SIMPLE SENTENCE IN GIVING THE TITTLE OF HEADLINE NEWS

Yola Merina
STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat, Indonesia
E-mail: yolam3@gmail.com

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22202/tus.2017.v3i1.2617>

ABSTRACT

This research investigates the structure of simple sentence which was used by journalist to convey the news to the reader. Moreover, this paper was performed to investigate the transitivity of simple sentence of the news tittle and also to know the constituent structure in simple sentence in declaring the news to the consumers of news, namely readers. The method of collecting data were performed in observational method with the following technique was non-participant observational technique. The data were taken only from headline news during one month. In analyzing the data, the writer used referential identity method which using equalizer technique as the following technique. The result of this paper showed the simple sentences which were used by journalist were nuclear constituent where the transitivity of sentences were constructed in active sentence and the part of transitive verbs for fulfilling predicate was also available.

Keyword: *Constituent, Simple sentence, Transitivity*

INTRODUCTION

As a journalist, ability in creating an interesting news is one of a part that must be mastered because the quality of news can be seen through the way of journalist convey the information and it is firstly looked from the tittle of the news. Commonly, the consumers of newspaper have willingness to read the news because of reading the tittle of viral news or hot issue which makes them more enthusiastic knowing deeply about the upcoming news. However, the main point of this paper is to investigate the phenomenon of the simple sentences' structure in the headline news. The structure of simple sentence is assumed becoming a thing which is needed to be known since the chosen tittle of the news needs thoughtful consideration in order that the headline tittle impresses reasonable and effective to take readers' attention. The existence of its tittle was observed from verbal transitivity and constituent of sentence proposition substance in the headline tittle which is conveyed to the readers.

This research concentrates on finding a simple sentence which is appeared by journalist to convey the news to readers by looking at the transitivity of verb

and constituent of that sentence. For determining the sentence belongs to simple sentence, it must be looking from the constituent to fulfill the sentence. In addition it is needed to be known the definition of sentence first. A sentence can be gotten from combining two constituents which the minimal constituent are consisted of noun phrase (NP) and verb phrase (VP) (Sells, 1985). Constituent are as a smaller pieces of syntax to construct syntax. It also supports by (Kroeger, 2004) that constituent as a group of words can function as units becomes one aspect of grammar for creating the structure of a sentence. Without knowing the constituent of a sentence it is hard to determine which words group together as unit and to specify the ordering of words within each constituent.

In addition (Kroeger, 2004, p. 5) defines that a sentence is not simply a string of words but it has a fairly complex structure with certain words grouped together to function as units, larger groups formed from smaller groups and important relationships defined between one group and another. Moreover (Manaf, 2010) gives definition of sentence that is *“satuan bahasa yang terbentuk atas gabungan kata dengan kata, gabungan kata dengan frasa, gabungan frasa dengan frasa yang minimal berupa satuan klausa bebas yang minimal mengandung fungsi subject dan predikat baik unsur fungsi eksplisit maupun implisit”*. In summary, the sentence which does not have a complex structure it cannot be said a well-formed sentence. A sentence must have minimum one subject and predicate within a correct structure, a set of rules, and also have the visible constituent. Brevity, sentence is obviously a part of the study about syntax which is a study of sentence constructing, how words group together to make phrases and sentences (Tallerman, 1998).

According to (Elson & Pickett, 1983) sentence is classified based on its composition, predicate type and correlation between predicate with other constituent of a sentence. So, in a sentence has predicate as identifier of a sentence and composition will be main criterion in a sentence. For determining a clear sentence, semantically, sentences have traditionally been described as a complete thought or grammatically as a subject-predicate construction (Elson & Pickett, 1983, p. 61). Simple sentence is proposition or predication, generally including

some sort of topic or a comment about topic. Most commonly the topic functions as the grammatical subject of a sentence and the comment includes a verb word or phrase and various elements with delimit or describe the verb. Based on this explanation, sentences obviously are as semantic unit that have a clear meaning and construction (as a grammatical unit).

