Conversational Analysis: A Holding the Turn on A Trans “Mother” Debates Matt Walsh on Womanhood

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Abstract
The aimed of this research are to examined conversation analysis, specifically turn-taking strategy by type of holding the turn in a channel, YouTube of Matt Walsh, A Trans “Mother” Debates Matt Walsh on Womanhood. This research was used a qualitative technique by Creswell and Sudaryanto and Stenstroom's framework was used to assess the turn-taking strategy used in the conversation, with types of holding the turn being filled pause, repetition, and silent pause. The analysis consists of four steps: watching A Trans “Mother” Debates Matt Walsh on Womanhood, creating the transcription of the dialogue, and the data must be classified and interpreted. According to the findings of this study, a turn-taking strategy appears in the conversation. Filled pauses or verbal fillers, repetition, and silent pauses were all present. Filled pauses of verbal fillers and repetition are the most commonly employed turn-taking strategies on the data source. Therefore, this study suggests that conversation analysis is important for understanding the intent of people's speech. Furthermore, this research can be used to reflect on both theoretical and practical contributions. This study lends credence to the hypothesis of conversation analysis in turn-taking strategy. The researchers found the data of filled pause (5), repetition (4), and silent pause (1).

Keywords: Conversational Analysis; Turn-Taking Strategy; YouTube

Abstrak

Kata Kunci: Analisis Percakapan; Strategi Pengambilan Giliran; YouTube

1. Introduction

Many people communicate with each other using language. For people all across the world, communicating with other speakers is essential. Language allows people to communicate with one another. Language is crucial for people to understand one other's cultures in addition to being used for communication. Conversations are dynamic and context-dependent claims (Yule, 2015). Effective communication requires understanding the social and cultural norms that regulate conversations. Discourse analysis aimed to comprehend how language functions in particular situations, how meaning is created and contested, and how language use reflects and reproduces power and ideologies.

Conversation analysis analyzes spoken discourse that focuses on how people handle their ordinary conversational encounters. According to Paltridge (2021), it investigates how spoken discourse is organized and evolves when speakers engage in these exchanges. Conversation analysis has looked at things like related utterance sequences (adjacency pairs), preferences for specific combinations of utterances (preference organization), turn-taking, feedback, repair, conversational openings and closings, discourse markers, and response tokens. Conversation analysis uses recordings of spoken material to do meticulous and fine-grained analyses. The concept of ordinary conversation as the most basic kind of speaking is a key problem in conversation analysis. Evidence of holding the turn also occurs in the interview between Inara and the
interviewers in the Instagram video belonging to the @lambeturah account. In the video, the interviewer asked how Inara's decision was when she officially divorced with Virgoun:

**Inara**: “nanti itu tanya sendiri aja ke lawyernya, aku bukan lawyernya”

**Interviewer**: “apashik kak pertimbangannya? misalnya anak atau yang lain”

**Inara**: “ehm.. liat nanti aja gimana”

Based on the conversation above, Inara said “ehm liat nanti aja gimana” It is a type of filled pause and verbal filler. According to Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994) when the speaker used filled pauses and verbal fillers like “ehm”, at the same time as she attempted to think of what to say. Inara said “ehm” in an attempt to think of what to say and paused her utterance twice.

This holding the turn also occurs in many conversations, for example, this is what occurs in the video on the YouTube channel by Matt Walsh entitled A Trans Mother Debates Matt Walsh on Womanhood:

**A Trans mother**: “…. So, the question, how can you assert that nobody would ever see me as a woman when my material experience tells me you are wrong”

**Matt**: “…. Okay it is interesting that is part of my talk you chose to ask a question about because that is not in my talk at all… table for conversation and so I am going to say you you would not fool me at all, I mean I see a man 100 and I think that most people would now…”

According to Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994), repetition in holding the turn is occurs when speakers repeatedly say the same term. Based on the utterance above showed that Matt said “… I am going to say you you would not fool me at all…” By saying “you you” repetition on holding the turn. He spoke one word more than once or repeatedly. It means that he wanted to make sure of the words to continue his statement.

