

**CONVERSATION ANALYSIS ON THE INTERVIEW
BETWEEN NEWS REPORTER OF NEW YORK TIMES AND AUTHOR
ON BESTSELLER NOVELS**

Febri Eko Andriyanto
Faculty of Humanities
Dian Nuswantoro University

ABSTRACT

The tesis entitled “Conversation Analysis on the Interview between News reporter of New York Times and Author on Bestseller Novels” is aimed at describing the aspects of conversation found in that interview. Those are opening and closing, adjacency pair, topic management and turn taking. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method to study the problem, because this study has a purpose to describe and analyze the aspects of conversation in an interview. The data were taken from written data of news interview of news reporter and author in Stuart Wood’s (author) official webpage. The speakers are a news reporter and author. The conversation was an English dialogue in formal conversation. The result showed that there is no opening and this interview because the interviewer directly asked question to the author. The closing is indicated by the preclosing “Anything else you’d like to say to readers?”. Then, it was followed by the answer of the interviewee or the novel’s author. The dominant adjacency pair found in this interview is question-answer. The topic discussed in this interview is only one that is about the novel written by the author. The initiator of the topic is interviewer by asking something to the interviewee. The topic is developed by the interviewee by giving answer to the interviewer. There are 114 turn takings in the conversation: 57 times from the interviewer and 57 times from the interviewee. In this conversation there is no dominant person or less dominant person because both of them gives the same turns. Beside that, the form of the conversation is just question and answer. So, the turn taking just happened when the interviewer gives question to the interviewee.

Key Words: *Aspects of conversation, conversation analysis, interview, novel.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a vital part in people’s life. Without language, people will face a lot of difficulties to communicate with others. As a result, there will be no interaction between people. Generally, “language is divided into two main parts: written language and spoken language” (Blattberg, 2000 : 88). Written language is all language that is used in written texts, while spoken language is language that is used in speaking, especially in conversation. It means an activity where two or more people are talking with each other just for the purpose of socializing with

others. In the same condition, Stenstrom defines conversation as “a social activity involving two or more participants who talk about something” (Stenstrom, 1994 : 189). While Sacks defines conversation as “a string of at least two turns; or in other words, conversation is a sequence of utterances between two interlocutors.” (Coulthard, 1985 : 156). Some purposes of making conversation are relating people to a lot of friends, giving information to other people, trading with other people, and harming others. Conversation is usually preceded in an organized manner. An utterance produced by a certain speaker has to be responded by another utterance from another speaker (the addressee). Consequently, a proper conversational organization or structure will be created.

Conversation is more than merely the exchange of information because through conversation it can be decided whether the message is received by the hearer or not. Therefore, it will promote not only a message but also a favorable response of the hearer. Besides that, conversation is determined to build a social relationship or even to make decisions.

The approach to the analysis of spoken interactions know as conversation analysis, it is developed from work carried out by Harvey Sacks, Gail Jefferson and Emmanuel Schegloff in the early 1960 at the University of California. In conversations analysis, particular attention is given to daily spoken interactions, chat and another ordinary narrative. However, it also examined other verbal interactions such as news interview, spoken activity in classrooms, consultations between doctor and patient, even the interactions between teacher and student in the class room.

Some aspects of conversation are sequences of related utterance (adjacency pairs), preferences for particular combinations of utterance (preference organization), topic management, turn-taking, feedback, repair strategies, conversational openings and closings, discourse markers such as ‘*Oh..*’ and respond taken, such as ‘*humph*’, and ‘*mm*’. However, aspects of conversational interactions that was examined in this analysis are topic management, turn-taking, feedback, and repair strategies. The writer only focuses on those topics because the writer analyzed the differences each topic that occur in the conversation between native and non-native speaker. This analysis shows how the way native speaker and non-native speaker managed the topic of their conversation, how they organized the turn during the conversation, how they developed feedback each other, and their strategies to repair the mistakes that they made. They have different culture, since English is a native speaker’s mother tongue but it is language acquisition for non-native speaker. It will be different when a native and non-native speaker build a conversation together. The data was taken from Stuart Woods official webpage, that was an interview between a news reporter and an author of New York Times bestseller novels in formal situation. Therefore, “Conversation Analysis on the Interview between News Reporter and Author of New York Times on *Bestseller Novels*” is chosen as the title of this thesis.

