FUNCTION OF TO INFINITIVE PHRASES IN TEMPO ENGLISH EDITORIALS

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Abstract

This research was designed to know the functions of to infinitive phrases used in *Tempo English editorials*. To infinitive phrase may not function as a main verb, but it may carry another syntactic category, either as a noun, an adjective or an adverb. Descriptive qualitative method is applied in this research because this type of research is based on data expressed mostly in the form of words or phrases dealing with function of to infinitive phrases rather than numbers. The writer collected six editorials of *Tempo English* in January 2017 edition. Analyzing the data, the writer employs Marcella Frank's theory (1972) covering three main functions: they are to infinitive phrase as nouns, adjectives, and adverbs. The result of this analysis discovered 87 data that contributed into three main functions of to infinitive phrase, that are as noun taking 35 data, adjective, 41data and adverb, 11 data. The writer found that editorial writer most frequently used to-infinitive phrase as adjective to show the relationship between what is being discussed and the action of verbs, it is in order to make the information clear through the writing.

Key words: To-infinitive phrases, Syntactic Function, Tempo English Editorial

INTRODUCTION

When Learning English language, it is so important to have the mastery of grammar, because grammar is the basic element in constructing human's idea or thought (Isnaini & Aminatun, 2021; Yudha & Mandasari, 2021). The idea or thought is arranged into a sentence as the largest grammatical unit of the language. Meanwhile, a sentence is structured out of words as the basic grammar that have different types and produce different meaning. Words are classified based on their types, which the classification called as part of speech, and the words in part of speech are divided according to their function in a sentence (Kuswoyo, 2016).

Furthermore, two or more words in part of speech can be combined together to be a small group of word standing as a single unit and function in a sentence (Afrianto et al., 2021; M Yuseano Kardiansyah, 2021). It is called as phrase. Like word, a phrase also has certain rule in construction of a sentence taking into various functions, which the types of phrase is categorized based on the type of words that followed it. There are eight common phrases in English. One of them is to infinitive phrase. To infinitive phrase is a phrase derived from verbal construction or it is one of non-finite verb form, made up of the particle to plus a

base of verb as the headword of the phrase followed by with or without modifier or complement (Ayu et al., 2021b; Mandasari & Wahyudin, 2019). By means of non-finite verb is the term used to describe a verb that is not showing tense.

Therefore, in every use of to infinitive phrase in the context of what will be spoken or written has different rules in the sentence structure, and the way of composing it into sentence can affect to meaning of a sentence. For that reason why most people are still confused in understanding the use of to infinitive phrase. In addition, because it contains word to, as like a preposition in a prepositional phrase, some people assume this to infinitive phrase acting like a preposition. In fact, the word to in the to infinitive phrase is not a preposition but as the marker of to infinitive phrase as a verb form that indicates action or state of being (Mandasari, n.d.; Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021).

Furthermore, the use of to infinitive phrase that used into variant functions that split into anyelse position of the sentence (Ayu et al., 2021a; Unggul & Gulö, 2017). Therefore, the characteristic of that editorial text called as complex sentence structure, because it may consist of two or more independent and dependent clause having diffrent types of words or phrases by their own functions in one sentence, combined together in completing the explanation or description toward the topic being discussed. For example in sentence, it should also serve to remind us that our nation is still unable to provide its citizens with the decent jobs, and worse. From the sentence, there are two uses of to infinitive phrase constructed together, but they take different functions, which the first to remind us functions as subject because it placed in the position of pronoun it, and the second to provide used as adverb but to modify the adjective unable, since it gives additional information about the verb.

