

A Psycholinguistic Analysis on Speech Errors Made by Kamala Harris

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Abstract

This article examines the speech errors of Kamala Harris. This study aims to identify the speech errors of Kamala Harris during the Vice President Debate. This research is qualitative. Data in the form of words, phrases, and sentences that are mispronounced. The data is obtained through a YouTube search. Data analysis using condensation, presentation, and verification. The results of the study found the types of speech errors of Kamala Harris, namely: silent pause 25 times, filled pause 27 times, repetition 21 times, retraced false start 1 time, unretraced false start 1 time, correction 2 times, stutter 2 times, and interjection 2 times. There is no slip of the tongue. The causes of speech errors made by Kamala Harris are social factors both situational anxiety and social circumstances

Keywords: debate, psycholinguistics, speech errors



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Analisis Psikolinguistik terhadap Kesalahan Tutur yang Dibuat oleh Kamala Harris

Abstrak

Artikel ini mengkaji kesalahan bicara Kamala Harris. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi kesalahan tutur Kamala Harris saat Debat Wakil Presiden. Penelitian ini bersifat kualitatif. Data berupa kata, frasa, dan kalimat yang salah pengucapannya. Data diperoleh melalui pencarian YouTube. Analisis data menggunakan kondensasi, penyajian, dan verifikasi. Hasil penelitian menemukan jenis-jenis kesalahan bicara Kamala Harris, yaitu: jeda diam 25 kali, jeda terisi 27 kali, pengulangan 21 kali, retraced false start 1 kali, unretraced false start 1 kali, koreksi 2 kali, gagap 2 kali, dan interjeksi 2 kali. Tidak ada slip of the tongue. Penyebab kesalahan tutur yang dilakukan oleh Kamala Harris adalah faktor sosial baik kecemasan situasional maupun keadaan sosial.

Kata Kunci: debat, psikolinguistik, kesalahan tutur

INTRODUCTION

Psycholinguistics as the study of human language, language comprehension, language production, and language acquisition aim to understand how people understand and produce language. Language is a system that means that language is formed by various components that have fixed patterns and can also be negated. That way language has a system in the form of sound symbols that is manifested through speaking.

Speaking is not easy, and it involves a complex process of thinking language aspects and skills. When people speak, actually they arrange linguistic symbols in their mind (brain) and then produce them in the form of language by using their organs of speech. That is why we cannot separate speech with the process of thought. The ability to speak clearly involves a complex brain system that is not fully understood. In speaking, people not only have to think how to deliver their message to others, but also how to produce language clearly and smoothly. In spontaneous speech especially, it requires the generation of an internal motor plan followed by initiation, execution, and monitoring. Therefore, there are some difficulties the speakers usually face when they speak to people and almost every speaker makes errors unconsciously and it can be called as speech errors. (Sidtis, D., Rogers, T., Godier, V., Tagliati, M and Sidtis, 2010)

Speech error is an atypical aspect of a speaker's unintentional utterance. Phonological errors, commonly referred to as slipped tongue or slurred speech, are a deviation (consciously or unconsciously) from the clearly expected form of utterance. It can be subdivided into spontaneous and unintentional speech errors and intentional word games or puns. Another distinction can be made between production errors and understanding errors. Errors in speech production and perception are also called performance errors. Common speech errors often made by speakers are related to their psychological principles, which can be applied to actual speech problems. (Clark, H.H. and Clark, 1977)

The speech error as the subject of this research is also related to psycholinguistics as the study of human mind and language focused on debate between two people. The choice of the topic of speech errors in the debate is based on the assumption that in the debate event, the debaters are required to speak quickly, straightforwardly and with strong arguments against the challenger, so it is normal for errors to occur. Debate is a way for those who hold opposing views to discuss controversial issues without descending to insult, emotional appeals or personal bias. It can be concluded that debate is a forum to convey the different thoughts, ideas, or arguments from different ways of thinking and points of view between two people, two groups or two team supporting and opposing the provided topic. (Fields, 2004) This research analyzed a psycholinguistic analysis on speech errors made by Kamala Harris at the debate of the candidates for Vice President of America by using Clark and Clark's theory. According to them, there are nine types of common speech errors, namely silent pause, filled pause, hesitation 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. (Clark, H.H. and Clark, 1977)

