

**ASSESSING ANAPHORS AND PRONOUNS IN ENGLISH AND INDONESIAN  
BASED ON BINDING THEORY**



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## 1. Introduction

Binding is the phenomenon in linguistics in which anaphoric components like pronouns are grammatically related with their antecedents. It is in line with Buring (2005) asserting that Binding Theory seeks to explain how different kinds of nominal expressions such as names, noun phrases, and pronouns have anaphoric relations among one another, and how they come to have reference to things in the world.

Binding relationships typically involve (partial) agreement in person, gender, and number features between an anaphor and its antecedent. This agreement can be observed with simplex reflexives (1), complex reflexives (2), and pronouns functioning as reflexives.

We need to fully understand the concept of C-Command to get a better understanding of Binding Theory, and we also need to keep in mind that C-Command deals with the hierarchy of the tree we draw. Binding Theory is universally made to provide an account for the distribution of three types of NPs. Binding Theory attempts to analyze language, even for all languages in the world.

Since Binding Theory focuses on the three types of NPs, we need to get familiarized with those three. They are R-Expression, anaphor, and pronouns. R-Expressions are NPs that get meaning by referring to entities in the world or by the context. Anaphors get meaning from another NP in the sentence, and pronouns can grasp their meaning from another NP. Other essential concepts in Binding Theory that need to take into account: Antecedent, Binder and Bindee, and Coindexation. To put it simply, antecedent=binder and anaphor/pronoun=bindee.

Binder and its bindee that are co-indexed with each other refer to the same entity in the world. In understanding Binding Theory, we need to remember important concepts of Binding. First, Binding always requires C-Command and Coindexation. Second, Binding Domain (Governing Category) refers to the NP clause (anaphor, pronoun, or R-Expression). In Explaining the sentence, Linguists were actually like Doctors. We need to identify whether or not the sentence is grammatically correct and explain why it is so.

The most important thing that needs to comprehend is Binding Principle. There are three Binding principles: Binding Principle A, Binding Principle B, and Binding Principle C. Binding principle A state that an anaphor must be bound in its binding

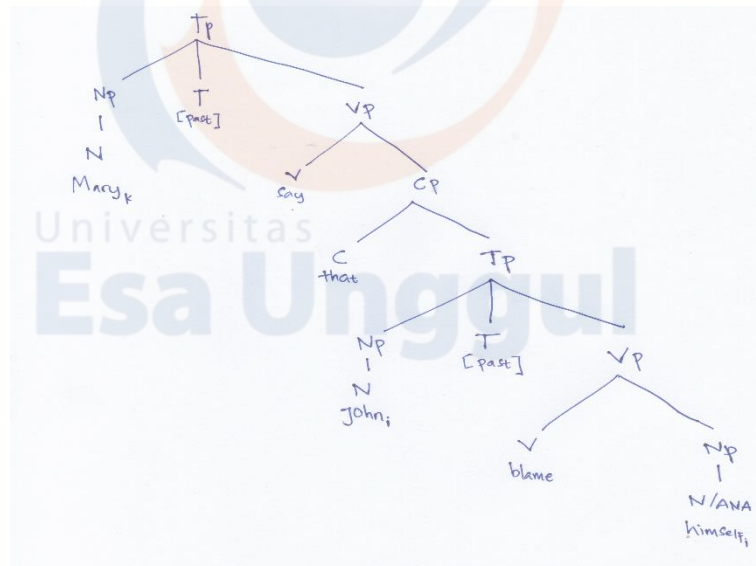
domain. Binding Principle B says that a pronoun must be free (=not bound) in its binding domain, and Binding Principle C states that an R-expression must be free.

Despite his critics such as in Rooryck (2011) contenting that there is no specific grammatical module or set of rules that deals with anaphors and pronouns per se. A study of anaphoric was conducted by Nomoto (2011), revealing that compositional analysis of Malay anaphoric expressions is not only possible but is empirically more desirable than a non-compositional analysis, as it can account for a wider range of anaphoric expressions in a systematic manner.

