Error Analysis and Interlanguage Studies :
A Japanese Speaker of English

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ABSTRUCT

This action research paper is based on the error analysis of a Japanese English learner's utterances on an Internet text-based chat program for three months. In order to investigate the subject's interlanguage, three kinds of data collection techniques were conducted to elicit 1) his natural language use, 2) his personal information about learning English, and 3) his authoritative interpretation data for non-target like utterances he produced. Next, this paper goes on to the process of analyzing those data, which attempts to distinguish his errors from his mistakes and explain some reasons why he made such utterances based on his interlanguage and the English language teaching methods in Japan. Then the degree of error gravity of his errors is analyzed to investigate which errors need an immediate treatment. Finally, some limitations for error analysis in the study of second language acquisition is discussed followed by a suggestion for using error analysis as learners' needs analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Error analysis has been recognized in the study of second language acquisition (SLA) in the last three decades. Many researchers and teachers have conducted error analysis to describe language learners' interlanguage. Although error analysis has provided researchers with valuable data for the study of SLA, a larger part of this analysis has been based on the idea of describing types of errors that the language learners made, which seems insufficient data for investigating how the language learners actually acquire a second language (e.g., Ellis, 1994 and Krashen, 1981). Therefore, error analysis has not been carried out for the sole purpose of investigating second language learners' interlanguage. In recent years, however, SLA researchers have used it as a supplement of the study of SLA.

Error analysis in this action research was conducted as a part of developing language pedagogy for a subject I worked with.   Based on the error analysis data, I conducted an interview for eliciting his personal information and authoritative interpretation data collection (Corder, 1981) for distinguishing his errors from mistakes.   All the data collection was exclusively collected through an Internet text-based chat program.   This computer mediated-communication created a great opportunity to work with the subject living in a different continent constantly for three months.

METHOD

The subject

   The subject, who is a close friend of mine, was a 25 year-old Japanese businessperson who has a bachelor degree in English and American Languages from a university in Japan.   Due to his business work, he spent two thirds of a month in China and the rest in Japan.   Most of his co-workers and people around him did not communicate in English, so Chinese and Japanese were the two main languages he used for his business negotiation and private communication in both countries.   Therefore, he had very little chance to use English on a daily basis.   In this sense, it can be categorized that he did not live in an English-language rich environment.   Even though he lived in an undesirable environment for using English with someone in a communicative way, his passion for becoming a better English speaker enabled him to find an alternative way to use his English communicatively and spontaneously.   It was on the Internet.   He was able to obtain more opportunities to use English in authentic ways than before.   As you can see, he was very eager to study English, so he can be categorized, as Ellis suggested (1994), as a good language learner.   His detailed background information is listed below:

   Nationality: Japanese
   Native Language: Japanese
   Language(s) other than native language: Chinese and English
   Occupation: International trading business between China and Japan
   Number of months or years in English speaking country: None
   English language learning experience: Formal instructions in Japan

Learning style preference by "Perceptual Learning‑Style Preference Questionnaire" (Reid, 1998): Visual and Kinesthetic

English proficiency test such as TOEFL and TOEIC: Never taken

Level of proficiency by ACTFL scale for writing: Intermediate‑High

Level of proficiency by ACTFL scale for speaking: Advanced

Frequency of the use of English: Limited

Collection of a sample of leaner language

Three kinds of data collection techniques were conducted for this action research: 1) the natural language use data, 2) interview data, and 3) authoritative interpretation data.

Natural Language Data Collection

This base data for analyzing the subject's interlanguage was collected exclusively thorough a text‑based Internet chat program called "ICQ" (Mirabis Ltd., 1996). It allows its users to meet on the Internet very easily and to communicate with each other synchronously by typing messages on the program. The topic of the chat varied considerably from personal matters to politics in the world. The subject was unaware of the fact that all the utterances he produced on this chat program were saved on the computer for analyzing his interlanguage. In this way, I was able to collect his natural language data for three months. The total number of the chat‑message exchanges was 894. (See Appendix A) 99.6% of the exchanges were carried in English, and the rest was in Japanese.

The Interview Data

The purpose of this data collection was to elicit the subject's personal information and his English language experience in order to make a student's profile. After his personal information was collected, he was asked to answer Perceptual Learning‑Style Preference Questionnaire. In this questionnaire, I was able to elicit his individual learner differ‑ ences shown in the student profile section. An interesting finding in this interview was that even though he was informed that his utterances were being analyzed during this

data collection, he continued to produce the same patterns of errors as he did in the previous data collection such as "could" in a sentence where "was/were able to" is expected to be used. This type of continuous errors may be explained as a fossilized phenomenon (Acton, 1984). Another possible explanation, in terms of sociolinguistic perspective, would be that being interviewed by his close friend would lower his affective filter, which made him not monitor his speech at all.

Authoritative Interpretation Data Collection

In order to distinguish which non-target like utterances resulted from his lack of target language knowledge (errors) and which ones resulted from his failure of performance (mistakes), Corder's authoritative interpretation approach was used in this second data collection. The questions were all based on the non-target like utterances found in the first data. In this interview, the subject was told those utterances and then asked to correct them. This approach allowed me 1) to exclude his typing mistakes from his spelling errors and 2) to separate his English syntax errors from the syntax of the chat language, which is increasingly used on the Internet such as acronyms (for example, "ic" for "I see" and "cu" for "see you") and non-capitalization for the sakes of keeping up with the speed in the text-based conversation (e.g., Murry, E. D. 2000 and Lam, W. S. E., 2000)

PROCEDURE

Identification of Errors

It is very important to set a norm of the target language before conducting error analysis (Stern, 1993). The norm for this study was set as the casual style of spoken American English, which the subject wanted to learn and improve most. Identifying errors from mistakes is another issue for error analysis. Therefore, the authoritative interpretation approach was conducted to distinguish which utterances were from his lack of knowledge and from his failure of performance. Please refer to Appendix B for identification of errors.

