

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the research, research questions, research purposes, scope of the research, and significance of the present research which have been elaborated. The purpose of this chapter is to delineate the topic of this study, the aims, the area of the research, and the importance of this study.

#### 1.1. Background of the Research

Conversation is the basic of talk that involves at least two participants. It is aimed to exchange information and maintain social relations (Paltridge, 2006). To succeed in our conversation, Sacks (1992, p. 221) emphasizes that it is important to manifest those who are involved in the conversation “in the form of turn types, turn transitions, membership categorization devices, and many forms of indexicality (words and sentence fragments with multiple possible meanings) designed to guarantee that participants fulfill hearing and listening requirements”. This leads to the basic idea of Conversation Analysis (CA). CA has been defined as follows:

An approach to the analysis of spoken discourse that looks at the way in which people manage their everyday conversational interactions. It has examined aspects of spoken discourse such as sequences of related utterances (adjacency pairs), preferences for particular combinations of utterances, turn-taking, feedback, repair, conversational openings and closings, discourse markers and response tokens. (Paltridge, 2006, p. 107)

CA has its origin in ethnomethodology by the work of Harold Garfinkel in the late 1960s. He was interested in how people interpret daily life and develop sense of social order. Afterward, in early 1974, “work by Harvey Sacks and his close associates Emanuel A. Schegloff and Gail Jefferson on turn-taking in conversation further developed what is known today as CA” (Harwood, 2006, p. 4). CA focuses on

“detailed recorded conversations, analyzing them for specific features of their moment by moment production, and interpreting the significance of the utterances in the light of their environments of action” (Heritage, 1984, p. 292). It concerns with features of conversation to highlight creativity of everyday conversation and significance of specific utterances. The early works of CA are mostly interested in everyday spoken interactions such as casual conversation (Paltridge, 2006).

Nowadays, conversation analysis is applied not only in casual conversations but also in certain dialogues of plays, movies, telephone conversations and the like. One of the conversation features that is often analyzed is turn-taking organization, which has been defined as “An organization of practices designed to allow routine achievement of what appears to be overwhelmingly the most common default “numerical” value of speakership in talk-in-interaction: one party talking at a time” (Schegloff, 2000, p. 1).

However, the organization of turn-taking might sometimes be violated. For instance, there is more than one speaker talking at a time or one party take their part without giving other parties a chance to finish their part. This kind of violation is called interruptions and overlaps. It is a situation when “incursions have the potential to disrupt turns at talk, disorganize the ongoing construction of conversational topics, and violate the current speaker’s right to be engaged in speaking” (Zimmerman and West, 1983, p. 105). For Schegloff (2000, p. 1), “The orderly distribution of opportunities to participate in social interaction is one of the most fundamental preconditions for viable social organization”. When one party take more parts in conversation, it becomes a matter of politeness.

In conducting research on interruptions and overlaps, the analysis can be done by looking at the turn-taking organization of conversation. As has been explained before, turn-taking is about taking part in conversation. In other words, turn-taking, interruption and overlap are related to each other. Sacks et al. (1974) suggest that

turn-taking is organized to ensure that (1) one party talks at a time and (2) speaker change recurs. If those aims cannot be achieved, then the turn-taking will not be well organized and it might violate other's right to talk.

A study of interruptions and overlaps was done by Zimmerman and West (1975) who investigated sex roles in casual conversation between female and male by taping thirty-one conversations recorded in coffee shops, drug stores, and other public places in a university community. The results of their study came to the conclusion that in mixed-sex conversation, men tended to deny equal status of women, as shown through the male's control of the conversation. They also tended to violate women's right to take their turns by interrupting and overlapping their talks.

More recently, similar research was conducted by El-daly (2011). He analyzed language and power in dialogues of a play through the analysis of interruption dominance, turn-taking and overlap, and relation of politeness and gender. His research found quite similar results with that of Elbytra (2014) who analyzed language use and gender in a movie. He employed a conversation analysis in his research by analyzing language character, language style, verbal aggressiveness, interruption, and topic shift in *Hitch* movie dialogue. Elbytra's study aimed at giving evidence regarding differences between women and men's language use. The results showed that women tend to give other speakers a chance to finish their talk, while men tend to overlap and interrupt others.