To examine whether Binding Theory can account for the anaphors and pronouns in English (himself/herself/him/her) and Indonesian (dirinya sendiri/dia), we can analyze from the data given below:

## 2. Distribution of English anaphors and pronouns

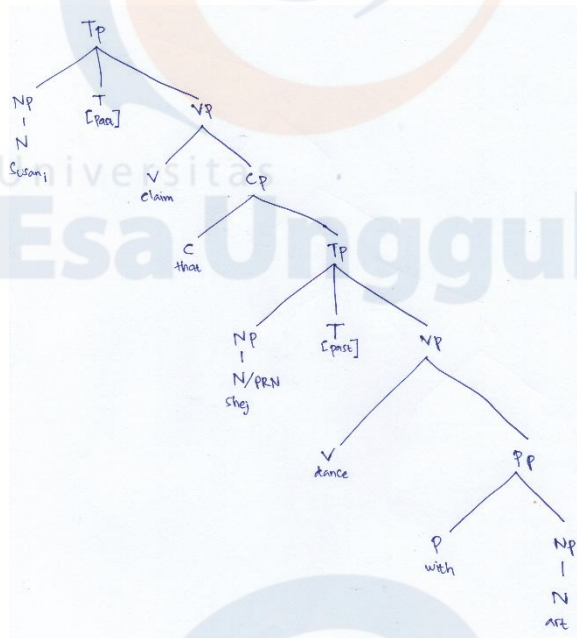
### 2.1 $Mary_k$ said that $John_i$ blamed $himself_i$ .



From the above tree, the Binding domain is in lower TP = John blamed himself. The NP *John* is co-indexed with the NP *himself*. The NP *John* is also c-commands the NP *himself*. Therefore, the NP *John* binds the anaphor *himself* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding Principle A is obeyed in the above tree.

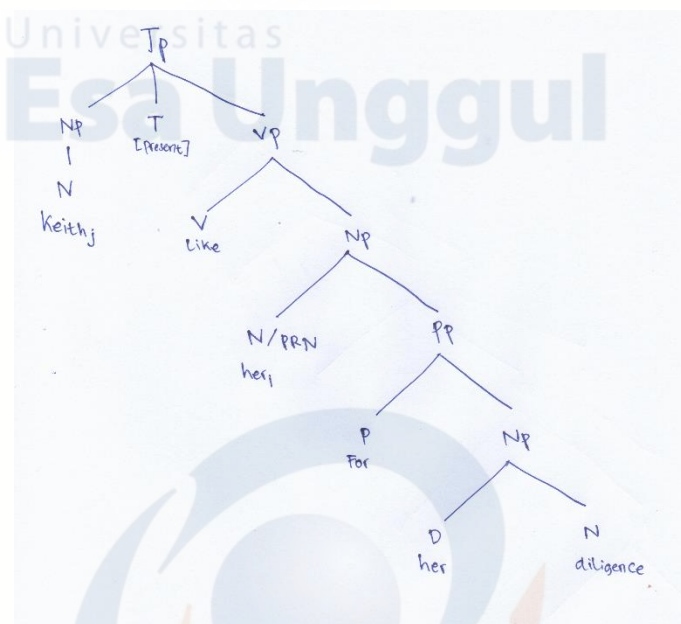


2.2 Susan<sub>j</sub> claimed that she<sub>j</sub> danced with Art.



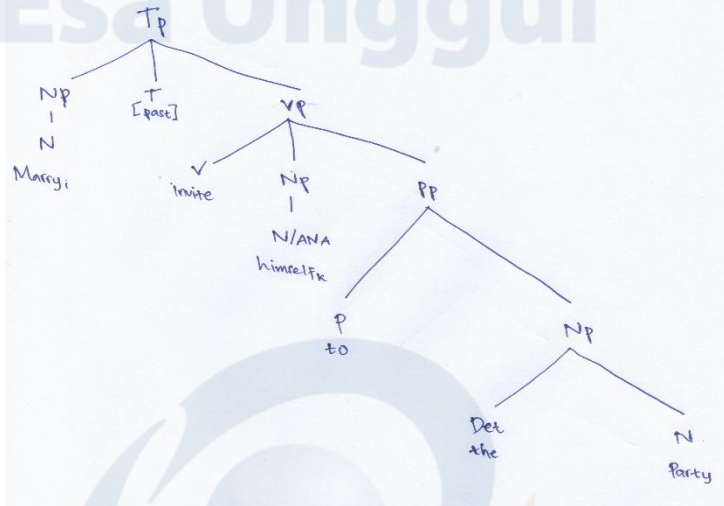
From the above tree, The NP *Susan* is not co-indexed with the NP *She* even though it c-commands the NP *She*. Therefore, the NP *Susan* DOES NOT bind the NP *She* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding principle B is obeyed in the above tree.