Description of Errors

Through the authoritative interpretation approach, I was able to separate the subject's errors from his mistakes.　The characteristics of these errors are explained in the following Table 1 (Errors in spelling) and Table 2 (Errors in syntax).

Table 1 Errors in Spelling

	Errors	Correct forms	Errors in contexts
1	*Developping*	Developing	Something has changed inside their heart because this was their first time to visit *developping* [sic] country.
2	*Visitting*	Visiting	BTW, how is your schedule to *visitting* [sic] Seattle?
3	Of *course*	Of course	But don't you remember that my members are off *couse* [sic] including you!!
4	*Pronounciation*	Pronunciation	But the *pronounciation* [sic] of " 3 " is three, not " san," right?
5	*Electoronic*	Electronic	And also playing *electoronic* [sic] guitar.
6	*Enviroment*	Environment	Try to make the *enviroment* [sic] that is able to run the new ICQ.
7	*Controll*	Control	We will be asked to register a card and they will *controll* [sic] our information
8	*Recentry*	recently	You see, the price of NY-Dow gonna higher and higher *recentry* [sic].
9	*Beggars*	beggars	There are so many *beggers* [sic] at the street.

Table 1 Errors in Spelling

	Descriptions	Errors in contexts	Correct forms in contexts
1	Answering a negative question incorrectly	R : Aren't you hungry? S : *Yes*, because I just ate KFC.	R: Aren't you hungry? S: *No*, because I just ate KFC. S: Ok, thanx [sic]. I *could* enjoy the time. S: Well, I think you better [sic]
2	Tendency to use a " could " rather than a " was/were able to " in a sentence where the latter is appropriate for describing ability or possibility in the past.	S: Well, I think you better [sic] fall asleep now. R: Yeah, I had better go bed now.	fall asleep now. R: Yeah, I had better go bed now. S: Ok, thanx [sic]. I *was able to* enjoy the time. S: The city Guanzhou is near
3	No pluralization in the following formula: one of ....(s)	S: The city Guanzhou is near HK and one of the most biggest *city* [sic] in china [sic].	HK and one of the most biggest *cities* in china [sic]. S: You added my address to that ICQ panel, *didn't* you?
4	Miss‑formation of tag questions	S: You added my address to that ICQ panel, *aren't* [sic] you?	

R : the researcher S   : the subject

ANALYSIS

Explanation of Errors

   Through the authoritative interpretation approach for data collection I conducted after the description of the subject's errors was completed, several sources of errors were identified which would explain why he made them.   One of his errors that needs an immediate treatment was his overgeneralization of the rule for progressive formation of words that end with the letter of " p " and " t " as in " develop " and " visit. " (These examples are given in Table 1 #1 and #2.)   A possible reason for it was revealed in the third interview. It seems that progressive forms of the words like " set, " " cut " , and " stop " are marked in English because they require to be inserted an additional " t " and

"p" for forming the progressive whereas others don't, such as "develop" and "visit." Because of this markedness, he seemed to overgeneralize the progressive formation beyond the words that do not require doing so.

The second important error is characterized as first language (L1) transfer, more specifically, "transfer of structure" to the target language. (An example given in Table 2 # 1) In the case of answering negative questions (*Aren't you hungry?*), L1 structural transfer is likely to occur in his production. Based on my learning English as a foreign language in Japan, this transfer can be said to be as a common problematic feature for most Japanese students of English. The structure of answering negative questions in Japanese requires speakers to use "yes" for answering in the negative and "no" for answering in the affirmative. For example, Japanese speakers of English tend to behave to speak as in following dialogue:

Speaker 1: You didn't know about it, did you?

Speaker 2: Yes, I didn't know about it. Or   No, I knew about it.

Therefore, it can be said that L1 transfer occurred in his production.

Another L1 transfer can be found in Table 2 # 2, which is his inappropriate use of the word "could." This transfer can be further divided into two types of errors: intralingual errors and induced errors. The reason for the former lies in the fact that no distinction between "could" and "was/were able to" exists in Japanese. The word "could" in English has more functions, such as indicating conditional or hypothetical situation and politeness (The American heritage college dictionary, 1997). It has more definitions than expressing ability or possibility in the past, which is the only function of the word "could" in Japanese. Therefore, he used a "could" in a sentence where the phrase "was/were able to" would more likely be used in native English speakers' production. Furthermore, relating his answers to my questions about "could" and "was/were able to" distinction to the English education I received in Japan, I was able to discover another possible source for these particular errors: induced errors. Because of the heavy emphasis on the Grammar translation method in English education in Japan (Shimoishi, 1997), the distinction between "could" and "was/were able to" was not apparently taught to students in detail. In other words, it seems that teaching the other meanings of "could" was excluded to avoid students' further confusion in translating Japanese to English and vice versa. That may be why the subject consistently made this kind of error.

The other errors (in Table 1 #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, and Table 2 #3, #4) are explained by as his lack of knowledge about the target language syntax and morphology. In terms of morphological errors (in Table 1 #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, and #9), he did not know the correct spelling of these words.   In terms of the other errors in syntax (in Table 2 #3 and #4), again, he simply didn't know about the pluralizaiton of a countable noun in this special formula and the formation of tag questions.   Therefore, the source of these mistakes can be traced to his lack of particular linguistic competence.

EVALUATION

Considering error gravity,   here I will focus on two kinds of his errors that interfere with intelligibility considerably.   First, one of his errors that influence intelligibility most is in Table 2 # 1: answering negative questions.   Not only might this error confuse the addressee, but also it may result in complete misunderstanding.   For example, answering "yes" when you mean "no" in a question such as "You don't have anything to declare, do you?" at an airport Passport Control/Immigration would cause a speaker trouble in entering a country.   Therefore, this error needs an immediate treatment.   Some possible teaching approaches would be to 1) raise his awareness of the target-like patterns of answering these questions by giving him many samples and 2) have him produce these patterns in context rather in isolation.

