

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

This study highlights the crucial role of vocabulary in enabling effective communication between Indonesian speakers and native English speakers. By analyzing transcribed voice call conversations and conducting controlled experiments with worsened grammar, the research confirms that vocabulary plays a more dominant role than grammar in facilitating understanding.

The findings demonstrate that native English speakers can comprehend the intended message of Indonesian speakers as long as essential vocabulary is present. While grammar refines meaning, it is secondary to vocabulary in ensuring successful communication. In many instances, despite grammatical errors, misordered words, or missing function words, native speakers relied on key vocabulary to infer meaning and respond appropriately.

Through the experiment on worsened grammar, native English speakers could still understand the intended meaning of simplified and grammatically incorrect sentences. Even when sentence structures were flawed, key words such as "movie," "supermarket," and "hospital" were enough to convey the message. This supports the argument that meaning is often carried by vocabulary rather than grammatical precision.

These findings suggest several key takeaways for language education and real-world communication:

Prioritizing vocabulary over grammar. Language education programs should focus more on vocabulary expansion, as it has a more immediate and practical impact on communication than strict grammatical accuracy.

Building confidence in Indonesian speakers. Indonesian speakers should be encouraged to communicate freely without excessive concern for grammatical mistakes, as long as they use essential vocabulary.

Real-world communication benefits. In international workplaces, educational settings, and social interactions, a strong vocabulary foundation enables Indonesian speakers to express themselves clearly and confidently, even if their grammar is imperfect.

The findings align with Chomsky's Universal Grammar (UG) theory, which suggests that the human brain has an innate ability to process language, even when syntax is incomplete or incorrect. In this study, native English speakers were able to subconsciously reconstruct missing grammatical elements, allowing them to understand Indonesian speakers despite sentence errors. This supports UG's claim that humans rely on mental structures to interpret meaning, emphasizing vocabulary's role in conveying messages even when grammar fails.

The perspectives of Tristan and Robert, the native English speakers in this study, further validate these findings:

Tristan's Conclusion – Tristan emphasizes that key vocabulary is essential for understanding. As long as crucial words are present, a listener can infer the meaning and keep the conversation going. He describes this as "getting the gist" of the conversation through essential words, even when grammar is incorrect. He also notes that a listener's intelligence, experience, and exposure to Indonesian speakers influence how well they can interpret messages with flawed grammar.

Robert's Conclusion – Robert reinforces the idea that key words are the foundation of communication. He explains that listeners naturally "read between the lines", using essential words to infer meaning. Drawing from personal experience communicating with his

brother, who struggles with speech, Robert confirms that grammar is not a communication barrier as long as key vocabulary is clear. However, without key words, effective communication becomes impossible.

This study reinforces the argument that vocabulary is the cornerstone of communication. While grammar plays a role in refining meaning, it is not a prerequisite for mutual understanding. As demonstrated through both natural conversations and experimental analysis, key vocabulary enables effective communication even when grammar is flawed. By prioritizing vocabulary acquisition, learners can overcome linguistic barriers, develop confidence in real-world interactions, and communicate more effectively in cross-cultural settings.