Based on the number of clauses created, a sentence can be categorized into simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence, and compound complex sentence (Elson & Pickett, 1983). In *Bahasa*, it is grouped into two categories, they are *kalimat tunggal* (simple sentence which has one NP and VP) and *kalimat majemuk* (has more than one NP and VP) in a sentence (Manaf, 2010). It is also supported by (Chaer, 2003) that simple sentence is a sentence needs only one clause. Based on part of speech as predicate filler, simple sentence is categorized into verbal, nominal, adjectival sentence, however; adverbial simple sentence is not found in *Bahasa* since adverbial always follows verbal. Verbal simple sentence can be categorized into transitive (followed by object), semi transitive {(not) followed by object}, and intransitive (not followed by object). (Manaf, 2010, pp. 83-85). Here are the following examples in *Bahasa* (Indonesian):

- (1) *Rini (S) menyirami (P) bunga (O) di kebun (adv. of Place) → transitive*
'Rini waters the flower at the garden'
- (2) *Ayah (S) sedang membaca (P) → semi transitive*
'Father is reading'
- (3) *Ayah (S) sedang membaca (P) Koran (O) → semi transitive*
'Father is reading the newspaper'
- (4) *Tuti (S) berenang (P) → intransitive*
'Tuti swims'

Simple sentence can be divided into 2; *ekatransitif* and *dwitransitif*, based on the number of objects follow the verb. *Ekatransitif* is the sentence which followed by one object after verb and *dwitransitif* is a simple sentence which the verb of filling sentence is followed by object and compliment.

- (5) *Ibu (S) mendapat (P) hadiah (O) → ekatransitif*
'Mother got present'
- (6) *Dodi (S) mengirimi (P) ibu (O) uang (Com) → dwitransitif*
'Dodi sent mother money'
'Dodi sent money to his mother'

Based on explanation above, simple sentence can be drawn through the following diagram below related to Manaf's ideas

In addition, in English simple sentence technically consists of one clause which is fulfilled of one predicate only, for example: (a) *Kim waited*; (b) *These guys like chips*; (c) *The first year students in our department should read a lot of books at this stage in the year* (Tallerman, 1998). Related to previous example, simple sentence is not only used verb as predicate substance but also used phrase which modified verb. Moreover, it is no matter how long or complicated is the simple sentence created as far as the sentence only have one NP and VP or it can be said only have one clause which is independent and not tied to another clause.

Basically sentences are built from the group of constituents that having appropriate connection for creating the correct sentence and having meaning. Constituent is defined as a segment that constitutes to grammatical unit (Verhaar, 2010). If it is related to simple sentence, it is formed from the string of word, word to phrase, and the last it becomes simple sentence after the string of words are tied into one clause with one subject and one verb at least. Kroeger states that the constituent structure of a sentence contains information about constituent boundaries, linear orders and syntactic categories (part of speech) (2004, pp. 12-13).

The string of words and phrase are part of constituent. As example: *several smelly fish bothered Nigel* (Sells, 1985). *Several smelly fish* is noun phrase (NP) and it is one constituent that consist of determiner, adjective, and noun,

meanwhile; *bothered Nigel* is verb phrase which consists of verb and NP (noun phrase) and functions as object in its sentence. Based on that example, it can take the conclusion that a sentence is created with having combination and joining two constituents. Simple sentence is formed of combination of two constituents which is arranged with one clause only.

According to (Elson & Pickett, 1983) constituent are consist of two general types, they are nuclear (central) and peripheral. Sentence constituents are commonly subject, predicate and objects. It is consisted in nuclear constituent. All sentence constituents involved in distinguishing various sentence type and they are more likely to obligatory to construct the simple sentence. Otherwise, peripheral constituents are usually occurring with any sentence type and most frequently optional (not obligatory) to the construction. Even the all constituent do not appear, subject, predicate and objects, however simple sentence which is constructed still have a meaning and well-done structure as a sentence.

