CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This subchapter presents the theory applied to analyze the use of noun phrases in the abstracts of linguistics and literature undergraduate theses produced by the English Department students of Universitas Airlangga. The main theory used for this study is the theory proposed by Brinton (2010) who divided noun phrases into nine types. The theory from Brinton is used to categorize the noun phrases found in the abstracts based on the structures of the noun phrases. After the noun phrases are divided based on the category in Brinton's theory of noun phrases, the results are analyzed based on the occurrence of those noun phrases

2.1.1 An Overview of Syntax

Language is formed by the principles and structures that make language understandable. One of the major fields in linguistics that focuses on the structure of the sentence is syntax. Syntax is "the study of the principles and processes by which sentences are constructed in particular languages" (Chomsky, 2002). The contribution of syntax in the development of language structures has been very significant. "One of the most obvious yet important ways in which languages differ is the order of the main elements in a sentence" (Van Valin. 2001).

Fromkin et al (2011) state that syntax is the part of grammar that represents a speaker's knowledge of sentences and their structures. The structures provided by the speaker must follow the rules of syntax in order to be understandable and have meaning. The rules of syntax regulates the combination of words into phrases and phrases into sentences. Rules of syntax can also be used to determine the grammatical relation of the sentences. These roles of syntax are able to describe the relationship between the meaning of a particular group of words and the arrangement of those words. For example: I owe you is different from you owe me. These two sentences have the same part of group of words but the arrangement of those words is different which makes the two sentences have different meaning.

2.1.2 Phrases in the English Language

A phrase is a string of (one or more) words that functions as syntactic unit or constituent (Crowgey, 2012). Constituent here means a group of words that can stand alone. From the definition we understand that a phrase is able to stand though it is formed only by one or single word. Delahunty and Garvey (2010) also add in their book about the characteristics of phrases. In their book entitled 'The English Language: From Sound to Sense', they say that phrase "is defined as a group of words that does not contain a verb and its subject and is used as a single part of speech."
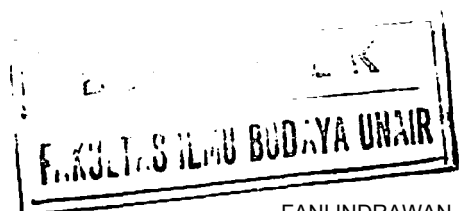
The definition above contains three important points that are also discussed in their book. First, the definition specifies that only a group of words can constitute a phrase, implying that a single word cannot. Second, phrases are distinguished from clauses. Third, it requires that the groups of words believed to be a phrase constitute a single grammatical unit. These three important points are the elements of the definition proposed by Delahunty and Gravey. But then they add that in point 1, it should be revised because a phrase is able to contain just a single word like the example of the subject in this sentence: *most of the white pigeons* fly' becomes *birds* fly'. *Birds* in this example represents the subject of the preceding sentences. It proves that a single word can also become a phrase that function the same as a group of words. This idea is strengthened by Brinton (2010) who defines phrases as sequences of words or single word, having syntactic significance that forms a constituent.

Not all sequences of words function as constituent. Brinton explains that syntactic constituents are identified by a number of different constituency tests, which are based on the principles that only entire constituents are moveable, replaceable, or deletable. The <u>beautiful flower</u> in the sentence *it was beautiful flowers that I received for my birthday* is the example of constituent since it can be moved, replaced, or deleted in the current sentence. In their book, Delahunty and Gravey (2010) states that phrase itself is divided into five types:

1. The adverb phrase (adverbial)

2. The prepositional phrase

3. The adjective phrase

4. The noun phrase

5. The verb phrase

The separation of phrases is based on the head of that phrase. For example, the verb phrase is characterized by the head of its phrase which is a verb. Delahunty and Garvey add that the head of a phrase is the central element which can also determine the phrase's grammatical category.

