
LEXICON OF COST IN ENGLISH

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Abstract

This research aimed to describe the componential meaning of lexeme cost, charge, fee, fare, expense, and rent, including the pattern used in sentences and the relation of meaning on each lexeme. The data used in this research is secondary data derived from online and paperback dictionaries and corpus. The method used in analyzing the data is the componential analysis method. The result shows that there are at least three diagnostic components consist of several features. The components of meaning in such lexemes are [USAGE] including goods, services, tax, and penalty features, the [AMOUNT] components have fixed features and [TIME PAYMENT] has „regularly“ feature in it. The word cost, expense, and charge refer to cost spent for goods and services whereas the word fee, fare, and rent refer to cost that is related to services such as transportation, professional, and rent. The word expense whose primary meaning is the cost is usually translated to „beban“ in Accounting because of the [TIME] features in it.

Keywords: *cost, English for a specific purpose, componential analysis, Business English, specialized vocabulary*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan komponen makna pada leksikon bermakna biaya dalam bahasa Inggris dengan memusatkan pada leksem *cost, charge, fee, fare, expense* and *rent*. Data diperoleh dari kamus daring dan cetak serta korpus. Adapun metode yang digunakan dalam analisis data adalah metode analisis komponensial. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat tiga komponen diagnostik dengan beberapa ciri pembeda yakni [GUNA PENGELUARAN] meliputi fitur barang, jasa, pajak dan denda, [JUMLAH YANG DIBAYARKAN] meliputi fitur tetap dan [WAKTU PENGELUARAN] yang memiliki fitur berkala. Leksem *cost, expense* dan *charge* merujuk pada biaya yang dikeluarkan untuk barang dan jasa sementara leksem *fee, fare*, dan *rent* digunakan untuk merujuk pada biaya yang berkaitan dengan pemanfaatan jasa baik berupa transportasi, profesional maupun sewa. Adapun leksem *expense* yang bermakna utama sebagai biaya sering diartikan sebagai beban dalam bidang Akuntansi sebab fitur waktu pembayaran yang dimilikinya.

Kata Kunci: *Biaya, English for specific purpose, analisis komponensial, Business English, kosakata khusus*

Background

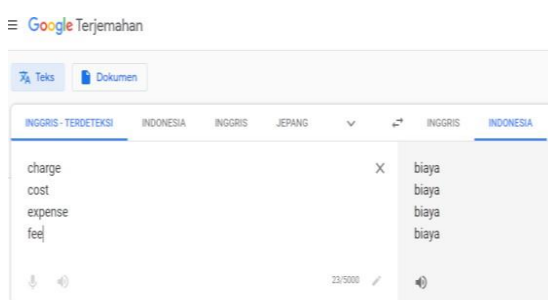
Business English is a necessary subject in Higher education since its relation to vocabulary and language skills. The graduate students will need those skills as their fundamentals in facing the workplace. The vocabularies in Business English are focusing on the

economic field or specialized vocabulary. Coxhead (2012) explains vocabularies in English Specific Purpose include special terms and technical vocabulary. It also refers to a particular area of study or professional users.

This becomes a challenge for ESP learners to distinguish each English

vocabulary that has a similar meaning in Bahasa Indonesia.

For instance, several words refer to „cost“ in Bahasa Indonesia such as „charge“, „fee“, „rent“, and „fare“. Most of the beginner students use online dictionaries such as *google translate* and *sederet.com*. The translation provided sometimes is not detailed and needs further explanation. This problem raises the students' confusion in finding the correct term to explain the word „biaya“ in English.



Picture 1. Translation using google translate

In picture 1, the translation shows the word „charge“, „cost“, „expense“, and „fee“ as „biaya“ in Bahasa Indonesia and there is no additional explanation about the use of each word. In Economics, cost refers to the amount that you have to sacrifice to produce something. There are several types such as opportunity cost, fixed cost, etc. In accounting, the amount of money used for producing goods and services and the amount of money used to pay for wiring and rent have different terms such as „biaya“ and „beban“ which are translated into „cost“ and „expense“. However, if the learners use an online dictionary, those words have the same meanings in Bahasa Indonesia. In English, the term „cost“, „expense“, „fare“, „charge“, „rent“ and „fee“, have distinctive uses.

Therefore, this article aimed to give further explanation about English words

that have similar meanings in Bahasa Indonesia but different uses and meanings in English. It focuses on the most used words about „cost“ in Business English such as „cost“, „expense“, „fare“, „charge“, „rent“ and „fee“.

To ease the readers' understanding, the writer will discuss it through the linguistics field combined with several definitions from economics. Based on the writer's experiences in teaching English Business at Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Ekonomi Balikpapan (STIE Balikpapan), students' comprehension in specialized vocabularies needs more improvement. This is because the discussion about specialized vocabulary particularly cost has been carried out in general terms only and still requires an in-depth explanation. Not only in terms of meaning but also the use in sentences.

