CONVERSATION ANALYSIS ON THE INTERVIEW BETWEEN OPRAH WINFREY AND MICHELLE OBAMA

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Abstract

Conversation Analysis on the intervie between Oprah Winfrey and the first lady Michelle Obama. Thesis: English Education Study Program, STKIP PGRI SIDOARJO, July 2018. The purpose of this research is to analyze the aspects mechanism in Oprah Winfrey show between Oprah Winfrey and Michele Obama, which every conversation contains of the aspects of conversation analysis (CA) to make conversation flows well. In this case, the aims of this research are: (1) to describe the aspect of conversation that found in the onterview between the presenter Oprah Winfrey and The First Lady Michelle Obama., (2) to describe the elaborations of the aspects. The method of this research uses qualitative method. The research questions will be answered in analytical description. The collected aspects mechanism are picked up randomly then classified based on the same kind. The conversation aspects mechanism are analyzed by using Brian Paltridge model (2000: 81) which occurs in conversation between Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama. The result of this research shows that there are thirty seven data collected from random sampling, those collected data resulted five kinds of conversation aspects. There are five aspects found in that conversation, they are: opening-closing, turn taking, adjacency pairs, feedback, and repair.

Keywords: Conversation Analysis, conversation aspects, talk show.

Abstrak

Analisis Percakapan tentang intervie antara Oprah Winfrey dan ibu negara Michelle Obama. Skripsi: Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, STKIP PGRI SIDOARJO, Juli 2018. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis mekanisme aspek dalam Oprah Winfrey antara Oprah Winfrey dan Michele Obama, yang setiap percakapan mengandung aspek analisis percakapan (CA) untuk membuat percakapan mengalir dengan baik. Dalam hal ini, tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah: (1) untuk mendeskripsikan aspek percakapan yang ditemukan dalam onterview antara presenter Oprah Winfrey dan Ibu Negara Michelle Obama., (2) untuk mendeskripsikan elaborasi aspek tersebut. Metode penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Pertanyaan penelitian akan dijawab dalam deskripsi analitis. Mekanisme aspek yang dikumpulkan diambil secara acak kemudian diklasifikasikan berdasarkan jenis yang sama. Mekanisme aspek percakapan dianalisis dengan menggunakan model Brian Paltridge (2000: 81) yang terjadi dalam percakapan antara Oprah Winfrey dan Michelle Obama. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa ada tiga puluh tujuh data yang dikumpulkan dari random sampling, data yang dikumpulkan menghasilkan lima jenis aspek percakapan. Ada lima aspek yang ditemukan dalam percakapan itu, yaitu: pembukaan-pembukaan, pergantian giliran, ketetanggaan, umpan balik, dan perbaikan.

Kata kunci: Analisis Percakapan, aspek percakapan, acara bincang-bincang.

Introduction

Conversation is a part of socialization for individuals. For example, they greet other people for maintaining their relationship. As a cited Fairclough (2001:9), a speech is an oral presentation by one person directed at a group. Each of them demonstrates particular intonation, lexical choice, and gesture in showing their identities. To analyze conversation interaction between two people or more, the appropriate theory was known as Conversation Analysis (CA). According to Schiffrin (1994: 232) "CA is like interactional sociolinguistics in its concern with the problem of social order, and how language both creates and is created by social context".

As an oral communication, conversation can be analyzed through conversation analysis (CA). The focus of CA is to seek pattern of actions accomplished in conversation (Wooffit: 2005, 79-88). CA requires consistent step in analyzing conversation by scrutinizing the data 'turn-by-turn'. As a result, a section of dialogues or conversation can be inspected repetitively. It leads detail exploration of interaction to reach deeper and accurate understanding (Clayman and Heritage, 2004:18).

However, this research only concentrates on news interview. According to Timberg (2002:3), talk show is a television genre that serves a fresh talk which is anchored by a host or team of hosts, whose job is to direct, guide, and set the limit of the talk that is elicited from guests on the air. There are three reasons why news interview is selected as the field of the research. Firstly, it involves limited duration during the on air. Secondly, the actions in news interview are restricted (only questions and answers). Finally, the host in news interview has significant role since she is the 'playmaker' in the interaction. The news interview analyzed in this thesis is "*The Oprah Winfrey Show*". The Oprah Winfrey Show, often referred to simply as Oprah, is an American syndicated tabloid talk show that aired nationally for 25 seasons from september 8, 1986 to May 25, 2011 in Chicago, Illinois. Produced and hosted by its namesake, Oprah Winfrey, it remains the highest-rated daytime talk show in American television history.