In Conversation Analysis (CA), particular attention is given to everyday spoken interaction such as casual conversation, chat and ordinary narratives. Conversation analysts have, however, also examined other verbal interaction such as doctor-patient consultations, news interviews, and interaction in courtroom or

in classroom. According to Hutcby and Woffitt (1998:135) says that conversation analysis (CA) concerns with the problem of social order and how language is created by social context. Conversation analysis is an analysis of conversation when the speaker follows in a particular interaction.

In CA, conversation is seen as being context-shaped and context-renewing in the sense that ‘anything anyone says in conversation both builds on what has been said or what will be said next’ (Gardner 1995: 102). Conversation analysis is to explore how participants both produce and respond to evolving social contexts. There are several aspects of conversation. They are adjacency pair, topic management, turn taking, and repair.

“Adjacency pair is a sequence of two utterances, which are adjacent, produced by different speakers, ordered as a first part and second part, and typed, so that a first part requires a particular second part or range of second parts” (Schegloff and Sacks 1973: 295-6; also Schegloff 1972: 125) , says that adjacency pairs are organized patterns of stable, recurrent actions that provide for, and reflect, order within conversation.

A question, for example, a statement invites a response (such as agreement, modification, and disagreement). A command or request expects compliance. Exclamations are odd because they are non-interactive. If someone calls out '*Help*', it is action, not language, that is required. If the exclamation is '*Ouch*', it is likely to elicit a question, '*What happen?*' which in turn starts off an adjacency pair, completed by, for example, '*I've cut my finger*'. The idea of adjacency pairs is interesting because it is a way of understanding two kinds of ebb and flow in a conversation. There is the ebb and flow of cohesion, which is the connection between things said and the way in which things move from one to another through a text, spoken or written. A question or answer format sets up a series of adjacency pairs. If, on the other hand, the person usually answering turns the tables and asks a question, there is a blip in the adjacency pairs which affects another kind of ebb and flow in conversations, namely the ebb and flow of power. Power does not have to be thought of as taking advantage in a menacing, underhand, or overbearing way. It is an effect in the grammatical choices, especially in the use of questions and commands. Responding to a question with a question causes a break in any pattern of adjacency pairs, as does replying to a command with a question. Interestingly, exclamations do not seem to assume or confer power.

Topic management is another important aspect of conversation. It includes a knowledge of appropriate topics in particular settings. As Nolasco and Arthur (1987: 11) point out :

Different cultures talk about different things in their everyday lives. Natives speakers are very aware of what they should and should not talk about with specific categories of people in their own language, but the rules may be different in a foreign language. Both teacher and students need to develop a sense of ‘taboo’ subjects if they are to avoid offence.

According to Burns and Joyce as cited in Paltridge (2000 : 93), topic management also includes an awareness of how the speakers deal with changes in

a topic, they maintain a topic, and they repair the interaction when a misunderstanding occurs.

Moreover, there are often culture the specific rules for who initiates a topic and how it's done, and who develops the topic and how it's developed. That is, there are often culture specific strategies that people use to introduce, develop or change topics in a conversation. Equally, there are conventions and constraints on the choice of topic in particular conversational context, depending on the genre, or speech event, situation and culture in which they occur.

Turn-taking is a basic form of organization for conversation. As mentioned above, turn taking is especially studied by conversational ethno methodologist: these scholars study the methods by which groups conduct conversations. The social organization of turn-taking distributes turns among parties. Groups develop turn allocation system and preferences. It has been numerous informants that they find themselves exercising the most exaggerated forms of a particular style when they are talking to others who share the style, and its context associated with the one in which they learn the style.

