

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

People need language to communicate with each other. In order to be understood by others, they are supposed to speak correctly. Yet, sometimes people can't avoid a mistake, in this case is *slip of the tongue*. According to Fromkin (1973), a speech error (or slip) is an unintentional movement, addition, deletion, blending or substitution of material within an utterance or between utterances. This means that the speakers say something they did not mean to say. People can often realize it when they have made a slip. It's a sudden realization that what just came out of their mouth was not what they had been planning to say.

Slips of the tongue have been intensively studied for years and considered as a rich source of data for models of speech planning and production. Harley (1995) 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. He studied speech errors as a way of understanding normal brain functions. When things go wrong in speech production, the slips of the tongue can tell us something about how the typical, error-free operation should go. Analysis of speech errors shows that production occurs in stages, with content words and function words being accessed at different stages, with some interaction between levels of processing. From the study of speech errors, it was suggested that people generally plan to say what they want to say then put their plan into execution, but

not all go well in everyday speech. In practice, there are two fundamental problems of speech production. First, people have not always fully formulated their plans before they began to execute them. They are planning to say next while executing what they had planned before which results in a variety of error. Second, people have difficulties in forming the articulatory program to guide articulatory muscles in producing sounds. These problems are part of the slips of the tongue which increasing when the speakers are nervous or under pressure.

Slips of the tongue are almost inevitable. According Pincott (2012), for every 1,000 words spoken, we make one or two errors. Considering that the average pace of speech is 150 words a minute, a slip is bound to occur about once every seven minutes of continuous talk. Each day, most of us make somewhere between 7 and 22 verbal slips.

One example of slips of the tongue can be found in speech performed by Senator Ted Kennedy. Presidents and other politicians have a lot to say and have not much time to say it; the message often gets lost on its way from the brain to the mouth and comes out in funny, embarrassing, and memorable quotes. In 2007, Ted Kennedy was giving a speech about education that was aired on C-SPAN. The late senator often moved his hands when he spoke and his voice conveyed a sense of urgency that made pulses race. "Our national interest," he said, "ought to be to encourage...," his strong hands cupped the air, "the *breast*." Without hesitation, the senator backed up and started again. This time it came out right: "The *best* and brightest."

Another case can be found in speech performed by Indonesian politician Megawati Soekarnoputri in the final presidential debate in 2009. In her speech Megawati said "...Kita adalah suatu negara Kepulauan Terbesar di Dunia, yang sangat unik yang dibatasi oleh dua samudra Besar, Pasifik dan Hindia, dua benua Australia dan *Amerika*...". What she meant to say is "... dua benua Australia dan *Asia*..". However, she did not correct her mistake and kept on delivering her speech.

As mentioned in Jaeger (2005), many writers have been collecting and analyzing slips of the tongue for different kinds of reasons. Originally slips of the tongue were considered a window to the subconscious mind. More recently they have been taken as a rich source of evidence regarding the mental representations and operations involved in speech production planning, and they have also been used to address controversial issues of linguistic structure in specific languages.

In previous studies, Fromkin (1973) wrote a journal article entitled *Speech Errors as Linguistic Evidence*. She collected more than six hundred slips by herself or by colleagues and friends who reported the slips they have made for over three years. Jaeger (1992) observed phonetic features in young children's slips of the tongue. Poulisse (1999) also conducted a research on slips of the tongue under the title "Slips of the Tongue: Speech Errors in First and Second Language Acquisition". Another research done by Kharisman (2008) on slips of the tongue occurred in the speaking class of English Letters and Language Department students of UIN Malang. Rimawati (2009) also conducted a study about Kids' and Adults' Slips of the Tongue Found in EF (English First) Malang.

