Adjacency Pairs Used in "Spending a Day with Faceless Youtuber: Corpse Husband" Interview: A Conversation Analysis

Yuliana Rahma Fadhila[1], Sri Mulatsih[2]

Universitas Dian Nuswantoro, Indonesia

Yulianarf099@gmail.com

Abstract

Conversation Analysis (CA) is used to address on how daily conversation is organized, how people coordinate in human interaction and what is the role of talk in wider social processes. (Hutchby & Wooffit, 2008, p.1). The aims of this study are to identify and analyze kinds of adjacency pairs and the most used pairs that are realized in the conversation. The researchers used descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. In collecting the data, the researchers used a 23:18 minutes long video documentation of an interview which was downloaded from YouTube platform. The framework proposed by Paltridge was used as the framework to analyze the data. The results showed that there are seven adjacency pairs used by the interviewer and the interviewee in the occurring conversation which are greeting – greeting, question – answer, question – unexpected answer, offer – acceptance, assessment – agreement, request – refusal and leave – taking. It turned out that in this research, the interviewee tends to lead the conversation meanwhile the interviewee entails the flow of the conversation. The realization of these adjacency pairs will be the primary focus of this study.

Keywords: a*djacency pair, conversation analysis, conversation aspects, interview, utterances*

Introduction

English language has been used as the global language to connect people and minimize the language barrier between human interactions. Learning english language, especially as a foreigner, consists of four basic knowledge of language skills. These are writing, listening, speaking and reading. In learning language, there are branches of study which based on each of its point of views. Birner (2012: 2) stated that linguistics is the scientific study of language, and the study of linguistics typically includes the study of our knowledge of sound system (phonology), word structure (morphology), and sentence structure (syntax).

According to Thomas (2014: 1-2) the most common definitions of pragmatics were : meaning in use or meaning in context. Although pragmatics is defined as too general, we can still grasp the the idea that pragmatics is one of the brach study of language that focuses on how language is used to obtain a context and understand the meaning of an utterance based on that context. As a social entity, human uses mostly their speaking skill to socialize with other people. In this case, verbal conversation takes a huge part of this social interaction between

The 1ˢᵗ Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature
Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education,
English Education Study Program
August 7, 2021

humans. As to what Liddicoat (2011: 1) stated, conversation is the way in which people socialize, develop and sustain their relationships with each other. Conversation occurs when there are two or more people engaging in the interaction and taking turn on what they have to say according to the topic that the party is discussing.

Then, Peräkylä (2004) stated that conversation analysis is a method for investigating the structure and process of social interaction between humans. Conversation analysis (CA) was first proposed by Harvey Sacks, Emanuel Schgloff and Gail Jefferson at the University of California in the 1960s. In order to create the realization of conversation analysis, conversation itself consists of several aspects which are Opening and Closing, Adjacency Pairs, Topic Management, Turn-Taking, Preference Organization, Feedback and Repair. Not all conversation that happen in daily life interaction includes all of those conversation aspects, but conversation analysis can help to determine the context and meaning of the conversation through utterances and classify them into each appropriate category.

One very large sequence types seems to be organized around a basic unit of sequence construction, is called the adjacency pair. (Schegloff, 2007, p.9). According to the theory above we can say that adjacency pair is part of conversation aspects that tells the sequence structure of utterances in a conversation. As it stated in its name, adjacency pair usually taking in a form of pair of utterances. When the participants of the party exchanging turns to talk in the conversation, that is when adjacency pairs occur. The first-pair part would be the first one engaging or intitating a topic from speaker then followed by the second-pair part giving their reaction to what is the first-pair part proposing. The reaction given can be positive, negative, or even unexpected. For instance, the first-part pair notices something worth complimenting about the second-pair part and stated a compliment, such as *"What a lovely hat there you have!"* this compliment requires the second-pair part to adress their reaction to the first-pair part, with an answer such as *"Oh, thanks a lot!"* which is a positive reaction, or *"Actually it is not my favourite."* a negative reaction given according to the situation that occurs.

Literature Review

There are several previous studies that unfold some phenomenons using adjacency pair as the instrument to analyze them. One of them is The Adjacency Pair Patterns in Spoken Interaction of Roundtable Discussion With Susi Pudjiastuti by Jati Widya Iswara, Dwi Rukmini and Widhiyanto. The result of the study showed that the researchers investigated the adjacency pair patterns constructed in the spoken interaction, the communicative functions realized in the roundtable discussion and the power and status relation reflect to the patterns of adjacency pairs.

