

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the study

People need communication in their daily life. It is important to socialize with other people, give advice, and deliver an opinion. One of the skills is needed to communicate with people is speaking. Harmer (2007: 284) states that speaking is the ability to speak fluently and presupposes not only knowledge of language features, but also the ability to process information and language on the spot. As a human being, nobody is perfect and also with our speech. In daily life, people usually have errors or mistakes while produce speech whether it is spontaneous and unspontaneous. It means the errors make misunderstanding between the speaker and listener. The errors while speaking usually common to do with people that in a psycholinguistic field known as slips of the tongue. According to psychologist Gary Dell (1990), slips of the tongue are significant because they show a person's widespread knowledge about language, including its sounds, structures, and meanings. Slips of the tongue can occur when sounds, structures, and meanings represent differently from intended words. For example, in sound errors, instead of saying "night life" one says "knife light". Then, in the morpheme error, instead of saying "a cup of tea" one says "a tea of cup". Because the sound and structure have errors, definitely, after slips of the tongue occurred the meanings also different.

Slips of the tongue can occur in two different types, they are conscious and unconscious. According to Freud (1963), speech errors or slips of the tongue are caused by the intrusion of repressed ideas from the unconscious into ones conscious speech output. Someone can consciously made slips if they realized their slips and revised it into the intended words, while the speaker made slips unconsciously, they did not correcting the slips and just continue to speak. The following are examples of slips of the tongue produced by Donald Trump and Joe Biden in presidential debates based on the writer's observation:

1. *Utterance : African Americans has been killed because of the cona the corona virus*

*Target utterance: African Americans has been killed because of the corona virus.*

For example above it can be seen that the speaker consciously made slips. They realized that the cona is unintended words and revised it into the corona virus.

2. *Utterance : he says to about the poor boys*

*Target utterance: he says to about the proud boys*

The second utterance above presents slips of the tongue that occurred unconsciously and it is happened when the person did not correct their errors and still continuing their speech. In George Bush's interview, one example of slips of the tongue found. President America has a lot of making slips while he was talking with the

interviewer. In 2016, George Bush performed on stage to explain invisible wounds by LCpl John-James Chalmers. During the interview, George Bush had many mistakes while produce utterances. For example, he said the “anything anybody can talk more argument”. Bush wants to say anybody, but he made slips became ‘anything’. He substituted word anything from anybody. After made slips, he corrected his words and said the right words. It means that he realized the slips and corrected them, but sometimes he also didn’t correct them and just continue the interview.

Another case can be found in Finandra’s research in 2017, she researched Indonesian bilingual children while talking with their families. The children made mistakes when talking about the contents of the 4<sup>th</sup> Pancasila. The children said *‘Hikmat kebijaksanaan dalam musyawaratan – permusyawaratan perwakilan*. The children made slips in their utterances. The target of an utterance might be ‘permusyawaratan’. However, he corrects his mistake by change the words of musyawaratan into permusyawaratan. Slips of the tongue can influence sound, syllable, or whole word and change their locations between two or more words in speech.

This research of slips of the tongue is related to some studies that have been conducted previously. Jeager (1992) studied slips of the tongue that will be happened to children and adults. She observed that children made less vocal feature errors than adults. Ulfa (2016) did research about slips of the tongue which focused on George W Bush’s interview. In his research, the most dominant type of slip of the tongue is substitution. On the other side, there is various kind of factors influencing the

occurrence of slip of tongue. The most dominant factor which influenced George W Bush's slip tongue is cognitive difficulty because he got confused in choosing the right word for his speech. This condition highly affects slips of the tongue on him.

Luki (2016) also conducted research about slips of the tongue in a constitutional court that was made by Prabowo's witnesses. He investigated 9 witnesses and found 4 types of slips of the tongue in the utterances that they are produced. By his research, it can be concluded slips of the tongue can happen in the constitutional court and word substitution is the most common slip. Another research done by Sudibjo (2017), analyzed slips of the tongue in college debate and used combination theories from Fromkin (1973) and Harley (2001). Finandra (2017), examined 11 different types of slips of the tongue that occurred in the utterances made by children aged 7-9 in Yogyakarta used Javanese and Indonesian. It happened because the word substitution has a pattern. The similarity in word class was found to be a pattern. The most common slip is word substitution with a total of 6 slips of the tongue.

The writers above had already observed slips of the tongue in a different age, from young until the eldest one. However, the research that observe slips of the tongue that occur in the presidential debates are rarely. As the previous explanation, slips of the tongue can happen with anyone and in any situation. It means slips of the tongue also can happen with official states, especially in this case is in the presidential debates. Therefore, the study about slips of the tongue in the presidential debate is interesting to be researched further.

