

# An Analysis of the Contents of Proclamation of Indonesian Independence in Semantic Role

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## An Analysis of the Contents of Proclamation of Indonesian Independence in Semantic Role

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**Abstract.** Language is used to know how to produce and understand and acquire sentences with particular meanings in communicational interaction. In language we would find for how to analyze the meaning of languages which uttered or written that is the linguistic that meant to the study of language. How to analyze the meaning of the written or spoken language in contextual meaning of a linguistic semantics? Semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings. Semantics is the systematically study of meaning in language. Semantics is described as concerned with the relation of linguistic forms which have variety of aspects. Either of those aspects is semantic role that is going to described as the objective of this research. This research aimed to analyze the contents of proclamation of Indonesian independence in semantic role. This research conducted by the researcher is qualitative research. The data of this research are declarative sentences which taken on the contents of proclamation of Indonesian independence published in August 17th 1945. The method used by the researcher in collecting the data is documentation with a variety of steps such reading, collecting, and selecting the data. In analyzing the data, the researcher classifies the arguments have on sentences into semantic role aspect in chart table. The result of this research shows that there are five aspects of semantic role used in an analysis of the content's proclamation of Indonesian independence they are agent, theme, source, instrument and goal.

**Key words:** communicational interaction, meaning in language, independence, Indonesian, semantic role.

### Introduction

Language as one of means to have an interaction in communication between human civilization in the world. Through the language will create a social communication nor other things that take them to relationship. By using the language will establish rapport between them involved with producing and acquiring the meaning of the languages itself. Thus, how do we acquire the complete meaning of the language is to comprehend the study of linguistics.

Linguistic is concerned with identifying the meaningful elements of specific languages (Purba et al., 2019: 1-8; Herman et al., 2019: 41-50). Linguistic also deals with the meanings expressed by modulations of a speaker's voice and the processes by which hearers and readers relate new information to the information they already have (Sitorus and Herman, 2019: 24-28). For this, we just do not focus on it but to the subfield of linguistic such semantic. This research focuses on the semantic. Semantic is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantic is one of the fields that this research is going to analyzed that is semantic role.

Semantic role is what roles that have in sentences depend on how many arguments it may have and what role those arguments have. All those arguments on each sentences have different meanings and roles. Semantic roles consist of some elements such agent,

theme, instrument, benefactive, experiencer, location, source, and goal. The researcher has been faced by many of people having trouble to interpret and figure the meaning of some sentences in written or oral text. Therefore, this research examines all the roles in one of taking some arguments have on sentences to analyzed. Thus this research tries to solve the case by taking an example of the content's proclamation of Indonesian independence from one of those elements in semantic role to analyzed.

### Literature Review

#### *Language*

Language is an indicator of human civilization and most fundamental of human communication. Language is very important for human life, because it a means of communication. We use language not only for daily necessities but also because of its great concern with others fields of Science.

Language has so many interrelationships with various aspects of human life that it can be studied from numerous point of view (Gleason, 1974: 2).

It plays also as primary object of the study of linguistic and linguist approach the notion of language from differing point of view. Linguistics is concerned with the nature of language and communication. It includes phonetics (the study of the production, acoustics and hearing of speech sounds), phonology (the patterning of sounds), morphology (the structure of words), syntax (the structure of sentences), pragmatics (language in context), and semantics (meaning). Semantic is one of aspects of linguistics for means to identify the meaning of written nor oral sentences in language.

#### *Semantic*

Semantic is the systematic study of meaning in language. We know that language is used to express meanings which can be understood by others and all those meanings have semantic meaning itself. But meanings exist in our minds and we can express what is in our minds through the spoken and written forms of language (as well as through gestures, action etc.). Meaning is related very closely to the human capacity to think logically and to understand. So when we try to analyze meaning, we are trying to analyze our own capacity to think and understand our own ability to create meaning.

If it is hard to say what meaning is, it is fairly easy to show what knowledge speakers have about meanings in their language and therefore what things must be included in an account of semantics (Bierwich, 1970:167-175; Allen and Dillon, 1977: 700).

These are in turn organized in such a way that we can convey meaningful messages or receive and understand messages. Semantics is the level of linguistic analysis where meaning is analyzed. It is the most abstract level of linguistic analysis Semantics concerns itself with giving a systematic account of the nature of meaning" (Leech, 1981). Semantic constituted from some elements, one of is semantic role.

