PRONUNCIATION ERRORS MADE BY THE FOURTH SEMESTER STUDENTS

(A Case Study in English Department, Dian Nuswantoro University in the Academic Year of 2009/2010)

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ABSTRACT

As the learner of the foreign language, we find difficulties in our speaking, either grammatical errors or pronunciation errors. Pronunciation errors contains of slip of the tongue and pronunciation problems. This study, entitled Pronunciation Errors by Fourth Semester Students, is aimed to investigate and to describe how pronunciation errors occur in Tourism examination in fourth semester students of English Department of Dian Nuswantoro University. The data of this study are transcribed video of Tourism examination which was analyzed as follows; presenting, identifying, describing and discussing, and concluding. The results of this study show that there are seven types of slips of the tongue which substitution as the dominant one. For the pronunciation problems, there are three types of pronunciation problems, and the dominant one is two languages with similar sounds which differ only slightly in their phonetic features.

Key words: pronunciation problems, slips of the tongue, utterance

Sebagai pembelajar bahasa asing, kita menemukan kesulitan-kesulitan saat berbicara, baik kesalahan grammar atau masalah pengucapan. Kesalahan pengucapan tersebut terdiri dari slip of the tongue dan pronunciation problems. Penelitian yang berjudul Pronunciation Errors by Fourth Semester Students, bertujuan untuk meneliti dan menggambarkan bagaimana kesalahan pengucapan yang terjadi pada mahasiswa semester empat, jurusan bahasa Inggris di Universitas Dian Nuswantoro yang sedang melaksanakan ujian Tourism. Data pada penelitian ini ialah video ujian Tourism yang ditranskripkan dan dianalisis sebagai berikut; presentasi data, mengidentifikasi, menggambarkan dan membahas data, menyimpulkan. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa substitution dominan muncul dari ketujuh jenis slips of the tongue tersebut. Sedangkan kasus pronunciation problems, two languages with similar sounds which differ only slightly in their phonetic features dominan muncul dari ketiga jenis yang lain.

Kata kunci: masalah-masalah pengucapan, slip lidah, ujaran.

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of important part in our lives. As the human, we cannot form and maintain communication with others without using language. Robins (cited in Umami 2007: 1) states that "language is a unitary activity; people speak and write; and understand what is spoken and written in their own language, without necessarily being aware of such things as grammar and pronunciation."

English is one of international language which is almost used in around the world. As the learner of the foreign language, we find difficulties in our speaking, either grammatical errors or pronunciation errors. Pronunciation errors contains of slip of the tongue and pronunciation problems. According to Fromkin (in Clark, 1977: 273) slip of the tongue occurs when the speaker's actual utterance differs in some way from the intended utterance. The pronunciation errors phenomenon also comes from the students which are friends of the researcher in English Department of Dian Nuswantoro University, remembering the background of the researcher as an English student. They often make mistakes when they speak although they are English students. So, it's the underlying phenomenon that makes the researcher conducts this research. The errors may occur in pronunciation problems and slip of the tongue. So in this study, the researcher will examine the phenomenon of pronunciation errors which occur in the fourth semester students of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Dian Nuswantoro University.

Ramelan (1994) states that there are four pronunciation problems. There are will be mentioned as follows:

1. The Existence of the Phonetic Alphabets from the Foreign Sounds
2. The Different Distributions of Sounds that Similar in Phonetic Features
3. Two Languages have Similar Sounds which Differ Only Slightly in Their Phonetic Features
4. A Cluster of Sounds in Some English Words

Fromkin (in Clark, 1977: 273) Slip of the tongue is occurred when the speaker's actual utterance differs in some way from the intended utterance. Freud 1966 (in Carroll, 1985: 255) proposed that somebody misspeaks; it is an accidental expression of repressed thoughts or feeling.

Fromkin, 1971; Garrett, 1975; Shattuck-Hufnagel, 1979 (cited in Carroll 1999: 193-194) indicates there are eight types of slips of the tongue, namely:

1. Anticipation: when a later segment takes the place of an earlier one
2. Perseveration: when an earlier segment replaces a later item.
3. Exchange: when two linguistic units exchange places
4. Blend: when more than one word is being considered and the two intended items "fuse" or "blend" into a single item
5. Shift: one speech segment disappears from its appropriate location and appears somewhere else
6. Substitution: when one segment is replaced by an intruder
7. Addition: adding linguistic material

8. Deletion: deleting or omitting linguistic material

This study is aimed to investigate and to describe how pronunciation errors occur in Tourism examination in fourth semester students of English Department of Dian Nuswantoro University. This study only focused on pronunciation errors including slips of the tongue and pronunciation problems. So, the researcher makes a point of this research because it will improve the English skills with the right way. This research is hoped to be useful for the readers and for the development of linguistic intelligence.

