Investigating the types and causes of slips of the tongue of one of the Indonesian female singers

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ABSTRACT

A slip of the tongue is one of the speech errors that often encounter in everyday life. Many people may have experienced this phenomenon either consciously or not. However, it would be different when a public figure made slips of the tongue. One of the Indonesian female singers has been viral on social media because of slips of the tongue that she made. She frequently made slips of the tongue when speaking in front of people. Thus, the study is conducted to investigate the phenomenon of slips of the tongue of this singer by revealing the mistakes found in the process of the articulatory program of her utterances, the dominant types of slips of the tongue used by her, and the causes of slips of the tongue. Furthermore, the study is based on a qualitative case study. The data were obtained by downloading three YouTube videos that contained the compilation video of slips of the tongue by the singer and her interview video with Sarah Sechan Talk Show as well as Narasi Entertainment's Podcast. The transcriptions of the three videos became the source of the data. The study uses the theory from Garrett (1975) about the process of the articulatory program and Clark and Clark (1977) about types of slips of the tongue and factors of speech error. This study also uses the theory from Carroll (1986) about other types of slips of the tongue which are addition and deletion to analyze the data. This study has revealed that this Indonesian female singer mostly made mistakes in the process of phonetic segments as many as 33 times. It was also found that substitution is the dominant type of slips of the tongue that used in the video, as many as 22 times. Moreover, the causes of slips of the tongue were cognitive difficulty and social factors.

Keywords: Speech error; slips of the tongue; one of the Indonesian female singers.

INTRODUCTION

In delivering ideas, the human mind has a vital role in arranging the words to produce a meaningful utterance. The speaker needs to convey the message as possible clear as to avoid misunderstanding among communicators. In the process of communication, a hearer also needs to understand and comprehend the content spoken by the speaker. Simultaneously, the hearer should cultivate the words in mind to identify the acoustic signals in hearing (Subyakto, 1988).

Language activities cannot be separated from mental processes and operations. Thus, linguistic studies need to be complemented by interdisciplinary studies between linguistics and psychology which are called psycholinguistics. Psycholinguistics is a study that can connect language and the human mind. Kempen (1978) explains that humans and language are the main objects of the study. There are many cases found where the speaker is having some problems related to the mind so that they could not pronounce some words well. This phenomenon can be called speech errors.

Speech error may occur in any situation, whether formal or informal, in the processing of speech. The speech errors are not random and unpredictable. Even somebody could not predict the time the error will occur or what the errors would be. Speech errors can be classified based on the language units involved, such as the phoneme, morpheme, syllable, word, phrase, or the error related process (combining, replacing, adding, or

deleting of units). As an example, when someone says *irregural verb* instead of *irregular verb*. Based on that example, it can be seen that the speaker made a mistake in uttering the phoneme /l/. The phonemes /r/ and /l/ almost have the same sounds so that the speaker could not pronounce *irregular verb* correctly.

If the public figures experience tongue slips, they will become the public spotlight because people will pay attention to them. In Indonesia, some public figures may experienced slips of the tongue in public. One of them is a female singer and songwriter who is favored by millennials. Slips of the tongue that she did when caught on camera while doing some interviews were made a public scene. As an example, she once said benul instead of betul in one of the interviews. For some people, a slip of the tongue experienced by her is considered to be a new issue. It can be seen from the video compilation of slips of the tongue by her that has reached 350.000 viewers on YouTube. Wadah Konten published this video on Augustus 14, 2018. Based on that video, she often slipped her tongue unintentionally. Moreover, experienced tongue slips in the same few words over and over again. Thus, this study aims to explore the phenomenon of slips of the tongue experienced by one of the Indonesian female singers by identifying the dominant types of used by her and the factors behind it.

METHODOLOGY

Data

The data sources are the transcription of two YouTube videos that contains one of the Indonesian female singers that made slips of the tongue. The first video contains the compilation video of her while she made slips of the tongue in public. There were approximately eight programs attended by her that compiled in that video. The length of the video is 3:14 (three minutes and fourteen seconds). This video was produced by Wadah Konten on August 14, 2018. This video has been chosen because the compilation of slips of the tongue made by one of the Indonesian female singers in this video tends to be more nearly complete than other YouTube videos. There were 34 words that indicated slips of the tongue.

