Some Words Mispronunciation in Pro News Today at Pro News Radio

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Abstract—Learning English through media-printed media such as newspaper printed in English and electronic media such as Radio and Television present in English. In Padang, West Sumatra, Pro News Radio is one of the stations which broadcast an English program. It is named Pro News Today. Most of the listeners are people in West Sumatra who want to learn English. Because many people are hoping much from this program, it is a must to see whether the program is being presented perfectly. Referring to this reason, the writers conducted a project about mispronunciation words that occur by the newsreaders during broadcasting the news. By applying dictionary reference.com the writers find out that they did mispronounce several words during broadcasting, and there were same words which are mispronounced by the two different newsreaders. The writers also did interview to the newsreaders whether they are aware of their mistake or not. From their answer, it can be concluded that they do not realize that they have made the mistake. The writers hope that Pro News Radio gives more attention to the English skill of the newsreaders in English program.

Key words—pronunciation, mispronunciation, dictionary

1. Introduction

English as an international language is important to be acquired, especially in this globalization era, because it can be used as communication, changing information among nations although it will be through print media such as newspaper and electronic media such radio and television. In addition, people can also learn English through these media if the newspapers are written in English or the radio programs are broadcasted in English.

Nowadays, we can see that many electronic media present programs in English. The programs that they show are interesting and up to date. In Padang, West Sumatra, one of the radios which is called Pro News Radio, holds an English program. The English program is named Pro News Today. This program presents local and international news. It delivers actual and factual news. Pro News Radio hopes that the listeners will not only the local people but also the foreigners who are living in Padang.

Pro News Today is hold everyday with the duration 20 until 25 minutes on air. The broadcasters or the newsreaders are taking turn. So the radio listeners will listen by different newsreader. The listeners of Pro News Today are people West Sumatera who are learning English, the writer is concern whether the news are read correctly which means that there is not any mispronunciations.

II. Theoretical Background

a. Pronunciation
Speaking is one of communication skills which function to deliver message to others. Pronunciation is probably one of the rule in English to learn. It takes a lot of time and effort to improve someone pronunciation. Some non-native speakers live for a long time in an English-speaking country but still have poor pronunciation. Other speakers seem to pick up English pronunciation with little effort, and some may do so without visiting an English-speaking country at all. In any language pronunciation relate to the sounds that are produced to make meaning. According to Morley (1994) Pronunciation of English is one of the most challenging aspects of learning language.

Why is Pronunciation Important?

According to Morley (1994) the way we speak immediately conveys something about ourselves to the people around us. Learners with good pronunciation in English to be understand even if they make errors in other areas, whereas learners whose pronunciation is difficult to understand, even if their grammar is perfect. We also often judge people by the way they speak, and so learners with poor pronunciation may be judged as incompetent, uneducated or lacking in knowledge, even though listeners are only reacting to their pronunciation.

The Elements of Pronunciation.
The traditional approaches to pronunciation have often focused on segmental aspects. Supra segmental aspects of pronunciation are:

1. Stress

Stress refers to the prominence given to certain syllables within words, and to certain syllables or words within utterances. It is signaled by volume, force, pitches change and syllable length, and is often the place where we notice hand movements and other gestures when we are watching someone talking. One noticeable feature of English is the reduced nature of unstressed syllables. Based on Adam Brown (1991), stress is important at three different levels (1) Word level – multisyllabic words have one or more syllables that are stressed, (2) Sentence level – the most important words tend to be stressed, (3) Contrastive stress – the most important words carry greater stress. Sentence stress and word stress are closely linked, in the sense that they are both about one syllable being louder than others, and they are both depend on learners being able to hear and conceptualise that relative loudness before they can use it appropriately.

2. Rhythm

Rhythm gives English its characteristic pattern. Although the rhythm of English cannot be called strictly stress-timed, it nevertheless presents real problems for learners, particularly if they speak an L1 which is syllable-timed – that is, where each syllable has stress, or where the stress patterns of words are predictable. Work on stress and unstressed at each of the three levels is therefore essential for many learners, and the stress pattern should be taught along with every new multisyllabic word. Teachers may find
helpful for both the theory and practice in this area (Gilbert 1990).

b. Intonation

Intonation, or change of pitch, is crucial in signaling speaker meaning, particularly interpersonal attitudes. The major changes of pitch take place on stressed syllables, particularly on the tonic syllable. Five major patterns of tones can be identified:

- Fall, rise, fall – rise, rise-fall and level:
  - A falling pattern usually indicates that the speaker has finished, at least temporarily.
  - A rising intonation signals a question or continuation.

