A SOCIOPRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF INTERRUPTIONS
BY THE MALE CHARACTERS
IN MARC CHERRY’S DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES SEASON 1 TV
SERIES

A THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Attainment of
Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Language and Literature

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sepenuhnya menjadi tanggung jawab saya.

Yogyakarta, 04 October 2016

Penulis,

Ratna Duwi Haryanti
DEDICATIONS

This thesis is dedicated to:

My great parents, my grandparent, and my sister

who never stop giving themselves in countless ways.
“If you want to do something with a good intention, Allah will ease your way. No matter how stuck you feel, put your trust in Allah. HE knows the best.”

-Mom-
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Symbols

[words] : the words in double brackets indicates the simultaneous speech which occurs between two different speakers

(pause) : the word ‘pause’ in double brackets means untimed silences
A SOCIOPRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF INTERRUPTIONS
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ABSTRACT

In this research interruptions by male characters in Desperate Housewives Season 1 TV series are analyzed using sociopragmatic approach. This research has three objectives: to identify the linguistic features employed in the interruptions, to find out the types of interruption, and to describe the purposes of the interruptions.

This research employed descriptive qualitative method and was supported by quantitative method in presenting the occurrence of the data in frequency. The descriptive qualitative method was applied since the discussion was presented descriptively with the researcher as the main instrument and the data sheet as the secondary instrument. The data of this research were in the form of utterances, while the contexts of the data were the dialogues containing interruption uttered by the male characters in the TV series. The source of the data was the first-ten episodes in Desperate Housewives Season 1 TV series and their transcript.

The results of the research are presented as follows. First, there are three types of interruption found in the TV series: simple, overlap, and butting-in interruption. Simple interruption appears the most because most of the current speakers are not able to complete their utterances after being interrupted by the male characters. The lowest number is butting-in interruption because most of the current speakers can hold the floor. Second, three linguistic features are found in the research: report talk, command, teasing, and swearing. Report talk is the highest rank because the male characters mostly use conversation as an arena to display themselves as the center of conversation through verbal performance. Third, all the interruption phenomena found in the TV series have either cooperative or disruptive purposes. In disruptive interruption, all the three purposes of interruption are found, i.e. disagreement, floor taking, and topic change. Meanwhile, there are only three purposes of cooperative interruption found in this research: to show understanding, to show the need for clarification and to show interest in the topic. The main purpose of interruption in this research is to show disagreement. It means that interruptions are mostly used by the male characters disruptively as a tool to argue their partners and to show their different opinions.

Keywords: sociopragmatic, interruption, Desperate Housewives Season 1 TV series
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a brief explanation about the background of the research. It also comprises the research focus, formulation of the problem, objectives of the study, and the significance of the study.

A. Background of the Study

Conversation is an indispensable thing in human’s life. Through conversation, people can communicate their minds and interact with their communities. Generally, conversation is conducted by two or more people. When people have conversation, they have to know when to speak and when to listen to the others to achieve a flowing conversation. People need to pay attention when they play their roles either as the speakers or listeners. Nevertheless, in practice, some people talk when the previous speaker has not yet completed his/her utterances. They take the turn of their partners and make the conversation flow not smoothly. This act of taking the others’ turns in conversation is called interruption (Sacks et.al in Meziane, 2013: 13).

In a normal conversation, when somebody is talking, the other members of conversation must be listening. They may talk when the person who becomes the first speaker gives the turn to them. This pattern is called turn-taking (Mey, 2001:139). There will be a smooth transition if the members of the conversation understand the others’ turn. In creating a smooth conversation, people need to follow the pattern of turn-taking. When the second speaker starts talking and cuts
the first speaker’s turn, the second speaker violates the rules of turn-taking and he/she interrupts their partners.

