

**THE ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ERRORS MADE BY THE MAIN ACTORS  
IN BAD BOYS I THE MOVIE AT EDUCATION FACULTY  
OF AL ASY ARIAH MANDAR UNIVERSITY 2014**

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**ABSTRACT**

*This thesis discusses the errors of speech ( speech errors) were included in the study psycholinguistics. In this thesis analyzed the object of speech is a mistake made by the two main characters in the film Bad Boys ( the movie) : Mike Lowrey, played by Will Smith and Marcus Burnett, played by Martin Lawrence. This analysis focused on speech that are common mistakes ( common types of speech errors) , the silent pause, filled pause, repeats, retraced false starts, false starts un-retraced, corrections, interjection. The objectives of this research are to find out the types of speech errors and the dominant types of speech errors are made by the main actors in Bad Boys I the movie. In doing this research, the writer used qualitative descriptive method. The population of this research is the original movie transcript. This research employs purposive sampling, the writer only took the main actors of this movie as samples. The most dominant types of speech errors made by Mike and Marcus is Silent Pause. From all the data analysis, the writer concludes that both of actors made many errors in their dialogues, although the actors act and speak based on the script but in the process of acting we realize that the “ideal delivery” is very difficult. The characters in movies sometimes make speech errors in their dialogues intentionally or unintentionally.*

*Keywords: error, speech and movie.*

**INTRODUCTION**

Language is one of the important things in communication. It is so basic for that life without words or languages is too impossible. Everybody speaks, writes, reads, and listens languages. They transfer their emotions, ideas, information and meanings using languages to interact with others every time and everywhere. As a means of communication, language facilitates our relationship with others and helps us to understand everything in the world including arts and science even from the simplest thing to the most difficult ones.

When people produce language or speech, actually they strive for what we call with “ideal delivery”. Clark and Clark (1977:261) say that ideal delivery is the correct way of executing a sentence where the speakers know what they really want to say and say it fluently. However, in the reality some speakers fail to get

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that ideal delivery and almost every speaker makes errors unconsciously. These errors are called common types of speech errors.

Dian Juwita Hutapea, in her thesis (2009:21) says, "ideal delivery is frequently heard in the speech of actor, practiced reader, orator, newsreader, etc. They execute most types of sentences in a single fluent speak under one smooth intonation." From the statement, we can conclude that speech errors tend to happen mostly in spontaneous conversations and seldom to be found in planned speech of actor.

Therefore, the writer is interested to choose speech errors as the topic of analysis because the writer wants to prove whether speech errors still seldom to be found in speech of actor if the actor is Black American. This question appears because we all know that speech errors can be made by everyone from every level of people including actors.

According to Clark and Clark (1977), there are nine types of common speech errors, namely silent pause, filled pause, repeats (the repetition of one or more words in a row) and then false starts (the corrections of a word), retraced false starts (the repetition of one or more words before the corrected words), then, there are corrections, interjections, stutters, and slips of the tongue or tongue-slips.

As we know that there are so many movies consist of these errors but BAD BOYS I movie is chosen by the writer to be the object of analysis because it is assumed that both main characters in BAD BOYS I make speech errors in their conversation and they are easy to identify. Moreover, BAD BOYS I featured two professional actors as the main characters named Martin Lawrence and Will Smith. Both of them are successful in their acting until now but still it is not impossible for them to make errors.

BAD BOYS I which was released in 2003 is very funny and interesting movie. The main actors in this movie are Marcus Burnett is a hen-pecked family man. Mike Lowrey is more a loose cannon. They are partners in the Miami Police Department, and they are about to take on a highly dangerous case. 100 million dollars of heroin, from the biggest drug bust of their careers, is stolen from police headquarters. Now, they have 72 hours to reclaim the heroin before the Internal Affairs Divisions gets involved.

#### **What is Linguistics?**

Everyone, in our daily life, is concerned with language in a practical way. We use language in everything we do. Language, for the most part our life, we use of it is so automatic and natural, that the most valuable single possession of the human race. Language is a unique human possession. It is used not only for a system of communication, but also for expression of thought, for establishing interpersonal relations with no particular concern for communication, for play, and for a variety of other human ends. They transfer their emotions, ideas, information's and meanings using languages to interact with others every time

and everywhere. As a means of communication, language facilitates our relationship with others and helps us to understand everything in the world including arts and science even from the simplest thing to the most difficult ones. Then as a set of system, language consists of a system of sounds, a system of grammar and a system of meaning in which we can put our creativity and invention.

As Sapir (2001:7) explains, “Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols”.

