

# Policy Journal of Social Science Review



## Linguistic Analysis of Urdu, Punjabi and English slips of the Tongue in an Urdu Talk-Show

Saima Abbas Dar<sup>1</sup>

Muniba Saeed<sup>2</sup>

Dr. Irfan Abbas<sup>3</sup>

Faiza Abid<sup>4</sup>

## Linguistic Analysis of Urdu, Punjabi and English slips of the Tongue in an Urdu Talk-Show

<b>Saima Abbas Dar</b>	Lecturer, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan
<b>Muniba Saeed</b>	Lecturer, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan
<b>Dr. Irfan Abbas</b>	Assistant Professor, University of Central Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan
<b>Faiza Abid</b>	Assistant Professor, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan

### Abstract

Slip of the tongue is a natural phenomenon which may occur unintentionally in any language user's speech. An analysis of slip of the tongue gives an insight into deviations in the various standard linguistics patterns in the speech of an individual. The present study aims to investigate the types of slip-ups in the speech of Urdu language users and their potential factors behind them. The researchers have used the naturalistic data i.e. bloopers recorded during the broadcast of an Urdu talk show on a private channel. Data of 50 pieces of slip-ups were collected from 10 pieces of videos ranging from 2021-2022 of a Pakistani talk show on television that was available on YouTube. Descriptive qualitative method was used to analyze the data. The data was collected from the recorded videos in the form of words and phrases. Moreover, using the theoretical framework with eight types of slips of the tongue proposed by Carrol (2008) and Fromkin (1973), the data was classified and then analyzed by describing the forms of slips of the tongue happened by the performers of the talk show. In addition to that, analyzing the forms of slips of the tongue in the context gave substantiation about the factors like code switching/mixing, social and psychological pressure, phonological and structural complexity of the word/phrase behind them. The findings of the study suggested that substitution, reversal/exchange, addition and deletion are more frequently occurred slip of the tongue which can be circumvented if the identified factors are abridged.

**Key Terms:** Slip of the tongue, Pakistani Talk Show, Bloopers, Linguistic Analysis

### INTRODUCTION

The analysis of speech errors has been central to the interests of Psycholinguists as it gives an insight into the working of human brain while using language for communication purpose. Errors in speech are a natural phenomenon, and it may occur any time and in any situation. Slip of the tongue (SoT) is somehow different from the standard speech. This is an accidental expression of a thought or feeling. Mustofa & Akhmad (2018:47) assert that there are four stages of production i.e. "conceptualizing, formulating, articulating, and self-monitoring", and during the transition from one stage to another, one may commit the speech errors. Since one monitors one's speech, these errors reveal one's state of mind and the function of the brain

during speech production. It indicates that something has gone wrong in the mental processing of language production. Berg (2020:634) has investigated how speech errors involving morphemes can reveal the structure and processing of morphology in the mental lexicon. He has divided errors into contextual and non-contextual types of the errors. He has concluded that prefixes are more prone to errors than suffixes, and that heads are more active than modifiers in speech errors.

Berg (2020:634) has investigated how speech errors involving morphemes can reveal the structure and processing of morphology in the mental lexicon. According to him these errors are affected by their surrounding linguistic environment. He has divided errors into contextual and non-contextual types of the errors. He has concluded that prefixes are more prone to errors than suffixes, and that heads are more active than modifiers in speech errors.

Psycholinguistics researchers are particularly interested to observe these speech errors to evaluate the phonological and morphological processing in these linguistics errors.