In society, interruption is often seen as a negative and impolite act because it restricts the other’s right to speak (Marche, 1993:389). However, it doesn’t always have a negative or disruptive purpose. Interruption may have positive or supportive and neutral purposes. For instance, in a discussion, when a student cannot understand the material explained by his/her teacher, he/she is allowed to interrupt the teacher. Interruption performed by that student is not a negative interruption because he/she needs a clarification before the teacher continues explaining the material further. Interruption may have disruptive purpose if the speaker cuts their partner’s turn with the intention to take the floor.

Interruption is also performed differently by men and women because they carry different linguistic features. They have different behaviors when interrupting their partners in the conversation. Men more often use swear words, teasing, command, and report talk than women to dominate and control the conversation (Tannen, 1990). Therefore, in conducting conversation with women, men tend to use a competitive style whereas women more often use a cooperative style.

The different behaviors of men and women in performing interruption are related to the gender that becomes their identities (Wardhaugh, 2006: 316). Gender is one of social factors that influence the use of language. Men and women have different ways in performing interruption because of the difference of gender. The unequal role of men and women in society has become the main reason for different styles and different linguistic features in conversation. For
instance, men tend to fill jobs such as army, police, engineer, and racer which are identical with strong, competitive, and brave characters. Women, in contrast, tend to fill jobs such as teacher, housewife, nanny, and nurse which are identical with cooperative, expressive, kind-hearted, and polite characters. The different role of men and women based on their gender identities affect their behaviors and speaking styles.

This research uses sociopragmatic approach to analyze the interruption phenomenon related to gender. It is the combination of sociolinguistic and pragmatic approach. The researcher applies sociolinguistic theories to identify the linguistics features employed in the interruptions by the male characters. To investigate the types and purposes of interruption, this research deals with conversation analysis in pragmatics approach. In pragmatics, the term conversational analysis is used to investigate natural conversation (Alan Cruse, 2006: 36). It is used to analyze casual conversation. Because interruption happens in the people’s daily conversation, conversation analysis is the appropriate approach to analyze it. Conversation analysis also focuses on meaning and context in interaction. It can be used to identify the types and the purposes of interruption which are based on certain context.

In this study, the researcher uses an American TV Series entitled Desperate Housewives. TV series is one of the media that shows the real life of human beings in the society. The researcher assumes that there are many complicated problems in that TV series and many arguments between the actors which contain interruptions. Based on the theme of this TV series, the life of
desperate housewives, the viewers can see that there are many interruption phenomena because the theme implies that there are many conflicts in the characters’ lives.

*Desperate Housewives* TV series also shows the dominant role of male characters in their society. In this series, male characters are seen as the characters that are more powerful than female characters in their communication and in their social life. Therefore, it can be the object of this study which can give fruitful data because interruption is one of the ways people use their dominant role. For those reasons, this TV series is used as the object of the research.

Furthermore, the first season of *Desperate Housewives* TV series consists of 23 episodes but the researcher uses only the first-ten episodes to be the object of the research because in those episodes the background of whole story is introduced. In those episodes, the conflict and the problems of the characters are presented to attract the audience’s attention. Therefore, it is possible to find many interruptions in those episodes.

**B. Research Focus**

There are several problems that can be found in *Desperate Housewives* TV series because the story is related to real life. The phenomena that can be observed in this TV series are the differences of language style between men and women, the use of speech acts among the characters, and the performance of interruption in the conversation.

The first problem that can be analyzed further is the differences of language style between men and women. This phenomenon can be analyzed in
this TV series because the story is about the life of men and women with their families problems. As explained previously, men and women have different language styles in their conversation in social life. It is possible to analyze women’s language, men’s language, or differences between them by using the linguistic features of the characters’ utterances.

The second problem is speech acts. Speech acts is defined as language that is used to perform an action. People frequently do something implicitly through their utterances. Speech act phenomena can be found in social interaction, and this TV series is one of the media that portrays the human social interaction. Therefore, speech acts can be analyzed in this TV series.

