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Article

Semantic Errors Committed by Indonesian Celebrities: Clasification and Meanings

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A B S T R A C T

Examining and studying semantics error are challenging areas, due to the position of English as the foreign language in Indonesia. The skill of Indonesian in using English might be as not as good as Singaporean, Malaysian, or Filipinos. Indonesian try to use some English words in their daily conversation or certain occasion. However, they tend to ignore the meanings, as the result the words used are semantically incorrect. Insufficient knowledge of English semantic system causes Indonesian just accept the English words they got from media especially from their favourite Indonesian celebrities, without thinking the meanings might be wrong. This research aims to examine the written and oral semantics errors used by Indonesian celebrities on social media, TV show, and online news including videos on YouTube, how they can be categorized into errors classifications based on Shormani and Al-Sobani's (2012) theory that basically followed the error taxonomy from James (1998). This research also investigates the meanings because knowing the meanings of the words is also very helpful in avoiding the errors of using English. The semantic errors classified are formal misselelection, formal misformation, lexical choice, collocation, and lexicogrammatical choice. The researcher uses qualitative descriptive method in doing the research.

INTRODUCTION

English has been used as a global language for a long time. In the term of communication, English makes people easier to deliver their thought, opinion, feeling, and so on. English may not be spoken in all countries but it is used as an official language in many countries. People need English to link them to one another because English is the language of business in the world like free market for ASEAN economic community.

As one of the non-English speaking countries, Indonesia's government has made English as an important subject that has been taught from school to university level. Yet, the status of English is the first foreign language. Therefore, not every Indonesian speak English but it is obviously taught at school.

The skill of Indonesian in using English might be as not as proficient as Singaporean, Malaysian, or Filipinos. According to English Proficiency Index (EF) that was published in 2018, the rank of Indonesia is on number 51 from 88 countries. While the neighboring countries of Singapore and Malaysia are ranked number 3 and 22. The

score for Indonesia is 51.58 with low proficiency, leave it far behind from Singapore and Malaysia with a very high level of proficiency 68.63 and high proficiency 59.32. The numbers at least represent the skill of Indonesian in using English.

English might be learnt by some Indonesian in formal education to support them in formal occasion but others learn from media and popular culture. The youth cannot be avoided being exposed to English in such domains like internet, television, advertising and social media. There is an increase awareness for the young to use English vocabulary after the internet interactions, especially by following their favourite celebrities on social media. However, sometimes the English words or idiomatic expression they have seen or heard are semantically incorrect.

Knowing the meaning of the words is very important to avoid misunderstanding among the speakers, in linguistic term it is called Semantics, to connect meaning of words or the study of meaning. Semantics can be applied to entire text or to single words. In this research, the researcher decides to analyse single words of English used by Indonesian celebrities on social media, TV show, and online news. The researcher has chosen random Indonesian celebrities who mostly insert English words on the sources mentioned above. Semantics error often happen and its normal in the process of learning a language. If the errors are repeatedly committed by the learners, there will be such a failure in understanding the meaning of a foreign language.

According to Lennon in Shormani and Al-sobani (2012:120), he defines 'error' in general as "a linguistics form or combination in forms which in the same context and under similar conditions of production, would, in all likelihood, not be produced by the speakers' native speaker counterparts (emphasis ours)". In short, Shormani and Al-sobani (2012:120) said on their research that semantics error can be defined as "a violation of the rules of semantic system particular to English language".

Using incorrect word causes incorrect meaning, for example, 'We sell pulse' to explain 'We sell prepaid voucher' or 'get phone credit here' or in Indonesian 'Kami menjual pulsa'. The word 'pulse' has its lexical meaning 'nadi' but it is translated to the wrong meaning. We've often heard our celebrities insert an English word in their Indonesian statement or conversation for example 'Saya sebagai seorang entertainment...'. The lexical error contributes the semantic error.

Shormani and Al-sobani (2012) simplify the categories by employing a comprehensive taxonomy based on James (1998). They divided the categories to subcategories. For the categories, they are formal misselection, formal misformation, lexical choice, collocation, and lexicogrammatical choice. This research may not analyse

all the categories and subcategories but depend on the data found.

