The Landscape of International Students’ Slips of the Tongue in Indonesian Contexts

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Abstract: Language is a very essential in human life, moreover English as foreign language. Since English language is used almost all countries around the world as the international language. However, people often get difficulties in practicing it and producing some errors. The most common speech error is slips of the tongue. Therefore, this research aimed to analyse and observe the types of slips of the tongue and the possible condition which caused the international students produce slips of the tongue in their oral presentations at Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Thus, if second language learners know about slips of the tongue, they will avoid to produce the same errors on slips of the tongue. The researchers used descriptive qualitative approach since the data were derived from speakers’ utterances which were transcribed. This research applied the theories proposed by Fromkin about eight types of slips of the tongue, and Clark and Clark about the factors which influenced the slips of the tongue. The result showed that there were 127 slips of the tongue found in international students’ utterances. The researchers found the fact that the typology of slips of the tongue mostly produced by Africa speakers was substitutions which occurred 30 times in total, while the typology of slips of the tongue mostly produced by Asia speakers was deletions which occurred 27 times in total. Furthermore, the most possible condition which might influence slips of the tongue in international students’ utterances was situational anxiety. Due to the fact that they felt tired because of their activities and assignments. Thus, it might influence them to produce slips of the tongue when they did the oral presentations.

1 INTRODUCTION

As social beings, people cannot live without others. They need to have interaction one another. In order to interact one another, people use language as one of the tools of their communication. It is obvious that interaction among people in society to negotiate, communicate, and work is totally needed. Basically, people are able to share information, feelings, expressions, and others through communication. It means that language can be used as a medium of communication to deliver human feelings, thoughts, and even knowledge in learning process. Therefore, language is truly essential in human life. As Rahardjo (2004) states that people always try to get mutual understanding in doing communication. It is because bad communication can lead to a complete breakdown in relationship, and causing misunderstanding which often leads to a conflict between elements in social structure. Therefore, the good way of delivering ideas and thoughts is indeed important. Further, in order to have smooth communication, people should follow the language rules (Detrianto, 2018).

Communication itself can occur in all aspects of social life, such as at home with family and relatives, at school with students and other students or teachers, at shopping places between sellers and buyers, and others. From the communication, people are able to have social interaction with others as well. Due to the fact that social interaction or communication among people is the human reality (Quoc, 2018). Therefore, the use of language in communication is indeed important. Moreover, English language which used in almost all countries in the world. Due to the fact that English is very straight-forward language that can be used for the need of education, trades, economics, and others aspect among countries. Further, as human beings, everybody wants to be socially accepted and
language has provided a perfect tool of communication (Detrianto, 2017). In practicing English as an international language, however, people seem to produce such slips of the tongue in their utterances. Slips of the tongue is the most common speech error that occurs unconsciously which causes the speaker to produce the unsuitable word(s) in morphological and phonological aspects. This research, therefore, aimed to analyse and observe the types of slips of the tongue of international students’ utterances and the possible conditions which caused the international students produce slips of the tongue in their oral presentations at Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang (UIN Malang). Due to its importance, the researchers aims to have a research concerning on slips of the tongue on international students’ utterances when they did the presentations by using English language.

However, people get some difficulties in practicing English as second language. Therefore, mistakes are often found. It is usually found in spontaneous speech which has the result in failure (Altparmak and Kuruoglu, 2018). The most common mistakes or speech error in language practices is slips of the tongue. Speech error its self means as categorical substitution of one sound for another (Golrdick et al., 2016). Furthermore, slips of the tongue are speech phenomena about unintentional occurrence of some uttered mistakes which result utterances are different from intended message (Daud and Mustofa, 2018). According to Jaeger (2004) and Asyura (2017), slips of the tongue are an error in discourse production planning. It is when the speaker wants to utter words, phrase, or sentences but the utterances results are different from the intended utterances. Slips of the tongue can be happened when people are in tired condition, drunk, in hurry, or nervous (Froimkin, 1973; Aitchison, 2011; Mayasari, 2015). These phenomena may occur in everyone speeches and in any situations, including International students who present their ideas as presenters. These phenomena may occur in one’s speeches and in any situations, including international students who share and present their opinion, ideas, and thoughts in the classroom or outside of classroom.

