

Slips of the Tongue and Repair Strategies in TV Show “Tonight Show Indonesia”

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ABSTRACT

The most common mistake in daily conversation is speech errors, and one of them caused by slip of the tongue. This study aimed to discover types of repair strategy in slips of the tongue which came from the speaker in the “Tonight Show Indonesia”. This study used a descriptive qualitative design, and data were taken from the transcriptions of seven YouTube videos of “Tonight Show Indonesia” that contained slips of the tongue and repairs in the conversations. To analyze the slips of the tongue and repairs, researchers used psycholinguistics approach and conversation analysis theory. This study analyzed the slips of the tongue based on Wells (1951), Hockett (1967), Fromkin (1971) and repairs in the conversation from Schegloff, Jefferson, and Sacks (1977). The results showed that there were six out seven types of slips of the tongue occurred in the conversations, namely anticipation, preservation, transpositions, substitutions, blends, counter blends, and haplogogies. The most dominant type was substitutions. The results also showed that the slips of the tongue appeared in the conversations with different types of repairs. The speaker used self-initiated self-repair more frequently than other types of repair strategy in the conversations.

Keywords: Conversation analysis, psycholinguistics, repair, speech error, slips of the tongue.

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is a system of communication that relies on verbal or non-verbal codes to transfer information and idea. Furthermore, humans produce speech to express what is in their mind, they can interact and influence each other by using language in their daily conversations. In the daily conversations, it is possible that speakers make an error or mistake while producing speech. it can happen either intentionally or unintentionally. Most common mistake in daily conversation is speech errors, and one of them caused by slip of the tongue. According to Hieke (1981), the speech production is the most complicated process, as speakers may discover some errors in their speech and they often back to repair these errors. Schegloff used the term ‘correction’ to refer to the replacement of an ‘error’ or ‘mistake’ by what is ‘correct’. The phenomena we are addressing, however, are neither contingent upon error, nor limited to replacement (Schegloff et al., 1977).

Repair is characterized as “practices for dealing with problems or troubles in speaking, hearing, and understanding the talk in conversation (and in other forms of talk in interaction)” (Schegloff, 2007), and thus

goes beyond a narrow focus on error corrections. There are two phases when the repair occurs. First, when the repair is initiated, some problems are indicated and the second is repair when the trouble is attended to or “fixed”. Beside the phases, it is necessary to distinguish which participant engages in each phase. Schegloff (2007) distinguishes between initiating a repair and ‘solving it’ or carrying it through by different parties. There are only two participants in the repair: first the speaker (self) and any other participant (other).

Schegloff divided types of repairs which carried out on the initiative of repairable speakers. According Schegloff (2007), the initiative of the speaker is called “self-initiated”, or it can be carried out on the initiative of others, which is called “self-study by others”. The repair itself can be done by the original speaker itself (self-repair), or others can take such an initiative (other-initiated repair), and the repair itself can be done by the original speaker (self-repair), or by others (other repair) (Have, 2007).

Schegloff et al. (1977) propose four types of repair strategy: 1) Self-Initiated Self-Repair (SISR), that is both initiated and carried out by the speaker of trouble source,

2) Other-Initiated Self-Repair (OISR), where the speaker is the trouble source but the repair is initiated by the interlocutor, 3) Self-Initiated Other-Repair (SIOR), whereby the producer of the trouble source initiates then the interlocutor completes it, and 4) Other-initiated other-repair (OIOR) where both initiated and repair is done by interlocutor. Repair occurs when there are some errors in the utterance, called speech error. One of the speech errors is slips of the tongue. Slips of the tongue can happen to everyone in any situation, whether formal or informal, in the processing of speech. However, not all of the speakers realized their speech error. They sometimes continue speaking without correcting the error and it is categorized as unconscious.

Slips of the tongue have been studied since long times ago. The research conducted by Dell and Reich (1985) analyzed language errors or slip of the tongue and the implication of this phenomenon has toward understanding in general how language processing works in human beings. There are 7 types of slips of the tongue (Wells 1951; Hockett 1967; Fromkin 1971): (1) Anticipations, (2) Preservations, (3) Transpositions, (4) Substitutions, (5) Blends, (6) Counter blends, (7) Haplologies (cited in Dell & Reich 1981).

Recent study about slips of the tongue conducted by Altıparmak and Kuruoğlu (2014) aims to describe whether the number of slips of the tongue of Turkish native speakers has any important differences based on age, gender, and educational background, and whether the speaker planned his/her speech in advance. Another study about slips of the tongue conducted by Zulaihah and Indah (2021) based on Fromkin's and Clark's theories. This research shows that the dominant type produced in the interview is substitution. In addition, the factors influencing slip production are cognitive difficulty, situational anxiety, and social factors.

