

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the study which consists of background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, clarification of related terms, and organization of paper.

1.1 Background

People speak to others and listen to other's utterances every day. It is the way they keep communicating with others. In daily conversations, people speak when they want to deliver messages or ideas, or share their experiences with other people. On the other hand, people listen to other's utterances if they think that the utterances are important or interesting. These situations can happen in formal and informal occasions.

In a conversation, it cannot be denied that sometimes people fail to perceive the utterances correctly. This is when slips of the ear happen. Slip of the ear is a phenomenon where a hearer fails in perceiving messages and how the hearer recognizes words (Bond, 2005).

Most people cannot hear the words, which are being uttered, clearly in crowded places or there are some sounds which can cause misheard or slips of the ear. Besides, slips of the ear can happen because of a similar sound of word or phrase in speech or conversation (Nordquist, 2013). In English, for example, "quiet" and "quite" have almost similar sounds in pronunciation but have different meanings. Slips of the ear can show the way people catch what another speaker tends to say by looking at their linguistics knowledge. When the hearer perceives differently from what the speaker has said, the hearer tries to recover the utterances (Bond, 2005).

In fact, when people listen to music in a different language from their own mother tongue, misperception might occur. It cannot be determined whether the hearer misperceives the lyrics because of the "noise", the unfamiliar words, or dialects and accents (Field, 2004). In slips of the ear, the speaker produces the words correctly but the mistake is made by the hearer. Some sounds of music

instruments can affect the perception phonemes or words. It can be called as “noise” (Vitevitch, 2002).

The first phenomenon of slips of the ear is called ‘Mondegreens’. It is because the misheard of the line “And laid him on the green” and because of that misheard, slips of the ear can be usually called as ‘Mondegreens’.

The errors, however, are not only made by second language learners, native speakers also make errors in listening. The line *This slope is Treacherous* in Taylor Swift’s song, titled ‘Treacherous’, is perceived as *This love is Treacherous* by people (Lyrics Mania, 2014).

The phenomenon slips of the ear is interesting to be investigated because slips of the ear can happen everyday in every conversation but not many linguists have investigated this field (Perwitasari, 2003). There are some related previous studies which deal with slips of the ear. Kusumarasdyati (2005) discusses that slips of the ear, which are performed by non-native speakers, could occur in four linguistic levels: phonological, morphological, lexical, and sentential. When people could not hear what words had been said by the speaker, they would try to interpret the words as close as the original by omitting, adding or substituting the sounds, morphemes, words and sentences. The slips of the ear can occur for some reason, it can be the unfamiliar words, lack of lexical knowledge, and dialect. It cannot be denied that sometimes the listener perceives non words or adds words and the result is different from the original utterance. Perwitasari (2013) investigated the slips of the ear by focusing on the vowel perception. In her study, Perwitasari argues that the long and short vowel sounds (the vowel sound /I/ and /i:/) are difficult to distinguish by Indonesian learners of English (Perwitasari, 2013). Meanwhile, Setiyawan and Widyastuti’s (2014) state that consonants /g/, /r/, /k/ and /dʒ/ are frequently misperceived more by Surabaya indie rock music singers than vowels. Only vowel /ɔ:/ was misperceived by Surabaya indie rock music singers. The errors occurred in their phonetic knowledge when they listened to music.

Among those three previous studies, none of them investigates slips of the ear which occurs in listening to music. Those previous studies focus on slips of the ear which occur in listening to conversations. Therefore, the present study

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aims at transcribing the utterances by examining the slips of the ear which uses songs as the media of analysis. In addition, this present study uses Bond's (2005) slips of the ear theory as the main theory in analyzing slips of the ear.

1.2 Research questions

In order to achieve the aims of this study, two questions are formulated as follows:

1. In lexical level, what errors are made by the students?
2. In syntactical level, what errors are made by the students?

1.3 Aims of the study

This study aims to investigate the phenomenon of the slips of ears performed by English Education Department students, specifically in lexical and syntactical level.

1.4 Scope of the study

This study focuses on how the students perceive the song lyrics based on Bond's (2005) theory of slips of ear. The songs which are used to conduct this study are "Out of the Woods" by Taylor Swift and "Guns and Horses" by Ellie Goulding. The subjects of the research are ten students from English Education Department of Indonesia University of Education.

1.5 Significance of the study

This present study is expected to provide both theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the result of the study provides further explanations of slips of the ear study, particularly slips of the ear in listening the song. Practically, the study is useful for the analysts who are interested in the study on slips of the ear among Indonesian students. Finally, the present study is expected to give some contributions and worth information for the analysts who are concerned on slips of the ear study.

1.6 Clarification of the key terms

To avoid misunderstanding, some of important terms are clarified as follows:

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1. **Slip of the ear** is an error of misperception in listening by mistaking a word or phrase because of a similar-sounding word or phrase in speech or conversation (Nordquist, 2013).
2. **Lexical** is a part of semantics. Lexical definition is a definition of a common word or a definition which is stated in dictionary (Ernawati, 2011).
3. **Syntax** is the study of rules which describe the way words fit together to form well sentence (Thomas, Beginning syntax, 1993).

1.7 Organization of paper

The paper is organized into five chapters. Each chapter contains several points which give a detail and specific explanation of the information. The first chapter is *Introduction* that provides the background of the study, study questions, aims of the study, significance of the study, scope of the study, clarification of key terms, and organization of the paper. The second chapter presents *Literary Review* that covers the related concepts and theories used to answer the study questions. The third chapter contains *Study Methodology* that explains and represents such methods in conducting the study and the tool of analysis. The fourth chapter contains *Finding and Discussion* of the study, the analysis of data, the result of the study, and the answer of study questions. The last chapter presents and provides conclusion of the study, its result, and several recommendations for further study.