



Research Article

An Analysis of Speech Error made by Character Dory in “*Finding Dory*” Movie

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Abstract: The purpose of this study is to analyze the types and factors of speech errors that uttered by character Dory in “Finding Dory” movie. This study used descriptive qualitative approach. The source of the data is “Finding Dory” movie. Furthermore, the data was collected through watched and transcribed the utterances of Dory that indicate the speech errors. In total there are 90 data of speech errors that identified and classified based on Clark & Clark’s (1977) theory into eight types. Those are predominantly categorized as repeats with total 30 data, followed by silent pauses with 25 data, filled pause with 12 data, interjection with 9 data, unretraced false starts 5 data, retraced false starts 4 data, stutters 3 data, and correction with 2 data. The speech error in Dory’s utterances is mostly influenced by her cognitive cognition.

Keywords: Psycholinguistics, Speech error, Finding Dory, Short-term memory loss

1. Introduction

Language has a crucial role in human life to communication and interaction between individuals. According to Wati (2024), language as a tool for communication is to share the thought, ideas and feelings to others trough verbal and non-verbal communication. It means that trough language, we can build relationships, share knowledge and express ourselves in various context. Using language for communication also make easier for us to understand what the other people want to convey (Pratiwi, et.al, 2023). However, to make successful communication it requires using effective language so that the messages can be conveyed clearly and accurately.

To produce language or speaking that can convey messages effectively, there are several factors that must be considered. The speakers need to consider the choice of the right words, construct grammatically correct sentences and articulate the words clearly and fluently (Leong et.al, 2017). However, there are some situations when the message cannot be deliver effectively due to various factors such as cognitive impairment, stress, fatigue that can lead the disruptions in language productions. One of the phenomena that can occur when there is disruption language production is speech error.

Speech error refers to the mistake that occurs during language production which can impact the clarity and effectiveness of communication. In addition, Bencini (2017) stated that speech error also known as a slip of the tongue is defined as a deviation from what the speaker intended to say. Speech error can be caused by

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various factors such as, cognitive overload, linguistic complexity, neurological disorder and etc. Pamuji (2010) stated that speaker will making some errors or have a problem of their speech production is caused by loosing memory when they want to articulate certain words, phrases, clauses or even sentences. According to Utami (2023), the speech errors can be in the form of silent pauses, long pauses, adding the word "*emm, aaa, uhm*" (filled pauses) and repeated several words. Therefore, understanding the causes and types of speech error is essential for gain insight into how language is processes in the brain to use in communication.

This speech error is not only limited to individuals that have language disorders but also common in all speakers regardless of their age, background or proficiency level in used language. Speech error can be occurs in various context or situations such as in everyday communications, academic presentation, speech, public speaking and even in media digital such as television shows, talk shows, movies, etc. Movie often reflects the beliefs or values of a society, social dynamics, societal trends and provide insight how the way people live and interact (Lu, 2023). Sometimes, movie also portrays characters with unique communication styles or challenges such as the Finding Dory movie. Finding Dory is a 2016 American animated movie that produced by Pixar Animation Studios for Walt Disney Pictures. This movie presents the main character named Dory that has a language disorder because her short-term memory loss which significantly affects her ability to communicate fluently and coherently. Therefore, this movie is interesting to be analyzes in case study of speech error.

Psycholinguistics is the study of the relationship between language and the human mind (Jodai, 2011). According to Purba (2018), psycholinguistics focuses in three main aspects those are: how language is produced, perceived and acquired. Therefore, psycholinguistic is suitable field of the study for analyzing the cognitive process in language production, especially in the case of speech error. The theory of speech error that proposed by Clark & Clark (1977) introduce that there nine kinds of speech errors.