The difference of the present study compared to the last one is the context of the data and the primary focus of the study. The prior research used data that contained multiple participants (more than 2) in the conversation, that is a discussion, and one of the goal is to determine on who dominates the conversation the most based on the adjacency pairs realized in it. Meanwhile, in the present study, the researcher used a data in an interview form consists of only two people as the participants and only focused on what types of adjacency pairs and what is the most type used in the conversation.

The 1ˢᵗ Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature
Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education, English Education Study Program
August 7, 2021

Method

This research applied a descriptive qualitative method and also included a simple quantitative method. The aims of this research are to identify and analyze the aspect of adjacency pairs occured in the conversation. The researcher transcribed the spoken interaction between the interviewer and the interviewee and collected the utterances in the conversation as the main data in this research.

1. Data and Source of Data

    The transcribed utterances spoken by the interviewer (Anthony Padilla) and the interviewee (Corpse Husband) occured in the conversation were the main data that the researchers used to identify, analyze and classify each of their functions by using the CA adjacency pairs theory which was proposed by Paltridge. There is also a 23:18 minutes video documentation which embeded in this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1aheotQv9k published on 26 March 2020 by Youtube user AnthonyPadilla with the title "I spent a day with FACELESS YOUTUBER (CORPSE, SwaggerSouls, BlackySpeakz) as the main source of data on this research.

2. Subject of the Research

    It is clear that in the video documentation which is used as the main source of data in this research there are multiple participants in the conversation. However, the researcher only took a focus on the conversation that occured between the interviewer (Anthony Padilla) and one out of the three interviewee (Corpse Husband). Thus, Anthony Padilla and Corpse Husband are the main subject of this research.

3. Data Collection Procedures

    The researcher collected the data by using documentation method. This documentation method is taking a form in a 23:18 minutes long video published on Youtube platform which is documented by user AnthonyPadilla and is a legal evidence of this research. The researcher collected the data with the following procedures : downloading the source video that entails to this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E1aheotQv9k, listening to the conversation thoroughly and transcribing the whole conversation between the focused interviewer (Anthony Padilla) and the interviewee (Corpse Husband) and turned the audio-video conversation into a written form.

4. Data Analysis Techniques

    The researcher uses Adjacency Pairs theory proposed by Paltridge to analyze the data. The following steps that the researcher use are reading the written transcript carefully, identifying which utterances contain Adjacency Pairs items, classifying the utterances into request, offer/invite, assessment, question and compliment then describing types of adjacency pairs items that were used in the utterances.

5. Procedure of the Research

    The researcher uses the following procedures to make this research : determining the topic and the data that were used in the research, selecting an appropriate framework used to analyze the data, collecting the data, analyzing the data, drawing conclusion and reporting the result of the study.

The 1st Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature
Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education, English Education Study Program
August 7, 2021

Finding and Discussion

The result of the study showed that in the conversation between the interviewer (Anthony Padilla) and the interviewee (Corpse Husband) there are seven types of adjacency pair used in the conversation. The researchers also finds that it is the interviewee who is most likely to initiate topic and lead the conversation instead of the interviewee who is just likely to answer the interviewer.

Table 1: Percentage of Adjacency Pairs

No.	Types of Adjacency Pairs	Σ	%
1.	Greeting – Greeting	1	2.7
2.	Question – Answer	22	59.5
3.	Question – Unexpected Answer	5	13.5
4.	Assessment – Agreement	5	13.5
5.	Offer – Acceptance	1	2.7
6.	Request – Refusal	2	5.4
7.	Leave – Taking	1	2.7
	Total	37	100%

Table 1 shows that Question – Answer dominates the entire conversation between the interviewer and the interviewee. With taking 59.5% 22 out of 37 pairs Question – Answer becomes the most used adjacency pairs type used in the conversation. Following after that there is Question – Unexpected Answer and Assessment – Agreement which took 13.5% 5 out of 37 pairs each, Request – Refusal 5.4% 2 out of 37 pairs, and lastly Greeting – Greeting, Offer – Acceptance and Leave – Taking 2.7% 1 out of 37 pairs of each type of adjacency pair.

