

**SYNTACTIC STUDY OF PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE WITHIN
NOUN PHRASE USED IN THE ARTICLES
OF CAMPUS ASIA MAGAZINE (*USING X-BAR THEORY*)**



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

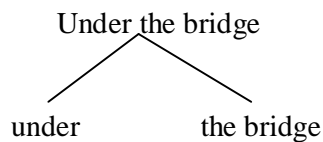
Linguistics is a scientific study of language which covers the structure (morphology and syntax), sound (phonology), and meaning (semantics) (Simons, 2000), as well as the history of the relation of language to each other and the cultural place of language in human behaviour. As one of branches of linguistics, syntax is an important foundation for understanding the structure of language, Syntax is the rule that determine the way words combine into phrases and sentences. (Carnie, 2002: 3) states that syntax is the study of how sentences are structured. It is concerned with how words combine to form sentence. Syntax refers to the rules of a language that show how the words of that language are to be arranged to make a sentence of that language.

In a sentence, there are many grammatical forms, one of them is phrase. In grammar, a phrase is a group of words that functions as a single unit in the syntax of a sentence. Phrase is classified into five, these are: Noun Phrase (NP), Verb Phrase (VP), Prepositional Phrase (PP), Adverbial Phrase (ADVP), and Adjectival Phrase (AP). The head of phrase can be modified by any construction or words. It can be placed before or after the head of phrase. One of phrases modified by any construction of words is noun phrase.

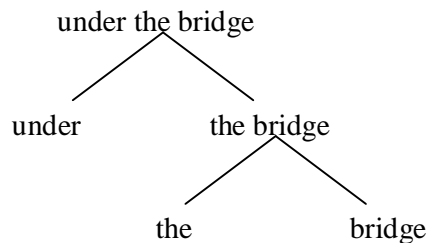
Noun phrase is a phrase which has noun or pronoun as its head. In a noun phrase one or more words work together to give more information about noun. Noun phrase also can be modified by other phrase. Specifically, noun phrase has

prepositional phrase as its modifier. English has greater proportion in emerging preposition in comparison to other languages. (Murcia-Larsen, 1983: 250) said that the number of preposition in English tends to be greater than that in other language as Spanish. Spanish has one preposition *en* that serves as the equivalent of three preposition in English : *in*, *on* and *at*. Prepositional phrase which is like infinitive phrase. The main point to differentiate between the prepositional phrase and the infinitive phrase in the sentence is the preposition is followed by noun and pronoun, while the infinitive is followed by verb.

Each unit that is at the end of a line, or “branch” and thus is part of a higher unit is called constituent (Collins and Hollo, 2000: 9). In a prepositional phrase, such as “ under the bridge” a closer relationship exist between *under* and *the bridge*. It can be divided into two parts, as follows:



The noun phrase above proceed to divide *the bridge* between *the* and *bridge*. So that the whole utterance will be subdivided as follows:



Constituents refer to any word or group of word that appears at the bottom of one of the lines in diagrams such as those used above. When two constituents are joined together by two lines in a diagram, these constituents are said to be in

construction with each other. (Wardhaugh, 1977: 90) states that a construction is a relationship between constituents.

Phrases are generally constituents that are built up around a particular word (Carnie, 2002: 33). The example above “under the bridge” can be described as follow: the constituents of prepositional phrase above consist of the head of the phrase and the modifiers. The prepositional phrase above consist of two constituents: constituent *under* as a head, constituent *the bridge* as noun phrase which modify the head. The noun phrase above consists of two constituents: constituent *the* as determiner and constituent *bridge* as the head.

Noun phrase construction has many modifiers which modify the head. Related to prepositional phrase, prepositional phrase is one of noun phrase post modifiers (Leech and Svartvick, 1994: 344). Modifier (qualifier) is a word or sentence elements that limits or qualifier another word, a phrase, or a clause.