First, silent pause it is a moment of delay that occurs when the speaker utters the words or utterances. Then, Filled paused occurs when the speaker pauses, sometimes filling the gap with expressions like "*mm*", "*ah*", "*er*" or "*uh*". Third, repeats is moment when the speaker repeating one or more words in one utterance. Next, Restracted false starts refer to moment when the speaker correct their speech by repeating or adjusting words, usually use extra words before the correction. Fifth, Unretraced false starts that are characterized by the absence of repetition before the speaker correct a word, meaning the error is fixed without repeating any preceding words in the sentence. Sixth is corrections that can be identified by the use of markers like "*I mean*", "*that i*", "*wel*" or "*rather*," which indicate that the speaker is revising or clarifying a previous part of their utterance. Seventh is stutter that involves unusual pauses, repeating words, or stretching sounds, often accompanied by speech difficulties, anxiety, and physical movements like gestures or facial expressions. Then, An interjection is a word or phrase added to a sentence such as "*ouch*", "*oh*", "*oops*", "*hey*", and "*whoops*" to express strong emotion, surprise, or to grab attention, typically appearing at the beginning of a statement. The last is Slip of the tongue that is error in speech where the speaker says something different from what they intended.

There are several previous studies that are relevant with this current study in analyzing the speech errors in any objects. First, Annisa (2022) who conduct a study in analyzing speech errors of Kamala Harris in Vice President Debate used theory that proposed by Clark (1977). Second, Mertosono (2023) conducted a study with

the title “*Error Analysis: Types and Causes of EFL Learners’ Errors in Writing Analytical Exposition Text*” and used the theory from Dulay’s (1982). Then, Sari (2023) conduct a study in analyzing speech errors made by students at SMA Negeri 8 Makassar and used the theory proposed by Clark & Eve (1977). The last researcher is Rabbanyyah (2023) that conduct a study entitled “*Speech Errors Analysis Produced by Autistic Character in What’s Eating Gilbert Grape? Film*”, this study used the theory from Clark & Eve (1977). This several previous studies provide insights into speech errors in various contexts from political figures and students to fictional autistic characters, but none of them focus on character with short-term memory loss or cognitive impairments. This reveals that there is a gap in existing research regarding how conditions such as short-term memory loss influence speech production and error patterns in fictional characters. Therefore, the writer will conduct a study in analyzing speech errors that utters by character Dory in “The Finding Dory” movie.

2. Method

The writer use descriptive qualitative method as the approach of this study. According to Nassaji (2015), qualitative research generally is used to an explorative investigation of the data to identify recurring themes, patterns or concepts, and then provide a description and interpretation of those categories. This study used descriptive because it explain the kinds and factor of speech error that experienced by character Dory in the Finding Dory movie. The source of data in this study is Finding Dory movie that can access in Disney + Hotstar application with a total duration 1 hour and 37 minutes. Then the data of this study is the Dory’s utterances that indicate the kinds of speech error. To collect the data of this study, the writer doing some steps such as, watch the video, transcribe the utterances that indicate the speech error, identified and classified the utterances into nine kinds of speech error based on the theory of Clark & Clark (1977). To ensure the validity of the data, each utterance is marked with a timestamp that indicate the specific time range in the movie when the speech error occurs (e.g., 10.35–10.53). This code means that the utterance is occurs between minutes 10.35 until 10.53. In addition, Creswell (2014) stated that in qualitative research the researcher is the only person who collect information and data by her/him se. Therefore, in this study used human instrument because the writer itself who define the focus of this study, selects informants as data sources, collects data, analyzes and interprets data and draws conclusions based on the findings in this study. Moreover, in analyzing the data the writer used framework that proposed by Huberman (2014) which stated that there are three steps in analyzing data: data condensation, data display and drawing conclusions. In data condensation steps, the writers identify and classify the data that categorized into nine kinds of speech error. The second steps, the writer display the data kinds of speech error in the form of table. The last steps, the writer draw the conclusion of the kinds and factor of speech error that uttered by characters Dory in “Finding Dory” movie.

3. Results and Discussion

Table 1
Types of speech error that uttered by character Dory in “Finding Dory” movie

No	Types	Total
1	Silent pause	25
2	Filled pause	12
3	Repeats	30
4	Retraced false starts	4
5	Unretraced false starts	5
6	Corrections	2
7	Stutters	3
8	Interjections	9
9	Slip of the tongue	0
Total		90

The table 1 above presents the result of this study. Based on this table, the writer found that there are 90 data of speech error that uttered by character Dory in “Finding Dory” movie. They are categorized into eight types of speech error as proposed by Clark & Clark (1977). Specifically, the silent pause there are 25 data, filled pause with 12 data, repeats with 30 data, Retraced false starts with 4 data, Unretraced false starts 5 data, corrections 2 data, stutters 3 data and interjections 9 data. To provide a depth understanding the writer will present and discuss one sample of each type in the following section.