In debate activity, people have limited time to deliver their utterances. The debaters should give their opinion with the efficiency of time. There are moderator who lead the debate and they give a few duration times to the debaters. There are big possibilities to make mistakes or slips while produce speech, especially in debate activity when each of the speakers is only given few minutes to deliver their arguments. Because of their slips, the media made the news that related to Donald Trump and Joe Biden slips. And then this research also explained how the relation between their slips of the tongue and speech production. However, psychological conditions also can make the debater do some slips. For example, they are in a distracted condition, anxious, and under pressure. People in the elderly also have more big opportunity to do some slips. Altiparmak & Karuoglu (2014) confirmed that age is one of the factors why slips of the tongue happen. However, in this cases, Donald Trump and Joe Biden is in 70s age who have big opportunity to did the slips.

Slips of the tongue can be happened in everywhere, instead, it is a formal or non - formal situation. It is happened because slips of the tongue occurred in the unplanned things. However, the phenomenon of slips of the tongue can be found from different ages, whether it is children until adults. The writer analyze slips of the tongue produced by Donald Trump and Joe Biden in Presidential debates 2020. In this debate, Donald Trump and Joe Biden debate about how to fight COVID 19, American Family, American races, climate change, national security, immigration, poverty, state aid, and leadership problems. The writer use two parts of the videos to analyze the slips of the

tongue. Analysis of Slips of the tongue in presidential debates are important because presidential debates to convincing their thoughts and ideas to another person especially the audience to persuade the electors. And also this study to increase knowledge about slips of the tongue in presidential debates, especially in a formal situation to the reader who interests in the presidential debates with politics topic.

The study of slips of the tongue has a significant role in understanding how the speakers make the error and affect how they communicate. In this study, the research will be focused to analyze the type of slips of the tongue and also the most frequent types of slips of the tongue. The purpose of this study is to describe slips of the tongue in the debate forum, especially by state officials by using Harley's (2001) theory. This study may contribute to psycholinguistic fields. It is becoming an interesting phenomenon due to the limited research was done in debate especially in forum situations. Because of presidential debates from the respected people and from politics area, some media reported their slips and made it becomes sensitive issues.

In larger and more sensitive cases, many errors in speaking languages such as language slips can create diplomatic problems between countries (Kawano, Matsuo 2002). The awareness to made slips of the tongue from the candidates are important things to this study. The media made their slips of the tongue as the viral news and it can made different misinterpretation. However, slips of the tongue important to research further because in psycholinguistic fields, it has relation with speech production in human. This study is significant to be investigated because the utterances

of Donald Trump and Joe Biden as the two public figures have a big impact on the audience to represent their arguments.

### **1.2 Statements of the Problems**

1. What are the types of slips of the tongue found in utterances produced by Donald Trump and Joe Biden in presidential debate in US?

2. What is the dominant type of slips of the tongue found in the utterances produced by Donald Trump and Joe Biden in presidential debate in US?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1. To describes types of slips of the tongue produced by Donald Trump and Joe Biden in presidential debate in US.

2. To identify type of slips of the tongue that is more dominant in utterances produced by Donald Trump and Joe Biden in presidential debate in US.

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

The finding of this study are expected to give both theoretical and practical contribution in linguistic studies. Theoretically, the findings of this study are expected to give new insights into psycholinguistic fields, especially slips of the tongue in formal situations including the presidential debates. On the other side, it is expected to give information and contribution for other people such as debaters, state officials, politicians, students, linguists or who are interested in studying slips of the tongue and

doing in similar field research . This study also expected to give implementation of the theory about phenomena of slips of the tongue especially in political discourse. Practically, this study is expected to help people to be more aware and well prepared in their speech because their opinions will be heard by the electors. It is also give the information how important to aware slips of the tongue because it is can make misinterpretation between the speaker and listener. Slips of the tongue will be added benefits to soul of evidence planning in speech production.

### **1.5 Definiton of Key Terms**

In this research, several definitions of key term used to avoid misunderstanding of its used.

1. Slips of the tongue : Harley (2001) stated that slips of the tongue are errors which involve the sounds or words of the language, and provide a window onto the processes of speech production. Types of slips of the tongue proposed by Harley (2001) are: (1) feature perseveration, (2) phoneme perseveration, (3) phoneme anticipation, (4) phoneme exchange, (5) phoneme deletion, (6) affix deletion, (7) word blend, (8) word exchange, (9) morpheme exchange, (10) word substitution, and (11) phrase blend.
2. Speech Production : Garrett (1992) argued that we produce speech through a series of discrete levels of processing. There are three of Garrett's



models of speech production, it is the process of conceptualization, formulation, and articulation.

3. Presidential debates : Presidential debate is a medium of communication for the community to be more familiar with the vision and mission of each candidate in addition to political campaigns. (Manaf, Herfani 2019)