Multiple researches have been conducted to explore the nature, types and causes of the slips of the tongue. In a psycholinguistics research, Detrianto, B. (2017:112) explored the classes and causal elements of slip of tongue (SOT) made by Libyan and Thai students during an English presentation at UIN Malang, Indonesia. He found seven types of errors out of which Deletion was the most frequent. The researcher also found the cognitive element to be the most powerful factor than situational anxiety and social factor. Asyura (2017) investigated the causes and types of pauses and slips in the speech of stand-up comedians in Indonesia. He noticed that nervousness, timing, spontaneity and management cause different semantic, phonetic and lexical speech errors. Fitriana (2018), especially, has investigated SOT among Indonesian government officials concluding that SoT may occur in any situation including formal or informal, and by the people of any age and educational background. Qimmahtum, Cahyono, and Effe (2021:307) conducted a similar study to investigate the slips of the tongue in Presidential debates 2019. They concluded that the highest frequency of the type of SoT was deletion followed by substitutions and anticipations. Mustofa & Akhmad (2018:47) identify 6 types of SoT in EFL classroom. Bakri (2019:197) has employed the theories of slip of the tongue offered by Carrol (2008) and Fromkin (1973), which proposed eight categories of slips of the tongue – anticipation, perseverance, reversal, blend or haplologies, faulty derivation, substitution, addition and deletion. He found substitution and anticipation to be the most frequently occurring errors in the presentation of non-native speakers.

Slips of the tongue can be triggered by multiple reasons in which linguistic knowledge and the newly learnt phonological patterns are the most important. (Dell, 2004). These phonological combinations may be sometimes difficult to pronounce because of different reasons as Sariasih (2023) said that Slips of the tongue, or speech errors caused by numerous psychological factors including fluency and psychological pressure. She concluded that the English debaters committed slips of the tongue for “excessive enthusiasm, nervousness in conveying the contents of the conversation, and unpreparedness. Slips of the tongue may occur because the time is very short to speak while the ideas or thoughts that is needed to convey are

too many". Similarly, Burford-Rice (2018) examined in his study that the speakers claimed that their racial slips of the tongue did not match their psychological intentions.

Considering SoT as a natural phenomena, all these types can occur due to any possible influence: present in the environment, in the specific setting one is speaking or cognitive, social or psychological pressure, provided there is no clear evidence to it in the past studies related to identifying factors behind SoT. So, the factors have been investigated on the basis of certain clues which performers gave while committing SoT and this is the prospective contribution of the study which can further be investigated in future with broader dimensions and avenues.

### **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

1. What are the predominant patterns and types of slips of the tongue occurring during the verbal interactions in the Pakistani talk shows?
2. What are the underlying causes behind occurring slips of tongue during the verbal interactions in the Pakistani talk shows?

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The current research study used a descriptive qualitative method. This approach was taken since the information was gathered using words and phrases. Theoretical framework proposed by Carrol (2008) and Fromkin (1973) that categorize slip of the tongue into eight types: anticipation, perseveration, reversal, blend or haplogogies, mis derivation, substitution, addition, and deletion was used to investigate and comprehend the implication that actors/performers in talk shows attribute to their level of ease/difficulty, surrounding or psychological pressure. This study made an effort to characterize speech output that addresses verbal blunders and tried to identify the factors that contribute to its occurrence. The video data was analyzed on the basis of theoretical framework given by Carrol (2008) and Fromkin (1973) in the backdrop of 8 types proposed by them. There is no evidence in the past studies related to identifying factors which could be obviously established by analyzing the SoT in the context where they occurred. So, the factors have been investigated on the basis of certain indicators which performers and their director conceded or stated verbally after/during the occurrence of SoT.

### **DATA COLLECTION**

The data are in the form of a collection or compilation of the parts of the scenes that contain the slips of the tongue examples that occurred naturally by the performers of a talk show. These compilations are called bloopers which mean embarrassing slip-ups. These compilations were selected randomly from the programs of the year 2021-2022. There were 50 examples of slips of the tongue picked up randomly from different videos of the same program in the form of words and phrases in three different languages: Urdu, Punjabi and English (spoken and known most commonly in Pakistan) used in that show. The data were collected and organized for this particular study in three steps: in first step, the videos were randomly selected to avoid any bias of choosing a video which had more number of bloopers as compared to the other; in second phase all certain points where the particular slips-up occurred were noted with time bar so that their particular context could also be scrutinised to establish the factors involved in the occurrences of these SoT while analyzing them; in the third and last stage the data was

