

**INTERRUPTIONS IN POLITICAL DEBATE FOCUS ON
GENDER & POWER**

THESIS



BY:

ALDA FITRIANI SUWANDI

REG.NUMBER: A73216097

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
UIN SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA**

2019

DECLARATION

I am the undersigned below:

Name : Alda Fitriani Suwandi
NIM : A73216097
Department : English
Faculty : Arts and Humanities
University : UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

Truly state that the thesis I wrote is really my original work, and not a plagiarism/fabrication in part or in whole.

If in the future it is proven that this thesis results from plagiarism/fabrication, either in part or in in full, then I am willing to accept sanctions for such actions in accordance with the applicable provisions.

Surabaya, 26th November 2019

Who make the statement


Alda Fitriani Suwandi

APPROVAL SHEET

INTERRUPTIONS IN POLITICAL DEBATE FOCUS ON GENDER &
POWER

By

Alda Fitriani Suwandi
Reg.Number: A73216097

Approved to be examined by the Board of Examiners, English Department,
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

Surabaya, November 26th, 2019
Thesis Advisor



Prof. Dr. Zuliati Rohmah, M.Pd.
NIP. 197303032000032001

Acknowledged by:
The Head of English Department



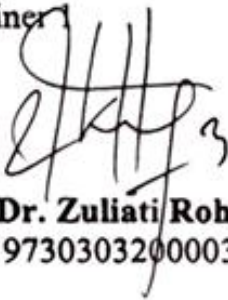
Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum
NIP. 197002051999032002

EXAMINER SHEET

This thesis has been approved and accepted by the Board of Examiners, English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya on December, 19th 2019

The Board of Examiners are:

Examiner 1



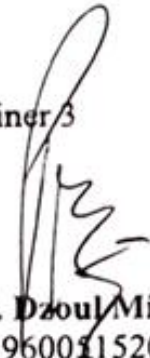
Prof. Dr. Zuliatj/Rohmah, M.Pd
NIP. 197303032000032001

Examiner 2



Dr. Mohammad Kurjum, M.Ag
NIP. 196909251994031002

Examiner 3



Dr. A. Dzoul Milal, M.Pd
NIP. 196001152000031002

Examiner 4

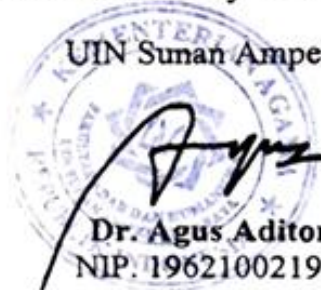


Raudlotul Jannah, M.App.Ling
NIP. 197810062005012004

Acknowledged by:

The Dean of Faculty of Arts and Humanities

UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya



Dr. Agus Aditoni, M.Ag
NIP. 196210021992031001

speaker and listener in conversation response to each other, e.g., question-answer while preference cited to Yule (1996) is a kind of response in a sequence of conversation.

Conducting a Conversational Analysis (CA) approach has been done by many pieces of research in many subjects. Larasati (2014), Jannah (2014), succeeded to apply the conversational analysis in the film, Faizah & Kurniawan (2016), Ismaliyah (2015), Haris & Mirahayuni (2010) applied conversational analysis in a talk show, while Cantrell (2014) applied conversational analysis in casual conversation. Hence, Conversational Analysis (CA) approach is an exciting approach and able to be applied in many subjects. The present researcher used conversational analysis as an approach to investigate the conversation of both candidates in the presidential debate.

Besides, some points must be noticed when making a Conversational Analysis (CA) approach such as pauses, overlaps, interruption, and so on. Thus, some previous researchers minimized the research about the conversation, which is only focused on one aspect of conversational analysis, which is an interruption. According to Sack et al. (1974), a conversation organized means the coordination between speaker and listener; there will not be any interruption in it. Li (2001) explained that perfect conversation when the listeners understand when they have a chance to turn in the conversation. So, the interruption can be concluded that unorganized conversation because both speaker and listener do not understand about the turn- change in conversation. Besides, according to Beattie (1982), the

speaker must speak only one time; if the speaker more than one time, it means deviation in turn-taking rule.