2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Furthermore, Dell (1986) argues slips of the tongue are when people prepare to say some words but they produce the sound which has the similar words. Thus, they say something different from the words that they wanted to say before. The transition of delivering something from gesture to a vocal system makes the role of language is more crucial in order to avoid misunderstanding (Forrester and Rodriguez, 2015). Furthermore, the types of slips of the tongue are: Anticipations, it is when a linguistics unit is anticipated earlier in the utterances and give the effect from another linguistics unit, then it has the effect on the sentence as the word repeated twice (Jaeger, 2004). However, it is different from shifts (Carroll, 1994). Example: the sentence should be “Take my bike”, but becomes “bake my bike”. Another type is Perseverations; it is when a linguistics unit is planned earlier in the utterance has effected the linguistics unit later, therefore, it comes after the origin (Carroll, 1994). Example: the sentence should be “She pulled a tantrum”, but becomes “She pulled a pantrum”.

Other type is Reversals or Exchange, it is when there are two linguistics units placed not in the right place or exchange places one another (Carroll, 1994). Example: the sentence should be “Kat and Fodor”, but becomes “Fats and Kodor”. Other type is Blends or Haploglyphes, it is when there are two linguistics units which are combined into a single item only (Carroll, 1994). Example: the sentence should be “The children and young of today”, but becomes “the chung of today”. It can be concluded that the word “chung” comes from the combination of the words “children and young”. Other type is Misderivations or Shifts, it is when a linguistics unit is shifted, therefore, it appears in another places (Carroll, 1994). It can be occurred in the level of affixes in the word. Example: That's so shall be ready in case he decide to hits it. From that sentence, it should be “decides to hit it”. Other type is Substitutions, it is when a linguistics unit is replaced by another linguistics unit in the sentence (Carroll, 1994). Example: the sentence should be “Before the place opens”, but becomes “before the place close”. According to Fromkin (1973) and Clark and Clark (1977), when speaker produce slips of the tongue in substitution aspect, the word may still have the relation on phonologically or semantically.

Other type is Additions, it is when there is an additional linguistic unit attached in the sentence (Carroll, 1994). It can be typically related to phonemes, morphemes, affixes, articles, prepositions, conjunctions, whole words, or even phrases. Example: the sentence should be “She does not explain the topic carefully”, but becomes “She does not explain the topic carefully enough”. Other
type is **Deletions**, it is when a linguistics unit is disappears from its place in the sentence. It can be in the form of phonemes, morphemes, affixes, articles, prepositions, conjunctions, and etc (Carroll, 1994). 

**Example:** the sentence should be “the baby sees fireworks”, but becomes “the baby see fireworks”. In that case, the affix is omitted. 

In addition, related to another research problem about the factor or conditions which may influence slips of the tongue. The researchers referred to the theory proposed by Clark and Clark (1977). Those are cognitive difficulty, situational anxiety, and social factor. First factor is **cognitive difficulty**, it is when speaker take so much time to produce word(s). The speaker tries to recall the memories, it can be related to vocabularies, sentences, and etc. Another factor is **situational anxiety**, it is when the speaker becomes tense, anxious, or worries because of the surrounded situation. Whereas **social factor** is when the speaker has some difficulties in producing the words or sentences because the speaker feels under pressure. Therefore, those two research problems are related one another. In order to know why the speakers produced slips of the tongue, the researchers also did the analysis on the factors or conditions which might influence them. As Sari, Saman and Syahrani (2016) stated that slips of the tongue are very complex phenomenon to be understood due to its relations with other factors or even field of the studies.