Objectively, the uses of to-infinitive phrase in the written text of Tempo English editorial give very big influence in providing explanation or information about the point of views of editorial writer toward problems or issues that being discussed, as like to limit the meaning of the action of verb that performed. Tempo English editorial has standard of qualification in presenting news, that are presenting reliable, up to dated and logic issues, because it can be seen from the way of this online nespaper covered its point of view or argument, which each section of the newspaper is presented into two languages, that are Indonesian and English (Tamba, n.d.; Yuniara et al., 2020). The understanding syntactic function of this to

infinitive phrases in the editorial text of Tempo English would simplify readers to understand the meaning of discourse and enrich the knowledge of readers by using them in the right rules, then capable to produce an effective sentence, when arranging editorial that contain opinions in objective explanation by using to-infinitive phrase based on the context of the sentence. To find out what functions taken by the to infinitive phrases, the writer employed Marcela Frank's theory (1972) to answer research question that formulated below.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Syntactic Analysis

Syntax is one of linguistic subfields. Syntax is the study of sentence structure in a language. Syntax is the system of rules and categorize that underlies sentence formation in human language (Gulö, 2014). It means that the main task of syntax is to compose words so as to form unit from the smallest unit to the largest unit that have meaning or it can be called as categorizing task that is to categorize word or group of word in a sentence, which in syntax has main goal in order able to create a good and meaningful sentence. Syntax is the study of the way in which phrases and sentences are structured out of words, so addresses questions (Mandasari & Wahyudin, 2021). It means that words may construct into phrase as the smaller unit even into sentence as the largest unit in a language. Both units contribute in any given meaning, such as to give opinion, statement, or question.

From both definitions, the writer may conclude that syntax is the arrangement of words in sentences, phrases, or clauses, and the relationship of sentence structure with their component parts, so the words in a sentence is not structured randomly, but they are arranged systematically based on the rule of sentence stucture and depend on what people intend to say and write. Basically, when analyzing syntax is not only about grammatical form of syntactic units of a language but also involve syntactic function of each unit, since the grammatical function of a language gives very big contribution to indicate meaning of the sentence. Those grammatical units may serve a variety of functions in the sentences, thus it is very essential to be learned so that people able to understand what information is delivered when people are producing a phrase or sentence, both in his or her writing or speaking (Abidin, 2018; Pranoto & Afrilita, 2019). In the next section, the writer would describe how a phrase and a sentence as one of main aspect of grammar are constructed by the words.

2. Function of To Infinitive Phrases

Syntactic function is all about the grammatical relationship of one constituent to another within a sentence or syntactic construction, so function of to-infinitive phrase is to indicate in what position a word or constituent that used to give meaning in a sentence. There are three major functions of to infinitive phrase, where those functions are split again into sub-functions (Aminatun, 2021; B. N. Sari & Gulö, 2019). It can be seen in the picture 2.3 below:

- Adverbial Function of To Infinitive Phrase

When to infinitive phrase works like an adverb, it modifies the verb in a sentence, adverbs answer questions, such as where, when, why, how, and for what reason or purpose. To infinitive phrase is almost always used to convey purpose and the other notable use of to-infinitive is to show result of action (Gulö & Rahmawelly, 2019; Wahyudin, 2018). Additionally, infinitive phrase as adverbs is being classified the meaning. In some instances the phrases may signify more than one adverbial relationship, where it seems useful to make distinctions between restrictive and non-restrictive phrase (Muliyah et al., 2020; Novawan et al., 2020). This to-infinitive phrase as adverbs.

- Modifying the Adjective or Adverb

To infinitive phrase of adverb modifies an adjective when the subjective complement is an adjective or any words or phrases used for an adjective (Puspita, n.d.; Suprayogi et al., 2021). The adjective stresses the predicate function, where the adjective merely as modifier of a noun.

METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data, because the data were presented in the form of sentences containing words, phrases and clauses rather than numerical data, in which this method involved some procedures in the arrangement of data information, while the purpose of descriptive research is commonly to describe systematically the data as it is and characteristic of the object being examined properly, because it is very useful to obtain variation of the problem (Fauzi et al., 2021; Mertania & Amelia, 2020; Pahdi et al., 2020). Additionally, the writer used descriptive research, because this research taking the sample of data from a population, that is Tempo English editorial January 2017 by using purposive sampling. That data are the information that is

taken from the source to be analyzed (Afrianto, 2017; Nurmala Sari & Aminatun, 2021; Puspita & Pranoto, 2021). The data of this research were in the form of words or phrases that contain functions that are taken by to infinitive phrases used in Tempo English editorial texts.