Language learners need to know about linguistics area to understand the structure of language, how language used, studies of speech or anything related to all aspects of language, particularly in the studies of meaning. Todd (1995:6) said that "Linguistics is usually defined as the scientific study of language. It means observing the language use, forming hypothesis about it and then refining them on the basis of evidence collected". Accordingly, Brown, et. al. (2014), they stated that "Linguistics is the science that studies language. Someone who studies linguistics is a linguist". Furthermore, there are many areas related to linguistics because it investigates a language.

One of Linguistics branches that studies meaning is known as Semantics. According to Kracht (2008:140), "Semantics studies meanings. It is intimately connected with logic, the study of reasoning. To see whether we have the correct meaning it is sometimes illuminating to check whether the purported meaning carries the correct logical consequences". Similarly, Todd (1995:79) explains that "Semantics refers to meaning and meaning is so intangible that one group of linguists, the structuralists, preferred not to deal with it or rely on it at all".

Under the subject of semantics, it shall deal with the following areas of interests, as still stated by Todd (1995:79): (a) the fact that a word can have more than one meaning, for example 'ball' can be both a dance and a wound object for bouncing; (b) the fact that different words appear to have the same meaning, for example 'regal' and 'royal' or 'big' and 'large'; (c) the fact that some words can be analysed into components such as adult, female, for example mare implies both adult and female as well as horse; (d) the fact that some words seem to have opposites, for example 'long' and 'short', 'good' and 'bad' but not 'desk' or 'table'; (e) the fact that meanings of some words are included in the meaning of others, for example the meaning of 'vegetable' is included in that of 'potato' and the meaning of 'tree' is included in that of 'elm'; and (f) the fact that certain combinations of words have meanings which are very different from the combination of their separate meanings, for example the meaning of 'pass' plus the meanings of 'on' do not add up to the meaning of 'die' although that is what 'pass on' can mean. In addition, Chaer (2012) affirms that Semantics is a linguistic study which concentrates on the research of meaning in the words or sentences. Moreover, the meaning of Semantics is divided into some types; there are lexical, grammatical, contextual meanings, referential and non-referential meaning, conceptual and associative meaning, and lexeme (Chaer, 2012). As described by Todd (1995:90), "A Semantic word involves in distinguishing between items which might be morphologically identical but differ in

meaning". In short, Semantics is the study of meaning that involves words or sentences.

Luo (2011) says that "Word meanings are context sensitive and may change in different situations". As words have different categories or word classes then they have different meaning. This research provides either lexical or contextual meaning of the English words to help in analysing the errors. "Lexical meaning must at least consist in the specification of some element, whether representational or not, formal or not- this meaning could be understood as truth conditions" (Asher, 2007:4). Meanwhile, Chaer (1990) states that lexical meaning is an adjunctive form derived from the form of a noun lexicon (vocabulary). He added that thus lexical meaning can be interpreted a lexicon, lexeme, or word. Djajasudarma in Ponno, et. al. (2019) describes that "expressing the lexical meaning is the meaning of the word that corresponds to what we encounter in the lexicon (dictionary)". In short, it can be said that lexical meaning is the meaning from the dictionary. It is also known as dictionary definition.

Furthermore, contextual meaning as ascribed by Depraetere (2019:3) is "a more functional notion that captures that status of the information that is communicated in context". According to Pateda in Kurniasari (2018), "Contextual meaning or situational meaning appears as a result of the relationship between speech and context". In addition, according to Chaer (2012), contextual meaning is the meaning of a lexeme or word inside a context. It can be concluded that contextual meaning is the meaning from the circumstances or surrounding, the setting of the events or idea.

Dealing with meaning studies, there will be errors in relied in some contexts of language use. Error has been considered negatively in learning process. Error cannot be avoided but it can be minimized. People cannot learn language without first systematically committing errors. The term 'error' and 'mistake' are often interchangeable. According to Norrish in Rinata (2018:3) states that "Learning a language (a mother tongue or foreign language) is a habit formation. When someone learns new language, the old language will interfere the new language. This cause of the error is called first language interfere".