In this research, the researchers focused on the types of slips of the tongue produced by the international students, and the possible conditions which cause the slips of the tongue. Further, the researchers took the data by using audio recording when the speakers do the oral presentations and interview sections at Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. In order to analyse the data, the researchers used the theories proposed from Fromkin (1973) about eight types of slips of the tongue, those are: anticipations, preservations, reversals or exchange, blends or haplographies, misderivations or shifts, substitutions, additions, and deletions. Further, the researchers also used theory proposed by Clark and Clark (1977) about the conditions which cause the slips of the tongue. This research is expected to give new insightful knowledge especially for the second language learners about slips of the tongue. As Popper (1934) stated that in order to know the truth, people should first know the false. Thus, if second language learners know about the most common slips of the tongue, they will not do the same error in their utterances. Therefore, this research is very worth-doing. 

There are some previous studies which were conducted by other researchers that are focusing on slips of the tongue. The first previous study was conducted by Kawachi (2002) with the title Practice Effects on Speech Production Planning: Evidence from Slips of the Tongue in Spontaneous versus Pre-Planned Speech in Japanese. He put the focus on how practice in expressing the content to be conveyed in a specific situation influences speech production planning process. Different from his research, in this research the research put the focus on English language in International students’ utterances. Another previous study was conducted by Asyura (2017) in *International E-Journal of Advances in Social Sciences*, he had a research focussed on slips of the tongue on Stand Up Comedy Show in Indonesia. The result showed that the slips of the tongue happened in phonetics, syllables, and words. Further, the pause happened were pause because respiratory and the speaker experiencing doubts in delivering the speeches. While the factors were nervousness, hesitance, fear, and too careful due to the need of time management and competitive situation. However, there are some differences between Asyura’s research and this research. In this research, the researchers put the focus on an academic issue in International students’ presentations. While Asyura’s research put the focus on the entertainment issue. Thus, the settings were different, indeed. 

Other previous study was conducted by Qi Zhu and Binhe Liu (2018) in Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies Journal. They had a research focus on A Study of Categorization and Causes of Speech error. The result showed that motivating teaching strategy is tentatively recommended to create situations that may encourage the production of self-repairs and give the learners more opportunity to use the target language. However, their research is different from this research. They put the focus on a big umbrella which is speech error. However, this research put more focus on more specific error which is slips of the tongue in international students’ utterances. It is important for English teacher, lecturer, and educators who have the concern on English as foreign language. Further, if second language learners know about the most common slips of the tongue, they will not do the same error in their utterances. Other previous study was conducted by Daud and Mustofa (2018), The research focus on the identification of slips of the tongue in EFL classroom: one error that blocked the
students’ fluency in speaking. Thus, this research was conducted in the context of teaching and learning activities in the classroom. However, there are some differences between this research and Daud and Mustofa research’s. This research put the focus on the international students’ utterances only, whereas the previous study was not.

Further, from those gaps on previous studies, the findings of this research are expected to be one of the sources focusing on the language production which leads to the discussion of slips of the tongue. Practically, this is expected to be useful for readers, lecturers, students, and the next researchers to have further research on this area. Furthermore, for the lecturers, the result of this research is expected to be an additional teaching material. For the students, the findings of this research are expected to give them the knowledge about the types of slips of the tongue and the possible conditions which cause the slips of the tongue. Thus, the second language learners will push themselves to practice their English more with no errors on slips of the tongue. Due to the fact that, understanding the problem of slips of the tongue by knowing the types (Fromkin, 1973) and possible factors or condition which might influence it (Clark and Clark, 1977), the English learners would avoid to make the errors on slips of the tongue when they have conversations, classroom presentation, and etc. Due to the important of this study and all the gaps from the previous studies, therefore, this research is very worth-doing.

