






An English Grammatical Construction of Students' Request Speech Act via Multimedia Elicitation Task

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Abstract. At conversation class, actually the students who learn English language produce an interlanguage. This study analyses grammatical construction in request speech act produced by 41 students. This research used Multimedia Elicitation Task to collect the spoken data, meanwhile the data analysed by using distributional analysis based on English grammatical construction. The result indicated that interlanguage appeared in students' requests utterance. The constructions are classified into (1) V – A construction (2) S – V – O construction (3) S – V – O – A – A construction (4) S – V – O – O construction (5) S – V – O – V – A construction (6) S – V – A construction (7) S – O construction (8) S – V – O – V – O construction (9) S – V – O – O – A construction (10) S – V – O, S – V – O construction (11) S – A construction (12) V – O construction (13) V – V – O construction and (14) S – O – A construction.

Keywords: Grammatical construction · English request speech act · Multimedia Elicitation Task

1 Introduction

In learning target language (L2), actually the students produced an interlanguage. This phenomenon often appears in the process of target language learning. It can be seen from the inappropriate grammatical construction such as missing subject, missing verb, missing object, missing preposition, and missing adverb, and even the student produced wrong subject, wrong verb, wrong object, wrong preposition, and wrong adverb. This interlanguage phenomenon can be considered as a normal matter in the target language learning. As stated by Selinker, interlanguage is a separate linguistic system based on the observable output which results from a learner's attempted production of a target language norm [1]. He also mentioned some factors that can cause interlanguage, such as language transfer, transfer of training, strategies of second language acquisition, strategies of second language communication, Overgeneralization of L1, and fossilization.

2 Literature Review

2.1 Interlanguage

According to Selinker, interlanguage is a separate linguistic system based on the observable output which results from a learner's attempted production of a target language norm [1]. This definition is cited by Song who said that Selinker introduced 'interlanguage' which is taken from Weinreich's term 'interlingual' that refers to language system produced by foreign language learner [2].

Tarone in Riyanto also supported Selinker interlanguage definition by saying that interlanguage is language types produced by L2 learners in language learning process [3]. According to Selinker, there are some factors that can cause interlanguage such as (1) Language transfer (2) Transfer of training, (3) Strategies of second language acquisition (4) Strategies of second language communication (5) Overgeneralization of L1 (6) Fossilization [1].

Based on the theories above, it can be concluded that interlanguage is student's language which are produced in the process of target language learning. The interlanguage phenomena can be caused by some factors mentioned above.

2.2 Basic English Sentence Patterns

The basic sentence patterns include seven patterns consisting of SV, SVO, SVC, SVA, SVOO, SVOC, and SVOA types. This pattern is generally applicable to all sentences in English Quirk [4].

According to Greenbaum and Nelson, the following elements (main sentence constituents) function in the basic sentence structure [5]:

1. SV: Subject + intransitive Verb
Someone (S) is talking (V).
2. SVA: subject + verb + adverbial complement
My parents (S) are living (V) in Chicago (aC).
3. SVC: subject + linking verb + subject complement
I (S) *feel* (V) *tired* (sC).
4. SVO: subject + transitive verb + direct object
We (S) have finished (V) our work (dO).
5. SVOO: subject + transitive verb + indirect object + direct object
She (S) has given (V) me (iO) the letter (dO).
6. SVOA: subject + transitive verb + direct object + adverbial complement
You (S) can put (V) your coat (dO) in my bedroom (aC).
7. SVOC: subject + transitive verb + direct object + object complement
You (S) have made (V) me (dO) very happy (oC).

3 Methods

This research is aimed to describe and to analyse the grammatical construction in request strategy produced by the students. That is why the method used in this research is

descriptive qualitative. The method and technique of collecting data becomes the most strategic step in doing research to get the data. According to Sugiyono, the data collecting technique is the most strategic step in doing research because the main goal of doing research is getting the data [6]. The method used in this research is recording method. Mahsun said that, recording method is used to get the data by listening and analyzing the language use, both written and spoken [7]. Recording a spoken language use means that a researcher record once language use, such as when he talk or giving a speech [7].

The collecting data technique used in this research is required by using Multi Media Elicitation Task. Multimedia Elicitation Task is an instrument based on computer which is provided eight scenarios with different contexts. The student is asked to produce request speech based on the demands of eight contexts in the scenario has been read by them. The spoken data is required by using visual input and audio input on Multimedia Elicitation Task (MET) [8]. Multimedia Elicitation Task is an instrument based on computer which is provided eight scenarios with different contexts. The data is taken from 41 students, and each student produced eight utterances. The total data from the students' utterance is 328 data.