The researcher uses the conversation between Oprah Winfrey and The First Lady Michelle Obama as the data of the analysis because the researcher thinks that there are some interesting topics which contain in this data. Besides that, Oprah Winfrey is a talk show which contains conversation interaction between the interviewer and the interviewed. In the other

hand, there are a lot of conversations aspects in this talk show, so the researcher is encouraged to analyze the Oprah Winfrey talk show as the primary data.

The researcher analyzed the data based on theory by Paltridge (2000: 81) to find out the conversation aspects and then specify the adjacency pairs (initiating-responding). Based on the theory by Paltridge, it can be found that there will be adjacency pairs existing in the conversation theory which contains pairs of question – answer, and other pairs of assessment – agreement / opinion providing. Then based on the theory proposed by Paltrige (2000: 81), it can be found that the combination of Identification Question – Comply and Inform – Acknowledge. Besides the adjacency pairs, there are several turns taken by both speakers in the conversation. The turns are taken by Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama. The researcher thinks that CA could be the appropriate approach to analyze the data and there are some aspects which cannot be explained by any theory. There are some overages in CA which can be performed to support the analysis. It can be said that conversation analysis is the common theory to analyze conversation in social media. This research is entitled talk show between Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama which was downloaded from video sharing website Youtube. Conversation analysis provides a way of carrying out fine-grained analyses of spoken discourse which can help not just describe the social word, but understand how, through the use of language, it is constructed.

This research used descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative method is a study, in which the researcher did not set out test hypothesis, but rather to observe what is present with their focus, and consequently the data are free to vary during the observation. Descriptive research is used in the literal sense of describing situation or events (Isaac and Michael, 1987:91). By using descriptive qualitative method, this research was to find and to describe the aspects of conversation within the conversation between Presenter Oprah Winfrey and The First Lady Michelle Obama. The unit of analysis of this research was the turn in utterances produced by the speakers in the conversation. The speakers were the presenter Oprah Winfrey and The First Lady Michelle Obama. This research employed visual analysis technique in which the utterances of the participants in a video of a recorded talk show The Oprah Winfrey Show were interpreted and analyzed.

The data was gained from the utterances of the participants in the talk show, i.e. Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama. the researcher analyzed the raw data that had been recorded in the data sheets. In qualitative research, the relation between data collection and data analysis is inseparable (Bungin, 2007: 107). Since this research was also qualitative research, the

researcher started the analysis when selected the raw data and arranged them into a data sheet. In addition, the remaining steps of the data analysis were Read the script. The researcher read the script of the interview then identifiy the data according to the conversation interaction aspects. the researcher analysed the dialogues using the conversational analysis models by Brian Paltridge (2000: 81) and put it on the table of framework.The focuses of the researcher on analysing the data was only using some aspects; opening-closing sequences, turntaking, adjacency pairs, feedback and repair using the teory of Brian Paltridge.

Findings and Discussion

The result of conversation aspects found in the talk show The Oprah Winfrey Show: a Special Episode with Michelle Obama is served with percentage as seen in the table. The data was labeling with table below:

Table 4.1.2 the result of aspects of conversation

No.	Types of CA	$\sum$	%
1	Opening – closing	1	2,5
2	Turn taking	13	31,7
3	Feedback	13	31,7
4	Adjacency pairs	6	14,6
5	Repair	8	19,5
	TOTAL	41	100

According to the table above researchers wanted to give example of the types of conversation analysis into several parts, which will be the main object in this study. The researcher analyzed the data by using the theory of opening-closing sequence according Brian Paltridge to categorize the data as generally. There is one opening part in this conversation. In the begining of the conversation, the interviewer gave an opening directly to the interviewed and the audience about the reason why she decided to do interview. but there is no closing part in this conversation. It can be seen in the statement below:

Oprah Winfrey : *Hi, everybody !! We are here for the United State of Women!*

Audience　　　: *(applause)*

From the statement above it can be known that the interviewer wants to open the conversation by greeting to the interviewee and say the topic of the talk show to the interviewed and the audience.

There is 31,7% turn takings occured in whole conversation. In this conversation there was no dominant person or less dominant person because both of them gave the same turns. Beside that, most of the form of the conversation was just question and answer. So, the turn taking just happened when the interviewer gave question to the interviewee. It can be seen in the statement below:

Oprah Winfrey : *what can you share with our audience here and online that would help us stand more inside ourselves and own that space?*

Mrs. Obama : *Very good question.*

From the example above, the interviewer asked how she could help others to stand more and it can be seen that the interviewer tried to confirm about that to the interviewee, and not only giving a direct answer, but also the interviewee gave another information in which was the answer expected from the question asked by the interviewer. Furthermore, the question responded by answer from the example above called as turn taking.

