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THE USE OF POLYSEMY IN KOMPAS.COM NEWS HEADLINES

Abstract

This research aims to study polysemy in Kompas.com News Headlines (economic section) in Indonesia. The researcher tries to find the form of polysemy or the words contain polysemy in news headline. Classified it into several classification such as verbs, nouns, adverbs, and adjectives also regular or irregular form of polysemy and after that, the researcher tries to interpret the meaning of each polysemic words in the News Headlines. This research used descriptive method which is part of qualitative research to analyze the data. According to Azwar (1997: 6), in a descriptive method, the researcher analyzes and presents the fact systematically therefore it can be understood and concluded easily. There are 29 polysemic words found in Kompas.com News Headlines (economic section) with different forms and meanings.

Keywords: Economic Section; Kompas.com News Headlines; Polysemy

Abstract

This research aims to study polysemy in Kompas.com News Headlines (economic section) in Indonesia. The researcher tries to find the form of polysemy or the words contain polysemy in news headline. Classified it into several classification such as verbs, nouns, adverbs, and adjectives also regular or irregular form of polysemy and after that, the researcher tries to interpret the meaning of each polysemic words in the News Headlines. This research used descriptive method which is part of qualitative research to analyze the data. According to Azwar (1997: 6), in a descriptive method, the researcher analyzes and presents the fact systematically therefore it can be understood and concluded easily. There are 29 polysemic words found in Kompas.com News Headlines (economic section) with different forms and meanings.

Keywords: Economic Section; Kompas.com News Headlines; Polysemy

INTRODUCTION

The meaning of words can be extended by the processes of semantic change. There are some processes in semantic change such as metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, euphemism, and also polysemy. Some of the process considered as a fuzziness concept as Hock and Josephs (2009: 208), the fuzziness may appear in the form of polysemy, semantic overlap, and also metaphor. As the statement of Narrog, these forms are the type of semantic change. For example (Hock and Joseph, 2009: 208):

(1) *John reads very well*

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From the example, as in Hock and Joseph's book, it raises more than one interpretation. First, If John is in kindergarten, his just barely being able to sound out written words may merit the response. But if John is in his teens or older, with normal abilities, this would not be a probable interpretation. He would need to be capable of something more extraordinary, like winning a poetry reading competition, a speed-reading class, or anything similar. In the example, the term "read" has several extended meanings, including "comprehend the meaning of written symbols," "sound out written symbols," and, finally, "sound out a poem for the audience" (Hock and Joseph, 2009). From these interpretations, the fuzziness called as polysemy, the same structure, word, but it may have different meaning in it.

The words contain polysemy sometimes cannot be identified easily, people have to consider the core meaning words first. Because polysemy may occur in verbs, adjectives, adverbs and also nouns according to Ullmann (1977) in Sumarsono (2011) and Alwi (2003). Words contain polysemy may occur conversation, newspaper, magazine, which is not everyone understand and able to distinguish at a glance which words contain polysemy and which words do not contain polysemy. This research will focus on news headlines in newspapers that use polysemic words using the theory of polysemy by experts mentioned before.

Semantics, Semantic Change – an Overview

Semantics is the study of meaning in language (Hurford and others, 2007: 1). Further, Griffiths (2006: 6), clarify that semantics is the study of sentence meaning and word meaning. It means that not only a word, semantics also able to reveal the meanings though a sentence. The meaning that contains in every word or sentences need to be described by people, so that semantics is the study which concerned with the description of meanings in order to make people understand what meanings are contain in every word (Cruse, 2006).

The study of the human mind also focuses on semantics; cognitive processes, cognition, and conceptualization are all closely related to how we categorize and express our perceptions of the world through language (Leech, 1985: ix). The definitions above shows that semantics is the study of meaning or sign in linguistics which relates one sign to another sign that produce the meaning of its sign. Semantics also about the cognition of human mind, when people are trying to signify the meaning of a word, they use their mind or cognition to reveal the meaning of a word regarding to people's experiences and express it through language.

By the time, the meaning of the words can be changed, whether diachronic or synchronic processes. The process of changing meaning not the form of words, but only the semantic content with which they are associated, this process is called semantic change (Bloomfield, 1983: 237). Further, Parera (2004: 107) states that *the shift in meaning is a sign of expanding, narrowing, connotating, synesthesia, associating word meaning that still exist in a meaning*. It means that the reference is not change at all, it just extends or narrows the meaning of the reference different from meaning changing which change the reference.

Polysemy

A word that can have different meanings called as polysemy (Breal in Ullmann, 1977). In line with Breal, Evans (2007: 163) also states that, polysemy is the phenomenon whereby a linguistic unit exhibits multiple distinct yet related meanings. The statements show that polysemy is the phenomenon where the word may have different meaning but it is still related each other. For instance, the word *body* have some meanings such as the human body, a corpse, the trunk of the human body, the main or central part of something (Evans, 2007: 163).