#### **Execution of Speech Errors**

Speaking is the process which consists of two fundamental types of activity : planning and execution. Before speaking, the speaker plans what they want to say in their mind, then they put their plan into execution, uttering the segments, words, phrases and sentences that make up the plan. However, it is difficult to find when the speakers actually begin to plan because usually they are planning what to say next while executing what they had planned moments before. So it is impossible to say where

#### **Common Types of Speech Errors**

Talking seems to require little thought or effort. People think about what they want to say and their tongues seem to take care of the rest, automatically putting their thoughts into words. They find themselves planning where to start, what to include and what to omit, what words to use, and what route to take. Speakers may hesitate midsentence to pick just the right word, pause between sentences to plan what to say next, and correct phrases they have just spoken.

When people speak, they tend to make errors and seem almost every speaker make these errors. Thus, we call this “Common Speech Errors”. The theories that are used in this analysis are the theory of Clark & Clark(1977). Their theories are used to recognize the common types speech errors made by the main actors in “BAD BOYS I”(the movie) as follow :

#### **Silent Pauses**

According to Clark, (1977: 262) Silent pause is a period of no speech between words speed of talking is almost entirely determined by the amount of such pausing. People who speak slowly hesitate a lot, and when they speed up their rat of words. They do it by eliminating the pauses, not by shortening the words. The silent pauses, the speakers no speech at all, they just keep silent between their words. Silent pause is symbolized by [//]. For example: turn on the // heater switch, Let’s go to the // cinema now! And Please, open the // door!

The silent pause involves staying silent as a woman speaks, after you speak, and until you get a desired response. It is the silence between what we say that gives it meaning. Use this tool as a powerful force to get what you want. Say nothing after your initial statement and wait for her to respond. Staying silent after you speak motions to her that you expect her to speak and establish a level

of communication with her. Never interrupt her and continue to motion her to continue when she stops. You will know that she finished her thought when she asks you a question. Clark (1977: 263).

#### **Filled Pauses**

According to Clark, (1977: 264) Filled pause is a gap filled by *ah, er, uh, mm, or the like*. The fast speaker are fluent because they do not hesitate much, and slow speaker are not fluent because they hesitate a great deal in filled pauses. The slow speakers filled their pauses by saying the words *er, uh, mm, or the like*. Filled Pauses is symbolized by [,,,,,,]. For example: Turn on, mm, the heater switch

#### **Repeats**

Repeats are repetitions of one or more word in a row. The speakers intended to utter something, yet they make speech error repeats. It is usually happened when people speak spontaneously and fast. They make repetitions of one or more word in row. Repeat is symbolized by [/] For example: Turn on the heater/ the heater switch and Those/ those dirty cups

Fully 89 percent of all words repeated were function words, like articles (the/ the neighbor). Prepositions (in / in the garden), conjunction (and / and the neighbor), and pronouns (he /he didn't go). On the other hand, most of the words corrected in the false starts were content words: nouns (the man / the woman), adjective (the silvery / the shiny tray), verbs (can be seen/ can be viewed), or adverbs (the very / the rather nice house). Clark (1977: 265).

#### **False Start (Unretraced)**

False start (unretraced) corrections of a word is included. When the speakers have speech error, they make corrections of a word but they do not repeat of one or more words before the corrected word. They continue saying/ speaking the next word without repeating the wrong word. Clark (1977: 266). False starts (Unretraced) are symbolized by [\]. For example: These /those dirty cups, Please, open the window \the door and Let's go to the school \the cinema!

#### **False Start (Retraced)**

False Start (retraced) is corrected of a word also included the repeating of one or more words before the corrected word. When the speakers realized that they make speech error, they make correction of their word. They make repetitions of one or more words before the corrected word. False starts (retraced) are symbolized by [\]. For example: Turn on *the stove* \the heater switch and *Those clean* \those dirty cups

#### **Corrections**

There are many reasons why speakers may stop in middle sentence. They may have forgotten something they wanted to refer to; they may be searching for just the right word; or they may be selecting which of several examples they could mention. English has two remarkable devices by which speakers can signal just why there are stopping, the interjection (oh, ah, well, say, etc) and the correction (I mean, that is, well, etc). Moreover, these two devices provide

further evidence that the constituent is an important unit of planning. It is symbolized by [-]. For example: Turn on stove switch-I mean, the heater switch and Turn on -oh the heater switch. Correction phrase, like interjections, signal the speakers are interrupting themselves. There are some correction phrases that is, or rather, I mean, and well signal distinctly different errors speakers are about to correct: I'll be done immediately- well, in a few minutes, Please, open the window—I mean, the door! And We have an examination next week – well, on Monday, 21st of August. As illustrated in these sentences, the correction phrases have roughly these functions: That is : reference editing, Or rather : nuance editing and I mean : mistake editing, Well : claim editing.