The first previous research by Putu et al (2021) entitled “Conversational Analysis: Turn Taking on Indonesia Lawyer Club Talk Show” aimed at analyzing the turn-taking strategy in a debate of Sunda Empire in Indonesia Lawyer Club (ILC) talk show broadcasted by TV One aimed the turn-taking strategy in a debate of Sunda Empire in Indonesia Lawyer Club (ILC) talk show broadcasted by TV One. The study applied the conversational approach by Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994). The result showed that every turn-taking tactic—starting up, taking over, interrupting, overlapping, repairing, silent pause, repeating words, filled pause, promoting, appealing, and giving up tactic—appears in the argument. The beginning-up technique was used the most often when taking turns.

The second previous research by Tyas & Pratama (2022) entitled “Conversation Analysis: Turn-Taking Analysis on Boy William Podcast Episode 06 in Collaboration with Cinta Laura” the goal was to analyze conversation analysis, particularly for turn-taking strategy, in Boy William's podcast, particularly in the sixth episode, in collaboration with Cinta Laura Kiel, an Indonesian artist.” The qualitative technique was used in this study, and Stenstrom's framework was used to assess the turn-taking strategy used in the conversation. This study's findings demonstrated that turn-taking strategies are used in discussion. Beginning, promoting, repeating words, taking over, overlapping, appealing, quiet pause, and filled pause were all used. The most common turn-taking technique is the promotion technique.

Based on the previous research reviewed above, there are similarities and differences related to this research. The similarity lies in the focus of the study, turn-taking in conversational analysis. The difference lies in the guiding theory applied in the research. Previous studies have explained three types of turn-taking, taking the turn, holding the turn and yielding the turn. Meanwhile, this research focused on one of them, that is holding the turn. Therefore, this research was conducted by applying the theory of Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994) conversation analysis. Researchers are interested in this research because it relates to everyday activities such as debates, and conversation with interlocutors, there is contain turn-taking.

2. Literature Review

Conversation analysis is a key field of research in discourse analysis. Conversation analysis analyzes spoken discourse that focuses on how people handle their ordinary conversational encounters. According to Paltridge, (2021), it investigates how spoken discourse is organized and evolves when speakers engage in these exchanges. The concept of ordinary conversation as the most basic kind of speaking is a key problem in conversation analysis. All other forms of talk-in-interaction are thus descended from this fundamental form of communication.

In English, the primary rule is that one person speaks at a time, after which they may nominate another speaker, or another speaker may take up the turn without being nominated. There are several ways to indicate that we have reached the conclusion of a turn. This could be accomplished by completing a syntactic unit or utilizing falling intonation and halting. It can also finish a unit with a signal like ‘mmm’ or ‘anyway.’ Taking turns refers to how each participant or speaker has an opportunity to speak during a discourse. Talking is carried out by holding the
turn. It is about how the speaker wishes to hold a chance, but they are unable to control and arrange what the things have to say.

According to Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994), three fundamental tactics make up the turn-taking system. Turn taking has several types which include taking the turn, holding the turn and yielding the turn. taking a turn has three types (starting up, taking over, and interrupting), yielding the turn (prompting, appealing, and giving up). Holding the turn means continuing to speak, but because the speaker's planning at the start of the turn may not be sufficient for the entire turn, and because it is difficult to plan what to say and speak at the same time, she or he may have to stop talking and start replanning halfway through the turn. There are three types of holding the turn below:

### 2.1 Filled Pause and Verbal Fillers
Filled pauses and verbal fillers like [em], [ahh], [am], and [a..] which are verbal fillers, at the same time as they are attempting to think of what to say.