The method for analyzing the data used in this research is distributional method. This method is using the language features which appear as a decision tool (Djajasudarma & Citraesmana) [9]. Distributional method used to split data based on specific criteria from structure and function, sentence category and grammatical category. Finally, the data is classified by factors which is influenced on interlanguage.

4 Results and Discussion

In this part, the students' utterances of request strategy are analysed according to the word category and the word function. After that, the analysis is classified into the factor that causes interlanguage in the sentences. The interlanguage data found in this research consist of fourteen English grammatical construction.

4.1 V – A Construction

Based on the results of data collection in the field, it is found that data 1 shows symptoms in terms of interlanguage pragmatics. Based on the classification in the form of word types, data (1) shows that there are modality (modal auxiliary), verbs, preposition, article, and noun that form a speech. Viewed from the function side, it indicates the appearance of word functions in the form of predicate and adverb which are preceded by a modifier. A good speech consists of two functions which are the minimum requirements, namely subject and predicate. Thus, the data illustrates that there are linguistic problems in the utterance. The subject, which should be the pronoun *you*, does not appear in the speech. Meanwhile, the preposition *for* is not correct in its application for the predicate move away. The correct preposition to replace *for* is *from*. In more detail, it can be seen as follows.

Data 1	Excuse me,	would	move away	for	the	door?
Type		M.Aux	V	Prep.	Art.	N
Function	Modifier		P		Adv.	

The acceptable speech based on the demands of the context can be observed as follows.

Excuse me!	Would	you	move away	from	the door?
		Pron		Prep	
Modifier		S	P		Adv.

For data (1), the correct utterance can be stated by bringing up the pronoun *you* as the subject and the preposition *from* which is before the article *the*.

4.2 S – V – O Construction

Next, data (2) also indicates problems related to subjects. In addition, confusion is also found in using articles that are paired with inaccurate nouns. The data in question is constructed by stating the type of interjection, modality (modal auxiliary), pronoun (subject pronoun), verb, article, and noun. Observed from the point of view of the word functions, the utterance in this data fulfills the acceptable speech requirements (in terms of word placement), that is, it fulfills the requirements for a subject and predicate equipped with an object. However, based on the use of types of words, there are errors in the use of a pronoun that functions as subject (*you*) and a noun phrase consists of article and noun (*a books*).

For more details, data (2) related to the types of words and functions of words in utterances can be seen as follows.

Data 2	Hello,	can	you	borrow	a	books?
Type	Interjection	M.Aux	Pron.	V	Art.	N
Function	Modifier		S	P	O	

From the utterance in the data above, information is obtained that the placement of the subject is correct, but the choice of the subject is not what is expected. Meanwhile, the article “*a*” which requires the presence of a singular noun cannot be paired with the plural noun “*books*”. To see the use of pronoun as subject, article and noun as an inappropriate object, here are the appropriate comparative utterances to be uttered based on the demands of the context at the time of data collection.

Hello,	can	I	borrow	a book.
Interjection	M.Aux	Pron.	V	Art. N
Modifier		S	P	O

4.3 S – V – O – A Construction

Another utterance in the form of request strategy discussed in this section is data (3). In this data, there is an error or the absence of pronouns and prepositions. The related data starts from the presentation of data below.

Data /3	Sorry, guys!	Can	you	louden	her voice	in class?
Type		M.Aux	Pron	V	Poss.Pron. N	Prep. N
Function	Modifier		S	P	O	Adv.

Based on the presentation of data above, it is obtained that the utterance in the form of request strategy is formed by the use of several types of words. The types of words that become the construction of are arranged sequentially consisting of modality (modal auxiliary), pronoun (subject pronoun), verb, possessive pronoun, noun, preposition, and noun. In terms of the functions, the utterance indicates the existence of subject, predicate, object, and adverb. Although based on the functions it can be fulfilled, there is confusions in the utterance in terms of the use of inappropriate types of words. In the noun phrase “*her voice*”, there is a mismatch of ideas related to the use of the pronoun in the context with the subject “*you*”. For that mistake, the phrase “*her voice*” should be aligned to “*your voice*” to fulfill the proper context meaning in the utterance which has a subject reference in the form of “*you*”. As for other errors related to prepositions, it can be observed in the data, precisely at the end of the utterance with the phrase “*in class*”. The phrase “*in class*”, if corrected according to the context of the research, should be “*at class*”. The adjusted preposition is from the preposition “*in*” to “*at*”. Further information regarding the correct utterance based on the context can be seen in the result of the corrections below.