organized in the form of a table while classifying all occurrences in their particular categories selected for the study. The table given below demonstrates in the first column the types of SoT, the utterances which are the examples of SoT are in the second column, the intention is what actually should have been uttered in the third column and the fourth column mentioned the possible factors inferred/evident from the context in which an SoT occurred. The program is actually an Urdu show, but since it is a comedy show it has an excessive use of code mixing and code switching between three languages: Urdu, Punjabi and very rarely English as well on part of the director cum host and performers. The column number 2 and 3 have been displayed exactly as Urdu and Punjabi are orthographically written.

### DATA ANALYSIS

The data analysis of 50 bloopers of Pakistani talk shows reflects the emergence of certain patterns of types of slips depicted through the following table 1.

**TABLE 1: EXAMPLES OF SLIPS OF THE TONGUE**

Types	Utterance (SoT)	Intention	Factor (inferred/evident from the context of SoT occurrence)
<b>anticipation</b>	۱- پیوتر (phonological error) ۲- تلفظ فیز ۳- سندھستان ۴- ۵- جوڈائی بن	۱- Pigeon کبوتر ۲- تلفظ base ۳- ہندوستان (India) Hindustan ۴- Dictionary ۵- جوہائیڈن	Fluency Repetition Fear (psychological pressure)
<b>Perseverance</b>	۱- آجکاجو ہے ۲- کمپلیٹیل Complilatel ۳- شاہد خان قباسی	۱- آجکا شو ہے ۲- کمپلیکیٹڈ Complicated ۳- شاہد خاقان عباسی	Fluency Complex word Lack of knowledge
<b>Reversal or Exchange</b>	۱- سب سرز ۲- پہاڑ دا برف ۳- پریا گلاس دا دودھ لے کے آوے ۴- کتنی عمر میں سیکھنا بولنا ۵- امریکہ سے افغانستان نے نکل کر ۶- اچھا کیا Redail ۷- سارے بزرگ دوست ان کے کیسے ہوئے	۱- Green سرسبز ۲- Snow mountain برف دا پہاڑ ۳- پریا دودھ دا گلاس لے کے آوے ۴- کتنی عمر میں بولنا سیکھنا ۵- افغانستان سے امریکہ نے نکل کر ۶- derail ۷- سارے بزرگ دوست ان کے کیسے ہوئے	Over confidence in result to the psychological pressure imposed by the director/host

<b>Blend/ haplogologies</b>	None	None	
<b>faulty derivation</b>	۱- گورنل ۲- چووی کھنٹی ۳- گھڑیں ۴- نان ٹکے ۵- سب سا اچھا	۱- Governor گورنر ۲- چووی کھنٹے ۳- گھڑیاں ۴- نان ٹگی ۵- best of all سب سے اچھا	Fluency Lack of knowledge Influence of previous word
<b>Substitution</b>	۱- آپ نے کتنا ٹائم ہو گیا ہے ۲- نہ ۳۸ نہ ۳۵ ۳- ہم ہاتھ ہتھیلی پر رکھتے ہیں ۴- بیڑا- substitution of a letter) ۵- کالا تمہارا بگّا بَلّہ کہاں ہے ۶- ہاتھ پہ تھوڑی رکھی ہے ۷- (letter substitution) غیر منذب ۸- دل کے پھپھولے جل چکے ۹- اکھاں تے اکھاں پایا ۱۰- اعصاب ۱۱- دو جانور اڑ رہے ہیں ۱۲- تم نے اس بات کا خیال رکھنا ہے کہ میری ناف کہاں پہ اُترتی ہے؟ ۱۳- کتنے لٹٹر کا آپکا سوئمنگ پُل ہے؟ ۱۴- میں کل ایک ویڈیو دیکھ رہا تھا ۱۵- غریب ارمحان	۱- آپکو کتنا ٹائم ہو گیا ہے ۲- نہ ۳۵ نہ ۴۰ ۳- ہم جان ہتھیلی پر رکھتے ہیں ۴- بیڑا ۵- بھگا تمہارا کالا بَلّہ کہاں ہے ۶- تھوڑی پر رکھا ہے ہاتھ ۷- غیر مہذب ۸- دل کے پھپھولے جل اٹھے ۹- اکھاں تے اکھاں پا کے ۱۰- آفتاب ۱۱- دو پرندے اڑ رہے ہیں ۱۲- تم نے اس بات کا خیال رکھنا ہے کہ میری ناف کہاں پہ چڑھتی ہے؟ ۱۳- کتنے لٹٹر کا آپکا فارم ہاؤس ہے؟ ۱۴- میں کل ایک ویڈیو چام رہا تھا ۱۵- غریب ارمغان	Similar pattern of the speech in the context Similar use of words in the context Fluency

