Chapter 1: Introduction

The basic information about this study will be provided within this chapter. The sub-topics such as background of study, research problem, aim of study, significances of study, scope of study, and definition of terms will be discussed thoroughly in this chapter.

Background of Study

Conversation is one of the ways of communicating that we use to communicate, to collect information, to maintain relationships, or to express our ideas and feelings. It is a form of social interaction in which language is used systematically and done by each party towards the other or also defined as the element of speaking turns (Myllyniemi, 1986, p. 147). Conversation takes place in any situation in our life. It is a social interaction that happens everywhere in any situation. Small talks with friends and family, teaching and learning processes, business meetings, interviews, and so on are examples of conversations that we are doing or watching in our daily life. Conversation also represents social interaction. For instance, when we talk to a friend, we use casual language. When we talk with people who have a higher age or degree, we use more formal language.

There are a few different types of conversation proposed by experts. One of them is conversation types by Hakulinen (1999, p. 56-59). He classified conversation into three basic dimensions; the first is the channel which means how the conversation is carried out (auditory, visual, or visual-cum-auditory), the second is the party who carries the conversation which are dyadic (two people) or

multi-party (multi-person), and the last is the situation of the conversation which are everyday and institutional conversation. The everyday conversation does not have a noticeable beginning and end of the conversation because it is not structured and has no formal rule to guide the speakers in doing the conversation. Conversely, in the institutional conversation, the beginning and the end of the conversation is noticeable which organized into stages. Moreover, the speakers (or at least one of them) know the topic of the conversation and able to know what to anticipate from it. He then explained that interview is an example of institutional conversation.

According to Merriam-Webster online dictionary, interview is a meeting which information from the interviewee (a person who is interviewed) is obtained by a reporter, television commentator, or pollster. The interviewer has a duty which is to ask questions and the interviewee is obliged the answer the questions (Hakulinen, 1999, p. 59). There are a lot of interview situations. Job interviews, news interviews, tv show interviews are examples of interview situations. In doing an interview, an interviewer and interviewee must have skills to keep the conversation going on track and the information are being well delivered.

There are so many interviews on TV shows. The hosts tend to interview famous people such as singers, actors, actresses, entertainers, politicians, influenced people, etc. One of these interviews is the interview of the former first lady of the United States of America, Michelle Obama. There are so many people that interviewed her on many occasions such as TV shows, news, or magazines. One of the tv shows that interviewed Michelle Obama is Jimmy Kimmel Live!.

Below is the example of a transcribed interview of Michelle Obama (M) with Jimmy Kimmel (J) in Jimmy Kimmel Live! show:

        M   : Aww, I'm gonna cry

        J   : You see how much we miss you?

        M   : Yeah.

        J   : I mean..Really? Where did you go?

The interview above can be analyzed using Paltridge's theory about sequences and structures in Conversation Analysis (CA). Paltridge (2012) explained that there are six sequences and structures. They are opening conversations, closing conversations, turn-taking, adjacency pairs, feedback, and repair. This conversation occurred after Mr. Barack Obama completed his duties as president and his family moved from the White House. The part of the interview above is the opening conversation. There are so many ways to open conversation. Instead of saying "hello" or "hi" to begin the conversation, Jimmy said "You see how much we miss you?" that indicates the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Obama after not seeing her in a long time and this interaction will lead to the topic of the conversation.

        In Conversation Analysis, there are also CA transcription symbols that were pioneered by Gail Jefferson which later called Jefferson Transcription System symbols. Gail Jefferson is one of the American sociologists that found an area of research that known as Conversation Analysis (CA) along with Harvey Sacks and Emanuel Schegloff. CA transcription symbols can capture minor details that might not be covered in conventional transcription. Below is the

example of a transcripted interview using CA transcription of Michelle Obama (M) with Jimmy Kimmel (J) in Jimmy Kimmel Live! show:

    M   : [Aww, I'm gonna cry↑]

    J   : [You see↓ how much] we miss you↓

    M   : Yeah

    J   : I mean↓ Rea(h)lly? Where did you go↑? ((laughter))

The CA transcription gives more detail than conventional transcription. As an illustration, the word "Really?" that said by Jimmy. He said the word and laughed at the same time, but it is not written nor described in the conventional transcript. However, CA transcription is able to describe it by using the "(h)" as in "w(h)ord" that Jefferson Transcription System stated as "indicates abrupt spurts of breathiness, as in laughing while talking" (Jefferson Transcription System – A guide to the symbols, 2001).