Another aspect of spoken interactions that has been examined by conversation analysis is the ways speakers provide each other with feedback, that is the ways in which listeners showed they are attended to what was being said. This can be done, for example, by the use of 'response token' such as 'mmm' and 'yeah', by paraphrasing what the other person has just said, or through body position and the use of eye contact. It can be seen in the statement below:

Oprah Winfrey : *So how did you figure it out? I've read the story -- I'm sure many of you have heard the story of early on, you were going to a job interview and you took Sasha with you to interview.*
Mrs. Obama : *Oh, yeah.*

From the statement above it can be known that the interviewed, Mrs. Obama, showed that she was agreed to what was being said by Oprah Winfrey by the use of 'response token' such as 'yeah'.

This part discussed about the adjacency pairs found in the data. Adjacency pairs are a basic feature of conversation analysis that is very important for conversation. They can be characterized as paired utterances that are divided into a first pair part and a second pair part (Levinson 1983: 303). Further, a pair of utterances may play more than one role in conversation. For example, the "question-answer" pair below could also described as a "clarification seek" followed by a " clarification provide". The researcher analyzed the data by using the theory of adjacency pair according Brian Paltridge theory to categorize the data as generally.

Oprah Winfrey   : *We never heard, <u>did you get that job</u>?*

Mrs. Obama   : *<u>I did</u>.*

From the statement above it can be known that the "question-answer" pair in the example above could also be described as a "clarification seek" followed by a "clarification provide".

There are two kinds of repair found in the talk show The Oprah Winfrey Show: a Special Episode with Michelle Obama. They are self-repair and other repair. The participant in the talk show The Oprah Winfrey Show seems like they notice their own-making error in most of the time. Therefore, they act as the repair initiator and complete of the repairs themselves. As the result, self repair become the type of repair that occurs most often in the conversation between Michelle and Oprah in The Oprah Winfrey Show. Self repair is a type of repair that often happens without a discernible error such as grammatical or syntactic error. Other repairs are repairs done by other speaker as interlocutor. The following are an example of self repair and other repair.

Oprah Winfrey : *"Baby, you need to know that you are alone are enough. You*
                      alone are enough."

Oprah Winfrey : *What has the experience -- or how has the experience of being*
                      First Lady actually grown you?

In the first excerpt, Oprah told her that Michelle herself is enough. When delivering her thought. Soon after saying "You are alone are enough", she stops and starts a brand new sentence. However, when her new sentence has finished, she re-uses the words that she has already uttered. In fact, Oprah intends to conduct a repair to fix her error. Therefore, this repair is considered as a self-repair.

In second excerpt, in the beginning of her utterance, she has already started a question with question word 'what has'. However, before finishing the question, she stops and starts a new sentence called pre-question sentence that is actually a repair initiation in disguise. After that she delivers the question and completes the repair herself. Another type of repair is other-repair. For example:

Oprah Winfrey   : *And our First Lady of the United States.*

Michelle Obama : *Of America.*

Unlike self-initiated self-repair which has significant number of occurrence, self-initiated other-repair occurs twice only. In other repair, the participants who are involved in the conversation share the act of repair initiation and completion. The speaker, or the trouble maker, will be the one who initiates the repair. Then, the interlocutor will complete it. In most of the cases, such type occurs because the speaker is at loss for words.

Conclusion

Based on reserach findings and discussion, the conclusions of this research concerning to the objective of the study, which were to identify and elaborate the types of conversation aspects, there are five aspects of conversation occurred in the talk show The Oprah Winfrey Show: a Special Episode with Michelle Obama. They are opening and closing, turn taking, adjacency pairs, feedback, and repair.

Feedback and turn taking were the most often appearing type in the conversation between Michelle and Oprah in The Oprah Winfrey Show. It occurs about 31,7% both. In taking the turn, participants often speaks in a time together and it is usually called by overlapping. In conversation, overlapping is not a big problem as long as participants understand each other. The other strategy is starting up. In this conversation on Oprah Winfrey Show, Oprah Winfrey as a host always begins the conversation by asking questions or flattering to make the conversation more enjoyable. there are two strategies which are used by participants, they are: a). Using utterance which includes a question or a statement and then the listener responds directly from the speaker.

From explanation above, it can be concluded that every conversation has many various strategies. Whatever strategies chosen, the important thing in conversation is coherence and cohesion in the utterances by the participants.

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