The nature by which a conversation is done in and through turns. In conversation, there are norms who talks, when and for how long. The basic rule in English is that one person speaks at a time, after which they may nominate another speaker, or another speaker may take up the turn without being nominated. There are number of ways by gives signal that have come to the end of a turn, such as the completion of a syntactic unit followed by a pause and use falling intonation, signal such as '*mhm*', '*yeah*', '*so*', etc. also gives signal the end of a turn through eye contact, body position and movement, or pitch and loudness. As states we are willing to give up our turn, where as maintained pith may indicate we wish to hold it.

Turn taking is one of the fundamental organization of conversation. According to conversational analysis, the turn taking system consist of two components, they are:

1. The turn construct component describes of which turns are construction units or TCUs. Unit types includes : lexical, clausal, phrasal, and sentential. These are grammatically and pragmatically complete units, meaning that in a particular context they accomplish recognizable social actions.
2. The turn allocation component
The turn allocation component describes how turn are allocated among participants in a conversations. The there order options are: current speaker selects next speaker; next speaker self-select next; or current speaker continues.

Another important aspect spoken interaction that conversation analysis that will be examined is the ways speakers provide each other with feedback, that is the way that listeners show they are attending to what is being said. Feedback can be done both verbally, using tokens such as '*mhm*', and '*uh huh*', by paraphrasing what the other person has just said, or non verbally through body position end eye contact.

Feedback also varies cross culturally. For example, a common feedback token in Japanese is 'hai' which, taken literally, means 'yes'. However, in Japanese interactions the use of this feedback token does not necessarily mean agreement as 'yes' might in English, but rather, simply, 'I am listening to what you are saying', much as 'uh huh' might in English.

An important strategy speakers use in spoken interaction is repair, that is the way speakers correct things that have been said in a conversation. Repair organization addresses problem in speaking, hearing, or understanding in conversation. According to Schegloff, Jefferson and Sack retrieved from wikipedia (2007), states that repair is the mechanisms through which certain 'troubles' in interaction are deal with.

Repairs are classified by two initiates repair, they are self repairs and other repairs. Self repair is done by the speaker about what has been said before. Nevertheless, other repair is done by another speaker as interlocutor. For example:

We might correct what we have said (self repair):

A : *I'm going to the movies tomorrow...**I meant opera.***

The other person might repair what we have said (other repair):

A : *I'm going to that restaurant we went to last week. You know the Italian one I Brunswick Street?*

B : ***You mean Lygon Street, don't you?***

A : *Yeah. That's right, Lygon Street.*

Openings and closings are an important part in conversation shown in pairs of utterances. It plays a big role which determines how the conversation will be started and finished, and how the conversation will be going on. Another reason why it is very important is that each culture in this world uses the method of conversation to sign the relation between one another. The way to open and close a conversation is also different depending on where the conversation takes places.

According to Paltridge (2000: 86), "Openings and closings in conversations are often carried out in typical ways". They are also context and speech-event-specific. For example, how we open a conversation at the bus stop is very different from how we do it on the telephone. Openings and closings are often used as pairs of utterance (adjacency pairs) for examples: 'Hi', 'How are you' and 'Bye', 'See you later', which are not usually translated literally. Closings are often preceded by pre-closings, such as: 'Okay', 'Well, it's been nice talking to you' or 'Anyway, I've got to go now', and the intonation usually falls in the end of the conversation.

These kinds of conversational rituals vary, however, from culture to culture. Just because people is able to open and close a conversation in their first language. It does not mean that they will necessarily know how to do this in a second language and culture.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research method is an important part in a scientific research. A research can be said as a scientific one or not, it depends on the way of choosing and using the method which is relevant with the research object. This chapter discusses research design, unit of analysis, source of the data, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

Research Design

This study is a descriptive research method, it is intended to describe, analyze and interpret the factual condition a phenomenon. Mandalis (1995 : 26), states “Descriptive research is an effort to describe, analyze and interpret the factual condition”.

According to Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong (2003 : 3), “Qualitative method is a research produced that result in descriptive data, either in written and oral form of people or other behavior that can be studied”.