According to Dulay, Burt, and Krashen in Agustina and Junining (2016), they categorized errors into four; they are linguistic category taxonomy, surface strategy taxonomy, comparative analysis, and communicative effect taxonomy. Surface strategy taxonomy is mostly used due to its specific and systematic way that briefly highlights in analysing the errors. The types of errors that belong to this are omission, addition, misformation, and misordering. While according to James in Hamdi (2016), he highlights two types of semantic errors: confusion of sense relations and collocation errors. For confusion of sense errors encompasses four types, they are using a superonym, for a hyponym, using a hyponym for a superonym, using

inappropriate co-hyponyms, and using a wrong near synonym.

METHOD

This research used a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative research describes events or knowledge that systematically and descriptively displayed in the data collecting. The data sources were the English words used by some Indonesian celebrities that had been chosen randomly. The data in forms of oral and written. The written data were taken from the celebrities' social media and online news. While the oral data were taken from the TV talk show and YouTube videos. There were 25 words from different celebrities were analysed, some words were repeatedly used with the same errors emerged by different celebrities.

The researcher uses the semantics error categories of Shormani and Al-sobani (2012) based on James (1998) that employed into comprehensive taxonomy. They categorized into five categories; they are formal misselection, formal misformation, lexical choice, collocation and lexico-grammatical choice. They provide an in-depth analysis by dividing them into subcategories. The researcher also provides further explanation for the subcategories depending on the errors identified. The researcher used simple method in counting the errors by classifying them into five categories by following the theory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of this research related to the problems of the study, the research investigate: 1) the semantics errors used by Indonesian celebrities on social media, TV show, and online news, how they can be classified into errors categories; and 2) the meanings of English words used by Indonesian celebrities on social media, TV show, and online news. The researcher uses the semantic error categories of Shormani and Al-sobani (2012) based on James (1998) who divided them into five categories, they are formal misselection, formal misformation, lexical choice, collocation and lexical grammatical choice.

Formal Misselection

- 1) "*my lovely fabulous **badroom**...*" tweet Syahrini di Twitter
- 2) "*My **Wesnesday** was good, kalau kamu?*"
- 3) "*Jujur ya, it **effect** me a lot*"

Shormani and Al-sobani (2012:128) said that "errors in this category are committed in such a way that the learner selects an incorrect letter for a correct one". Misselection of letters is committed because of the inability of the learner to read properly.

In error number 1, the word ‘badroom’ is incorrect. She wants to say ‘bedroom’ or the room used for sleeping in. In error number 2, the word ‘Wesnesday’ should be ‘Wednesday’. In error number 3, some Indonesian still get confused about the using of ‘effect’ and ‘affect’. The word ‘effect’ is a noun and the meaning is ‘the result of a particular influence’. While ‘affect’ is a verb that means ‘to have an influence on someone or something or to cause them to change’.

Lexical Choice

1. Wrong choice

- 4) “*Jadi dulu sempat naik **bus way**?*” Tanya Vicky
- 5) “*Pevita Pearce naik **bus way***”
- 6) “*...adik dari Keenan Pearce ini menghebohkan publik saat ia memposting di Instagram pribadinya sedang berada di stasiun **bus way***”.
- 7) “*Penyanyi dangdut Alam terkenal dengan lagunya yang berjudul ‘Mbak Dukun’. Gaya **energic** Alam di atas panggung juga menjadi ciri khasnya selama ini.*

Shormani and Al-sobani (2012:128) said that “sufficient a lexical knowledge plays an important role in understanding the meaning”. They classify lexical choice into five categories they are; assumed synonym, derivativeness, confusion of binary terms, paraphrase, idiomacity, and similar forms. They also combined Zimmermann (1983) classification of lexical choice errors they are; paraphrase, wrong choice, verbosity and sense relation. The researcher combined the theory of Zimmermann and Shormani and Al-sobani following the errors identified.

Errors number 4, 5, 6, are wrong choice category. Wrong lexical choice happens because of the semantic relatedness. Indonesian speakers learning English encounter difficulties in learning English semantics. Choosing the wrong word in explaining a thing causes a different meaning. The words ‘bus way’ from the data is a noun phrase. It consists of two words, ‘bus’ (noun) is a large vehicle in which people are driven from one place to another. Then ‘way’ (noun) is a route, direction or path. Those are the lexical meaning of ‘bus way’ it cannot be interpreted to other thing as from the source language the meaning is about the vehicle. The speaker actually wants to say about the bus, the Transjakarta bus not the path of the bus. It should be “*Jadi dulu sempat naik Transjakarta?*” tanya Vicky, as Transjakarta is a bus rapid transit system in Jakarta. Therefore, the using of the words ‘bus way’ is semantically a fatal mistake.