c. The Relation between Pronunciation and Dictionary

In general, dictionary is a tool which helps us to translate word from source language into target language. In this dictionary slashes (/../) bracket phonetic pronunciations of words not found in a Standard English dictionary. The notation, and many of the pronunciations, was adapted from the hacker’s jargon file. Syllables are separated by dash or followed single quote or back quote. Single quote means the preceding syllable is stressed (louder), back quote. Single quote means the preceding syllable is stressed (louder), back quote follows syllables are equally stressed. The reason why the writers chose dictionary reference.com since it is used for looking an error pronunciation. It is very easier to use then the other tools. By using this tool, the mistake of pronunciation will be revealed clearly.

d. Mispronounced

Mispronounced is to say something incorrectly. According to Kenworthy (1987), words are to simply read them as they are. It is important to first study how the words are structured and learn to pronounce them accordingly. Word is often mispronounced because their syllables are improperly slurred or unstressed.

III. Research Findings

Words Mispronunciation in Pro News Today.

Pro News Today is an English program which is held once every day from Monday to Sunday at 20.00-21.00 a.m. The writers collected some word mispronunciation of News which was broadcast in Pro News Today program. The newsreaders are different people for everyday. The scripts were gotten from CNN (Online media).

**News script on 22 July 2013**

In 22 July 2013, the writers did an observation to Pro News today program at Pro News Radio station. Pro News today was an English program. On this day, the newsreader was Mr. Tomy Chandra. His topic was about a free school lunch that killed 23 students and sickened 25 others.

In a part of his sentences which was “An administrative inquiry has pointed to negligence by the school headmistress in supervising food
preparation for the children”, there was a mispronunciation on the word negligence. The word was being pronounced as *negligent*. Based on *dictionary.reference.com* it must be pronounced as /ˈnegəlɪdʒənt/. The quality, fact, or result of being negligent; neglect: negligence in discharging one's responsibilities.

Next mispronounced word was found in a part of his sentences “Devi told police that the headmistress, Meena Kumari, did not heed her warning that the mustard oil used to prepare.” He mispronounced the word mustard. He pronounced as *master*, but based on *dictionary.reference.com*, it must be sound as /ˈmæstərd/.

Mustard is a pungent powder or paste prepared from the seed of the mustard plant, used as a food seasoning or condiment, and medicinally in plaster.

The next mispronunciation that the writer found was in the sentence “Experts have said the deaths underscore the problem of food safety in the country and have prompted discussion on how to improve national school food programs amid news that authorities had warned.” The newsreader mispronounced the word authorities. He sounded it as authorities, but based on *dictionary.reference.com*, it must be sound as /ɔrˈθɔrətiz/. Authorities are persons that having the legal power to make and enforce the law; government: They finally persuaded the authorities that they were not involved in espionage.

The fourth mispronunciation was found in sentence “According to state broadcaster CCTV, Chinese President Xi Jinping has urged crew to prioritize the rescue of survivors and minimize casualties” The news reader pronounced the word crew as *krew*. Based on *dictionary.reference.com* the word crew has to be sounded as /kru/. Crew such as a group of persons involved, in a particular kind of work or working together.

From News reading script that was being broadcasted, there were four words which were pronounced wrongly based on *dictionary.reference.com*.

**News script on 23 July 2013**

The next news script was broadcasted on 23 July 2013. The newsreader was Mr. Roby Wamungu. He reported about a strange things happened in a small courtroom in the Russian city of Kirov. A part of his sentence is “it was a move so unexpected that an incredulous Navalny asked the court to make sure the prosecutor had not been swapped.” The writer found the mispronounced in the word unexpected. The newsreader sounded it as *anskeptid*. According to *dictionary.reference.com*, it must be sounded as /ˈæn ɪkˈspɛktɪd/. Unexpected is not expected; unforeseen; surprising: an unexpected pleasure; an unexpected development.

The second news script being read on 23 July 2013 was about how many times someone has mocked Mick Jagger by using that lyric from the Rolling Stones. A part of Mr. Roby sentence - as the newsreader- was “Sir Michael Philip Jagger
is going to be 70 years old on Friday and if it's been a drag getting old for him”. The writer found that the newsreader mispronounced the word Friday as fridai. Based on dictionary.reference.com, it must be sounded as /ˈfraɪdi/. Friday is the sixth day of the week, following Thursday.

