

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In communicating, every speech produced is not always successful and effective although producing speech in communication has been done along with increasing age. There are various events when someone experiences messages hinder from the communicator to the communicant. One of the interferences is the inability of conveying words verbally, even though the words are known in the participant's brain or participants can even get the mental image. In spite of a word form, someone could still be obstructed in conveying verbally. This phenomenon is called Tip of the Tongue (TOT). In definition, tip of the tongue is the phenomenon of failing to retrieve a word or term from memory, combined with partial recall and the feeling that retrieval is imminent based on Brown (1991). The phenomenon of tip of the tongue was first described as a psychological phenomenon in the text *The Principles of Psychology* by William James (1890).

The occurrence of tip of the tongue could be experienced in many situations. In test situation, a student was unable to get the clear answer or the target word of the answer even she/he known the page or the context of it. In searching for stuff, the person has the ability to know the size, the colour, the smell, or the function but the target word couldn't say in the mouth. The followings are the example of utterances in the tip of the tongue:

1) A: *What's the capital of Canada?*

B: *Otta... It's on the tip of my tongue. Otta...Ottawa!*

In the first utterance above, the participant B showed the occurrence of tip of the tongue. Additionally, participant B has recognized that he was experiencing tip of the tongue. Furthermore, participant B got stuck since that participant was only retrieved the first syllable of the target word. But then, in retrieving the complete target word, the participant B reiterated the first syllable before that participant could retrieve the target word completely. It can be said that in the process of retrieving target word from the participant memory, the activated information was only the partial information as initial syllable instead of the complete target word. Therefore, the participant occurred the failure moment of retrieving word.

2) A: **showing picture of grasshopper* tau apa ini?*

B: *aaa..belalang!*

The second utterance above based on the researcher's pre-observation. From the utterance, Participant B showed the failure moment to retrieve the target word directly. It marked by the *aaa* utterance preceding the target word. Even though the participant unconsciously in the TOT state, the tip of the tongue state was indicated by sound *aaa* produced by participant B. From these two examples, the experience of tip of the tongue can be identified explicitly or implicitly in the produced utterances. Furthermore, the partial information can still be retrieved in the occurrence of the tip of the tongue.

In Psycholinguistics, tip of the tongue is particularly studied and known as one of the linguistic phenomena. Additionally, Psycholinguistics explores the study of the mental representations and processes involved in the language, which includes comprehension, production, and storage of spoken and written language (Warren 2014). The process of retrieving word in utterance deals with production in speech. Additionally, the production of speech is related to the memory dan mental lexicon in the human brain. The process of retrieving the closest word in psycholinguistics is linked to lemma-based content information (Syukri 2018).

In accordance with mental representation, Psycholinguistics also deals with the related aspects of the speech production process. Tip of the tongue is an extreme form of microplanning pause (Butterworth and Beatie 1978). Specifically, pause is one of hesitation in the study of psycholinguistics. Hesitation is not stated as error in speech, it referred to the function of quality control device to anticipate errors occurring in speech, as well as to repair them once they have occurred (Reed 2000). As the form of microplanning pause, the tip of the tongue state can also be associated with identification pauses that occurred. According to Dalton and Hardcastle (1977), pauses can be associated into unfilled pause and filled pause.

The first empirical research on this phenomenon was undertaken by Harvard researchers Brown and McNeill and published in 1966 in the *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behaviour*. In short, their study wanted to know whether the feeling of imminent retrieval experienced in the tip of the tongue state was dependent on the actual ability to retrieve or only an illusion. Among the findings in the study of Brown and McNeill (1966), tip of the tongue can be identified into

several states. The states are intended word in which positive (TOT) and negative (TOT) state; Explicit guesses in number of syllables, initial letter, similar sound, similar meaning; unfilled pause; and filled pause. These states would be explored further in this study.

According to Schwartz (1999), the occurrence of TOT stated as normal or universal experiences among people of all languages and cultures. It was proved in his study that in their survey of languages, nearly 90% of the languages expressed the feeling of temporary inaccessibility using the same “tongue” metaphor as in English. Besides, tip of the tongue accompanied with the *feeling of knowing* (FOK) (Brown and McNeill 1966).

