

**SENTENCE STRESS OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS
IN DELIVERING SPEECH: A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

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Abstrak

The aim of this research to investigate the comparison of sentence stress used by native and non-native speaker. This research was descriptive comparative research. The subject of this research were Barack Obama Speech and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono speech. The data in the research were collected by checklist and documentation. The result of the research show that, the majority sentence stress used by Barack Obama was high sentence stress. The majority sentence stress used by Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was middle sentence stress. And there are several presumptions that cause the differences; the situation of location when delivering speech, the emotional condition of the speaker, the status class of speakers and listeners, and the interferences of mother language..

Kata Kunci: Sentence Stress

INTRODUCTION

Sentence stress is more difficult than word stress, according to Ladd (2008) unlike word stress, sentence stress placement is not always fixed. For speakers who speak English as a second language (L2) or as a foreign language, stress is the most difficult suprasegmental features to acquire (Trofimovich, 2006; Cheng, 1987). Producing accurate stress in a non-native language is important in order to sound native-like and inaccurate stress is perceived as predictor of foreign accent (Wennerstrom, 2000; Munron, 2001). Thus, for the learners who learn the foreign language, it is important to understand the sentence stress in order to speak fluently.

Sentence stress is the music of spoken English. It can help the listeners to understand spoken English, especially when spoken fast. Sentence stress is

what gives English its rhythm or "beat" (Jones; 1983). The difference between word stress and sentence stress is; word stress is prominent on one syllable within a word. Sentence stress is prominent on certain words within a sentence.

Unlike word stress, sentence stress placement is not always fixed (Ladd, 2008). Bolinger (1958) stated that any word in a sentence can be highlighted with F_0 code to signal contrast. The stronger of stress it means the more important of the words to be highlighted (Jones, 1983).

A research about English sentence stress had been conducted by Eady et al. (1986) and Lieberman (1967), who found that the most features that influences sentence stress are the increase of fundamental frequency (F_0), duration and intensity, relative to unstressed words. This can be

interpreted that when a word is stressed in a sentence, it will be pronounced louder, longer and with higher F_0 .

Most of the speakers always try to put the right sentence stress in their speech in order to make the listeners get the point of the speech. However, every speaker has different style of placing sentence stress and in this research the researcher wanted to find out the sentence stress of American speaker and Indonesian speaker in delivering speech. The objectives of this research are to find out and compare the producing of sentence stress of native and non-native speakers in delivering speech.

Based on the background, the problem is further formulated as follows:

1. How is the sentence stress in English native speaker?
2. How is the sentence stress in English non-native speaker?
3. What is the cause of differences between sentence stress in English native speaker and non-native speaker?

METHODOLOGY

In this research, the researcher used descriptive research. Maxwell (1996) said descriptive research is the research method that focused on specific situations or people, and its emphasis on words rather than number. In here, the researcher will concern to analyze the comparison of sentence stress between Barack Obama and SBY speech.

In this research, the researcher used two kinds of instruments, namely: observation checklist and

documentation. By using observation checklist the researcher observed the sentence stress frequency used by Obama and SBY; and based on the observation the researcher will compare it. Checklist is one of instrument that can guarantee the researcher to make notes on every important thing found while conducting the research. Checklist is a list that contains subject and aspect that the researcher will observe (Riduwan; 2007). In addition, Arikunto (2010) said, check list is list that have subjects and aspects to be analyzed. After the researcher checked the frequency of sentence stress, the researcher will compare them with a table.

The data are analyzed by using descriptive quantitative method. The researcher will organize and calculate the data percentage. The formula to calculate the data is as follow, based on Sugiyono (2012): $P = (F/N) \times 100\%$

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The first result, in Obama speech was found three main features of sentence stress in his speech. There are; the mostly used sentence stress pitch range is high sentence stress, content word is the class of word that commonly stressed, and location of high sentence stress in a sentence is variety.

When Obama delivered the speech, the high sentence stress is dominant stress that he used in his speech. It was found that Obama tried to highlight most of words that he uttered, because more than half of the speech was about his promises in the campaign

before he was elected to be the president, thus he wanted to convince people about the important things that he had promised. According to Jones (1983), the stronger of stress it means the more important of the words to be highlighted.