Sorry, guys!	Can	You	louden	your voice	at class?
	M.Aux	Pron	V	Poss.Pron. N	Prep. N
		S	P	O	Adv.

4.4 S – V – O – O Construction

In this section, the data described regarding the absence or error of the subject, object, and preposition in the speech are codified as part of the data reviewed. The following data (4) shows the problems related to this.

Data 4	Would	you	to borrow	me	A	book?
Type	M.Aux	Pron	To inf. V	Pron	Art.	N
Function		S	P	O	O	

The utterance in data above showed that there are types of words including modality, subject pronoun, verb, object pronoun, article, and noun that form the unity of the utterance. Observed in terms of existing word functions, the utterance in this data fulfills the acceptable speech requirements (in terms of word placement), that is, it fulfills the requirements for having a subject and a predicate equipped with an object. However, there is an error in using the infinitive verb *to borrow* as a predicate, where the correct verb is *lend*. Another mistake in this utterance is the placement of the pronoun *me* as the subject, where the object in the utterance should be the noun phrase *a book*, followed by the preposition *for* before ending with the pronoun *me*. In more detail, this data can be seen as follows.

Data 4	Would	I	borrow	a book?
Type	M.Aux	Pron	V	Art. N
Function		S	P	O

4.5 S – V – O – V – A Construction

In this section, the explanation regarding interlanguage pragmatics is continued by reviewing some data that show linguistic problems in the use of both missing and incorrect verbs. The data that initiate the analysis in this section is data (5). The data indicates an utterance with construction based on word types consisting of modality (modal auxiliary), pronoun (subject pronoun), verb, pronoun (object pronoun), infinitive verb “*to*” (to infinitive verb), preposition, article and noun. Based on the word function, the utterance illustrates a construction that meets the requirements as an utterance in terms of structure, namely subject, predicate, object, and complement. However, it different from what is expected when referring to the data that became the context in the study. There are three elements that should not need to be uttered (need to be removed), namely the verb *show*, the pronoun *me*, and the use of *to* in the second verb.

Based on the utterance contained in the scenario, the utterance construction that becomes the research result can be observed as follows.

Data 5	Can	you	show	me	to move away	from	the door?
Type	M.Aux	Pron.	V	Pron	To Inf. V	Prep	Art. N
Function		S	P	O	P		Adv.

Meanwhile, the utterance that should be based on the context applied in this study are as shown below.

<i>Can</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>move away</i>	<i>from</i>	<i>the door?</i>
<i>M.Aux</i>	<i>Pron.</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>Prep</i>	<i>Art. N</i>
	<i>S</i>	<i>P</i>		<i>Adv</i>

4.6 S – V – A Construction

Furthermore, the data related to prepositional problems is data (6). The data presentation can be observed as follows.

Data 6	Excuse me, Madam!	Can	You	move away	from	to	the door?
Type		M.Aux	Pron	V	Prep.	Prep.	Art. N
Function	Modifier		S	P			Adv.

In terms of the use of types of words, the data above fulfills the requirements in its construction. However, there is still an error regarding the use of prepositions. Sequentially, the data shows the composition using modality (modal auxiliary), pronoun (subject pronoun), verb, preposition, article, and noun. It seems clear that the mistake occurred is the use of different prepositions in the same placement. The correct preposition is “*from*”. Therefore, the use of the preposition “*to*” is inappropriate, so it needs to be eliminated in the utterance. In terms of function, the utterance of the request strategy indicates the existence of a subject, predicate, and adverb. There is no problem in the function of the utterance structure. To correct the mistaken use of the prepositions in question, the following is the correct utterance based on the research rules and context.

Excuse me, Madam!	Can	you	move away	From	The door?
	M.Aux	Pron	V	Prep.	Art. N
Modifier		S	P		Adv.

4.7 S – O Construction

Data (7) shows indication in terms of interlanguage pragmatics. Based on the classification in the form of types of words, the data shows that there are modality (modal auxiliary), pronoun (subject pronoun), possessive pronoun, adjective, possessive pronoun again, and noun that form the utterance. In the terms of functions, the data indicates the presence of word functions in the form of a predicate and an object. This data illustrates that there is a linguistic problem in the utterance. The subject, which should be the pronoun *you*, does not appear in the utterance. In more detail, it can be seen as follows:

Data 112/7.8	Hello, Sis.	Can	I	your	Louden	your	voice?
Type		M. Aux	Pron	Poss.Pron	Adj.	Poss.Pron.	N
Function	Modifier		S		P	O	

The acceptable utterance is as follows.