<b>Addition</b>	۱- ایکسور سائز ۲- سٹھ دس ۳- بہرم خان ۴- رکھوں گا میاں سا پاس ۵- پیروں کی طرف ۶- میاں حمزہ نواز ممتاز شہباز شریف ۶- ۷- دھبکوں سے یہ چراغ بھجایا نا جائے گا ۸- جو ایس ٹائم رنگیلا صاب دا نوید دا عالم اے	۱- ایکسور سائز ۲- Eight to ten اٹھ دس ۳- Continent براعظم ۴- رکھوں گا میں تجھے پاس ۵- پیروں تلے ۶- میاں حمزہ شہباز شریف ۷- دھبکوں سے یہ چراغ بھجایا نا جائے گا ۸- جو ایس ٹائم رنگیلا صاب دا نوید دا عالم اے	Fatigue Lack of knowledge Phonological/ structural complexity Fluency
<b>Deletion</b>	۱- قطرویز ۲- اسٹیبلیمنٹ Establishment ۳- رس میری زندگی ہے ۴- Valuation ۵- پارمانی ۶- شہاب سا 7. Let me sit with the president.	۱- قطرائیر ویز (Qatar airways) ۲- اسٹیبلشمنٹ Establishment ۳- رقص میری زندگی ہے (Dance is my life) ۴- Evaluation ۵- پارلیمانی Parliamentary ۶- شہاب ثاقب 7. Let me first sit with the president.	Lack of knowledge Fear of the surrounding Repetition

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The phenomenon of SoT has been studied widely, however, the causes and factors are identified with more focus on psychological, mental and cognitive aspects which study the processes which are involved in speech production. Slips of the tongue can be caused by physiological, psychological and social factors. Physiological processes were not taken into consideration for this particular study. This study focused on psychological and social factors such as fatigue, fluency, social pressure, mental occupation, syntactic and phonological limitations/complexities, lack of knowledge and similarity in the pattern of speech and in the use of words in context. Discussion given below presents the types of SoT with examples and the possible factors involved.

## ANTICIPATION

All these SoT occurred due to fluency and repetition of the same statement in which these words occurred. Which resulted in pronouncing later segment taking the place of an earlier one. The very first example given in the table is pronouncing "paputar" instead of saying "kabootar" which means pigeon. This is not exactly an example of anticipation, however, pronouncing the sounds /p/ instead of /k/ and /b/ which came earlier indicates that these all three sounds take the same manner of articulation and one segment to be pronounced later

may possibly take the place of an earlier one/similar one. Rest of the four examples تَلْفُظِزِ “tallafuz phase”, instead of saying base تَلْفُظِ, “dishkanry” instead of dictionary and جوڈائی بن “Joe Diben” instead of جو بائیڈن “Joe Biden” are very clear instances of anticipation. Third example ہندوستان “Hindustan” was pronounced سندھستان “Sindustan” where the later segment /s/ had the influence on the earlier segment /h/ and was pronounced /s/ again.

