

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

In daily conversation, frequently human may misunderstand while they are listening to other people. It occurs because the listener fails to get the message delivered by the speaker. The setting and the topic of the conversation can influence the listener how she/he get the message. The situation can make the listener misunderstand the message and it happens spontaneously to the listener.

Misunderstanding may happen while people are talking to each other. Even though they use their first language in the communication to deliver the message, sometimes the listeners still misunderstand while they are doing conversation. Here is the example of slips of the ear experienced by teenager English learners while conversation happens in a study course. This is the real phenomenon that happened while the writer asked his student to make conversation directly:

Example (i):

A: I want to go doctor next year.

B: Was your ear sick? or something else?

A: No, I said you, if I will go to the doctor next year, it's not my ear sick.

B: Oh, sorry, I heard if your ear is getting trouble.

Example (i) was experienced by teenager English learners. That conversation happened in the English course in Sidoarjo. The native language both of them in the example is Indonesian language. From the conversation above, it was told by one of the writer's students that talked to his friend. They are 13

years old. From that example, B has misperceived “year” as “ear” so that B thought that A got trouble with his ear. B person made a mistake because these two words have similar sound. These words have initial sound [j] and the final sound [r]. She failed to perceive the sound [j] becoming [i]. It can make her confuse to determine those words in a sentence. That is why, the listener must pay attention carefully to the topic of the utterances.

Here is another example that comes from the conversation in Indonesian language between a brother as (B) and her sister (S) who is 13 years old. It was a real incident and it happened in the house.

Example (ii):

B: *Dek ambilin kemucing di Teras.*

take a feather duster in the terrace

S: *Di teras nggak ada kucing ma*

there is no cat, mom

B: *Loh bukan kucing, tapi kemucing.*

It is not cat, but feather duster.

From that conversation above, that happens in daily conversation between a brother and a sister when the brother asked her sister to take a ‘kemucing’ (meaning feather duster) in the terrace but the sister perceived it as ‘kucing’ (meaning cat). That example showed that the sister misperceived the word ‘kemucing’ as ‘kucing’. The sister as listener has misunderstood because she cut the middle sound [e], [m] as kucing. These two words also had the same initial sound [k] and the final sound [ŋ].

From those two examples, they show what has been experienced by the native speakers. As we can see, the occurrence of misunderstanding or mishearing may happen in the mother tongue of the listener in daily conversation. From the

first example in the previous paragraph, the conversation happened in the study course. There are a lot of other students and the situation was quiet because it was formal event. In addition, from the second example, the setting was at home. There were two persons only in the house. The situation was quiet. Those examples were the misunderstanding or mishearing in quiet situation and noisy situation.

From those example above, it showed that some people might have experienced mishearing in their life. Mishearing happens in various age. It can happen in children, teenager and adult. The setting is one of the factors that can mishearing occur while perceiving the utterances speaker.

The mishearing phenomenon is known as slips of the ear (SOE) or Mondegreen. According to (Balmer 2007) the term Mondegreen is usually found in the slips of the ear (SOE) of a song lyric, or a phrase, or in particular that are usually misperceived by many people. In psycholinguistics, mishearing or slips of the ear are such an error of perceiving speech experienced by a listener (Field 2003). Slips of the ear (SOE) is one of areas of study within psycholinguistics.

Psycholinguists have investigated the process that deals with the error or slips of the ear. Slips of the ear is kind of the error is affected by human's mind and language. There are many causes that may make the slips of the ear happen, such as setting, in which can be divided into two, noisy and quiet situation. these situations can be dealt by any speakers, whether they are native speakers or foreign speakers. It can be caused by the age of them, either children, teenagers, or adult. There are three stages in comprehending the message of utterances. They

are auditory stage, phonetic stage, and phonological stage (Clark and Clark 1997). From the examples showed these stages can experience from the listener who listen to the speaker until the listener can understand the speech sound of the message delivered by the speaker.

Further, there are some previous studies related to mishearing which are Vitevitch (2002) study is about naturalistic analyses of word frequency and neighborhood density effect in slips of the ear. Linell (2015) study that is about mishearing based on contextual assumptions and situational affordances.. Hutajulu (2016) study is about mishearing experienced by early Indonesian adolescents in perceiving speech with different rates. Cahyani (2018) investigated slips of the ear experienced by the students of SDN Karang Pilang I Surabaya Grade 1-3 in perceiving speech within Noisy Situation. Artikah (2018) studied slips of the ear experienced by Indonesian students in grades 4-6 of SDN Mojo VIII Surabaya in noisy situation.

Regarding the previous studies, two of them which are Linell and Vitevitch were conducted toward adult. Then, Hutajulu's study was conducted toward adolescents. The two last researches which are Cahyani and Artikah were conducted toward children.

Therefore, this study focused on teenagers because in teenagers phase, they are in the stage of cognitive development. It means they are able to increase on the ability to make sentence form comprehensively. The writer wants to explore the slips of the ear phenomenon, especially experienced by Indonesian teenagers. This research only focuses on teenagers age 13-15 years old who use

two languages, namely Indonesian language and Javanese language, and in the noisy situation. It needs to conduct toward the other subject which is teenagers. It is worth to analyze because there are no previous studies that analyzes teenagers. This study is a part of an on-going project conducted by (Syukri 2018) entitled “slips of the ear Experienced by Indonesian Teenagers in the Perception of Casual Conversation”.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Regarding the background of the study, this study attempts to examine the types of slips of the ear experienced by Indonesian teenagers aged 13-15 years old in perceiving teenagers’ speech within noisy situation. There are two questions for this study:

1. What are types of slips of the ear experienced by Indonesian teenagers aged 13-15 years old in perceiving teenagers’ speech within noisy situation?
2. Which type of slips of the ear is the most experienced by Indonesian teenagers aged 13-15 years old in perceiving teenagers’ speech within noisy situation?

### **1.3 Objective of The Study**

1. To identify the types of slips of the ear experienced by Indonesian teenagers aged 13-15 years old in perceiving teenagers’ speech within noisy situation.

2. To find out the most frequent type of slips of the ear experienced by Indonesian teenagers aged 13-15 years old in perceiving teenagers' speech within noisy situation.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study.**

This study is expected to make theoretical contribution to the field of psycholinguistics, especially for the study speech perception and is also expected to help the psycholinguistics in giving information to those who are interested in doing observation the phenomenon slips of the ear in teenager. Slips of the ear occur very often in daily conversation. Furthermore, this study is expected to make practical contribute for parents and teacher regarding the language ability of the teenagers through the findings of the study. That is why need to conduct more on this field. This study is expected to give benefit to the reader in order to give the information about language understanding performed by teenager in perceiving the utterances.

#### **1.5 Definition of Key Terms.**

- Slips of the ear : is a phenomenon where a listener hears speech spoken by the speaker different from the intended message (S. Z. Bond 2005)
- Speech perception : The processes by which people decode spoken message (Gleason and Ratner 1998).
- Noisy situation : there is an unwanted signal while the processing of communication (Vaseghi 2008).

Teenagers : the transition life between childhood and adulthood (Kaplan 1995). The range of age starts thirteen to nineteen (UNICEF 2011).