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method to study the problem, because this study has a purpose to describe and analyze aspects of conversation between native speaker and non-native speaker. This study is carried out by formulating problem, collecting data, classifying data, and analyzing data.

Unit of Analysis

The unit analysis in this study are turns that indicate the aspects of conversation that is focused on opening and closing, adjacency pair, topic management, and turn-taking.

Source of Data

The data were taken from written data of news interview of news reporter and author in Stuart Wood’s (author) official webpage. The speakers are a news reporter and author. The conversation was an English dialogue in formal conversation.

Techniques of Data Collection

The technique of data collection in this study is the library research. This study was conducted by collecting any relevant data and information about the topic or problem of the study from books and articles that available to the analysis. To collect the data used the following steps:

1. Finding out the data from the author’s official webpage.
2. Transcribing the utterances of the written data.

Techniques of Data Analysis

After the data had been collected, they were analyzed using the framework proposed by Paltridge. The steps to analyze the data are:

1. Reading the result of the written data carefully.
2. Identifying the structure of conversation using the categories of discourse structure of conversation.

3. Explaining the material that has been focused only on some aspects of conversation, those are opening and closing, adjacency pair, topic management and turn taking.
4. Interpreting the data.
5. Drawing conclusion.

DISCUSSION

There are several aspects of conversation discussed in this part, those are opening and closing, adjacency pair, topic management, turn taking.

Opening and Closing

Opening

There is no Opening part in this conversation. because, in the beginning of the conversation the interviewer just gives question directly to the interviewee about the reason why she decided to do interview.

Closing

There is a pre -closing part in this conversation. It can be seen in the statement below:

Excerpt 1.

Q: Anything else you'd like to say to readers?

A: Yes. I'd like to express my very real gratitude to them all for reading my work, for recommending the books to their friends and families, and for taking the time to write to me. I'd also like to suggest that your local bookstore is the best place to get the books, and that everybody should have his own copy!

From the statement above it can be known that the interviewer wants to close the conversation by asking to the interviewee whether he has something to say to the reader or not.

Adjacency Pair

There are 3 kinds of adjacency pairs found in this conversation, those are question - answer, assessment- agreement, and request-acceptance.

Question-answer

There are so many question-answer in this conversation because it is an interview. For example:

Excerpt 2.

Q. Why did you decide to do this interview?

A: Because I get a lot of email from readers, and many of them ask the same questions. Since I am very lazy, I thought it would be a lot easier to answer them in an interview, instead of answering the same questions over and over again in my replies to their emails. That's why I would be very grateful if my readers would read this interview before asking me questions. To answer a question asked by many, Chiefs is now available from Netflix, I hear. I can't guarantee it. (first and second sentence)

From the statement above the interviewer gives question to the interviewee why he decided to do interview and she gives acceptable answer.

Excerpt 3.

Q: First of all, a lot of readers have asked questions about your writing intentions for the future. What are they?

A: My publishers have asked me to write three books a year, instead of two, so there will be three new books every year for as long as I can stand it. My fiftieth novel, Severe Clear, will be published in September, 2012, and the next one will be Collateral Damage, to be published in January, 2013. Both are Stone Barrington novels. Also, my memoir, Blue Water, Green Skipper, first published in 1977, will be republished by Putnam in September, 2012, in conjunction with my fiftieth novel, so you won't have to go to a lot of garage sales to find it! (third and fourth sentence)

As the same as first example it is also included into question and answer.

Assessment-agreement

There is only one of this type in this conversation. It can be seen in this example below:

Excerpt 4.

Q.: Jim, from New York, asks: "Stone Barrington is, by most readers' standards, filthy rich. I'm not sure a writer's lifestyle should leak into his work." Comment?

A: Stone didn't start out rich. In New York Dead he was a homicide detective struggling to find the money to renovate a house he'd

inherited. After he left the N.Y.P.D. there is a clear track through the books of how Stone earned his money. Since being widowed, he's a lot richer, but he's very uncomfortable with it. Why do you think Stone's lifestyle and mine are the same? They're very different. It seems to me that most people are interested in reading about characters who are richer than they are. It's not much fun reading about somebody who's having trouble paying his bills, though Stone has frequently had this problem, until recently. (ninth and tenth sentence)

From the statement above it can be seen that the interviewer gives review of opinion or statement from the New York that most reader said that one of the characters in his novel has different personality from him and Jim agrees with the opinion.