Then the third problem is interruption which becomes the focus of this research. The basic idea of interruption is when there is a violation from the second speaker toward the turn of the first speaker. Many people frequently talk simultaneously to show their attention, interest, enthusiasm and support, by using for example minimal responses and back-channel items. Some others violate the speech turn; intend to grab the floor, to show their disagreement, and to change the topic of conversation. Therefore, interruption is one of the important parts of conversation that can be found in the real social interaction or media such as movie, talk show, and TV series.

Although there are many problems in this TV series that can be analyzed, it is impossible for the researcher to discuss all of them because of her limited ability and time. The researcher focuses on interruptions that are performed by the male characters because of the theme and the story of the TV series. The theme of
the TV series, the life of desperate housewives, implies that there are many conflicts in the characters’ lives. Interruption is usually performed by people when they have argument. Therefore, this TV series can give fruitful data in interruption research. The TV series also shows about gender roles. In this series, male characters are described to be more powerful than female characters. As mentioned previously, interruption is one of the ways people show their dominant roles. So, the researcher focuses on analyzing interruption performed by male characters. By using this TV series, the story can support the research about interruption related to gender.

The researcher conducts the research under sociopragmatic study to find out the types of interruption, the linguistic features employed in the interruptions performed by the male character, and the purposes of the interruptions. The linguistic features that are observed in this research are the men’s linguistic features when performing interruption. They are swearing, teasing, command, and report talk. The researcher chooses the male characters to be analyzed because they tend to interrupt more than women in cross-sex conversation. To investigate the types of interruption, the researcher uses Ferguson’s theory in his journal in 1977 which consists of simple interruption, overlap, butting-in, and silent interruption. The last problem is the purposes of the interruption that consist of disruptive, cooperative, and neutral purposes.
Based on the limitation of the problem, the research problems can be formulated as follows.

1. What are the linguistic features uttered in the interruptions performed by the male characters in *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV series?
2. What types of interruption are uttered by the male characters in *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV series?
3. What are the purposes of the interruptions uttered by the male characters in *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV series?

C. Objective of the Research

Based on the research focuses, the objectives of this research are:

1. to identify the linguistic features uttered in the interruptions performed by the male characters in *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV series, and
2. to find out the types of interruption uttered by the male characters in *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV series,
3. to describe the purposes of the interruptions uttered by the male characters in *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV series.

D. Significance of the Research

This research is expected to give knowledge on interruption to the readers and increases their awareness that interruption is not only exist in daily conversation but also has several types and purposes, so that they understand the use of appropriate interruptions in daily conversation. It also hopefully can give additional knowledge on conversation analysis under pragmatic approach especially on the study of interruption to the students of English Department.
especially those majoring in linguistics. In addition, the research expected to be a reference for linguistic students who are interested conducting research in the similar topic, so that they may find some theoretical references in this thesis.
CHAPTER II
LITERATURE REVIEW AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter demonstrates relevant literature review which contains some theories that are related to the objectives of the research and a brief explanation about *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV series as the object of the research. In addition, some previous studies that are related to interruption, conceptual framework, and the analytical construct are also displayed in this chapter.

A. Literature Review

1. Sociopragmatics

   In social interaction, people use language differently in different situation. Although they talk about the same topic, they use different language when the partner of the conversation is different. For instance, a husband who introduces his wife to his boss might say “Good morning Mr. John, I’d like to introduce you to my wife, Maria”. The words become different from those when he talks to his close friend. He might say “Hi Jim, this is Maria, she is my wife”. From the example, the speaker talks about the same thing, he introduces his wife to someone, with different language styles. The factor that makes him use different language is the person whom he talks to. In this case, formal language is used when the speaker conducts the conversation with his boss whom he respects to because of the higher status of his boss. He uses informal language or casual conversation when he talks to his close friend.
It is clear that the way people use language is influenced by certain factors. The language use of people is influenced by some social aspects such as gender, social class, age, certain social situations, etc. Therefore, in conducting a research on the language phenomena, it is not only the language form and its function that need to be understood but also the social aspects which affect the use of language.