2.3 Keith<sub>j</sub> likes her<sub>i</sub> for her dilligence.



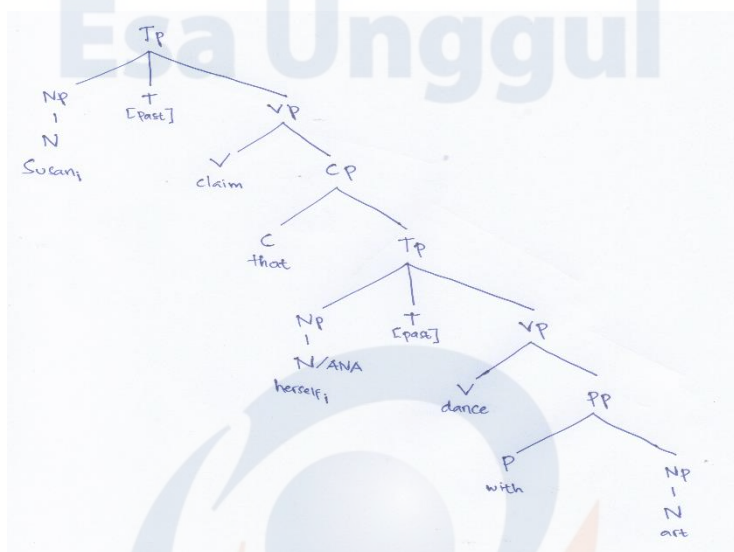
From the above tree, the Binding domain is in the whole TP = Keith likes her for her diligence. The NP *Keith* is not co-indexed with the NP *her* even though it c-commands the NP *her*. Therefore, the NP *Keith* DOES NOT bind the pronoun *her* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding principle B is obeyed in the above tree.

2.4 Mary<sub>i</sub> invited himself<sub>k</sub> to the party.



From the above tree, the NP *Marry* is not co-indexed with the NP *himself*, even though it c-commands the NP *himself*. Therefore, the NP *Marry* DOES NOT bind the NP *himself* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding Principle A is violated in the above tree, which is why the sentence is ungrammatical.

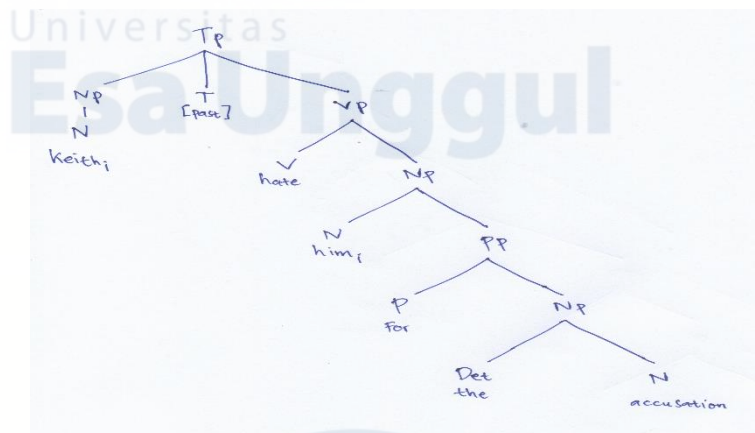
2.5 Susan<sub>i</sub> claimed that herself<sub>i</sub> danced with Art.



As shown in the above tree, The NP *Susan* is co-indexed with the NP *art*, even though it does not c-commands the NP *herself*. Therefore, the NP *Susan* does not bind

the NP *herself* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding Principle A is violated, which is why the sentence is ungrammatical.