Another error that influences intelligibility is in Table 2 #2: Model (can) in the past tense.   This error seems less severe than the first one, but it could confuse the addressee in a conversation such as the following discourses:

Researcher: tell him 3x [sic] ("3x" means thanks in this case.)

The subject: O.k. he is OFF-LINED [sic].

I think 3x is Japanese, right?

Researcher: I mean "thanks."

The subject   yes, I *could* understand but the pronounciation [sic] of "3" is three, not "san" ,right?

In order to avoid this inappropriate use of "could," he needs to know more functions that "could" has besides describing ability or possibility in the past.   Some possible teaching approaches would be, again, to raise his awareness by giving him many sample sentences of "could" in context and then ask him to produce sentences that include the use of it.

CONCLUSION

After the completion of the process of error analysis, one of the findings that disappoints me most is that no clear evidence was elicited about how the subject actually acquired the knowledge of English. This is a similar point to what Ellis (1994) calls "limitation of error analysis," which does not reveal how or why the learner acquires the target language. To overcome the limitation I faced and to find how the learners acquire the second language, I need to consider other data analysis approaches in addition to this error analysis. The second finding is related to collecting the subject's data of natural language use. It was a very time consuming task. I was unsure of how much data I needed to collect in order to elicit consistent errors that the subject made. More data collection might be needed to make this analysis more dependable. The natural language data itself was not enough to distinguish errors from mistakes. Without the authoritative interpretation data collection--asking the subject to correct non -target like utterances, I would not have completed this action research. Those findings in this error analysis research might not contribute to the researchers of Second Language Acquisition (SLA) at all. However, error analysis might be conducted as a tool for learners' needs analysis (e.g., Benesch, 1996) instead of SLA research. Even though conducting this type of error analysis takes enormous time, the data from this error analysis was a very useful and practical source that helped me decide what to teach to the subject. Error analysis was a popular research approach for SLA research, but it can be used for students' need analysis to enhance classroom instruction.

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Appendix A
A Sample of Natural Language Data for a week

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2/6/98 7:50 PM Researcher: Howdy? I am gonna use the Internet around 23:00 in
Atlanta, so 13:00 in Japan time. I am so hungry now. Cound you deliver some
Shanghai food for me?  Talk to you later. Joe at 19:50 in my place.
2/6/98 10:45 PM Researcher: Hey guys! What's up?
2/6/98 10:46 PM The subject: Dear Joe, It was nice to talking to you.
2/6/98 10:46 PM Researcher: Yeah! It seems you guys are having the greatest
time there!
2/6/98 10:48 PM The subject: Off couse we are! Shanghai is a very exciting
city. Very different from Japan. How is the Olympics in Nagano. We can't see
it on TV here.
2/6/98 10:49 PM Researcher: It is fantastic. I am very excited about it. Now
it finished the opening celemony.
2/6/98 10:51 PM The subject: Shit! I missed the openings. By the way, I am
Yuriko. My best friend from work went to Nagano to do Volunteer? the
Olympics. I want to see her on TV. Yoko saids 'I hate winter sports.' That's
it
2/6/98 10:52 PM Researcher: Really? I think I saw your friend out there!!
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2/6/98 10:53 PM The subject: Lier!! from yoko
2/6/98 10:53 PM Researcher: Just kidding, mam.
2/6/98 10:55 PM The subject: (This utterance was spoken in Japanese.)
2/6/98 10:55 PM Researcher: Who is that? I guess it Yan.
2/6/98 10:56 PM The subject: (This utterance was spoken in Japanese.)
2/6/98 10:56 PM Researcher: Yeah! I got a car the day before yesterday.
2/6/98 10:57 PM The subject: (This utterance was spoken in Japanese.)
2/6/98 10:58 PM Researcher: Ok! I'll be here to wait for ya.
2/6/98 10:58 PM The subject: (This utterance was spoken in Japanese.)
2/6/98 10:59 PM Researcher: It runs great! No problem at all so far.
2/6/98 11:01 PM The subject: (This utterance was spoken in Japanese.)
2/6/98 11:02 PM Researcher: No I went there by myself since I own a car, plus he had work today. You know he is a very busy guy. Now he is teaching computer stuff for CNN crews. Isn't it great?
2/6/98 11:05 PM The subject: Say 'hi' to Nunjio for me. By the say I'm Yuriko Again. Please make sure to send us the bracelet of VACA's. We are all looking forward to it. Ok we have to go. Take care of yourself. We love you!
2/6/98 11:06 PM Researcher: No problem. I am gonna send them as soon as possible.
2/6/98 11:07 PM The subject: Anyway,we gotto go now... Try again later. take care and be cool,men
2/6/98 11:07 PM Researcher: Ok! have a great fun. Talk to ya later! JoE
2/6/98 11:08 PM The subject: thanx talk to you later we all
2/6/98 11:08 PM Researcher: bye!!
2/7/98 7:23 PM Researcher: Hey buddy. I updated my home page. Pleaese take a look at it. You can see it at...http://www.gsu.edu/~gs02mnn/masalist.htm
2/8/98 11:48 PM Researcher: Hey buddy?
2/8/98 11:49 PM The subject: hey,buddy. I was waiting for you to come!!
2/8/98 11:50 PM Researcher: Cool. What are you doing now?
2/8/98 11:51 PM The subject: Now I'm working at the office. How about you?
2/8/98 11:51 PM Researcher: I am working on my paper, too.
2/8/98 11:53 PM The subject: now,all of them are gone and I feel some kind of lonely.. Now I can understand the feeling that you also might felt after we left your place.
2/8/98 11:54 PM Researcher: I bet you feel lonely.
2/8/98 11:56 PM The subject: But I guess they'd enjoyed their stay for afew days at here. I wonder if you also was here together...!
2/8/98 11:56 PM Researcher: Yeah! I really wanted to go there to have fun. Next time i will go there. Is it ok?
2/8/98 11:58 PM The subject: Come on,bro!! You gotto no need to ask that!! BTW,how's your car? Having the car,your lifestyle changed?
2/9/98 12:00 AM Researcher: Yeah. Today I went to shop again with my lovely little car. I fed $5 gas on my car.
2/9/98 12:01 AM The subject: What does it mean? you fed?
2/9/98 12:03 AM Researcher: Fed means the past form of feed. Feed wa mono o ataeru. toiimasu

2/9/98 12:04 AM The subject: I understand. You mean you feed that car,right? I also feed a dog here!