Data 1

[10.35-10.53]

Student 2 : Where'd you grow up, Dory?

Dory : Me? Um. I don't know. My family. Where are they? Can I help you? I'm sorry.
Did I forget again? You see, I suffer from...

Class : Short-term memory loss.

Data (1) in above indicate type of speech error called silent pause because there is unfilled break or gap in the utterance. The silent pause is shown after Dory as the speaker said the word “from”. It occurs because Dory trying to remember a piece of information that she want to convey to answer the question from her friend. However, she could not remember something that caused her to not be able to continue her speech and a silent pause occurred. This is in line with the statement of Clark & Clark (1977), that silent pause is one type of speech error when there is a moment of delay when the speaker utters the words or utterances. In this case, the silent pause is caused by the Dory’s difficulty in retrieving information due to her condition, which affects the flow of her conversation.

Data 2

[00.05-00.30]

Wife Fish : Hi

Dory : Hi. I'm Dory. Can you please help me?

Wife Fish : Hi Dory, are you lost?

Stan : Where are your parents?

Dory : Em...I can't remember

Stan : We'll look around...are any of these fish your parents?

The data (2) in above is classified into types of speech error filled pause made by Dory. The filled pause is indicated in the words “Em...” because Dory paused her speech using the phrase ‘em’. This is in line with the theory of Clark & Clark (1977) that filled pause is the silence that occurs between speaker’s speech that filled with a pause. The context of this utterance is when Dory is asked about the location of her parents, but she cannot answer because she has a short term memory loss, so she cannot remember it. Therefore, Dory made a speech error namely filled pause.

Data 3

[58.13–58. 20]

Hank : Where do we go? Where do we go?

Dory : Oh, sorry! Okay, I was looking, looking...

The data (3) indicate the type of speech error repeats, because the speaker repeats a word within the same utterance. The repetition is indicated in the phrase “looking, looking” where the word “looking” is repeatedly in sequence by the speaker. This kind of speech error typically occurs because of hesitation, cognitive processing delay or difficulty in produce the next word. According to Clark & Clark (1977), repetition is one of the types of speech error that occur when the speaker repeating one, two, or more words in one utterance and usually happen when people talk very fast and spontaneously. The context of this utterance is that Dory trying to remember or focus on something when Hank asks to her, but she lost her memory. Therefore, she cannot complete her utterance and at the end of her utterance she repeats the same words. This can occurs because Dory difficulties to remember something which is caused her short-term memory and also she difficult to retrieving the next word.

Data 4

[14.03 – 14.13]

Nemo : What? Did you remember?

Dory : Ugh, I don't remember. It was something... it was... Oh, oh oh! It was something about the...

The data (4) above is categorized as one types of speech error retracted false starts, where the speaker begins an utterance but then interrupts and restarts it. This type is shown in the Dory utterance when she answer Nemo’s question about what she remember. Dory answer the question begins with saying “Ugh, I don't remember. It was something... it was...” which shows her initial attempt to remember something. Then she interrupts herself and restarts with “Oh, oh oh! It was something...” that indicate she trying to reconstruct the thought by repaired the words in her utterances by provide additional words to complete her utterances, even though she stay fails to complete her thought that want to convey again. This is in agreement with the statement of Clark & Clark (1997), that when the speaker corrects their speech by repeating or using extra words before the correction is called retracted false starts. This occurs because Dory gets confused to recall a piece of information because of her short-term memory loss.

Data 5

[14.31 – 15.00]

Dory : One, two, three, four... Wait a minute. Why am I counting? Hey, where is everyone? Uh-oh, did they leave me? No! No, no. They wouldn't do that. Okay. That's okay. I can figure this out. What was I just doing then? I was covering my face, so I was trying to hide. Okay, so why was I trying to hide? Wait! Oh, I...five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten. Ready or not, here I come! Ha, found you! I see you! Ha-ha! Gotcha!