METHOD

Research Design

The research is included in descriptive qualitative method, because the collected data are in the form of utterances which contain pronunciation errors include slips of the tongue and pronunciation problems which are spoken by the fourth semester students of Faculty of Humanities of Dian Nuswantoro University in academic year 2009/2010 who conduct Tourism final examination. In this case Tourism final examination is organized in 16 June 2009. The researcher aimed at describing pronunciation errors occurring in the fourth semester students of English Department of Dian Nuswantoro University in academic year 2009/2010 who conduct Tourism final examination.

Data

The data of this research were taken from a transcription from the original video of the fourth semester students of Faculty of Humanities of Dian Nuswantoro University in academic year 2009/2010 who conducted Tourism final examination. In this case Tourism final examination was organized in 16 June 2009 with the final destination is Mount Bromo, East Java. The participants of this examination mostly from the fourth semesters students which numbered about 40 people. The researcher determined the object of this research randomly and only took five students of the fourth semester students to be analyzed because the five students of forty students are considered represent enough as the sample of this research. This examination requires the participants had to act as if a tour guide who briefed the foreign tourists. Automatically when giving the explanation, the participants had to use English. In addition, righteously a tour guide participants in this examination also told uniqueness of each area, it could be food, customs, and history of the area. The speech duration of each participant to explain the material is minimum 10 minutes.

Unit of analysis

The unit of analysis of this research was the inappropriate utterances which contain pronunciation errors such as pronunciation problems and slip of the tongue which were made by some students.

Data Collection

The data of this study was Tourism's video of the fourth semesters students. For collecting the data was needed some steps such as got the video first, and then listen and watched the video in order to observe the students when presenting the material using English. The next step was transcribed the utterances which contained some pronunciation errors made by the students in order to make it easy in analyzing them. The last step is analyzed them.

Data Processing and Analysis

After collecting data, the researcher analyzed the data systematically by using the following steps: first, the researcher made the transcription from the utterances, and then the researcher presented the data that contain the pronunciation errors that happened in Tourism examination of fourth semester students of English Department of Dian Nuswantoro University in the academic year of 2009/2010. Second, the researcher identified the data which refer to the pronunciation errors based on Ramelan's theory (1994) and analyzed slip of the tongue based on Fromkin's theory (1971 in Carroll 1999: 193-194). Third, the researcher described and discussed the findings that are related to the objective of the study. Finally, the researcher made general conclusion by relating to the theory and research finding about pronunciation errors happened in Tourism examination of fourth semester students of English Department of Dian Nuswantoro University in the academic year of 2009/2010.

FIINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The frequency of appearance of slips of the tongue and the pronunciation problems is presented in the following tables.

Table 1 Types of Pronunciation Errors

No	Types of Pronunciation Errors	Frequency
1.	Slips of the Tongue	103
2.	Pronunciation Problems	80

Table 2 Types of Slip of the Tongue's Appearance

No	Types of Slip of the Tongue	Frequency
1.	Anticipation	3
2.	Perseveration	3
3.	Exchange	1
4.	Blend	6
5.	Substitution	41
6.	Addition	14
7.	Deletion	35
	Total	103

Table 3 Types of Pronunciation Problems' Appearance

No	Types of Pronunciation Problems	Frequency
1.	The Existence of the Phonetic Alphabets from the Foreign Sounds	20
2.	Two Languages with Similar Sounds which differ only slightly in their phonetic features	38
3.	A Cluster of Sounds in some English Words	1
4.	Other Cases	21
	Total	80

Slips of the Tongue Analysis

1) Anticipation
   Anticipations occured when a later segment took the place of an earlier one.
   For example: - *Three **pain** part that is wilah*
   (θri: pein pɒ:t ðæt ɪz wilah)

   The speaker made this error because the next word after the word
   "pain" [pein] was the word ***"part" [pɒ:t]***, so it affected the
   speaker to pronounce the sound */p/.* The sound */m/* was included
   into nasal consonant which the air goes out through the nose,
   whereas the sound */p/* was into plosive or stop consonant which
   the air meets with a complete stoppage or complete obstruction
   somewhere in the mouth. In this case, the phonological process
   was changed, from nasal into plosive consonant.