The second video contains one of the Indonesian female singers being interviewed by Sarah Sechan in the talk show. As the same as the host's name. the talk show named Sarah Sechan. The interview was uploaded on YouTube and divided into several parts. The researcher has chosen part three because it contains the reasons of the singer made slips of the tongue unconsciously. The length of the video is 8:13 (eight minutes and thirteen seconds). Meanwhile, the researcher only took the part which was the singer explained those reasons. explanation was at the minute of 1:53 until 4:05.

In the third video, the singer was also being interviewed about her slips of the tongue by *Narasi*

Entertainment. It is a YouTube channel initiated by one of the well-known journalists in Indonesia, Najwa Shihab. At that time, the singer became a guest star to surprise some teenage classical music singers who already interviewed on the podcast.

Data Collection and Data Analysis

Before analyzing the data, several steps were taken to collect the data. First, the researcher watched the source videos on YouTube to understand the whole idea of the singer. Then, the researcher transcribed all the utterances of one of the Indonesian female singers in the Third. the researcher videos. highlighted the utterances that indicated tongue slips on the video compilation and highlighted the utterances of the singer in Sarah Sechan talk show that discussed the factors of speech error that triggered her made slips of the tongue.

After all of the data were collected, they were analyzed to address the research question that pointed out in chapter one. There were several steps to analyze the data, as follows:

- 1. Identified the mistakes in the articulatory process that triggered one of the Indonesian female singers made slips of the tongue by using the process of the articulatory program theory by Garrett (1975)
- 2. Identified and classified the utterances that indicated slips of tongue based on the Clark and Clark's (1977) and Carroll's (1986) theory about nine types of slips of the tongue
- 3. Quantified the total number and percentage of each type

- occurrence to know the dominant types of tongue slips that were used
- 4. Identified and analyzed the factors affecting the singer made slips of the tongue based on Clark and Clark's (1977) theory about the factors of speech error.
- 5. Interpreted the findings
- 6. Drew conclusion

FINDINGS

The Types of the Slips of the Tongue Found in the Compilation Video of One of the Indonesian Female Singers

Slips of the tongue can be divided into seven types, as follows: Anticipation, perseveration, reversal, blending, haplologies, misderivation, and substitution (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 274). However, Carroll (1986) adds the other types of slips of the tongue which are addition and deletion.

The table below shows the frequency of each type of slips of the tongue made by one of the Indonesian female singers in the compilation video.

Table 4.1 The Frequency of Each Type of Slips of the Tongue Made by One of the Indonesian Female Singer in the Compilation Video.

NO	Types of Slips	Fre	Percent
	of the Tongue	que	age
		ncy	(%)
1	Substitution	22	52.38
			%
2	Deletion	11	26.19
			%
3	Reversal	3	7.14%

4	Anticipation	2	4.77%
5	Addition	1	2.38%
6	Blending	1	2.38%
7	Haplologies	1	2.38%
8	Misderivation	1	2.38%
9	Perseveration	0	0%
Tot		42	100%
al			

After analyzing 34 slips words in the transcription, it was found that the singer used all types of slips of the tongue that have been mentioned Dominantly, above. she used substitution as much as 22 times. The second-most used type was deletion (11 times). Then, reversal (3 times), anticipation (2 times). The least-used types addition. were blending. haplologies, and misderivation that were applied once for each type. Perseveration was the type that was not used at all in the video. In total, 42 slip words were identified based their types of slips of the tongue.

In the percentages, types of the slips of the tongue found in the transcription can be illustrated, as follows: (1) Substitution (52.38%), (2) Deletion (26.19%), (3) Reversal (7.14%), (4) Anticipation (4.77%), (5) Addition (2.38%), (6) Blending (2.38%), (7) Haplologies (2.38%), (8) Misderivation (2.38%), (9) Perseveration (0%).

