

A Discourse Analysis : The Adjacency Pairs Analysis on Talkshow Youtube Presents

Suci Cinthia Priliana

Sucicinthiapriliana11@gmail.com

Universitas Negeri Jakarta

This article entitled *A Discourse Analysis : The Adjacency Pairs Analysis on Talkshow Youtube Presents*, has one objective that is to find out the type of conversation aspects found in the conversation. The study focuses on 4 aspects of conversation those are adjacency pairs, topic management, preference organization and turn – taking. The main data of the research is a script of interview between presenter Kevin O Rourke and a songwriter Taylor Swift. The data were video and script which took place in a studio on September 1st, 2011 and the duration was 30 minutes. This video was downloaded from [http://youtube.com/youtube/present/taylor swift/](http://youtube.com/youtube/present/taylor%20swift/). The video was transcribed into the script and found that there were 12 turns. Then it was analyzed based on theory by Paltridge about conversation analysis. From the data, it was founded that there were 6 adjacency pairs that consisted of 1 pair of greeting - greeting, 4 pairs of assessment – agreement, 4 pairs of question – answer, 1 pair of compliment – acceptance, 1 pair of offering – acceptance and 1 pair of leave taking adjacency pair. 3 topics were found in the conversation, all topics were initiated by the Kevin O Rourke and Taylor Swift only follows. Beside the adjacency pairs, there are 10 preference organizations in the data. Me wanted to describe the types of preference organization into two parts: those are preferred response and dispreferred response. Me only found 10 preferred responses and there was no dispreferred response founded in the data. Preference organization was founded in the data and consists of: Question - Answer 4 pairs, Assessment - Agreement 4 pairs, greeting – greeting 1 pair, compliment – acceptance 1 pair, offering – acceptance 1 pair and leave taking adjacency pair 1 pair. 12 turns were taken by speakers in the conversation, and each speaker took 6 turns.

Introduction

The particular context and stage of the conversation, then, are important for assigning an utterance the status of a particular pair part. It can be a greeting, a summons as in "Hello", or a response to a summons, as in answering the telephone Richards and Schmidt in Paltridge (2000:88). Equally, "Thanks" could be a response to a statement of congratulation, a compliment, or an offer (Paltridge, 2000:88). Further, a pair of utterances may play more than one role in conversation.

The term "Conversation Analysis" is to represent any study of people talking together, "oral communication", or "language use". Paltridge (2000:83) says that conversation analysis, ordinary conversation is the most basic form of talk and the main way in which people come together, exchange information and maintain social relations. Most of the time, conversation

consists of two, or more participants taking turns. A turn is seen as everything one speaker says before another speaker begins to speak, and the term is called turn – taking, which is the basic form of organization for conversation. Some aspects of CA are learned in the following sub-chapter those are: Adjacency pairs, topic management, preference organization, and turn taking.

1. Adjacency Pairs

Adjacency pairs are a basic feature of conversation analysis that is very important for conversation openings and closings, as they are used in both of them. They can be characterized as paired utterances that are divided into a first pair part and a second pair part (Levinson 1983: 303). Adjacency pairs are Pairs of utterances in talk are often mutually dependent. They are considered to be an automatic sequences consisting of a first part and a second part. These parts are produced by the different participants in a conversation.

There are other kinds of adjacency pairs carried out by Paltridge (2000:91-99):

1. Requesting - Agreement

Requesting is asking someone to do something which can be responded with acceptance or refusal.

e.g.:

A: “Would you mind to close the door?”

B: “Of course.”

2. Assessment-agreement

Assessment can be formed into opinion seek or comment, which is asking another’s opinion or agreement. It is responded with agreement or called opinion provide.

e.g.:

A: “What do you think about that kitten?”

B: “So cute.”

3. Question-answer

Question can be formed into information seek, clarification seek, etc. It is about asking something to someone. It is responded with information provide, clarification provide, etc.

e.g.:

A: “Where do you live?”

B: “I live in London.”

4. Compliment-acceptance

Compliment is the way of praising another person about something he or she has. It is responded with acceptance.

e.g.:

A: “What a nice cloth?”

B: “Oh, thanks.”