Literature Review

There are several theories and literature reviews used to enrich the framework of this research and developed the hypothesis. In explaining the distinction of vocabularies, one of the methods used are componential analysis and substitution of the word in a sentence.

Windiar (2014) in TranslationpapersBali concludes that the word „cost“, „charge“, and „fee“ refer to the amount of money spent for services meanwhile price is the amount of money for goods and services. The word „fare“ usually find in transportation field. Moreover, this research emphasizes that it is necessary to understand the distinguishing elements or distinctive features in those words and an understanding of the context by looking at the relation of the word with other sentences. Based on that suggestion, this research will develop the distinctive features of those words.

Corpus study has become the trend in linguistics and synonym words research. Chung (2011) has studied the synonymous pair „create“ and „produce“ by using two corpuses such as the Brown Corpus and the Frown corpus. This research found that the two pairs have similarities which are first, both words tend to appear as the bare infinitive and in the past (-ed) forms. Second, they both have overlapping meanings; „bring into existence or cause to happen“ and „create or manufacture man-made product“. In terms of differences, an abstract object, a smaller number, and an object that has the creator's level of creation in it generally follow the word „create“. On the contrary, the word „produce“ comes before large quantities of objects (such as factory-made goods) with low creativity. In other words, the factors for choosing both words are property, creativity, quantity, and concreteness.

The study of synonymous words conducted in 2017 by Salaeh provides insight into which context the synonymous words used. The object of this research is the word „possibly“ and „probably“. The data was collected from Collins Wordbank Online corpus and showed that both words usually used in written than spoken. In terms of dialect, British English speakers tend to use both words rather than American English speakers who are more direct and avoid using hedging words. Moreover, this study also discusses collocation. The word „possibly“ and „probably“ mostly used with modals verbs such as „could“, and „won't“. Thus, those words also collocate with adjectives like „fatal“, „dangerous“, „worst“, and „worse“.

English for Specific Purpose

English for a specific purpose is part of teaching English as a foreign language. It generally taught at advanced or higher

education since it is only focusing on one particular area and aims to achieve certain skills. Business English itself is an example of English for Specific Purpose particularly for those who are involved in Economics and Business. The general purpose is to improve the learners' English proficiency both spoken and written in a formal context. The material in Business English discusses conversational gambits, terms, and phrases in business also the business correspondence.

Definition of cost in Economics

Since this research talks about economic, the researchers supplement the literature review with a definition of „cost“ from experts. This explanation will support the primary meaning that provided by dictionaries and corpus. In general, the word „cost“ refers to the amount of money spent to buy or get goods and services. According to Horngern et al (2015), cost means the sacrificed resource to get a particular purpose

Lexeme and Lexicon

Lexeme and words are parts of language research. According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, words are the elements of language that are written or spoken and are the embodiment of unity and thought. The lexeme is the initial form of words that change due to the addition of affixes and changes in the form of tenses.

A group of lexemes belonging to a certain category or commonly known as a vocabulary is called a lexicon. For instance, the vocabulary contains the meaning of „cost“ is then called the lexicon of „cost“.

Grammatical Pattern

A grammatical pattern is a method or rule describes the use of words in English. Grammar patterns are ways of describing word use. It tells us what phrases or clauses that collocates with a given adjective, noun, or verb (Collins, n.d). A pattern can provide information about what phrase or clause that collocates or use with various parts of speech. Understanding this pattern can help language learners to combine one word with another and make it sound more natural in terms of spoken and written.

Componential analysis

There are several words or lexemes which, when translated into Bahasa Indonesia, have the same meaning. Therefore, to facilitate the identification of the meaning in-depth, it is necessary to conduct a complete analysis. One of the ways is by describing the components of the meaning contained in each word. Wijaya (2016) emphasizes that lexicon which forms a field of meaning has different semantic features and there is a method used to distinguish it known as component analysis.

Components of meaning are divided into three parts such as:

1. The common component is the component shared by the lexeme in the same lexical field.
2. Diagnostic components are the components that distinguish the meaning of each lexeme.
3. The supplementary component is the additional component used in elaborating further explanation of each component.

The diagnostic components act as the differentiator since it is embodied in each meaning and distinguish them to each other. Besides those components, another element that also plays an important role is the features, the value,

and the distinctive features. According to Aminuddin (2016:2018), a feature is a relationship with several meanings in a word that has different characteristics. From this feature, the researcher will add value or marker to assess it. If the feature is associated with its existence in each meaning of a word, this feature functions as a differentiator.