Data source can be defined as a person, book, a piece of written works and document that provide information (Mulyasari & Putri, 2020; F. M. Sari, 2016). The data source of this research was taken from Tempo English editorials in date of 10th- 31th January 2017 edition. The writer chose this edition, because there are most controversial issues that become hot topic in public radar, which the issues become limelight to Indonesian society. Besides, the writer were taken six data by using purposive sampling. Sugiyono (2013: 218-219) states that purposive sampling is a non-probability sample that is selected based on characteristics of a population and objective of the study.

By this technique, the writer selected these six editorials based on the assessment of characteristic in mind of the writer according to obtain the purpose of the writer to make accurately this research. The characteristic was determined based on criteria that are sentence structures containing two or more usage of to infinitive phrases put together in one sentence and error phrase structures of to infinitive phrase like split infinitive phrase that used other word seperated between the word to and base of a verb as the headword of to infinitive phrase. Those of criteria were determined in order to know what the influence of such criteria to the object of this research. Therefore, by using purposive sampling is very useful to gather the data objectively.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discussed the function of to infinitive phrases used in Tempo English editorials January 2017. The ways that the writer did in this analysis were conducted by reading and interpreting. Hence, the writer could get the data needed to show what function of to infinitive phrases carried out in each sentence of Tempo English editorials. The writer also correlated the data with several articles concerned to the formulation of the problem, such as Nadia's thesis and Sara's journal, so they help the writer how the good way in interpreting or analyzing every data found, through the concept that adopted from Frank (1972), that divided the use of to infinitive phrases into three main functions, that are as nouns (1), adjectives (2), and adverbs (3).

1. Nominal Function of To Infinitive Phrase

There were 35 data of to infinitive phrase used as nouns in editorial writing of Tempo English January 2017 edition. It took 40.22% of total finding within the three main functions of to infinitive phrase. Basically, the characteristic of to infinitive phrase as noun can express an idea or thing, that is why it considers describes abstract noun. The grammatical rule of this to infinitive phrase governs as singular form, so following verb inflected to it. To infinitive phrase as noun may take into position of subject, object of a verb, subject complement and appositive in a sentence (M Yuseano Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020; Pranoto, 2021; Qodriani, 2021). To understand more how a to-infinitive phrase can carry this sub-function, the following examples were presented.

Datum 1

He seems to be aware of public criticism that his style of communication is abrasive(.)

According to datum above, there was a to-infinitive phrase used in the complex sentence that is in the independent clause of the sentence. The position of to-infinitive phrase to be aware of public criticism has relationship to subject of the clause, he, as the complementation to information about subject or topic discussion of the sentence. This toinfinitive phrase contructed after an intransitive verb, seem, which in such verb does not express the action of verb but refer back or attribute information to subject. Such kind of verb is not followed by object but complement as refer back to information of subject. The position of subject complement and object in a sentence have in same place, but to distinguish them can be seen from type of verb followed them. Unlike, to-infinitive phrase as object of verb, to-infinitive phrase as subject complement cannot be as subject if it is turned into passive sentence. Therefore, it functions as subject complement in the sentence, where the structure cannot be omitted because it is used to complete the meaning of subject showing relationship between the action of verb and subject of the sentence.

2. As Object of Verb

There were 25 data of to infinitive phrase as object of verb found from the six Tempo English editorials January 2017. It took 71.42% of the total finding. The use of to infinitive phrase as object of verb can be seen from the types of verb followed it. Generally, this sub-function is constructed in types of transitive verbs, which such verb must require object in

construction of a sentence (Afrianto & Ma'rifah, 2020; Muhammad Yuseano Kardiansyah & Qodriani, 2018). The position of this sub-function closes tightly to verb regarded it, because it receives directly the action of the verb that is done by subject in a sentence. However, sometimes there is a sentence has two objects following together in that sentence, such as direct object and indirect object, as like in case of sentence that used in editorial writing of Tempo English, but to-infinitive phrase as object of verb is object that directly receives the action from the verb that is done by the subject not indirect object. The case of the sentence can happen such in types of ditransitive verbs. To infinitive phrase as object may change into two forms, that are general or present and perfect when indicating time regarded of. It is really different with construction of sentence using intransitive verbs, because such kind of verbs do not need object but complement, then following words or phrases cannot be changed to be subject in a sentence.