Children, young adults, and older adults have been studied concerning TOT (A. S. Brown 1991). In general, the aging research of Burke et al. (1991) suggests that older adults are more prone to TOTs on a daily basis, have fewer target-word fragments and related words come to mind during the TOT, and take a less active role in resolving the TOT. Additionally, people in adult ages are often express concern about memory difficulties (Brown 1991). Additionally, Ecke and Garret (1998) stated that TOT states also frequently arise with the first language words. From the study, the researcher sees the interesting occurrence of TOT in Indonesian adults. Additionally, the number of researches of TOT in Indonesian was rarely to be conducted.

In recent years, several studies in tip of the tongue have been conducted in Indonesia. In the study conducted by Afrilita (2015) entitled *Tip of the Tongue to*

Indonesian Participants: Implication for the Lexical Access the Model. She examined the occurrence of TOT in Indonesian participants by focusing on the implications of visible lexical access models and looked at the influence of phonotactics complexity. Another study entitled *Tip-of-the-Tongue Analysis in Indonesian Language Participant: A Case of Study* conducted by Rahman et al. (2017) that focused on finding the potential TOT and the degree of Indonesian participant recalled of target word in TOT condition. There is also Thalib (2017) which conducted a study about tip of the tongue entitled *An Analysis of Tip-of-the-Tongue on Students' Classroom Presentation*. This study discovered the existence of tip of the tongue error on students' classroom presentations. In summarized, these studies were conducted with various significance of study without emphasized on the characteristic of tip of the tongue based on Brown and McNeill (1966). Particularly, none of those studies used stimulus materials as suggested by Brown (1991).

Brown (1991) stated that tip of the tongue could be elicited by variety of stimulus materials. Furthermore, he stated that TOT occurred in several conducted studies which are in faces, simple line drawings, nonsense syllable pairs, and odours. Additionally, he stated that the most naturally TOT are triggered by names of personal acquaintances, followed by names of famous persons and objects. Besides, he gave direction to further research that the scope of TOT research should be expanded on the subjects and materials. In attaining the significance of the study about variance of the study, picture naming task used as the instrument to elicit TOT. Furthermore, this study is interesting to be conducted to investigate tip of the

tongue in Indonesian adults in Surabaya, especially in picture naming. This study is part of research project by Masitha Achmad Syukri as the lecturer of Psycholinguistics in English Department at Universitas Airlangga entitled *Tip of the Tongue Experienced by Indonesian People in Picture Naming*.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The phenomenon of tip of the tongue is possible to be experienced among people of all languages and cultures, regardless of age. It would be interesting to identify the state of tip of the tongue experience in adults, especially in Indonesian. Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher formulated the research questions as follows:

1. How is the state of tip of the tongue experienced by Indonesian adults in Surabaya in picture naming?
2. What is the frequency of each state of tip of the tongue experienced by Indonesian adults in Surabaya in picture naming?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In concern with the statement of the problem above, there are two objectives provided in this study. First, this study is aimed to analyze how the state of tip of the tongue are experienced by Indonesian adults in Surabaya in picture naming. Second, this study aims to discover the frequency of each state of tip of the tongue which occur in Indonesian adults in Surabaya in picture naming. Thus, the state of tip of the tongue experienced by Indonesian adults in Surabaya in picture naming could be identified.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is conducted to give contribution in the psycholinguistics fields in Universitas Airlangga, especially about tip of the tongue. Expectantly, the finding of this research could become the reference for the other researchers who are conducting research on the similar topic. Practically, the finding of this study is also expected to provide helpful information about tip of the tongue experience, especially in adults.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In this research, several definitions are given to avoid misunderstanding of its used:

1. *Tip of the Tongue*: the phenomenon of failing to retrieve a word or term from memory, combined with partial recall and the feeling that retrieval is imminent (Brown 1991)
2. *Tip of the Tongue State*: This is the state of mind in which a person is unable to think of the word, but it feels sure on the verge of coming back. The states are positive TOT, negative TOT, explicit guess in number of syllables, initial letter, similar sound, similar meaning, unfilled pause, and filled pause. (Brown and McNeill 1966)
3. *Speech Production*: the processes of transforming a non-linguistic conceptual structure representing a communicative intention become a linguistically well-formed utterance (Bock 1995)

4. *Memory Retrieval*: the process of accessing stored information from memory (McLeod 2007)
5. *Lexical Storage*: the way in which lexical items are organized for optimal accessibility in the lexicon (Field 2003)
6. *Picture Naming*: a basic linguistic skill requiring the integration of multiple component processes by naming a picture (Heath, et al. 2012)