KINDS OF TURN-TAKING AND THE FUNCTIONS OF OVERLAPS IN CONVERSATIONS

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ABSTRACT
Conversation is one of the communication ways which cannot be separated from life aspect. Through communication, people give and take, send and receive information. That information helps people to build their mind, grow their opinion, educate, and entertain each other. This research was aimed at exploring kinds of turn taking and the functions of overlaps in the participant’s interaction with a focus on the conversation between host and guest in the talk show. This research used a descriptive qualitative method because this study focused on describing natural occurrences of turn-taking by the participants in a discussion as well as determining the functions of overlaps which include data interpretation towards transcription of conversation taken from detailed inspection or observation of video recording. The data was taken from the observation of a discussion in an English meeting club using video recorder. The meeting club was in Makassar, South Sulawesi which consisted of five participants from different major of study. By knowing the kinds of turn taking, speakers closely connected with how participants take their turn in a conversation. People can avoid misunderstanding which lead them into an altercation which can break their relation and social life. So that, they can get easy of conversation as social beings in their daily life.

Keywords: Turn-taking, overlaps, conversation, discourse analysis

INTRODUCTION
Humans are social creature who cannot be separated from the communication. In the process of communication, people can give and receive information from each other by spoken, written, body language and symbol. The content of communication varies, it can be in the form of delivering information, educating or entertaining each other. Moreover, the one of communication can be produced by a simultaneous conversation.

Conversation is a form of spoken interaction that is used by two or more people. It includes the way people maintain their interaction and how their talk are organized in a conversation. Given this, it is very important to understand about conversation analysis in order to know how people take their turns in their spoken interaction.
Conversation analysis is an approach that looks at the way in which people take and manage turns in spoken interactions. The basic rule in conversation 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 (Paltridge, 2006).

The statement informs that in a conversation involves two or more than two people who are talking at the same time and then there will be another turn for the listener who reply or answer the speaker. But not all the speakers have a good cooperation in conversation. Sometimes, they are misunderstood with the message that is delivered in conversation. To prevent such misunderstanding, all the speakers must pay attention about the rules of the interaction in order to make the conversation go smoothly. The rules about the speech patterns are called Turn Taking.

Turn taking is how speakers change and manage their turn when they are in a conversation. Turn taking is very important to be studied in conversational interaction because it can be used to look how the participants manage and take to exchange of speaking turn in interaction. Moreover, the participants in a conversation use the turn taking strategies to achieve their conversational goals.

In our daily life, conversational interaction has different pattern such as ordinary conversation and institutional conversation. Ordinary conversation usually happens in the social such as conversation in telephone between brother and sister or conversation between father and son in a family, etc. In contrast, institutional conversation usually focuses on a particular order. In this case, the participants talk is designed to reach the institution’s goal rather than to carry a personal relationship between individual, such as conversation between doctor and patient in hospital for conveying a medical diagnosis, police and criminals in police office for interrogating the crime and conversation among the participants in a discussion.

Discussion is one way to create a good relationship with other humans. Through discussion, peoples can share point of view about something else each other, transfer knowledge, and build a good communication with society. Discussion consists of some participants. They will share their opinion one by one in turn. While a participant talks, others will be the listeners. Sometimes a speaker can finish his/her talk, but sometimes there is also an overlap. There will be pros and cons in a discussion.
In this research, the researcher wants to explore kinds of turn taking and the functions of overlaps in the participant’s interaction with a focus on the conversation between host and guest in the talk show. The researcher wants to know kinds of turn taking because it is closely connected with how participants take their turn in a conversation. Therefore, the researcher wants to show the readers about turn taking and the functions of overlaps in conversation. So that, they can apply it in their daily life in order to get easy of conversation as social beings.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Cutting (2002) explained that cooperation in conversation is managed by all participants through turn-taking. Furthermore, he explained that in most cultures only one person speaks at a time, then it is continued by another. Almost all cultures have their own preferences as to how long a speaker should hold the floor and how they indicate that they have finished and another speaker can take the floor.

Yule (1996) explained that there is a scarce commodity called floor which can be defined as the right to speak. Having control of this scarce commodity at any time is called a turn. Any situation where control is not fixed in advance, anyone can attempt to get control. This is called turn-taking.

