CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This chapter explains about the theories used to analyze the data in this research. It is divided into two main points, i.e. syntax, and semantics. Each of two main points consists of several applied theories in this research.

This research only analyzes the ambiguity of genitive *of-construction* semantically. However, it cannot be separated from the theory of syntax since the genitive *of-construction* is a part of syntax field. Therefore, the theory of syntax is used as a supporting theory. Before the writer gives further explanation about the theory of syntax, it will be better if we know the definition of syntax itself.

2.1 Syntax

Thomas (1993:1) states that syntax is the study which seeks to describe the way words fit together to form sentences or utterances. Furthermore, Chaer (1994:2006) argues that:

> *Pembahasan sintaksis meliputi (1) Struktur sintaksis: masalah fungsi, kategori dan peran sintaksis (2) satuan-satuan sintaksis yang berupa kata, frasa, klausa, kalimat, dan wacana (3) hal-hal lain ynag berkenaan dengan sintaksis: modus, aspek, dan sebagainya.*

Based on the above definition, it can be concluded that syntax is the study of words, phrases, clauses to form sentences or utterances. In this case, the writer analyze genitive *of-construction.* Genitive *of-construction* is a kind of phrases

which is examined in syntax. Therefore, we need to know kinds of phrases before we discuss further theory of genitive *of-construction*.

According to Quirk (1985: 60), there are five formal categories of phrases: noun phrase, verb phrase, adjective phrase, adverbial phrase, and prepositional phrase. Here, the writer will explain the phrases one by one as follow:

1) Noun Phrase

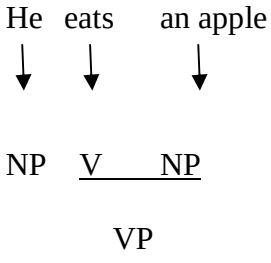
Noun phrase consists of either determiner and noun, or just noun. The most meaningful part of a noun phrase is the noun. It is the obligatory constituent and is the head of the noun phrase.

For instance:

The	child
Determiner	Noun

2) Verb Phrase

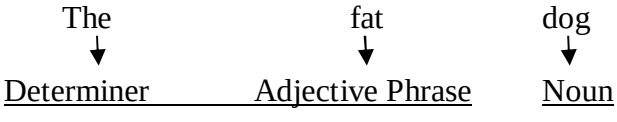
Functioning as verb. It consists of either verb and noun phrase, or just verb.



3) Adjective Phrase

Adjective phrase is used to pre-modify nouns. Adjective phrase, like any other phrases, can consist of one or more than one element. Within the noun phrase, then, the adjective phrase has the function of pre-modifying the head.

For example:

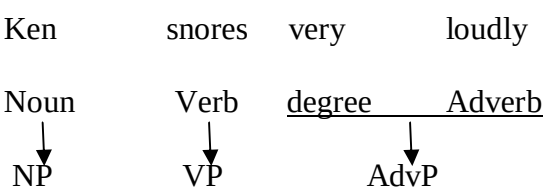


as Pre-modifier

4) Adverbial Phrase

In terms of a phrase category, an Adverbial Phrase or AdvP can be formed by one (only an adverb) or more constituents (degree adverb + adverb). Adverb phrase is used to modify a verb. A degree adverb, as its name suggests, tell us to what degree something is done, so a degree adverb is here said to modify or limit the sense of an adverb.

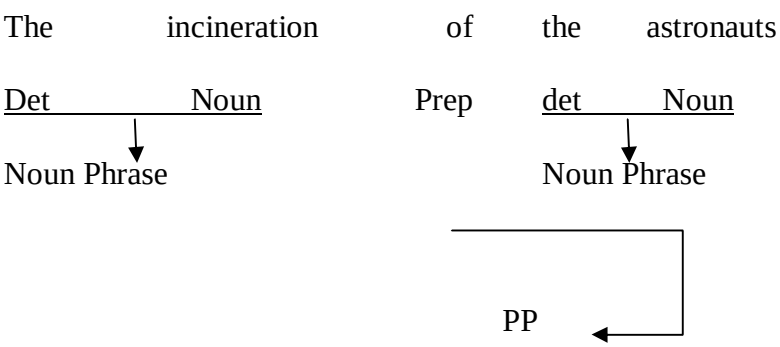
For example:



5) Prepositional Phrase

Prepositions (P) belong to a small group or class of words which express relations of place, direction, time or possession. Words belonging to this class include, of, at, to, from, till, with, for, beside, against, up, down, by and so on. The preposition is a part of Prepositional Phrase (PP). The Prepositional Phrase consists of either preposition and noun phrase, or just a preposition.