In previous studies, research on slips of the tongue with repair strategy has not been identified. Therefore, the researchers interested to carry out this study. The researchers intend to find out the types of repairs in slips of the tongue, the dominant types of repair and slips of the tongue that are made by the speakers in the conversations of "Tonight Show Indonesia". This study aims to discover the types of repair strategy in slips of the tongue which came from the speakers in the conversation.

2. METHOD

This research uses qualitative descriptive method. The researchers explain and describe the data that occurs based on the type of repair by (Schegloff et al., 1977) and slips of the tongue by Wells (1951), Hockett (1967), Fromkin (1971) (in Dell & Reich, 1981).

According to Lambert Qualitative descriptive studies tend to represent data from naturalistic inquiry, which

declares a commitment to study something in its natural state to the extent that is possible within the context of the research field Lambert and Lambert (2012).

2.1. Data Sources

The data sources in this study were the transcription s of seven YouTube videos from "Tonight Show Indonesia" that contains repair of slips of the tongue in the conversations. The data were taken from official account of "Tonight Show Indonesia" (Tonight Show Net) on YouTube. The length of each video is 10-40 minutes with details as follows.

1. Tonight Show Premiere on December 10, 2020 (Raisa and Afgan) 16:54 minutes
2. Tonight Show Premiere on May 2, 2021 (Nessie Judge) 16:52 minutes
3. Tonight Show June 2, 2015 (Isyana Sarasvati) 23:51 minutes
4. Tonight Show Premiere April 3, 2021 (Marchel Radival) 34:21 minutes
5. Tonight Show Premiere May 9, 2021 (Adhistry Zara) 25:03 minutes
6. Tonight Show July 29,2016 (Isyana Sarasvati) 22:40 minutes
7. Tonight Show Premiere April 17,2021 (Jebung and Gita) 24:55 minutes

The data consist of transcripts of natural conversations from the videos that contain interview interactions between hosts and guests with different topics.

2.2. Data Collections and Analysis

The steps of the data collections were as follows: First, the writer watched the videos from "Tonight Show Indonesia" and paid attentions to the utterances in the conversations. Second, the writer transcribed all the utterances of the conversation in the talk show "Tonight Show Indonesia" on YouTube. Third, the writer highlighted the utterances that indicated slips of the tongue and identified the type of repair on the videos of "Tonight Show Indonesia".

This research focused on analysing conversations in interview sessions, therefore the most appropriate method was textual analysis. The steps of data analysis of research were as follows: 1) The data from the transcripts were observed and arranged in the data sheet,

2) The utterances that indicated slips of the tongue and the repair were identified and were classified based on the repair in conversations theory by Schegloff et al. (1977) and slips of the tongue theory by Wells (1951), Hockett (1967), and Fromkin (1971) (in Dell & Reich, 1981), 3) The data were interpreted, analyzed, and compared with previous related studies.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Types of Slip of The Tongue

Table 1. Slips of the tongue produced by the speakers in “Tonight Show Indonesia”

No	Types of Slips of the Tongue	Frequency	Percentage
1	Substitutions	18	50%
2	Preservations	6	16.7%
3	Anticipations	5	13.9%
4	Transpositions	3	8.3%
5	Blends	3	8.3%
6	Counterblends	1	2.8%
7	Haplogies	0	0%
Total		36	100%

From collected data, researchers found that the phenomenon of slips of the tongue were produced by the speakers in the “Tonight Show Indonesia” interviews, both by the hosts and the guests.

Slips of the tongue can be divided into seven types based on Wells (1951), Hockett (1967), Fromkin (1971), namely 1) Anticipations, (2) Preservations, (3) Transpositions, (4) Substitutions, (5) Blends, (6) Counter blends, (7) Haplogies (cited in Dell & Reich 1981). Table 1 shows the frequency of each type of slips of the tongue produced by the speakers and interlocutors during the interview in the “Tonight Show Indonesia”.

After analysing 7 videos from “Tonight Show Indonesia”, the researchers found that there are 36 Slips of the tongue occurred in the conversations with different types of repair strategies. The speakers mostly used substitution in their utterances as much as 18 times (50%). The second-most used type was preservations 6 times (16.7%). Then Anticipations 5 times (13.9%), Transpositions and blends 3 times (8.3%). The least-used type was counter blends once (2.8%). Haplogies was the type that was not used at all in the videos. In total, 36 slip words were identified based on their types of slips of the tongue. The following subchapter presents more detail explanation about each type of slips of the tongue appeared in their utterances. All of the utterances produced by the speakers (both guests and hosts) on the interview of “Tonight Show Indonesia”.

