

ABSTRACT

Richarda Yuddy Herawati : *A Study of The Structure of English Adjective Phrase in Terms of The X-Bar Syntax.*

X-bar syntax is one way of analyzing the structure of phrases through the concept of 'consist of'. It replaces a large number of idiosyncratic rules with general principles and it captures properties of all phrases not just those of a certain type [Cook, 1988:94].

This study is an attempt to answer the question of: "What is the structure of English Adjective Phrase in X-bar syntax ?"

The objectives of this study are : (1) to find out what constituents other than an adjective which make up an English Adjective Phrase and (2) to find out how they function syntactically in the English adjective phrase structure.

There are three kinds of research conducted in this study. The first is a descriptive research. The writer analyzed the structure of the adjective phrases taken as the data of this study. This study is also a library research since the data was taken from articles in some magazines. It is also an argumentative research since it tried to prove the arguments concerning the categories filling the nonhead-constituents of the English adjective phrase construction.

There are 118 English adjective phrases used as the sample of the data in this study. They are taken from the random selected six articles from six magazines.

First, the data was analyzed using X-bar syntax analysis to find out their phrase structure rules. Some findings came out during this main analysis. They are:

(1) an adjective, when it is used predicatively, should be treated as an adjective phrase since it has the same distribution as an A-bar and an A-double bar; (2) some adjectives subcategorise for a range of obligatory complements which for most of them may be left implicit; (3) there is an overlapping category filling the non-head-constituents of the A-bar attribute and specifier which still remains a question; (4) There are three types of 'adjunct/attribute' namely: (a) A-adjunct/attribute, A-bar adjunct/attribute, and A-double bar adjunct/attribute.

After the PS rules were generalised into one PS rule, it was found out that an English adjective phrase consists of an obligatory lexical head adjective and the other optional nonhead-constituents, namely: complement, specifier and adjunct/attribute.

X-bar syntax bases the theory on the general principles of universal grammar shared by all languages. It is an Internalized language approach of linguistics. Therefore, the use of this approach to help the learners to come to the ability to construct grammatical English adjective phrases is also meant to minimize the inter-languagel utterances produced by the learners during their learning of a foreign language.