CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The chapter presents general outlines of this present study, and it is divided into background, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, research methods, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

People try to maintain social relations by interacting with each other. Conversation, as a form of interactive communication, is a communication activity which involves more than one person in everyday spoken interaction. It occurs in different kinds of daily situation.

Conversation analysis (CA), as an approach to the analysis of spoken discourse, views how people conduct their conversational interactions (Paltridge, 2006). It concerns with the way individual engages his/her acts through verbal language by taking part in conversational discourse for any social settings. Studies on CA have focused on "opening and closing conversation, turn-taking adjacency pairs, feed back, and repair" (Paltridge, 2006:110). Such issues, as explained by Gardner (1994, cited in Paltridge, 2006) show clearly how participants construct social contexts by using conversational strategy.

As one of the issues in CA, repair is defined as an important strategy to correct some mistakes of what participants have said in a conversation (Paltridge, 2006). It is required to be adressed in resolving problems of speaking, hearing,

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and understanding among speakers. As explained by Finnegan (1992: 365), "a repair takes place in conversation when a participant feels the need to correct him/herself or another speaker, to edit a previous utterance, or simply to restate something."

There are several areas concerning research on repair. Two studies analyzed repetitions that are used in repair sequences (Curl, 2005 & Wu, 2006). In Curl's study, he presented a phonetic analysis of repetitions occurring in other-initiated repair sequences of American English conversation. Two different phonetic patterns were conducted by Curl (2005) to analyze repetition practices in repairs. Moreover, Wu (2006) focused on the initiation of repair through the use of repeat-formatted in Mandarin conversation. To initiate a repair, Mandarin speakers would select between two repeat-formatted practices: repeats with question intonation and repeats suffixed with the final particle a-.

Another area that has been studied is conversation breakdown and repair arising from adults (Lind, Hickson & Erber, 2006). This study involved a couple who have hearing impairment as subjects of the research in the cochlear implant programme at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide. This aimed to provide the way familiar conversational partners deal with breakdowns and repairs in free and unstuctured conversation.

Following a conversation breakdown in people with disabilities, investigation of conversational repair in some students with moderate and severe disabilities had also been conducted (Weiner, 2005). Three students of 6-12 years old were selected based on test score of articulation and pragmatics as well as

high frequency of difficulty in maintaining conversations. They were paired with nine typical similar-age peers. In this study, nine typical peers were taught to request repairs as response to unintelligible verbalizations.

In different area, repair is also found in conversational interaction of radio programme (Suhayar, 2005). This study provided the differences of initiating repair between English native speakers and non-native speakers. The data were categorized into patterns and techniques used by these two kinds of English speakers.

In sum, those previous studies analyze repairs in many kinds of communicative situations. However, none of those studies mentioned the initiation of repair on a television talk show. In fact, nowadays television becomes one of the media to get information and entertainment. Hitam Putih, for example, is considered as a talk show that contains entertaining and informative elements. Hence, the writer tried to describe repair strategy used in conversational interaction between participants of Hitam Putih talk show by identifying the patterns performed in the conversation, the techniques used by the participants, and the factors affecting the participants to initiate repairs.

1.2 Research Questions

The problems which are investigated through this research are as follows:

1. What patterns of repairs are evident in "Hitam Putih" talk show?

2. What techniques are used by the speakers in initiating repairs?

3. What factors affect the speakers to initiate repairs?

1.3 Aims of the study

The present study has some aims as follows:

1. To identify the patterns of repairs that are evidenced in "Hitam Putih" talk show
2. To analyze the techniques that are used by the speakers in initiating repairs
3. To analyze the factors that potentially affect in initiating repairs

1.4 Scope of the study

This study is limited to investigate repairs in "Hitam Putih" talk show. The patterns of repairs that occur in the talk show and the techniques that are used to initiate repairs would be analyzed. To give more understanding about repair strategy, the factors that affect repairs are also conducted. In addition, the present study also analyzes lexical cohesive relations between the repairable segments and the repaired segments that are performed by the speakers.

1.5 Significance of the Study

There have been some research discussing repair strategy as a conversation behavior. Hopefully, this research would provide new findings in the study of repair as one of the conversation analysis issues. The study is also expected to contribute a better appreciation and understanding of repairable situation in conversational interaction, including television talk show, by conducting patterns; techniques; and factors in initiating repair.

1.6 Research Methods

The method used in this study is qualitative-descriptive in nature. The qualitative approach was employed in order to collect the data i.e. recording and transcribing, to identify the data that contains repairs, then to analyze the identified data. Those processes might be recognized to figure out the repairs occurred by the participants of the talkshow in detail. The descriptive method itself was addressed in presenting the data and its findings. It would be appropriate to use descriptive method since the present study illustrated the repair analysis sistematically.

The subjects of this study were the participants in the two episodes of ''Hitam Putih'' talk show. Those episodes were announced on 16 and 24 March, 2011. The whole conversation from two episodes of the talkshow were recorded in the form of audio recording by using MP3 IC Recorder. Each episode had 45 minutes duration. The audio recordings were transcribed to simplify the analysis process.

The present study focuses on repair strategies which consist of the patterns, the initiation techniques, and the factors that affect the speakers to initiate repairs. The identification process of whole conversation was required before the analysis of repair strategy.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

The paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter I contains background and research questions, in addition to its aims and scope. It also discusses

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significance of the study, research method including data collection and data analysis, and organization of the paper. Chapter II provides the theoretical foundation of the study, such as the theory of conversational repairs, a brief description of conversation, lexical cohesive relations, and the previous studies which are relevant to the issue. Chapter III discusses the research problems and research design, including the subjects and sources of the study. It also describes how the data are collected and analyzed in the study. Chapter IV presents the findings of the study and its discussions. At last, Chapter V provides the conclusion of the study and the suggestions for further research in repair area.