3.1.1. Substitutions

The first type slip of the tongue found in this study is substitutions, this type appeared 18 times (50%) in the videos. This type of slips of the tongue can be identified when a word is substituted by a different word. According to Dell and Reich (1981), substitutions is when some unit replaces another unit, but the origin of the unit that appears is unknown. For instance, the speaker intended to say *bad sack* but said instead *bad*

lack. Below is the excerpt from the conversation that contain substitutions:

V: “Kamu tuh udah kaya ini ya apa yang komik jepang tuh si konat”
 ‘You just like what is that in the Japanese comic, konat’
 (Target: *konan*)
 E: “*konan*”
 V: “Eh iya *konan*”
 ‘Uh, right *konan*’

In the excerpt above, the speakers were discussing about Japanese comic character called Conan, but the speaker made an error intentionally in his utterance. The speaker should have produced word “*konan*” instead of “*konat*”. The excerpt shows that the substitution word appeared was unknown.

3.1.2. Preservations

The second type of slips of the tongue that mostly appeared is Preservation. Preservations appeared 6 times (16.7%) in the conversations. This type of slips of the tongue can be identified when the error occurs as the appearance of sounds which come first in a word inappropriately also appears in the later word. Below is the excerpt from the conversation that contain Preservation:

R: “Aduh umur berapa ya itu aku, sembilan sempuluh sepuluh apa ya.”
 (Target: *sepuluh*)
 ‘Uh how old I was, nine, ten. ten I think’

From the excerpt, it can be seen that the speaker made an error in her utterance. She said “*sempuluh*” instead of “*sepuluh*” (ten). the speaker has preservation the sound /sem/ at the beginning “*Sembilan*” (nine) when saying “*sepuluh*” (ten). in this utterance “*sepuluh*” (ten) is said to be the target word and the “*sembilan*” (nine) is said to be the origin of the error. Thus, the error (*sempuluh*) occurred after the origin.

3.1.3. Anticipations

Another slips of tongue that found from the conversations in the seven videos of “Tonight Show Indonesia” is Anticipations. From the data, this type of slip of tongue appeared 5 times (13.9%) and can be identified when the sound of the following word shows up earlier.

V: “eh e menarik banget ya jadi cucul eh cucul, cucu om Acil.”
 (Target: *cucu om Acil*)
 ‘This is so interesting to become the grand child of om Acil, grandchild om Acil’

The excerpt shows that the speaker made an error in his utterance. The error occurred when he was talking about the grand child of om Acil. He said “*cucul*” instead of “*cucu*”. The sound /l/ appeared earlier because the

speaker anticipated the phoneme /l/ in the next word “*acil*” while saying the intended word. The speaker aware when the slips of the tongue occurred, then he directly repaired the wrong word with the target word.

3.1.4. Transpositions

The transpositions appeared 3 times (8.3%) in the “Tonight Show Indonesia” conversations. Dell & Reich (1981) stated that this type occurred when two units in the stream of speech are produced, each where the other one should have been. This type of error also known as *spoonerism* which was introduced by William A. Spooner. Below the excerpt from the conversation when transpositions produced by the speaker.

V: “*Papa roti papa roti ini mama keu, mama kue.*”
(target: *kue*)
‘papa bread papa bread this is mama cake’

The speaker unintentionally uttered the word “*keu*” instead of “*kue*” (cake). His slips of the tongue belong to transpositions because the two units transpose the place or exchange the place. Two initial phonemes /u/ and /e/ were exchanging its place. The speaker aware of the error, he immediately corrected with the right word.

3.1.5. Blends

Blends occurred 3 times (8.3%) in the seven videos of “Tonight Show Indonesia”. This type of error occurs when the speaker unintentionally combines some elements of two different words and produce a new word. The example is presented below.

V: “*Pasti lebih banyak aplikasi-aplikasi musik ya di hpnya?*”
‘It must there are more music applications on your phone, right?’
I: “*benul, betul.*”
(Target: *betul*)
‘right’

Word blend types of slips of the tongue occurred in the utterance above. The speaker was answering the question and unintentionally made an error which involved to the word blend type in which she was combining two words of *benar* (right) and *betul* (correct), then produce the intended word of *benul*. In this case the speaker should have said “*betul*” (right), but she ended up saying “*benul*” as the combinations of “*benar*” and “*betul*”. This type of error happened because she confused which word she would use, the word “*benar*” and “*betul*” has the same meaning.

