



ELIMINATING TYPICAL ERRORS IN STUDENT SPEECH:  
CAUSES, TYPES, AND PEDAGOGICAL STRATEGIES

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Abstract

Every student slips up when learning to speak a new language — it's normal. But when these mistakes stick around, they get in the way of clear communication and can drag down academic progress. This thesis digs into the most common errors in student speech, looks at why they happen, and lays out practical ways to tackle them. The focus is on hands-on instruction, useful feedback, and real-life speaking practice.

Introduction

Speaking well isn't just another skill in language class; it's the main goal. Still, students run into all sorts of trouble — mixing up grammar, picking the wrong words, or just sounding awkward. Sometimes it's their first language sneaking in, sometimes it's a limited vocabulary, or maybe they just haven't spoken enough. If teachers want students to really get better, they need to deal with these errors head-on.

Research aim:



Find out what mistakes students make most often and figure out what actually helps them stop making them.

## Chapter 1. What Are Student Speech Errors?

Speech errors happen when students drift away from the standard version of a language while speaking. In applied linguistics, these mistakes aren't random—they show how students are processing and building the new language in their minds.

Types of speech errors:

Grammatical errors

Lexical errors

Pronunciation errors

Discourse-related errors

## Chapter 2. Common Student Errors (with Examples)

### 2.1 Grammatical Errors

Students often get tripped up by tenses, word order, or subject-verb agreement.

Examples:

✗ She go to school every day.



✓ She goes to school every day.

✗ I am agree with you.

✓ I agree with you.

Why does this happen? Usually, students overapply rules or their native language gets in the way.

## 2.2 Lexical Errors

These mistakes show up when students use the wrong word or phrase.

Examples:

✗ I did a big mistake.

✓ I made a big mistake.

✗ He is very sympathy.

✓ He is very sympathetic.

What's behind it? Direct translation from their first language or not knowing which words naturally go together.

## 2.3 Pronunciation Errors

Mispronouncing words can make students hard to understand.

Examples:



- ✗ Saying think as sink
- ✗ Putting the stress on phoTOgraph instead of PHOtograph

This often comes from the differences between how sounds work in their first language versus the new one.

#### 2.4 Discourse and Pragmatic Errors

Sometimes, students say things that sound awkward or are too blunt.

Examples:

- ✗ Give me your pen. (too direct in a formal setting)
- ✓ Could you please lend me your pen?

Or they fill their sentences with “uh,” “you know,” or “like.”

These errors usually happen because students haven't heard enough real conversations or don't pick up on social cues.

### Chapter 3. How to Fix Speech Errors

#### 3.1 Get Students to Notice Their Errors

Teachers need to help students spot and understand their own mistakes.

Example:



Record students while they speak and go over the errors together.

### 3.2 Give Useful Feedback

Feedback works best when it's timely and clear, whether it's right after the mistake or a bit later.

Example:

If a student says, "He go yesterday," the teacher responds, "Oh, he went yesterday?"

### 3.3 Practice Real Communication

The more students actually talk, the fewer mistakes stick around.

Examples:

Role plays

Debates

Pair and group discussions

### 3.4 Use Technology

Language apps and speech recognition tools can help students catch and fix their own mistakes.

Example:



Students use a pronunciation app to hear how their speech matches up with native speakers.

### Conclusion

Most student speech errors are just part of learning, but that doesn't mean teachers can't help fix them. With focused analysis, practical feedback, and lots of real conversation, students can clean up their grammar, word choice, pronunciation, and conversation skills. In the end, this boosts their confidence and helps them speak more clearly and naturally.

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