For instance:



Genitive of-construction is a kind of genitive constructions. Actually, there are two kinds of genitive constructions; they are genitive construction by inflection *'s* and genitive construction by *of-construction* (of-phrase). According to Quirk (1985: 1276-1277), genitive *'s construction* is a genitive case which consists of two noun phrases; one a noun phrase marked for the genitive case by inflection *'s*; the other a succeeding and super ordinate noun phrase unmarked for the case in which the genitive noun phrase is embedded with a determinative function; determinative function mean that the genitive noun phrase functions like a definite determiner. For Example, the following are some cases of genitive *'s construction*; the city's population, the dog's collar, and the family's car.

Meanwhile, Quirk (1985: 1276) also states that the genitive *of-construction* consists of the superordinate noun phrase precedes a noun phrase introduced by *of*. Actually, the genitive *of-construction* is often equivalent in meaning to the genitive *'s construction*. However, the grammatical status of the genitive *'s construction* is different from the genitive *of-construction*. The genitive *of-construction* fuctions like a post modifier with the super ordinate noun phrase either definite or indefinite.

2.2 Semantics

Since the genitive *of-construction* is examined semantically, we have to know the definition of semantic itself. According to Palmer (1981: 1), semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning and since meaning is a part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics. In addition, Saed (2003: 3) argues that semantics is the study of the meanings of words and sentences. Thus, based on the definitions, it can be concluded that semantics is the study about meanings of words and sentences.

2.2.1 Meanings

Based on the above definition, semantics is the study about meanings. According to Lyons (1985: 136), meanings are ideas or concepts which can be transferred from the mind of the hearer by embodying them as they were, in the form of one language or another. Meanwhile, Palmer (1976: 7) states that meaning do no seem to be stable but to depend upon speaker, hearer, and context. In addition, Keraf (1990: 25) states:

> *Makna adalah unit dari kata dalam suatu bahasa yang mengandung dua aspek, yaitu: bentuk atau ekspresi dan makna atau isi. Bentuk adalah aspek yang dapat ditangkap oleh panca indera yaitu pendengaran dan penglihatan. Sedangkan isi adalah aspek yang menyebabkan reaksi yang hadir dalam pikiran pendengar/pembaca karena stimulasi dari bentuk.*

Based on the above definition, it can be concluded that meaning is an unstable concept in which it is transferred to the hearer or reader's mind through the sense of hearing or sight.

2.2.2 Semantic Structure

In this research, genitive *of-construction* is examined semantically based on the semantic structure. According to Larson (1984: 26), semantic structure is more nearly universal than grammatical structure. That is type of units, the features, and the relationships are essentially the same for all languages. THINGS, EVENTS, ATTRIBUTES, or RELATIONS.

Based on the above definition, the writer concludes that semantic structure is the way to analyze meaning components (THINGS, EVENT, ATTRIBUTES, or RELATION) in order to represent a proposition.

2.2.3 Proposition

In this case, the writer examines the ambiguity of genitive *of-construction* by analyzing the meanings in the form of proposition and implicit case and state roles involved in the ambiguity of genitive *of-construction*. Thus, we have to know the definition of proposition itself. According to Larson (1984: 26), proposition is a grouping of concepts into a unit which communicates. A proposition most often takes the form of a clause or simple sentence in the grammatical structure, but not always. It may be encoded in a variety of forms.

Semantic proposition occurs in all language. They consist of concepts (groupings of meaning components) related to one another with an EVENT, THING, or ATTRIBUTE as the central concept. There are two main kinds of propositions, i.e. State Proposition and Event Proposition. The writer will explain each proposition, as follows:

2.2.3.1 State Proposition

Larson (1984: 214) also explains further information about State Proposition. He states that a state proposition consists of two main parts and the relations between them. These two parts are topic and comment. The topic is the THING or ATRIBUTE which being talked about. Meanwhile, the comment is what is being said about the topic. A state proposition will have a THING or ATTRIBUTE as the central concept. State propositions do not have an EVENT concept central to the proposition. They consist of THING or ATTRIBUTE being used to describe or identify the topic plus state relation. For instance, the book is Peter's; the topic is BOOK; and it is related to the central concept PETER by the relation of ownership.

There are a number of examples are given bellow; the first coloumn is the topic concept; second is the relation concept; third is the comment concept; and fourth is the surface form of State Proposition.