The previous studies about the speech errors found finds eight types of speech errors based on the theory of Clark and Clark, there are filled pause, stutter, silent pause, interjection, unretraced false start, retraced false start, slips of the tongue, repeats and correction. The most dominant error is filled pause. The errors produced by reporters are caused by cognitive reason, anxiety and social reason. (Erta, 2019) The next research found that there are speech errors made by the 2nd-semester students namely silent pause, filled pause, repeats, false start (unretracted), false start (retraced), correction,

interjection, stutters, a slip of the tongue, error in pronunciation, error in vocabulary, error in word selection, the omission of bound morpheme-s, omission of to be, addition of to be, the omission of verb, omission of -Ing, addition of -Ing, and misuse of to be. (Kafifah & Aini, 2020) The speech errors made by EFL learners was seven items and identified into four categories, such as; shift error, perseveration error, substitution error, and anticipation error. (Febriana, N., Umamah, A dan Ismiatun, 2019)

Psycholinguistics or the psychology of language is related to the discovering the psychological processes in which humans acquire and use language. Psycholinguistics connects the state of message with the state of the communicator and directly deals with the process of encoding and decoding. (Stern, 1983) This limitation emphasizes the process of encoding and understanding the code between the speaker and the listener. (Gleason, Jean Berko and Ratner, 1998) Linguistic psychology has been discussed in three main issues: 1) comprehension discusses about how people understand spoken and written language; 2) speech production is about how people produce language; and 3) acquisition is how people learn language. (Clark, H.H. and Clark, 1977)

Linguistically speech error is defined to be an utterance that produces an anomalous percept that would be recognized as anomalous by the speaker. (Dell, 1986) Speech errors as mistakes that speakers make when they intend to say one thing but something else comes out instead. (Cowles, 2011) The Types of Speech Errors according are: (Clark, H.H. and Clark, 1977)

1. Silent Pause is a period of no speech between words. Speed of talking is almost wholly controlled by the sum of such pausing. This kind of speech error silent pause is usually symbolized by [//].
2. Filled Pause is the period of no word between the speeches. It is filled up by the expressions such as “er”, “ah”, “mm”, “uh” or any others that fill the gap when the speaker is speaking. This type of speech error is symbolized by [...].
3. Repeats are repetition of one or more words in an utterance. When people talk very fast and spontaneously, this kind of speech errors will happen. Repeats can be symbolized by [/].
4. Retraced False Starts can simply mean the corrections of a word. It also includes of one or more words before the corrected words. This kind of error is symbolized by [\].

5. Unretraced False Starts do not include the repetition of one or more words in a sentence before the words that are being corrected. This type of errors is usually marked by [\\].
6. Corrections is quite similar to false starts. Something that makes them different is that corrections contain an explicit “I mean” or “rather” or “that is” or “well” to mark the phrases as a correction. Corrections are symbolized by [-].
7. Stutter are speeches or utterances that are choked of again, after several second the speaker can finish the utterance that she/he wants to say (intended utterance).
8. Interjections are words or expressions, which are inserted into a sentence to convey surprise, strong emotion, or to gain attention. They are usually symbolized by [>].
9. Slip of the Tongue is one of the common speech errors. Scovel (1998:31) states that slip of the tongue or typographical mistakes are normal, everyday occurrences which pervade our speaking and our writing. They are usually symbolized by [->].

The causes or factors influencing speech errors have discovered three possible sources of factors influencing speech errors are:(Clark, H.H. and Clark, 1977)

1. Cognitive Difficulty; every speaker has different respons when they tried to produce between concrete and abstract words. Cognitive difficulty might be presumed as the first source of speech planning difficult is quite hard to explain those things because it will of course take longer time to pick appropriate words to express the objects that are going to be explained.
2. Social Factors
 - a. Situational Anxiety; when people talk about topics they are anxious about, they tend to produce more silent pauses and other speech errors. Speakers become tense and their planning and execution become less efficient.
 - b. Social Circumstances; under a press of conversation, speakers must make clear when they will have something to say. Speakers must make a clear when they still have something to say and when they are finished. If they hesitate too long at any point, someone else may take over the conversation.