Initially, there were few candidates of interview videos that were considered by the researcher to be analyzed. However, the researcher decided to choose the video of Michelle Obama and Jimmy Kimmel interview from "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show on YouTube because the researcher wanted to look at a video that has full interview segments. The interview video should have a recognizable beginning and end because it is what distinguishes everyday conversation and institutional conversation (interview) as proposed by Hakulinen (1999, p. 56-59) in his explanation about conversation types. The interview videos that the researcher found on YouTube are either don't have full interview segments or don't have opening/closing segments which became the reason for

the researcher to not choose those videos. The interview video of Michelle Obama and Jimmy Kimmel in "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show has the full interview segment from the opening to the closing part which corresponds to Hakulinen's theory and the interview can be analyzed using Paltridge theory about sequences and structures. The researcher also considered the fact that "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show is one of the popular shows in America that have been broadcasted since 2003 until now which shows Jimmy Kimmel's expertise in interviewing his guests. His interview with Michelle Obama was interesting to analyzed because Michelle Obama is the former first lady of the first African-American president and she was adored by the public. The topic in the interview was about her family's life after Obama retired which draw the audience to watch the interview.

Paltridge (2012, p. 90) explains that Conversation Analysis (CA) looks at the everyday spoken conversation that aims to understand how people manage their interactions and how social relations are developed through the conversation. It is also useful in analyzing audio, video, and transcription (Rutter, 1997 as cited in Afidah & Wahyudi, 2014). Since an interview is similar to a natural conversation, the appropriate method to analyze this study is using conversation analysis. This study will present the sequences and structures of conversation that Jimmy Kimmel as the interviewer and Michelle Obama as the interviewee used by using Jefferson's transcription system in analyzing the interview.

The study and analysis of conversation have been taken into account by many researchers for years. One of them is a research conducted by Shen Qi and Xia Tian in 2012 with the title *Conversation Analysis as Discourse Approaches to*

Teaching EFL Speaking. This research tries to look at the theoretical basis for conversational analysis and explore the possibility of applying a discourse approach to speaking in teaching a group of learners. The other research about conversation analysis is conducted by Lia Afidah and Ribut Wahyudi in 2014 with the title *How It Starts and Ends: A Study of Indonesian Stand-Up Comedy.* In this research, they were trying to analyze the way of stand-up comedians open and close their talk using Rutter's pattern of stand-up comedy by extracting the data using conversation analysis as the framework. This study then shows some pattern similarities between Indonesian stand-up comedian and Rutter's pattern. The research about conversation analysis in an interview has been done by Putri Efilia Agustin in 2014 with the title *Conversation Analysis in Interview Between Megan Young and TV Presenter Based on Brian Paltridge Perspective.* In this research, Agustin attempted to classify the conversation in the interviews into Paltridge's six sequences and structures of conversation. The study shows that the interviews are showing similarities in some sequences and structures. However, the authenticity of the research is questionable because false quotations still can be found in this research. The analysis of the data also did not depth enough. On the other side, this present study aims to analyze and describe the data, which is the interview of Michelle Obama with Jimmy Kimmel, clearly and deeply based on the theory of Brian Paltridge about conversation analysis. Furthermore, the use of CA transcription in describing the conversation using Jefferson Transcription System will also be done in this research.

Research Question

There are six sequences and structures proposed by Paltridge's theory, they are opening conversation, turn-taking, adjacency pairs, feedback, repair, and closing conversation. The researcher tried to classify and describe the interview of Michelle Obama and Jimmy Kimmel in "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show into these six sequences and structures. Thus, the research question is formulated as follow: "What are the sequences and the structures used in "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show interview?"

Aim of Study

Regarding the research question which to explore the sequences and structures of Michelle Obama and Jimmy Kimmel in "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show interview, the purpose of this study is:

To find out the sequences and the structures used in "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show interview.

Significances of Study

This study gives both theoretical and practical contributions to the readers. Theoretically, this study gives a contribution to linguistics, especially in the development of conversation analysis in Pragmatics studies. This study attempts to classify and to describe the sequences and structures based on Paltridge's theory. Therefore, the findings of this study will be beneficial in providing references about the topic and exploring other problems that have the potential to be conducted by other researchers. Practically, this study provided the theory about Conversation Analysis, especially sequences and structures and CA transcription

that will help the reader to get insight of how real conversations are analyzed. In addition, Burns et al. (1997, p. 61) stated that through working with spoken data, we can:

- Become more aware of discourse structures, structural features, intonation and grammatical patterns, and discourse strategy.

- Know how prosodic features of spoken discourse such as intonation, stress, rhythm, and articulation contribute to meaning.

- Increase our knowledge about the differences between spoken and written discourse.

- Know the significances of interpersonal roles and relationships in spoken interactions.

- Raise our awareness of how speakers jointly achieve social goals.

Scope of Study

In this research, the researcher focuses on the interviews of Michelle Obama with Jimmy Kimmel in "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" show. The utterances in the interview are similar to the everyday conversation. The script is used as the guideline of the topic, but the flow and the utterances on the conversation remain natural. The meaning in the conversation may be uttered indirectly which needs further interpretation. Therefore, the researcher will use the point of view of pragmatics to help interpreting the meaning of the conversation in the interview.