2.6 Keith<sub>i</sub> hated him<sub>i</sub> for the accusation.



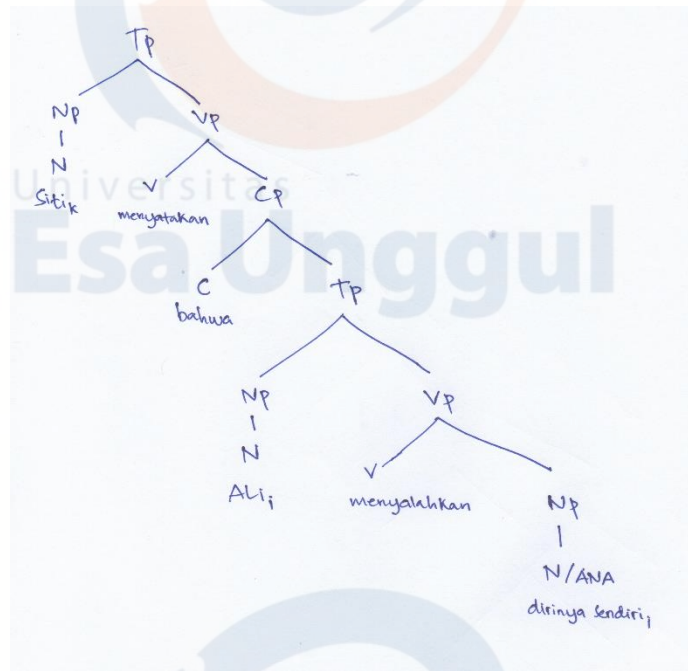
As shown in the above tree, the binding domain for the NP *him* is the TP = Keith hated him for the accusation. In this binding domain, *him* is c-commanded by the NP *Keith* and is co-indexed with the NP *Keith*. Therefore, *him* is bound by the NP *Keith* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding Principle B is violated, which is why the sentence is ungrammatical.

### 3. Distribution of Indonesian anaphors and pronouns

To assess that Binding theory can account for anaphors and pronouns in both English and Indonesian, we may contrast the tree from Indonesian anaphors and pronouns by drawing trees, as can be seen below.