1. Greeting - Greeting

Greeting means to say hello and / or salutation between the speakers in the conversation. Greeting usually used at the first encounter of the speakers, before going deeper into the primary topic of the conversation.

Excerpt. 1

Anthony Padilla (AP) : Corpse!

Corpse Husband (CH): Hey.

Here it can be seen that eventhough it was the first encounter between Anthony Padilla (AP) and Corpse Husband (CH), we can see that they are already known each other or even befriended since AP is comfortable enough to greet CH with just calling his name and not using the formal way of greeting. The utterance *Corpse*! is indicated by first-part pair greeting expression. Meanwhile CH responded with *Hey.* as in positive reaction which is second-part pair greeting expression.

The 1ˢᵗ Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature
Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education,
English Education Study Program
August 7, 2021

2. Question – Answer / Unexpected Answer

Question means asking someone about something in order for first-part pair to obtain a certain information or clarification from the second-part pair of the party. Question will achieve its purpose if the second-part pair is providing the desired information or clarification that the first-part pair needed at the first place.

Excerpt. 2

AP   : *Has there been any moments that have been taxing to maintain two separate identities?*

CH   : *Oh, all the time, like 24/7. I've had people over at my house whom I've known in real life who are friends with my youtube friends. So my youtube friend doesn't know I'm friends with their friend and my friend doesn't know I'm friends with their youtube- it's very confusing. It's a very, like Hannah Montana thing.*

Adjacency pair of question – answer occured in the utterances first said by AP, whom he said *Has there been any moments that have been taxing to maintain two separate identities?* which means that AP was curious about the hard situation that might come up to CH due to him having to maintain his daily personal life and internet persona as a faceless youtuber which referred to as the *two separate identities.* CH acknowledge this question and immediately gave the desired answer, as he said *Oh, all the time, like 24/7. I've had people over at my house whom I've known in real life who are friends with my youtube friends.* CH might just stopped giving the answer at that point since AP question is already answered but instead CH provided more information such as describing one of the taxing moments that sometimes happen in his life, where he said this: *So my youtube friend doesn't know I'm friends with their friend and my friend doesn't know I'm friends with their youtube- it's very confusing. It's a very, like Hannah Montana thing.* Giving AP more than satisfactory answer to his question.

Meanwhile, on the other hand, there are circumstances where AP's question did not get the answer that he meant to desire.

Excerpt. 3

AP   : *Out of everyone you know, that's known you as a youtuber first, how many*

   of those people have you revealed your identity to?

CH   : *I've been really working on it recently. The first person was Mykie.*

AP   : *Really? You revealed it to Mykie first? She's the first person to have ever seen your real face?*

CH   : *Yeah, in person.*

In this circumstances, CH did not give an immediate answer on AP's question which is *how many of those people have you revealed your identity to?* which means how many people have known his real face and identity as a youtuber. CH did not give an exact number as the answer but instead, he dodged the answer for the sake of the confidentiality of his identity by answering *that he's been really working on it recently*

The 1ˢᵗ Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature
Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education,
English Education Study Program
August 7, 2021

which means he has been trying to open up more to his close friends to share his identity with. As a replacement, CH revealed the first person that he have shown his real life to which was Mykie to AP, taking AP by surprise because he did not expect CH to give the information that he did not know he needed. Hence, the Question – Unexpected Answer occured in this excerpt.

3. *Assessment – Agreement*

Assessment is used in order to seek for affirmation, whether it is an opinion or comment. The first-part pair uses assessment to ask for agreement from the second-part pair. Corresponding to that, the second-part pair can give whether an agreement or disagreement to first-part pair's assessment.

Excerpt. 4

AP   : You thought you're a burden?

CH   : Yeah, yeah, definitely. It's like, why can't we do this normal thing?

Apparently the context of this utterances is when AP starts to ask a question to CH about how being a faceless youtuber affected any of his relationships. CH gave an answer as stated, *Of course, oh my god.* meaning that he completely aknowledge AP's question and that he relates to it a lot. Then, AP asked another following question entails to that answer, *How so?* After that CH explained one of many reasons why being confidentional has been affecting his relationships with people who are close to him, such as, CH can not even take pictures with them. *I can't take pictures with them, really. Now with that being like, this could get leaked and also wearing mask with people everywhere just kind of weird, (and) they have to be okay with that.* This statement implementing that CH feels bad that people around him have to deal with him staying anonymous for the sake of the secrecy of his identity. AP immediately got the idea but just to make sure, he asked *You thought you're a burden?* As stated in the excerpt above, wanting to know more that what he thought CH might feel is the truth. And apparrently it is. This proves that assessment – agreement occured in the utterances.

