

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Biagi (2013, 2-6) stated that in the 20th century, mass media has been a wide medium to communicate or to spread information from a person to a group of people as it can be accessed anywhere and anytime. Mass media influences almost all aspects of people's lives such as how people have a transaction, how they get entertainment, and how they receive information. For example, one can get up to date information about recent incidents in the night from a foreign country by reading news from his smartphone. Thus the way someone obtains information is affected by the mass media. She added that there are eight types of mass media, one of them is a newspaper (2013, 8).

Historically, newspapers are the first mass media to convey news or information in printed form, then develops its online version to reach a wider range of audience. (Biagi 2013, 65). Khalid and Ahmed (2014) added that the newspaper has an important role in the development of a nation. Furthermore, they explained that it is due to the daily needs of information from the facts and analysis from the newspaper. As the newspaper also develops throughout the years, both the printed and online version has its audience. Nowadays, the online version also gained its credibility compare to the printed one from a survey of U.S. journalists (Cassidy 2007). The growing of newspapers also happened in Indonesia as several printed newspapers also built their online version such as *The Jakarta Post*.

The Jakarta Post is a newspaper under PT Niskala Media Tenggara which established in 1982 by Jusuf Wanandi (*The Jakarta Post* 2011). It is a leading daily newspaper that uses English as its language in a non-English based country. As it uses English as the language, the target readers of this newspaper are those from high levels of education, income, influence, and those who have decision making power (Carpenter and Sosale 2018, 15). Furthermore, they stated that the Post has considered as the Indonesia's international face from the very beginning, followed by the achievement of being recognized as the real news medium and a real independent newspaper, which is not merely a translating newspaper (2018, 2). Moreover, it also ranks as the second most popular newspapers in Indonesia (*The Jakarta Post* 2014). Hence, *The Jakarta Post* is reliable to its readers in presenting news.

Bell (1991) said that news is a product of multiple processes from a reporter, a journalist, an editor, and a chief. He further stated that there are three different types of news which are special topic news, soft news, and hard news (1991, 3-4). Special topic news is news placed in a distinct section of the paper and written by a separate group of a specialist journalist (Bell 1991, 4). Whereas, soft news covers the stories of lifestyles, trends, or personalities in a longer article which is bylined with the writer's name, and presents background (Martin 2013, 515; Bell 1991, 3). On the other hand, they described that hard news presents a report of an event or government act such as an accident, a crime, a speech and has a relation with the prior issue (2013, 511; 1991, 3). Thus, hard news is the main product of the

newspaper, for instance, the news regarding the incident of Papuan people in Indonesia.

Papuan provides an overview of minority issues because they get unequal treatment such as violence, human rights violations, and racism. Human rights non-governmental organization, International Amnesty, recorded that there were 69 cases of alleged killings in Papua from January 2010 to February 2018 in which the two main actors were, state apparatus namely the police, and the Indonesian National Army (TNI) (Theofany 2019). Besides, she added that the practice of violence and human rights violations were found in the practice to end the conflict in Papua when Papua was made a Military Operational Area (DOM) between 1963 and 1998. From the two explanations, conflicts related to Papua has happened since years ago. Discrimination and human rights violations have been directed at Papuans. This is exacerbated by the racism that was pointed to Papuan people recently on Indonesia's independence day 2019 (Arby 2019; Theofany 2019). Therefore, in presenting the information, the portrayal of certain minorities such as Papuan in a news article is different from those who are part of the majority in Indonesia.

The news article for this study is entitled “Papuan Students on Java Face Increased Pressures”, published on August 19th, 2019. It reported the incident that happened on the Indonesia’s Independence Day on August 17th, 2019. The article covers the leading event that resulting in the incident that happened on Independence Day, saying that Papuan has received racism by the forces and mass organization. The incident in this article was also the leading incident that led to the

riots and other incidents which happened recently by Papuan as their protest of inequality treat towards the government.

The articles in *The Jakarta Post* hence serve as a media in spreading and establishing information for its target readers. Biber et. al (1999, 11) stated that since newspaper act as the source of information, hence noun phrases are more common as they indicate an informational focus of the text. Ni (2003) added that the occurrence of noun phrases in the written newspaper are higher and more density than in other text form like fiction and conversation. Therefore, this study is focused on the analysis of noun phrase, particularly in its syntactic and semantic roles.

A noun phrase is a group of words that consists of only a noun as head or accompanied by determiner and modifier. (Biber et. al 1999, 97). He further explained that determiner is the word that particularizes the reference of the noun, while modifier is the one which defines or categorize the entity represented by the head noun. In a written text, noun phrases bear both syntactic and semantic roles.