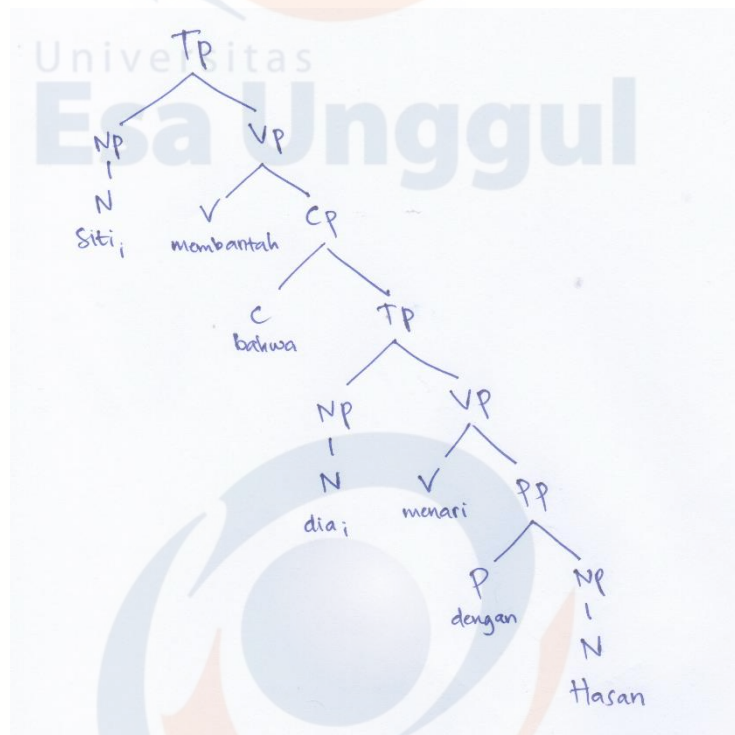


3.1 Siti<sub>k</sub> menyatakan bahwa Ali<sub>i</sub> menyalahkan dirinya sendiri<sub>i</sub>.



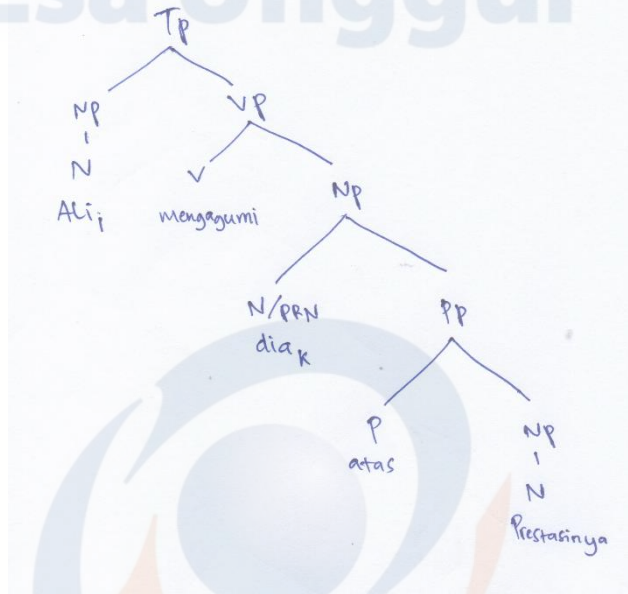
From the above tree, the Binding domain is in lower TP = Ali menyalahkan dirinya sendiri. The NP *Ali* c-commands the NP *dirinya sendiri* and is coindexed with the NP *dirinya sendiri*. Therefore, the NP *Ali* binds the anaphor *dirinya sendiri* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding Principle A is obeyed in the above tree.

3.2 Siti<sub>i</sub> membantah bahwa dia<sub>i</sub> menari dengan Hasan.



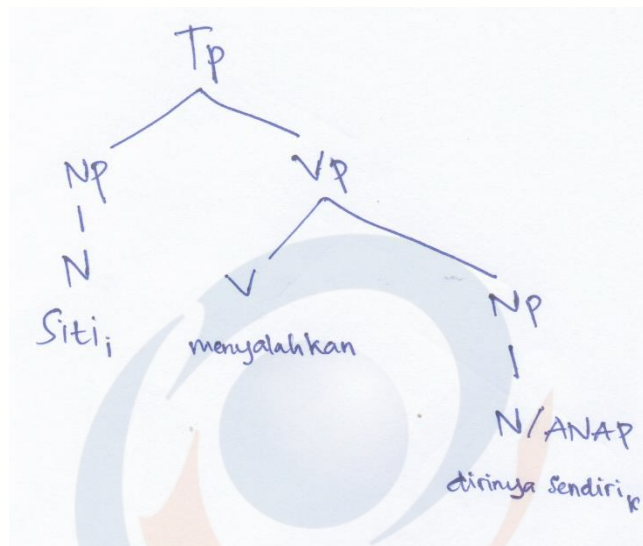
From the above tree, the Binding domain is in lower TP = dia menari dengan Hasan. The NP *Siti* is not co-indexed with the NP *Hasan* even though it c-commands the NP *Hasan*. Therefore, the NP *dia* DOES NOT bind the NP *Hasan* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding principle B is obeyed in the above tree.

### 3.3 Ali<sub>i</sub> mengagumi dia<sub>k</sub> atas prestasinya.



From the above tree, the Binding domain is in the whole TP = Ali mengagumi dia atas prestasinya. The NP *Ali* is not co-indexed with the NP *dia*, even though it c-commands the NP *dia*. Therefore, the NP *dia* DOES NOT bind the NP *dia* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding principle B is obeyed in the above tree.

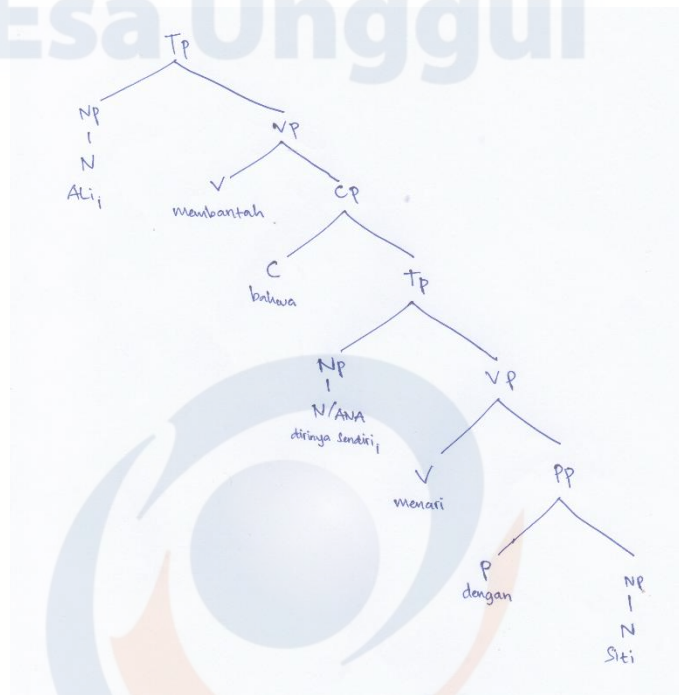
### 3.4 Siti<sub>i</sub> menyalahkan dirinya sendiri<sub>k</sub>.