In determining features, Lobner (2013: 135-138) states that the selected semantic feature must provide clear differences and be widely used. Besides, naming the features does not have to use difficult terms, because one of the ideal characteristics of features is that they are general and universal. The value [+], [-], and [±] shows the existence of distinctive features in each meaning.

The value [+] is given if the feature belongs to the lexeme or mandatory. The value [-] shows that the feature does not exist or absent from the meaning and the value [±] indicates that the lexeme does not own the feature or may have the feature, specifically known as neutral.

Table 1.

Example of componential analysis of the word „Jantan“ by Aminuddin (2016)

Manusia (Human)	Binatang (animal)	Benda (inanimate)
(+ laki-laki)	(+ laki-laki)	(+ laki-laki)

source: Aminuddin (2016)

In table 1, the word „jantan“ always refers to „man“. It could be used for human, animal, and inanimate objects. Thus, human, animal, and inanimate are semantic features of the word „Jantan“. The value (+) indicates that the word „jantan“ can be used to describe traits in human and factual characteristics in animal whereas, in inanimate objects, this feature is related to something that describes masculinity.

Moreover, Wijana and Rohmadi (2008:89) state that in analyzing components, there is no specific limit regarding the number of meaning components that must be described.

Research Method

This research is descriptive research that describes data in depth. There are three stages in this research such as (1) data collection, (2) classified-data analysis (3) presentation of the data analysis result.

The data in this research are the word „cost“, „charge“, „fare“, „fee“, „expense“, and „rent“. The online and paperback dictionary provides meaning and a detailed explanation of each word that becomes the fundamentals in deciding the semantic features. Both Bahasa Indonesia and English dictionary enrich the analysis by comparing the translated meaning of the words.

As an additional source, this study also uses corpus data. Especially as a data source for grammatical patterns and examples of the word use. Corpus explains how and on what topics the word is used. Most language learners do not have the same intuition as native speakers. Intuition is essential so that the words used will following the rules and grammatically acceptable.

Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) contains about 100-500 billion words from the American English dialect. Paltridge and Sue (2012) suggest three methods in identifying vocabulary learned in English for Specific Purpose. One of them is the use of the corpus that can make a big contribution in helping the understanding of specialized vocabulary.

In data collection, the researcher collected and noted the definition of the words „cost“, „charge“, „fare“, „fee“, „expense“, and „rent“ from the various

source mentioned. The definition collected then classified into two criteria; first, it has the primary meaning of „cost“ in English and „biaya“ in Bahasa Indonesia. If the implied meaning of „cost“ is in the secondary meaning, the word considered as data. To ease readers“ comprehension of the grammatical patterns, the researcher provides example sentences from the corpus.

In data analysis, the first step is outlining the definition of each word. The definition becomes the fundamentals for the researcher to determine the number of meanings that assumed related to each other. The related meanings form a field of meaning based on the common components that they shared.

Second, analyzing the features to find distinctive features or diagnostic components. It distinguishes one word from another and detailing the definition. Then, the use of substitution methods to determine the relation of meaning embodied from each word, specifically to the synonymous words. Finally, to figure out the grammatical pattern, the researcher uses examples from the corpus and dictionaries mentioned before.

Results and Discussion

Based on the analysis the word „cost“, „charge“, „fare“, „fee“, „expense“, and „rent“ are mostly used to describe „cost“ or „biaya“ in Bahasa Indonesia. The common meaning shared by those words is „the amount of money that you spend/need/payor sb asks for“.

Table 2.

Definition of costs, charge, fare, fee, expense dan rent by Hornby (2015)

LEXEME	Definition
Charge	The amount of money that sb asks for goods and services.
Cost	The amount of money that you need to buy, make, or do

	sth.
Expense	The money that you spend on something.; something makes you spend more money
Fare	The money that you pay to travel by bus, plane, taxi, etc.
Fee	An amount of money that you pay for professional advice or services.
Rental	amount of money that you regularly have to pay for use of a building or room

source: Hornby (2015)

In terms of meaning components, there are three diagnostics found such as [the usage]; related to the purpose of money spent, [amount]; related to whether there is a standard amount or fixed amount that must be paid to get the output and [time payment] that related to when doing the payment should be made. Diagnostic components are the distinctive meaning components that distinguish one word from another. The objective is to indicate a contrast between lexeme.

Tabel 3. Meaning components *cost*, *charge*, *expense*, *fee*, *fare* dan *rent*

Lexeme	usage				amount	time
	goods	services	penalty	tax	fixed	regularly
cost	+	+	-	-	+/-	-
charge	+	+	+	-	+	+/-
expense	+	+	-	+	-	+/-
fee	-	+	-	-	+	+
fare	-	+	-	-	+	-
rent	+	-	-	-	+	+

Source: process data year 2020

Cost

In the bilingual dictionary, the word „cost“ has a meaning of „Harga“ or „price“ meanwhile in an English dictionary, the word „cost“ refers to the amount of money you need to buy or make

something (Hornby, 2015). Although in Bahasa Indonesia, this word does not directly mean „cost“ or „biaya“ in English, it is a general term or words that represent a lexeme with the meaning „cost“ in it.