A point in conversation where a change for turn is possible is called a Transition Relevance Place (TRP). Furthermore, speaker may not be sure that the current speakers’ turn is complete. When a speaker does not want to wait for the TRP, this is called interruption.

A coherent conversation proceeds in orderly way by a series of interaction moves with each participant having a turn to speak. However, in emotional conversation, one speaker may interrupt another. This interruption is called turn stealing.

Furthermore, Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson in Levinson (1983) suggested that mechanism that governs turn-taking, and accounts for properties noted, is a set of rules with ordered options which operates on a turn-by-turn basis, and can thus be termed a local management system. A way of looking at the rules is a sharing device, an “economy” operating over a scarce resource, namely control of the “floor”. Such an allocational requires minimal units over which it operates, such units being the units from which turns at talk are constructed. Further, they explain that these units are, in this model, determined by various features of linguistic surface structure. They are syntactic units (sentences, clauses, phrases, and so on) which are identified as turn-units in part by prosodic, and especially intonational. A speaker is assigned initially just one of these turn-constructional units (although the extent
of the unit is largely within the speakers’ control due to the flexibility of natural language syntax). The end of such a unit constitutes a point at which speakers may change – it is transition relevance place, or TRP. At TRP, the rules that govern the transition of speakers then come into play, which does not mean that the speakers change at that point, but simply that they may do so. Sacks et al. quoted in Levinson (1987) gave rules of the operating on the turn-units.

**METHOD**

This research used a descriptive qualitative method because this study focused on describing natural occurrences of turn-taking by the participants in a discussion as well as determining the functions of overlaps which include data interpretation towards transcription of conversation taken from detailed inspection or observation of video recording.

The data was taken from the observation of a discussion in an English meeting club using video recorder. The meeting club was in Makassar, South Sulawesi which consisted of five participants from different major of study.

Even though this conversation was mostly in English, several Indonesian expressions are still occurred and used by the participants even the low percentage. Therefore, these different languages were written in different font. *Italic Times New Roman* was used for expression in Indonesia, and Times New Roman is used for expression in English and written in parentheses.

**Transcription symbols**

Some symbols for transcriptions used for conversations are as follows:

- . Final intonation contour (usually a low falling pitch).
- , Continuing intonation contour (level, or slight rise).
- ? Appeal intonation contour (sharp rise in pitch).
- .. Short pause (less than roughly 0.8 seconds).
- … Long pause (longer than roughly 0.8 seconds).
- …. Indicating interruption
- @ One pulse of laughter
- *words* Showing that Overlap related to TRPs occurred in these words.
- [words] Showing that simultaneous onsets and turns occurred in these words
- (words) Indicating the translation from Indonesian language into English

(DuBois, 1991)
FINDING AND DISCUSSION

From the data obtained through the observation and video recording for four meetings, the kinds of turn-taking that were mostly occurred in The English Meeting Club in conversations can be presented in table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. The frequency table of various kinds of turn-taking produced by each participant.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinds of Turn-taking</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Adjacency pair</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Insertion Sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pre-sequence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Pre-announcement</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Pre-arrangement</td>
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<td>c. Pre-closing</td>
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<td>d. Pre-invitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Pre-request</td>
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<td>f. Summons-answer Sequence</td>
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<td>B. Overlap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Overlap Related to TRPs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. DMDs</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Simultaneous Onsets</td>
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<td>4. Laughter and Shared Laughter</td>
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<td>5. Simultaneous Turns</td>
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<td>6. Delayed Completion</td>
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<td>7. Interruption</td>
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<td>8. Third party mediation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Repair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Other-initiated repair</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Other-repair</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Self-initiated repair</td>
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<td>4. Self-repair</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The details of examples and explanations about each kind of turn-taking occurred in conversation by the members of The English Meeting Club were as follows:
Overlap

Overlap related to Transitional Relevant Places (TRPs)

The first kind of overlap is overlap related to TPRs. One of the examples could be illustrated in the exchange.

P₃: Looking for eee… loking for of of of ee.. ee.. ee.. victim first

P₂: *I don’t publicate from eeee…. how to say*

P₃: What?

