

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

1.1 Background of the Problem

One of the Indonesian government policies in increasing the foreign exchange besides oil, is the improvement in tourism sector. It is written in I Gusti Ngurah Bagus' thesis (1989 : 3) that :

"(Tourism sector is one of the state potential incomes which should be expanded along with the development. It can be seen clearly as in the foreign exchange and man powers incomes as well as its great influence against some other life sectors)".

Talking about tourism sector, our mind will take us to Bali. Bali is an island of paradise in the middle of Indonesia which is worth in culture, beautiful scenery and gentle friendly people. In his speech for *Media Informasi Parpostel* (XIV, 1992 : 11), Indonesian Minister of Tourism, Post and Telecommunication, Soesilo Soedarman, has stated :

"(Bali is one of the most famous tourism objects in the world that is not only known as its beauty of nature but also the hospitality of the citizens, safety and peaceful environment... Therefore, it is quite important to create a good condition that enable tourists, especially the ones who come to

Bali, to feel comfortable and safe during their vacation)".

One of the most famous places in Bali which is always crowded by tourists is Kuta beach. Along the beach we can find many vendors who are eager to trade their merchandise to tourists. This situation forms those vendors to be able to speak English in order to have the ability to communicate and to interact with tourists. Lim Kiat Boey (1975 : 3) states that language is a social phenomenon (no society no language) and a means of communication between individuals which can bring them into relationship with their environment. Commonly we refer to our mother tongue as the first language. After that, we begin learning other languages which emerge or are used around us.

English, as mostly used in Bali, is one of the major languages of the world that has been chosen and accepted as an international language. It has the largest or greatest number of speakers compares with other languages existing all over the world (Wandia, 1990 : 4). The role of English is becoming more important, because as an international language, it has become a language of commerce, education, mass media, technology and diplomacy as well as tourism.

Learning a foreign language, in this case English, whose speakers have different social background from the speakers of Indonesian, seems very difficult because it does not merely learn the sound system but also learn the sentence structure of the new language. We cannot produce the foreign language if we are not able to construct the sentences.

In speaking English, while offering their wares, the vendors at Kuta Beach often make some errors which are influenced by their mother tongue. One example is, when the investigator was at Kuta Beach she heard an English conversation between a vendor and a Japanese tourist :

Tourist : "How much is this ?" (pointed to a small statue)

Vendor : "Twenty thousand rupee." (most vendors at Bali use 'rupee' instead of 'rupiah')

Tourist : "At another place it's only five thousand."

Vendor : "Ha - ha this five thousand me buy twenty." (pointed to the statue)

Tourist : (with a confused face) "Okay, this is five thousand, right ? I buy this one." (held the statue and watched it closely to see whether it was good or not)

Vendor : (took back the statue from the tourist's hand)

"No! Five thousand, no!" (she held up the statue and yelled to the other vendors) "Hey! This five thousand, me buy twenty!"

With a big question mark on his face, the Japanese tourist left the vendor. It seemed that he didn't understand what the vendor was meant. And then the vendor grumbled to herself in Indonesian language, "Huh, gini lima ribu. Saya mau beli dua puluh biji." (if it's five thousand, I will buy twenty of them).

The conversation above was considered very funny to the investigator. Some errors that seemed to be "just a little" could make a misunderstanding that failed a trading. The vendor's sentence seemed to be confusing to the tourist because it was influenced by Indonesian language as the vendor's mother tongue. Other examples that the investigator heard was 'twenty five nice price', 'katun this', please looking', etc. Those sentences were grammatically wrong because the vendors did not arrange them into English sentence order, but into the Indonesian one.

From many studies and literature we know that the English grammar rules are quite different from the Indonesian ones. This reason causes difficulties to most Indonesian people to produce correct English sentences.

As an example, the placement of a noun and its modifier in English is contrary to the placement of a noun and its modifier in Indonesian. At the research location, the investigator slightly heard some vendors said 'dress new' for 'baju baru', 'ring silver' for 'cincin perak' and 'stuff good' for 'barang bagus' instead of 'new dress', 'silver ring' and 'good stuff' because in Indonesian the modifier is placed before the noun. Another vendor said to a young western lady, 'me give you this sarong', instead of 'I give you this sarong', because he ignored several forms and functions of pronouns in English. A young vendor told a lady tourist, "She buy this dress yesterday... and I buy this from her just now. She come to me everyday"; while the other said to another tourist, "Maybe you can watching..." They did not realize that in English there is what is called *conjugation verb*. Verbs may change and should agree with the subject or time or time signal. As Lado wrote in his book:

"We know from the observation of many cases that the grammatical structure of the native language tends to be transferred to the foreign language ... Those structures that are different will be difficult" (Lado, in Dulay et al.; 1982 : 99).

Translation from local language into English is also assumed to be the reason why some users of English make errors.