METHOD

Psycholinguistic and qualitative research. Words express qualitative data.(Miles, M. B, Huberman, A. M. & Saldana, 2014) The design of this research was qualitative design

with psycholinguistic approach. The data of this study is words, phrases, and sentences include errors. This study utilizes Kamala Harris' debate errors as data. CNBC's YouTube numbers (Television, 2020). The procedures of data collecting are: Downloading YouTube videos (<https://youtu.be/iDKm7feXJDw>); transcribing Kamala Harris's videos and speeches; every mistake is numbered; typing speech errors; calculating frequent speech mistakes and causes of Kamala Harris' speech mistakes.

The data gathered were analyzed by the descriptive method with qualitative analysis by Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2014) with four phases: condensation simplifies and transforms data. In researching speech mistake types, causes, and frequency, The writer focuses on Kamala Harris' speaking flaws. The writer analyzed the research data using Clark and Clark's hypothesis. (Clark, H.H. and Clark, 1977) By selecting, summarizing, and patterning, this approach simplifies and transforms data; data display and conclusion, this research's data is narrated; verification and data drawing: reading about speech mistake kinds, frequency, and reasons; Clark & Clark analysis of Kamala Harris' speech faults (1977); typing speech errors and summary.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Types of Speech Errors

Kamala committed 8 kinds of speech faults in data 1 through 20, including 25 silent pauses, 27 filled pauses, 21 repeats, 1 retraced false start, 1 unretracted false start, 2 corrections, 2 stutters, and 2 interjections. Kamala Harris didn't fumble the VP debate.

Data 1:

[Oh>] [eh] Whatever the Vice President says about the government, over 210,000 Americans have perished and their families are [grieving/?]. The task committee's vice president realized how awful it was on January 28.

During the VP Debate, Kamala Harris halted three times. 1 pause, 2 repeats.

Data 2:

No, [I Susan/I] This is important [I/I wanna add] I'm speaking. [So I/I wanna -]

Kamala Harris only repeated 3 times in the VP Debate.

Data 3:

This government believed that if you were a parent or worker without enough money, you'd be in a food queue [line//]. [because//] government can't speak the truth to Americans.

Kamala Harris only paused twice during the VP Debate.

Data 4:

[If the//] public health specialists, Dr. Fauci, [the/the] Taking it if the doctors say so.

Kamala Harris stopped during the vice presidential debate.

Data 5:

1. The day Joe Biden asked me to serve alongside him on this ticket was one of the most unforgettable days of my life. It was a Zoom call.
2. [Um,> I thought of my mother, who immigrated to the U.S. at 19 and gave birth to me at 25 in Oakland, California.
3. The notion that I'm sitting here now would make her proud, and she must be gazing down.
4. [um...] Joe and I had similar upbringings.
5. We were taught to appreciate hard labor, public duty, and fighting for everyone's dignity.
6. [And,>] I suppose Joe asked me to serve alongside him because I was San Francisco's first female DA and changed the criminal justice system. First black woman elected California Attorney General, where I led the second-largest Justice Department in the U.S.
7. I've been everywhere. I've met troops [in combat zones]. [And>] Joe requested me to serve alongside him because we both want to raise the American people.

Kamala Harris filled 8 pauses during the VP Debate. Other faults include 2 quiet pauses, 2 repetitions, 1 correction, 1 stammer, and 2 interjections.

Data 6:

1. Absolutely. Joe Biden's transparency is why. The President hasn't, both in terms of health records and taxes. **[um...]** Great journalism revealed that Trump paid \$750 in taxes.
2. When I initially heard about it, I thought it was \$750.
3. Joe has always been honest. Joe throws everything out there. Sincere. Sincere. Trump hid everything.