The data above is contains one type of speech error unrestricted false starts, where the speaker initiates an utterance but then shifts it without completing or repairing the original statement. This can occurs when the speaker moves abruptly from one idea to another. In this context, Dory as the speaker is playing hide and seek, but her short-term memory loss causes her to loss tract of what she is doing. It is begins when she counts “One, two, three, four...” And then she distracted with her focus and forgot what she wants to do. Then she said something else that not coherent or relate with her counting before, she said “Wait a

minute. Why I am counting?..... Oh, I...five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten". These utterances demonstrate a lack of continuity in thought that is called typical of unrestricted false starts, where the speaker restarts multiple times without revisiting or repairing the abandoned utterance. This is in line with the theory of Clark & Clark (1977), that unrestricted false starts is one kinds of speech error when the speaker correct a word in their utterance without repeating any preceding words in their utterance.

Data 6

[39.12 – 39.22]

Nemo : You found your parents?

Dory : Well, not exactly. No. I mean not yet, but I know where they are. I don't know exactly how to get there, but I know that... I'm getting help...

The utterance "I mean" that uttered by Dory in above is identified as a types of speech error correction. It can be said because Dory used this phrase to revise or clarify what she just said. The context of this utterance was said when Nemo ask to Dory is she found her mother, then Dory answer "Well, not exactly. No. However, she quickly corrects or adjust her statement by saying "I mean" to show a more accurate or clearer answer of her thought "not yet, but I know where they are. This is in line with the theory of Clark & Clark (1977) that types of speech error correction is used use by the speaker to revise or clarify previous part of their utterance.

Data 7

[32.05 – 32.44]

Female Fish : Oh. Lost who?

Dory : I-I-I-I....

Female Fish : Ah, sorry, honey. I can't help you if you don't remember.

The data (7) above indicate types of speech error stutters that shown in the word "I-I-I-I...."which uttered by Dory. According to Clark & Clark (1977), this kinds of speech error occurs when the speaker repeating words or stretching sounds that accompanied by speech difficulties, anxiety, and physical movements. In this case, Dory experienced stutter in her utterances when she was asking help to find her family. However, when there is a female fish who ask about her problem, she cannot answer because she has cognitive overload that caused by her short-term memory. At that time, Dory also nervous and panic so that she had difficulty in retrieving and organizing her thought trough their utterances.

Data 8

[27.59 – 28.07]

Dory : Uh-oh. Have I said "destiny" before? I'm sorry. I'm just so nervous because I'm gonna meet my parents. I haven't seen them in I don't even know how long because you see I suffer from short-term

The data (8) above is contain type of speech error named interjection because the speaker start the conversation with the spontaneous expression of emotion. The interjection is shown in the word "Uh-oh" since this word express emotion of the speaker and at the beginning of the utterance. This spontaneous emotional expression is common in casual or unplanned speech and is categorized as speech error because it disrupts the flow of the message. As stated by Clark & Clark (1977) the definition of interjection is the words or phrases such as ouch, oh, oops, hey and etc that use to express strong emotion, surprise, or to grab attention which appearing in the beginning of the statement. The context of this utterance is that Dory very excited to meet her parents until she unintentionally expresses her nervousness trough interjection. Furthermore, the cause of her speech error not only because she's nervous, but also caused her short-term memory loss issue has contributed also.

4. Conclusions

Based on the results that have been discussed in the previous chapter, it can be concluded that the writer found 8 out of 9 types of speech errors that utters by

character Dory in the “Finding Dory” movie. These types of speech errors reflect the variation and frequency of disruption in Dory’s utterance. There are 90 data of Dory utterances that indicate speech errors and categorized as silent pause (25), filled pause (12), repeats (30), retraced false starts (4), unretraced false starts (5), corrections (2), stutters (3) and interjections (9). From the total above, the most frequent type is silent pause among the nine types of speech errors. On the contrary, slip of the tongue type was not found in this study. In addition, the factor of speech errors in Dory’s utterance is most influenced by her short-term memory loss which disrupts her ability to recall information and construct coherent utterances. Moreover, her emotional factor such as anxiety, nervousness and cognitive overload also causes this errors, often resulting pauses, repetitions and incomplete thoughts.

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