Example:

JH: Yah, bertanya ke publik itu kan penting. Dan kita juga paham bahwa ada pro dan kontra di publik, gitu kan. eeee tetapi kita lihat fenomena yang ada itu, sepertinya eeee, penolakan terhadap revisi UU KPK.... (Habibi et al., 2020)

### 2.2 Repetition
The strategy of holding the turn, repetition is it occurs when speakers repeatedly say the same term or the act of repeated or restating specific words, phrases, or concepts while a speaker retains their turn in a conversation is referred to as repetition in holding the turn. It entails repeating previously articulated parts in order to stress or reinforce a point, seek clarification, or preserve coherence within the ongoing discourse.

Example:

Yeah, you know for me like it's never going to be okay no matter how many times I see little kids with cancer. This record showed that yeah, you know, in that conversation it did not give time between the speaker and the hearer. (Mustikaningtyas et al., 2019)

### 2.3 Silent pause
The present speaker maintains the turn until the listener waits for them to complete speaking. This is known as a silent pause.

Example:

MR: “Can you walk?”
TE: “that off course, I can always do that. I can always walk. I don’t want to I don’t want to let people down]. I have millions of people more than Cruz has. I have millions of people. Now, the system is not a good system. When you take (.) Louisiana, I went to Louisiana, I campaign, (I campaign there). I WON THIS STATE. Now the numbers and I have less delegates than Cruz↑. That is NOT the American way. I went out (.)” (Fathimiyah, 2016)

### 2.4 Transcription Convention
According to Paltridge (2021) in conversation analysis, specific transcribing norms are applied. At the meeting are a married couple and two mediators. FC is a part of the married pair, while M1 is one of the mediators. The couple is upset about the ruckus the children of their next-door neighbor are making. As a key to the analysis, the transcribing conventions utilized in this study are provided at the conclusion of the dialogue and are based on Gail Jefferson's work:
3. Research Method

This study employed qualitative research because the researcher’s analysis and data source both took the form of words descriptively. In this study, researchers use expert interpretation based on facts and theories to learn more about data analysis. According to (Creswell, 2015), qualitative research is a type of study in which the researcher mainly relies on data or information from objects. A technique for methodically describing the meaning of qualitative data is qualitative content analysis. The researchers act to gather the information they need is through the data collection method. The non-participant observation method, or the method of observing involvement without active participation, will be used by the researcher in this study (Sudaryanto, 2015). Therefore, the researcher collect data by collecting data, watching the video YouTube in “A Trans-Mother Debates Matt Walsh on Womanhood channel. Then during watching the video, researcher transcribing the video, and highlighting the raw data of based on the holding the turn. The researcher applied Paltridge (2021) transcription convention theory when writing the transcript. After gathering the analytical data, the researcher applied Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994) theory.

According to Jacob L. Mey as cited in Habibi et al (2020) to analyze, which divided the various turn-taking types into many forms, was used in the research to analyze the data. In addition, specific steps were taken to identify the type of holding the turn. These steps included marking the expressions, interpreting the codes, summarizing the findings, and drawing conclusions about the turn-taking that had been discovered in the conversation.

4. Result and Discussion

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<td>TOTAL</td>
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4.1 Filled Pause

**Data 1**

A Trans : “Hi Matt I’m transgender I’m born and raised here in New Mexico I have a graduate degree in information technology marketing business and finance “uh”(.) I own my own home I pay taxes I have a six-figure job I’m a respected professional in Albuquerque. I’m a mother. uh my life experience is that I’m an awesome person I am well liked I’m responsible and I think I’m pretty cool…”

Matt : “Okay it is interesting that's the part of my talk you chose to ask a question about because that's not in my talk at all um I don't believe I said that no one would ever see you as a woman I mean…”

Based on the conversation above, there is contain a filled paused because filled paused itself means [emm], [ahh], which are verbal fillers, at the same time as they are attempting to think of what to say. So based on the utterance of a-trans mother above, the word [uh] he said was a filled pause because he spontaneously filled in the [uh](.) while thinking about what he wanted to say at that time.

