers, the constant navel gazing and the constant hand-wringing over America’s past sins are real or imagined”.

20. However, although today this is largely a collective, emotionalized trauma kept strong by their patriotic, nationalistic education system (for specific
reasons) with little room for nuance, … (RI shouldn’t misuse colonial history on Friday, March 13, 2009)

The above sentence is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *nationalistic education system*. The writer finds this phrase has two different forms which will make the sentence interpreted in two meanings. The different forms of that phrase will be shown through these below diagrams:

a. \[
\begin{aligned}
&\text{nationalistic} \\
&\text{education} \\
&\text{system}
\end{aligned}
\]

Diagram (a) shows the adjective *nationalistic* modifies only the word *education* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “Emotionalized trauma is kept strong by their patriotic, *system of nationalistic education* with little room for nuance”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective *nationalistic* modifies the whole phrase *education system* so the sentence means “Emotionalized trauma is kept strong by their patriotic, *system of nationalistic education* with little room for nuance”.

21. Perhaps it is time for a special task force with the sole directive of catching corrupt policeman. (If the police force is a force for hire on Monday, March 16, 2009)
The sentence above is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *special task force*. This phrase has two different forms which will make the sentence interpreted in two meanings. The different forms will be shown through these below diagrams:

**Diagram (a)** shows the adjective *special* modifies only the word *task* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “Perhaps it is time for a *force of special task* with the sole directive of catching corrupt policeman.

**Diagram (b)** shows the adjective *special* modifies the whole phrase *task force* so the sentence means “Perhaps it is time for a *special force of task* with the sole directive of catching corrupt policeman”.

22. While I greatly respect Dennis Kloeth’s *unique knowledge and contribution* to the Indonesian golf scene, … (The Indonesian Open on Monday, March 16, 2009)

This above sentence is a kind of a structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *unique knowledge and contribution*. The form of this phrase can be
changed in two ways which will change the meaning of the sentence. These following diagrams will show the different forms of that phrase:

a. \[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{unique} \\
\text{NP}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{knowledge} \\
\text{N}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{and} \\
\text{Conj}
\end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c}
\text{contribution} \\
\text{N}
\end{array}
\]

Diagram (a) shows the adjective *unique* modifies only the word *knowledge* which forms noun phrase so its meanings is *Dennis Kloeth’s contribution and unique knowledge*.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective *unique* modifies the whole phrase *knowledge and contribution* so its meanings is *Dennis Kloeth’s unique knowledge and unique contribution*.

23. Military commander Gen. Djoko Santoso was right to give the necessary information and intelligence assessment to the leaders of all the military operational units…. (*The military and politics* on Tuesday, March 17, 2009)

The above sentence is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase *necessary information and intelligence assessment* which has two different forms. It will make the sentence interpreted in two different meanings. The different forms will be shown through these following diagrams:
Diagram (a) shows the adjective necessary modifies only the word information which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “Military commander Gen. Djoko Santoso was right to give the intelligence assessment and necessary information to the leaders of all the military operational units”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective necessary modifies the whole phrase information and intelligence assessment so the sentence means “Military commander Gen. Djoko Santoso was right to give the necessary information and necessary intelligence assessment to the leaders of all the military operational units”.

24. As is so often stated, Indonesia has many wonderful attractions and experiences to offer the international tourist. *(Don’t wait until nothing left on Wednesday, March 18, 2009)*

The above sentence is a kind of structural ambiguity because of noun phrase wonderful attractions and experiences. This phrase has more than one form so the meaning of that phrase is also interpreted differently. These following diagrams will draw the different forms of that phrase:
Diagram (a) shows the adjective *wonderful* modifies only the word *attractions* which forms noun phrase so the sentence means “As is so often stated, Indonesia has many experiences and wonderful attractions to offer the international tourist”.

Diagram (b) shows the adjective *wonderful* modifies the whole phrase *attractions and experiences* so the sentence means “As is so often stated, Indonesia has many wonderful attractions and wonderful experiences to offer the international tourist”.

### 4.1.3 Kinds of Lexically Ambiguous Words

After analyzing the lexical ambiguity in *Your Letters of The Jakarta Post*, the writer classifies its kinds of words based on their function:

1. **need to** = verb
2. **front foot** = adjective
3. **noisy** = adjective
4. **liability** = noun
5. **as well as** = adverb
4.1.4 Kinds of Structurally Ambiguous Sentences/Phrases

After analyzing the structural ambiguity in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post, the writer classifies its kinds of sentences/phrases based on their function:

1. strong cinematography, direction and music = noun phrase
2. human and animal health and welfare = noun phrase
3. collaborative research facility = noun phrase
4. fortune seekers and soldiers = noun phrase
5. various transportation systems = noun phrase
6. proper risk assessment = noun phrase
7. natural hazard analysis = noun phrase
8. positive ideas and suggestions = noun phrase
9. sincere respect and admiration = noun phrase
10. sustained development and social equity = noun phrase
11. old yellowish varnishes = noun phrase
12. huge greedy corporations = noun phrase
13. specific elements and life forms = noun phrase
14. new dry lake bed = noun phrase
15. warm daylight air = noun phrase
16. normal subsurface moisture = noun phrase
17. fantastic greenhouse gas = noun phrase
18. fabulous world of golf and leisure = noun phrase
19. constant navel gazing and hand-wringing = noun phrase
20. nationalistic education system = noun phrase
21. special task force = noun phrase
22. unique knowledge and contribution = noun phrase
23. necessary information and intelligence assessment = noun phrase
24. necessary information and intelligence assessment = noun phrase
4.1.5 The Frequency of Lexical and Structural Ambiguity

There are 50 ambiguities in *Your Letters of The Jakarta Post*. Below are the number and percentage of each type of ambiguity found in *Your Letters of The Jakarta Post* issued on March 2009:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Types of Ambiguity</th>
<th>Class of Words or Sentences/ Phrases</th>
<th>Number of Case</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Noun</td>
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<td><strong>30.4%</strong></td>
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<td><strong>4.3%</strong></td>
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<td>Adjective</td>
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<td><strong>30.4%</strong></td>
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<td>Prepositional phrase</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that:

1. There are 50 ambiguous words and phrases in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post. They are 23 cases of lexical ambiguity and 24 cases of structural ambiguity.

2. Lexical ambiguity which represents 48.9% included noun 30.4%, verb 34.8%, adverb 4.3%, adjective 30.4% while structural ambiguity represents 51.1% included noun phrase 100%.

3. Structural ambiguity which is functioned as noun phrase is the most dominant found in Your Letters of The Jakarta Post issued on March 2009 within two week editions which is 28 letters.

4. Because structural ambiguity is the most dominant, it shows that the writers of Your Letters like to use some phrasing that its forms are unclear so that the readers will be possibly misunderstanding.

5.2 Suggestion

Ambiguity is a phenomenon which is interesting to learn and to analyze. It can happen in any situation whether in daily conversation or in written sources. Sometimes people likes to make their listeners/ readers confused of what they speak/ write, because there’s some advantages that they want to get for example: in advertisement and in literature (the writer usually uses it to beautify their
works). However, there are some people too accidentally do/make their listeners/readers feel confused. This ambiguity depends on the knowledge of the listener/reader, if they have a wide knowledge, it may be possible to avoid this case. Through this thesis, it is recommended that the readers may have discussed another subject such as phonetic ambiguity since this thesis only discusses about lexical and structural ambiguity. Hopefully, by doing this, it will expand our knowledge not only about lexical and structural ambiguity in *Your Letters of The Jakarta Post*, but also about phonetic ambiguity in other sources.

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