5. Greeting-greeting

The way of saying hello and salutation

e.g.:

A: "Hi!

B: "Hello!

6. Leave taking adjacency pair

The utterances which is have purpose to end the conversation.

e.g.:

A: "See you.

B: "See you

7. Complaint-apology

Complaint is utterances which indicate feeling unsatisfied about something. However, apology is the way to response the complaint, which expresses regretfulness.

e.g.:

A: "This food is too salty.

B: —I'm sorry, sir. I'll give you another one.

8. Warning-acknowledgement

Warning is utterances to warn someone about something. While acknowledgement is statements which show that the warning is already acceptable.

e.g.:

A: "Beware of the hole in the street.

B: —Okay. Thank you.

9. Blame-denial

Blame is utterances that express that someone is responsible about the mistake. Denial is statement to say that something is not true.

e.g.:

A: —You lose the key, don't you?

B: —No. I don't.

10. Threat - counter-threat, etc

Threat is utterances that indicate the intension of harm. However, counter threat is utterances that express the defeat of someone's threat.

e.g.:

A: —You got to get out of here or I'll call the security.

B: —No, I won't.

11. Offer-Acceptance

Offer is utterances which giving something to someone, it may be in the form of goods or services. Acceptance is response indicates that the offer is accepted.

e.g.:

A: —Here is your book.

B: —Thanks a lot.

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

2. Topic Management

Topic management is one of the important aspects of conversation. In doing the conversation, how the speaker maintain the topic is related to the social culture where the speaker appears. The speaker should not talk about topic thought as a taboo by the society. There is an effort to maintain the topic so it won't change easily before another speaker follows the previous topic. As Nalasco and Arthur in Paltridge (2000: 94) point out:

Different cultures talk about different things in their everyday lives. Native 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 teachers and students need to develop a sense of „taboo“ subjects if they are to avoid offence.

According to the explanation above, it can be concluded that different countries means different cultures are also different styles of their speech. For example; if a country talks with older people in their way and they take them for granted. Perhaps the case will be different for the state B, if they use the language of country A to talks to older people, can be very rude language.

“Topic management also includes an awareness of how speakers deal with changes in a topic, how they maintain a topic, and how they repair the interaction when a misunderstanding occurs”, Burns and Joyce in Paltridge (2000:94).

The pressures on people to transmit relevant news are increased by the existence of the telephone; one no longer needs to wait until one meets friends or relatives nor does one need to make special or difficult journeys to pass on information. Sacks in Malcolm (1992:79) have a good example of this in a tape of a series of telephone conversations. A and B are friends; B works at local department store; A was driving past the store in the morning when she noticed an incident outside involving police cars; knowing it was B's day off, she rang up to tell her the news, thus fulfilling her obligations of monitoring the world for her friend and reporting relevant events.

3. Turn-Taking

In conversation, there is a situation when a speaker takes the chance to speak that is turn. Turn-taking gives a chance for speakers to do conversation smoothly, so there is no dominant speaker in the conversation. First speaker utters something which is then followed by another speaker. It may make a simultaneous conversation.

This is not an empirical fact because there are obviously many instances of short pauses and short overlaps, but rather a normative or observably oriented to feature of conversation; in

other words, it is a rule used by conversationalists themselves. If more than or less than one party is talking, it is „noticeable“ and participants set out to „remedy“ the situation and return to a state of one and only one speaker.

If the problem is silence, other speakers begin speaking, or indicate their intention to speak by noises like „er“ or „mm“. In other words, turn to speak typically occurs successively without overlaps or gaps between them. Overlapping is dealt with by one speaker beginning his turn or simply indicating that his turn has begun and incorporating the silence into it (Levinson 1983: 299).

In conversations, there are norms for 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 a number of ways in which we can signal that we have come to the end of a turn, such as the completion of a syntactic unit followed by a pause. We can also use falling intonation and signals such as „mhm“, „yeah“, so“, „or“, „anyway“ to do this. We may also signal the end of a turn through eye contact, body position and movement, or pitch and loudness. For example low pitch may indicate we are willing to give up our turn whereas maintained pitch may indicate we wish to hold it. Dalton and Seidlhofer in Paltridge (2000: 92)

4. Preference Organization

Another feature is the preference organization of second pair parts of adjacency pairs. It is closely related to linguistic markedness. Marked or in adjacency pairs: dispreferred utterances are structurally more complicated than unmarked or in adjacency pairs preferred ones. These complications consist in delays, prefaces like „well“ and accounts of why this utterance is made, (Levinson, 1983: 307).