It can be noticed that an overlap in the form of related to TPRs come about where P₃ was about to end and it was predictable by P₂, who directly began the turn with a slight overlap.

Discourse Management Devices (DMDs)

Another kind of overlap, ever done by all participant in the conversation.

P₃: The first please the victim. Second is….

P₂: Hm…

P₁: For people what?

We could see that a person was trying to complete the turn while another person was producing the sound and word to show that they were interested.

Simultaneous Onsets

Another kind of overlap was simultaneous onset.

P₂: Masa sih? (Are you sure?)

P₁: [Ya.. this is …eeeee]

P₃: [Could you, could you blanched?]

Laughter and Shared Laughter

Was also a kind of overlap in which all the participants ever did it during the conversation.

P₂: No it is a consequences if you student in here.

P₁: Ok. Tomorrow I can do it.

P₂: @@@@@@@Hahahahahahaha

Simultaneous Turns

P₃: [But when you when the embryo still in stomach of the]

P₂: m.m.m.m….

P₃: [Of the girl or the mother. It call embryo. Whatever]
Delayed Completion

P2: I, I, have ever talk before that the candidate of the child. I have
P: ….You said baby….
P2: I have preparing my word mean I have prepared my words. So..
P3: ….Tidak konsisten ki itu (you are not consistent)….

Interruption

P3: ….Both of them.
P2: And then you said that.
P3: ….Not a baby. It’s embryo.

Third Party Mediation

P2: You can call me Firman. It’s the technique actually… Yaa, ok. Talking about ee..
    abortion, if appear in our brain, it is kill the children, right?. So, eee..
P3: *No, it is not a children*.
P1: Ssstt. quiet, even say?

Repair

Other-Initiated Repair

P2: Ee it means that if the candidate of the children. So, right?so, if we talk about the
    child it means that talking about the candidate of the children. But ee.. we cannot say
    the children and then… @@@hehehe
P3: *Children*
P2: @@Hehehe.

Other Repair

P2: Ee… from your behavior so abortion is the one way to menyembunyikan hive (hide).
P1: Hide.

Self-Initiated Repair

P3: Talking about the aborsi, yeach aborsi yeach i’m i totally disagree if the students
    aborsi because why, why? it’s really bad way to credit, I mean mistake to great
    mistake and then e… if the students do it the aborsi...

Self-Repair

P3: Ya cild, child.
Sequence

Adjacent Pair

P₁: The second speaker, for the opposite team.. time is yours..
P₂: Ok guys good evening. Ok, good evening.
P₁: Good evening…

Pre-announcement

P₃: Talking about the aborsi, yeach aborsi yeach i’m i totally disagree if the students aborsi because why, why? it’s really bad way to credit, I mean mistake to great mistake and then e... if the students do it the aborsi...

Pre-closing

P₂: You just said that you just said who came we can produce to keep, to care to our children if we are work we have said that listen listen, we have a parents and our family so we can go to our parents house and our children can stay over there so we have a parents so they can, they can ee they can stay over there and we go to work. After go work, after go work we can give them our attention. We gave them our attention after we go work doesn’t matter, doesn’t matter I think. Okay I think that’s enough I don’t want to @@ okay thank you @@ @@ @.

Summons-answer Sequence

P₃: POI?
P₂: Ya.
P₃: Thank you very much for chance has been giving as Mr. Firman.

CONCLUSION

From the research, we know that there are three kinds of turn taking, (1) sequence, (2) overlap, and (3) repair. Based on the data obtained we can conclude that kind of turn taking which mostly used in a conversation is overlap. Based on the setting of conversation, the functions of overlaps were applied generally to pursue the topic, agree or disagree, emphasize, clarify, and opening or closing the interview. It is concluded that the patterns of turn-taking and overlap made a better flow in a discussion and made the discussion more interesting to the audiences.

By knowing the kinds of turn taking, speakers closely connected with how participants take their turn in a conversation. People can avoid misunderstanding which lead them into an
altercation which can break their relation and social life. So that, they can get easy of conversation as social beings in their daily life.

REFERENCES