Kamala Harris repeated herself 3 times in the VP Debate. Other problems include 2 full pauses and 1 unretracted false star.

Data 7:

Thank you. **[um...]** Donald Trump and Joe Biden are opposites on the economy.

Kamala Harris barely filled 1 gap during the VP Debate.

Data 8:

1. **[That is/That is]** False - Joe Biden authored the Great Recession Recovery Act.
2. Trump-Pence seeks credit **[when they ran\when they rode]** Joe Biden's economic success launched their administration.

Kamala Harris repeated and retraced errors during the VP debate.

Data 9:

1. **[Alright,> so first of all,]** Joe Biden won't prohibit fracking, as the public knows.
2. **[That is a fact/That is a fact].** Joe Biden wants to create jobs, therefore he won't increase taxes on anybody earning under \$400,000 a year.
3. Donald Trump, when asked about the wildfires in California **[and/and]** Donald Trump remarked, "The research says..." Science doesn't.

Kamala Harris repeated and intervened during the vice presidential debate.

Data 10:

1. Let's talk about that. You, **[the/the]** Vice President earlier referred to, as part **[it-it-it]** what he thinks is an accomplishment, **[um...]** **[the/the]** President's trade war with China. You lost that trade war.
2. You lost it. What ended up **happening//** America lost 300,000 manufacturing jobs due of a trade conflict with China.

Kamala Harris filled one gap and repeated it during the VP Debate.

Data 11:

Americans know. Obviously. 20-year-olds interest me, **[you know we have a 20-year-old,> [at-at-at] 20-something-year-old,]** Will there be a job for me?.

Kamala Harris repeated and intervened during the vice presidential debate.

Data 12:

It cost 300 manufacturing jobs, slowed production, and raised consumer costs. **failed//** War, they said. And standing.

Kamala Harris barely paused once during the VP Debate.

Data 13:

1. **[So,> you know Joe is.] [I/I]** love talking with Joe about a lot of these issues, **[and you know,> Joe, I think, he said, quite well.]**
2. **[And so we know this,>]** in our personal, professional relationships **[um...]** you guys keep your word to your friends.]
3. But what we have seen with Donald **Trump//** is that he has betrayed our friends **[and-and-and-be-and-and-and]** world's dictators. Consider Russia.
4. He's walked away from treaties, like the Iran nuclear deal, which has weakened our security.

Kamala Harris had 4 speech faults in the VP Debate. 12 quiet pauses, 1 full pause, 2 repetitions, and 3 interjections.

Data 14:

1. **[First of all, to the Mueller family, //] [I/I]** know about your daughter's case, and **[I'm so sorry/I'm so sorry]. [um...]** Bad! Never should've occurred. agrees Joe. Obama agrees. **[um...]** However, Soleimani.
2. Firstly, Soleimani attacked Iraqi forces. **And//** they suffered serious brain injuries, **[and you know what Donald Trump dismissed them as?>] Headaches.**
3. A great American hero. **[And/and/and]** Trump argues he's no hero since he was a POW. Take, and **[this is/this is]** very important.
4. Joe Biden would never do that. **[Joe Biden[b-b-b-but]/Joe Biden]** Would hold Russia liable for any national security or troop threat.

Kamala Harris made 5 mistakes during the VP Debate. She employed pauses, repeats, stammering, and interjections.

Data 15:

1. Thank you, Susan. [**First of all//**], Religious. Joe would be the second person we mocked if elected. [**ah...**] practicing Catholic, [**ah>** as President of the United States.] [**um...**]
2. On the issue [**of this/of this**] nomination Joe and I are very clear, as are the majority of the American people.

Kamala Harris made 4 mistakes during the VP debate. She employed pauses, interjections, and repeats.

Data 16:

[**Mr. Vice President,>**] [**I'm speaking/ I'm speaking**]. 1864 president and vice president admired Abraham Lincoln.

Kamala Harris made 2 mistakes during the VP Debate. 1 repetition.

