SYNTACTICAL PATTERN OF NEWS HEADLINES IN *THE JAKARTA POST* AND *THE DIPLOMAT* REPORTING THE 2024 INDONESIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas pola sintaksis dalam judul berita antara dua kanal berita dengan latar belakang negara yang berbeda, yaitu The Jakarta Post dan The Diplomat yang memberitakan kasus yang sama, yaitu Pemilu Indonesia 2024. Sumber data terdiri dari dua puluh judul berita yang berbeda dari kedua media tersebut yang diterbitkan pada tanggal 6 Juni 2023. Pendekatan kualitatif dengan analisis deskriptif digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Pola pohon sintaksis oleh Van Valin menjadi kerangka kerja dalam penelitian ini. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa media dari Indonesia, Jakarta Post, memiliki pola judul yang seluruhnya berbentuk kalimat dalam sepuluh berita mereka dengan sembilan kalimat sederhana dan satu kalimat kompleks, sedangkan media dari Amerika Serikat, The Diplomat, memiliki delapan judul yang berbentuk kalimat dan dua kalimat kompleks dari sepuluh berita mereka dengan bentuk kalimat sederhana pada seluruh judulnya.

Kata Kunci: Pola Sintaksis; Tajuk Berita; Pemilu Presiden 2024; "The Jakarta Post"; "The Diplomat".

Abstract

The research discussed the syntactical pattern in news headlines between two different-country background news report channels, The Jakarta Post and The Diplomat reporting the same case, that was Indonesian Presidential Election 2024. The data source consists of twenty different news titles from both channels published on June 6, 2023. A qualitative approach with a descriptive analysis is used in this research. The Syntax underlying tree pattern by Van Valin serves as the framework for this research. The research findings showed that it was found that the Indonesian channel, Jakarta Post, have all sentential headline pattern in their ten news with nine simple sentences and one complex sentence, while The Diplomat which is from America, have eight sentential headlines and two phrased pattern from their ten news with simple sentence form at all headlines.

Keywords: Syntactical Pattern News Headlines; Presidential Election 2024; "The Jakarta Post"; "The Diplomat".

INTRODUCTION

Language guides humans in their daily activities and other endeavors such as writing news and conveying ideas, etc (Ariyadi & Utomo, 2020). Language that is used in the complex writing such as news could be interpreted as one of communication devices that dan carries meaning and even attract the readers (Maharani, 2015). The Meaning is formed by several letters that have meanings, known as morphemes. From morphemes, words, phrases, clauses, and so on develop. All these components are interconnected and form a structure called syntax (Valin & Lapolla, 1997). Therefore, the study that analyzes sentence structures is likened to dissecting something into smaller parts. The study of news structure analysis as conducted by (Gama et al., 2021) and (Maulidan, 2021) gave the society some information about the strategies of news channels how they manage and compose an attracting news. However both studies have put some assists within this study.

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, news is defined as "information or reports about recent events." This aligns with Potter's (2006) definition, which describes news as "a report of recent events or previously unknown information." The word "news" is derived from "new," indicating what has just happened. News is created to engage the general public or the community rather than individuals (Jorgensen & Hanitzsch, 2009). A news article typically consists of a title and content. The news title is written briefly and attractively, serving as a summary of the content (Potter, 2009). A concise news title, combined with metaphorical diction, is a title that can captivate readers to immediately explore the content of the news itself.

The news headlines are symbols and representations of the entire content of the news. The language used in news headlines is usually simple and captivating through the choice of words, patterns, and stylistic language used by journalists to prevent readers from getting easily bored (Jorgensen & Hanitzsch, 2009; Potter, 2009). The language of news, even in its headlines, has its own characteristics when compared to the scientific language used in research. Although news employs standardized language, similar to scientific language, not all formal language patterns and mechanisms are applied in news language. While scientific language tends to be structured, objective, abstract, and informative (Persson et al., 2016), journalistic language tends to be more communicative, specific, concise (simple), with clear and free from wasteful meanings (Rahardi, 2011).