3 METHOD

This research focused on the study of slip of tongue in International students’ utterances. Further, this research belongs to interpretive paradigm since it focussed on the understanding of phenomenon which are the types of slips of the tongue, and the possible conditions which might influence it. Furthermore, the researchers used a descriptive qualitative approach since the data obtained are in the forms of words which were transcribed from the audio recorder of international students’ utterances. It is used since the data are collected in the form of words and phrases. Qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning of individuals or groups to describe something related to a social or human problem in the form of words, sentences, numeric symbols, etc (George, 2008; Creswell, 2009; Fitriana, 2018). This research put the focus on describing the speech production which is concerned on slips of the tongue in international students’ utterances when they present particular topics at Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

The focus of this research on the types of slips of the tongue found and the possible conditions which cause the slips of the tongue of international students’ utterances in presenting particular topics at Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. In addition, the researchers have set some criteria to select the International students to be observed. Those criteria are: 1) the International students who currently study at Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, 2) the students who used English language in presenting particular topics. In addition, the international students who are from Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Cambodia, China, and Thailand. They used English as their second language in their home countries. From those six participants, there are two participants who took English literature as their majors. They are from Thailand and Libya. Another one took English education as the major of the study. On the other hand, other participants are not majoring English literature nor English education but they use English language when they have lecturing in international classroom program.

Further, the researchers had the interactions and conversations with the participants that later on the participants were asked to present particular topics. There are several steps that were undergone to collect the data. Firstly, the researchers used the audio recorder to record all the selected research participants’ presentations. Secondly, while recording the presentation, the researchers also took the pictures in order to know the situation surrounding and speakers’ expressions. Thirdly, the researchers observed the situation when each speaker presents their ideas in particular topics, and doing note taking. Lastly, the researchers did deep interview sections. The data were gained from those selected research participants started from 26th April - 11th May 2018 by using the audio recording and field observations.

In collecting the data, some instruments were employed. Those are: audio recorder, taking pictures, observations, field notes, and interview. Thus, the audio recorder was used to record the utterances produced by all the selected research participants when they present particular topics. Not only that, it was also used to record the interview sections to those selected research participants. Whereas, the pictures were used to see the expression and situation when the speakers produce their utterances. While the observations and field
notes were used to see directly how the setting and surrounded conditions in international students’ utterances when they presented particular topics at Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Furthermore, there are several steps that the researchers used to analyse the data. Firstly, the researchers analysed the data by doing coding and categorizing then analyse the type of slips of the tongue found in all selected research participants’ utterances based on theory proposed by Fromkin (1973). After that, the researchers also analysed the data by categorizing the possible conditions which may influence slips of the tongue in all selected research participants’ utterances based on theory proposed by Clark and Clark (1977). Further, the researchers discussed on the findings which are derived from the research questions. Finally, the conclusion was made in order to summarize the findings and discussion of the research.

4 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After analysing the data which were transcribed from the audio recording, the researchers found that there were 127 slips of the tongue produced by the international students who are from Libya (S1), Somalia (S2), Sudan (S3), Cambodia (S4), China (S5), and Thailand (S6). The result can be seen in the table below.

Table 1: Data Result

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES</th>
<th>S1</th>
<th>S2</th>
<th>S3</th>
<th>S4</th>
<th>S5</th>
<th>S6</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anticipations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservations</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blends/ Haplogories</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misderivations/ Shifts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substitutions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deletions</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversals/ Exchange</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for each Speaker</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of the data</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furthermore, based on the findings, the types that were occurred in their utterances were anticipations, preservations, substitutions, additions, deletions, and reversals/exchange. Whereas there were two types of slips of the tongue which did not occur in their utterances, those were blends/haplogories and misderivations/shifts. In addition, the most type of slip of the tongue occurred was substitutions which was occurred 51 times. The most slips of the tongue were produced by speaker 3 (S3) who is from Sudan which has 40 slips. It was influenced by the speaker’s background of the study which is not in English education or letters department, but Pharmacy. On the other hand, the speaker who has a few slips is speaker 6 (S6) who is from Thailand which has only 10 slips. It is because the speaker’s background of the study is English literature. Therefore, S6 uses English language in daily communication more than other speakers especially speaker 3 who, produced most slips.