Substitution

Deletion

The second-most used type of slips of the tongue found in the compilation video of the singer was deletion. This type was found 11 times in the video. According to Carroll (1986), deletion happens when the speaker leaves out the unit in the utterance. Some linguistic materials that can be deleted by the speaker included phoneme, morpheme, article, conjunction, whole words, or even phrases in the utterances. For instance, the speaker intended to say *he loves me* but said instead *he love me*.

After analyzing the transcription, one of the Indonesian female singers applied this type of slips by deleting some phonetic in a word. As an example, she said "betu" instead of "betul". The example can be seen in the dialogues below.

The Interviewer : "Pasti lebih banyak aplikasi-aplikasi musik di handphone....."

The Singer : "<u>Benu</u>... Eh, betu.. yahhhhh"

Based on the analysis, she deleted [1] in a word "betul" so that she produced "betu". Before saying "betu", she also applied deletion by saying "benu". Both errors happened due to the deletion of [1].

Reversal

Reversal was adopted 3 times in the compilation video. Clark and Clark (1977, p. 274) stated that this type happened when two segments are interchanged. Thus, the origin of one error was the target for the other. This kind of error also known as *spoonerism* which was introduced by William A. Spooner. As an example, the speaker intended to say *Katz and Fodor* but said

instead *Fatz and Kodor* (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 274).

After analyzing the transcription of the video, she mostly reversed the phonetic of the intended word. As an example, she said "beneng dor" instead of "bener dong".

The Singer : "Tapi hari ini aku ngeluarin single baru."

The Interviewer : "Yang bener?"
The Singer : "Ya bene.. Eh,

ya **beneng dor**..."

She reversed [r] and [ŋ] in the words "bener" and "dong" so that she produced the word "beneng dor".

Anticipation

Anticipation was used 2 times in the compilation video. According to Clark and Clark (1977), anticipation occurred in the right place and earlier in the utterance. For instance, the speaker intended to say *take my bike* but said instead *bake my bike* (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 274). The speaker is "anticipating" the *b* at the beginning of *bike* in his pronunciation of *take*. Based on that example, the position of take is the *target word* while bake is positioning as the origin of the error.

In the compilation video of slips of the tongue, the singer said "beneng engga" instead of "bener engga".

The Singer : "Eh, patah hati itu belum tentu ama cowo. Beneng engga? Be... be... benul benul betul gak?"

She changed [r] in the word "bener" to [ŋ] which was came from the word "engga". Thus, the word "engga" was greatly affected the singer to make slips of the tongue.

Addition

This type of slips of the tongue was applied one time in the compilation video. According to Carroll (1986), this type happens when the speaker adds some additional linguistic materials into the utterances. Some linguistic materials that can be added by the speaker included phoneme, morpheme, article, conjunction, whole words, or even phrases. For example, the speaker says he is very handsomes instead of he is very handsome.

The example of this type in the compilation video of slips of the tongue can be seen in the dialogue below.

The Singer : "... engga suka tapi gaada yang ngalahin Indonesia. Waktu itu kemaren juga sekolah di Singapore sempet di London juga sekolah tapi tetep kangen <u>masaksakan</u> Indonesia."

She said "masaksakan" instead of "masakan". If the word "masakan" is separated based on its syllable, it will become ma-sak-an. Whereas, at that time she uttered "masaksakan" which meant there was an additional syllable -sak in it.

Blending

As the same as the perseveration, this type also found only one time in the compilation video. This type of error happened when more than one word was being considered and the two intended items "fused" or "blended" into a single item. For instance, the speaker intended to say grizzly and ghastly but said instead grastly (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 274). The speaker mixed those two words by taking half of the first word and the half of second word, so that, the speaker generated new words from the combination of the two words or more (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 274).

In the video compilation of slips of the tongue of one of the Indonesian female singers, blending can be found in the dialogues below.

The Singer's Partner : "Kadonya kita nyanyi..."

The Singer : ".....Angng... anganku anganmu"

It showed that the singer said "angng" instead of "anganku anganmu". She intended to shorten the utterances but she mixed the words by only saying "angng" which was the sound of the two intended words. Probably, it happened because she hurriedly wanted to overtake the conversation.