Data 7	Hello, Sis.	Can	you	louden	Your	voice?
Type		M. Aux	Pron	V	Poss.Pron.	N
Function	Modifier		S	P	O	

4.8 S – V – O – V – O Construction

Data (8) is symptomatic in terms of interlanguage pragmatics. Based on the classification in the form of word types, it shows that there are modality (modal auxiliary), pronoun (subject pronoun), verb, pronoun (subject pronoun), infinitive verb “to” (to infinitive verb), article, and noun which form the unity of the utterance. Viewed in terms of functions, the data indicates the appearance of the word function in the form of a subject. A good speech consists of two functions which are the minimum requirements, namely subject and predicate. This data illustrates that there is a linguistic problem in the utterance. The predicate which should be the verb *borrow* does not appear in the speech. In more detail, it can be seen as follows:

Data 8	Can	You	show	me	to borrow	a book?
Types	M.Aux	Pron	V	Pron	To inf. V	Art. N
Function		S	P		P	O

The acceptable utterance is as follows.

Data 8	Can	I	borrow	a book?
Type	M.Aux	Pron	V	Art. N
Function		S	P	O

4.9 S – V – V – O Construction

Data (9) shows that there are types of word including modality, subject pronoun, verb, infinitive verb, article, and noun. Observed in terms of existing word functions, this utterance fulfills the requirements of an acceptable utterance (in terms of word placement), that is, it fulfills the conditions for having a subject and predicate. However, there is an error in the use of the infinitive verb *to borrow* as a complement, where the use of the verb *lend* as a predicate is sufficient to complete the utterance. Apart from that, the utterance also does not indicate the appearance of the pronoun which functions as an object, namely the pronoun *me*. For more details, the complete display of this data can be seen as follows.

Data9	Excuse me.	Could	you	lend	to borrow	a	book?
Type		M.Aux	Pron	V	To inf. V	Art	N
Function	Modifier		S	P	P	O	

The acceptable utterance is as follows.

	Excuse me.	Could	you	lend	Me	a	book?
Type		M.Aux	Pron	V	Pron	Art	N
Function	Modifier		S	P	O	O	

4.10 S –V–O, S– V–O Construction

The data presented hereinafter is part of the discussion of interlanguage pragmatics which indicates a tendency in the use of prepositions. For more details, the resulting utterance form can be observed in data (10) as shown below.

Data 10	Bro,	get out	the way,	because	I	am	wash	to	my hand!
Type		V	Art. N	Conj.	Pron	V	V	Prep	Poss.Pron. N
Function	S	P	O		S		P		O

Based on the data presentation, it is known that there are several types of words that are composed into a request strategy utterance. The types of words used by the speaker in the data are verb, article, noun, conjunction, pronoun (subject pronoun), to be (“be” verb), verb, preposition, possessive pronoun, and noun. Observed in terms of the functions contained in the request strategy utterance, information is obtained that it basically fulfills the functions, namely subject, predicate, object and complement.

However, there are some errors in the placement of words in the utterance, causing confusion with the accompanying functions. Although there are some errors, the focus of the description on this occasion is the misuse surrounding the use of prepositions. To see some of these mistakes, it is presented as corrections that adjust to the demands of the context as planned at the time of the data collection.

Bro,	Move	from my way,	because	I	want	to wash	my hand!
	V	Prep. Poss.Pron. N	Conj.	Pron	V	To inf.V	Poss.Pron. N
S	P	Adv.		S	P	P	O

4.11 S – A Construction

On this occasion, there is a data that indicates the inaccuracy or lack of the elements forming the proper utterance construction. The interlanguage pragmatics problem in question is the absence of verbs, objects, articles, and prepositions in the utterance.

Data (11) shows that there are types of word including modality, subject pronoun, adjective, and noun that form the unity of the utterance. Viewed from the function perspective, this data does not indicate the appearance of one of the functions which is the minimum requirement for a correct utterance, namely a subject and a predicate. Thus, this data illustrates that there are linguistic problems in the utterance. Verb that should be *show* does not appear in the utterance. The object pronoun *me* and the noun phrase *the way* also do not appear in the utterance. In addition, the article *the* does not appear to precede the word *hospital*, which is also not preceded by the preposition *to*. In more detail, this data can be seen as follows.

