

**THE STATUS OF MODIFIERS IN VERB PHRASE CONSTRUCTIONS
IN THE ARTICLES OF *KANG GURU* MAGAZINE
(USING X – BAR APPROACH)**



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Linguistics is the study of language. There is a reason why we should study English. According to Chomsky (1970: 103) why we should study language because language is a mirror of humans` mind. It means that language is a representation of humans` feeling and ideas of living things. Moreover, language is also learned and studied. By detailed study of language; we might hope to reach a better understanding of how the human mind produces and processes language. Thus, humans` mind is like the stone of rules in which people know the rule well; they may easily understand their language.

Written language is one type of standard language which is usually to present a kind of language having perfect structure, which will not be interpreted by the reader ambiguously; way to describe a written language is by using appropriate diction and delivering the message or making the reader understood. How to understand the meaning of the written language can be identified from the sentence. In English, the sentence is called well - formed, if it is not only grammatically correct, but also acceptable whether in syntactic, semantics, and pragmatics.

Syntax is the study of how words can be combined together to form phrases and sentences (Radford, 1988: 13). But according to Matthews (1981: 1) syntax refers to the branch of grammar dealing with the ways in which

words, with or without appropriate inflections arranged to show connections of the meaning within the sentence. However, syntactic analysis seeks to check a sentence structure to remove any ambiguity by bringing into the play the factor of word position and the resulting relations of meaning.

There are three approaches to analyze syntactic structure that contribute to understand how certain elements are used to built up sentence. Those are traditional approach, structural approach, and transformational generative approach. According to De Boer (1982: 219 – 222), traditional approach or traditional grammar is related to sentence pattern that describes the basic sentence. Structural approach or structural grammar is a grammar that emphasizes physical arrangement of elements within a sentence (Frank, 1972: 231). Transformational – generative approach or transformational generative grammar is a grammar which is concerned with the process by which basic sentences are changed to fit into larger sentences (Frank, 1972: 231). The analysis on Transformational Generative Grammar (TGG) uses phrase Structure Rules a rule for generating the sentences (other phrases) that are represented by tree diagram (the representation of the sentences categorical constituent structure).

In sentence, there are many grammatical forms; one of them is phrase. In traditional grammar, phrase is the words which are grouped into elements that are smaller than sentence (Palmer, 1971: 76). While in the Transformational Generative Grammar, phrase is used to mean simply a set of elements which form a constituent, with no restriction on the number of elements that the set many or must contain (Radford, 1998: 85). Phrase is

classified into five; these are Noun Phrase (NP), Verb Phrase (VP), Prepositional Phrase (PP), Adverbial Phrase (ADVP), and Adjectival Phrase (AP).

Verb phrase (VP) is a phrase, which has a verb as head word; the verb is the main verb (Morley, 2000: 55). Sometimes, the construction of VP in TGG is not so simple as that in traditional grammar, because in traditional grammar, VP is described as the composition of two or more words having the same meaning as its verb. For example:

She reads closely the book in the room.
 S P O Adjunct

The VP construction "reads closely" viewed for traditional grammar can be identified from the V as predicate of the sentence, while elements that follow the V are not included in VP construction, because this views a sentence as a linear structure containing elements partially, but the VP construction in TGG and X – Bar approach will include all of elements that also follow V as its predication.

The construction of VP in TGG includes all of elements that also follow V; this is so because the basis is a kernel sentence which is generated into only two constituents NP and VP. In TGG, VP of the sentence is one of the main elements beside NP. By identifying the main elements VP and NP, we can understand easily the main sentence. The example: "*She reads the book in the room*", the VP can be described as follows:

PS → Rules:

VP → VP + PP

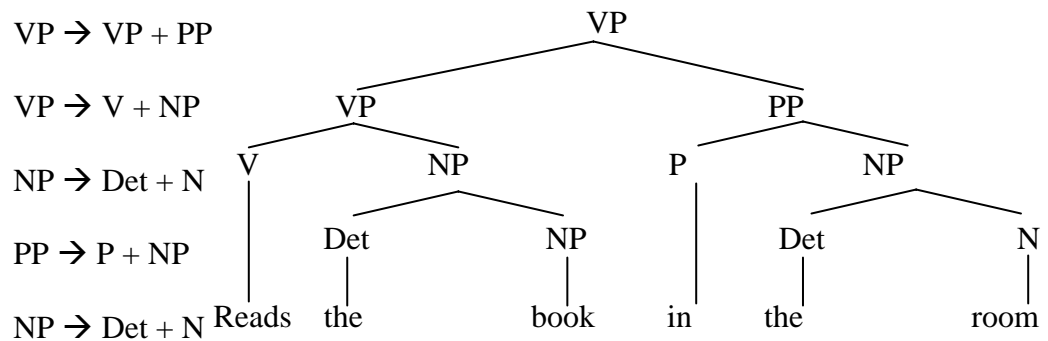
VP → V + NP

NP → Det + N

PP → P + NP

NP → Det + N

Phrase marker:



The construction of VP by using TGG and X – Bar approach are not significant of the differences. The difference of this construction is in writing the types of category level. There are three levels category based on X – Bar theory: V, V' (V – bar), V'' (V – double – bar). V is for labeling word level category, V' for labeling small verb phrase, and V'' for labeling full verb phrase.