Another part of the sentence that was read by newsreader is “the Rolling Stones are celebrating their 50th anniversary as a band with new music and an extensive tour. Jagger can still move like, well, Jagger, his sinewy dancing and endless energy showing little sign of flagging despite his grandfatherly age.” The writer found mispronounced words in celebrating and sinewy. The words were sounded selebting and sinewing. Based on dictionary.reference.com, those words must be sounded as /ˈsɛlbɪŋ/ and /ˈsɪnɪŋ/. Celebrating means that is to have or participate in a party, or uninhibited good time. And sinewy such as having strong sinews: a sinewy back.

The third script newsreader was read by Mr. Roby Wamunga about danger in New York. A part of his sentences is “That's Anthony Weiner, for anyone who slept through the news that more X-rated photos and text messages apparently sent by Weiner to a then-22-year-old woman have surfaced”. The word surface was sounded surfes by the newsreader. Based on dictionary.reference.com, it must be sounded as /ˈsɜːرف/. Surface like the outward appearance, especially as distinguished from the inner nature, to look below the surface of a matter.

Then, the mispronounced words are found in sentence “Instead of denials, Weiner has admitted communicating with the young woman and asked for forgiveness”. The writer found that instead and denials were pronounced as instid and denial. Based on dictionary.reference.com is, those words must be sounded as /ɪnˈsted/ and /drˈnɛlz/. Instead is preference; as a preferred or accepted alternative: The city has its pleasures, but she wished instead for the quiet of country life. Denials are an assertion that something said, believed, alleged, is false: Despite his denials, we knew he had taken the purse.

The next news is about the mammoth 142-meter super yacht which will rest its anchor in Gibraltar's Ocean Village Marina. A part of the news reading script is “Boasting 189 rooms, spa and gym, cocktail lounges, conference rooms, and even a ballroom, the luxury liner will be one of the grandest structures in the Mediterranean.” The word lounges was being mispronounced. It was read as longes Based on dictionary.reference.com is /laʊndʒ/. Lounges are a place for sitting, waiting, especially a large public room, as in hotel, or theater, often adjoining washrooms.

On this day, the writer found that every different news, the newsreader made a mistake in his pronunciation.

News script on 24 July 2013

On July 24 2013 the newsreader is Mr. Roby Wamunga. A part of his sentence is “Ariel Castro agreed Friday in an Ohio courtroom to a
plea deal in one of the most sensational kidnapping cases in recent memory”. The same mistake by different broadcaster happened again The word Friday was pronounced as /frədeɪ/, which based on dictionary.reference.com it must be sounded as /ˈfreɪdi/. Friday is the sixth day of the week, following Thursday.

Then the next sentence read is “The U.S. Justice Department will not seek the death penalty for U.S. intelligence leaker Edward Snowden” In this paper, the writer found mispronounced word in intelligence. The word was pronounced inteligens. Based on dictionary.reference.com, the word has to be sound as /ɪnˈtel ɪ dʒəns/. Intelligence is the gathering or distribution of information, especially secret information.

The writer also found mispronunciation in topic of the two prisoners who escaped from Orbe prison. The part of sentence which is “According to the Interpol website, the Pink Panthers are behind armed robberies targeting high-end jewelry stores in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and the United States”, the writer found out that Panthers is being pronounced as partner. Based on dictionary.reference.com, the word has to be sounded as /ˈpænθər/. Panthers is (initial capital letter) military.

In the topic of Police made 51 arrests in Ostia, a coastal community on the outskirts of the capital, the writer found mispronunciation in sentence “than 500 police officers, as well as maritime and dog units were involved”. The mispronounced word is in the word officers. The newsreader sounded it as offiser, but based on dictionary.reference.com is /ˈɒfɪsər/. Officer is a member of a police department or a constable.

The mispronunciation was also found in the sentence “Three bodies were found on Sunday after two houses in Mitake, a tiny community in western Japan’s Yamaguchi prefecture, were gutted by a suspicious fire, Yamaguchi police spokesman Katumi Harada told CNN”. The mispronounced word in suspicious. It was sounded as suspicius, which based on dictionary.reference.com it must be as /səˈspɪʃəs/. Suspicious means that is inclined to suspect, especially inclined to suspect evil, distrustful: a suspicious tyrant.

There were five mistakes in pronunciation on this day by the newsreader.

**News script on 25 July 2013**

In 25 July 2013 was Mr. Tomy Chandra turned to broadcast the news. He reported about the bus returning pilgrims from a weekend visit to a Catholic shrine went off a bridge in southern Italy. A part of his sentence was “Picone did not have an exact figure for the number of passengers on the bus, though reports indicate as many as 50 may have been on board”. The mispronounced word was the word though. The newsreader pronounced it as de, which based on dictionary.reference.com it must sound as /ðəʊ/. As though, as if: It seems as though the place is deserted.