Syntax is the study of the grammatical subsystem that focuses on the processing and arrangement of words into units such as words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and discourse (Chaer, 2015). Therefore, the essence of syntactic analysis itself focuses on sentence structure. Syntax is a development of the morpheme system in morphological studies. While morphology focuses on the formation of lexical components into grammatical words, syntax focuses on processing the words that have been morphologically processed into categories and functions in sentences (Chaer, 2015).

The study of syntax in news headlines is a study that focuses on the syntactic patterns of clauses or sentences in those headlines. It explores how a specific news channel has its own syntactic style. According to Jorgensen & Hanitzsch (2009), in terms of syntax, sentence patterns in scientific language tend to emphasize noun phrases and complex clauses to expand the expression of abstraction and scientific research. On the other hand, news language, commonly known as journalistic language, tends to use concise and engaging language, usually consisting only of simple clauses, especially in news headlines (Rahardi, 2011). This aims to eliminate ambiguity or confusion in news headlines.

2023 to 2024 is a political party year for the country of Indonesia, because in these years all Indonesian people will use their voting rights to determine the country's leaders. At times like this, political controllers from various parties will start working to support their respective interests. The effect is that all forms of movement of political parties and their cadres will always be monitored by parties seeking profit, one of which is the news media that can offer a variety of news to attract readers through various strategies such as titles with interesting words.

The presidential election will only be held in 2024, but news about the election has been scattered in the newspaper universe, both offline and online since 2023. many media, both local and foreign, have reported on the movements of political parties and candidates for Indonesian leaders. the news is wrapped in words and interesting phrase or clause structures to attract readers.

This study focuses on the analysis of the structural patterns of syntactic titles in news articles reporting on the 2024 Indonesian Presidential Election from two English-language news media based in Indonesia and the United States, namely the Jakarta Post and The Diplomat. In this study, the researcher aims to explore the patterns used in these two different country channels, where the Jakarta Post uses English as a second language and The Diplomat, originating from the United States, naturally uses English as their first language. This similar to term that news is known to be a personal and organizational product (Jorgensen & Hanitzsch, 2009). These patterns are based on the analysis of subject and predicate clauses with the division of noun phrases and verb phrases (Maharani, 2015b). Within this discussion, news articles are divided into two types: titles that follow the Subject + Predicate clause pattern and news articles that do not follow the clause format but instead use noun phrases without a predicate or verb phrase.

Previous researches had been conducted to understand the syntactic patterns in news headlines, such as the study conducted by Ehineni in 2014, which focused on analyzing the syntactic tree surgery to identify noun heads and their types in Nigerian newspapers. The results of the research indicated that the core or head of the clause or phrase structure in news headlines is crucial. To dissect the clause structure in news headlines, (Ehineni, 2014) utilized a theory called X-Bar. The result of the study is different with reseach as this study does not only analysis one-sided news channel pattern and also this study applies syntactical pattern analysis in a tree diagram scheme.

Furthermore, syntactic research related to news headlines structure analysis in comparison was ever conducted by (Tiono, 2003b). The findings of his study revealed that verb deletion in headline structures significantly influences readers' interpretation of news headlines. The distinction with this research is in the data source that was taken. That study was discussing the structure comparison in Jakarta Post and Indonesian Daily News, meanwhile this study took two different news reports, The Jakarta Post and The Diplomat with a specific news column about the presidential election. Meanwhile the result is almost the same with using tree diagram analysis.

The last study that investigated news headlines from a syntactic perspective was conducted by (Maulidan, 2021). The study examined the clause structure in news headlines from Jakarta Post, New York Times, China Daily, and Bali Times. The output of the research showed the presence of two types of headline constructions across the four medias, namely sentential headlines and non-sentential headlines. The findings of this research will be used by the researcher to compare the frequency of pattern types used in two different news media.

Compared to previous researches, this study is not significantly different as it also focuses on the syntactic patterns of news headlines. The only difference is the object under study, which involves comparing two news channels from different country backgrounds reporting the same event, that is the 2024 Indonesian Presidential Election according to the Jakarta Post news and The Diplomat news channel. The researcher aimed to investigate the language styles used by each channel and determine whether they employ a greater proportion of sentential or non-sentential formats compared to the other channel.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research applied descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative method is used to understand people's beliefs, experiences, attitudes, behavior, and interactions. It generates non-numerical data (Pathak et al., 2013). Meanwhile, according to (Mahsun, 2007), Qualitative analysis focuses on showing meaning, description, clarifying, placing data in their respective contexts, and often describing them in words rather than numbers. The task of qualitative research is to gain insights into these constructions of reality, i.e., to tease out the nature of the world as it is experienced, structured, and interpreted by people in the course of their everyday lives (Cropley, 2022).