Haplologies

Haplologies also applied one time in the singer's compilation video of slips of the tongue. This type occurred when the speaker left a brief stretch of speech (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 274). Different from blending, haplologies happened if the speaker removed the middle part of the words or phrases. For instance, the speaker intended to say *post toasties* but it became *posties* when it was spoken (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 274). From that example, it can be seen that *-toas* was removed by the speaker. In the compilation video, this type was exemplified in the dialogues below.

The Interviewer : "Terus lagunya masuk kemana? Single lepas doang?"

The Singer : "Ke <u>afbum</u>... Eh, afbum? Album Afgan jadi afbum."

She wanted to say "album Afgan" but she reversed the word to "Afgan album" so that she produced "afbum". Unconsciously, she removed the middle parts of "Afgan Album" which were -gan and -al.

Misderivation

Misderivation was applied one time in the compilation video of slips of the tongue by one of the Indonesian female singers. According to Clark and Clark (1977), this type occurred when the speaker somehow attached the wrong suffix or prefix to the word. As an example, the speaker intended to say *an intervening node* but said instead *an intervenient node* (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 274). Based on the example, the error has lied on the position of suffix *-ing* that changed into suffix *-ient*. As a

result, the meaning of the sentence also changed.

In the compilation video, misderivation can be found in the dialogue below.

The Singer : "Hmmm... hanya ini yang dapat kami berikan di hari ulang tahun mu semoga setiap kalimat yang kau baca nanti akan dikalbukan...dikalbukanlah... dikabulkan oleh Tuhan. Aamiin."

By looking at the transcription above, she added the wrong suffix *-lah* to the word "dikalbukan". In Bahasa Indonesia, the suffix *-lah* should be paired with a verb but the word "kalbukan" was not a verb.

Perseveration

The use of this type cannot be found in the singer's compilation video of slips of the tongue. This type used when an earlier segment replaced a later item it came after the origin. For example, the speaker intended to say *pulled a tantrum* but said instead *pulled a pantrum* (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 274). Based on that example, the position of [t] has been replaced by [p] due to the influence of [p] in the previous word which was *pulled*.

The Factors of Speech Error that Affected One of the Indonesian Female Singers Made Slips of the Tongue

The slip of the tongue is part of the speech error (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 263). Therefore, the factors that

influenced the speaker to make speech error is mostly the same as slips of the tongue. Three factors that affect the speaker to make slip of the tongue are cognitive difficulty, situational anxiety, and social factors (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 271).

Based on the singer's compilation video of slips of the tongue and her interview video in *Sarah Sechan* talk show, cognitive difficulty and social factors were the dominant factors that affected the singer made slips of the tongue on several interviews and events that have been compiled into one video.

Cognitive difficulty

As demonstrated above, the cognitive difficulty can be a factor that affects a speaker to make slips of the tongue. Furthermore, Clark and Clark (1977) stated that there were some characteristics to identify cognitive difficulty, as follows:

- 1. If the speaker has difficulty in pronouncing the first word when starting a sentence from an abstract word rather than a concrete word (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 271).
- 2. If the speaker was asked to describe some objects and explain the reasons for it, speakers tend to be easier to describe the object rather than explain the object (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 271).
- 3. If the speaker makes much hesitation pauses in speaking (Clark & Clark, 1977, p. 272).

Generally, one of the Indonesian female singers did some characteristics that have been mentioned above. In the third scene of the compilation video, that singer mispronounced "betul". She said "benu" then made a filled pause -eh and said "betu" instead of correcting the slip word.

The Interviewer : "Pasti lebih banyak aplikasi-aplikasi musik di handphone....."

The Singer : "<u>Benu</u>... Eh, <u>betu.</u>. yahhhhh"

She made a filled pause not only once but many times in the rest of the scene. It can be assumed that she made much hesitation pauses because she was thinking about the intended word that must be uttered by her to correct the wrong word.

Moreover, she explained that the possible reason for her to make slips of the tongue was because of her cognitive limitation. That reason is revealed at *Sarah Sechan* Talk Show when she was the guest star of the show. The dialogue below shows the singer acknowledged that she had a problem cognitively.

The Interviewer : "Apasih salah ngomong kebolak balik gitu?"

