

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, problems identification, research question, research objective, research significance, and scope of this study.

### 1.1 Research Background

Language is one of the essential things concerning human lives. Language has several functions in society's life, especially in communicating with others. Language is used to convey social meaning in various social contexts, which provide much information about the social relationship. With language, we can talk to each other, share our opinions, ideas, and express our feelings.

As social creatures, people have significant needs to communicate with each other through conversation. According to Mey (2001), a conversation is how people use language socially and use words to interact with others. Thornbury & Slade (2006) added that conversation is a fundamental human activity, where two or more people carry out a form of oral interaction to convey ideas and opinions. It can be concluded that a conversation is an activity when two or more people talk to each other and also carries a function to maintain a social relationship. Even though people interact through conversation in daily life, in fact, there is still a phenomenon of failure to communicate, causing misunderstandings in the conversation. It happened because a speaker cannot understand and recognize when they must take a turn, interrupt, ask a question, and others (Ilter, 2017). It is also stated by Stenstrom (1994) If the speaking speaker does not want to answer the previous speaker, the conversation will be complicated. To avoid those phenomena, actually, there is one of a strategy that can be used by people in conversation that strategy is turn-taking strategy.

Turn-taking strategy is a way used by speakers in managing a conversation. Turn-taking strategy has an essential function, such as making the conversation flow well (smooth conversation) and avoid clashing in conversation. In a conversation, turn-taking occurs when the first speaker takes a turn first, and then the next speaker gets a chance to speak or takes a turn when the first speaker finishes speaking. Not all speakers speak simultaneously in a conversation, but they have to wait their turn or opportunity to speak (Mey, 2001). Coulthard (1985, p. 59) also stated that turn-taking is considered to be one of the basic conversation patterns, and the role of the speaker is constantly changing and taking turns. Steenstrom (2011, p. 501) Turn-taking is "related to how people decide who to speak in verbal communication." He defines a turn as an "utterance" generated by a participant who "has the right to speak."

According to Stenstrom (1994), there are three types of turn-taking strategies. Those strategies are: Taking the Turn (starting up, taking over, interruption), Holding the Turn, Yielding the Turn. Taking the turn is the strategy that used by the speaker takes a turn in the conversation. Several involve taking a turn. Those are: starting up, taking over, interruption, and overlapping. Meanwhile, holding the turn is the speaker's strategy in talking (the speaker keeps talking and holds his or her floor). According to Stenstrom (1994), holding the turn It happens when the speaker cannot always stop or stop controlling the turn, as the speaker needs to say more and it is not easy to plan what to say at the same time. Then, yielding the turn is how the speaker gives opportunity a turn to the next speaker Stenstrom (1994). The speaker can use it to get a response from the listener, but usually the speaker changes the order without much protest.

We often encounter turn-taking in daily conversations, including on television shows such as talk shows. Talk Show is a program that principally includes a conversation that discusses topics such as respecting life, politics, society, economy, and education

(Mutmainnah&Sutopo, 2016). It means that a talk show is a program of television or radio, where two people or more discuss exciting topics. There are several types of talk shows, one of them is Oprah talkshow. With an estimated 14 million daily viewers, Oprah Winfrey is one of America's most popular shows (Smith, 2003). Oprah Winfrey is largely responsible for her own success. She understands how to run the show, distribute speaking turns, and, In particular, how to create intimacy between her, the guest, and the audience. "More than other talk show presenters, presenters know that they are talking for the audience, as if they were talking to her friends, as if they were her friends. Talk to her audience ", Laurie Haag (1993). These strategies, which Oprah employs on her show, are crucial to the interaction's success. Base on that, the researcher analyzed turn-taking strategies used by host and guest in Oprah'2020 vision tour visionaries based on Stenstrom's (1994) theory. The researcher chosen Oprah and Michelle Obama in Oprah'2020 vision tour visionaries talkshow as subject of this research.

There are some reasons why the researcher choose Oprah'2020 vision tour visionaries interview Michelle Obama as the subject of this study. First, in the interview, Oprah does not only focus on herself as the interviewer but also focuses on Michelle Obama as the interviewee. Besides that, Oprah also engages her audience. Second, the way Oprah starts a conversation with Obama is very interesting where she doesn't directly lead to questions that will be discussed in the interview but she starts the conversation with a light discussion where Oprah talks that Michelle and Barack Obama have been guests before. Last, in the interview, Michelle Obama as interviewee not only answered the questions given by Oprah but also gave a signal to Oprah as the interviewer to respond to her Statement. Based on the reason above, the researcher has chosen this talk show to be the primary source of data in this study and to show the reader how the turn-taking strategy is used by Oprah and Michelle Obama in

the Oprah talk show so that later readers can apply it in everyday life so that the conversation can flow well.