Error number (7) is also considered as a wrong choice category. There is no ‘energic’ word in English. This is a fatal mistake where many Indonesians use this word a lot. The speaker wants to say ‘energetic’ to describe someone who has a lot of energy in doing something. According to

Cambridge dictionary ‘energetic’ is an adjective with the meaning ‘having or involving a lot of energy’.

2. Similar Form

- 8) “*Ada sih gaya lain, tapi jarang banget dilihat. Bikin yang nonton **boring** alias bosan lihat gayanya yang begitu-begitu aja*”.
- 9) “*.. so they speak everyday **Indonesia**, speak bahasa setiap hari...*”
- 10) A: “*Loe satu orang yang dihina sama satu negara*”.
- B: “*Every **Indonesia** ya semuanya ya menghina gw*”.

Similar form error is caused by lack of the sufficient knowledge that enables the learners to differentiate between forms and their uses.

For error number 8, both ‘boring’ and ‘bored’ are classified into adjective but they have different meanings. The word ‘boring’ indicates as an adjective with the meaning ‘not interesting or exciting’ or in Indonesian means ‘membosankan’. While ‘bored’ means ‘feeling tired or unhappy because something is not interesting or because you have nothing to do’ or in Indonesian means ‘bosan’. The first form of this word is ‘bore’ which functions as a verb and the meaning is ‘fail to interest’ and ‘make a hole’. The use of the word ‘boring’ is semantically incorrect, the speaker is supposed to use ‘bored’ that contextually related to its meaning.

Errors number 9 and 10, the words ‘Indonesian’ and ‘Indonesia’ have similar forms, same class word as a noun but they have different meanings. The word ‘Indonesia’ from the sentence no 9 refers to the country but the speaker intends to say about the language, ‘Indonesian’. While no 10 the speaker intends to say ‘Indonesian,’ the people from Indonesia. The speaker fails to distinguish these similar forms.

3. Lexico-grammatical Choice

- 11) “*Dulu waktu dia awal-awal masuk dunia **entertain**, saya yang anterinya dia ke sekolah akting, presenter...*” ujarnya Jadi desainer, Bella Shofie mulai batasi tawaran di dunia entertain.
- 12) “*Terima **endorse**, laris mana Ayu Tingting dibandingkan dengan empat seleb lainnya*”.
- 13) “*Tapi Ayu nggak sendirian, masih banyak artis lain yang jadi ratu **endorse**,...*”
- 14) “*...lalu dari daftar di bawah ini siapa yang paling laris terima **endorse** dalam kurun waktu bulan Oktober ini?*”
- 15) “*...sama seperti deretan artis lain, kegiatan **endorse** sering mereka lakukan...*”

- 16) "Jajal wahana seru di Atlantis, sembari menunggu **perform** artis"
- 17) "Kak Indra Bektı yang sudah banyak **perform**-nya di tv"
- 18) Meski bukan untuk menyanyi, **perform** Agnes Monica, ditunggu di hadapan ribuan insan musik dunia di ajang red-carpet American Music Awards (AMA) 2010 di Los Angeles, Amerika Serikat.
- 19) "kalau gua kenal orangnya untuk kerja yang sangat intens apalagi sebagai **lead**, perkenalan itu akan menjadi modal untuk kerjasama..." kata Bapak dua anak ini
- 20) "**Charging** hp aku ketinggalan di rumah".
Tambahnya.

Shormani and Al-sobani (2012:135) said that "Lexico-grammatical choice error can be defined as the error of a word of a particular grammatical category is used instead of another grammatical category". Fundamental skills required learner to be able to distinguish what is verb, noun, adjective, adverb, and and so forth.

Errors number 11 and 12 are the verbs in place of nouns, 'entertain' has its function as a verb which have meanings; amuse, invite, and think about. However, in this context the speaker wants to say 'dunia hiburan' in Indonesian, while the word 'entertain' is a verb means 'menghibur'. Therefore, it contextually refers to the word 'entertainment' as a noun.