The Singer : "Heeh.. mungkin antara yang dipikirkan sama yang diucapkan yang di pikiran kita udah terlalu kecepetan gitu loh.."

Based on the analysis of the sentences above, the cognitive difficulty that is meant in this context is

not about the singer's intelligence but rather to her ability to construct the sentence in mind correctly before she executes the sentence.

Social Factors

Clark and Clark (1977) explains that social factors can trigger someone to make slip of the tongue. Apparently, one of the causes of slips of the tongue made by the singer is her social background. Based on the interview on Narasi Entertainment *YouTube* channel, she explained that she made slips of the tongue because she lived abroad since childhood. She once lived in Belgium since she was a baby until she entered elementary school. As she lived there, she required to speak Dutch. When she returned to Indonesia, she required to learn Bahasa Indonesia from scratch. Other than that, she said that she also had lived in Singapore to continue her study so that she required to learn Singlish and English at the same time. The dialogues below show the singer explained the reasons of slips of the tongue in the interview.

The Singer : "Baru berangkat, masih kecil langsung ke Belgia terus disuruh sekolah pakai bahasa Belanda. Masih kecil belum terlalu bisa bahasa Indonesia makanya 'spoonerism' sekarang."

The Singer : "Berangkat lagi ke Singapore, English-Singlish. Dua macem English. Banyak banget adaptasi di hidup aku makanya mungkin jadinya agak belibet kadang kalua ngomong, makanya verbal aku enggak terlalu baik."

From the social perspective, language shift that is often experienced by the singer are the cause of slips of the tongue. Moreover, in that interview, the singer also acknowledged that she is an introvert so that she cannot easily express what she thinks into words.

The Singer : "Karena aku introvert banget dan secara verbal lemah banget. Aku waktu kecil lebih parah dari ini. Aku engga bisa ngomong sama orang."

Based on the analysis of the dialogue above, the social background and personality of the singer are other causes of slips of the tongue made by her in some interviews and events that related to social factors.

Situational Anxiety

Based on the singer's compilation videos of slips of the tongue, she did not seem to have situational anxiety when she made slips of the tongue. Physically, there was not any sign indicating she was worried at that time. Clark and Clark (1977, p. 272) stated that the speaker tends to experience situational anxiety when they look nervous when discussing a particular topic. In that situation, the speaker can make a silent pause and other types of speech errors because the brain cannot work well. However, she did not show any characteristics that indicated she was anxious.

DISCUSSIONS OF THE FINDINGS

The present study has found that was substitution the type dominantly used by the singer. The same result was found in the previous study done by Widyawati in 2013. The study examined the types of slips of the tongue in the news anchor's utterances on Indonesian private TV station. It was found that the news anchor was used seven times and it was found in several forms of substitution included noun, adverb, and preposition. In contrast to Widyawati (2013), this study has found that the singer used substitution in the form of phonetics and words. Asyura (2017) also revealed that mostly slips of the tongue occurred in the form of phonetics, syllables, and words.

Since the slip of the tongue is the part of the speech error, the factor that triggered both of them are the same. Clark and Clark (1977) stated that cognitive difficulty, situational anxiety, and social factors are the factors that triggered the speaker to make slips of the tongue. In this present study, it was found that the singer made slips of the tongue because of the cognitive difficulty and social factors. Different from the present study, Widyawati (2013) examined the factors of slips of the tongue by using the theory from Saksomo (2010) that categorized the factors into external and internal to examine the slips of the tongue in the news anchor's utterances.

CONCLUSIONS

The present study examines the phenomenon of slips of the tongue made by one of the Indonesian female singers in several TV programs that

have been compiled into one video. the findings revealed that she mostly applied substitution as the type of slips of the tongue. The substitution was applied 22 times. The second-most used type was deletion (11 times). Then followed by reversal (3 times) and anticipation (2 times). The least-used types were addition, blending, haplologies, and misderivation that were applied once for each type.

Concerning the second research questions, this study revealed that the slips of the tongue was caused by the cognitive difficulty and social factors. In line with Clark & Clark (1977), speech error can occur because of social factors, situational anxiety, or cognitive difficulty.

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