In point 1, that is used to specify further the referent of him. In point 2, or rather is used to provide a word that is slightly 'closer to what speaker meant to say. In point 3, I mean is used for correcting an out-and-out mistake in wording, one that would have left the utterance with a significantly wrong meaning. And in point 4, well used to soften a claim the speaker decides is too excessive. Clark (1977: 267).

#### **Stutters**

Stutters are not of the speech errors. Speakers do the stutters because they are hesitant, stumbling, tense, jerky or nervous. Stutters are signed by repeating one letter or syllable for many times before a certain word that will say next. Stutters frequently occur when people give the speech in the spontaneous situation because they have to plan the expressions in words in mind before delivery. Clark (1977: 268). Stutters or stammers are caused : A history of stammering in the family, some delay in acquiring language or articulation and considerable emotional stress. Stutters are symbolized by [ - - -] For example: please, open the d-d-d-door!, let's go to the ci-ci-ci-cinema For example: Turn on the h-h-h heater switch.

#### **Interjections**

Interjections, hesitation pauses, indicate that speakers have to stop to think about what to say next. They select a particular interjection to signal why they have had to stop. The interjections *oh*, *ah*, *well*, and *say* are illustrated in the following sentences: John would like, oh, carrots > oh: referent selection, John would like-ah, carrots > ah: memory success, John would like, well, carrots > well: word approximation and John would like, say, carrots > say: exemplification

In a *oh* indicates the speakers has stopped to pick out as just one of several possibilities he could mention. In b the *ah* indicates that the speaker had forgotten and has just managed to remember what it was that John would like. In c the *well* indicates that the speaker thinks that carrots an approximate description of what John would like. In d the *say* indicates that the speaker is giving an example of what John would like. In other instances, *say* could mean

instead “let’s imagine”.(Clark, 1977: 269)planning leaves off and execution begins.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

In writing this thesis, Qualitative Descriptive method is applied in the process of data analysis. This thesis is simply about fact-finding. Nawawi (1993:31) states, “Qualitative Descriptive is a research method that is an effort to solve a problem or a condition or an event as the way it is. In other words, this method is simply about fact finding”. “Penelitian ini terbatas pada usaha mengungkapkan suatu masalah atau keadaan atau peristiwa sebagaimana adanya sehingga bersifat sekedar untuk mengungkapkan fakta (fact finding).” Therefore, Descriptive Statistic is applied in the process of tabulating data. The script will be analyzed by watching the original screen so that the types of Speech Errors which are found can be identified and classified based on the text.

The data source of this research is the movie entitled “Bad Boys I”. The whole data are taken from the dialogue and utterances which relate to the common speech errors disorder produced by the main actors “Mike Lowrey and Marcus Burnett in Bad Boys I movie. There nine types of speech errors namely silent pause, filled pause, repeats (the repetition of one or more words in a row) and then false starts (the corrections of a word), retraced false starts (the repetition of one or more words before the corrected words), then, there are corrections, interjections, stutters, and slips of the tongue or tongue-slips. The data of this research are in the form of words or utterances of the main actors responses.

The population is the movie transcript which is taken from internet([http://www.script-o-rama.com/movie\\_scripts/b/bad-boys-2-script-transcript.html](http://www.script-o-rama.com/movie_scripts/b/bad-boys-2-script-transcript.html)). The writer will take the data by watching BAD BOYS I movie and comparing the movie transcript with the actors’ utterances heard in that movie. In collecting the required data, Purposive sampling is applied in this thesis, As Bailey (1987:94) states that : “In purposive sampling the investigator does not necessarily have a quota to fill from within various strata, as in quota sampling, but neither does he or she just pick the nearest warm bodies, as inconvenience sampling. Rather, the researcher uses his or her own judgment about which respondents to choose and picks only those who best meet the purposes of the study.” In order to get the required data, the researcher used both of library research and field research in supporting this thesis.