Further, the researchers found that African speakers; Libya (S1), Somalia (S2), and Sudan (S3) produced more slips rather than Asian speakers; Cambodia (S4), China (S5), and Thailand (S6). African speakers produced 73 slips of the tongue in total, whereas Asian speakers produced 54 slips of the tongue. It is the fact that African speakers seldom use English in their daily communications even at school. They tend to use Arabic language in order to communicate with others in public area or school. In addition, the researchers found the fact that the typology of slips of the tongue mostly produced by African speakers was substitutions which occurred 30 times in total. On the other hand, the typology of slips of the tongue mostly produced by Asian speakers was deletions which occurred 27 times in total.

Furthermore, the possible factors which might influence the speakers producing slips of the tongue was mostly situational anxiety. Furthermore, such as in the speaker 1 from Libya. In the interview section, S1 told the researchers that S1 was tired and need some sleep. Here is the S1’s utterance “For today, I feel tired all the times. I need to sleep hehehe”. Therefore, it might influence the speaker to produce some slips when the speaker presented the particular topics. It also happens to speaker 3 from Sudan. When the researchers asked, “Do you have enough sleep?”. S3 answered ”No”. It is because S3 had many homework to deal with. Furthermore, the same situation happened to speaker 4 from Cambodia. S4 told the researchers in the interview section that S4 felt tired after playing futsal at the time. As well as the speaker 5 from China. The speaker told the
researchers that S5 was so tired because of the daily routine in Ma’had and after hanging out of the town. Therefore, the types of slips of the tongue is actually bounded or related one another with the possible factors or conditions that made the speakers produce slips of the tongue.

The discussions have shown that the selected speakers produced 6 from 8 types slips of the tongue based on the theory proposed by Fromkin (1973). Those slips of the tongue happened due to some factors or conditions which might influence the selected speakers as proposed by Clark and Clark (1977). Thus, this research showed that all factors were found: 1) situational anxiety, 2) cognitive difficulty, 3) social factor. Therefore, those two research problems are related one another. In line with Ovchinnikova and Pavlova (2017) who stated that slips of the tongue and its factors are bounded in order to represent the speakers’ condition or inner context. In addition, understanding all types and the possible factors or condition which might influence the slips of the tongue is very important for the second language learners. Due to the fact that they are able to learn it and avoid to produce the same errors on slips of the tongue.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The research reveals that the types of slips of the tongue produced by international students when they did the presentations were anticipations, preservations, substitutions, additions, deletions, and reversals/exchange. Whereas there were two types of slips of the tongue which did not occur in their place.
utterances, those were blends/haplologies and misderivations/shifts. Further, the most type of slips of the tongue occurred was substitutions which was occurred 51 times. The researchers also found the fact that African speakers who are from Libya (S1), Somalia (S2), and Sudan (S3) produced more slips of the tongue rather than Asian speakers who are from Cambodia (S4), China (S5), and Thailand (S6). African speakers produced 73 slips of the tongue in total, whereas Asian speakers produced 54 slips of the tongue. It is because African speakers tend to use Arabic language in their daily interaction even at collage or Ma’had. In addition, the researchers found the fact that the typology of slips of the tongue mostly produced by African speakers was substitutions which occurred 30 times in total. On the other hand, the typology of slips of the tongue mostly produced by Asian speakers was deletions which occurred 27 times in total. Furthermore, the most possible factor which might influence slips of the tongue in international students’ utterances was situational anxiety. Due to the fact that they felt tired because of their activities and assignments. Thus, it might influence them to produce such slips of the tongue when they presented particular topics by using English as second language.

Since this research put the focus on slips of the tongue in international students’ utterances who presented particular topics by using English language, the researchers suggest that the second language learners especially English learners to concern more on slips of the tongue in order to avoid it when they need to have presentations. Thus, they will be able to improve their English, especially on speaking skills. Further, the researcher also has some suggestions to the other researchers who are interested in having research on slips of the tongue. The next researchers are suggested to gain more literature about slips of the tongue from different experts’ perspectives and put the focus on slips of the tongue on teacher or lecturer in classroom teaching. Thus, the result of the research later on would be comparable. Furthermore, the next researchers are also suggested to fill in the gaps on what are the possible strategies to overcome the slips of the tongue.

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