Based on the facts above, the investigator was interested in doing the research that concerning with errors in English that commonly appeared among the vendors at Kuta Beach, Bali.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the background of the study above, the problems to be investigated were :

- a. What kinds of errors are mostly made by the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali when they are speaking English to tourists ?
- b. What are the possible causes of the errors made by the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study was intended to answer the above formulated research questions. As such, the objectives were formulated as follows :

- a. To investigate empirically the kinds of errors made by the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali when they are speaking English to tourists.
- b. To find out the possible causes of the errors made by the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Closely related to the statement above, the investigation attempted to supply some empirical evidence showing that there were some errors mostly made by the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali in their spoken English. From a theoretical point of view, the results of this study provided a clear description about some kinds of errors mostly made by the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali and what the possible causes of errors made by them. Hopefully from a practical point of view this study would give some contribution to the success of the Indonesian vendors at Kuta Beach Bali to have a better English.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

The main theoretical framework used in this study are the contrastive analysis and the error analysis.

1.5.1 The Contrastive Analysis

According to Dulay, Burt and Krashen, Contrastive Analysis takes the position that a learner's first language "interferes" with his or her acquisition of a second language, and that it therefore comprises the major obstacle to successful mastery of the new language.

The Contrastive Analysis holds that where structures in the L1 differ from those in the L2, errors that reflect structures of the L1 will be produced. Such errors are said to be due to the influence of the learners' L1 habits on L2 production (Dulay, Burt and Krashen, 1982 : 97).

The errors produced by the vendors might be as the result of the interference between their native language or first language and the second language, or it can be said that their mother tongue habits interfere in their new habits in producing the new language.

1.5.2 Error Analysis

To analyze the vendors errors, this study was based on the theory of error analysis. According to Douglas Brown (1987 : 171), error analysis can be used to observe, analyze, classify the learners' errors and to reveal the learners' systems of acquiring the foreign language or the target language.

Rod Ellis (1986 : 51-52) gives the procedure of error analysis which involves collecting samples of the subject under study -in this case the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali-, identifying the errors in the sample, describing these errors, classifying the errors according

to their hypothesized causes, and evaluating the seriousness of the errors.

1.6 The Limitation of the Study

Realizing how broad the discussion of error could be and the limited time the investigator had, this study was limited in several ways :

1. The subjects under study were some of the vendors along Kuta Beach Bali we had taken randomly.
2. The scope of the problem discussed would be the type of errors in spoken English made by the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali, based on Dulay's et al. Surface Strategy Taxonomy (1982 : 150-163).
3. The predictions of the causes of errors were only based on the linguistics factor by Jack C. Richards (1973 : 98-105).

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

For the sake of clarity, accuracy and understanding, the following terms were defined as they are used in this thesis :

1. **Error**, according to Hornby, is an unintentional deviation from what is correct, right; mistake (1974 :

290). In this thesis, as Dulay et al. state in their book, the terms of errors are the flawed side of learner speech or writing. They are those parts of conversation or composition that deviate from some selected norm of mature language performance. Any deviation from a selected norm of a language performance, no matter what the characteristics or causes of the deviation might be is referred to as either an error or a mistake (1982 : 138-139).

2. **Grammatical Error**, means the deviation from the rule of grammar made by a person.
3. **Spoken Language**, as stated by Paul Procter, the term 'speak' as to say things; express thought aloud; talk (1981 : 1072). While 'language' as the system of human expressions by means of words (Ibid. p. 617). In this study, what the investigator means by spoken language is a language used in oral communication in business situation.
4. **Interlingual Errors**, as written in Dulay's (1982 : 102), are errors that reflect the learner's first language structures.
5. **Intralingual Errors**, as stated by Richards (1974 : 174), are those which reflect the general characteristics of rule learning, such as faulty

overgeneralization, incomplete application of rules, and failure to learn conditions under which rules apply.

1.8 Assumption

This research was based on the following assumptions:

1. It is assumed that all the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali have the same level in speaking Bahasa Indonesia.
2. It is assumed that all the vendors at Kuta Beach Bali have the same educational background, that is from elementary school.
3. The instrument under study is assumed as a good instrument to gain the data.

1.9 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis contains five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction, which gives readers some explanations about the background, the statement of the problems, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, theoretical frameworks, the limitations of the study, the definition of the key terms and assumptions.

The second chapter reviews some previous study and some literature related to the study under report. It deals with the theory of contrastive analysis which discusses about some differences between English and Indonesian grammar rules that mostly confuse Indonesian people, the theory of error analysis and the possible factors causing errors.

The third chapter is about the research methodology, which explains about the research design, the population and sample, some research instruments used in this study, the procedures of the data collection and the techniques of the data analysis.

The fourth chapter deals with the findings and interpretations, and the predictions of the causes of errors.

The last chapter of this thesis presents the conclusion which covers the summary and some suggestions concerning the topic.