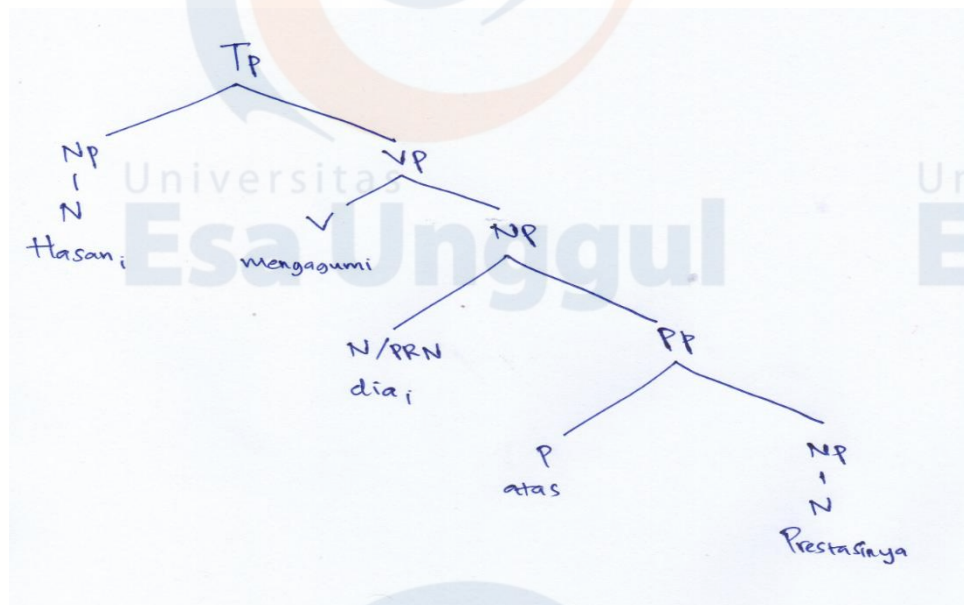
The Np *Siti* is not co-indexed with the NP *dirinya sendiri*, even though it c-commands the NP *dirinya sendiri*. Therefore the NP *Siti* does not bind the anaphor *dirinya sendiri* in its binding domain. As a result, binding principle A is violated, which is why the sentence is ungrammatical.

### 3.5 Ali<sub>i</sub> membantah bahwa dirinya sendiri<sub>i</sub> menari dengan Siti.



As shown in the above tree, the binding domain for the NP *dirinya sendiri* is in the lower TP = *dirinya sendiri menari dengan Siti*. The NP *Ali* is co-indexed with the NP *dirinya sendiri*, even though it does not c-commands the NP *dirinya sendiri*. Therefore, the NP *Ali* does not bind the NP *dirinya sendiri* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding Principle A is violated, which is why the sentence is ungrammatical.

### 3.6 Hasan<sub>i</sub> mengagumi dia<sub>i</sub> atas prestasinya.



From the above tree, the Binding domain is in the whole TP = Hasan mengagumi dia atas prestasinya. The NP *Hasan* is co-indexed with the NP *dia* even, and it c-commands the NP *dia*. Therefore, the NP *Hasan* binds the pronoun *dia* in its binding domain. As a result, Binding principle B is violated, which is why the sentence is ungrammatical.

#### 4. Conclusion

Having drawn and contrasted the tree between English and Indonesian anaphors and pronouns, we can conclude that Binding theory can account for the distribution of anaphors and pronouns both in English and Indonesian. It can be seen from the sentences 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 that have the same level of anaphor and pronouns in the tree. Principle A and B are obeyed from these sentences. With the Binding Theory, we can also see the same pattern from the sentences 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, and 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, in which Principle A and B are violated. We can see from the tree that anaphors and pronouns both in English and Indonesia may violate principles A and B on the same level if the critical theory is correct. If Binding theory is true, then we would expect to find four categories of expressions (Chomsky, 1982). Regarding the researchers that interested to research Binding Theory, Zribi-Hertz proposed that the consideration of aspects other than the “featural make-up” of pronouns is certainly an aspect of analysis that deserves more attention in future research (Gast, 2008)

## References

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