Previous studies have researched the analysis of turn-taking strategies. For instance, a study conducted by Ramadhanty (2020) focused on Turn-taking Strategies in Oprah Winfrey Show with Michelle Obama. This study's main problem is finding out the turn-taking strategy, context, and success of using turn-taking. The study about turn-taking strategies were also done by Wang Jie and Chen Miaomiao (2016) entitled "Turn-control Strategies in TV Talk Shows." The researchers select "the Oprah Winfrey Show," and a "Date with Lu Yu" as the object of their review, and the point is to look at the hosts' utilization of turn asserting, turn holding, and turn yielding procedures.

The research gap between previous studies and this study is Ramadhanty (2020) focus on finding out the turn-taking strategy, context, and success of using turn-taking based on Yule's (1996) theory. Wang Jie and Chen Miaomiao (2016) focused on comparing the hosts' use of turn claiming, holding turn, and turn yielding strategies based on used Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson's (1974) theory. In this study, the researcher focuses on finding out turn-taking strategy, turn-taking strategy mostly appears, and the functions of the turn-taking strategy used by both speakers in that talk show. The theory of this study is also different from previous studies. In this study, the researcher chooses Stenstrom (1994) theory to analyze this study. This study chooses Stenstrom (1994) theory because this theory is related to the phenomenon analyzed by researchers, especially regarding turn-taking strategies. Besides that this theory has never been used by previous researchers, especially about turn-taking strategy in the 2020 visionaries talk show.

## **1.2 Problem identification**



People, as social beings, have a strong desire to engage with one another through conversation. Even though, people always interact through conversation. However, in fact, there is still a phenomenon of failure to communicate, which makes arise misunderstandings in the conversation. That happened because a speaker does not comprehend and realize when they need to take a turn, interrupt, or ask a question, among other things. The previous studies also analyzes turn-taking strategy however, the previous studies and this study have different focusing. Ramadhanty (2020) focuses on finding out the turn-taking strategy, context, and success of using turn-taking, and Wang Jie and Chen Miaomiao (2016) focused on comparing the hosts' use of turn claiming, holding turn, and turn yielding strategies. This study focuses on turn-taking strategy appear in conversation, turn-taking strategy mostly appears, and the functions of the turn-taking strategy used by both speakers in that talk show. The theory that used in this study and previous studies are also different, Ramadhanty (2020) used Yule's (1996) theory, and Wang Jie and Chen Miaomiao (2016) used Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson's (1974) theory. This study used another theory, the theory that used in this study is Stenstrom (1998) may enrich the knowledge of turn-taking strategy analysis. Based on that, the researcher analyzed one of the strategies that people can use to avoid misunderstanding and control the interaction flow well in conversation, that a strategy is turn-taking strategy. The researcher chooses Oprah and Michelle Obama in the Oprah talkshow as the subject of this research.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

From the background above, the research questions of this study are:

1. What kinds of turn-taking strategies are used in conversation on the Oprah talk show?
2. Which turn-taking strategies mostly appear in the show?

3. What are the functions of the turn-taking strategy used by both speakers in that talk show?

## **1.4 Research Objective**

### 1.4.1 General Objectives

In general, this study aims to determine turn-taking strategies used by hosts and guests in Oprah's 2020 vision tour visionaries.

### 1.4.2 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives of this study can be mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze the kinds of turn-taking strategies are used in conversation on the Oprah talk show.
2. To identify the turn-taking strategies mostly appear in conversation on the Oprah talk show.
3. To describe the functions of the turn-taking strategy used by both speakers in that talk show.

## **1.5 Research Significance**

This study is expected to be beneficial for society and the other researcher. The significance of this study was divided into theoretical and practical significances.

### 1. Theoretical Significance

The researcher expects that the result of this study can give a contribution to the existing theory of linguistics especially pragmatic about turn-taking strategy.

## 2. Practical Significance

### a. For the students in English Language Education

This study is expected can be used as a reference in taking linguistics courses, especially pragmatics about turn-taking strategies.

### b. For the future teacher

This is expected can be used as a reference in implementing turn-taking strategy to interact with students in the learning process.

### c. For the researcher

The researcher can know and understand turn-taking strategy especially types of turn-taking strategy, turn-taking strategy mostly appear and the function of turn-taking strategy in conversation.

### d. For the further researcher

Hopefully, this research can be an inspiration for students in English Language Education who conduct research in their thesis.

## 1.6 Scope of the Research

. This study focuses on the turn-taking strategies used by hosts and guests in Oprah's talk shows. In this talk show, researchers will also analyze and observe conversations between hosts and guests. The researcher have identified and discovered the types of alternations, primarily alternation strategies, and the capabilities of alternation strategies used by hosts and guests in conversations.