2.1.3 Noun Phrases

The definition of phrase has been explained above. From the definition we can understand that noun phrase is a group of words or a single word which the headword (main word) is a noun or pronoun. According to Quirk in Hirtle's book (2009) that "the noun phrase typically functions as subject, object and complement of clauses and as complement of prepositional phrases". The flexibility of noun phrases makes them to be frequently found in any texts. Hirtle (2009) adds that "noun phrase is grammatical whole constituted by juxtaposing a substantive as the main word alongside subordinate words. In the last explanation, it is explained that a phrase is able to be formed by a single word (the headword). From this condition, it can be implied that a single word that must consequently be the head of the phrase is considered as simple noun phrases. Delahunty and Garvey (2010) categorize single word noun phrases as follows:

Category of Head Word	Example
Noun, count	*Wombats* are playful
Noun, non-count	*Cabbage* is nutritious
Subject and object personal pronouns	*They* saw *her*
Genitive personal pronoun	*Mine* are chartreuse
Indefinite pronoun/quantifier	*None* were found
Wh-word/ pronoun	*Who* placed the call?

These examples are called simple noun phrase because they are formed only by one word. These single word noun phrases also become the head of a phrase. Each category has its own type and characteristics in a text. It can be seen from the examples that they are used in different situation based on the function of the head word. However, though they have different type and characteristics, they share the same function in the texts which become the head word of the sentences. Number 3, in the example above is the example of noun phrases and their function in a sentence as Fromkin et al. (2011) claims that noun phrases may function as the subject or an object in a sentence.

After understanding the simple noun phrases, usually are formed only by a single word (noun), the next noun phrases are the complex noun phrases. If the simple noun phrases are only formed by single word, the complex noun phrases contain not only the head word but also modifier(s). Having modifier(s) accompanying the head

word, the structures must be different with the previous types of noun phrases. Basically, Delahunty and Garvey (2010) explained that complex noun phrases can be generalized into two big formulas.

a. (Premodifier) + HEAD + (Postmodifier)

b. (Complement) + HEAD + (Complement)

From the two formulas above, the main element of noun phrases is the head. Then the modifiers are optional. Optional means that it may contain modifier(s) or not to form a noun phrase. A complex noun phrase may contain one or more premodifier(s) (modifier preceding the head word) and/or one or more postmodifier(s) (modifier following the head word). From this explanation, it can be broken down into several possibilities of forms:

a. Head
b. Premodifier(s) + head
c. Head + postmodifier(s)
d. Premodifier(s) + head + postmodifier(s)

The second formula also has the same possibilities:

a. Head
b. Complement + head
c. Head + complement
d. Complement + head + complement

In the formulas above, generally complex noun phrases are formed by the head word and are preceded by premodifier(s) and/or are followed by

postmodifier(s). The forms of premodifiers and postmodifiers that can be found in texts are various. The examples in the table below show the forms and the functions of premodifier in texts:

Form of premodifier	Example
Article	*The* wombats escaped
Adjective phrase	*Strong* winds
Demonstrative pronoun	*That* vase is valuable
Genitive NP	*Sheila's* serve is powerful
Genitive pronoun	*Her* serve is powerful
Noun	*Metal* plates shielded the instruments
Indefinite pronoun/quantifier	*Some* survivor remained
Wh-word	*Which* lobster do you want?
Numeral	*Seven* boxes fell
Ordinal	*Second* thoughts assailed us
Quantifier	*Several* vats of beer
Negative	*No* accidents were reported

In the example above is explained some of the type of modifier based on the function in a text. The example only shows of one modifier precede the head of a phrase while it have been explained that in a sentence the noun phrases may contain one or more

modifier (premodifier and/or postmodifier). After reading the examples of premodifier, in the teable below will be given the example of post modifier:

Postmodifier type	Example
Adjective phrase	[Anyone fond of kumquats] should buy this cookbuy.
Appositive NP	[His nominee, an infamous scroundel,] is unlikely to be elected.
Relative clause	[The contestant who guesses the title] will win a trip to Tahiti.
Appositive relative	[G.W. Bush,who is the 43rd President of the US,] is only 60.
Verbal phrase	[The contestant guessing the title] will win the vacation in Tahiti.