The data in this research was collected by the library method with a note-taking technique. The data was obtained from 10 different news headlines posted on June 6th, 2023 from each Jakarta Post dan The Diplomat news channel which reported about Indonesian Presidential Election in 2024. The mechanism of data obtaining from the source was conducted by browsing both news channels, then seeking by keyword Indonesian Presidential Election within the column on the news web surface. The data collection process involves screening 10 randomly selected titles for subsequent descriptive qualitative analysis. The theory used in this study is the theory of Underlying structural syntactic trees by Van Valin et al (1997) and sentence categories by Maharani (2015). The analysis of active and passive sentence is also used in this reseach.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Results

After analyzing the 10 news headlines from each of the two news channels, the results show that the news headlines from the Indonesian channel are all in sentence form with the average of 100% percentage, and none of them are in phrased form. On the other hand, The Diplomat, a news media from America, has eight news headlines in sentence form (80%) and two headlines in phrase form (20%) out of the total 10 news headlines. The both news report do not have a passive sentence form which the whole titles are active sentence. The result of the study will be mapped into a table in the Discussion part of this study. Meanwhile the Further explanation about the analysis results will be discussed below in mixing of words and tree diagram syntactical structure.

Sentential Headlines

Sentential headlines are a form of headlines that follow a clause pattern. A clause consists of a subject and predicate or a noun phrase (NP) and a verb phrase (VP). Sentential headlines can be simple or complex, depending on how many S + V or NP + VP are found in the news headline structure.

The Jakarta Post

The news channel The Jakarta Post has sentence structures in its ten headlines about the 2024 election, with no phrases. The titles consist of nine simple sentences and one complex sentence.
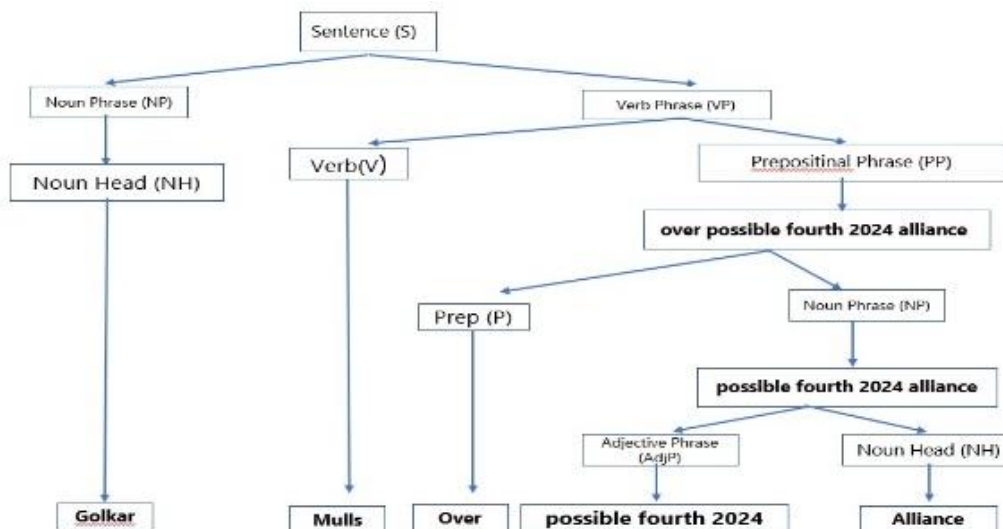