According to Hock and Joseph (2009) polysemy in one of the processes which contain fuzziness, they state that the fuzziness may appear in the form of polysemy, semantic overlap, and also metaphor. As the statement of Narrog, these forms are the type of semantic change. Another example comes from Hock and Joseph (2009: 208):

(1) *John reads very well*

For the whole sentence, it may raise different interpretations, from an adult point of view it can be John who has an ability to read something more spectacular that just reading a book or newspaper. An adult may expect, for example, John has an ability in reading poems, or something scientific. But it would be different if the sentence interpreted by a child, a

kindergarten student for example. It comes to a simple thing such as John has an ability to read everything, he has the same ability as a kindergarten student. The core meaning of “read” in the example also have some extending meanings such as “comprehend the meaning of written symbols” and the meaning extend to be “sound out written symbols”, and the last “sound out a poem for the audience” (Hock and Joseph, 2009).

Cognitive linguists state that polysemy is not only limited to the meaning of words, more than that, polysemy is fundamental to humans. the point is that polysemy will appear in different languages and in different phenomena. Therefore, cognitive linguists view polysemy as a tool for generalizing different phenomena because polysemic reveal fundamental differences between lexical, morphological and syntactic organizations (Evans, 2007).

In studying polysemy, unconsciously it will also be related to the term homonymy. Why? because the forms of polysemy and homonym are in the same form but with different aims and objectives. It means that if the polysemic words have more than one meaning and the meaning of the word is interconnected, it is different from homonymy. Even though words containing homonym have different meanings, the meanings of the word are not related to each other. It is in line with McCughren (2009: 108) in polysemy meanings are usually etymologically and semantically related and have often at one point been used in metaphors. In homonymy, they are etymologically unrelated. The meanings, are not semantically related to each other, they are completely different unlike in case of polysemy.

According to Wijaya (2016: 35) polysemous forms can be divided into words that show regular and irregular polysemy. Regarding to the theory of regular and irregular polysemy, Apresjan (1973) in Wijaya (2016: 35-36) states that:

“Polysemy of the word A with the meaning ai and aj is called regular if, in the given language, there exists at least one other word B with the meanings bi bj, which are semantically distinguished from each other in exactly the same way as ai and aj and if ai and bi, aj and bj are non-synonymous. Polysemy is called unpredictable in case the semantic qualification between ai and aj is not exemplified in any other word of the given language.

From the statement above, it can be concluded that regular polysemy is about systematic relationship between the words and the meanings of its words. while irregular polysemy is about non-systematic relationship between each meaning of the words. Alwi et al (2003) also divided word into four classes which connected to polysemy, they are verbs, nouns, adverbs, and adjectives. Because polysemy may occur in every kind of words in this case in four kinds of words that mentioned before. Polysemic words are classified into four kinds of word class to make the classification clear, which one is verb, adverb, noun or adjective.

METHOD

This research will use descriptive method which is part of qualitative research to analyze the data. According to Azwar (1997: 6), in a descriptive method, the researcher analyzes and presents the truth efficiently hence it can be caught on and concluded effectively. To collect the data, the researcher tried to get the data of news headlines from Kompas.com (economic section) electronic newspaper (www.kompas.com) per December 2018.

1. Data Collection Methods

a. Classification

The researcher tried to classify words containing polysemy on a certain topic of the newspaper.

2. Data Analysis

The data will be analyzed using thematic analysis, following these steps:

- a. Familiarization: Data from the website will be read and re-read to immerse in the data.
- b. Coding: Initial codes will be generated, representing key themes such as verb, noun, adverb, adjective also regular and irregular polysemic forms.
- c. Theme Development: Codes will be grouped into broader themes such as "User Perceptions of Effectiveness," "Implementation Barriers," and "Comparisons 3.

3. Interpretation: The findings will be interpreted in light of existing literature and the specific

context of the newspaper.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Based on the result of the research, the researcher found 25 data contain polysemy, and even though polysemy may occur in every word, people have to know which words are verbs, nouns, adverbs or adjective in order to know the frequency of polysemic words which occur in such objects such as newspaper, magazine, and etc. Also, the data will be determined as regular and irregular polysemy. Based on the theory of polysemy that have been explained above, here are the examples of polysemy in Kompas.com (money section) online newspaper:

Table 1. List of Data

No.	News Headline (Money Section)
1.	Bea cukai, dulu tenar jadi sarang pungli, sempat dibekukan Soeharto
2.	Kinerja 2023 “ kinclong ”, Emiten TI ATIC sasar baru konsultasi cloud pada 2024
3.	Biaya klaim simpanan 10 BPR bangkrut, LPS kucurkan Rp. 237 miliar per April 2024
4.	Laba Emiten BRPT milik Prajogo Pangestu merosot , ini penyebabnya
5.	Baru 4 bulan, sudah ada 14 Bank Perekonomian Rakyat yang tumbang
6.	Modal asing masuk lagi, BOS BI: rupiah bakal menguat hingga akhir tahun
7.	Cuaca buruk, harga jagung, kedelai, hingga gandum melambung
8.	Gabah melimpah pendapatan petani melemah
9.	HET beras bulog naik, TLKI khawatir daya beli masyarakat tergerus
10.	Bank Mandiri genjot transaksi “cross border” lewat aplikasi Livin’
11.	Pendapatan masyarakat stagnan bikin daya beli merosot
12.	Harga Bahan Pokok Rabu 8 Mei 2024: Ikan hingga Ayam Naik , Cabai Merah Keriting Turun
13.	Dorong Produksi Nasional, Jatim Siap Genjot Indeks Pertanaman Padi
14.	Strategi Medco Genjot Produksi Migas dan Terapkan Transisi Energi
15.	Konsumsi Lemah , Pertumbuhan Ekonomi Jepang Terkontraksi
16.	Inflasi AS Mereda , Harga Bitcoin Melesat
17.	Potensi Ekonomi Kurban Diprediksi Capai Rp 27 Triliun pada 2024
18.	Kemhub Godok Skema Pembiayaan Kereta Cepat Jakarta-Surabaya
19.	KB Bank Genjot Pertumbuhan Kredit lewat Pembiayaan Dealer Kendaraan Komersial
20.	Wall Street Berakhir di Zona Merah, Dow Sempat Sentuh Level 40.000
21.	Aliran Modal Asing Masuk RI Kian Deras , Pekan Ini Capai Rp 22,06 Triliun
22.	Ini Penyebab Indofarma Mandek Bayar Gaji Karyawan
23.	Mau Bangun KRL Surabaya-Sidoarjo, Menhub Gandeng Bank Pembangunan Jerman
24.	Sinopsis How to Make Millions Before Grandma Dies, Film Thailand yang Kuras Air Mata
25.	Ribuan Lampion Waisak Hiasi Langit Candi Borobudur, Bikin Peserta Terharu

Discussions

After coding the data and having theme development, the next step would be interpreting the data regarding the theory of polysemy that have been explained before.

Data 1

*Wall Street Berakhir di Zona Merah, Dow Sempat **Sentuh** Level 40.000*

In English, the word *sentuh* literally translated as ‘touch’ which is a verb, and according to Alwi et al (2003) states that verbs in terms of semantic behavior have inherent meaning contained in them. But, the word *sentuh* or ‘touch’ here have other meanings beside *menyentuh sesuatu*, it can be reach (*mencapai*), because it can be seen from the context. But the meaning of the words still related each other and it can be called as regular polysemy.

Data 2

*Dorong Produksi Nasional, Jatim Siap **Genjot** Indeks Pertanaman Padi*

In English, the word *genjot* can be translated as ‘push’ which is a verb. According to oxford online dictionary the word push described as Exert force on (someone or something) in order to move them away from oneself. While in bahasa Indonesia the word *genjot* have another meaning such as, *mengayuh*, *menginjak*, *menyerang* and so on. But the meaning of the words still related each other and it can be called as regular polysemy.

Data 3

*Potensi Ekonomi Kurban Diprediksi **Capai** Rp 27 Triliun pada 2024*

In English, the word *capai* can be translated into two words, ‘reach’ (verb) and ‘tired’ (adjective). But in Indonesia, the word *capai* has two meanings which are not related each other. First, *mencapai* or to reach something (reach) and second *lelah* or a circumstance of human who need sleep or rest (tired). These meanings are not related each other and it is called as irregular polysemy.

Data 4

*Gabah melimpah pendapatan petani **melemah**.*

In English, the word *melemah* can be translated as ‘weaken’ (verb) and *melemah* can be translated as weak (adjective). The words are in the same meaning as ‘weak’ but with the different form of word and different word class. Each words have their own meanings but it is still related each other. But the meaning of the words still related each other and it can be called as regular polysemy.

Data 5

*Aliran Modal Asing Masuk RI Kian **Deras**, Pekan Ini **Capai** Rp 22,06 Triliun.*

In English, the word *deras* can be translated into “fast”, “swift”, or even “heavy”. These words are usually used by “water” (noun) or rain (noun). The *capai* can be translated into “tired” (adjective). In Indonesia, the word “deras” has the same meaning as English, but, in this sentence, the word “deras” used to show that the flow of foreign fund flows heavily as water. The word *capai* has two meanings in Indonesia which are not related each other. First, *mencapai* or to reach something (reach) and second *lelah* or a circumstance of human who need sleep or rest (tired). These meanings are not related each other and it is called as irregular polysemy unlike the “deras” meaning as regular polysemy.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, there are 25 polysemous words in the online newspaper Kompas.com (money section) in the May 2024 edition. Most of these words are in regular form so that the meaning of the words has a systematic relationship with each other. It is not easy to understand which words are polysemous and which are not. However, with theories from several experts, researchers are able to find and describe polysemous words. This context also plays an important role in helping researchers understand the meaning of each polysemous word. Because once again, polysemy contains an unclear concept that can confuse people and make them not know what it means. The use of polysemous words in news titles, in this case in Indonesian, is not the wrong choice, but the author must also pay attention to the people who will read the article and ensure that the words used in the news title do not confuse people.

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