First two and the third SoT occurred while speaking in fluency, nevertheless, the last two were the result of the fear of the director who was asking the performers to practice in angry and mocking tone. Despite repeating “base تَلْفُظِ”, it became hard to speak properly.

#### **PERSEVERATION:**

It has been observed while seeing the context of these SoT occurrences that the similar kinds of factors like fluency, repetition of the statement along with the lack of knowledge of the one who is speaking a word to which he/she is exposed to for the first time cause these SoT to occur more frequently.

All these instances are very clearly showing that the earlier segment had influence on the later one. In the first example آجکا شو ہے “aajka show hei” was spoken like آجکاجو ہے “aajka jo hei” where the earlier segment /j/ has influence over the later segment /sh/. Similarly, کمپلیکیٹڈ “complicated” was articulated as کمپلیلیٹل “complilatel” where the earlier segment /l/ had the influence on the later segment /d/ and was pronounced /l/ again. The last example شاہد خان قباسی “Shahid Khan Qabasi” was spoken instead of شاہد خاقان عباسی “Shahid Khaqan Abbasi” where the earlier segment /k/ had the influence over the later segment.

#### **REVERSAL/EXCHANGE**

These are the typical SoT where the speakers were either very confidently or fluently speaking the words and phrases and exchanging a letter or a word or they have a similar pattern of the speech like کتنی عمر میں بولنا سیکھنا “kitni umar mein bolna seekhna” where “bolna seekhna” have similar pattern of speech. Moreover, سب سبز “sar sabz” was exchanged as سب سرز “sab sarz” portrayed the example of a letter exchange. Some other examples like پہاڑ دا برف “paharr da baraf” instead of برف دا پہاڑ “barf da paharr” and America say افغانستان نے نکل کر اچھا کیا “America say Afghanistan nay nikal ker acha kiya” instead of افغانستان سے امریکہ نے نکل کر چھا کیا “Afghanistan say America nay nikal ker acha kiya” and پریا گلاس دا دودھ لے کے آوے “parya glass da dudh lay k aaway” was spoken instead of پریا دودھ دا گلاس لے کے آوے “parya dudh da glass lay k aaway” are all exchange of one word with the other.

#### **FAULTY DERIVATION**

This type of SoT occurred due to fatigue, lack of knowledge in case of the use of the word گورنر “Governor” the speaker was unable to speak the appropriate word and made a faulty derivation by speaking the word گورنل “governal” and the evidence of the influence of the previous word also caused to produce faulty derivation where the speaker spoke the phrase چووی کھنٹی “chowi kanti” where the previous word also ended in /i/, instead of the correct phrase چووی کھنٹے “chowi kantay” which actually end in /ay/, whereas گھڑیاں “gharriain” instead of گھڑیاں “gharriyan” where /ein/ and /aan/ are two different derivations to make plural. /ein/ was

wrongly used to make plural and نان ٹکی "naan tikki" instead of نان ٹکے "naan tikkay" were spoken due to fluency of the speaker.

### **SUBSTITUTION**

Substitution and replacement of one word with the other has been found the most frequently occurred SoT in the current study. It happened mostly due to fluency, the similar pattern of the speech in the context or some words are used erstwhile the coming up statements. There are two types of replacements: in first type only, a letter is replaced which is because of the fluent speech, the second type of substitution refers to fluency along with similar pattern of the speech or some words used in the previous statements which automatically are more prone to be articulated as compared to others.