The results of the aforementioned studies show that interruptions and overlaps are more frequently produced by male, suggesting dominance of male over female (El-dally, 2011). Elbytra (2014) has shown that women tend to let someone who is talking finishes his/her talk and do not change the topic during the conversation. On the other hand, men tend to overlap someone's talk and change the topic of conversation they are engaged in, which can be considered as an interruption.

Even though there are many research studies of conversation analysis as the three previous studies mentioned before, this study has a different focus and object of analysis. To contribute to research studies in turn-taking organization, this study aims to investigate the types of interruptions and overlaps and its frequency, in male-female conversation in the talk show *Mata Najwa*. It is a weekly program on Metro TV, one of Indonesia's TV station. The program is hosted by Najwa Shihab, aired every Wednesday at 08.05 p.m.

The data of this study are taken from one of the episodes in *Mata Najwa*, that is an episode entitled "Pencuri Perhatian". It is an episode in which the guests are Syahrini, Raditya Dika, and Basuki Tjahaja Purnama (Ahok). This episode is selected because it is suitable with the data requirements of this study, consisting the equal number of female and male, and the frequency of interruptions and overlaps.

## **1.2. Research Questions**

This study attempts to investigate two features of the turn-taking organization in the talk show *Mata Najwa*: "Pencuri Perhatian" by applying Conversation Analysis approach. The research questions have been formulated as follows:

1. What types of interruptions and overlaps employed by male and female speakers are found in the talk show?
2. In terms of the male-female conversation, how many interruptions and overlaps do occur in the talk show?

## **1.3. Purposes of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the research questions above, the aims of this study are:

1. To analyze the types of interruptions and overlaps employed by male and female speakers found in the talk show.

2. To identify the frequency of occurrences of interruptions and overlaps in male-female conversation employed in the talk show.

#### **1.4. Scope of the Research**

The scope of this study is selected dialogues of the talk show *Mata Najwa* identified as interruptions and overlaps. The study aims to analyze interruption and overlap in an Indonesian talk shows which has equal number of male and female speakers in the conversation. However, it is hard to find the equal number of female and male guests in Indonesian talk show so the analysis also includes the host as the speaker of the conversation. The analysis highlights the types of interruptions and overlaps found in the conversation between male and female speakers in the talk show and its number of occurrences.

#### **1.5. Significance of the Research**

This study bears significance in two respects: theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this research can contribute to the application of conversation analysis theory, especially in analyzing conversations in a talk show, which, to date, are still a few in number. Practically, this study is expected to encourage people to be more aware of conversational activities they are engaged in and of the implications that these activities have on social interactions and relationships.

#### **1.6. Clarification of Terms**

There are some terminologies that need to be clarified to give understanding about the topic of the research:

1. Turn-taking

Sacks et al. (1974 cited in Reznik, 2004) defines turn-taking as “a basic form of organization for conversation”. It is the basic rule in which people manage their turn to speak in a certain conversation.

## 2. Interruption

Interruption is often described as evil intention to cut the flow of the current speaker’s speech and to grab the floor to make one’s own points (Xu, 2009).

## 3. Overlap

Overlap is a feature of turn-taking. It refers to a situation in the conversation when there is more than one speaker talk at a time (Schegloff, 1974).

## 4. Gender

Gender is a term constructed socially by society to characterize women and men. It often governs the process of production and reproduction, consumption and distribution (FAO, 1997)

### **1.7. Organization of the Report**

This study is organized in five chapters. Each chapter has different information of this study. It depends on the headline of the chapter. They are elaborated as follows:

#### 1. CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of information about background of the research, research questions, purposes of the research, scope of the research, significance of the research, clarification of terms, and organization of the report.

#### 2. CHAPTER II: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter presents elaboration of relevant theories, ideas, and issues of the study. It also provides findings of the previous studies and other supportive information relevant to the present study.

### 3. CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter gives information about approaches and procedures, research design, data collection, and data analysis of the research.

### 4. CHAPTER IV: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter provides the results of the analysis and the discussions on the significance of the results.

### 5. CHAPTER V: CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter provides conclusion drawn from the results of the research. In addition, it also includes suggestions for further research.