Li (2001) argues that interruption has two types those are a successful interruption and unsuccessful interruption. In successful interruption, there are some functions in it; those are intrusive and cooperative. Cooperative interruption, Murata (1994) argues this interruption is helping the speaker through coordinating the content in an ongoing conversation. Kennedy & Camden (1983) classify cooperative interruption into some sub-functions those are agreement, assistance, and clarification. Second, intrusive interruption, cited Murata (1994), is a kind of threat to the other speaker which interrupts the content or process in an ongoing conversation. The sub-functions of intrusive interruption, according to Kennedy & Camden (1983), are disagreement, floor taking, topic change, and tangentialization.

There are several reasons why the interrupter does interruption, according to Wardaugh (1985), those are asking for help, breaking up, completing, seeking clarification, rejecting some points and agreement. Since interruption is one of the exciting topics in the conversational analysis (CA), many researchers research the interruption in many subjects those are Larasati (2014) conducted the study about the interruption in the movie. Anindya (2014) researched the interruption in talk show tv program. Last, Faizah & Kurniawan (2016) researched the interruption in talk show tv programs and related to gender. All of the previous studies only focus on the interruption or relating the interruption with gender. The present

study will conduct the interruption as a measurement of gender power in political debate.

Related to gender power, Lakoff (1975), Zimmerman and West (1975) said that men tend to interrupt than women. Xu (2009), both women and men have different strategies in communication. Men tend to the competition-oriented, while women tend to be collaboration- oriented. So, men tend to interrupt the conversation. Moreover, men show dominance by interrupting the conversation to control the topic.

There have been several pieces of research that focus on interruption. First, Larasati (2014) investigated the interruption in the Modern Family season 1 TV series. The result of her study is analyzing all types and functions of interruptions. The highest type of interruption is simple interruption 59,65%, and the lowest is a butting-in interruption, 3,51%. The highest function of interruption in this film is disagreement with 35,09% and clarification only 1,76%, and it is the lowest function of interruption. This research only focuses on the type of interruption and the function without relating to gender or power.

Second, Anindya (2014) analyzed the interruption in the Oprah Winfrey Talk show. The result of her study is classifying types of interruption, which is from twenty cases found in this talk show, 15 cases include successful interruption, and 5 cases include unsuccessful interruption. The result of her study is almost similar to that of Larasati (2014) that focuses on type and function, but it is applied on the TV talk show. Larasati (2014) and Anindya (2014) only

investigated the type and function of interruption. Both previous studies do not relate to gender and power. Therefore, gender and power can be further explored.

Moreover, Faizah & Kurniawan (2016) conducted a study about overlaps and interruption between males and females in Mata Najwa. The result of their study is that female tend to interrupt than male, and it reveals that female uses competitive and cooperative interruption than male. Regarding the overlaps, female makes more overlaps than male. The result of their study is in contrast to Xu's (2009), Lakoff's (1975), and Zimmerman and West's (1975) studies explaining men tend to dominate the conversation by doing interruption. The subject of the research causes it, is the presenter of TV Talkshow, which is a woman. The presenter has the authority to set the topic, although doing interruption. It has been proven that the result of their study 68,35% the presenter used competitive interruption, which contains several functions such as changing the topic to set the topic, floor taking to take the floor in conversation and develop the topic, and so on. The result of Faizah's & Kurniawan's (2016) study needs to be reinvestigated in using different subjects.

Therefore, the presidential debate is chosen as the data source, since Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were the candidates of United States president was campaigning in 2014. Nevertheless, there have been several researchers used Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton's political debate as to their subject, such as Auliana (2017), investigates the impoliteness strategies used by Trump and Hillary. Second, Khalil & Adnan (2018) analyze about fallacies in Trump and Hillary's speech and politeness strategies used by Trump and Hillary. Then, in

(1982) is a sign of dominance. Fairclough (1998) states that generally, people are unaware that they have power and do domination with each other. Fairclough also argues that people accept their power by naturally or social practice. Naturally means that power has existed in every people, and they only maintain control by reinforcing the power relation. Then, social practice means people who have more knowledge can be made such manipulation. As Wodak (1989) argues that people who lack knowledge can not resist manipulation. However, these power and dominance sometimes come from the social status of the interrupter. According to Lakoff (1975) said that men frequently interrupt because of social and economic status.

The sociolinguists observed language variations in socio-economic and gender factors, and their result is that women and men have different speech features. According to Lakoff (1975), women's speech features are less confident because using question tag, hedging, avoid the swear words, and stressing on solidarity than men. Thus, men tend to interruption than women because they believe men dominance and power relation based on the conversation in society. Xu (2009) argued that both women and men have different strategies in communication, as men tend to the competition-oriented, while women tend to collaboration- oriented.