Preference organization is a pair which gives freedom in responding to some first pair part, whether it is preferred or dispreferred one Paltridge (2000: 90). There is, however, a certain amount of freedom in responding to some first pair parts, such as in:

A: That's a nice shirt. Compliment

B: Oh thanks. Accept or B: Actually...I don't really like it; have it for Christmas. Reject

Thus, some second pair parts may be preferred and others may be dispreferred, for example: an invitation may be followed by an acceptance (the preferred second pair part) or a rejection (the dispreferred second pair part) Paltridge (2000: 90). When this happens, the dispreferred second pair part is often preceded by a delay, a preface, and/or an account, for example:

A: Would you like to come to the movies on Friday? Invitation

B: Uhhh... Delay

I don't know for sure. Preface

I think I might have something on that night. Account

Can we make it another time? Rejection

Methodology

This essay employs qualitative descriptive research method. Three main purposes of

research are to describe, explain, and validate findings. Description emerges following creative exploration, and serves to organize the findings in order to fit them with explanations, and then test or validate those explanations (Krathwohl, 1993). The data is taken from Youtube in Youtube Presents : Exclusive Interview with Taylor Swift on 1st September 2011.

Discussion

1. Adjacency Pairs

Adjacency pairs are sequences of two related utterances which are given by two different speakers. The second utterance is always a response to the first. Adjacency pairs are the smallest unit in conversation. The adjacency pairs pattern in the Youtube Presents : Exclusive Interview with Taylor Swift on 1st September 2011 as follows:

(1) Greeting - Greeting

Taylor : Hi, I am so glad to be here

Kevin : Hi, Nice to see you

The pattern of greeting and introduction are commonly used in opening conversation. The first participant greets and introduces to the second participant or to the other participant in this case audience. The second participant reply the first participant. The process of adjacency pairs happen automatically as a common system in conversation.

(2) Assesment - Agreement

Kevin : We were talking before, you have actually been here before. Is that right?

Taylor : Yes, I came here. I think about five years ago. I was sixteen

From the script above, it can be seen that first participants makes an assessment and the second participant tells the first participant that she accepts or agrees what the first participant says about the condition that she has been thinking by saying — *Yes, I came here*. The expression indicates that thesecond participant agrees to the first participant.

(3) Assesment - Agreement

Kevin : I want to thankyou for being here, first of all, for all of us. You are in the midlle of tour, Speak Now. And I know you have posted some videos to channel, sort of outlining, your tour, your trip to Asia. And I want to show a clip from Singapore when you are in Singapore. Is that right?

Taylor : Yes we started out the year giving on tour and started in Asia

From the script above, it can be seen that first participants makes an assessment and the second participant tells the first participant that she accepts or agrees what the first participant says about the condition that she has been thinking by saying — *Yes we started out the year giving on tour and started in Asia*. The expression indicates that thesecond participant agrees to the first participant.

(4) Assesment - Agreement

Kevin : So this of course has all the makings of a viral video. There is a big celebrity. It is a a global thing. There is a cat in video

Taylor : That will do it. I think you just said it. That is the essential ingredients is a cat

From the script above, it can be seen that first participants makes an assessment and the second participant tells the first participant that she accepts or agrees what the first participant says about the condition that she has been thinking by saying — *That will do it. I think you just said it. That is the essential ingredients is a cat.* The expression indicates that the second participant agrees to the first participant.

(5) Question - Answer

Kevin : Now your Youtube channel is very popular. I know you have over a million subscribers that get your blogs when you post here which is really cool. How important is your channel and social media in general as a tool for expression but also connecting with your audience?

Taylor : I think we have all seen the effect of social media and how can connect people. For me, I grew up when that was just about to set fire to the world.