Errors number 13, 14, 15, 16 are verbs in place of nouns. The word 'endorse' has three meanings according to Cambridge dictionary; the first meaning is 'support' (verb), 'give permission', and the last meaning is 'punish'. The correct form should be 'endorsement' as a noun. Endorsement is 'when a famous person appears in an advertisement saying that they use and like a product'.

Errors on number 17, 18, 19 are verbs in place of nouns. The word 'perform' has its meanings as 'do' and 'entertain' which function as a verb. In this context, the speaker wants to say 'menunggu performance artis' or in English it is supposed to be 'performance' to relate to its meaning. The word 'performance' here is a noun. Other numbers have same errors too; it should be 'performance.' Error number 20 is a verb in place of noun. The word 'lead' is a verb. It has many meanings in English; they are control, be winning, influence, show way, direction, and live. Seeing the contextual meaning, the speaker intends to say about the people or a person in control of a group, or a situation. He wants to say about someone in charge in his film making. Therefore, the correct English word should be 'leader'. Moreover, error number 21 is a verb in place of noun 'charging' from the word 'charge' is a verb. The word 'charge' has many meanings in English, there are; money, accuse formally, move forward, explosive, order, supply energy, and control. However, the speaker wants to say about the tool to supply energy for his mobile phone.

Therefore, the correct word should be 'charger' with its function as a noun.

4. Collocation

- 21) "Bener bang abang dulu jadi **cleaning service**-nya Deny Cagur?"
- 22) "Blak-Blakan! **Security** perumahan Luna Maya ungkap perangai buruk sang artis, ternyata..."
- 23) "Dari usaha-usaha aku juga ada orang-orang yang nggak sesuai dengan tempatnya bekerja malah membuat perusahaan kacau balau. Mereka khususnya di travel melakukan **mark-up** ..." kata Bektı lagi.
- 24) "kamu pernah dengar wanita paling senang pakai **hand body**?"

According to Firths definition in Shormani and Al-sobani (2012:132), collocation is "words in habitual company".

Errors number 22 and 23 missed the collocation word pairs. Error number 22, it is about the incorrect word pair. The speaker wants to say about someone who does the cleaning he does not refer to the service of cleaning. There are some synonyms words can be used here, they are cleaning staff, cleaner, chambermaid, housekeeper, housemaid, janitor, and maid. Therefore, the correct word pair following the sentence might be 'cleaning staff'. For the error number 23, the speaker missed the word pair. The meaning of the word 'security' are protection, fixed, finance, and confidence. It is clearly that the speaker wants to say about the person or someone who works to protect a building, house, or residence. In that sentence needs the collocation word pair that becomes 'security guard'.

For error number 24, according to Cambridge dictionary the word 'travel' can be functioned as a noun or verb. From the sentence, the speaker uses the word 'travel' to indicate a place where he works. In Indonesian prefix -di, it might refer to a place -di rumah for example. Actually, the speaker uses the word 'travel' here relates to a noun specifically a noun phrase that indicates a place. To complete the meaning that the speaker intends to, it needs the collocation word pair which is 'travel agency'. Error number 25, the speaker missed the pair word, it should be 'hand body lotion'. There are common phrases to express this, for example hand cream, body lotion, body serum, or moisturizer.

The summary of research results appear in the categories of errors that can be seen on the table below:

Table 1 Error Classifications

No.	Categories	False	%
1.	Formal Misselection	3	12%
2.	Formal Misformation	-	-
3.	Lexical Choice		28%
	a. Wrong Choice	4	
	b. Similar Form	3	
4.	Collocation	4	16%
5.	Lexico-grammatical	11	44%
Total		25	

CONCLUSION

In this research, the semantic errors committed by Indonesian celebrities are classified into several categories and subcategories. They are classified into five major categories, they are: formal misselection, formal misformation, lexical choice, collocation, and lexico-grammatical choice. There are two subcategories of the lexical choice identified, that is, wrong choice and similar form. There are 25 words that are semantically incorrect used by Indonesian celebrities. Some words are repeatedly used by different Indonesian celebrities. From the result, it shows that lexico-grammatical error category scores the highest number, 11 errors with 44%. While the lowest is formal misformation where the researcher did not find this kind of error from 25 data. Other categories, for formal misselection 3 errors with 12%, collocation 4 with 16% and lexical choice category 28% with its subcategories; that is, 4 wrong choice and 3 similar form categories.

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