Another feature that was found in Obama speech is; content word is the class of words that usually stressed by Obama in his speech. Most of the high stress in his speech were put in nouns. Supported by Lieberman (1967) content words are the key words of a sentence. They are the important words that carry the meaning or sense. Structure words are not very important words. They are small, simple words that make the sentence correct grammatically. They give the sentence its correct form or "structure". If the speaker removes the structure words from a sentence, the listener will probably still understand the sentence. If the speaker remove the content words from a sentence, the listener will not understand the sentence. The sentence has no sense or meaning.

The other feature of sentence stress in Obama speech is the sentence stress location. It was found the location of sentence stress is variety. Sometimes the sentence stress is not only put in the beginning of the sentence, but also in the middle and in the end of the sentence. Furthermore, in one sentence, it has more than one high sentence stress used.

The second result is that comparing to SBY speech. In his speech was found three major differences of sentence stress features. There are; the most sentence stress pitch range that mostly used is middle sentence stress, structure word is the class of words that

commonly stressed, and the location of sentence stress is not as variety as Obama.

In contrast to Obama; when SBY delivered his speech, middle sentence stress is dominant sentence stress that he used. In the case of SBY, it seems that his stress usage mostly caused by the effect of the L1 or Bahasa Indonesia. According to Lightbrown (1993) the difference between native and non-native speakers could be caused by several factors; effect of the L1, knowledge of the language, and personality. Supported by Halim (1974) in Bahasa Indonesia stress solely shows important words and do not change the meaning.

Even though the middle sentence stress is mostly used in SBY speech, the stress usage of SBY is standardized. Because every stress in sentence of his speech does not change the meaning and could be understood by the listeners. The stress usage in his speech only makes him does not sound as native-like.

Another feature that was found different from Obama in SBY speech is the class of words. It was found that structure word is commonly stressed rather than content word. SBY usually stressed the transition signals and pronouns in his speech. It seems that he wanted to create a structural plot in his speech to avoid misunderstanding. According to Jones (1983) there are several exceptions for the speaker that they could put the stress on the structure words as long as the speaker needs to clarify the information. And structure words can be stressed, if it becomes the main word of a sentence.

The last feature that found different from Obama in SBY speech is the high sentence stress location. In SBY speech the location of high sentence stress is not as variety as Obama's. It is mostly at the beginning of the sentence because whenever SBY try to move to the new sentence, he started with the transition signal at the beginning.

The third result, we could find several causes that caused major differences of the sentence stress features usage by both of the speakers. It was found some presumptions that could lead the difference, there are; the situation of location when delivering the speech, the emotional condition of the speakers, the status class between the speakers and listeners, and the influence of mother language.

The situation of location when Obama delivered his speech was outdoor, thus he needed high pitch to make sure that all of the listeners could listen to him. Whereas SBY delivered his speech was indoor, it makes sense that he tend to use middle pitch to stress the words because the situation did not make him to speak very loud.

The emotional condition of Obama when delivered his speech was more enthusiastic rather than SBY. Obama tried to convince the listeners with his words. He did not use transcription when delivering the speech. It came naturally from his mind and feeling, thus what made him more enthusiastic in delivering the speech. Moreover, it leads to the variety of high sentence stress location difference between Obama and SBY speech.

The status class between speakers and listeners is also took place as the cause of difference between

Obama and SBY speech. When delivering the speech, Obama played a role as the president. He delivered a speech in front of his people where in terms of status class that he is higher than the listeners. It is different from SBY. He delivered the speech in front of the leaders of several countries who have same status class as him. It makes SBY more formal and did not need a lot of high pitch in his speech.

Last, the influence of mother language could be as the cause of difference too. SBY tend to use middle sentence stress because his mother language is Bahasa Indonesia. According to Angeliki (2008) Bahasa Indonesia is not a stress language. Supported by Halim (1974), Zubkova (1966), and Zantene (2003) claimed that the status of stress in Bahasa Indonesia does not exist.

In this research, it was not only found the sentence stress features but also intonation pattern between the speakers. Intonation is the rise and fall of your voice when you speak. According to McCarthy (1991) there are two main American English intonation patterns; falling and rising. Falling intonation is when speakers' voice lowers its pitch at the end of the sentence. It is used for most regular statements and questions that are not yes or no questions. And rising intonation is when speakers' voice raises its pitch at the end of the sentence. It is used when speaker is asking a yes or no question.