2/9/98 12:05 AM Researcher: Good example, dude.

2/9/98 12:07 AM The subject: BTW,I checked your web site and found many fat boy walking there. Did you stole that or made by yourself?

2/9/98 12:09 AM Researcher: Actually, these fat guys are reminders of not get more extra fat. NO!! just stole them somewhere in the Net. You need to update your page, too.

2/9/98 12:11 AM The subject: yeah!! I really want to...But I still can't axes to our home page through my mac because of "broThe subject: pipe" So,after I go back to Japan,I will update our page using Yan's or company's one.

2/9/98 12:12 AM Researcher: Sorry for that. So you are saying that you can not see anything on the NET?

2/9/98 12:13 AM The subject: No. I just can't get axes to tripod! I also think it seems so strange but this happens real.

2/9/98 12:15 AM Researcher: Geeeeeee! Only Tripod. Tripod really hates you, I guess. BTW, what did you guys do while they were in Shanghai?

2/9/98 12:17 AM The subject: At first,did you change your ICQ system at now? Your Icon was changed to earth character!!

2/9/98 12:18 AM Researcher: I didn't change it but sent an online URL messsage. But I don't know what it means, anyway.

2/9/98 12:22 AM The subject: O.K. Then while they're here,I took them to temple, Bund,nanjin lu,chinese restaurant,german restaurant,souvenir shops and so on. Many places are changed from the day we visited now. If you have a chance,please visit again!!

2/9/98 12:24 AM Researcher: That sounds fun. Cool. BTW you have Cool Talk, right? Today I bought a microphone, so I want to try to use it. If you have Cool Talk, could you open it, so that I can connet you.

2/9/98 12:27 AM The subject: Exactly I have!! BUuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuutT,I can't use (run)it through my system. Cool talk for mac should be applicated under the system called "Open transport" But now I don't know how to use/set the system,so I can't open it...sorry,men!!

2/9/98 12:29 AM Researcher: No prob. I also have trouble with Cool Talk. I think Cool Talk is not really cool at all.

2/9/98 12:30 AM The subject: Yeah!! It must be called "Shoooooot talk" !!

2/9/98 12:31 AM Researcher: Hahaha. cool. This morning I got an email from Yankii. He said the trip to Shanghai was funtastic.

2/9/98 12:35 AM Researcher: where have you been? you've got to work, right now?

2/9/98 12:35 AM The subject: I'm sorry. I had dare to restart the mac... My mac seems to still having some problems.

2/9/98 12:36 AM Researcher: Wow! you mean your computer got froze. I sometimes have this kind of problem with my computer. Did I tell you I upgrade my computer?

2/9/98 12:37 AM The subject: No no no!!! You bought a new one?

2/9/98 12:39 AM Researcher: No I didn't buy a new one. I just put additional 16K bite memory on my computer. So the performance of my computer is faster than before.

2/9/98 12:42 AM The subject: Cool,buddy. I also add some momory to my mac... BTW,as yankii said,maybe all of them seemed to felt something has changed inside their heart because this was their first time to visit developping

country and many things are different from what they guessed before visitting.
2/9/98 12:44 AM The subject: They also said after coming to chine,they often think about themselves and we gotto do what we want!!
2/9/98 12:44 AM The subject: So i think this trip was meanful to buddies!
2/9/98 12:46 AM Researcher: Na ru ho do. It is a good thing, I guess. Becaue life is an only one time event. As you said, we need to enjoy our lives. I am glad to hear that they are not just visiters.
2/9/98 12:47 AM The subject: Yes.I was also so happy as a host.
2/9/98 12:47 AM Researcher: Cool. How about your trip to the U.S?
2/9/98 12:51 AM The subject: As I last time told you by mail,That trip made me remember the reason why I work. That was my first trip after I start working and I almost forgot the importance of doing what I want those days.
2/9/98 12:53 AM Researcher: That's right. Life is a journey, isn't it. Sometime it is fun, but not always. So we need to try our best to get fun parts of life more. BTW, You seem to have problem with internet connection. Often you discon-nected the internet.
2/9/98 12:56 AM The subject: Really? It seems not troubling with me here. Maybe this prob may because of the line.
2/9/98 12:57 AM Researcher: I see. you know you can write "I see" as ic. Isn't it cool?
2/9/98 12:58 AM The subject: ic. IOU so much,right?
2/9/98 12:59 AM Researcher: I didn't know that. IOU, cool. Do you know how to write "before" ?
2/9/98 1:00 AM The subject: IOU stands for "I owe you" "before" ? I have no idea...!
2/9/98 1:00 AM Researcher: "befor" is B4
2/9/98 1:02 AM The subject: ic.
2/9/98 1:02 AM Researcher: i can talk to u like this. (^·^)
2/9/98 1:04 AM The subject: These kind of expression are used so often?
2/9/98 1:05 AM Researcher: yeah. I learned all of the stuff from chatting with other people,
2/9/98 1:06 AM The subject: How do you chat with the people you don't know?
2/9/98 1:09 AM The subject: I checked the URL that you gave me but what is that?
2/9/98 1:10 AM Researcher: well i have another chat program which allows me to have my own chat room. It means I already have my own chat room. It is called, "CLUB──JapanGlish!!" The purpose of this chat room is to provide Japanese people with lots of chances to use their English skills, then I encourage them to use English by saying, "Your English is totally fine and communicative." Some people think of me as an real American., though.
2/9/98 1:11 AM Researcher: Isn't it awful? You can download some kind of MASK program which you can unmaske some MOZAIC or something.
2/9/98 1:12 AM The subject: Cool. You are already became one of the fattest nation's ctttizens!!! Be big,boy!!
2/9/98 1:12 AM Researcher: what do u mean?
2/9/98 1:15 AM The subject: I mean you are able to pretend as an American now.
2/9/98 1:16 AM Researcher: no i am not trying to pretend to be an American. I just want everybody to have a chance to use Enlgish....
2/9/98 1:19 AM The subject: Yeah I know. I just kidding!! This kind of chance is so important for the people who stydies foreign language. I think the most

important thing is to have a courage to speak whether that is right or not!! I
am also the one who make the best use of this chance!!