Both syntactic and semantic roles of noun phrase are part of the Discourse Structures by Van Dijk (1988). In his theory, he explained that discourse structure consists of macrostructures, superstructures, and microstructures, which in microstructures also discussed both of the roles in the syntactic style. Therefore, to get deeper analysis, this research only focuses on identifying the roles in *The Jakarta Post* news. In this case, this study uses the theories proposed by Biber et. al (1999), syntactic roles of noun phrases, and by Frawley (1992), semantic roles. The syntactic roles of noun phrases deal with the relation of noun phrases with not only the

verb, but also with other words or phrases in a sentence. Whereas, the semantic roles of noun phrases focus on the relation between entities or arguments with the events or the predicates that is also have grammatical relevant relations or some of the syntactic roles. These theories are used to identify the structure of the noun phrases as well as the interpretation of noun phrases in a sentence, depending on its position, its case form, if there are noun phrases before (Kearns 2000, 28). Therefore, the theories of syntactic and semantic roles of noun phrases are assigned to determine the role of each word.

Biber et. al (1999, 98) said that the syntactic roles on noun phrases are the relationship between the noun phrase and the verb in a sentence. He categorized these roles into 11 roles which are subject, direct object, indirect object, prepositional object, a complement of a preposition, subject predicative, object predicative, adverbial, pre-modifier of a noun, apposition, and pre-modifier in an adjective or adverbial phrase (98-99). Meanwhile, Frawley (1992, 198) said that semantic roles are not only about the relationship of entities to the event but they are also a grammatically relevant relation between arguments and predicates. He added that there are 12 thematic roles categorized by participant and non-participant. From the participant, there are agents, authors, instruments, patients, experiencers, benefactors, themes, sources, and goals. While in the non-participant, there are locative, reason, and purpose. By utilizing such theory, not only the roles of each word that will be found but also the relation of the reason of its frequency towards the news about Papuan.

Nevertheless, the writer is aware that there have been many researchers who have conducted studies with the same approach as this study. There are studies on syntactic and semantic roles of noun phrases that have been done beforehand such as Setiawan (2015), Liyaningsih (2016), and Bai and Xue (2016). Setiawan (2015) conducted research to compare the syntactic and semantic roles on adjectives by Biber et. al (1991) in a gay and lesbian magazine, *Bent* and *Diva*. He found that gay magazines present more informative information and show a tendency to use the female language rather than lesbian magazines, which is less feminine.

Liyaningsih (2016), who conducted a study by using Thematic Roles Analysis by Frawley (1992) and Kearns (2000), identified the role played in each noun phrase as well as the sentential context in the titles of china daily newspaper. She found that the agent role in the active sentences is the most dominant, and the titles correlate with the body of the articles. Meanwhile, Bai and Xue (2016) examined the generalization of the semantic roles in the Chinese Proposition Bank by reviewing the automatic semantic roles labeling defined by Baker et. al (1998), the Kipper-Schuler (2005), and Petukhova et al. (2007). They found that the accuracy of global semantic roles (GSRL) is comparable to predicate-specific semantic roles (PSRL), and the GSRL can improve the utility of the Chinese Proposition Bank.

From the prior studies, the recent study raised a distinct concern that focuses on noun phrases both on the syntactic and semantic roles in an English-based national newspaper, *The Jakarta Post*. The article in use is published after the incident that took place on Indonesian Independence Day regarding Papuan. Thus,

the recent study presents the identification of the linguistic field, particularly on the syntactic and semantic fields on a national issue.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

According to the background of the study, this study designs to identify the syntactic and semantic roles of noun phrases regarding the report of Papuan who received pressure in Java Island on *The Jakarta Post*. Hence, there are two research questions formulated to carry out the study, as follows:

1. What is the most frequent syntactic role of noun phrases found in *The Jakarta Post* article regarding Papuan?
2. What is the most frequent semantic role of noun phrases found in *The Jakarta Post* article regarding Papuan?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

This study is intended to answer the research question formulated in the statements of the problem to be the central purpose of the analysis. The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To describe the most frequent syntactic role of noun phrases in *The Jakarta Post* article regarding Papuan.
2. To describe the most frequent semantic role of noun phrases in *The Jakarta Post* article regarding Papuan.

1.4. Significance of the Study

A number of syntactic and semantic studies have been conducted by researchers which have given significance to other studies. The present study is expected to give contribution to other studies both theoretically and

practically. Theoretically, this study is conducted to provide knowledge on the comprehensive application of syntactic and semantic analysis of noun phrase by Biber et. al (1999) and Frawley (1992) to a discourse study particularly in *The Jakarta Post* news article entitled “Papuan Students on Java Face Increase Pressures”.

Practically, this study is expected to help people enrich their knowledge in comprehending the of noun phrase both the types and the roles in a newspaper article. Thus, it may evoke people’s awareness and sensitivity to the pattern of noun phrase. Furthermore, it is addressed to linguistic students as a reference for them who are interested in conducting a study of discourse analysis, particularly news structures as the theoretical framework in news media.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

Noun Phrase : A group of words that consists of only a noun, a pronoun, or a proper noun as a head, or accompanied by determiner and modifier. (Biber et. al 1999, 97 Brinton and Brinton 2010, 193).

Syntactic Roles of : The relationship between noun phrases and the verb Noun Phrase as well as its position in a sentence (Biber et. al 1999, 98-638).

Semantic Roles of : The relationship of entities or argument to the event Noun Phrase or predicate which also has grammatical relevant relations (Frawley 1992, 198; Brinton and Brinton 2010, 297).