

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

There are many possibilities of the occurrence of turn-taking signals during communication. Sacks et.al (1978) states that there are rules of turn taking in every conversation and in other speech-exchange systems. In addition, the basic unit of the conversation is the “turn” that is a shift in the direction of the speaking ‘flow’ (Sacks et.al, 1978). Turn taking in movie as an attempt to get control and as a part of participants to take the turn in conversation.

The organization of turn taking in the movie can be analyzed by conversation analysis (CA). CA paradigm examines the rules of conversational aspects such as: repair, adjacency pair, topic initiation openings and closings, preference organization, insertion and post expansion (Paltridge, 2000). However, at its heart, CA concentrates on the organization of turn taking in talk in-interaction such as: how turn taking is organized, how participants of the conversation do the turn taking orderly, how they deal with any disorder in the turns and what kinds of systematic techniques that are used in the completion of their turns (Hutchby and Wooffitt, 1998)

Turn taking itself can be divided into normal turn taking and irregular turn taking. In normal turn taking the conversation commonly happens smoothly, it means that the people know how to make a nice turn taking. On the other hand, irregular conversation happens because people do not make a nice turn taking, sometimes they interrupt each other to express their ideas, feeling and opinions.

During an irregular turn taking conversation, there are two types of people, the first type is people who always patient to wait until another person finishes his or her words. The second type is people who do not have any patience to wait for another person to finish his or her words. Turn taking irregularities can happen because they cut the conversation without giving chance to the speaker to finish his or her words.

Turn taking irregularity is turn taking which does not follow the smooth pattern. There are two sorts of turn taking irregularities, that is, interruption and overlap (Coates, 1986:99). In daily lives, people cannot avoid interruptions and overlaps. The symbol (‘|’) means interruptions and the symbol (‘[]’) means overlaps.

Interruption happens when the second speaker cuts the first speaker’s words without giving a chance to the first speaker to finish it. Based on the example above ‘B’ interrupts ‘A’ and ‘A’ does not finish the conversation but ‘B’ cuts the conversation without giving any chance to ‘A’ to finish it.

On the other hand, overlap happens when the second speaker interrupts the first speaker, the last words from the first speaker are partly covered by the second speaker’s words. Therefore, there are two voices heard at the same time. In the example above, the last words of ‘A’ are overlapped with the first words of ‘B’ and those words are heard at the same time. Interruptions and overlaps commonly happen because a speaker is not patient to wait for his turn and wants to gain the turn purposely.

There are some research that conducted on turn taking irregularities. The first research is from thesis entitle “Turn-Taking Irregularities by African American Characters in the Movie “*Why Do Fools Fall in Love*” by Jennyfer Ansori (2005), Meity Marinna (2005) with “Interruption and Overlap Produced by The Sunday School

Children”, and Yessica Hartono (2013) entitled “Interruptions and Overlaps Occuring in an Indonesian Television Talk Show *Indonesia Lawyers Club-TV One*”. These previous research are focuses on Interruption and Overlap and its reasons. They use differents object such as movie, children school and talk show. In this research, the researcher tries to analyze a movie. However, the object same with previous research by Jennyfer Ansori (2005), but the data collection are different. Jennifer Ansori (2005) only analyzes four main character in the movie, the researcher uses all characters to collect the data. The findings are totally different because the number of the characters that analyzed are different. It supported with the situation of the movie of previous studies are quiet different with this research.

There are other previous research on Turn-Taking Irregularities, they are Cecilia (2011) and Olva (2012). These previous research are conducted only in the reason of interruption. Cecilia (2011) is focuses to find out the reasons of interruptions used by male and female participant in a Catholic youth meeting, and find the differences and/or similarities of the reason. She finds that gender may influence the use of interruption in a meeting. Meanwhile, Olva (2012) focuses on observing the differences and/or similarities of the reasons of interruptions used by Civil Engineering and Communication Science Department Students in transactional and interactional topics. She conclude that the topics and background of discipline may influence the use of interruptions by both Civil Engineering and Communication Science Department Students.