2/9/98 1:21 AM Researcher: I knew you were just kidding. I just pretended that I
didn't know it.

2/9/98 1:22 AM The subject: No way,men!! Can I use thike this?

2/9/98 1:23 AM Researcher: Yeah you can. As i told u B4, ur english is good
enough to communicate, men.

2/9/98 1:26 AM The subject: Thanx,bro. BTW,I just entered some nicknames by using
the "Add/find users" button and I could find so many user's Email addresses
easily... Does this system couses any trouble or something in America?

2/9/98 1:28 AM Researcher: May be not. I haven't used it B4, so I am not quite
sure what it is. What did you get from it?

2/9/98 1:30 AM The subject: I've just got many user's Email and name. If I look
for the name by "keiko" ,maybe 30 or more user's information was displayed.

2/9/98 1:32 AM Researcher: i got it. So if i try to find someone who I know,
just type his/her nickname, right? Anyway, check your Hotmial now.

2/9/98 1:39 AM The subject: I'm sorry....I had to restart again. This time when I
forced my mac to restart,it played some music and it made me afraid so much. But
now I recovered fully.

2/9/98 1:40 AM Researcher: Wow! what happened to ur Mac? Speaking of Mac, today I
ate a Big Mac.

2/9/98 1:41 AM The subject: I ate a RIB COMBO at Tony roma yesterday. Is it
famous in America?

2/9/98 1:42 AM Researcher: i don't know about Tony roma. Is it in the US, too?

2/9/98 1:43 AM The subject: yeah!! The ads that I found inside that shop says.

2/9/98 1:44 AM Researcher: I didn't know that. btw did u check ur email, yet?

2/9/98 1:45 AM The subject: Just now downloading the image! Oops!! Thanx for my
sidedish of tonight!!

2/9/98 1:46 AM Researcher: Cool! But don't do it too much!

2/9/98 1:47 AM The subject: yeah...Too much is not good for your health. Or
sometimes be harmful!!!

2/9/98 1:47 AM Researcher: yeah. btw when are you coming back to japan?

2/9/98 1:48 AM The subject: Next Fri. ...Feb. 20th. And a new car will be
waiting for me!!

2/9/98 1:49 AM Researcher: a new car!! I want to see that, too.

2/9/98 1:51 AM The subject: The pix that you updated to our page is that!! Where
did you get that?

2/9/98 1:52 AM Researcher: I went to one of the OPEL's web site, then downloaded
it. It was a piece of cake.

2/9/98 1:53 AM The subject: Yes!! If you have a digital―camera,I could see
yours!! How about buying one?

2/9/98 1:54 AM Researcher: i don't know. I may buy one b4 attending to a big
convention in Seattle.

2/9/98 1:56 AM The subject: A big convention in Seattle? Last time you told me
is that?

2/9/98 1:57 AM Researcher: yeah, I might lead a discussion. But i don't know yet.

2/9/98 1:58 AM The subject: When does the convention will be held?

2/9/98 1:58 AM Researcher: It will be held on March 17 to 21. Are you coming,
too?

2/9/98 2:01 AM The subject: yeah. I really want to... But these days,I will be

in shanghai. BUT,I really want to visit seattle...!! Why don't you check your mail?

2/9/98 2:01 AM Researcher: have u been there b4?

2/9/98 2:02 AM The subject: I just landed and took off soon! maybe I spent 30 minutes.

2/9/98 2:04 AM Researcher: only 30 mins. Seattle is a beautiful city. I went there the summar of 1996.

2/9/98 2:08 AM The subject: Cool!! I just watched the landscape of there from the sky. But there was full of green and some ponds are also impressive for me. And some magazine,I could find information about there and always it would say it is not a typical city of america. If I have a chance,I really wanna visit there.

2/9/98 2:10 AM Researcher: Yeah, it is a cool place to visit. I checke my email then found the most impressive pic there. I am gonna put it on VACA's page.

2/9/98 2:13 AM The subject: Yeah!! I also wanted to do but my mac's "broThe subject: pipe" ... btw. Just after send you a mail,I found a new mail arrived and it was from yuriko☑chan. She says she gonna unenployed after this march. This was a kind of surprise for me. Did you know that?

2/9/98 2:13 AM Researcher: I didn't know that. May be her contract is going to be over.

2/9/98 2:15 AM The subject: yeah. btw,are you sure to visit seattle this march?

2/9/98 2:16 AM Researcher: Yeah, I am going there. I already bought an airticket and reserved a hotel.

2/9/98 2:18 AM The subject: Great! I envy you so much!

2/9/98 2:20 AM Researcher: i am very excited about it. I will make my free time to walk around Seattle, then eat seafood, drink coffee. u know seattle is a bit famouse for coffee.

2/9/98 2:22 AM The subject: Exactly!! I also know that fomous coffee latte and cafe au leit !! btw,I will visit guanzhou in this march.

2/9/98 2:22 AM Researcher: where is that?

2/9/98 2:25 AM The subject: The city Guanzhou is near HK and one of the most biggest city in china.
      This march, one of the biggest trade show will be held at there.

2/9/98 2:26 AM Researcher: ic, you gonna make a dea/bussiness with some companies there.