Besides, Fei (2010) explains that women tend to avoid taking the floor or speaking more, mainly speaking with men in public. Zimmerman and West proved it (1975) conducted research about gender and power related to interruption, and the result men tend to interruption than women. Moreover, men

show dominance by interrupting the conversation to control the topic. Another factor that supports men tends to do interruption than women, according to Basow & Rubenfield (2003), because men want to show that he is powerful and superior or power-hungry. Thus, men tend to interrupt the conversation.

2.4. Political Debate

According to Freeley & Steinberg (2009), the debate is a process of advocacy and inquiry through delivering arguments. The debate can be used to achieve a decision or used to lead people's opinion on the way they think. Besides, the debate needs at least two opponents and provides reasoned arguments against each other. Thus, the debate needs critical thinking, and the audiences must be critical to evaluate the candidates of debate.

Moreover, one type of debate is about political debate. There are some characteristics of political debate; according to Benoit (2007), first voting is a comparative act. Second, the candidates must be separated from the opponents. Third, the message of the political campaign is allowed to the candidate to make them different from other opponents. Next, the candidates allowed attacking, defending, and acclaiming. Last, the topics of the campaign may talk about policy.

Table 3.5 Donald Trump's and Hillary Clinton's Functions of Interruption

Function of Interruption		Codes	Donald Trump	Total	Hillary Clinton	Total
Cooperative Interruption	Agreement	CoI. Ag				
	Assistance	CoI. As	19:02			
	Clarification	CoI. Cl	21:48 ; 21:50 ;			
Intrusive Interruption	Disagreement	II. Dag	16:42 ; 18:55 ; 19:15 ;		21:31	
	Floor Taking	II. FT	15:29 ; 21:24 ; 21:27 ;			
	Topic Change	II. TC				
	Tangentialization	II. TZ				

Table 3.6 Donald Trump's and Hillary Clinton's Reasons of Interruption

Reason of Interruption	Codes	Donald Trump	Total	Hillary Clinton	Total
Asking for Help	ASH	19:02			
Breaking Up	BU				
Completing	CP	36:09			
Seeking Clarification	SC	21:48 ; 21:50			
Rejecting Some Point	RSP	15:29 ; 16:42 ; 18:55 ; 19:15 ; 20:21 ; 21:24 ; 21:27 ; 22:19 ; 25:10 ; 30:15 ; 39:09 ; 39:27		21:31	
Agreement	AG				

After classifying each type, function and reason of interruption, the researcher counted all of it. Those numbers changed into percentage and shown in every chart (type, function and reason chart). So that it is easy to understand. Finally, to reveal who was the candidate more powerful, the researcher counted all of the total numbers of interruption that happened in every debate, then changed into the graphic chart. After that, the result served in the pie chart by presenting the percentage of both the presidential candidates.

The data above show Hillary's interruption that is a butting-in interruption. It happens when Donald Trump delivers his argument in the section of fighting ISIS. Before Trump finishes his utterances, Hillary interrupts him. Unfortunately, Trump ignores what Hillary said, and keeps continuing his argument until finishes. This is one of the examples of butting-in interruption done by Hillary Clinton.

So, the researcher concludes that Trump uttered three types of interruption while Hillary uttered two types of interruption. Both of the presidential candidates are frequently using butting-in interruption during the debate. Nevertheless, Trump's butting-in interruption is higher than Hillary, that Trump is 71% while Hillary is only 57%.

4.1.2. Function of Interruption

There are two functions of interruption, according to Murata (1994) those are a cooperative interruption and intrusive interruption. Cooperative interruption based on Murata (1994) is the function used to help the first speaker by coordinating the content in an ongoing conversation. Besides, the intrusive interruption based on Murata (1994) is a kind of threat for another speaker, which means to interfere with the content in an ongoing conversation.

Moreover, these two functions of interruption are divided into several subfunctions. According to Kennedy & Camden (1983), cooperative interruption includes agreement, assistance, and clarification. Whereas the intrusive interruption, according to Kennedy & Camden (1983), is disagreement, floor taking, topic change, and tangentialization.

when Trump delivers his argument under topic securing America. Here, Hillary interrupts Trump to show her disagreement by saying, "*we're not*" which means Hillary rejects Trump's statement, which is not true. So, all of the data above are rejecting some points as the reason for interruption used by Hillary Clinton during the first until the third presidential debate.