The prepositional phrase construction has three level categories based on X-bar theory: P, P' (P-bar), P'' (P-double bar). P is for labeling word level category, P' for labeling small prepositional phrase, and P'' for labeling full prepositional phrase. Prepositional phrase construction has maximal limit that is signed by certain specifier called preposition (Prep). The function of Prep is to expand P' (P-bar) into P'' (P- double bar) constituent. For example, “A new trend *in Indonesia*” can be described using X-bar approach as follows :

PS-rules :

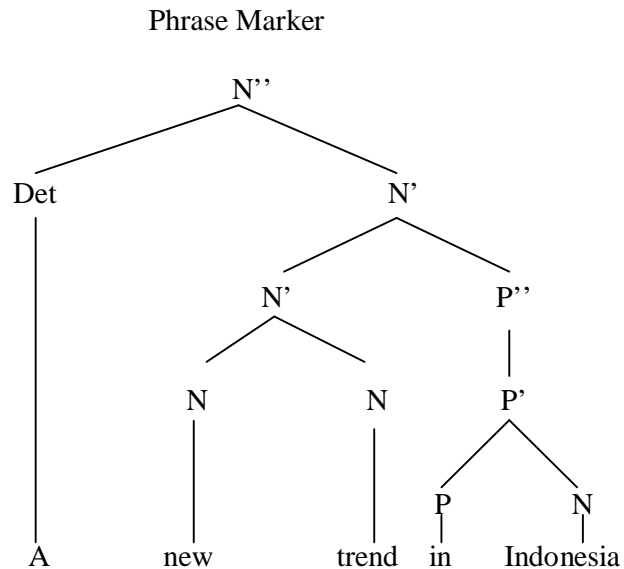
$N'' \rightarrow Det + N'$

$N' \rightarrow N' + P''$

$N' \rightarrow N + N$

$P'' \rightarrow P'$

$P' \rightarrow P + N$

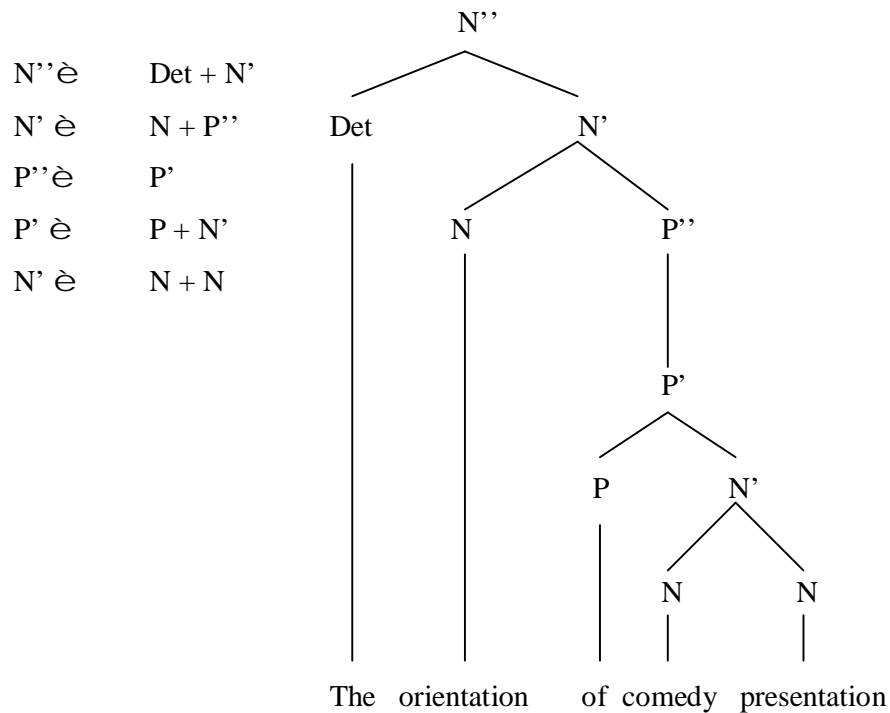


The prepositional phrase as post modifier in noun phrase “A new trend in Indonesia” in the scope of X-bar approach will have status of either obligatory or optional. Hornby (1974: 840) states that status is a position in relation to others. The prepositional phrase [*in Indonesia*] becomes optional because it can not be paraphrased into a sentence and the modifier can be changed by other words, such as [*in television*]. The status is also signed by the position of PP [*in Indonesia*] is as adjunct because it expands N' into N'.