2/9/98 2:27 AM The subject: yes. It is so big and could not seen by one day. And I wanna try some girls there.

2/9/98 2:28 AM Researcher: hahaha! be careful not be infected by AIDS or some bad stuff.

2/9/98 2:30 AM The subject: thanx. But I already have one... ..vaca!!

2/9/98 2:30 AM Researcher: DO YOU?

2/9/98 2:31 AM The subject: You gotto check fully. I mean vaca!!! Did you find this?

2/9/98 2:33 AM Researcher: Just be careful becuae keeping good health is a must thing for life.

2/9/98 2:34 AM The subject: No no no!! You can find the name of my desease at the bottom of this window!! ...vaca.

2/9/98 2:34 AM Researcher: I got it. I am also infected.

2/9/98 2:36 AM The subject: yeah.. I tried 3 times!! (^·^)sorry!!

2/9/98 2:36 AM Researcher: sorry about that.

2/9/98 2:37 AM The subject: No prob.bro!! Well,I think you better fall asleep now.

2/9/98 2:38 AM Researcher: yeah I better be go now.

2/9/98 2:39 AM The subject: Thanx and I could enjoy the time!! Take care and Do NOT too much!! talk to you later

2/9/98 2:40 AM Researcher: talk to you later Oyasumi

2/9/98 2:40 AM The subject: oyasumi see you

2/9/98 10:04 PM The subject: please check your Email!! You'll find some pixs of shanghai. take care!! The subject:

2/10/98 12:05 AM Researcher: Thanks, buddy. I got them. They are beautiful and your comment makes me think of something important. I can't tell what something is, but I feel something in my mind. Talk to you later

2/10/98 2:30 AM The subject: Thanx for your reply!! If you say so,I also so happy that almost native men could understand what I wanna tell!! talk to you later

2/10/98 2:32 AM The subject: Thanx for your reply!! If you say so,I also so happy that almost native men could understand what I wanna tell!! talk to you later

2/10/98 2:42 AM Researcher: Hey buddy are you there!

2/10/98 2:42 AM The subject: yeah!! are you online?

2/10/98 2:43 AM Researcher: I just connect the Internet. What are you doing now?

2/10/98 2:48 AM The subject: I just came back and trying to send some pixs of our new products to our head office

2/10/98 2:48 AM Researcher: ic please do your job. I just want to tell you something...

2/10/98 2:51 AM The subject: please tell me what? ...my situation that I am connecting is not so good at now,maybe.

2/10/98 2:54 AM The subject: Now,I try to re-connect the line. I will be back within a few minutes.

2/10/98 2:57 AM Researcher: Did you get my message about TESOL?

2/10/98 2:58 AM The subject: hey buddy, are you astill there? Maybe because of the line,my ICQ stuation turns on and off oftenly...

2/10/98 2:59 AM Researcher: Yeah, your connection seems to be very unstable now.

2/10/98 3:01 AM The subject: no. Where did you send it?

2/10/98 3:02 AM The subject: Maybe I've recovered now...

2/10/98 3:03 AM Researcher: Ok. I will write it again. I was told that I am going to lead one of small sections of TESOL convention in Seattle. TESOL stands for Teachers of English to Students of Other Language. Can you believe it? I am gonna lead a disscusion? I am very excited about it.

2/10/98 3:08 AM The subject: Sorry!! I can't connect to the ICQ with some pob.

2/10/98 3:09 AM Researcher: no prob. BTW did you get my message?

2/10/98 3:16 AM Researcher: Hello-----? Are you there?

2/10/98 3:21 AM Researcher: are you having trouble with the internet connection, ha?

2/10/98 3:25 AM The subject: yeah!! I tried to axes to the web and send a email but it is also impossible...I 've recovered again. Last time you told me that you may go to there. But now you mean that is already decided and you gonna lead the show? Is it sounds great!?

2/10/98 3:28 AM The subject: I am so sorry... the situation is still unstable... I will check my mail to get your important info. oyasumi

2/10/98 3:31 AM Researcher: The subject: ! I am so sorry but I am very sleepy now. I am going to bed now... I hope you got my important message. I will try to email my message again tomorrow. Oyasumi

2/10/98 7:16 AM The subject: Good morning!! I'm sorry...I was unable to axes to the web constantly at the daytime. I think it was caused by line and now(at night) it recovered well. Anyway,pls send me a mail and tell me your important thing. talk to

  you later
2/11/98 2:02 AM Researcher: Check out your Hotmail.
2/13/98 1:13 AM The subject: Hey,are you there?
2/13/98 1:14 AM The subject: ic. I also installed a software that force the person who started my mac to input the password. If the pssword mismutched,my mac doesn't starts. It's my way to protect my software.
2/13/98 1:14 AM Researcher: Hey I didn't realize that you are on line.
2/13/98 1:14 AM The subject: Yes!! I just connected. Are you registered a new ICQ? Is it named JOW?
2/13/98 1:15 AM Researcher: wow! how did u know that?
2/13/98 1:16 AM The subject: Are you O.K? I hope this emergency is not huge one.
2/13/98 1:17 AM The subject: You added my address to that ICQ panel aren't you? I setted up my system to alert anyone who gonna add my number. Your system either,I guess.
2/13/98 1:18 AM Researcher: wow it's fantastic! I just installed ICQ on a computer at the University. but I already deleated it because someone might use my ICQ.
2/13/98 1:21 AM Researcher: The subject: , emergency situation has happened now. I have to restart my computer. I will connect as soon as possible.
2/13/98 1:26 AM Researcher: that's a good way. but I can't do that at the university
2/13/98 1:29 AM The subject: btw.How was your emergency?
2/13/98 1:30 AM Researcher: no prob now. what happed was my netscape communicater got frozen. that's why i needed to restart it by shutting down my computer. btw, aren't you working there, are you?
2/13/98 1:33 AM The subject: yeah...Today,I suggested some sales promotion goods to my client. It will be a big buisiness,maybe. It will cost usd.200,000 totally. Isn't it sounds great?
2/13/98 1:34 AM Researcher: r u kidding? u r saying that u r dealing tons of money? that sounds awesome
2/13/98 1:37 AM The subject: Yeah! but I really think I can make it. Recently,my main buisiness is to suggest some plan or stuffs that my client will use that item to present for free to their customers. In future,I wanna make this kind of business.
2/13/98 1:38 AM Researcher: wow! that sounds really cool. hope you will sucess!
2/13/98 1:40 AM The subject: Thanx!! But don't you remember that my members are .off course including you!! BTW,do you know one huge company named "DDB" in USA?
2/13/98 1:40 AM Researcher: no i don't know. what kind of company is that?
2/13/98 1:43 AM The subject: It's a maybe,one of the most huge ads company all over the world. maybe that company would having many relations between nesuaper com/TV com/ or any company relating to the media.
2/13/98 1:44 AM Researcher: so u r saying that u r dealing with that company right now?
2/13/98 1:47 AM The subject: Not really,but one chinese who works at that company in shanghai branch will be quit that we are going to employ him in near future. I, perhaps have heard about this company before,so Ithought you may know...
2/13/98 1:48 AM Researcher: ic what r u doing now, btw?
2/13/98 1:50 AM The subject: I'm now thinking about new business. and calling to yan at now. Do you have any message to him?
2/13/98 1:50 AM Researcher: tell him to use ICQ right now!
2/13/98 1:52 AM The subject: He says take care not to catch a cold. And Let's visit china together next time