4. *Offer – Acceptance*

Offer can be defined as giving, providing or suggesting someone about something, it can be objects or services. The following respond that entails to offer is that the second-part pair can accept the offer, or refuse it.

Excerpt. 5

AP : Alright you have five seconds to shout out or promote anynthing you want directly into the camera, go!

CH : I literally don't know how I make this far. That's it.

According to the excerpt above, AP simply offered a quick five seconds shout out that CH can be used to promote anything. Although in fact, CH did not promote anything in the given time, he did not refuse the offering either. Hence, CH accepted AP's offer.

5. *Request – Refusal*

Request is an act of asking someone about something or to do something, and can be responded by accepting that request or refusing the request.

The 1st Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature
Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education, English Education Study Program
August 7, 2021

Excerpt. 6

AP : You show me your real face.

CH : I guess they don't see that I'm wearing a mask.

In the excerpt above AP requested CH to show him his full face, since AP only get to see him wearing a mask and not his entire face yet. However, CH did not directly refusing AP's request, but rather dodging the request by diverting the primary focus on how the viewers can not see him wearing a mask since in the main video, CH's face is edited so that his entire face is covered with editing.

6. Leave – Taking

Leave – taking is an adjacency pair that is purposed to bring the conversation to an end.

Excerpt. 7

AP : Thank you so much, Corpse. I feel like-

CH : Oh, this is weird.

AP : I feel like I understand the wondrous world of faceless youtuber just a little bit more.

CH : It's because I'm dumb.

The leave – taking pair occured in these utterances is rather unusual, since CH did not respond with utterances like *good bye, see you* or any other leave – taking utterances but rather he decided to keep it casual and make an attempt to keep the conversation alive till the very end. However, this is not a bad way to end a conversation as it is finished with a friendly manner.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, it can be concluded that in an interview based conversation the most used type of adjacency pair is question – answer. This is due to the goal of an interview based conversation that the interviewer wants to dig unknown informations, seeking validation, confirming the existing facts or just simply asking an opinion from the interviewee. In additional, the other six adjacency pairs are also used in this conversation. It started with greeting – greeting and ended with a proper leave – taking pairs. The second most used adjacency pair is also a question based pair, but with unexpected answer given by the interviewee. Following that, there are request – refusal, offer – acceptance and assessment – agreement included in the sub topic and small talks of the conversation. This proves that the realization of question – answer will dominate most of an interview based conversation since it is the most appropriate adjacency pair to be used in the interaction.

References

A. J. Liddicoat, (2011). *An Introduction to Conversation Analysis : Second Edition.* New York & London: Continuum.

A. Peräkylä, (2004) *Conversation Analysis*. Los Angeles: SAGE Publication Ltd.

The 1st Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature
Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education,
English Education Study Program
August 7, 2021

B. J. Birner, (2012). *Introduction to Pragmatics.* United Kingdom: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

B. Paltridge, (2012). *Discourse Analysis : An Introduction.* New York: Continuum.

E. A. Schegloff, (2007). *Sequence Organization in Interaction : A Primer in Conversation Analysis.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

E. Y. T. Sitepu, R. Hanafiah, T. T. Zein, *A Conversation Analysis on Interview with Prime Minister Julia Gillard in Sky News Australia Channel.* 2020. Retrieved from https://jeltl.org/index.php/jeltl/article/download/469/pdf

I. Hutchby, R.Wooffitt, (2008). *Conversation Analysis.* Cambridge: Polity.

J. A. Thomas, (2014). *Meaning in Interaction : An Introduction to Pragmatics.* London: Longmann

J. W. Iswara, D. Rukmini, Widhiyanto, *The Adjacency Pair Patterns in Spoken Interaction of Roundtable Discussion With Susi Pudjiastuti.* 2019. Retrieved from https://journal.unnes.ac.id/sju/index.php/eej/article/download/30775/13509