#### *Semantic Role*

Semantic role is what roles that have in sentences depend on how many arguments it may have and what role those arguments have. A term used in semantics to refer to the semantic relations that link a predicate to its arguments in the description of a situation. Semantic role concerns with some aspects such: Agent; The entity that performs the action, Theme; The entity that is involved in or affected by the action, Instrument; is about if an agent uses another entity in performing an action, that other entity takes the role of instrument, Benefactive; The noun or noun phrase that refers to the person or animal who benefits, or is meant to benefit, from the action of the verb, Experiencer; When noun phrase designates an entity as the person who has a feeling, apperception or a state, it fills the role of experience. If we see, know or enjoy something,

we don't perform an action, but we are experiencers, Location; explains where an entity is, Source; is about where an entity moves, and the last one is Goal; is where an entity moves to. These roles have been important in the establishment of semantic classes of verbs.

Other names for these roles include deep semantic cases, functional roles, participant roles, and, especially in Chomskyan linguistics, thematic (or theta,  $\theta$ ) roles (Hurford and Heasley, 1983; Frawley, 1992; Lyons, 1995; Saeed, 1997; Kreidler, 1998; Yule, 2006; Crystal, 2008).

Yule (2006) suggests that instead of thinking of words as 'containers' of meaning, we can look at the 'roles' they fulfill within the situation described by a sentence. If the situation is a simple event, as in *The boy kicked the ball*, then the verb describes an action (kick). The noun phrases in the sentence describe the roles of entities, such as people and things, involved in the action. Therefore, this research focused on semantic role which concerning to these entirely aspects to analyzed to the content's proclamation of Indonesian independence. Below of the identification of a small number of semantic roles (Hussain and Sajid, 2015).

#### *Agent and Theme*

In an example sentence, one role is taken by the noun phrase: *The boy kicked the ball*. As the entity *the boy* that performs the action, technically known as the *Agent*. Another role is taken by *the ball* as the entity that is involved in or affected by the action, which is called the *Theme* (or sometimes the 'patient'). The theme can also be an entity that is simply being described (i.e. not performing an action), whereas in *The ball was red* as the ball is theme. Agents and themes are the most common semantic roles. Although agents are typically human (*The boy*), they can also be non-human entities that cause actions, as in some sentences; *The wind* blew the ball away; *A car* ran over the ball; *The dog* caught the ball, all of which affect the ball as *theme*. The theme is typically non-human, but can be human. In sentence "The dog chased *the boy*" as the boy is *theme*. In fact, the same physical entity can appear in two different semantic roles in a sentence "The girl prepare herself". Here The girl is *agent* and herself is *theme*.

#### *Instrument and Experiencer*

If an agent uses another entity in order to perform an action, that other entity fills the role of *instrument*. In the sentences *The boy cut the rope with a knife* and *He drew the picture with a spidol*, the noun phrases *a knife* and *a spidol* are being used in the semantic role of *instrument*. When a noun phrase is used to designate an entity as the person who has a feeling, perception or state, it fills the semantic role of *experiencer*. If we see, know or enjoy something, we're not really performing an action (hence we are not agents). We are in the role of experiencer. In the sentence *The boy feels sad*, the experiencer *the boy* is the only semantic role. In the question: *Did you hear that sound?* The experiencer is *you* and the theme is *that sound*.

#### *Location, Source and Goal*

A number of other semantic roles designate where an entity is in the description of an event; where an entity is (on the table, in the school) fills the role of *location*; where the entity moves from is the *source* (from Berlin, from west) and where it moves to is the *goal* (to New Zealand, to school), as in *We drove from Berlin to New Zealand*. When we talk about "moving texts from laptop to book", the source is laptop and the goal is book.

## 4 Research Methodology

### Research Design

A research method used in this study is qualitative. This research focused on an analysis of semantic roles to the content's proclamation of Indonesian independence. This research deals with method of the researcher to analysis semantic roles. It is divided into four parts those are, type of research, data and data source, method of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. The type of research is descriptive qualitative, because the researcher describe the semantic roles played by arguments have on declarative sentences and describe the meaning of the data. The data of the research are simple declarative sentences, while the sources of the data are the contents of proclamation of Indonesian independence published in august 17th 1945. The method used by the researcher in collecting the data is documentation, with the steps: reading, selecting, and collecting. The technique of analyzing the data is descriptive qualitative.