3.1.6. Counterblends

The least-used type of slips of the tongue, counterblends. This type occurred one time (2.8%). According to Hockett (1967), this type of slips of the

tongue occurs after a person produces blend, he or she may, on a second blend that uses the elements left over from the first blend.

I: “*Patah hati itu bukan soal cowok aja, beneng ngga, benul ngga, betul kan?*”
‘Broken heart is not always about guy, is that right?’

Counter blend types of slips of the tongue occurred in the utterance. It showed that the speaker said “*beneng ngga, benul ngga*” instead of “*betul*” (right) she did the blend word twice in her utterance. The first blend is “*beneng*” the combinations of two words “*benar*” and “*ngga*”, then she tried to correct the word but instead produce the new blend “*benul*”, which is the combination of “*benar*” and “*betul*”. As mentioned above, the second one used the elements “*ben*” left over from the first blend.

3.2. The types of Repair Strategies

Table 2 shows that the participants used all the types of repair strategies by (Schegloff et al., 1977) which are Self-Initiated Self-Repair (SISR), Other-Initiated Other-Repair (OIOR), Other-Initiated Self-Repair (OISR), Self-Initiated Other-Repair (SIOR).

The following subchapter presents more detail explanation about each type of repair strategy that speakers used whereby the error appeared in their utterances. All of the utterances produced by the speakers (both guest and host) in the interview of “Tonight Show Indonesia”.

3.2.1. Self-Initiated Self-Repair (SISR)

From the data above, the speakers mostly used this type of repair. The speakers indicate the trouble source, then initiate and complete the repair by their self. In the analysis this repair strategy appeared 17 times (47,2%). This repair strategy occurs when participants identify a trouble source in their own speech and replace it with something they perceive to be more correct or appropriate within their own turn.

Table 2. Strategies of repair that frequently used by the speakers when slips of tongue occurs.

NO	Types of Repair strategies	Frequency	Precentage
1	Self-initiated self-repair	17	47.2 %
2	Other-initiated other-repair	11	30.6%
3	Other-initiated self-repair	5	13.9%
4	Self-initiated other repair	3	8.3%
Total		36	100%

D: “Ya apa kabar semuanya? Mudah-mudahan dalam keadaan sehat walafiat dan selalu terapkan protocol kesehatan 3M; Mencuci jarak, eh menjaga jarak.”

‘Alright, how are you? Hopefully in good health and always apply the 3M health protocol; Wash the distance, uh keep the distance’

V: “Mencuci tangan dan memakai masker.”

‘Wash hands and wear mask’

The excerpt above is the opening of talk show while they are discussing about health protocol. The trouble source appeared when the speaker said “*mencuci jarak*” (wash the distance), the speaker indicated the trouble, and he immediately repaired his utterance. Replaced the utterance with “*eh menjaga jarak*” (uh keep the distance). This excerpt is in accordance with Schegloff et al. (1977) theory, which showed how *Self-Initiated Self-Repair (SISR)* used by the speaker. The speaker’s initiation showed when he said “eh” and then repaired with other word.

3.2.2. Other-Initiated Other-Repair (OIOR)

The second types of repair strategy that speakers mostly used is *Other-Initiated Other-Repair (OIOR)*. This strategy is whereby the trouble source is indicated and repaired by the interlocutor. According to Schegloff et al. (1977), other-initiated repair is used by a hearer to indicate to the prior speaker that he or she has trouble in hearing or understanding an utterance or part of the prior speaker’s utterance. From the analysis, this strategy appeared 11 times (30.6%).

V: “Kenapa gue tadi bilang ini hikmah pandemic karena mereka berdua ini juga. Gue ngga tau gita, gita sering ikutan ajang pencarian jakat?”

‘That is why I said wisdom of pandemic because they both talented. I do not know if Gita often participates in the show?’

G: “Ajang pencarian bakat maksudnya?”

‘You mean the talent show’

In the excerpt, the participants were discussing about the talent show. The speaker asked the interlocutor about the interlocutor had participated on the talent show. The error appeared in his utterance, he said “*jakat*” (tithe) instead of “*bakat*” (talent). In order to make a funny impression, he left the word and was corrected by interlocutor. The interlocutor initiated and repaired the utterance by saying “*ajang pencarian bakat maksudnya?*” (you mean the talent show?).

