

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 of this research presents background of the study, statement of the problems, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of the Study

Wardaugh (1986) stated that language is a communal possession although admittedly an abstract one. Individuals have an access to it and constantly show that they do so using it properly. Secondly, Trudgill (1983) stated that language is not simply a means of communicating information about the weather or any of the subjects; it is also a very important means of establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. Communicating something about what the speaker wants to say is important if the listener also knows what the one wants to say by communicative language.

Theoretically, conversational style has the same meaning with communicative style. It is derived from the word communication where two people or more are included in some conversations. Those activities can be described where two people take turn in speaking. In the discourse of males and females in a conversational style there are features of indirectness, politeness, femininity, and competitiveness. Some of such features also happen in the casual condition.

Mostly, when the males and females are in speaking or conversation they usually have some interruptions on the conversation. Sometimes males are dominant to interrupt the females. The females still wait for the chance to take part in the conversation, usually they talk when the males give the clues just like pausing the conversation by asking a question. It also happens when the hearer cuts off the speaker directly. It sometimes happens in a conversation between males and females because of the background or the gender. It could be one of the reasons of those conditions. They are more likely to make some jokes which might make the situation uncomfortable.

Sign of dominance's interruption has been commonly used as an assumption in research. Based on the previous research conducted by West and Zimmerman (1983), it was found that men dominate women by interrupting them in conversation. Moreover, James and Clarke (1993), reviewing research on gender and interruption, do not find a clear pattern of males interrupting females.

Interruption always occurs when males and females are in conversation. Maltz and Borker (1983) stated that research on gender and language has consistently found males speaker to be competitive and more likely to engage in conflict (for example, by arguing, issuing commands, and taking opposing stands) and females to be cooperative and more likely to avoid conflict (for example, by agreeing, supporting and making suggestions rather than commands). It can be concluded that males dominate and control the conversation the most.

The commonly phenomenon which is referred to "interruption," but accurately referred to as "overlap" is a case which is directly connected with solidarity and

ambiguity. Tannen (1994) has said that her analysis makes clear that some speakers consider talking along with another to show of enthusiastic participation in the conversation, of solidarity, creating connections. Others, however, assume that only one voiced should be heard at a time, so far them any overlap is an interruption, as an attempt to wrest the floor, a power play. This phenomenon can be reported that overlappers had “dominated” the conversation.

Interruption is not kind of violation as long as the topic does not change. Interruption between male and female also happens in “Gift of a Family” novel between two main characters. Interruption can be signaled with some of expressions or signals; for example *I—, well, but, or, no, but—, will—, to—*. Wardaugh (1985) has said those expressions do not change the flow of conversation.

“Gift of a Family” novel is a kind of romantic novel, whose two characters Josh and Kate are partner at the same hospital. Both of them have uniquenesses of conversation because of the different character, background of life, and position. Their conversation filled up with interruption.

In this case the writer chooses interruption and features of conversation style in casual conversational style as the focus of the research because interruption in casual conversational style is commonly found in daily conversation whether the females and males are in conversation. The writer chooses to observe “Gift of Family” novel because most of the dialogues are full of interruption and conversation style. Since the main characters know each other about their background, there are so many misunderstanding among them which cause interruptions in their conversation.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

1. What are the factors of interruption in “Gift of a Family” novel?
2. What are the features of conversation style which can influence the gender’s position between males and females in “Gift of a Family” novel?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

1. To find out the factors of interruption in “gift of a family” novel.
2. To find out the features of conversation style which can influence the gender’s position between males and females in “Gift of a Family” novel.

1.4 Significance of the study

Theoretically this study gives a clear explanation about interruption and conversation style in casual conversational style in “Gift of a Family” novel to the readers to make them easy to understand. It also gives the contribution to the teachers and students who want to study about interruption and conversation style in casual conversational style.

Practically the results of the study are expected to provide useful information for the following readers. For the students, this analysis can increase their knowledge of interruption and conversation style in casual conversational style. They can see and learn about it from another perspective. For the teachers, this research could be used as an additional material in studying and teaching literature.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the interruption and conversation style used by Josh Sullivan and Katriona O'Brien as the main characters in the "Gift of a Family" novel. The limitation of this study is casual conversational style used by the main characters in their conversation in the "Gift of a Family" novel.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. **Interruption:** An infringement turn taking rules of conversation when the second speaker begins to speak while current speaker is still speaking without giving a chance to the first speaker to finish it (Zimmerman and West, 1975). In this study interruption is turn taking of conversation which pausing the conversation by some signals or expressions.
2. **Conversational style:** Is a semantic process; it is the way meaning is encoded in and derived from speech (Tannen, 1987). In this study conversational style has the same meaning with communicative style which is derived from the word communication where two people or more are included in some conversations.
3. **Main characters :** are the people who are also called as the major characters that cannot stand on his own and needs other characters to make the story more convincing and life like (Sunaryono, 1988).
4. **Characterization :** Is the personality of a character and the method that an author uses to reveal the personality.

5. Casual style: an informal style that is usually spoken with a group community or close friend that only could be understood by them. Joos (in Mesthrie, 2000), defined casual style is typical of informal speech between peers, includes ellipsis and slang between peers. In this study casual style is a kind of daily conversation between peers work and friends.
6. Sarah Morgan: a famous romance author in 1862 until now who was born at New Orleans in 1842 which the first book was published at 1862 and the title is *The Civil War Diaries*.
(<http://www.oocities.org/legal1two/morgan.html>)
7. Gift of a family novel is a bestselling romance novel series is written by Sarah Morgan and published at 2005 (Gift of a Family novel, 2005).