**Data 2**

A Trans : “Hi Matt I'm transgender I'm born and raised here in New Mexico I have a graduate degree in information technology marketing business and finance uh I own my own home I pay taxes I have a six-figure job I'm a respected professional in Albuquerque. I'm a mother. "uh"(.) my life experience is that I'm an awesome person I am well liked I'm responsible and I think I'm pretty cool”

This utterance contains the turn – taking of silent pause. According to Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994), the current speaker keeps the turn until the listener waits for them to finish speaking. So based on the utterance above, a trans-mother speaks or keep the turn until Matt as the speaker waits for him to finish the speaking even though the trans-mother had paused “professional in Albuquerque. I'm a mother. "uh"(.) while he was speaking, but the hearer still waits for his turn.

Matt : “… would like to ask you again because you're standing here and so uh you've brought your identity and on the table for discussion so uh how
did you do how do you know that you're a woman"

A Trans-  
Mother

"uh(.) it was first when I heard transgender persons describe their experience in their own words and this was only about two years ago (.) uh hearing somebody describe things it was a woman from like England. Describing her experience her childhood uh her uh teenage years and it blew my mind to be listening to her because it was just some podcast that I was listening to while I was like doing laundry but it blew my mind to hear somebody so eloquently and precisely describe things that I had experiences”

The utterance above contains a filled pause or verbal filler, because filled pauses and verbal fillers like "em," "ahh," "am," and "a../e./", which are verbal fillers, at the same time as they are attempting to think of what to say. Based on the utterance above, A trans-mother said “uh(.) it was first when I heard transgender persons...” and uh(.) hearing somebody describe things it was a woman...”, the word “uh” with symbol (.) means that a trans-mother had filled paused his speak to think what he wants to say after.

Data 4
Matt  :  “How do you know that you’re a woman?”
A Trans-  
Mother

“That’s fine all right so first of all listening to transgender people and it was like okay this is a one-off you know one person describing these things um things like looking at yourself in the mirror and not recognizing yourself uh hearing compliments like you are such they’re talking about somebody else ummm(.) it means feeling alone even when you’re surrounded by guys even when you have a lot of friends and I was active in like Boy Scouts I’m an eagle scout uh(.) I had great masculine Role Models my whole life and yet I never felt like I belonged I felt welcome and…”

This utterance consists of a filled pause during which he attempted to express his thoughts. A filled pause occurs when a speaker performs an act such as hmmm or um okay while thinking about what to say. Based on this utterance above, A trans-mother filled pause by saying “umm”(.) for two second and think that what he wants to say to Matt Walsh.

Data 5
Matt  :  “What did they say?” (↑?)
A Trans-  
Mother

“Um okay so(.) I am honestly hesitant I know that you touched earlier about the difficulty that transgender women might have in describing their identity but I want to state I honestly don't feel that you would engage in this conversation in good faith”

This utterance consists a filled pause while he attempted to say what he thought. Filled pause is when speaker give some act such as; hmmm or um okay at the same time while think what they want to speak. Based on the utterance above, Matt has interrupted a trans-mother by saying "what did they say"(↑?) with a rising intonation. Then a trans-mother answer in confusion "um okay so (.),” with filled paused for five and did not speak at all.

4.2 Repetition

Data 6
Matt  :  “What did they say?”
A Trans-  
Mother

“Um okay so I am honestly hesitant I know that you touched earlier about the difficulty that transgender women might have in describing their identity but I want to state I honestly don't feel that you would engage in this conversation in good faith so why are you here why did you stand up to talk to me if you don't want to have a conversation? you’re saying that you discover that you’re a woman I'm asking you how you did that's a very fair question okay okay”

Matt  :  “How do you know that you’re a woman?”

Based on the utterance above, the researcher found that a trans-mother used lexical repetition as part of holding the turn. A trans-mother made repetition “okay okay” twice during his speaking. According to the Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994) the strategy of holding the turn, repetition is it occurs when speakers repeatedly say the same term, when the speaker makes a few repetitions of the unit that came before it, thus saying, "I am still in control, don’t interrupt me!”