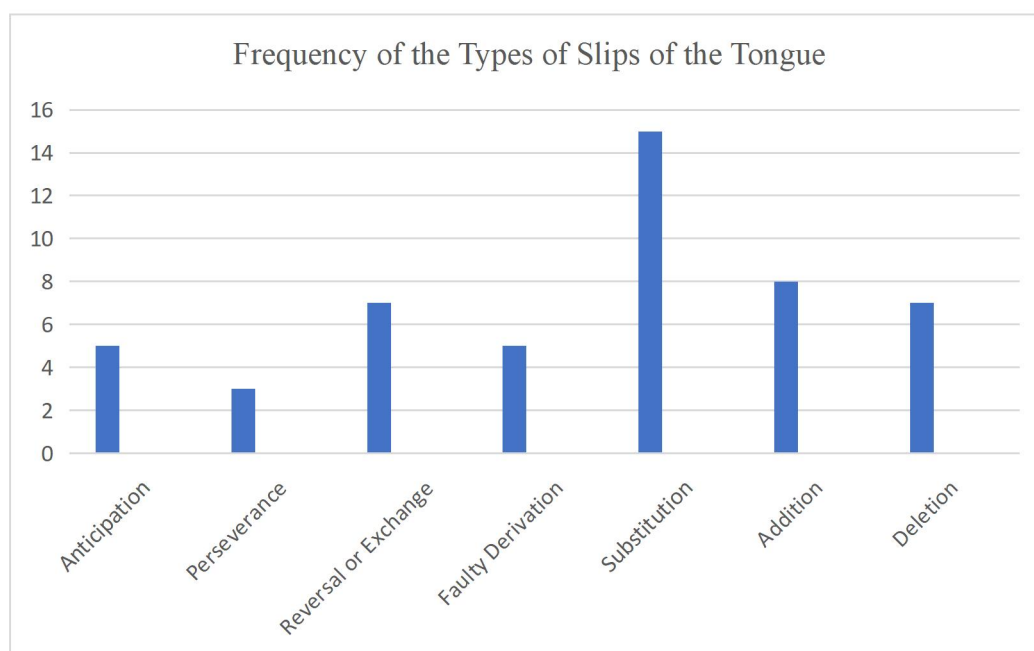
Substitutions of words were revealed in the examples like ہم جان ہتھیلی پر رکھتے ہیں "ham jan hatheli par rakhtay hein" was replaced with ہم ہاتھ ہتھیلی پر رکھتے ہیں "ham haath hatheli par rakhtay hein". In another example, کتنے لٹر کا آپکا فارم ہاؤس ہے "kitnay liter ka aapka farm house hei?" Swimmimg pool was substituted with farm house as where the speaker intended to speak The examples of letter substitution are غیر مہذب "ghair muhazzab" was replaced with غیر منذب "ghair munazzab". In this example /h/ sound was replaced by /n/. These both sound have no similarity in terms of place and manner of articulation which justifies SoT occurrences are hard to be measured in some specific categories only. In second example of letter substitution, غریب ارمغان "ghareeb Armaghan" was replaced by غریب ارمحان "ghareeb Armahan" /gh/ sound was replaced by /h/ sound. /gh/ sound is unique to Urdu and Punjabi languages only, it's not the part of English language.

### **ADDITION AND DELETION**

Addition and deletion SoT have been found to be used in number two in terms of number of occurrences. It has been observed that most of the deletions and additions were made when the speaker was not aware of the word. It was mostly an English word or phonologically or structurally complex word which was difficult to pronounce. In some occurrences, it was just psychological pressure created by peers and the host that did not allow the performers to say the exact word, though it was not difficult at all and the speaker admitted himself after he realized his/her mistake. The examples like ایکسرسائز "exercise" was wrongly added /o/ as ایکسور "exorcise". سائز "exorcise". براعظم is a purely Urdu complex word was completely changed by adding so many similar segments and pronouncing بہرم خان "Behram Khan". میاں حمزہ شہباز شریف "Mian Hamza Shahbaz Shareef" is the name of the son of a popular leader was wrongly spoken by adding two more names which sounded same like میاں حمزہ نواز ممتاز شہباز شریف "mian Hamza Nawaz Mumtaz Shahbaz Shareef". In قطر ایئر ویز "Qatar airways" as قطرویز "Qatar ways" one complete word "air" was deleted whereas, in rest of the examples like اسٹیبلشمنٹ "Establishment" as اسٹیبلیمنٹ "establiment", /sh/ sound پارلیمانی "parlimani" as پارمانی "parmani" /li/ sound and راقص میری زندگی ہے "raqs meri zindagi hei" as رس میری زندگی ہے "ras meri zindagi hei" /k/ sounds were deleted.