Datum 2

Understandably, the government does not want to be seen as ignoring those who want the ban on raw commodities exports to be implemented according to the rules(.)

According to datum 2 above, there was a to infinitive phrase used in the complex sentence that is in the dependent clause of the sentence. The position of to-infinitive phrase to be implemented according to the rules has relationship to the noun phrase being discussed in the sentence the ban on raw commodities exports. This relationship shows that the toinfinitive phrase used as complement of noun, or it describes or modifies what types of the ban on raw commodities exports is being discussed in the sentence, it gives detail description about noun or noun phrase of the sentence. Therefore, the to-infinitive phrase functions as to infinitive phrase as adjective in the sentence.

3. As Subjective Complement

There were 7 data of to infinitive phrase as subject complement found from the six Tempo English editorials January 2017. It took 20% of the total findings. In general sense, to infinitive phrase as subject complement gives more information about subject in a sentence. It comes after linking verbs and sense verbs, including be, seem, smell, and taste, which the subject complement is necessary in order to complete the structure and meaning. Unlike the verb complement or direct object, the subject complement does not become subject if an active sentence is turned into a passive sentence (Wahyudin & Sari, 2018). In addition, this to-infinitive phrase as subject complement often expresses a quality or attribute of the subject, related to elements which referring back to the subject.

Datum 3

It should also serve to remind us that our nation is still unable to provide its citizens with decent jobs, and worse, it is negligent about protecting them when they work for foreign companies(.) (Appendix 7.3. No.1. code number: TE/TUES/10/12).

According to datum 3 above, there was a to-infinitive phrase used in the complex sentence that is in the first dependent clause of the sentence. The position of to-infinitive phrase put in alternative of adjective clause that has relationship to the action of verb of the sentence. The to infinitive phrase to provide it citizens with decent jobs, and worse comes after an adjective unable in the dependent clause. It has relation to give additional meaning about the action of the main verb, so it modifies the meaning of unable in that dependent clause of the sentence.

CONCLUSION

This research analyzed the functions of to inifnitive phrases used in Tempo English editorials January 2017. Editorial is a type of article that presents newspaper's official opinion on controversial issue. It has typical characteristics, such as interpret, persuade, criticize, and praise text, while Tempo English is one of online newspaper provided criticized editorial that has been acknowledged as the media of communication in providing reliable and up dated information in Indonesia. Moreover, the writer used conceptual framework of syntactic function proposed (Widianingsih & Gulö, 2016), divided the function of to infinitive phrases into three main functions, that are as noun, adjective and adverb.

Based on the result of findings from the table, it can be concluded that the editorial writer of Tempo English most frequent used to infinitive phrase as adjectives, because it has the largest number of data, that they are used to show the relation between the situation of noun or noun phrase which in this case the topic discussion being discussed and the action of the verbs that were performed by the subject. The use of to infinitive phrase in editorial writting used as complement to noun or to complete the meaning or description of noun or noun phrase that constructed in the sentences, in order to make clear and readable the information.

Besides, according to the characteristic of editorial text that text considers using reiteration, so one of the way to give the reiteration, the editorial writer construct to infinitive phrase to describe topic discussion of the sentences. Meanhwile, the rest to infinitive phrases used as noun taking mostly as object of verb, because the editorial writer would like to emphasize the relationship of the action of verbs and object or victim or something that is done by the subject in sentences, and the editorial writer did not give additional meaning of verb but more reitarate the meaning of object or topic being discussed toward the actions that happened.

Finally, it can be proved that the use of to infinitive phrase in the six Tempo English editorials January 2017 take big influence to the delivery of information thus the explanation of texts become clear and can be understood by readers. Therefore, the writer suggested so that readers or learners should master relationship of each grammatical unit that constructed in a sentence, in order to simplify the understanding the meaning or concept of the sentence.

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