*Data Source*

The data of this research is declarative sentence which taken from the contents of proclamation of Indonesian independence published in august 17th 1945. This research will analyze the contents to semantic role from what arguments have on sentences.

*Technique of Collecting Data*

The method used by this research in collecting the data is documentation, with the steps: reading, selecting, and collecting. The researcher used to collect some information about the data by accumulating some books and journals and integrating in one this paper.

*Technique of Analyzing Data*

The technique of analyzing the data is descriptive qualitative. This research analyzes the data into some elements of semantic role. Through this analysis technique the researcher divides the contents of proclamation of Indonesian independence to some subfield sentences severally (Table 1). Afterward, all the subfield sentences would be found what are arguments have on it. Subsequently, the arguments which have on each sentences would be analyzed to the aspects of semantic roles. The aspects such agent, theme, instrument, benefactive, experiencer, location, source, and goal. Based on explanation above, the researcher divided all contents into two separated each sentences in diagram table.

Text of Proclamation for Indonesian Independence Day:

**PROCLAMATION**  
**WE THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA HEREBY DECLARE THE INDEPENDENCE**  
**OF**  
**INDONESIA. MATTERS WHICH CONCERN THE TRANSFER OF POWER AND**  
**OTHER THINGS WILL BE EXECUTED BY CAREFUL MEANS AND IN THE**  
**SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME.**  
**DJAKARTA, 17 AUGUST 1945**  
**IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA**  
**SOEKARNO/HATTA**

Table 1. Subfield sentences of Indonesian independence proclamation

Sentence, 1	We the people of Indonesia hereby declare the independence of Indonesia
Sentence, 2	Matters which concern the transfer of power and other things will be executed by careful means and in the shortest possible time.

**Results**

One role is taken by sentence 1 “*WE THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA HEREBY DECLARE THE INDEPENDENCE OF INDONESIA*” As the entity “*WE THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA*” that performs the action, technically known as the Agent. Another role is taken by “*THE INDEPENDENCE OF INDONESIA*” that is involved in or affected by the action, which is called the Theme. They are presented in the following Table 2.

Table 2. Agent and Theme. Sentence 1

No	Sentence	Type of sentence	Patterns/ rules
1	<i>WE THE PEOPLE OF INDONESIA</i>	Noun phrase	Agent
2	<i>THE INDEPENDENCE OF INDONESIA</i>	Noun phrase	Theme

Another role is taken by sentence 2 “*MATTERS WHICH CONCERN THE TRANSFER OF POWER AND OTHER THINGS WILL BE EXECUTED BY CAREFUL MEANS AND IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME*” as the entity “*MATTERS*” is simply being described which not performing the action, technically known as the *theme*. Another role is taken by the noun phrase “*THE TRANSFER OF POWER AND OTHER THINGS*” as the *source* where the entity comes from the argument of matters (theme). Subsequently, the phrase of “*CAREFUL MEANS*” is used as a media by the theme and source become an integrational argument into one complete sentence role technically known as *instrument*. And the last adverb phrase “*IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME*” as the *goal* where all the arguments have (Including theme, source, and instrument) on sentence supposed to be. They are presented in the following Table 3.

Table 3. Semantics of sentence 2

No	Sentence	Type of sentence	Patterns/ rules
1	<i>MATTERS</i>	Noun	Theme
2	<i>THE TRANSFER OF POWER AND OTHER THINGS</i>	Noun phrase	Source
3	<i>CAREFUL MEANS</i>	Noun phrase	Instrument
4	<i>IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME</i>	Adverb phrase	Goal

**Conclusion**

Based on the finding explanation above the researcher deduce that there were five elements of semantic role used in the contents of proclamation of Indonesian independence. Those are agent, theme, instrument, source, and goal. Those elements have function coherently with the contextual meaning. Thus, the trouble of people to analyze the contents of proclamation of Indonesian independence into semantic role has been exposed out. The researcher expects to the readers of this paper to give some fittingness to these flaws off.

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