Figure 1. Underlying structure of simple sentence in Jakarta Post

The headline *"Golkar mulls over possible fourth 2024 alliance"* is indeed in the form of a simple sentence. It has one noun phrase (NP) *"Golkar"* which also plays a role as subject and Noun Head (NH) or Nucleus and one verb phrase (VP) *mulls over possible fourth 2024 alliance"* which is the predicate in the clause. *"mulls"* is a main verb as "*over possible fourth 2024 alliance"* plays a part as an object from a preposition *"over"*, therefore the phrase is called 'prepositional phrase'. This indicates that the sentence is not complex as it only consists of one clause as the main clause. Simple sentences have the grammar pattern S + V or S + V + O, where there is only one subject and one verb in the sentence structure. This emphasizes that the journalist wants to highlight the subject's treatment of the verb, similar to the concept of Theme and Rheme in Systemic Functional Linguistics (Halliday & Webster, 2009).
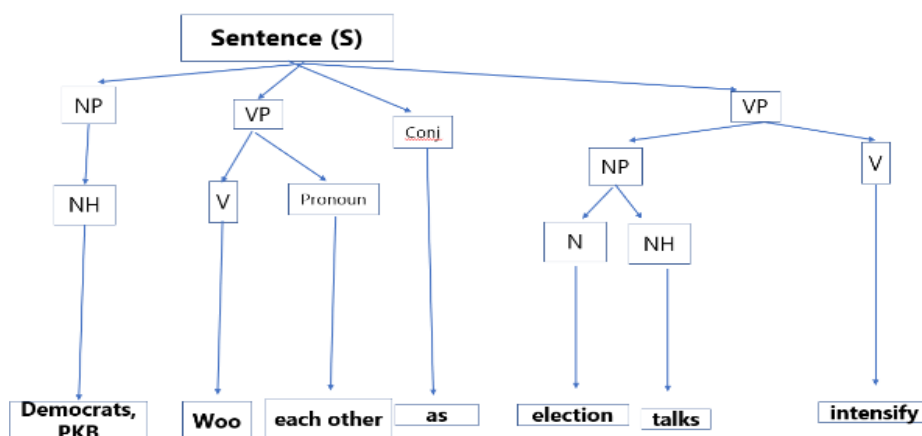

Figure 2. The underlying structure of complex sentence in Jakarta Post

(1) Democrats, PKB woo each other as election talks intensify.
        NP   NP   VP1   VP2

The syntactic pattern in the Jakarta Post headline (1) *"Democrats, PKB woo each other as election talks intensify"* includes two Verb Phrases (VP), which can also be referred to as clauses. The first clause is *"Democrats, PKB woo each other,"* and the second clause is *"election talks intensify."* These two clauses are connected by the conjunction *"as."* The first clause is called independent clause, while the second clause is called dependent clause or subordinate clause because it is subordinated by a conjunction. The clause *"Democrats, PKB woo each other"* has an NP + VP structure. The NP *"Democrats, PKB"* functions as the subject of the predicate, which is the VP *"woo each other."* The first VP is different from the second VP in the clause *"election talks intensify."* The first VP is a combination of Nucleus and a pronoun, while the second verb stands alone without any accompanying words or phrases and serves as the nucleus itself.

The sentence pattern in a headline like this is S + V + conj + S + V or VP + VP, which indicates that the headline has two clauses and two noun heads (NH). Such a pattern is also referred to as a complex sentence pattern (Valin & Lapolla, 1997).

The Diplomat

This American-centered mass media outlet follows a pattern of sentential and phrased headlines, with all types of its sentences being simple sentences. Eight of ten headlines reporting on the 2024 Indonesian presidential election are structured as simple sentences, while the remaining two follow a phrased syntactical pattern.
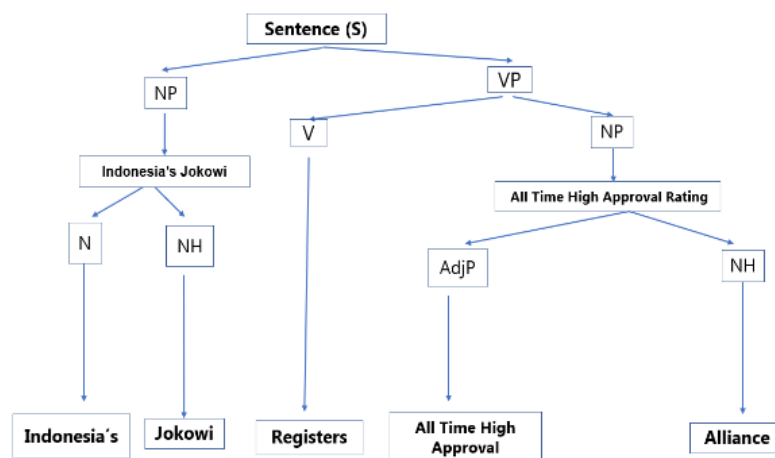