2/13/98 1:52 AM Researcher: OK! just tell him to use the Internet now!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2/13/98 1:54 AM The subject: But he says he's driving the car now. And he wondering wether he go back to the hotel or not.

2/13/98 1:54 AM Researcher: Tell him. Right now go back to the hotel.

2/13/98 1:55 AM The subject: Let's go to the hotel together,he says!

2/13/98 1:56 AM Researcher: Cool but we need some girls, though.

2/13/98 1:58 AM The subject: No!! we two are enough!!,he says

2/13/98 1:58 AM Researcher: hahaha! Let's go there!

2/13/98 2:00 AM The subject: HaHaHa!! He wishes your best results at TESOL.

2/13/98 2:01 AM Researcher: tell him 3x

2/13/98 2:02 AM The subject: O.k.he OFF☑LINED. I think 3x is Japanese,right?

2/13/98 2:03 AM Researcher: i mean "thanks"

2/13/98 2:04 AM The subject: yes,I could understand but the pronounciation of "3" is three,not "san" ,right? 3x will be described to japanese.

2/13/98 2:05 AM Researcher: yeah that's right. i mixed up japanese and english

2/13/98 2:05 AM The subject: Btw,what are you doing at now?

2/13/98 2:06 AM Researcher: I was preparing for a kind of presentation tomorrow.

2/13/98 2:09 AM The subject: Tomorrrrrrrow? ic. u are now at night of thursday!! Here is T.G.I.F!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!Are u envy me????????????? I'll be shor VACA soon!!

2/13/98 2:10 AM Researcher: cool but u know what. my classes are Mon through Thurs. That means every Thurs. night is my kind of T.G. I. F. or I should say T.G.I. T, i guess

2/13/98 2:12 AM The subject: Wow!! so you have 3☑day VACAs every week!! How vaca you are!!

2/13/98 2:13 AM Researcher: yeah it is really cool, buddy. but only time i take a rest is on Thurs. night only. that's kind of sad...

2/13/98 2:14 AM The subject: Why? then what are u doing on Fri. Sat.and Sun?

2/13/98 2:15 AM Researcher: don't ask me that! I just need to study. the graduate life is tough.

2/13/98 2:18 AM The subject: Wow,sorry about that. But please don't forget being vacas. And also playing electoronic guiter,musician!!

2/13/98 2:19 AM Researcher: u know what, every morning i play the guitar

2/13/98 2:21 AM The subject: Are you? Not the classic guiter? That noisy sound every morning? It's VACA!!!

2/13/98 2:22 AM Researcher: just kidding. i play it sometimes. but whenever i play it , that heavy sound reminds me of your staying here.

2/13/98 2:24 AM The subject: Yes!! i also often remember the sound... please do keep it before you back or we visit again. I can't endure anymore!! I will be back soon I just wanna go to "UNKO" ....a big one

2/13/98 2:25 AM Researcher: i got it have a nice unko

2/13/98 2:29 AM The subject: I'm home!! It was not a big one,really...! BTW,would you do me a fovor?

2/13/98 2:29 AM Researcher: yeah

2/13/98 2:33 AM The subject: Now,you are living in another country for a few years. Then,Do you feel anything /anysystem more convenient than living in Japan? I wanna know a new system or buisiness that is already thought it as natural in your country but still not in japan. for ex.in america,computer are so popular than japan and oftenly be used as many kinds of way of. If you have some idea,let me know...!

2/13/98 2:34 AM Researcher: ic. let me think...

2/13/98 2:38 AM The subject: Please don't think over it so serionsly. If you have some good idea,please let me know anytime!!

2/13/98 2:41 AM Researcher: this is a very tiny idea for not fogetting to leave a disk on the computer. In other words, to prevent to foget take a disk off from the computer. you know. the disk has two holes at the back of both edges. usually, one is used as protection for overwriting. The other hole is nothing do with overwrite protection. So my friend got an idea. That is to get a small ribon or something to attach to it. (Ribon or Himo de sono ana o toushite musu

2/13/98 2:43 AM Researcher: musubunda. soushite ribon no shippo o shukoshi dashite oku. sousuruto, kanarazu, ribon no ushiro ga computer kara itsumo dete irunode, disk o wasurenai Is it clear?

2/13/98 2:45 AM Researcher: if i have a digital camera, I can picture it, and send it to you, so that you can see it. Believe me it is not really complicated at all, You need to see it.