Research is the systematic investigation into the study of material sources etc, in order to establish the fact and get some additional references to complete this paper works and literature data. From field research, the writer gets the data as the sample from the main actors of Bad Boys I in the movie who does the speech errors. The steps are going to do in this research consist of : first, the researcher watches the movie from the beginning up to the end, second, taken

note which related with the common speech errors, third, browsing transcript text of movie from the internet. After collecting the data, the writer analyzed them to find out the dominant pattern of speech errors. All data tabulated using Frequency Distribution where data calculated into percentages using the formula below

$$N = \frac{f_x}{\sum f_x} \times 100\% \tag{1}$$

N = percentage of errors

F<sub>x</sub> = frequency of errors

$\sum f_x$  = total number of errors (Bungin, 2001: 189):

**FINDING AND ANALYSIS**

Based on the analysis of error speech made by actors from BAD BOYS I the movie which was watched from 18<sup>th</sup> October until 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012, the researcher found one hundred and one data related to eight types of speech errors. Mike lowery’s speaking identified by symbol [...], for example : [1] means that Mike as the first speaker. While Marcus Burnet’s identified by symbol { ... }, for example : {2} means that Mike as the first speaker.

Based on the data above the result of the types of speech errors and the dominant parts of speech errors made by the main actors described in the following tables:

Table 1. Common Types of Speech Errors (Mike Lowrey)

No.	Types of Speech Errors	Frequency of Errors	Percentage
1.	Silent Pause	11	23,4
2.	Filled Pause	18	38,3
3.	Repeats	6	12,8
4.	False Starts Retraced	-	-
5.	False Starts Un-retraced	-	-
6.	Corrections	-	-
7.	Interjections	1	1,2
8.	Stutters	11	23,4
Total Errors ( $\sum f_x$ )		47	100

Table 2. Common Types of Speech Errors (Markus Burnet)

No.	Types of Speech Errors	Frequency of Errors	Percentage
1.	Silent Pause	23	24,2
2.	Filled Pause	31	32,6
3.	Repeats	11	11,6
4.	False Starts Retraced	-	-
5.	False Starts Un-retraced	-	-
6.	Corrections	10	10,53

No.	Types of Speech Errors	Frequency of Errors	Percentage
7.	Interjections	1	1,05
8.	Stutters	19	20
Total Errors ( $\sum fx$ )		95	100

Based on the result of data analysis above shows that Mike Lowrey made 5 common types of speech errors in his dialogues. The first is *Silent pauses* happen mostly before noun and after adjective. Second, *Filled Pauses, Repeats and Interjections* happen mostly in the beginning of constituent. The last is *Stutters* dominantly happens in the beginning of constituent and both actors mostly stutters pronouns (I, you, she), question words (what, why, where) and verbs ( keep, look, wait). While Marcus Burnett made more errors than Mike Lowrey. He made 6 types of common speech errors in his dialogues. The first is *Filled Pause*. Second is *Silent Pause*. The fourth are *Stutters* and *repeats*. Next, *Interjections* and the last is *Corrections* also happen dominantly in the beginning of constituent. The dominant types of speech errors are made by Mike and Marcus is *Silent Pause*. Speech errors normally happens in daily conversations which is spontaneous. However, speech errors also can be found in movie from the actor’s dialogues although it is not as many as spontaneous conversation

**CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the data finding and analysis in the previous chapter, the researcher puts forward some conclusion and suggestion.

1. Conclusion

Based on the facts mentioned earlier, the researcher herewith puts forward her conclusions as follows:

- a. The types of speech errors are made by the main actors are; Mike Lowrey made 5 common types of speech errors in his dialogues they are *Silent pauses, Filled Pauses, Repeats, Interjections* and *Stutters*. While Marcus Burnett made more errors than Mike Lowrey. He made 6 types of common speech errors in his dialogues. They are *Filled Pause, Silent Pause, Stutters, repeats, Interjections* and *Corrections*.
- b. The most dominant types of speech errors are made by Mike and Marcus is *Silent Pause*. We can also find the fact that Marcus made more speech errors than Mike. Total frequencies of errors made by Mike are 47 times while Marcus made 95 times.

2.Suggestions

“BAD BOYS I” (the movie) is a very good and qualified movie. The actors are also professional and do many improvisations in their acting. It makes this movie interesting to watch and analyze. This movie shows us that errors normally happen in speaking process especially Black American. Some people do more and some people do less.



Based on the conclusions above, the following suggestions might be taken into consideration:

- a. To avoid the speech errors we have to know some criteria of speech errors itself so that errors can be avoided by the speakers.
- b. The speakers can pause momentarily to take a breath at the grammatical junctures and at conventional pause to give the right interpretation for the listeners.
- c. It is also suggested that this thesis will help the readers to understand more about speech errors so that errors in speech can be avoided. The writer also wishes that the result of this analysis can be used to be the reference for readers who interested to analyze speech errors for the next developed writing.

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