Figure 3. The underlying structure of simple sentence in The Diplomat

The sentence *"Indonesia's Jokowi Registers All-Time High Approval Alliance"* is a sentence with a single clause. This single clause is called the main clause or independent clause because it can convey a complete meaning and is not dependent on any other clause (Maharani, 2015b). This clause is a combination of the NP structure *"Indonesia's Jokowi"* and the VP structure *"Registers All-Time High Approval Alliance."* The NP consists of a noun modifier and a noun head, different from the NP pattern in the VP structure *"Registers All-Time High Approval Alliance."* The NP *"All-Time High Approval Alliance"* does not consist of two nouns, but rather an Adjective Phrase (AdjP) *"All-Time High"* and a Noun Phrase *"Alliance,"* which also functions as the Noun Head (NH).

Phrased Headlines

Phrased Headline is a news headline that only consists of a sequence of Noun Phrases (NP) without any predicate or Verb Phrase (VP) in its structure. In the analysis of phrased headlines, researchers found this pattern only in The Diplomat news channel and not in The Jakarta Post news media. Among the ten news articles from The Diplomat, two headlines were found to have a phrase pattern.
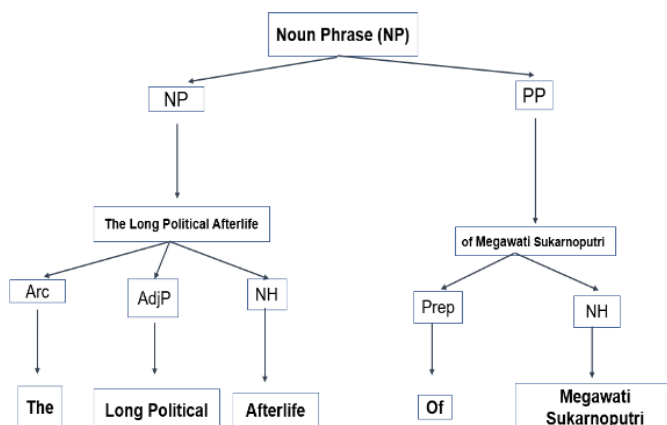

Figure 4. The underlying tree structure of Phrased pattern headline

(2) The Long Political Afterlife of Megawati Soekarnoputri
         NP   PP

The news headline (2) *"The Long Political Afterlife of Megawati Sukarnoputri"* as seen in the figure 4, does not have a verb or predicate that makes it a clause. Therefore, the above title consists of a sequence of two phrases separated by the preposition *"of."* The first phrase is the Noun Phrase *"The Long Political Afterlife"* which is a combination of the article *"The,"* the Adjective Phrase (AdjP) *"Long Political,"* and the Noun Head (NH) *"Afterlife"* which is the nucleus. This NP also functions as the main phrase in the structure. Meanwhile, the second phrase "of Megawati Sukarnoputri" is a prepositional phrase that consists of a preposition and a prepositional object. The preposition "of" is followed by the NP "Megawati Sukarnoputri," which also serves as the Noun Head (NH) in the phrase structure.
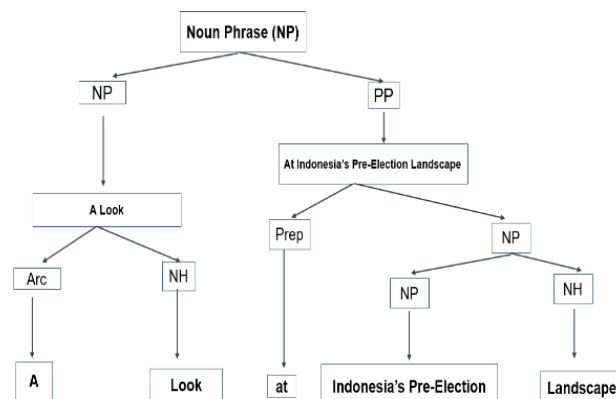