The two formulas that have been stated above represent all types of noun phrases in general which actually can be divided into many types. Noun phrases generally are formulated into two big formulas which contain modifier(s) and complement(s). There are many expansions of noun phrases which are proposed by many researchers. From the theories of noun phrases expansions, the writer chooses to use Brinton's expansion. In His book, Brinton says that the formula above can be broken down and divided into nine different types of noun phrases. Brinton (2010) explains that noun phrase can be expanded in many different ways:

NP →	N	dogs
	Det N	the dogs
	Det A N	the large dogs
	Det AP N	the loudly barking dogs
	Det N PP	the dog in the yard
	Det A N PP	the ferocious dog behind the fence
	Det AP N PP	the wildly yapping dog on the sofa
	Pro	he
	PN	Goldy

Det in the expansion above refers to determiner which functions like modifier. The rule for Det can be written as follows:

Det	→ {Dem, Art, Wh-, Poss, Q}
Dem	→ {this, that, these, those}
Art	→ {a, an, the}
Wh-	→ {which, what, whose
Poss	→ {my, our, their, John's, the man's ... }
Quantifier	→ {some, any, every, each, neither, more ... }

The variations of Det of noun phrases are shown in the rule of Det above. The variations of Det represent the use of Det in any condition. The roles of Det as the modifier and the specifier are important in the texts to clarify the definiteness of the noun phrases. These 9 types of noun phrases are the expansion (that is) proposed by Brinton. This expansion follows the rules that he has already stated in his book to define that noun phrases ". . . must indicate the optionality of Det, AP, and PP and the mutual exclusiveness of Pro and PN with the other elements" (Brinton, 2010).

Although the other elements [modifier(s) or complement(s)] are all optional, the roles of the other elements are important to determine the function and the type of noun phrases. The noun (N) is the only obligatory element in the first seven expansions of NP and becomes the head word. For pronoun (Pro) and proper noun (PN), they stand alone and cannot co-occur with the AP, the Det, or the PP.

In the structures that are proposed by Brinton, they do not only represent the lexical word class in the noun phrases, but they also represent the syntactic role based on the syntactic role of the current word class stated in the noun phrases. One example in the type number three (Det + A + N), the A here refers to adjective. The lexical word classes show that adjective can only be represented by the adjective word, but based on syntactical role, to make it clear let's see in the example below. There is no adjective word class in this example of noun phrases "*The Javanese Conversation*". Based on the structures in Brinton's noun phrases (Det + A + N), The word 'Javanese' fills the role of A in syntactical roles so in this noun phrases 'Javanese' has the syntactic role of adjective.

Based on the formula that have been proposed by Delahunty and Gravey above, noun phrases can be generalized as (Premodifier) + HEAD + (Postmodifier). This formula generalizes all type of noun phrases including the expansion of noun phrases that is proposed by Brinton (2010). In the generalized noun phrases, "the noun (N) is the only obligatory element . . . and serve as head; the other elements are optional" (Brinton, 2010). It can be included that the main important element is head

(noun) while the other elements are optional to be found in the structures of noun phrases.

2.1.3.1 Noun

The first type of noun phrases by Brinton's theory has the structure that is formed only by single word (N). This structure shows that noun phrases are able to be formed by single word. The example of single word noun phrases is "*dogs*".

2.1.3.2 Determiner + Noun

The second type of noun phrases in Brinton's theory has the structure which is formed by the head and is preceded by premodifier (Det + N). This structure shows the importance of the use of premodifier in clarifying the specific meaning of the noun phrases. The example of noun phrases with single premodifier is "*the dogs*".