In conversation the activity of asking and answer is needed to get the information. The first participant asks and the second participant answers. The first participant asks the second participant by saying – *How important is your channel and social media in general as a tool for expression but also connecting with your audience?* and the second participant answers by saying – *I think we have all seen the effect of social media and how can connect people. For me, I grew up when that was just about to set fire to the world.* Thus, the first participant's expectation to get information is accomplished. The first participant plays role as an information seek and the second participant as an information provide.

(6) Assessment - Agreement

Kevin : And you have some very rabid fans. The swifties I believe is how they call themselves

Taylor : I know. It is so cute they came up with that

From the script above, it can be seen that first participants makes an assessment and the second participant tells the first participant that she accepts or agrees what the first participant says about the condition that she has been thinking by saying — *I know. It is so cute they came up with that.* The expression indicates that the second participant agrees to the first participant.

(7) Compliment - Acceptance

Kevin : They are very serious by the way they don't mess around meaning that you are lovely singer.

Taylor : Oh thank you

The first participant gives compliment to the second participant by saying - *you are lovely singer.* This expression is a suggestion and the second participant express her acceptance by saying - *Oh thank you.* The expression indicates that Taylor accepts Kevin's compliment.

(8) Question - Answer

Kevin : Which comes first for you as a songwriter, the music or the lyrics?

Taylor : I think for me it more comes as a general idea

In conversation the activity of asking and answer is needed to get the information. The first participant asks and the second participant answers. The first participant asks the second participant by saying – *Which comes first for you as a songwriter, the music or the lyrics?* and the second participant answers by saying – *I think for me it more comes as a general idea* . Thus, the first participant's expectation to get information is accomplished. The first participant plays role as an information seek and the second participant as an information provide.

(9) Question - Answer

Kevin : You have said you are already writing for next record. Can you tell u anything about it?

Taylor : For me, I never really switch the writing switch off. It is always on

In conversation the activity of asking and answer is needed to get the information. The first participant asks and the second participant answers. The first participant asks the second participant by saying – *Can you tell u anything about it?* and the second participant answers by saying – *For me, I never really switch the writing switch off. It is always on.* Thus, the first participant's expectation to get information is accomplished. The first participant plays role as an information seek and the second participant as an information provide.

(10) Question - Answer

Kevin : So out of all of ur released songs which song took the longest to write?

Taylor : I think the song sparks fly.

In conversation the activity of asking and answer is needed to get the information. The first participant asks and the second participant answers. The first participant asks the second participant by saying – *So out of all of ur released songs which song took the longest to write?* and the second participant answers by saying – *I think the song sparks fly.* Thus, the first participant's expectation to get information is accomplished. The first participant plays role as an information seek and the second participant as an information provide.

(11) Offer - Acceptance

Kevin : So you, it is honorary for me to give you a pair of the Youtube socks

Taylor : Thank you

The first participant gives offering to the second participant by saying - *So you, it is honorary for me to give you a pair of the Youtube socks* This expression is an offering and the second participant express her acceptance by saying –*thank you.* The expression indicates that Taylor accepts Kevin's offering.

(12) Leave Taking Adjacency Pair

Kevin : Thankyou for being here

Taylor : Thankyou

The pattern of leave taking commonly used in closing conversation. The process of adjacency pairs happen automatically as a common system in conversation.

Table of Adjacency Pairs

No	Kind of Adjacency Pair	Sum
1	Greeting - Greeting	1
2	Assesment - Agreement	4
3	Question - Answer	4
4	Compliment - Acceptance	1
5	Offer - Acceptance	1
6	Leave Taking Adjacency Pair	1

2. Topic Management

Topic management is one of the important aspects of conversation. In doing the conversation, how the speaker maintain the topic is related to the social culture where the speaker appears. The speaker should not talk about topic thought as a taboo by the society. There is an effort to maintain the topic so it will not change easily before another speaker follows the previous topic.

Here, the researcher found 3 topics in the conversation. Kevin dominantly changed the topic than Taylor in the conversation. Kevin as the interviewer of the interview changed the topic of the conversation by giving question or statement and Taylor only followed / responded to the question asked by Kevin. The result of the topic management is presented in the excerpt below:

Here are the changes of conversation's topic that the researcher found in the data.