Figure 5. Phrased pattern structure of headline in The Diplomat

The news headline *"A Look at Indonesia's Pre-Election Landscape"* is a phrase-based title. The phrase *"A Look at Indonesia's Pre-Election"* is a combination of two phrases: *"A Look" and "Indonesia's Pre-Election."* The first phrase serves as the main phrase, while the second phrase is a supporting phrase because the NP *"Indonesia's Pre-Election Landscape"* functions as the object of the preposition *"at."* Therefore, the second phrase is called a Prepositional Phrase (PP). This whole supporting phrase "*at Indonesia's Pre-election Landscape"* is named Prepositional Phrase (PP).

Discussion

The whole result of analysis will be calculated in percentage and mapped into a table below

Table 1. The Jakarta Post

Analysis	The Jakarta Post
Sentential Headline	100%
Phrased Headline	0%
Complex sentence	10%
Simple sentence	90%

Table 2. The Diplomat

Analysis	The Diplomat
Sentential Headline	80%
Phrased Headline	20%
Complex sentence	0%
Simple sentence	100%

Both tables showed that Indonesian news media has 100% of its ten news headlines reporting on the Indonesian 2024 election, compared to 80% in The Diplomat news channel. This evidence indicates that news from countries where English is a second language tends to have a syntactic pattern of writing in sentences or clauses when reporting on political topics such as election themes. This is supported by the absence of news headlines in the form of phrases or non-clausal structures as what had been conducted by (Ardianto, 2023). Meanwhile, The Diplomat, an American news channel, has 20% of their news headlines in the form of phrases (phrased headlines) out of their ten news headlines reporting on political issues from Southeast Asian countries, including Indonesia. This demonstrates that news media from countries where English is the first language are more likely to use both types of headline writing (sentential and phrased headlines). This result has different outcome to (Maulidan, 2021) in which phrased form structure frequently found in in the foreign news report channel compared to this study which found only a few of news headlines used by The Diplomat news report.

From the examples of structural analysis of tree diagram above, the researcher did not find any passive sentence used in the news headline from both channels. The sentential form applied in the whole Jakarta Post's headline, none of them is passive. This also occurred in 80% of The Diplomat's sentential headlines. This indicates that both news report media did not have any passion to pour the political issue such as Indonesian Election 2024 into the headline writing in a passive style. This active sentential structure implied that the journalist wanted to highlight the subject or agent as the use of passive

structure is considered a journalist's strategy to hide the subject in order to hide some information from the readers in the news (Potter, 2009).

The analysis of sentence type showed that most of the news headlines are in the form of simple sentences, except for one headline from The Jakarta Post, which represents 10% of the total ten headlines this result resembles what (Tiono, 2003) and (Gama et al., 2021)with the Indonesian channel mostly work with simple sentence. dan the whole twenty headlines which were the data of this research. The complex headline was picked as the example of underlying structure tree analysis above. Headline *Democrats, PKB woo each other as election talks intensify* is complex sentence. The complexity of the sentence is subordinated by conjunction *"as"*. The complex headline structurally consisted of two clause, first clause as main or independent clause and second clause as subordinate or dependent clause. the subordinate clause cannot stand alone as it needs another clause to make a complete meaning (Chaer, 2015).

CONCLUSION

From the last 10 news about Indonesian election 2024 from both news report channels, the researcher found that 'The Jakarta Post' has all sentential shapes with no Phrased headline with simple sentences surpasses the complex in quantity in headlines compared with 'The Diplomat news which has eight sentential shapes and two phrased forms with simple sentence dominates complex one. This can imply that the Indonesian channel has a sentential style in writing headlines that differed from foreign channel like 'The Diplomat' (from the US) which has a phrased headline writing style.

The usage of active sentences for the whole news headlines from both news media rather than passive ones also explains the way of Indonesian and Foreign journalists in their news writing that they wanted to make clear the highlighting of the subject (agent) in the sentence because according to Journalism critical analysis, the use of passive structure in a sentence may help the journalist to camouflage the subject or the actor.

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