Simple sentence is a sentence which consisted of one clause, it means a simple sentence only have a predicate which consist of a constituent substance. The usual active sentence construction contains a verb or verb phrase as one principle constituents, where the verb is the central constituent to create sentence. (Elson & Pickett, 1983, p. 78) verb stems are identified in the lexicon as *vt* (transitive) for example: *he gives a lot of money*, *vi* (intransitive) for example: *he gives generously*, or *vbt* (bitransitive) for example: *he gives a lot of money to charity*. In short the three major constituents of simple sentence are referred to as subject, verb and object (abbreviated SVO). Sometime, however, simple sentence may have no verb- the verbal function being filled by different word class, such as adjective and nouns. In Indonesian, verb which is stated to construct a sentence divided into three types in Verhar's idea (2010) they are predicate nominal where the predicate can (not) be filled by a copula linking, predicate which the verb fill in intransitive, and transitive. In sort, in construction a sentence, it needs constituents in order to create the sentence which has meaning and can be understood by human who listens or reads its sentence.

METHODS

This research is descriptive for investigate the structure of simple sentences which are used by journalist to convey the news to the readers. The approach of this paper is qualitative approach which is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behavior and qualitative is a research in such a situation is a function of researcher's insights and impressions (Kothari, 2004). Qualitative approach provides written data and oral data (Djadjasudarma, 1993, p. 10). So, the data of this paper were from the headline news which related to all issues and were written in simple sentence. The data were taken on <http://hariansinggalang.co.id> which included as a headline of news on January 2017.

In collecting the data, the writer conducted this paper by using observational method which using taping technique as a based technique and non-participant observational techniques as a following technique (Sudaryanto, 2015). A non-participant observational technique was used since the writer was not as a journalist and not be a part of writing news. Writer was only as observer to see the using of simple sentence in conveying news. For obtaining the data, the writer took the data by using note taking technique. Moreover, for analyzing the data, the writer used referential identity method and translational identity method. The dividing key factor technique is employed to analyze the data and it was followed by using equalizing technique.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This part is to explain about data of this research. After obtaining the data, each data is presented by analyzing the simple sentence to observe verbal transitivity and constituent of news in conveying news to reader. There are 32 sentences found in one month on January 2017 that focused on headline news of politics, economy, business, criminal, and social issues which constructed in simple sentence. After categorizing into simple sentences, those sentences were investigated the predicate to fulfill the simple sentence to know the transitivity of

simple sentence which used to convey the news to readers. The analysis of the data are be classified into the following classification simple sentence which was found in headline of news in *Harian Singalang*.

From twenty sentences, seven sentences are constructed in simple sentence which verbs have function as predicate and they are part of non-basic usage as well. Non-basic usage means that those sentences were constructed into passive sentence and passive sentence is part of it beside causative sentence. Unfortunately, in giving a title of news there is no causative sentence in simple sentence available, used by journalist for conveying information. The following simple sentences belong to non-basic usage are:

- (1) *Konstruksi Tol Padang-Pekanbaru* (NP) *Direncanakan* (V) *pada 2019*
'Construction of Padang-Pekanbaru Tol will be planned in 2019'
- (2) *Pasar Balai Selasa Agam* (NP) *Terbakar* (V)
'Balai Salasa agam market was burned down'
- (3) *Pemprov dan PLN* (NP) *Digugat* (V) *ke KI (Komisi Informasi) Sumbar*
'Province government sued to Information Commission of West Sumatera'
- (4) *Bunga Bangkai* (NP) *Ditemukan* (V) *di Malalak*
'Corpse flower was found in Malalak'
- (5) *Seorang Anak* (NP) *Dilaporkan* (V) *Hilang di Danau Singkarak*
'A child was reported disappear in Singkarak lake'
- (6) *Tersangka Pengedar dan Pemakai Sabu* (NP) *Dibekuk* (V) *di Padang Panjang*
'The suspected dealer and consumer shabu were arrested in Padang Panjang'
- (7) *Jalan Sicincin-Malalak* (NP) *Ditutup* (V)
'Sicincin-Malalak Road was closed'
'The suspected shabuer dealer's was arrested together with her girlfriend in Ampang'