**TABLE 2: FREQUENCY OF THE TYPES OF SLIPS OF THE TONGUE**

Types	Frequency
anticipation,	5
Perseverance	3
Reversal or Exchange	7
Blend/ haplogogies	0
faulty derivation	5
Substitution	15
Addition	8
Deletion	7



## CONCLUSION

In the light of the above discussion, the researchers have discovered that the performers of the talk show though having their dialogues memorized exhibit a practically broad spectrum of verbal blunders in their speech during the recording of the show. The performers' mistakes in speech include anticipations, preservations, faulty - derivations, substitutions, additions, and deletions. Each type of mistake is found in the form of words and phrases. One form of slip-up that the performers have not committed in their speech, however, is blending.

Furthermore, the most frequently type of SoT are substitutions, which have occurred fifteen times in total 50 SoT examples. The in-depth analysis of the factors revealed that even remembering the dialogues cannot make the speaker free of all types of SoT. Psychological factors like intervening comments by the peers and host cum director and social factors cause the occurrences of a slip of the tongue. It was hard to determine which factors are more dominant as compared to others. In future, more researches can be conducted to identify the

frequency of certain causes and different phonological patterns pertaining to the articulation of different Urdu phrases.

## REFERENCES

- Asyura, M. (2017). Pause and slip of the tongue on stand-up comedy show in Indonesia. *IJASOS-International E-Journal of Advances in Social Sciences*, 188–188.  
<https://doi.org/10.18769/ijasos.309675>
- Bakri, U. (2019). Investigating Types of Slips of the Tongue Experienced in Students' Speech. *EDISI*, 1(1), 197-214.
- Berg, T. (2020). Morphological slips of the tongue. *Word Knowledge and Word Usage*, 634.
- Burford-Rice, R., & Augoustinos, M. (2018). 'I didn't mean that: It was just a slip of the tongue': Racial slips and gaffes in the public arena. *British Journal of Social Psychology*, 57(1), 21-42.
- Dell, G. S., & Warker, J. A. (2004). The tongue slips into (recently learned) patterns. *LOT Occasional Series*, 2, 47-56.
- Detrianto, B. (2017, July). The Study of Slip of Tongue in English Classroom Presentation Produced by Thai and Libyan Students at English Language and Letters Department. In *ASEAN/Asian Academic Society International Conference Proceeding Series*.
- Edition, F., & Carroll, D. W. (2008). Psychology of Language.
- Fitriana. M. (2018). Slip of the tongue in speech production of Indonesia state officials: A psycholinguistic study. *International Journal of English Literature and Social Sciences (IJELS)*, 3(4), 536-540.
- Fromkin, V. A. (1973). The non-anomalous nature of anomalous utterances. *Speech errors as linguistic evidence*, 215-242.
- Mustofa, M. I., & Akhmad, A. (2018). Identifying The Slip of Tongue In EFL Classroom: One Error That Blocked Students' Fluency in Speaking. *Journal al-Lisan*, 46-57.
- Sariasih, W., Rafli, Z., & Boeriswati, E. (2023). Slip of the Tongue in English-Language Debates: A Psycholinguistic Study. *KnE Social Sciences*, 288-296.
- Qimmahtum, R., Cahyono, B. Y., & Kadarisman, A. E. (2021). Slips of the Tongue by Jokowi and Prabowo in the Presidential Debates 2019. *JoLLA: Journal of Language, Literature, and Arts*, 1(3), 307-319.