News was about a string of car and roadside bombs exploded across Iraq. The part of sentence was “They enjoyed more political clout
during Hussein's rule before his ouster after the U.S.-led 2003 invasion” The mispronounced word was in “during”. The word was sound as during, which based on dictionary.reference.com it must be /ˈdaʊər ɪŋ/. During is throughout the duration, continuance, or existence.

3.5 News script at 26 July 2013

In 26 July 2013, Mr. Roby Wamunga reports “the church, which claims to have a strong ethical investment policy that explicitly bans companies involved in payday lending, invests in Accel Partners, the US venture capital firm that led Wonga's 2009 fundraising”. The mispronounced word was in “policy”. The word has to be sound as polisi, based on dictionary.reference.com is /ˈpɒləsɪ/. Policy is a definite course of action adopted for the sake of expediency facility.

And then, he reports “Investigations into the cause of the crash are still under way, but suggestions that the train was traveling too fast have come to the fore”. In this paper, the mispronounced word in “driver” and “Friday” in sentence “Investigators are expected to ask the train driver, who is under formal investigation, more questions on Friday”. The word has to be sound as drifer and friday, based on oxford dictionary was /ˈdraɪvər/ and /ˈfraɪdeɪ/. Driver is a person who drives a vehicle, coachman, chauffeur. Friday is the sixth day of the week, following Thursday.

Another case, the writer also found another mistake. At the same time the newsreader also reports news. In sentence “the case has not yet been turned over by police to judicial authorities”. The mispronounced word in “judicial” but in other hand, the writer found in dictionary.reference.com the right pronunciation is /dʒuˈdɪʃəl/. Judicial is inclined to make or give judgments, critical, discriminating.

Then, news about “in the first attack, a roadside bomb hit a vehicle in the Kurram Agency, which is part of Pakistan's restive tribal regions that border Afghanistan”. On the word “vehicle”, the writer found that he has mispronounced. The word has to be sound as vehikel, based on dictionary.reference.com is /ˈvɛhɪkəl/. Vehicle is someone travels or of conveyance or transport: a motor vehicle, space vehicles.

After that, the word “structure” on “Metal fasteners were used in a number of areas, including attaching the wing skin to the wing structures”. Based on dictionary.reference.com /ˈstrʌktʃər/ but, the word has to be sound as struktur. Structure like mode of building, construction, or organization; arrangement of parts, elements, or constitutes: a pyramidal.

In this paper, the writer also found another mistake. At the same time the newsreader reports news. He reports “the Supreme Court of the Mordovia region upheld an earlier decision to deny Nadezhda Tolokonnikova's parole”. The mispronounced word in criticized, based on dictionary.reference.com is /ˈkrɪtɪsaɪzl/. In sentence “Tolokonnikova was given a 2 year sentence for hooliganism after a trial in August that was
criticized by international rights groups”. Criticized that means is to find fault, judge unfavorably or harshly.

Newsscript on 27 July 2013

Mr. Roby Wamunga reports news script on 27 July 2013. He reported about the bolt strode out to win the 100m in his fastest time of the year of 9.85 seconds, recovering from a sluggish start to leave his rivals trailing. The mispronunciation can be found in the sentence “His victory in the London Anniversary Games came exactly a year since Danny Boyle's opening ceremony kicked off a memorable 17 days for the host nation” He mispronounce the word exactly as ekstekli. Based on dictionary.reference.com it must be /ɪɡˈzɛktli/. Exactly is an exact manner; precisely; accurately.

From 25 scripts the writer analyzed, the writers found mispronunciation in 6 scripts. There is also a same word being mispronounced by different newsreaders. After analyzing the mispronunciation, the writers wanted to find out whether the mistakes being made are aware by the broadcaster which means that the mistake accidently happened. The writer interviewed two newsreaders- Tomy Chandra and Roby Wamunga and found out that they do not realize with the words mispronunciations that they have made.

IV. Conclusion

After finishing this project, the writer realizes that pronouncing words in English especially in electronic media such as radio is very important because the listeners are people who can be an English newreader or people who are learning English. The writers also concerns with the unawareness of the newreaders in pronouncing the words. The two newreaders mispronounced the same words and both of them did not realize they have made mistake.

The writer believes that English has to be uttered fully correctly especially when it includes many people. Electronic media such as radio that will have hundreds listeners must have well preparation before broadcast program especially a program in English.

References