This emphasizes the use of the term „cost“ in economics to define the expenses or sacrifices made by a company or individual to produce goods and services. In terms of the amount paid, „cost“ has both fixed and non-fixed features. In economics, there are several types of costs such as variable cost and fixed cost. Variable cost refers to the cost, which the total amount proportional to the production activities whereas in fixed cost the production activities do not affect the cost amount.

In terms of the time payment, which is temporary or only spent at a particular time; during the production process. In the grammatical pattern, the word „cost“ collocates with nouns and adjectives.

Charge

There are several definitions found to define the word „charge“. Hornby (2015) defines the word charge as the amount of money for goods and services. The word „charge“ is the cost, which amount is determined based on a rate. Besides, the word „charge“ also use to describe the amount of money spent on fine or penalty.

The grammatical pattern in the word „charge“ explains that this word mostly uses adjectives and verbs. For instance, the adjective that is mostly used such as high, reasonable, and small whereas the verb used indicates an action of paying something or ask someone to pay (charging).

Expense

The definition of the word „expense“ is the money that you spend on something. However, this explanation is still too broad so that there is a need to

give specific information. In COCA, it is explained that this word refers to the amount paid for goods and services that have been deducted by the tax.

Besides, this word has no „fixed“ features because it depends on the variable or the number of goods to pay for. Meanwhile, in „time payment“ components, this word refers to two-time payments, periodically and regularly so that the „time payment“ feature has a neutral sign.

Similar to the other words, the word „expense“ collocates with adjectives and verbs that describe the quality, the quantity of the expense, and the action of paying or spending money.

Fee

A bilingual dictionary does not provide a detailed explanation about the fee. It only translated fee as the amount of money for services. COCA gives an additional definition as a fixed charge for a privilege or professional services. Therefore, in [usage] and [amount] components, the services and the fixed feature has (+) value. As for the [time] components, this word has (+) value annually since the expenditure is made regularly.

Most of the words collocate with verb and adjective, meanwhile this word collocates with a noun. For example; education fees or tuition fees.

Fare

The word „fare“ has a specific meaning amongst all words. It is because this word only refers to the amount of money for transportation. *Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary* (OALD), defines the word „fare“ as the money that you pay to travel by bus, plane, taxi, etc. Therefore, the features owned by this word are first, the amount is at the rate

and the time payment is periodical or not regularly.

In grammatical patterns, the word „fare“ collocates with the verb „pay“, „charge“, „Increase“, „put up“, „bring down“, „reduce“, „slash“. As for adjectives, this word usually combines with an adjective that indicates quantity and quality. Moreover, another adjective that is mostly used describes kinds of transportation fare like airfares, ferry fares, and so on.

Rent

Hornby (2015) defines rent as the amount of money that you have to pay to use something for a particular period. In other words, rent is the cost that we spend when someone uses or rent goods.

The amount is „fixed“ and related to the payment time, which is „regularly“. It could be annually, monthly, or even daily. In the grammatical pattern, this word collocates with an adjective that describes quantity and quality and a verb that describe the activity of paying.

Conclusion and Suggestion

The meaning of six words „cost“, „charge“, „fare“, „fee“, „expense“, and „rent“ contains „amount of money spent to get or use something; goods and services“. Moreover, the components of meaning owned by each word are [usage], [amount], and [time payment]. In [usage] components, there are some features such as goods, services, penalties, and tax. In [amount] components there is one feature which is fixed; if the amount determined with a certain rate and [time payment] components that has „regularly“ features if the payment is done annually or monthly.

The word „fare“ and „rent“ are mostly used for the amount of money spent on transportation and rental

services. The words „fee“ and „rent“ have a „fixed“ amount feature whereas the word „cost“ and „expense“ has a broader meaning. In terms of mandatory payment such as fine and tax, it is suitable to use the word „charge“.

The relationship of meaning formed in each word such as derivation, peripheral, and figurative meaning. Besides, the words „cost“, „expense“, and „charge“ belong to „at price“ which is the amount of money spent to get or buy something meanwhile the word „fee“, „fare“, and „rent“ belong to „at a rate“ where the amount or price is determined based on certain standard or rate.

The application of explanation and word usage will help to provide additional knowledge for students especially in the field of Economics. Besides, further research can add other words such as „rate“, „toll“, „fine“ and „price“ as additional data

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