The construction of VP has maximal limit that is signed by certain specifiers called Aspect (Asp): have / be. The function of Asp is to expand V' (V – Bar) into V'' (V – double – bar) constituent. A sentence, for example: “*She may be reading the book*” can be described using X – Bar approach follows:

PS – rules:

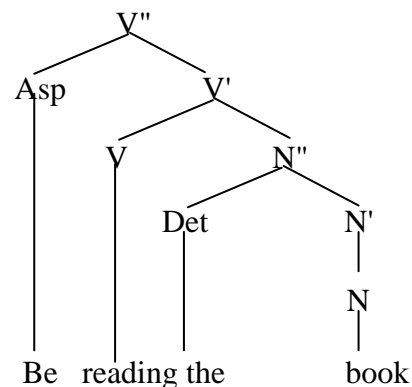
V'' → Asp + V'

V' → V + N''

N'' → Det + N'

N' → N

Phrase marker:



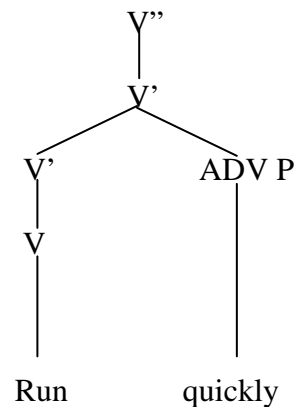
The postmodifier of VP such as NP, “be reading *the book*” in the scope of X – bar approach will have the status of either obligatory or optional. According to Hornby (1974: 860) status is a position in relation to others. The NP [*the book*] becomes obligatory because it can be changed by other words, such as; [*the news paper*]. The status is also signed by the position of NP [*the book*] is sister of V, and daughter of V – bar. The type of NP [*the book*] is as complement because it expands V into V – bar. Another example of postmodifier of VP such as ADV P “we run *quickly*” can be described using X – bar approach follows:

PS – rules:

$V' \rightarrow V'$

$V' \rightarrow V' + \text{ADV P}$

$V' \rightarrow V$



The status of modifier in the VP “we *run quickly*” is optional because it can be changed by other words, such as; [*highly*]. The status is also signed by the position of ADV P [*quickly*] is sister and daughter of VP [*run*]. The type of ADV P [*quickly*] is as adjunct because it expands V – bar into V – bar.

In English, for some purposes, verb phrase can be treated as single grammatical units. In many articles, for example, most of them uses verb phrase to make the readers easier in understanding the idea in the essay or paragraph. As one of the media of information in Indonesia, there is a

magazine which published by Radio English of Australia four times every year (March, June, September, and December). They make network in some Radios in Indonesia. Beside that, they make a magazine. That is *Kang Guru* Magazine. The information of this magazine is packaged in the article form and there are many kinds of verb phrase constructions in the sentences. So, it is interesting to be analyzed.

Concerning with the above discussion, in this study, the writer only deals with the analysis of the status of modifiers in verb phrase constructions using X – Bar approach. Therefore, the writer chooses the research paper which entitled “THE STATUS OF MODIFIERS IN VERB PHRASE CONSTRUCTIONS IN THE ARTICLE OF *KANG GURU* MAGAZINE (USING X – BAR APPROACH).

B. Previous Study

The research in which the writer wants to study is not the first research that concerns with pragmatics and syntax. Meanwhile, the previous study which had ever been conducted is the work of Rodhotus Salamiyatul Murfiah (2006), she was a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in which her research title is AN ANALYSIS OF PERSUASIVE EXPRESSIONS OF GOODS ADVERTISEMENT IN KOMPAS (SYNTACTICS AND PRAGMATICS APPROACH), she emphasized on analyzing the form and the meaning of persuasive expressions in good advertisement.

The second research was written by Martanti (2004). It is entitled AN N – BAR ANALYSIS OF NOUN PHRASES IN THE STORY OF

CHILDREN OF INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE (IEC) BULETIN. She analyzed the constituents of Noun Phrases mostly used in the story of children at intensive English Course Bulletin viewed from N – Bar analysis.

Based on these previous researches, the writer attempts to analyze more about status of modifier using X – Bar approach on verb phrase constructions in articles of *Kang Guru* magazine.

C. Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the problems of the study can be formulated as follows:

1. What are types of the modifiers in Verb Phrase constructions in the articles of *Kang Guru* Magazine?
2. What is the status of modifiers in Verb Phrase constructions in the articles of *Kang Guru* Magazine?

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statements above, the writer has objective of the study are as bellows:

1. To identify the types of verbal modifiers that occur in verb phrase constructions.
2. To explain the status of pre- and post- modifiers in verb phrase constructions.

E. Limitation of the Study

In conducting the research, the writer focuses on the various types of verbal modifier in verb phrase constructions, and the status of pre and post modifiers in verb phrase constructions.

F. Benefits of the Study

There are two major benefits in this research; they are academic benefits and practical benefits.

1. Academic Benefits

The result of this study can be used to develop other modifiers on X – Bar theory. This research can be developed by other researches dealing with *Kangguru* magazine in different perspective.

2. Practical Benefits

This research adds knowledge about the linguistic form of the Verb Phrase form used by *Kangguru* magazine. This research will give some contributions for other researchers who are interested in analyzing the X – Bar theory.

G. Research Paper Organization

The writer uses several steps of his research to make it easier to be understood. Those steps are:

Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of background of the study, previous study, problem of the study, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is Underlying Theory. It consist of the notion of phrase, verb phrase, phrase structure rule, X – bar theory, V – bar theory, and the status of verb phrase as a complement or adjunct.

Chapter III is Research Method. It consists of type of the research, object of the research, data and data source, method of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is Data Analysis. It consists of data analysis and research finding.

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion.