

SEMANTIC ANOMALY IN NEWS PROGRAM

SEPUTAR INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This writing explores semantic anomaly in news program seputar indonesia. The data for this study were the utterances of the news' presenter in seputar Indonesia. The research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative design and the supporting data were collected by recording. The objectives of the study are to investigate the type of semantic anomaly found in news program seputar indonesia, to ascertain the dominant type of semantic anomaly and to contextualize the use of the dominant type. The data were collected by recording the news program seputar indonesia by using video recorder. After collecting the data by recording the news programs on television, then taking note of the utterances related to the semantic anomaly, firstly the data were analyzed by identifying the utterances to find out the semantic anomaly, translating the word that have semantic anomaly in to English and then classifying the identified utterances to find it types by using the classification of semantic anomaly by Cruse. After that, counting the percentage of each identified semantic anomaly to find out its dominance. Finally, giving reasons of the dominance type of semantic anomaly found in news program seputar indonesia.). It is found that the dominant type of semantic anomaly found in seputar indonesia is improbability, it because of the characteristic of journalistic language itself which is written and designed to attract the attention of public, one of the way to attract the public or viewer in this case is by giving fascinating language as figurative meaning.

semantic anomaly, news

INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool which is used by human being to communicate. Language is used to convey something to other. The language conveyed is called information. Information is good if the message of the given information is the same to the received information heard. To reach that point, language has to be packaged well and correct. A good language is a language that is not creates ambiguity. That is why, information should be conveyed as simple as possible. But nowadays, it is often that information is conveyed not as explained above. Language understood together between the speaker and the hearer is called as shared knowledge. Shared knowledge which is got any extension will cause a different meaning. It can make misunderstanding between the speaker and hearer because they have a different perception about the essence of information conveyed. This essence is called semantic anomaly. Semantic anomaly is the abnormality profile of the linguistic items in term of combination and interaction of the elements of language in the different context which may create ambiguity and connotative meaning. It is an obvious fact that some combinations of words “go together” naturally, and it is easy to imagine a situation in which they could function as part of a discourse. Other sets of words do not go together in this way; it is impossible or at least very difficult to imagine a situation in which they could be in used, although we must not underestimate the flexibility and ingenuity of the human mind in this respect. The interaction is complex and not yet fully understood. Actually there are two potential focuses of interest in studying semantic specifically the anomalous of semantic; one is whether a particular combination makes senses. This is included the composition of the word combination. The other is whether a combination is normal or abnormal. All of the oddness is called the abnormality of language. It is undeniable that the normality or abnormality of words as the part of semantic component can be affected by the wider context in which they are set and mostly affected by the style of language or commonly called as stylistic problems of language.

For examples: “Heavy *on air*”

“The pussy cat doll is on the air now”

In the first example this might strike the ear as odd, if no context is given related to *heavy on air*. But, suppose the conversation is about space and the need to develop ways of recycling vital materials like water and air. In this context it is not difficult to make sense of a statement to the effect that a particular device is *heavy on air*. But, that statement seems more abnormal because of the combination of the words. The word *heavy* naturally deals with having relatively great weight. And the word *air* naturally deals with atmosphere in an enclosure; breeze or wind which is almost weightless. The combination of those words is not normal.

In the second example, *the pussy cat doll is on the air now* sounds abnormal because of the composition of the word combination. The word *pussy* means a cat; meanwhile *cat* means an animal, a catcher of rats and mice. So, it can be said that *pussy* and *cat* are the same thing. It is abnormal to use redundancy to describe the same thing. This kind of abnormality touched the anomaly of composition of the word combination. Another example, *colourless green ideas* might not be anomalous in sense or meaning if used to describe a boring lecture on environment issues. But, in terms of harmony or suitability, it is not normal. *Colourless* means lacking colour, in fact *green* means the hue of the visible spectrum lying between yellow and blue. So the form of *colourless green* is a kind of semantic anomaly.

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REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Semantic Anomaly

Historically, debates concerning semantic anomaly generally end at a standoff, with little more than intuitions or theoretical simplicity speaking in favor of either side. In general, speakers interpret quantified statements so as to avoid having anomalous sentences figure as their substitution instances. Moreover, the existence of this quantifier domain restriction is very difficult to explain except on the supposition that anomalous sentences are not truth-valued.

James, R.S (2008:2) states discussions of semantically anomalous sentences generally center on the question of whether utterances of those sentences create *truth-value gaps* that is, whether or not utterances of anomalous sentences are so defective as to be unusable to state claims about how things are. Semantic anomaly is the abnormality profile of the linguistic items in term of combination and interaction of the elements of language in the different context which may create ambiguity and connotation meaning. Braze, K (2001) utters sentences can be made anomalous in specific ways such that they serve to challenge different aspects of comprehension. For example, a sentence might be (a) pragmatically odd, (b) grammatically defective, or (c) semantically flawed.

Cruse (2000:220) shows semantic anomaly creates positive and negative effect in terms of getting meaning. The use of semantic anomaly in conveying message or information, in fact positively makes the words aesthetic and artistic. The stylistic of the words combination is able to fascinate and dramatize the situation. It can not be denied the use of semantic anomaly beautifies the language, but it is often destroy the essence of the real meaning of the message. It caused the ambiguity and language complexity.

It is already treated anomaly as a unitary phenomenon, without trying to distinguish different sorts. It is quiet a useful analytic tool, even without further refinement , as most speakers have sensitive intuitions regarding the normality or

oddness of a bit of language. But it is useful to make distinction between different types of anomaly. Cruse (2000) distinguishes four kinds of semantic anomaly, they are:

2.1.1.1 Pleonasm

Pleonasm is the use of more words or even word-parts than necessary to express an idea clearly. Often, pleonasm is understood to mean a word or phrase which is useless, clichéd, or repetitive, but a pleonasm can also be simply an unremarkable use of idiom

Example:

“*Cat*” and “*Pussy*” $\xrightarrow{\text{becomes}}$ The *pussy cat* is really beautiful

A pleonasm occurs when unnecessary or redundant words are used. They simply add bulk to a sentence without adding any extra content. Below are some examples of sentences containing a pleonasm. The redundant words have been highlighted. Omitting these words simply makes the sentences more concise:

“ Jill saw the building burning down **with her own eyes.**” (She must have seen it with her own eyes).

“ The vote was **completely and totally** unanimous.” (An unanimous vote cannot be anything but complete and total.)

Semantic pleonasm is more a question of style and usage than grammar. Linguists usually call this redundancy to avoid confusion with syntactic pleonasm, a more important phenomenon for theoretical linguistics. It can take various forms, including:

a. Overlap

Overlap means one word's semantic component is subsumed by the other. Andrew Goatly (1997:23) says overlapping or vagueness in the meaning of common word form of the code, which are used with some member of classes is as the result of what count as metaphorical and literal maybe equally fuzzy.

Examples:

"Receive a **free** *gift* with every purchase."

b. Prolivity

Prolivity means a phrase may have words which add nothing or nothing logical or relevant, to the meaning. William (2009) delineates vigorous writing is concise. A sentence should contain no unnecessary words, a paragraph no unnecessary sentences, for the same reason that a drawing should have no unnecessary lines and a machine no unnecessary parts. This requires not that the writer make all his sentences short, or that he avoid all detail and treat his subjects only in outline, but that every word tell.

Examples:

"I'm going *down south*." (South is not really "down", it is just drawn that way on maps by convention.)

"He **entered** *into* the room."

3. Zeugma

Silva (2009) states zeugma is the use of one part of speech in a sentence to modify two or more other elements in the sentence, frequently in different ways. Meanwhile, Richard (2009) argues zeugma described the joining of two or more parts of a sentence with a single common verb or noun. It is the use of a word to modify or govern two or more words although its use may be grammatically or logically correct with only one.

a. Governing Verb

Zeugma is divided in to four decisions, they are prozeugma, hypozeugma, epizeugma and mesozeugma. Prozeugma is the use of a single verb at the beginning of a series of clauses to modify the entire series. The verb is implied in each subsequent clause. For examples, "*He won the war and her heart.*" and "*Ann wanted a new beginning; John, forgetfulness; and I, forgiveness.*"

Hypozeugma is the use of a single verb at the end of a series of clauses to modify the entire series. For examples, "Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your

ears..." and "Neither you, Simon, nor the fifty thousand, nor the Romans, nor the Jews, nor Judas, nor the Twelve, nor the priests nor the scribes, nor doomed Jerusalem itself understands what power is...".

Epizeugma involves placing the governing verb at either the very beginning or very end of the sentence. For examples, "*Cry out to the hills, to the meadows, to the Heavens above...*" and "*By fair means or foul, by any means possible, I triumph.*"

Mesozeugma is the use of a unifying verb in the middle of a series of clauses. For examples, "*As his prospects fell, so, too, his spirits.*" and "*His fist hit my face; my face, the floor.*"

b. Governing Noun

Zeugma is divided into two types, it is diazeugma. Diazeugma is a construction wherein one subject governs several verbs. For examples: "*You have mocked my beliefs, scorned all that I hold beautiful, and scoffed at the notion of common decency.*" Diazeugma Conjunction The subject appears in the middle of a sentence and may take the place of a conjunction

- Standing accused, threatening our homes, reveling in his crime, this man guilty of burglary asks our forgiveness.
- Despairing in the heat and in the sun, we marched, cursing in the rain and in the cold.

4. Improbability

Improbability is a clash on the notion of inappropriateness. Figurative is a kind of improbability of word. Goatly (1997) presents improbability is something unbelievable. It is against the normality of the meaning. Figurative language is a word or phrase that departs from everyday literal language for the sake of comparison, emphasis, clarity, or freshness. Personification and hyperbole are the two most common figures of speech used in this term. Used well, figurative language

enhances the fiction and can be an economical way of getting an image or a point across.

Examples:

“The throne was occupied by a gun-toting baboon”

“The woman cleaned up his mind”

Language of News

The news value given to the audience, its impact or interest, is determined by the degree of change it contains and the relevance of that change to the physical and social security of the individual or group. Major change, coupled with high relevance, gives the story a correspondingly high news value; little, or slow, change, together with low relevance, indicate low news value. Harcup & O’Neill (2001:277) argue that as much news is apparently manufactured, the list of news values should be open to question. The dominance of celebrity and social news, the blurring of the boundary between news and reality shows and other popular culture, and the advent of citizen journalism may suggest that the nature of ‘news’ and news values are evolving and that

Traditional models of the news process are now only partially relevant. Ali Mulia (2009) explained a painter needs color and line to draw the object, a writer needs words to make an easy reading writing. So, clear or not the data conveyed by the news writer depended on the use of the word or the suitable variation of word. For news, whatever its type, the language needed is journalistic language. According to Poerwadarminta (2009) journalistic language is formulated as a brief, simple and dense. According to Wonohito (2009), journalistic language is something can be read by illiterate people until professor, can be read while having breakfast.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the data, the conclusions are drawn as follows.

- 1) There were four types of semantic anomaly found in news program *seputar indonesia*, they are pleonasm, dissonance, zeugma and improbability. The type of semantic anomaly dominantly found in news program *seputar indonesia* was improbability.
- 2) There was a tendency of communication in news program *seputar indonesia* to impart or to convey the information by using figurative meaning. It was shown in the dominant number of improbability which had been found in the news presenters' utterance. The second dominant number of identified semantic anomaly is pleonasm. It means that, beside the extreme language, journalistic language is inclined to use redundancy of word to strengthen the meant words.
- 3) The dominant use of improbability is due to fascinate, beautify and mostly to attract the attention of public. Improbability expressed with exaggerate language is more attracting used than the formal one which sounds so awkward. Generally, public will prefer to hear easy listening and understand language than the stiff one, that's why the language of journalistic is made in the form of attracting package.

SUGGESTIONS

Related to the conclusion above, the suggestions are stated as follows.

- 1) In teaching, Semantic anomaly indicates how the language correctly used in public generally and in journalistic language specifically. The teachers need to introduce semantic anomaly in the class. Beside they can use news program as the media in teaching semantic

- 2) The finding of this research indicates the teachers would not only familiarize themselves with the type of semantic anomaly but also to the illogic structure which occurred in the journalistic language.
- 3) The students who learn pragmatics and semantics need to comprehend the type of semantic anomaly to enable and enrich their knowledge to communicate better than before.
- 4) For public, especially for the journalists, it needed to know and to study semantic anomaly to guide them writing better because their work will be published in the media and read and heard by public.
- 5) In addition, the semantic anomaly is better to use in poetry because it is reasonable if poetry use those kind of semantic anomaly. In fact poetry is made to express the feeling by using indirect and beautiful language as the language which the types of semantic anomaly have

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