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THE INFORMATION STRUCTURE ON NEWSPAPER HEADLINES OF THE BAHASA INDONESIA AND THE ENGLISH: A CONTRASTIVE STUDY

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the information structure on newspaper headlines of the Bahasa Indonesia (bI) and the English (En) based on a Contrastive Linguistics. The information structure defined as a presentation of theme (*old information*) and rheme (*new information*). The data collected by observation method from two reputable sources, namely “The Jakarta Post” and “Kompas”. The analysis conducted on three stages, i.e. data reduction, data analysis, and data interpretation. The results showed two focuses of description. First, generally, the newspaper headlines of the Bahasa Indonesia and the English had an information structure. The information structure constructed from the use of grammatical unit, i.e. words, phrases, and clauses. Second, specifically, there were three differences, namely (a) the patterns of information structure, (b) the types of theme, and (c) the types of rheme. For further analysis, it is important to use the approach of Cognitive Linguistics, for example, in order to identify the reason of speaker of the Bahasa Indonesia and the English when constructing and using the kind of headlines.

Keywords: information structure, headlines of newspaper, Bahasa Indonesia, English, contrastive study

Introduction

The use of language in the delivery of information depends on the construction arranged. In newspaper discourse, for example, the construction of headlines is the building of information that is realized through linguistic forms. To convey educational information, for example, the construction of headlines can be realized in a variety of ways. Referring to Halliday's systemic functional view, the various forms of construction are built based on the structure of the theme and the rheme (Halliday & Matthiessen, 1985), (Marangolo et al., 2006), (Baryadi, 2011), (Baryadi, 2015), (Nugraha, 2017). However, it is interesting to question the structure of these themes in the context of comparative language studies. Hypothetically, the structure of information in headlines in two different languages has different grammatical features. To present the same information about education, the structure of themes and the two languages of adolescence can be very different. Look at the sample presentations (1) that capture the structure in Indonesian and English.

- (1) a. Wapres Maruf Amin: Indonesia Layak Jadi Rujukan Ilmu Pengetahuan Keislaman
- b. Why Nadiem should encourage rural 'Nadiems'

Example (1) presents headlines in Indonesian and English. The presentation (1a) contains the composition of the bI headline whose information structure consists of themes and rhema. The theme of the structure was marked by the constituent "vice president Maruf Amin". The structure of the rhema is marked by the constituents "Indonesia deserves to be a reference of Islamic science". Meanwhile, in example (1b) the English headline information structure also consists of the theme and rhema structure. The structure of the theme is marked by the "why" constituents. The rhema structure is marked by "Nadiem should encourage rural Nadiems". Both examples (1a) and (1b), both have information structures organized by theme and rhema. Both of these headlines have the same information structure. However, the next question is what is the categorical marker for the structure of information in the two examples? Hypothetically, there are differences in categorical markers in the two examples. These similarities and differences are compared in this simple study.

Furthermore, why is it necessary to conduct a comparative description of the structure of teenage themes in BI and BI? There are at least three reasons that need attention. First, language comparison studies are interesting to do because the study of language description is not based on the prescriptive paradigm, but rather descriptive (Crystal, 2003). Therefore, the phenomenon under study can be described in detail, not determined the status of wrong and right as in teaching grammar to language learners. Second, the discussion of the structure of the themes of adolescence becomes interesting when positioned as objects of contrastive linguistic research. By comparing structures in two different languages, a comparison of similarities and differences is obtained (Poedjosoedarmo, 2007). The comparison can include grammatical and functional aspects of the structure of themes and rhemes. Third, this study can be utilized to complete examples of comparative descriptions between Indonesian and English. Thus, examples of comparative descriptions in Indonesian become increasingly varied (Sujatna, 2012). Researchers can then use the results of this study to use the data and the results.

Therefore, in this research opportunity, the issue of the structure of themes in Indonesian and English headlines was analyzed and described comparatively. By comparing the information structure, it is hoped that this research can present a comparative description that includes aspects of similarities and aspects of difference. In full, the parts of this study are presented in sequence as follows.

Method

This research was conducted based on a contrastive linguistics approach. Referring to this approach, the main focus of this research is to describe the comparison of theme and teenage structure in news headlines on Indonesian and English. The comparison includes a description of the similarities and differences in linguistic features. The object of this research is the structure of themes and

teenagers in Indonesian and English-language news headlines. The research data is in the form of Indonesian and English news headlines. In full, the three stages of research carried out are as follows. First, the data collection stage. Research data were collected using observation techniques (Sudaryanto, 2015). Observations were made by searching two reputable news websites, namely (a) *kompas.com* and (b) *thejakartapost.com*. Headlines from the two data sources are collected and recorded in the data collection matrix. After being collected, the data is then reduced to obtain data that matches the data validity criteria.

Second, the second stage of research is data analysis. Data analysis was performed based on two phases. The first stage is in the form of the identification of the themes structure in the Indonesian and English news headlines. The structure that has been identified is copied in the analysis matrix. In the next stage, the data in the analysis matrix is compared to find out aspects of the similarities and differences. This stage conducted based on method of contrastive analysis method (Hickey, 2017), (Gast, 2012), (Zimmermann, 2007), (Wagner, 2007).

Third, the third stage is the presentation of the results of the analysis. The results of this study are in the form of a comparative description of the structure of the themes in Indonesian and English headlines. The identified aspects are arranged into descriptive descriptions and rules charts. The descriptive description model is complemented by authentic data samples, justification of previous research, and the justification of relevant theories. Meanwhile, the chart or matrix model is used to present identifiable rules. The three stages are carried out to identify and describe the comparison of the structure of themes in the Indonesian and English news headlines. Comparisons are arranged to present descriptions of similarities and differences.

Findings and Discussion

This study produces a comparative description between the structure of the themes in the Indonesian and English news headlines. Comparative description consists of similarities and differences (Musgrave, 2001), (Swan, 2009). In general, it can be stated that both news headlines in Indonesian and English, both have a theme and teenage structure. However, there are differences in categorical marking in the structure of the comparable language themes. In particular, the description of difference is more diverse than the description of the equation.

The Similarity Aspects

Referring to the findings in this contrastive linguistic research, in general it can be stated that the newspaper headlines of the Bahasa Indonesia (bI) and the English (En) had an information structure. Both headlines of BI and En both have similar information structure patterns, which tend to consist of theme and rheme structure patterns (Vincze et al., 2011), (Goldberg, 2013). Furthermore, in detail, please pay attention to offerings (2), (3), and (4) as follows.

- (2) a. Milenial Mengabdi, Beasiswa Pelatihan Layanan Masyarakat di Batam dan Singapura
- b. Netherlands Returns 1500 Historical Artifacts to Indonesia

In the sample data presentation (2a), the Indonesian language headline is composed of an information structure consisting of themes and rhema. The structure of the theme is marked by the "millennial servant" constituents. The rhema structure is marked by the constituents of "community service training scholarships in Batam and Singapore". Meanwhile, in the sample presentation (2b), the English headline information structure also consists of the theme and rhema structure. The structure of the theme is marked by the constituents "Netherlands". The structure of the rhema is marked by the constituents "returns 1500 historical artifacts to Indonesia". In both sample presentations, the information structure in the Indonesian and English headlines is equally realized with the same composition. The composition consists of a theme and rheme structure.

Not much different from the pattern of sample information structure of (2), consider the following sample description of (3).

- (3) a. Menristek Dorong IPB Terus Lakukan Riset dan Inovasi
- b. Education Ministry Restructuring Under Fire

In example (3) two Indonesian and English headlines are displayed. Both sample (3a) and (3b), both present the same information structure pattern, which consists of theme and rheme. In sample (3a), the theme structure was marked by the constituents of the "Minister of Research and Technology" and the rheme structure was represented by the constituents "encourage IPB to continue to carry out research and innovation". Meanwhile, in sample (3b), the theme structure was marked by the constituents of "education ministry restructuring" and the rheme structure was marked by the constituents "under fire". Through the presentation of sample (3), it can be seen that both the headline of BI and En tend to be arranged based on the same information structure.

The pattern of information structure of examples (2) and (3) is confirmed by the third sample in number (4). Look at the presentation of the description and discussion of example (4) as follows.

- (4) a. Olimpiade Ekonomi di Negeri Perestroika: Catatan untuk Manajemen Talenta Indonesia
- b. In Menteng Atas Slum, Education a Top Priority

Example (4) presents two headlines, one each in Indonesian and English. Both have the same information structure, which is composed of theme and rheme. In example (4a), the theme structure was marked by "the economic olympiad in the country of Perestroika" and the rheme structure was marked by "records for Indonesian talent management". Meanwhile, in example (4b), the theme structure is marked by "in Menteng Atas Slum" and the rheme structure is marked by the constituents of "education a top priority". By considering the three repetitive patterns in examples (2), (3), and (4), it can be stated that the aspect of the headlines of BI and En's information structure lies in the use of the theme and rheme structures is usually considered. Functionally, the BI and En headlines are built around the theme and

rheme patterns for the delivery of news information propositions (Yuan et al., 2012), (Uegaki, 2015). Thus, it can be stated that the structure of Indonesian and English headline information structure is as follows: [IS on Headlines = Theme + Rheme].