2) Perseveration
   Perseverations occurred when an earlier segment replaced a later item.
   For example: - *This is gebruk ... better than Jep.. **jhan** Kudus city*
   (ðɪs ɪz gebruk... ˈbetə(r) ðæn Jep.. jən Kudus sɪtɪ)

   It happened because she was influenced by sound */dʒ/* from the
   earlier word, which is the word ***"Jep"*** that caused her make an
   error in that utterance. The sound */dʒ/* was included into voiced
   palate-alveolar affricative which the vocal cords were in
   vibration. The sound */ð/* was a voiced dental fricative which the
   vocal cords were in vibration too. The tip of the tongue was put
   very close to the upper teeth

3) Exchange
   For example: - *It is the fourth relief... the **five lerief** that symbolize democracy
   get by the inner wisdom*
   *(ɪt ɪz ðə fɔ:θ rɪˈli:f ... ðə faɪv leˈri:f ðæt ˈsɪmbəlaɪz dɪˈmɒkrəsɪ
   get baɪ ði: ˈɪnə(r) ˈwɪzdəm)*

   He changed the location of the sound /*l*/ and /*r*/. In the sound */l/*,
   the tip of the tongue was in close contact with the teeth ridge and
   the air went out round the sides of the tongue. In the sound */r/* the
   tip of the tongue was raised in the direction of the back part of
   the teeth ridge.

4) Blend

For example: - *And to **memorite** or to appreciate him, now people put the jasmine flower in the around of the keris to make it more beautiful.*
(ən tu: ˈmeməreit ɔ:(r) tu: əˈpri: ʃieit hɪm, naʊ ˈpi:pl pʊt ðə jʌzmi:n flaʊə(r) ɪn ði: əˈraʊnd əv ðə keris tu: meɪk ɪt mɔ:(r) ˈbju:tɪfl)

That error word came from a combining or blending process, in this case blending process from the word ***"memorize"*** [ˈ***meməraiz***] and ***"appreciate"*** [***əˈpri: ʃieit]***. In the word "*memorite*" [ˈ*meməreit*] consisted of three syllables which had each own phonological process. They were nasal in the sound /m/ in the first syllable and the second syllable, while in third syllable had plosive /t/ and fricative in the sound /r/.

5) Substitution

For example: - *We turn right and direct **to south... eehm... to west** Semarang*
(wi: tɜ:n raɪt ən dɪˈrekt tu: saʊθ.. eehm.. tu: west Səmaraŋ)

In this case, the speaker substituted the word ***"west" [west]*** into ***"south" [saʊθ]*** which both of them was part of the four points of the compass. In the word ***"south" [saʊθ]*** was found two consonants they were voiceless alveolar fricative /s/ and voiceless dental fricative /θ/. Where as in the word ***"west" [west]*** was found three consonants, they were voiceless bilabial /w/, voiceless alveolar fricative /s/, voiceless alveolar plosive /t/.

6) Addition

For example: - *The keris **is has** three pain part that is wilah*
(ðə kəri:s ɪz hæz θri: peɪn pa:t ðæt ɪz wi:lah)

It should be uttered without to be ***"is" [ɪz]*** before the word ***"has" [hæz].*** The phonological process of ***"is" [ɪz]*** was voice alveolar fricative sound. It could be seen from /z/ sound of the phonetic transcription of the word ***"is".***

7) Deletion

For example: - ***It*** *called dug-deran (ɪt kɔ:ld dʊg-derʌn)*

The speaker pronounced the pattern of passive voice was incomplete form. She just pronounced the past participle *(called [kɔ:ld])* without it was preceded to be, in this case is "*is*".

Pronunciation Problems Analysis

1. The Existence of the Phonetic Alphabets from the Foreign Sounds
   Different elements in sound system between the native and foreign language may be of several kinds such as the first sound of the English word *"thigh" [θaɪ]*.
   For example: - she *explain about Kudus*
   (ʃì: ikˈspleɪn əbaʊt Kʊdʊs)

   In the word *"see" [si:]* there was a voiceless alveolar fricative /s/. Whereas in the word *"she" [ʃi:]* there was a voiceless palatoalveolar fricative /ʃ/.

   - *This monument **very** interest because... **very** interesting monument because in its foot, we can found five kinds relief there*
   (ðɪs mɒnjʊmənt verɪ ɪntrəst bɪˈkɒz... verɪ ɪntrəstɪŋ mɒnjumənt bɪˈkɒz ɪn ɪts fu:t, wi: kən faʊnd faɪv kaɪns rɪˈli:f ðeə(r)

   The speaker could not pronounce the sound *"v"* correctly based its pronunciation in English. He tended to pronounce the word that beginning with /*v*/- voiced labiodental fricative sounds seems like pronounce /*f*/- voiceless labiodental fricative.