Finally, all of the data above show Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton's reason for interruption. Donald Trump's reasons are 8% seeking clarification and 92% disagreement. Whereas, Hillary Clinton's reason is only disagreement under percentage is 100%.

4.2. Discussion

According to the results of the research above, the researcher has answered the first question that is the type of interruption used by both presidential candidates. The result shows that Donald Trump has three types of interruptions; those are a simple interruption 17%, overlap interruption 12%, and butting-in interruption 71%. In contrast to Hillary Clinton has two types of interruption those are simple interruption 43% and butting-in interruption 57%. Here, the researcher concluded that Trump tends to do interruption by using more types of interruption rather than Hillary. However, butting-in interruption type is the highest interruption type that appears during the presidential debate. 71% types of Trump's interruption type is a butting-in interruption, while Hillary 57% types of her interruption are a butting-in interruption. It means that both of the presidential candidates were trying to dominate each other or take the floor, but unfortunately, they were ignored each other. As Ferguson in Beattie (1982) argued that this type

of interruption occurs when the interrupter tries to interrupt the first speaker and taking the floor. Nevertheless, the interrupted keeps continuing his or her utterances and ignored by the interrupter.

Besides, the second question has been answered by the researcher by showing the most function that appeared during the presidential debate. Donald Trump has three functions of interruption; those are clarification 8%, disagreement 64%, and floor taking 28%. Contrast to Hillary; she only has one function that is disagreement. Thus, the researcher concludes that disagreement function is the highest function of interruption during the presidential debate. It can be seen the percentage of their disagreement function, which Trump 62% and Hillary 100%, which means they expressed their disagreement with the opponent's statement or opinion. As Kennedy and Camden (1983) argue, the interrupter interrupts the conversation because he or she disagrees with what the speaker said and gives his or her opinion. Thus, both of the presidential candidates were trying to deny the opponent's statement and keeping their argument.

Moreover, they also have reason to do interruption. As the researcher found during the first until the third presidential debate, Trump has two reasons to do interruption those are seeking clarification 8% and rejecting some points 92%. Different from Hillary, 100% of her reason is rejecting some points. However, the highest reason of the presidential candidate's interruption is rejecting some points. This reason, according to Wardaugh (1985), interrupter interrupts the present speaker to show his or her disagreement or rejection. Thus, this reason is to show their rejection or disagreement, besides both presidential candidates, also give

their own opinion against each other. Finally, this result has answered the research question number three.

The first until the third research question discuss type, function, and reason of interruption, which all of them are related to each other. As the example when Trump has done simple interruption with the function is disagreement, he also has a reason that is rejecting some points. However, the researcher can not make it clear that every type of interruption has fix function and reason. If the reason for interruption used by interrupter to reject some points, it does not mean the function of interruption is to express disagreement because it can be floor taking and so on. Almost like the type of interruption, if the reason for interruption rejecting some points, while the function is disagreement, the type of interruption not always simple interruption; it can be butting-in or overlap interruption. Thus, the conclusion type, function, and reason of interruption should be related by the context.

Furthermore, to reveal the power, the researcher has counted all of the total numbers of interruption in each presidential debate in a graphic chart. These total numbers of interruption are shown below.

(2009) that power means a person has power over others. Thus, the researcher concludes that Trump is more powerful than Hillary. It because of the comparison of the total number of interruption that shows Trump 91% tend to do interruption than Hillary only 9%. There is a factor related to the men who tend to do interruption, according to Basow& Rubenfield (2003), that man wants to show his power and superior, or he is power-hungry.

So, the researcher concludes that Donald Trump is more powerful than Hillary Clinton, since Donald Trump is a man, and men tend to do interruption, the result of this study is similar to that of Zimmerman and West (1975) that men tend to interrupt than women. Besides, Trump tends to interrupt because he wants to show that he understands the problem, to show his ability, to show that he is never wrong, and to show he can solve all of the problems. Moreover, Trump has different tendencies in communication strategy compared to Hillary, which is competition-oriented. The more Trump does interruption, the more his power will be apparent because interruption is a sign of dominance, and it is to show power to control others. Besides, Donald Trump's interruptions reflect that he is superior and powerful because the factors that make men do the interruption is that they want to show they are powerful and superior. Finally, the researcher has answered all of the research questions and concluded that there is a relationship between gender and power through interruption.

Furthermore, the present researcher relates this result of the study to the Islamic value which refers to Rasulullah Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wassallam's character