3.2.3. Other-Initiated Self-Repair (OISR)

According to (Schegloff et.al., 1977) this type of repair refers to the situation when the initiation of repair is given by interlocutor, while the speaker does the repair completion. This strategy used by the speakers 5 times (8.3%). The following excerpt is the sample of *Other-Initiated Self-Repair (OISR)*.

V: “Si teori Darwis aja sampe sekarang belum kelar.”

‘Until now the Darwis theory has not been solved’

D: “Darwin?”

V: “Iya Darwin”

‘Yes Darwin’

In the excerpt, the speaker and the interlocutor were discussing about conspiracy theories, and one of them is Darwin theory. The speaker indicates trouble source when he said “Darwis” instead of “Darwin”. The interlocutor initiated to say the right word then the speaker repaired “*iya Darwin*” (yes Darwin).

In the conversations, the participants used OIOR strategy to correct slips of the tongue in his utterance. This can be seen from the initiation the interlocutor gave to the speaker when the speaker had slips of the tongue in his utterance and repaired it by himself.

3.2.4. Self-Initiated Other-Repair (SIOR)

Self-Initiated Other-Repair (SIOR) is the least type of repair strategy used by the speakers. The speaker indicates the trouble source but the interlocutor does the repair. In the analysis this type appeared 3 times (8.3%).

M: “Dukun kebanyakan dari hasil korban dukun”

‘Mostly Shaman is the result of shaman’s victim’

H: “Berarti dia pinter gitu maksudnya?”

‘Do you mean he is smart’

A: “Iyaa”

‘Yes’

D: “Jadi, dukun itu dari korban dukun hasil dar has duk korb apa itu tadi?”

‘So, the shaman is the shaman’s victim result from sha, what was that?’

M: “Ya jadi dukun tuh hasil dari korban dukun”.

‘So, the shaman is the product of the shaman’s victim’

D: *Nah.*

In the conversations above, the participants were discussing about magician and shaman. The speaker is the trouble source and he noticed that there is an error in his utterance, which is Transpositions. He was confused in arranging words, so he changed the relative positions and sequence of his words. The excerpt above showed that the speaker had a speech error, and he initiated the repair. However, the person who completed the repair was interlocutor. The speaker in the conversation initiated the repair by asking to the interlocutor “*apa itu tadi?*” (What was that?), then the interlocutor repaired the trouble source “*ya jadi dukun tuh hasil dari korban dukun*” (so the shaman is the result of the shaman’s victim).

3.3. Interpretation

Based on the analysis, the slips of the tongue occurred in the “Tonight Show Indonesia”. From seven videos, there were found 36 slips of the tongue produced by the

speakers which are Anticipations, Preservations, Transpositions, Substitutions, Blends and Counter blends. The type of slips of the tongue that was not found in the conversation is *haplogies*. The dominant type of slips of the tongue that occurred in the conversations is substitutions. It is to be the most frequent from entire type which has appeared 50% and the least type is counter blend which occurred only one time (2.8%). The results in this study were similar to previous studies conducted by Pramudita and Masitha (2017), Mustofa and Akhmad (2018) that the dominant type of the slips of the tongue is substitutions. According to Mustofa and Akhmad (2018), Substitutions also known as a Freudian slip happened when the speakers made a speech error which is linked to the unconscious mind. Furthermore, this study also analysed how the speakers repair the error in their utterances.

When the speakers made a slip of the tongue in their utterances, they tend to repair the utterance with the repair strategy as mentioned by Schegloff et al. (1977). The data in this study showed that participants used all the types of repair strategies. Although some did not use it on purpose to make a funny impression, ignored the word and was corrected by interlocutor. The dominant type of repair strategy is *Self-initiated self-repair* (SISR). The use of SISR as the repair strategy from the utterances mostly because the speakers notice the error and they directly repair their utterance by themselves.

4. CONCLUSION

The slips of the tongue can happen to everyone in any situation, whether formal or informal, in the processing of speech because the phenomena of slips of the tongue happen beyond the speaker's control. The present study examines the phenomenon of slips of the tongue and the repair strategy that speakers used in the conversations.

When slips of the tongue occur in conversation, it can be corrected or not. Slips of the tongue can also be done intentionally or unintentionally. Therefore, sometimes people do it on purpose to be funny to amuse their interlocutors. As well as repair strategies when the speaker slips of tongue on purpose, usually that person leave it for someone else to fix the utterance.

This study shows that substitutions is type of slips of the tongue that the most appeared in the conversations, and the speakers tend to repair their utterance when the slips occurred. Moreover, the speaker used self-initiated self-repair more frequently than other types of repair strategy in the conversations.

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