In this case, Obama is a native speaker who use appropriate English intonation already, thus there is no doubt that his intonation is good in delivering the speech. On the other hand, the researcher found a surprising fact that Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono as the non-native speaker also used the

English intonation pattern appropriately. Because, in most of his utterances, he used falling intonation at the end of statement.

As what have been discussed in the previous studies, the non-native speakers usually use wrong stress in the sentence. It causes the speakers do not sound as native-like and could change the meaning of the sentences. Compare to this study, the researcher found a similar thing that stress is really matter in speaking English in order to sound native-like. But the difference in this research only lies on the usage of sentence stress by the non-native speaker which does not change the meaning and does not lead to misunderstanding. And the researcher also found, although the intonation is good in delivering speech, but it still sounds difference if the non-native speaker do not stress the words precisely.

PREVIOUS STUDY

Related to stress, there had been many researchers analyzing it. Sabaruddin and Kurniawan (2016) are the researchers who focused on word stress patterns in their study. Their research entitled "*A Descriptive Analysis of English Stress Pattern of Words by the Students of the English Education Study Program, the University of Bengkulu Indonesia*". The research method used in this research is descriptive research. This research was aimed at investigating the patternsof English syllable stresses spoken by the students of the English Education Study Program, the University of Bengkulu. In their study, they found that English only has one stress in a word, but the students seem to have

other stress patterns, such as multi-stresses and no stress at all.

Another reseracher focusing on word stress pattern is Grace (2006). The title of her research is "*The Patterns of English word stress by Hong-Kong ESL Learners*". This reserach is conducted by using a descriptive research. In her research, she found that among Hong-Kong ESL students have various patterns of stress on bisyllabic, trisyllabic, quadrisyllabic, and five-syllable words.

Aungcharoen (2006) is also one of the researcher that focus on word stress patterns in her study. Her study entitled "*An Investigation of the English Word Stress Perception and Production skills of Thai 12th Grade Students*". This study aimed to investigate the word stress perception and production of 12th-grade students studying at Benchamaratcharungsarit School, Chachoengsao, in the academic year 2005. The result of her study indicated that the students with high proficiency in English had better skills in word stress perception and production than the students with low proficiency in English. Based on the three previous studies, it concluded that there were wrong placing stresses in word syllable by non-native English speaker students.

This research is different from the previous studies. This research will conduct the sentence stress in speech. The speakers are American and Indonesian, and the researcher will compare the sentence stress frequency in speech. And to find out any significant difference in producing the sentence stress.

CONCLUSION

After conducting the research and doing the analysis about the sentence stress used by Barack Obama and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the researcher can draw the following conclusions:

1. The sentence stress pitch used by Barack Obama in speech is high sentence stress as the most used, followed by middle sentence stress, and the last is low sentence stress. The high sentence stress location pattern in his speech is variety and mostly put on the content words especially nouns.
2. The sentence stress pitch used by Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in speech is middle sentence stress as the most used, followed by low sentence stress, and the last is high sentence stress. It seems the effect of mother language of Bahasa Indonesia influences him very much in delivering a speech. Moreover, the high sentence stress location in his speech is not as variety as Barack Obama. He tends to put the high sentence stress at the beginning of sentence and mostly put on transitional signals and pronouns.
3. There are several causes that caused the difference of sentence stress between Barack Obama and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.
 - a. The situation of location when delivering the speech
 - b. The emotional condition of the speakers
 - c. The status class of speakers and listeners

- d. The influence of mother language.

SUGGESTION

As the result of this research, the researcher suggests that:

From this research, sentence stress is important while speaking English. If the non-native speakers do not accustomed to use the sentence stress, it is hard for them to be native-like, moreover, wrong sentence stress could lead to miss understanding. Thus, it is better for English teachers to be more aware in teaching sentence stress in order to make the students become accustomed to it. Since in their everyday life, Bahasa Indonesia is not a stress language.

For the English non-native speakers, it is better for us to understand how to put the stress in a sentence in order to sound native-like in speaking. Because, stress plays an important role and could change the meaning of the sentences.

Especially, for the student of FKIP Bahasa Inggris Universitas Bengkulu. The researcher hopes that from this research, we could be a good sample for the students in stressing the sentences.

The last but not least, for the next researchers. The researcher suggests them to do a more detail research about sentence stress and the researcher hopes this study will be useful for them to support their studies about the sentence stress.

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