- Turn 2,3 and 4, Kevin and Taylor discuss about Taylor Swift's tour to Asia, the tour is Speak Now
- Turn 5,6 and 7, Kevin and Taylor discuss about Taylor Swift's Youtube Channel
- Turn 8,9, and 10, Kevin and Taylor discuss about the process of making a song

3. Preference Organization

Preference organization is a pair which gives freedom in responding to some first pair part, whether it is preferred or dispreferred. Preference organization not only become one of the important things when the speaker wants to agree or disagree what are the speaker opinions, but also makes both of the speakers can organize what will they say if accept or refusal a question.

Here, the researcher found 10 preference organizations in the conversation. The result of the preference organization is presented in the excerpt below:

Table Preference Organization

No	Preference	Σ
1	Preference response (assesment – agreement)	4
2	Preference response (question – answer)	4

3	Preference response (compliment – acceptance)	1
4	Preference response (offering – acceptance)	1
Total		10

According to the table above researchers wanted to describe the types of preference organization, those are preferred response which explain how interviewee give a positive reaction or direct answer to the interviewer.

4. Turn taking

In conversation, there is a situation when a speaker takes the chance to speak that is turn. Turn-taking gives a chance for speakers to do conversation smoothly, so there won't be a dominant speaker in the conversation. First speaker utters something which is then followed by another speaker. It may make a simultaneous conversation.

In this part, the researcher would discuss about the turn taking occurred in the conversation. The result of the analysis is provided in the table below;

Table Turn Taking in the Interview

No	Speaker	Turn taking	%
1	Kevin	6	50
2	Taylor	6	50
Total		12	100

From table above, it can be seen that Kevin had same turns with Taylor. Kevin had 6 turns and Taylor had 6 turn too. The total turns in the conversation were 12 turns.

In the conversation Kevin acted as the interviewer and Taylor as the interviewee. From the table above, Kevin as the interviewer had changed to maintain the interview. Most of the Kevin's turns were initiation to Taylor's turns.

Findings & Conclusion

After analyzing the data, me concludes that from the analysis, the researcher found that there were 6 adjacency pairs. It was found that there were two kinds of common adjacency pairs by Paltridge. They were questions – answers had 4 pairs, assessment – agreement had 4 pairs, both of them took most turns in the conversation because it was an interview in which the interviewer makes questions, assessment, and opinion then the interviewee answered them.

Me found 3 topics in the data. Only one speaker had chances to change the conversation topic and most of the topics were initiated by the interviewer. Kevin changed the topics by giving questions or opinions to the interviewee. Over all, the interviewer change all the topic of conversation, and interviewee (Taylor) react with give an answer or opinion about what was Kevin says.

The result is me only found 10 preferred responses which consist of Question - Answer 4 pairs, Assessment - Agreement 4 pairs, greeting – greeting 1 pair, compliment – acceptance 1

pair, offering – acceptance 1 pair and leave taking adjacency pair 1 pair. 12 turns were taken by speakers in the conversation, and each speaker took 6 turns.

There were 12 turns found in the conversation. The interviewer had 6 turns, and the interviewee also had 6 turns. At every turn the speakers got the time to make inquiries or statements. The interviewer mostly ended his turns by asking questions or makes opinions to the interviewee, indicating that he had finished his turn. Then the interviewee took his turns by answering or makes statements for those questions and opinions.

From the finding above, me found that the talkshow mostly used question – answer and assesment – agreement in adjacency pairs, conversation has 3 main topics and only show preferred responses.

References:

- Fairlough, Norman. 2001. *Language and Power*. London: Longman
- Krathwohl, David. 1993. *An Integrated Approach*. New York: Longman
- Levinson, S. 1983. *Pragmatics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 6, Conversational Structure.
- Paltridge, Brian. 2000. *Making Sense of Discourse Analysis*. Queensland. Gold Coast
- Richards, J.C., and Schmidt, R. 1983. *Conversational Analysis*. In J.C. Richards and Schmidt (eds), *Language and Communication*. London: Longman.