From those previous research above, many researcher do not take the data from english. Some of their data are taken from Indonesian. The researcher in this research cannot find the society which used english in daily conversation, so he decides to take a

movie as his data since the data is available. Also, the related research above are similar to this research that is discussed about turn-taking irregularities, but they have many differences. However, this research differs from those previous research above because the object of this research uses a movie and gets the data from all characters in the movie. It has different result when we analyze a talk show, discussion groups which using indonesian with a movie which use english in their conversation.

In this research, the researcher chooses turn taking irregularities as the theory of the research because it frequently used in daily conversation. Sometimes people do not realize when they produce interruptions and overlaps. Because when some people start a conversation and they enjoy the conversation, they will not realize and care, are they interrupt their conversation partner. Turn taking irregularities also commonly used in informal situation. We can found so many turn taking irregularities in a talk show, because the guest mostly did it. In most talk shows whose host are famous and skillful such as Oprah Winfrey (Oprah Winfrey Show) and Ellen DeGeneres (Ellen Show), there are a lot of turn taking irregularities that occur in the dialog. But here, the researcher chooses Denzel Washington's *The Great Debaters* movie as the data source.

*The Great Debaters* is an American movie directed and starring by Denzel Washington and Produced by Oprah Winfrey and her production company. The story is about the efforts of debate Coach, Melvin B. Tolson to create the first debate team of Wiley College and create an equality with whites. In the movie, the willey team success in winning debate challenge Harvard University. Here, the researcher is interested in that film above because there are many conflicts when they are struggling to win the challenge in Harvard University, of course there are many turn taking sources.

So the researcher intends to find out the turn taking irregularities in that movie. In short, the researcher thinks that the research is very important to do because the situation of the movie is different with other previous research and difference situation that occur in the movie is influential to the finding of this research.

## **1.2 Statements of Problem**

Based on the background of the study above, the writer formulates the following problem:

1. What types of turn taking irregularities that are used in the conversation among all characters in Denzel Washington's *The Great Debaters*?
2. What are the reasons in turn taking irregularities produced by all characters in Denzel Washington's *The Great Debaters*?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Based on the statemen of problem above, this study is intended to:

1. To find the turn taking irregularities that are used in the conversation among all characters in Denzel Washington's *The Great Debaters*.
2. To find the reasons in turn-taking irregularities produced by all characters in Denzel Washington's *The Great Debaters*.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes this study may be a reference for the readers to gain the knowledge about turn taking. The writer also hopes that this study may be a reference for other researchers who are interested in conducting deeper research about turn taking irregularities. The writer wants to contribute knowledge to the readers about turn taking

irregularities that used in movie so that the readers can broaden their knowledge about interruptions and overlaps that occur in the conversations.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitations**

In this study, this research conducts a research in turn taking based on turn taking irregularities proposed by Zimmerman and West (1975) and supported by other theories from other linguists such as Wardhaugh (1985). The writer tries to analyze the data in *The Great Debaters* movie to find out the turn taking irregularities used by all characters in *The Great Debaters* by Denzel Washington. The writer limits the data by taking the data just from the movie. In doing the research, the writer applies conversational analysis. This research also limits in answering the second question by interpreting the reasons of all characters who used turn-taking irregularities.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

In this study, there are some essential terms that need to be known and understood for any reader to avoid misunderstanding. The key terms are:

1. Conversation is an interaction between two or more people who exchange information and meaning about something.
2. Conversational Analysis is the approach to study of conversational, verbal and non verbal in daily life.
3. Turn taking is the role in a conversation that happens in a situation when a person talks at a time, then after he ends his speak the second speaker take his turn to responds or speaks something to first person.

4. Turn taking irregularities is turn taking which do not follow the smooth pattern, like a formal conversation.
5. Interruption is Violation of turn taking rules of conversation. Next speaker begins to speak while current speaker is still speaking in a current speaker's turn which could not be defined as the last words. (Zimmerman and West, 1975:105)
6. Overlap is Instead of beginning to speak immediately following current speaker's turn, next speaker begins to speak at the very end of current speaker's turn, overlapping the lasts words of part of it. (Zimmerman and West, 1975:106)
7. Debate is a struggle of argument, controversy, discussion of public interest.

