

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Research of spoken language have a very wide range of topics as an attempt to cover various functions of spoken language. There are speech act, implicature, turn-taking, sequences, adjacency pairs, exchange structure, casual conversation, conversational moves, and many others. These topics are various elements of the structure of speech communication. In studying the structure of conversation or spoken language in general, the study focuses on observing and identifying the minimal elements of conversation, that is utterance.

In studying the structure of conversation, special focus is given to those utterances that create a shift in the discourse role that is called conversational structure. These utterances are often described as achieving distinct speaker communicative goals. These moves can be identified and interpreted without reference to speaking's underlying intent for an utterance.

Sinclair and Coulthard (1975) state that the combination of moves in the IRF structure is known as the exchange. The exchange is the series or chain of moves in the interaction. An exchange as the minimal interactive unit, comprising at least an initiating (I) from one speaker and a respond (R) from another. McCarthy (1991) points out that discourse analysis of spoken language may begin with examining the minimal exchange structure. Spoken discourse can be found in a simple exchange structure as greetings and farewell, television or

radio programs, casual conversation and discourse in various professions. The speaker says something by producing statement, question or request to the listener in order to get response. Then the listener gives a response to the speaker's statement, question or request in order to response the speaker.

Spoken language produced in spontaneous form, tends to convey subjective information, including the speaker and audience. Spoken language has many forms, such as; casual conversations, lectures, speech, doctor-patient consultations, interactions in the classroom, news interviews, etc.

Spoken language can also occur in other forms of situation such as in a television talk show, where the host asks some questions to the guests or other participants of the show. A talk show is a television or radio programming genre in which one person (or group of people) discusses various topics put forth by a talk show host. Usually, guests consist of a group of people who are learned or who have great experience in relation to whatever issue is being discussed on the show for that episode. Other times, a single guest discusses their work or area of expertise with a host or co-hosts. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk\\_show](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk_show)).

The show host, usually a media personality, is monitoring most of the discussion by stimulating, guiding, and facilitating the participants' roles and contributions to the program (for information exchange, confrontation, and entertainment). Each episode of the program focuses on particular topic of social, political, or personal concern. Confrontation and conflicting opinions are usually guaranteed by the selection of topics and participant (Llie, 2006, p:490).

The talk show hosts control the whole conversations of the show, asks some questions or gives topics. The topics of the conversations depend on the guests' backgrounds. They can be education, politics, economy, sport, art, entertainment, or some literary work. So the guests who are invited to the show should come from different backgrounds, such; politician, actress, singer, athlete, doctor, author, etc.

The writer is interested in analyzing the structural elements of conversation in television talk show. It specifically identifies the structural elements of conversation between talk show's hosts, guests and other participants. The data of the study will be taken from the conversations in television talk show "The Talk".

"The Talk" is an American talk show created by actress Sara Gilbert, who also serves as the executive producer. The show premiered on October 18, 2010, and airs on CBS as a part of CBS Daytime. Along with Gilbert, the show features Julie Chen, Sheryl, Aisha, and Sharon discussing the day's latest headlines. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Talk\\_TV\\_series](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Talk_TV_series)). "The Talk" is a talk show presented by five female presenters, however, one of them has the role as moderator who controls the whole conversations. Discussing some topics which become controversy. The moderator describes the topics before asking a question and other participants respond by giving their opinions. The show plays a video which gives more detailed background information about the man on topic. The Talk also contains celebrity interviews and cooking segment.

“The Talk” is chosen as the sources of data for several reasons. First, the participants are sharing about interesting topics that have been booming at the time. Both of the participants and the writer should get any information about the topics. Second, the conversation is very communicative, so it is interesting to examine how the structure of conversation is constructed in the show.

There have been several studies that similar with this study. Armianti Kartiwi (2006) studies the conversation between characters in fictional writings. Rizky Aprilia Aristi (2011) studied the structure of conversation in service encounters in traditional markets in Surabaya. Riskha Fidhiya Aulia (2013) analyzed the exchange structure between host and the caller of Metro TV’s “After Hours’ Program. The present study, however, is different from the previous existed studies in terms of the data and the theory. In television talk show, the speakers have face-to-face interaction, and the conversation is natural.

The advantages of the study is analyzing the structural elements of moves in conversations of television talk show “The Talk”. Considering that in the talk show, the hosts, guests and other participants should use the direct speech in the whole conversation during the interview, its showing a natural conversation or face to face conversation. So the outcome of elements of move that occur in the conversation can be varied and unpredictable. This situation provides the writer in finding the data.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

Based on the background of the study, the statements of the problem raised in the study are;

1. What are the structural elements of conversation in television talk show “The Talk”?
2. What is the structural organization of television talk show “The Talk”?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Related to the statement of problem above, the objective of the study are;

1. To find the structural elements of conversation in “The Talk” television talk show.
2. To find the structural organization of television talk show “The Talk”.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Through this study, the writer hopes that it will give contribution to readers who mostly are the student of linguistics major to understand about the structural elements of conversational moves with the combination of Halliday and Kong Rui’s model which occur in the conversations. Moreover, the writer also expects that the study will be able to support the student of English Department of 17 Agustus 1945 University who are interest in studying spoken discourse.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

The scope of the study is the field of spoken discourse analysis, especially the elements of structural conversation. The writer chooses television talk show program as the data and limit it in the “The Talk” program only. She took an episode of the program which airs on November 3, 2014 as the data because the topics they have discussed is very interesting and they have launched their brand-new cooking segment in this episode.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

The study is divided into five parts. The first chapter includes the introduction, which is elaborated into the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and organization of the study. The second chapter is the review of related literature, which deals with theories used in this study. The third chapter is about research methodology which explains about the method of data collection and the way that is used to analyze the data. The fourth chapter is Result and Discussion. Then, the fifth chapter is conclusion of the whole study.