Data 17:

1. She aspired to be a nurse so she became an EMT, so she could **then//** Nurses save lives.
2. Unjustly, cruelly, viciously, she was killed. And it just, [**it/it**] brings me to, you know, the eight minutes and 46 seconds that America witnessed, during **which//** an American **man//** was tortured and killed under the **knee//** of an armed, uniformed police officer.
3. People of every ethnicity, age, and gender marched arm-in-arm throughout the nation, **fighting//** for us to finally achieve that ideal of equal justice under law.
4. And I was a part of those peaceful protests. And, I believe strongly that, [**first of all,>**] we are never going to condone violence, but we always must **fight//** for our beliefs and goals.
5. We will require a national registry for police officers who break the law, we will on the issue of criminal justice **reform//** Remove private prisons and monetary bail, and we'll legalize pot and wipe records.

Kamala Harris made 3 mistakes at the VP Debate. 7 pauses and 1 interjection.

Data 18:

1. Not hopeless Doubled down. "Retreat," he said. Hold. Trump's strategy. [**He was - he called**] Mexicans rapists and criminals.
2. His first act was a Muslim ban. [**He, //**] Charlottesville was a peaceful racial justice demonstration until a woman was killed and neo-Nazis yelled racist epithets, [**it-it-it**] anti-semitic slurs.
3. And Donald Trump, when asked about it, **said //** Both sides had good individuals.

Kamala Harris made 3 mistakes at the VP Debate. She stopped, repeated, corrected, and intervened twice.

Data 19:

But I want to speak about Joe and my plans and my record, which includes, that I was the **first //** statewide officer to force my agents to wear body cams full-time.

Kamala Harris had 1 speech blunder in the VP Debate. She paused once.

Data 20:

1. So, **uh...** We're pleased of our campaign partnership. We have a massive presidential alliance.
2. Democrats, independents, and Republicans, including seven Bush cabinet officials, support us.
3. Over 500 generals, retired generals, and senior national security advisors support our campaign, including Colin Powell, Cindy McCain, and John Kasich.
4. They know Joe Biden will fight for democracy and White House ethics.
5. [**First,**] [**um...**] Brooklyn, I hear her and your statements, [**uh...**] This outlook on who we are and who we should be is a hallmark of leadership we should all strive to. So, Joe.
6. Joe ran for president after Charlottesville because of hate and division. [**um...**] Joe ran for president following Brecklyn's four-year description.
7. Joe has a long history of bipartisanship. [**Uh>**] As President, he'll do it.

Kamala Harris had 3 speech faults in the VP debate. 8 quiet pauses, 2 filled pauses, and 4 interjections.

Tabel 4.1
The Types of Speech Error Made by Kamala Harris

The Speech Errors made by Kamala Harris	The Types of Speech Errors
Data 1: [Oh>, absolutely] [eh... e-e-e...] [worked//] [grieving//] [And you know>] [force//]	Interjection Filled Pause Silent Pause Silent Pause Interjection Silent Pause
Data 2: [I Susan/I] [I/I wanna add] [So I/I wanna -]	Repeats Repeats Repeats
Data 3: [line//] [because//]	Silent Pause
Data 4: [If the//] [the/the]	Silent Pause Repeats Silent Pause
Data 5: [um...] [from/from] [um...] [memorab-memorable]- Repetition [um...>] [uh...] [um...] [um...] [about//] [because//] [um...] [um...] [in our-in war zones] [And>] [we share/we share]	Filled Pause Repeats Filled Pause Stutter Interjection Filled Pause Filled Pause Filled Pause Silent Pause Silent Pause Filled Pause Filled Pause Correction Interjection Repeats
Data 6: [um...] [um...]	Filled Pause Filled Pause

