

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter reveals the background of the study, previous related studies, research problem, purpose of the study, limitation of the study, and significance of the study. The explanations of these parts are presented below.

1.1. Background of the study

Conversation is a part of human communication. People do conversation everywhere; at home, work, school, public places, etc. Even conversation may seem usual and not much of an issue, it does appealing in its own way. It is proved through talk shows on televisions. People watch other people talking on television, because they say the conversation was entertaining. Everybody knew that television shows are scripted and has been set to be in a certain way. And that was what catches the researcher's attention.

Many questions appeared when watching a television talk show. Through conversation analysis (CA), this research discussed the conversation in an American talk show. CA is an approach in study of social interaction in everyday life which developed by Harvey Sacks in association with Emanuel Schegloff and Gail Jefferson (Sacks, Schegloff, & Jefferson, 1978), that emerged with the perspectives of ethnomethodology developed by Harold Garfinkel and Erving Goffman's conception of the interaction order (Packer, 1999). CA analyses spoken data (talks) in the forms of video or audio recordings which occur naturally in the occurring interaction. CA studies yield descriptions of recurrent structures and practices of social interaction (Peräkylä, 2007). In CA, there are

three basic features shared by CA studies: (1) they focus on *action*, (2) the *structures* of which they seek to explicate, and thereby (3) they investigate the achievement of *intersubjective understanding* (Peräkylä, 2007).

There are seven fundamental aspects of CA; turn-taking, adjacency pairs, overlaps, sequence organization, silence, preferred organization, and repair organization. These aspects known as conversation structure; and in this research the ones that discussed are the ones occurred in *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*. CA had been developed since 1978, but the concept still relevant to today's application.

The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon is an American talk show that airs weeknights at 11:34 p.m. This show was chosen by considering that it has attracted high ratings since its 2014 premiere, and consistently beating competition (Weaver, 2014). And the researcher also chose this show by considering that this show's popularity because of the conversations held. Besides, this is a show of native English speaker, which is a good example for Indonesian student as non-native to learn from.

Another reason for choosing this show was because, watching talk show undoubtedly more interesting than watching political debate or speech. In order to learn, appeal in the materials needed, and by using talk show as example of casual conversation would be more suited because a talk show is structured, scripted, yet interesting and informative.

CA exist because in a conversation could be found various interactions between people, and from these interactions people could learn about one's

personality, culture sharing, get information about certain topics, make a bond, stories sharing, and more (Peräkylä, 2007). Those aspects from interaction in conversation make the conversation itself as an interesting topic to be analyzed, because in real life, it is not easy for some people to maintain even a simple conversation, this research used the show as an example of conversation and social interactions between the host and the guests. And in its application, CA is relevant to conversation teaching, that by understanding the conversation structure, and combined with strategies and non-verbal language someone would be able to maintain a conversation effectively and interesting (Peräkylä, 2007).

Even there are many aspects in conversation, this research aim focused on the conversation structure as in CA. Which are turn-taking, adjacency pairs, overlaps, sequence organization, silence, preferred organization, and repair organization. These are the aspects that commonly occurred in a conversation, and the occurrence could be different depends on the participants, context, topic, etc. The dependent results make this research worth doing, to find out the possible occurrence in human social interaction through casual conversation (Mazeland, 2006).

The closest work to this research was a dissertation of Janne Cernel (Cernel, 2012) that comparing two talk shows from England and America entitled *Aspects of Talk Show Interaction: The Jonathan Ross Show and The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*. That dissertation was comparing two shows with different cultures and mainly focused on the turn-taking system patterns.

As mentioned before CA was influenced by ethnomethodology, thus most of the previous studies on CA focused on the issues of the relation between conversation and ethnomethodology. Only a few of them discussed the conversation structure thoroughly, because in most of the studies only turn-taking system being discussed. Thus this research described all the conversation structures that occurred in the conversation of the show.

1.2. Research problem

What are the conversation structures occurred in *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*?

1.3. Purpose of the study

To describe the conversation structure occurred in *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

1.4. Scope of the study

This study focused on the occurrence of conversation structure in *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon*.

1.5. Significance of the study

The finding of this study is expected to contribute in the field of conversation analysis study. In addition, the results of this study will give information about conversation structure occurrence in certain talk show, which could be useful as reference in casual conversation learning. And the conversation structure could be applied in conversation teaching. Then, the finding will also help the researcher to enrich her comprehension in managing a conversation.