2.1.3.3 Determiner + Adjective + Noun

The third type of noun phrases that is proposed by Brinton is formed by the head and preceded by two premodifiers (Det + A + N). From the structure it can be seen that the head (N) is accompanied by determiner (Det) and adjective (A) as its premodifiers. This type is used in the abstracts to show the adjective aspects of the noun phrases they use. As they used adjective to modify their noun phrases, they assume that the adjective aspects of the noun phrases are important and are needed to be stated accompanying the N. The example of noun phrases with two premodifiers is "*the large dogs*".

2.1.3.4 Determiner + Adjective Phrase + Noun

The next type of noun phrases has similar structure with the previous type of noun phrases which is formed by the head and is preceded by premodifiers. The difference between this type with the previous type is the number of premodifier(s). In the previous type, the head is preceded by two premodifiers (Det + A) while the head of this type is preceded by more modifiers (Det + AP). The difference is on the use of adjective (A) and adjective phrases (AP). Actually adjective phrases are formed by the head word (A) and followed by the additional elements which mean a single A can form the AP but in Brinton's classes of noun phrases, he separated the use of A and AP. The example of noun phrases with three or more premodifiers is "*the loudly barking dogs*".

2.1.3.5 Determiner + Noun + Prepositional Phrase

The type number five is different from the four previous noun phrases because those previous noun phrases are formed only preceded by premodifier(s) while this type is formed by the head which is not only preceded by premodifier(s) but also followed by postmodifier(s). The structure of the noun phrases is (Det + N + PP). Having both premodifier(s) and postmodifier(s) represent the complete generalized noun phrases by Delahunty and Garvey (that have been explained above). From the structure it can be seen that the head is preceded by Det and is followed by PP. The use of Det and PP accompanying the head shows that the students want to show the additional information of the head to clarify the meaning in a sentence. The example of this type of noun phrases is "*the dog in the yard*".

2.1.3.6 Determiner + Adjective + Noun + Prepositional Phrase

The type number six is the combination of type number three and type number five. In type number three, it contains Det and A as the modifiers of the head while type number five contains Det and PP as the modifiers. The combination is shown by the structure of this type (Det + A + N + PP). The example of this type is *"the ferocious dog behind the fence"*.

2.1.3.7 Determiner + Adjective Phrase + Noun + Prepositional Phrase

The type number seven has similar structure with type number six. This type is also combination of the previous types which are type number four and type number five. The structure of the combination noun phrases is Det + AP + N + PP. Having the structure which contains Det, AP and PP, this type is relatively considered the most complicated noun phrase in Brinton's theory. The example of this type is *"the wildly yapping dog on the sofa"*.

2.1.3.8 Pronoun

The type number eight is pronoun. As stated in the previous explanation that noun phrases could be formed by single word. The use of pronoun is able to represent the previous preferred noun phrases without repeating the noun phrases. The example of pronoun is *'he'*.

2.1.3.9 Proper Noun

The type number nine, the last type of the expansion of Brinton's noun phrase, is proper noun. It is different from type number one. Type number one is only formed by single noun while proper noun could possibly formed by more than one

word. Proper noun is special term which belongs to noun (lexical word class), it is different from common noun. The example of proper noun is *goldy*.

2.2 Related Studies

Research about noun phrases has been conducted by some researchers. Research that is similar to the present study is conducted by Zabala (2004) who investigated the structural and discourse properties of complex noun phrases in ESL narratives made by Japanese and Korean native speakers. However the previous research is limited to focus on the structural and discourse properties of the texts produce by the user of English as the second language. Moreover the previous research neglects to consider the interesting issue of comparing the narratives texts made by Japanese and Korean native speakers.

The next similar research is conducted by Parkinson & Musgrave (2013). They compared the writing of the international students in an English language course (the EAP group) with that of international students at a more advance level of proficiency, those who had already achieved the goal of enrolment in graduate studies. They focused on measuring the use of nominal modifiers in two sets of learner writing. No studies has ever been conducted to find out the noun phrases contained in thesis before which make the findings will surely gain new interesting knowledge. In addition, the present research is analyzing two sets of writing in the same level but having different field of studies.

CHAPTER III

METHOD OF THE STUDY