Data 7
Matt  :  “… most people would now the the fact the fact that you have people in your life who are saying to you oh
you're totally a woman it's exactly what I'm talking about no one in my life has ever once said to me you're totally a man, Man(†?) you know if my if if if a friend of mine called me on the phone and said listen Matt I want you to know you're really a man I would think that there was something wrong with him I would say why are you saying that at all doesn't make any sense so the fact this is a conversation to begin with tells me it only it only…"

The utterance above, Matt as the speaker is showed that repetition on his speak. (Stenström & Anna-Brita, 1994) stated that the repetition is when the speaker says a words repeatedly at the same time. So based on the Matt’s utterance “if if if”, he was repeat the word “if” at four times.

**Data 8**

| A Trans-Mother | “I would say that yeah” |
| Matt | “Exactly the same?” |
| A Trans-Mother | “Yes” |
| Matt | “Okay, well then why do you need to hear the testimony of quote unquote women like how how you pick any actual woman in this room in what way do you know that you belong in the same category as them” |

This excerpt contain a repetition, because Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994) said that repetition is it occurs when speakers repeatedly say the same term or the act of repeated or restating specific words, phrases, or concepts while a speaker retains their turn in a conversation. From the utterance above Matt said “how” repeatedly at same term he said that with the intention of holding his turn by saying “how” repeatedly.

**Data 9**

| Matt | “So you but you are relying on other people to tell you who you are is what we're establishing?” |
| A Trans-Mother | “For context I know you would like to think I know you like to say um I know you like to say everybody’s raw and supporting transgender people and yet they're still killing themselves” |
| A Trans-Mother | themselves um but I'm standing here in a room full of people applauding you and asking questions like how can I like put out legislation here in New Mexico you know my home state I grew up in to try to reverse transgenderism like I'm not safe and it's not safe” |

This excerpt contains a repetition, because Stenström & Anna-Brita (1994) defined repetition as the act of repeating or restating specific words, phrases, or concepts while a speaker retains their turn in a conversation. A trans-mother said “I know you like to say” repeatedly for two times at the same term in the preceding speech with the purpose of retaining his turn by uttering “I know you like to say” frequently.

### 4.3 Silent Pause

**Data 10**

| Matt | “Why? Why does that make you a woman?” |
| A Trans-Mother | “Uh because…” |
| Matt | “As opposed to just a man who doesn't get along with some other men or a man who's who is depressed or a man who doesn't feel at home totally in his body which by the way is a a pretty Universal Human Experience everybody goes through it one time and another, so in what way does that make you a woman though it's interesting you're telling me that you listen to the experience of other transgender people” |
| A Trans-Mother | “Well yeah…” |

From the excerpt, Matt and a trans-mother are arguing and a trans-mother holding the turn with a silent pause, because silent pauses in holding the turn are significant as they allow the speaker to maintain control of the conversation while providing a brief break for reflection or anticipation from the listeners. Even though Matt had interrupted the trans-mother, the trans-mother chose to hold back his turn by silent pause until Matt finish give his argument and then the trans-mother answer and got his turn by saying “well yeah”.

### 5. Conclusion
Based on the Stenström’s approach, it is possible to deduce that a turn-taking method was discovered in the Matt Walsh YouTube channel with a trans-mother on a womanhood. During the dialogue, it was discovered that filled pauses, verbal fillers, and repetition predominated. There were four utterances that demonstrated the filled pause strategy, four utterances that demonstrated repetition, and two utterances that demonstrated silent pause. The researchers discovered that the speaker employed a filled pause approach to acquire a chance to talk while holding his turn. The speaker, on the other hand, adopted the filled pause and silent pause method because the conversation in the video was informal. It did not occur in a formal setting. The other turn-taking method discovered in the conversation was filled pause, quiet pause, and repetition, which corresponds to the turn-taking strategy.

As stated in the definition of holding the turn itself, it occurred during the speaker’s turn in the conversation. Repeated words, filled pauses, and silent pauses associated with holding the turn were also seen in the dialogue. The filled pause repetition was dominated in the conversation because the speakers sense the debate and want to hold their turn.

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Reference


