

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Introduction is required to elaborate the overview of the research from the research background; statement of the problem; research significances; the definition of key terms; and writing organization of this research to discover the structure of writing.

1.1 Background of Research

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meanings contained in a language, or codes of representation. The benefit of semantics as explained in its meaning facilitate writers such as journalists in selecting and determining the use of words used in which the meaning conveyed must be precise. There are various studies on semantic, including thematic role.

Thematic role is the fundamental role a participant plays in some actual or imagined situation, apart from the linguistic encoding of those situations (Yule, 2010). Aspects of thematic role provide predictions of the subject and object as the argument. In argument expression, thematic roles attempt to capture similarities and differences in verb meaning that are reflected. Predicate is one of the main parts of a sentence, the other main part is the subject. Every argument of every verb is assigned some thematic roles or other. Each role is given a consistent semantic definition that applies to all verbs and all situation (Dowty, 1991). It is usually defined as a word group that comes after the subject to complete the meaning of the sentence or clause. Therefore, the writer is interested in conducting research of the

kind and the differences among one thematic role and other, in the news article Covid-19 Vaccine point post in The Jakarta Post.

Newspaper is the most popular information media for society because it contains the latest information related to the human lives. Newspaper presents the information in detail such as politic, health, education, crime, traffic, sport, etc. Society consumes the news by reading newspaper. Meanwhile, The Jakarta Post Press Media contains daily updated news intended for international reach. The reader target is foreigners and educated Indonesian people. International Press Jakarta Post is a member of Asia News Network earned the nickname "*Harian Berbahasa Inggris Paling Terkemuka di Indonesia*".

Thematic role as the topic of this research has been carried out by the previous researcher, including; (1) Written by Hunaify (2016) entitled *The Semantic Roles Analysis in Recount Text (A Study of The Sixth Semester Students of English Education Department of Iain Salatiga in The Academic Year of 2015/2016)*. His study mainly described the semantic roles in student's recount text. He found Agent that was the most dominant types of semantic roles of students' recount text with intentional entities numbering 156; (2) The research was done by Rosdiana (2017) entitled *Thematic Roles of Indo-Japan Key Economic Points on the Jakarta Post, Monday, January 16th, 2017*. The result of her study showed several types of thematic roles, excluding the location and experiencer. The participants found agent, theme, instrument, patient, source, beneficiary, and goal in their research.; (3) The research was from Thothathiri and Snedeker (2010) entitled *The Role of Thematic Roles in Sentence Processing: Evidence from Structural Priming in*

Young Children. Their research found that the syntactic realization of verb arguments was constrained by the statement's role in its meanings. In most linguistic frameworks, these constraints were captured by mapping between syntactic functions and thematic roles. Such mapping shape the interpretation of novel verbs; and (4) The research was conducted by Ningrat, Kardana, and Umiyati, (2019) entitled *Semantic Roles of the Verb "To See" in Javanese of Kertosono*". They found verbs that have semantic fields that are associated with the "to see" verb with intentional entities numbering 33. The semantic roles arguments of each verb consist of agents and themes.

Previous researchers and the writer conduct the similarity in the research based on the topic used, using a semantic approach with the discussion of thematic roles. Comparison the differences are regarding the issue of the problems took by these researchers. In addition, the object of study is different. The writer took the data based on data that occurred in 2020 within reach of online news. Meanwhile, data or research objects were taking by previous researchers regarding students understanding of thematic roles in recount text, in the different news headlines, in young children sentence processing, and in the verb "to see" that the researchers had been completed several years ago.

1.2 Statements Problem

This research discusses the semantics study of thematic roles found in *The Jakarta Post Press* as a daily English language newspaper in Indonesia. Thematic roles refers to the participants in a sentence. The way to analyze the expression of a participant in a sentence is by knowing the thematic roles. In this case the writer would explore The Jakarta Post Newspaper as an object in this research.

Based on the research background above the writer makes some questions in resolving it. The questions of this research are as follows:

1. What kinds of thematic roles are in the news article COVID-19 vaccine point posted in The Jakarta Post?
2. How are the differences among one thematic role and others in the news article COVID-19 vaccine point posted in The Jakarta Post?

1.3 Research Objectives

Dealing with the statement of the problems the writer intends to achieve some objectives:

1. To know the kinds of thematic roles in the news article COVID-19 vaccine point posted in The Jakarta Post.
2. To analyze the differences among one thematic roles and other in each sentence of news article COVID-19 vaccine point posted in The Jakarta Post.

1.4 Research Significances

The significance of this study is divided into two substances both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically

This research gives a contribution to enlarge the knowledge about semantic roles and to be able to encourage the next writer to conduct further research.

2. Practically

a. English Literature Students

The result of this research can be used as additional information on semantics roles for example English students to get information about this field. Especially more understanding of the semantics roles after reading this research. Furthermore, students are motivated to master semantics roles.

b. Public Reader

This research helps the readers to enrich their knowledge in semantics field especially about the component of thematic roles. The result of this study also advises being valuable for the newsreader community in the news reading that language consists of linguistics knowledge in the study of thematic roles and its components.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To prevent misinterpretation of several terms used in this study, the writer would like to define and clarify some terms. The following are clarifications of the key terms:

a. Language

Language is instinctive method possessed by human to communicate ideas, emotions, and desire, using symbols created for a specific purpose (Sapir, 1921, p. 3).

b. Semantics

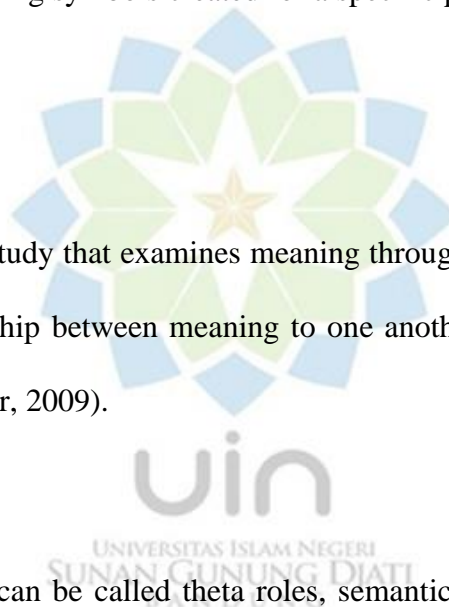
Semantics is a study that examines meaning through symbols or signs that express it, the relationship between meaning to one another and it influences on human or society (Chaer, 2009).

c. Thematic Roles

Thematic roles can be called theta roles, semantics roles, and participant roles. Thematic role refers to participants in a sentence based on the verbs in it so that the meaning in the sentence can be conveyed (Yule, 2010).

d. Verbs and Participants

A verb is a word or a combination of words that indicates action or state of being or condition. A verb is the part of a sentence that tells us what the subject performs (Kallfas, 2004).



1.6 Organization of Writing

This paper presents five chapters as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction

This chapter is divided into several sub-chapters such as background of research, problem statement, research objective, the definition of key terms, and writing organization.

Chapter II: Theoretical Framework

This chapter presents the theory of language, semantics, thematic roles, and verbs.

Chapter III: Research Method

This chapter presents research design, the sample of data, source of data, the technique of collecting data, the technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV: Findings and Discussion

This chapter presents the result of the research and the detail analysis of the data by using the theories and methods mentioned in previous chapters.

Chapter V: Conclusions and Suggestions

This chapter presents the conclusions and suggestions of this study. The conclusions are formulated from the research findings, and the suggestions are given regarded to the future studies.