2. Two Languages with Similar Sounds which differ only Slightly in their phonetic features
   Another difficulty may be caused by similar sound in the two languages which differ only slightly in their phonetic features. In Indonesian usually apply one letter- one sound, although there is a letter that has two sounds.
   For example: - *And there was two **jail** at that time*
   (ən ðeə(r) wəz tu: dʒeɪl æt ðæt taɪm)

   (The pronunciation error of this word was happened because the speaker as an Indonesian usually changes the sound */eɪ/* becomes */e/*)
   - ***Because** his father, Prince Made Pandan after he open the jungle and lead the village, he was called Ki Pandan Arang 1*

(Bɪˈkɒz hɪz faːðə(r), Prɪns Maːdə Paːndaːn aːftə(r) hi: əʊpən(d) ðə dʒʌŋgl ən li:d ðə vɪɪədʒ , hi: wəz kɔːld Ki: Paːndaːn Araːŋ)

(The pronunciation error of this word happened because in Indonesian language there was no sound /ɒ/- rounded half-open back vowel. It made the speaker pronounced the sound with other sounds, in this case *[bikaʊs],* the sound /aʊ/- back-back closing full diphtong, and it could be the speaker utters *[bikos]* too)

3. A Cluster of Sounds in Some English Words
   Sounds that have the same qualities in both languages may constitute some learning problem if they occur in a cluster or sequence of sounds
   For example: - *Tugu Muda is one **famous** monument in this city*
   (Tʊgʊ Mʊdʌ ɪz wʌn feɪməs mɒnjumənt ɪn ðɪs sɪtɪ)

   In Indonesian language occurred in a certain word composes by vowel-consonant or in contrary consecutively. Based on the brief explanation above, the utterance (famous) in red color above, if it is separated by each two letters, it would be as follows *"fa-mo-us"*. Each of two sounds was contained of vowel-consonant or consonant-vowel consecutively. So, it made the speaker uttered that utterance as [femos]. The speaker should utter that utterance correctly *[ˈfeɪməs]*

4. Other Cases
   It is caused by several factors that cause the five students produce some errors, such as the rule of the usage of "the" as the definite article before vowel or consonant, the pronunciation of inappropriate sound or word which is effected by another sound or words.
   For example: - *There is a... **full** curve on it*
   (ðeə(r) ɪz ə... fʊl kɜːv ɒn ɪt)

   Based on the utterance above, the speaker pronounced *"full"* as *[fɪʊl]* which sequentially consisted of four sounds both vowels and consonants. They were voiceless labio dental fricative sound /f/, unrounded half close to close front vowel /ɪ/, rounded half close to close back vowel /ʊ/, and voiced alveolar lateral sound /l/. The speaker should pronounce that word as *[fʊl].* It could happen because it had been influenced by the previous word, in this case the word *"is" [ɪz]* which also sequentially consisted of unrounded half close to close front vowel /ɪ/ and voiced alveolar fricative /z/.

   - *The average temperature in that area is 26 until 30 degree Celsius*
   (ði: ævərɪdʒ temprətʃə(r) ɪn ðæt eərɪə ɪz 26 ʌntɪl 30 dɪgri: selsɪəs)

The speaker pronounced the word ***"the"*** in inappropriate way, which was the word ***"the"*** as it was pronounced ***[ðə]*** which sequentially consisted of voiceless alveolar plosive in sound /ð/ and unrounded half open central vowel in sound /e/. Based on the standard pronunciation of this word, it should be pronounced ***[ðɪ]*** which sequentially consisted of voiceless alveolar plosive in sound /ð/, and an unrounded half close to close front vowel /ɪ/. If there was the word "***the***" ***[ðə]*** was followed by vowel (***a, i, u, e, o***) so, ***"the"*** was not uttered ***[ðə]*** but it was turned sound into ***[ðɪ]***. Based on the utterance above, the word "***the***" ***[ðə]*** was followed by vowel ***a.***

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis above, the following conclusions can be drawn.

Kinds of pronunciation error found in Tourism examination of the fourth semester students of English Department of Dian Nuswantoro University in the academic year of 2009/2010 contain seven kinds of slip of the tongue and four kinds of pronunciation problems. The seven kinds of slip of the tongue, they are anticipation, perseveration, exchange, blend, deletion, addition, substitution. Substitution is dominantly occurred than the other types. It is happened because the students pronounced the English words in hurry and monitoring condition which make them substituted some English words to others.

The five students also produce four kinds of pronunciation problems such as the existence of the phonetic alphabets from the foreign sounds, two languages with similar sounds which differ only slightly in their phonetic features, a cluster of sounds in some English words, other cases. Two languages with similar sounds which differ only slightly in their phonetic features are dominantly occurred than the other types. It is happened because in Indonesian language usually apply one letter- one sound, although there is a letter that has two sounds, in this case letter *'e'*. It can be written *[e]* and *[ė]*. Sound variety scarcely exists in Indonesian language.

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