[I/I]	Repeats
["You mean \$750,000?". \ \And it was like no, \$750.]	Unretraced False Starts
[many/many]	Repeats
[He/he]	Repeats
Data 7:	
[um...]	Filled Pause
Data 8:	
[That is/That is]	Repeats
[when they ran\when they rode]	Retraced False Starts
Data 9:	
[Alright,> so first of all,]	Interjection
[That is a fact/That is a fact]	Repeats
[and/and]	Repeats
Data 10:	
[the/the]	Repeats
[um...]	Filled Pause
[the/the]	Repeats
happening//	Silent Pause
Data 11:	
[I/I/I]	Repeats
[you know we have a 20-year-old,>]	Interjection
[at-at-at]	Repeats
Data 12:	
failed//	Silent Pause
Data 13:	
[So,> you know Joe is.]	Interjection
[I/I]	Repeats
[and >you know, Joe, I think,	Interjection
[And so we know this,>]	Interjection
[um...]	Filled Pause
Trump//	Silent Pause
[and-and-and-be-and-and-and]	Repeats
nuclear//	Silent Pause
Data 14:	
[First of all, to the Mueller family, //]	Silent Pause
[I/I]	Repeats

[I'm so sorry/I'm so sorry].	Repeats
[um...]	Filled Pause
[um...]	Filled Pause
And//	Silent Pause
[and you know what Donald Trump dismissed them as?>] Headaches.	Interjection
[And/and/and]	Repeats
[this is/this is]	Repeats
(Joe Biden b-b-b-but- Joe Biden) 'Repetition'	Stutter
Data 15:	
[First of all//],	Silent Pause
[ah...]	Filled Pause
ah> as President of the United States.	Interjection
[um...]	Filled Pause
[of this/of this]	Repeats
Data 16:	
[Mr. Vice President,>]	Interjection
[I'm speaking/I'm speaking]	Repeats
Data 17:	
then//	Silent Pause
[it/it]	Repeats
which//	Silent Pause
man//	Silent Pause
knee//	Silent Pause
fighting//	Silent Pause
[first of all, >]	Interjection
fight//	Silent Pause
reform//	Silent Pause
Data 18:	
He was - he called	Correction
[He,//]	Silent Pause
[it-it-it]	Repeats
said//	Silent Pause
[And/and/and]	Repeats
[Our/our]	Repeats
Data 19:	
first//	Silent Pause
Data 20:	

[umm...]	Filled Pause
of//	Silent Pause
[um...]	Filled Pause
[Uh>]We have...	Interjection
[umm...]	Filled Pause
[uh>] generals, retired...	Interjection
[deep/deep]	Repeats
[Um> First of all,...]	Interjection
[um...]	Filled Pause
[I/I]	Repeats
[um...]	Filled Pause
[um...]	Filled Pause
[um...]	Filled Pause
[um...]	Filled Pause
[Uh> And that's...]	Interjection

As the research result of the types of speech errors made by Kamala Harris above consist of silent pause, filled pause, repeats, retraced false starts, unretraced false starts, correction, stutter and interjection. There is no slip of the tongue did by Kamala Harris and the most common speech error is filled pause. There are 2 kinds the causes of speech errors found in data 1 up to data 20 based on Clark & Clark's theory, with details the four most common types (filled pause 27 times, silent pause 25 times, repeats 21 times, and interjection 15 times) serve as a reference for analyzing the causes. Based on this theory, both are: cognitive difficulty and social factors (situational anxiety and social circumstances). It can be analyzed that the causes of speech errors made by Kamala Harris cover all three.

The Causes of Speech Errors

Kamala Harris' speech mistake may have been induced by social anxiety. Based Clark and Clark's theory that anxiety promotes speech problems. Kamala Harris' speech errors may be caused by situational anxiety and social factors. Based on Clark and Clark's theory that anxiety promotes speech problems. Kamala's social anxiety is related to the fact that if elected she will be the first woman to serve as vice president in the United States even from black society. As is known, some people still look down on black people in this

country. She felt less relaxed compared to the white presidential candidate who, of course, received more attention from the protection of the public.

CONCLUSION

Based on Clark & Clark's theory, the types of speech errors made by Kamala Harris at the Debate of the Candidates for Vice President of America are silent pause, filled pause, repeats, retraced false starts, unretraced false starts, correction, stutter and interjection and the most common speech errors made by Kamala Harris is filled pause. Kamala Harris' speech errors may be caused by situational anxiety and social circumstances.

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