Sentences above are constructed in simple sentences that can be seen through composition of the predicate which categorized into passive sentences and have one clause. The markers to be said as passive sentence of those sentences above are marked by prefix *di-* and *ter-*. Even sentences above constructed in passive, they created the string of words and phrases are part of constituent. Sentences are created with having combination and joining two constituents. The constituent to create those simple sentences are NP and VP. Even there are two sentences above created in two constituents NP in sentence 3

and 6, however; they still have one clause. The two constituents (NP) in sentence 3 are *Tersangka Pengedar* (1st NP) and *Pemakai Sabu* (2nd NP). Refer to Tallerman (1998) ideas that simple sentence technically consists of one clause which is fulfilled of one predicate only and generally including some sort of topic or a comment about topic. In short, all sentences above becomes constructing into simple sentence which are formed of combination of two constituents which is arranged with one clause only.

Moreover, all sentences which were constructed in passive above, all subjects were the aim or receiver of action and the subject of those sentences became the patient or undergoer, that why in conveying the title the journalists appear the subject which had the function as undergoer and omit the adjunct of the sentence. It can be assumed that the choosing of passive sentences which is used by journalist has a function to decrease the transitivity of sentences because subject is the aim of the journalist.

In conveying information, journalist used simple sentence in the form of active sentence. Almost all of sentences below only have one subject as a constituent of the sentences. Type of constituent which is found in giving the title of news is nuclear or central type since the constituent which are used in simple sentence is consisted subject and predicate. According to (Elson & Pickett, 1983) nuclear (central) constituent where sentence constituents are commonly subject, predicate and objects are consisted in nuclear constituent. Sentences below consist of one clause which indicates that all belonged to simple sentences.

- (8) *Polisi* (N) ***Selidiki*** (V) *Pelaku Teror Bom* (O) *di RS Ibnu Sina Padang* (Adv)
- (9) *Kapolri* (N) ***Lantik*** (V) *Kapolda Sumbar* (O)
- (10) *Pemerintah* (N) ***Naikkan*** (V) *PPN Rokok 0,4 Persen*
- (11) *Polres Padang Panjang* (NP) ***Tangkap*** (V) *Pengedar Ganja*
- (12) *Polres Padang Pariaman* (NP) ***Lumpuhkan*** (V) *Jambret dengan Timah Panas*
- (13) *Polsek Guguk* (NP) ***Bongkar*** (V) *Sindikatan Curanmor*
- (14) *Disperindag Padang* (NP) ***Ungkap*** (V) *Peredaran Daging Beku Impor*
- (15) *Polisi* (N) ***Temukan*** (V) *Tanaman Ganja di Pot Bunga*
- (16) *Polisi* (N) ***Pancing*** (V) *Pengedar Tukar Sabu dengan Mobil Avanza*
- (17) *Terdakwa Jambret Ini* (NP) ***Beberkan*** (V) *Caranya Beraksi*
- (18) *Polisi* (N) ***Usut*** (V) *Kematian Balita di Panti Asuhan*

(19) *DPRD Sumbar (NP) Rombak (V) Alat Kelengkapan Dewan*

Some sentences above are part of simple sentences which belong to active simple sentences. The sentences are created in one NP and one VP that follow the rule of simple sentence. Based on (Tallerman, 1998) simple sentence technically consists of one clause which is fulfilled of one predicate only and all the sentences above only use one predicate. Based on part of speech as predicate filler of the data above are verbal and all the sentences above are categorized into transitive, however; the simple sentences in giving the title of the news are not followed the correct verbal in Indonesian. The VP in simple sentences in creating the title of news are typed by omitting prefix *me-* to show the sentences in active sentence. For example, *selidiki* in sentence 8 is not complete verb in Indonesian to form transitive verb in simple sentence. The verb must be added by prefix *me-* which has a function to create correct verb and the best VP to fill the sentence, should be written in the word *menyelidiki*. Others VP also are not used prefix *me-* to show transitivity of sentence even the sentences are part of simple sentences, the following words of verb are *lantik*, *naikkan*, *tangkap*, *lumpuhkan*, *bongkar*, *ungkap*, *temukan*, *pancing*, *beberkan*, *usut*, and *rombak*. From the sentences above can be concluded that the simple sentence which is used by journalist to give the title of the news tends to omit the prefix *me-* as a predicate substance to show the sentence are active sentence but they are still in complete simple sentences created where the sentence have one NP and VP or it can be said only have one clause which is independent and not tied to another clause.