The writers above had already observed slips of the tongue in kids' and adults' in formal situation such as in a classroom or English course; however, there are only a few writers that observe about slips of the tongue which occur in formal situation in electronic media such as television. Slips of the tongue can happen to anyone. This means slips of the tongue might also happen to television news presenters. Situational anxiety may be one of several factors that caused slips of the tongue. If the speaker is tense, their speech planning and execution become less efficient. During live broadcasts on television, for example, nonprofessional speakers and even hosts often make speech errors because they are nervous or under a lot of pressure. A study concerning slips of the tongue on television especially news presenters has been conducted; however, it has not been studied as much as the other research in similar field; therefore, the study about slips of the tongue in news presenters' utterances is interested to be researched further.

A television news presenter is the person who presents a newscast in the studio. Often, a man and woman are paired as co-anchors to be the faces of the station both on-air and in the community. Their roles are important because they are the ones who have to turn a day's variety of news stories into a cohesive TV program. News presenters are required to use perfect grammar, syntax, pronunciation, and tone — no matter in what physical and psychological conditions they might be. It is important to articulate each word clearly when we want to communicate information; therefore, news presenters have to be able to read quickly without stumbling and make sure that each word stands on its own

and not blend into another word. They must have language skills to handle live broadcasting, interviewing and ad-lib situations from the studio in orderly, and professional manner. News presenters also have to be able to ask a question to a reporter especially in the case of breaking news when there is no time to write scripts.

Based on the explanation about the requirements of qualified news presenters above, they are supposed to be able to deliver the news perfectly; yet, they still make mistakes during the news casts. It proves that people who can speak fluently are not impossible to make slips. Therefore, slips of the tongue are considered important to be researched. They tell us a great deal about what we seem to know about our language and how we use this knowledge to speak and to understand what others say to us.

In this study, the writer conducted a research about slip of the tongue produced by Indonesian television news presenters. The television station that was chosen as the source of the data is Kompas TV. This television station was chosen because it is an Indonesian television network owned by Kompas Gramedia Group which publishes Kompas daily, one of leading newspapers in Indonesia. It means that the news presenters of this station are qualified to deliver the news without mistake. This study eventually wants to know if slips of the tongue occurred in adults' speech in formal setting. The slips of the tongue in this research were analyzed using combined types of slips of the tongue categorization by Fromkin (1973) and Harley (1995). Furthermore, this research is also under an umbrella research conducted by Masitha Achmad Syukri in English Departement

of Universitas Airlangga Surabaya in 2014 entitled Slips of the Tongue Produced by Indonesian Adults in Formal Situation.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Mismatches between intention and output are very much possible to occur in natural speech; therefore, slips of the tongue can happen to anyone. Based on the phenomena above, this study uses the types of slips of the tongue proposed by Fromkin (1973) and Harley (1995) to examine several problems as follows:

1. What are the types of slip of the tongue found in the utterances of news presenters of Kompas TV?
2. What is the dominant type of slip of the tongue found in the utterances of news presenters of Kompas TV?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problems above, the main purpose of this study to identify and classify the types of slip of the tongue found in the utterances of the news presenters of Kompas TV. This study also aims to find out the dominant type of slip of the tongue which the television news presenters produce.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study are supposed to give both theoretical and practical contribution in linguistics studies. Theoretically, the findings of this study are expected to be one of the sources in Psycholinguistics study especially slips of the tongue in speech production occurring in adults. It is expected to give

information and contribution for other people such as lecturers, students or linguists who are interested in studying slips of the tongue and doing in similar field of research. Practically, this study is expected to help news presenters or those who wants to be a news presenter to be more aware and well prepared in their performance in order to minimize the occurrence of slips of the tongue. This study is also expected to help the readers to be more prepared in delivering speech in formal situation.

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

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the key terms used, the writer divided several terms:

#### **1. Slips of the Tongue (SOT)**

An unintentional movement, addition, deletion, blending or substitution of material within an utterance or between utterances (Fromkin, 1973). There are 7 types of slips of the tongue that are proposed, namely: anticipation, perseveration, transposition, substitution, deletion, blend, misderivation, and haplology.

#### **2. Speech production**

The production of spoken or written language. The processes of speech production fall into three broad areas called conceptualization, formulation, and encoding (Levelt, 1989).

#### **3. Television news presenter**

A person who presents a newscast in the studio of TV station whether it is on air or off air.