Request-acceptance

There is also only one of this type in this conversation. It can be seen in this example below:

Excerpt 5.

Q: Maria, from Philadelphia, asks for the recipe for Vodka Gimlets.

A: Pour six ounces from a 750 ml bottle of vodka (you'll think of something to do with it), and replace with Rose's Sweetened Lime Juice and a tiny bit of water. Shake and put in the freezer over night. The water will create ice shards and all you have to do is to pour some into a martini glass. You can also make an excellent martini by using 5 Oz. of vermouth in a 750 ml bottle of gin. Enjoy!

From the statement above it can be seen that the interviewer reads a request from one of Jim's fans from Philadelphia about the recipe how to make vodka gimlets and Jim accepts this request and explains how to make it.

Topic management

There is only one topic discussed in this interview that is about novel. It can be seen in the example below:

Excerpt 6.

Q: First of all, a lot of readers have asked questions about your writing intentions for the future. What are they?

A: My publishers have asked me to write three books a year, instead of two, so there will be three new books every year for as long as I can

stand it. My fiftieth novel, Severe Clear, will be published in September, 2012, and the next one will be Collateral Damage, to be published in January, 2013. Both are Stone Barrington novels. Also, my memoir, Blue Water, Green Skipper, first published in 1977, will be republished by Putnam in September, 2012, in conjunction with my fiftieth novel, so you won't have to go to a lot of garage sales to find it!

From the statement above can be seen that the interviewer asks to jim about the novel that will be written or published for the future like what the readers asked.

The initiator of the topic is interviewer by asking something to the interviewee (jim). The topic is developed by the interviewee (jim) by giving answer to the interviewer.

Turn taking

There are 114 turn takings in the conversation: 57 times from the interviewer and 57 times form the interviewee. In this conversation there is no dominant person or less dominant person because both of them gives the same turns. Beside that, the form of the conversation is just question and answer. So, the turn taking just happened when the interviewer gives question to the interviewee.

CONCLUSION

From the previous explanation, it can be concluded thatthere is no opening and this interview because the interviewer directly asked question to the author. The closing is indicated by the preclosing” *“Anything else you'd like to say to readers?”*. Then, it was followed by the answer of the interviewee or the novel's author.

The dominant adjacency pair found in this interview is question-answer because the interviewer asked so many questions to the author about the novel. .

The topic discussed in this interview is only one that is about the novel wriitten by the author. The initiator of the topic is interviewer by asking something to the interviewee. The topic is developed by the interviewee by giving answer to the interviewer.

There are 114 turn takings in the conversation: 57 times from the interviewer and 57 times form the interviewee. In this conversation there is no dominant person or less dominant person because both of them gives the same turns. Beside that, the form of the conversation is just question and answer. So, the turn taking just happened when the interviewer gives question to the interviewee.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Charles Blattberg.2000. *From pluralist to patriotic politics: putting practice first*.
Oxford University Press

Coulthard, M. 1985. *An introduction to discourse analysis*. Harlow: Longman.

Gardner, H.1995. *Reflections on multiple intelligences*. Phi Delta Kappan, 77(3),
200-208

Hutchby, Ian & Wooffitt, Robin.1998. *Conversation analysis: Principles,
practices and applications*. Cambridge: Polity Press (UK and Europe),
Blackwell Publishers Inc (USA)

Nolasco, R. and Arthur, L. 1987. *Conversation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Paltridge, B. 2000. *Making Sense of Discourse Analysis*. Gold Coast, Queensland:
Antipodean Educational Enterprises. Reviewed in EA Journal

Schegloff E A, Sacks H.1973. *Opening up closings*. *Semiotica* 8: 289-327

Stenstrom. 1994. *An introduction to spoken interaction*. London & New York:
Longman