Basically sentences are built from the group of constituents that having appropriate connection for creating the correct sentence and having meaning. Constituent are used to create simple sentence are also formed from string of words and phrase, and it becomes simple sentence after the string of words are tied into one clause with one subject and one verb at least. From the sentences as the data above, constituent structure of simple sentences above are consist of one constituent for NP which use almost noun and constituent for filling predicate are used verb phrase which consists of verb and NP (noun phrase) and functions as object in its sentence such as the sentence in sentence 13 *Bongkar Sindikat*

Curanmor. Based on that example, it can take the conclusion that simple sentence that is created in conveying news by journalist follow the regulation with having combination and joining two constituents. Simple sentence is formed of combination of two constituents which is arranged with one clause only. However, the journalist tends to used one constituent for NP and it can be assumed that the journalist indicated the main subject of the news to reader in order reader got the main news which must be gotten by a reader of newspaper. It is the same with the passive sentence above, simple sentences in active form also belong to nuclear (central) type of constituent where sentence constituent of it is commonly followed by subject, predicate and objects, not peripheral where the type are not constructed with the complete constituent yet have the complete meaning as a sentence. In short, in conveying the news, the title that is used by journalist is a sentence which is created in simple sentence that shows a simple to be consumed by reader. It is also supported by (Ermanto, 2002) that the characteristic of journalistic language are must be short, simple, interested, directed, compact sentence and the choices of diction also have to have variation in order the reader become having willingness to read a news.

CONCLUSION

The analysis presented in this study shows that in giving the tittle of news the journalist tends to used simple sentence which is categorized in active sentences and the verb to fill the predicate substance of the simple sentence is by omitting the prefix *me-*. It might the journalist are assumed to be right to the point to conveying the news. Even the sentences also used passive to give a tittle of the news, however; it does not the main type of simple sentences to be used. Simple sentences which are used passive shows that the subjects of the sentences are as the patient or the *undergoer*. It can be assumed that the choosing of passive sentences which is used by journalist has a function to decrease the transitivity of sentences because subject is the aim of the journalist. The writer recommends the next researcher who is interested in continuing this part to see the big scope of

data to determine type of simple sentence which is used by journalist to deliver news to readers. In other words, it is also to know what kinds of news dominantly use simple sentence by journalist.

REFERENCES

- Chaer, A. (2003). *Linguistik Umum*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.
- Djadjasudarma, F. (1993). *Metode Linguistik: Ancangan Metode Penelitian dan Kajian*. Bandung: PT Eresco Bandung.
- Elson, B., & Pickett, V. (1983). *Morphology and Syntax*. Dallas, Texas: Summer Institute of Linguistics.
- Ermanto. (2002). *Bahasa Jurnalistik*. Padang: Universitas Negeri Padang.
- Kothari, C. (2004). *Research Methodology: Methods and Techniques (Second Revise Edition)*. Jaipur: New Age International Publishers.
- Kroeger, P. (2004). *Analyzing Syntax: A Lexical- Functional Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Manaf, N. A. (2010). *Sintaksis*. Padang: Sukabina Press.
- Sells, P. (1985). *Lecturers on Contemporary Syntactic Theories*. The United State: Center For Study of Language and Information.
- Sudaryanto. (2015). *Metode dan Aneka Teknik Analisis Bahasa*. Yogyakarta: Duta Wacana University Press.
- Tallerman, M. (1998). *Understanding Syntax*. New York: Arnold.
- Verhaar, J. (2010). *Asas-Asas Linguistik Umum*. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University Press.