2/13/98 2:48 AM The subject: ic!! I don't used to use a disc and not having an experience of forgetting the disc. But I wanna know is more big one.This idea is exellent but I wanna know is: SEIKATSU SURU UEDE BENRINAKOTO TATOEBA.........credit card NO TSUKAIKATA TOKA, cable TV HA BENRIDA etc....

2/13/98 2:49 AM Researcher: ok i am looking for something useful.

2/13/98 2:50 AM The subject: For example,Now I am suggesting one of my client to make a web site that provides a service like Hotmail. At now,no company provides this kind of service for free in japan.

2/13/98 2:52 AM Researcher: that's a good idea. Since most of people in Japan who use Hotmail take long time to there, plus, they have to use English.

2/13/98 2:55 AM The subject: Yes. ,So I wanna know the whole details of the "hotmail" copmany. How is their capital,sales,beneficially and so on. Maybe,to make this kind of company needs much investment as a capital at first.

2/13/98 2:56 AM Researcher: hoho! you sounds like you are a bussiness man.

2/13/98 2:57 AM The subject: I am the man called "INTERNATIONAL MAN" in shanghai....

2/13/98 2:58 AM Researcher: wow. you sound like you are in Shanghai

2/13/98 2:59 AM The subject: No way!! You says like you are not in shanghai.

2/13/98 2:59 AM Researcher: COOOL I like that stuff.

2/13/98 3:00 AM The subject: It sounds like you are in America.

2/13/98 3:01 AM Researcher: i though i was in the hotel with yan

2/13/98 3:03 AM The subject: Oops!!! I'm sorry!! Please tell ya honey my best regards!!

2/13/98 3:04 AM Researcher: you sound like you are NOT in the hotel with us.

2/13/98 3:05 AM The subject: I guess so.

2/13/98 3:05 AM Researcher: Aren't you hungry?

2/13/98 3:07 AM The subject: yes. Because I just ate one KFC today. It's 4:oo pm now at here.

2/13/98 3:08 AM Researcher: today as usual i fixed my supper. I ate pasta with tomato sauce with tuna. it was delicious.

2/13/98 3:11 AM The subject: Did you use olive oil in it? Why dont u make a salada with it? How to make a dressing:1.winevinegar 2.olieve oil 3.wine 4. Put them to a bowl and screw it that's all!!

2/13/98 3:13 AM Researcher: last time i made a sort of dressing. I didn't add wine in it, that's why it was aweful taste.

2/13/98 3:15 AM The subject: HaHaHa!! I can not laugh at you...BTW,I get back to work now. please enjoy this nite and Dont too much!! take care and good nite!!

2/13/98 3:16 AM Researcher: talk to you later I am going to go bed now.

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2/13/98 3:18 AM The subject: DONT too much!! and wish u can see a sweet drea good
nite,bro! The subject:
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Appendix B

Taxonomy of non-target like utterances: Identification of errors

Non—target like utterances	Correct forms	Classifications — Error, Typo, Colloquial expression or Chat word	Number of Times in the natural data
Off couse	of course	Error	2
saids	said	Typo	1
Lier	Liar	Typo	1
Thanx or thanx	thanks	Chat word	11
BTW or btw	by the way	Chat word	16
mac (no capitalization)	Mac	Chat word	7
applicated	??????	Typo	1
momory	memory	Typo	1
developping	developing	Error	1
visitting	visiting	Error	2
gotto	gotta or got to	Typo	4
meanful	meaningful	Typo	1
prob	problem	Colloquial expression	1
ic	I see	Chat word	23
stydies	studies	Typo	1
bro	brother	Colloquial expression	4
couses	course	Typo	1
sidedish	side dish	Typo	1
shanghai (no capitalization)	Shanghai	Chat word	7
seattle (no capitalization)	Seattle	Chat word	5
america (no capitalization)	America	Chat word	3
unenployed	unemployed	Typo	1
desease	disease	Typo	1
pixs	pictures	Chat word	2
stuation	situation	Typo	1

pssword	password	Typo	1
setted (set in the past tense)	set	Typo	1
nespaper	newspaper	Typo	1
wether	whether	Typo	1
pronounciation	pronunciation	Error	1
japanese (no capitalization)	Japanese	Chat word	4
thursday (no capitalization)	Thursday	Chat word	1
electoronic	electronic	Error	1
guiter	guitar	Typo	2
fovor	favor	Typo	1
wanna	want to	Colloquial expression	5
buisiness	business	Typo	1
oftenly	often	Typo	1
serionsly	seriously	Typo	1
exellent	excellent	Typo	1
salada	salad	Typo	1
dont	don't	Typo	5
nite	night	Chat word	3
enviroment	environment	Error	1
allpication	application	Typo	1
communicater	communicator	Typo	2
cd－rom	CD－Rom	Typo	1
belive	believe	Typo	1
hevier	heavier	Typo	1
heared	heard	Typo	1
r	are	Chat word	2
u	you	Chat word	10
goota	got to	Typo	1
seme	same	Typo	1
hudson (no capitalization)	Hudson	Chat word	1
italian (no capitalization)	Italian	Chat word	1
betweeb	between	Typo	1
C.U	see you	Chat word	3

tuesday (no capitalization)	Tuesday	Chat word	2
amuzement	amusement	Typo	1
familier	familiar	Typo	1
english (no capitalization)	English	Typo	1
controll	control	Error	2
incrediblly	incredibly	Typo	1
generary	generally	Typo	1
ikoma (no capitalization)	Ikoma	Chat word	2
tampa (no capitalization)	Tampa	Chat word	1
recentry	recently	Typo	1
japanese (no capitalization)	Japanese	Chat word	4
competetive	competitive	Typo	1
hardles	hurdles	Error	1
beggers	beggars	Error	1
benz (no capitalization)	Benz	Chat word	1
opprtunity	opportunity	Typo	2
becamed (become in the pas	became	Typo	1
chinese (no capitalization)	Chinese	Chat word	6

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