TOPIC	RELATION	COMMENT	ENGLISH FORM
Dog	Naming	Fido	The dog's name is Fido
That car	ownership	I	That car is mine
The table	Substance	Wood	The table is made of wood
The story	Depiction	Bill	The story is about Bill
Book	Description	Small	The book is small

Mary	Kinship	my sister	Mary is my sister
This bag	Containership	Rice	This bag contains rice
Car	Location	Garage	Car is in the garage
Branch	Partitive	Tree	A branch is a part of tree

Table 2.1 State Proposition (Larson, 1984: 215)

2.2.3.2 Event Proposition

In addition, Larson (1984: 199) also explains about Event Proposition. He states that all Event Propositions consist of at least a central EVENT concept and an additional THING concept. The central EVENT concept may refer to an action, an experience, or a process. Action would be such concept as RUN, HIT, EAT, and SWIM. Experiences are concept which refers to the activities of the five senses or to cognitive or psychological activities, as for example, SMELL, SEE, HEAR, THINK, COVET. Processes always represent a change of state (from one condition or state of being to another). For example, DIE, BECOME SOUR, and FREEZE are processes (Beekman, Callow, and Kopesec, 1981: 56). In Event Proposition, the THING and ATRIBUTE concepts are related to the central EVENT concept by relation which are often called case role.

Case role defined:

1. The agent is the THING which does the action: that is, the person or object which is doer of the EVENT. For example:

   John ran fast.

2. The causer may seem very much like agent first. The difference is that the causer is the THING which instigates the EVENT rather that actually doing it. A person or object causes an action or process to happen. For example:

   Peter tripped John. (Peter caused John to trip)

3. The affected is the THING that undergoes the EVENT or is affected by the EVENT. The affected refers to the one who experiences an EVENT or the person or object which undergoes the EVENT; that is "feels the effect of". For instance:

   The dog ate the **meat**

4. The beneficiary is the THING that is advantaged by the EVENT. The beneficiary is not affected as directly as the affected.

   John sold the car for **a friend**.

5. The accompaniment is the THING which participates in close association with the agent, causer, or affected in an EVENT. It is like a secondary agent, causer, or affected. For instance:

   John went to the park with **his dog**.

6. The resultant is that which is produced by the EVENT. There is always close relationship between the EVENT and the resultant. For instance:

   Mary sang **a song**.

7. The instrument is the THING used to carry out an EVENT. It is usually an inanimate object. For example:

   Mary wrote with **a pencil**.

8. The location is the THING which identifies the spatial placement of an EVENT, that is, the source, the place of, or the destination of an EVENT. For example:

   Jane ran away from **home**.

9. The goal is the THING towards which an action directed. For instance:

   John laughed at **Peter**.

10. The time, identifies the temporal placement of an EVENT. It tells when the EVENT took place. Or it may indicate the duration of the EVENT. For instance:

    John went to the college **three weeks ago**.

11. The manner is a qualification of the EVENT. For example:

    The man ran **quickly**.

12. The measure is the qualification of the EVENT. For example:

    John prays **frequently**.

2.2.4 Genitive *of-construction*

In the beginning of this chapter, the writer explains the genitive *of-construction* syntactically. Now, the writer also will explain it semantically. Semantically, Larson (1984: 228) states the genitive *of-construction* is used to encode semantic structures. The genitive *of- construction* is most easily

recognized by the word *of* occurring between two nouns. For example, the following are some genitive *of-constructions*; the house of John, the wing of the bird, the deconstruction of the city, and the branches of the tree. The possessive phrase is often used in the same way as the genitive construction. For example, the following are some possessive phrases of this kind: John's house, the bird's wing, the city's deconstruction, and the tree's branches.

Some genitive *of-constructions* stand for a State Proposition, some for Event Proposition, and some for two propositions. First, look at some examples of genitive *of-constructions* which stand for State Propositions. In the first column, the genitive *of-construction* is given, and in the second, it is reworded as State Proposition.

Genitive *of-Construction*	**State Proposition**
The house of John	The house belongs to John
The wing of the bird	The wing is part of the bird
A city of Africa	The city is in Africa
A cup of cold water	The cup contains water
A crown of gold	The crown is made of gold

Table 2.2 Encode State Proposition (Larson, 1984: 228)

Many genitive *of-constructions* are used to encode Event Propositions. Below, the genitive construction is given in the first column, and the Event Proposition which it stands for is given in the second column.

Genitive *of-construction*	**Event Proposition**
The error of Balaam	Balaam erred
The death of John	John died
The growling of the lion	The lion growled

Table 2.3 Encode Event Proposition (Larson, 1984: 229)

Sometimes the genitive *of-construction* contains two propositions. Notice the following:

Genitive *of-construction*	**Proposition**
The labour of love	(Someone) labours because (they) love (someone)
The forgiveness of sins	(Someone) will forgive that (someone) has sinned
The knowledge of his will	(Someone) knows that (someone) wills

Table 2.4 Encode State and Event Proposition (Larson, 1984: 229)

Sometimes the genitive *of-construction* can be ambiguous and hard to interpret. For example, the shooting of the hunters can be interpreted into two meanings; (someone) shot the hunters or the hinters shot at (something). The ambiguity arises because, when a genitive construction encodes an EVENT, some parts of the Event Proposition must be left implicit in order to use the genitive *of-construction*.