Another example of prepositional phrase as post modifier in the noun phrase construction “The orientation of *comedy presentation*” can be described using X-bar approach as follows:

PS- rules:

Phrase Marker



The status of prepositional phrase in the noun phrase construction “the orientation of *comedy presentation*” is obligatory and has function as complement. It also can be paraphrased into “He orientates comedy presentation”.

Phrases within phrases construction such as PP within NP construction can be found in sentences of any kinds of literary reading, such as magazine, newspaper, novel, text book, etc. Campus Asia Magazine is one of magazine for education and university life. Generally, Campus Asia Magazine gives many information about universities in the world, how the growth next, what are the weakness and the power of education system applied in there and many educative experience from various famous lecturers. So, it is a proportion magazine for university environment. The writer is interested in reading the article which give different topics, for example: intermezzo and spiritual growth topics. The writer

found many prepositional phrases within noun phrase construction in the sentences of the article. So, it is interesting to be analyzed.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in doing the research on the prepositional phrase within noun phrase constituents used in article of Campus Asia Magazine based on X-bar theory, entitled SYNTACTIC STUDY OF PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE WITHIN NOUN PHRASE USED IN THE ARTICLES OF CAMPUS ASIA MAGAZINE (USING X-BAR THEORY).

B. Previous Study

The writer realizes that this research is not the first research analyzing syntax. To prove the originality of the research, the writer will show the previous study that deals this research.

The first is the research entitled “A Syntactic Analysis of Noun Phrase in Pride and Prejudice Novel by Jane Austin” by Zakiyah Wasnadi Astuti (2006). She analyzed the distribution of modifiers in the noun phrase construction and the modifier of noun phrase using structural approach. She found three distribution of the modifiers in the noun phrase and six modifiers in noun phrase construction.

The second research is “Syntactical Analysis of Verb Phrase (VP) in The Jakarta Post Headline Using X-Bar Theory Approach” by Rodliyah (2006). She only focused on the constituents and description of Verb phrase in The Jakarta Post headline based on X-Bar theory. From her analysis, she found five types of verb phrase construction and four constituents of verb phrase.

Different from those research, the writer attempts to analyze more about constituents of Prepositional phrase within noun phrase construction using X-bar approach in the article of Campus Asia Magazine.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the research background, the writer formulates the problems of the study as follows:

1. What are the constituents of prepositional phrase within noun phrase in the article of Campus Asia Magazine?
2. What are the status of prepositional phrase within noun phrase in the article of Campus Asia Magazine?

D. Objective of The Study

In the carrying out this research, the writer formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To describe the constituents of prepositional phrase within noun phrase in the article of Campus Asia Magazine.
2. To describe the status of prepositional phrase within noun phrase in the article of Campus Asia Magazine.

E. Limitation of The Study

The writer realizes that this study is only a little part of study that discusses this magazine article. The writer focuses on syntactic analysis of prepositional phrase within noun phrase used in the *intermezzo and spiritual*

growth article of Campus Asia Magazine. The writer analyzes the constituents and the status of prepositional phrase within noun phrase construction by using X-Bar theory. The writer is only limited on the *intermezzo and spiritual growth articles* of Campus Asia Magazine volume 2 and 3, published in March-June 2008.

F. Benefit of The Study

The writer expects this study which discusses prepositional phrase within noun phrase construction in Campus Asia Magazine gives many benefits for students, other writers and the readers. The result of the study will be contributed to:

1. Practical benefit

- a. This research will give more information to the readers about the constituents of prepositional phrase within noun phrase construction in the magazine article.
- b. This research will give more understanding to the readers about the status of prepositional phrase within noun phrase in the magazine article.

2. Academic Benefit

The research of this study can be used to develop another syntactic study particularly on X-Bar theory.

G. Paper Organization

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

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, previous of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, and benefit of the study.

Chapter II is underlying theory. It consists of the notion of syntax, the notion of phrase, noun phrase, prepositional phrase, X-Bar theory, N-Bar theory, P-Bar theory, and to test the status as complement or adjunct.

Chapter III is research method. It consists of type of research, object of the research, data and data source, method of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is research result. It consists of data analysis and discussion of the research finding.

Chapter V is closing. It consists of conclusion and suggestion.