Data 11	Excuse me, Sir!	Could	You	Nearest	hospital?
Type		M.Aux	Pron.	Adj.	N
Function	Modifier		S	Adv	

The acceptable utterance is as follows.

	Excuse me, Sir!	Could	you	show	the	way	to	the	nearest	hospital?
Type		M.Aux	Pron.	V	Art	N	Prep.	Art.	Adj	N
Function	Modifier		S	P	O				Adv.	

4.12 V – O - Construction

Data (12) is symptomatic in terms of interlanguage pragmatics. Based on the classification in the form of types of words, this data shows that there are modality (modal

auxiliary), adjective, possessive pronoun, and noun that form the unity of the utterance. Viewed from the function perspective, it indicates the appearance of a word function in the form of an object without a subject and a predicate which is preceded by a modifier “*excuse me*”. A good utterance consists of two functions which are the minimum requirements, namely subject and predicate. Thus, this data illustrates that there are linguistic problems in the utterance. The subject and predicate which should be the pronoun *you* and the verb *louden* do not appear in the utterance. In more detail, the data can be seen as follows:

Data 12	Excuse me.	Would	louden	your voice?
Type		M.Aux	Adj.	Poss.Pron. N
Function	Modifier		P	O

The acceptable utterance is as follows.

Data 12	Excuse me.	Would	you	louden	your voice?
Type		M.Aux	Pron	V	Poss.Pron. N
Function	Modifier		S	P	O

4.13 V – O – O Construction

Data (13) show symptoms in terms of interlanguage pragmatics. Based on the classification in the form of word types, it shows that there are internal modifier, addressee, modality (modal auxiliary), possessive pronoun, article, and noun which forms the unity of the utterance. In the from of function perspective, it indicates the appearance of the word function in the form of an object. A good speech consists of two functions which are the minimum requirements, namely subject and predicate. This data illustrates that there are linguistic problems in the utterance. The subject which should be the pronoun *you* does not appear and the predicate which should be the verb *lend/give* does not appear in the utterance. In more detail, it can be seen as follows:

Data 13	Excuse me, Miss!	Would	your	a	book!
Type		M.Aux	Poss.Pron	Art.	N
Function	Modifier			O	

The acceptable utterance is as follows.

	Excuse me, Miss!	Would	you	lend	me	the	book!
Type		M.Aux	Pron	V	Pron	Art.	N
Function	Modifier		S	P	O	O	

4.14 S – O – A Construction

The result of data collection on data (14) shows symptoms in terms of interlanguage. Based on the classification in the form of word types, this data shows the existence of pronoun, modality (modal auxiliary), article, two nouns, preposition, and noun that forms the unity of the utterance. Viewed from the function perspective, this data indicates the appearance of the word functions in the form of subject, object and adverb. A good utterance consists of two functions which are the minimum requirements, namely subject and predicate. This data illustrates that there is a linguistic problem in the utterance. The predicate which should be the verb *show* does not appear in the utterance. In more detail, this data can be seen as follows:

Data 14	Hallo, Man!	you	can	the	way	road	to	hospital
Type		Pron	M.Aux	Art	N	N	Prep	N
Function	Modifier	S		O			Adv.	

The acceptable utterance is as follows.

	Hello, Man!	Can	you	show	me	the	way	to	the	hospital?
Type		M.Aux	Pron.	V	Pron	Art	N	Prep	Art.	N
Function	Modifier		S	P	O	O				Adv.

5 Conclusion

Interlanguage sentences in the requests speech act produced by the students are classified into (1) V – A construction (2) S – V – O construction (3) S – V – O – A – A construction (4) S – V – O – O construction (5) S – V – O – V – A construction (6) S – V – A construction (7) S – O construction (8) S – V – O – V – O construction (9) S – V – O – O – A construction (10) S – V – O, S – V – O construction (11) S – A construction (12) V – O construction (13) V – V – O construction and (14) S – O – A construction. Thus, there are 14 constructions related to interlanguage pragmatic utterances in expressing requests. Several sentence construction errors in the request utterances are reflected in the V – A, S – O, S – A, V – O, V – V – O, and S – O – A constructions. These constructions have a unique construction because it is not an English construction. The phenomenon can be considered as fossilisation that can be caused by some factors such as language transfer from source language (SL) into target language (TL), transfer of training, learning strategy, communication strategy, and overgeneralization,

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