The Differences Aspects

At a more specific level, it turns out, there are several features that distinguish the structure of Indonesian and English headline information. Specifically, there were three differences, namely (a) the subpatterns of information structure, (b) the categorial marker of theme, and (c) the categorial marker of rheme. Differences are part of language change (Poedjosoedarmo, 2007).

First, the differences are related to the subpattern of the theme and rheme structure. Although in general the structure of information can be arranged based on the theme and rheme structure, at the categorial level, there are different categories of constituents that realize the structure of the theme and rheme. These differences can be identified by examining example (5). There are constituents in the form of clauses and noun phrases in two headlines from bI and En.

- (5) a. Ditjen Dikti Buka Program Magang tahun 2020 untuk Mahasiswa
- b. Inclusive Education for Special-needs Kids, a Far-fetched Dream

In example (5), two news headlines are presented. Number (5a) is Indonesian headline and number (5b) is English headline. The information structure of the two headlines both consists of theme and rheme. However, there are differences in sub-patterns (5a) and (5b). The theme and rheme (5a) structures are manifested in clause form. The pattern embodied in (5a) is [theme-rheme = clause]. The structure of the theme is marked by the constituents of "Directorate General of Higher Education" and the rheme structure is marked by the constituents "open an internship program for 2020 students". Meanwhile, the structure of the theme and rheme (5b) is expressed in noun phrases. The theme structure is marked by the "inclusive education for special-needs kids" constituency and the rheme structure is marked by the "a far-fetched dream" constituent. Both constituent are categorized by noun phrases.

Second, the differences are related to the categorial marker of theme. The categorial markers of the theme structure in the bI and En headlines are identified by different types. As explained in example (5), noun clauses and phrases can be markers in the structure of information. By considering example (6), it can be seen that there are active and passive clauses that mark the theme's structure.

- (6) a. Beasiswa Turki 2020 Dibuka, Tawaran Full Beasiswa untuk S1, S2,
 atau S3
- b. Teachers Welcome Education Reform Plans, but Devil in Details

Example (6) consists of two parts, number (6a) in Indonesian language and number (6b) in English. The theme structure in (6a) is indicated by the constituent *beasiswa Turki 2020 dibuka*. Syntactically, these constituents are categorized as

passive clauses because they are predicated as passive verbs. Meanwhile, the theme structure in (6b) is indicated by the constituent *teachers welcome education reform plans*. Syntactically, these constituents are categorized as active clauses because they are predicated as active verbs. Differences in the marking of the constituent structure of the theme in the headlines of BI and En tend to be common.

Third, the differences are related to the categorial marker of rheme. In addition to rheme structure markers, differences also occur in rheme structure markers. Headlines of BI and En tend to be built based on different categories. In sample (7) these differences are presented.

- (7) a. Orang tua, Perhatikan 5 hal ini sebelum Anak masuk PAUD
- b. Indonesia Needs to Improve Education, Create Jobs for Youth: UNFPA Executive Director

Example (7) consists of two parts, namely (7a) who speak Indonesian and (7b) who speak English. Example (7a) has a rheme structure that is marked by a clause. When examined, the structure of the example rheme (7a) is marked by the *Perhatikan 5 hal ini sebelum Anak masuk PAUD* clause. Meanwhile, in example (7b), the rheme structure is marked by the noun phrase *UNFPA Executive Director*. Differences in categorial markers tend to be prevalent (Korn, 2013).

Conclusion

Based on this research, it can be concluded that there are similarities and differences between the structure of the themes in Indonesian and English headlines. This aspect of the equation is described by the presence of information structures arranged according to the theme and rheme structure patterns. Meanwhile, the aspect of difference is described by the presence of categorial markers which cannot be uniform for the combination of theme structures and rheme headlines in Indonesian and English. In further research, a more detailed description can be done by trying to identify the pattern of theme and rheme development in a news text. By utilizing critical discourse analysis, the patterns of development can be identified and interpreted as ideological markers that underlie the framing of media in different languages.

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