In conversation analysis, it does need not only the knowledge to understand the meaning of the speakers’ utterances in conversation but also the knowledge to understand the aspects that influence the way people use a particular language style. To observe the language forms and the meaning, pragmatics is the appropriate approach to be used, but when there are differences in social situations, social classes as well as cultures that affect the language use of the people, sociolinguistics must be employed too. Pragmatics as stated by Yule (1996:3) is the study of speaker’s meaning. Meanwhile, according to Wardaugh (2006:13), sociolinguistics is a study which concerns with analyzing the relationships between language and society to understand the structure of language and how language functions in communication. Therefore, the combination of pragmatics and sociolinguistics is needed in analyzing the meaning of language related to the social context. The combination of sociolinguistics and pragmatics is called sociopragmatics.

According to Leech (1983:10), sociopragmatics is the sociological interface of pragmatics which is based on the language used in different cultures of language communities in different social situations, among different social classes, gender, etc. Similarly, Anna Tronsborg (1995:37-38) says that it is concerned with the
analysis of significant patterns of interaction in particular social situations and in a particular social system. It emphasizes the interactive aspect and the acknowledgement of the social context. It means that people in their interaction use language differently based on different social contexts and situations. They consider that some aspects such as situation, place, with whom they talk to, and the accepted behaviors related to particular language rules in certain community influence the way they talk to others. In short, it can be said that sociopragmatic is the appropriate study to understand the language use based on the social context in communication.

2. Men’s Language

One of the social factors that affect the different language use of people is gender. According to Talbot (2010:7), gender is socially constructed; it is learned. People learn the characteristics which are perceived as masculine and feminine. In line with Talbot, Wardhaugh (2006: 327) states that men and women are social beings who have learned to act in certain ways. Men learn to be men and women learn to be women. Since their childhood, they receive different treatments. Boys usually play football and races which make them learn about competition, whereas girls usually play drama as a mother and a daughter with her dolls and play with her friends with cooking utensils which make them learn about intimacy and friendship. Wardhaugh argued that the differences between men and women are caused by those different treatments and the different roles that they acquired in the society. This difference also makes they behave and talk differently.
Men and women use different language styles. They speak differently. According to Wardaugh (2006: 322), women are reported to perform more polite forms and more compliments than men in order to develop solidarity with others and to maintain social relationship. Similarly, Tannen (in Talbot, 2010: 92-93) said that women’s characters in speaking are sympathy, rapport, listen, support, and intimacy. She argued that for most women, conversation is about establishing friendship and consolidating relationship. Lakoff in Weatherall (2002:57) also interpreted the style of the speech of women that she thought women’s language as hesitant, ingratiating and weak.

On the other hand, men are identically described as figures who are stronger and more powerful than women. It can be seen through their language that is more competitive than women. Tannen in Talbot (2010: 92-93) states that for most men, conversation is seen as a place for negotiating and maintaining status, so that they tend to show their knowledge and skill to get attention and keep it. She adds that men’s speaking styles are report, lecturing, independence, and status conscious. In line with Tannen, Zimmerman and West via Wardhaugh (2006: 324) show that men are more competitive and powerful in controlling conversation in cross-gender conversations. They have investigated that men more frequently interrupt than women in mixed-sex conversation as a strategy to maintain the control of conversation and prevent women from talking (Zhao and Gantz 2003: 349).
Men also carry certain linguistic features in performing interruption. Tannen (1990: 77-220) distinguishes men’s linguistic features into four, namely report talk, commands, teasing, and swearing.

1) Report Talk

According to Tannen (1990:74), men tend to perform a report talk whereas women tend to use a rapport talk. Tannen states that report talk is performed by showing knowledge and skill, and by becoming the center of the conversation through verbal performance such as storytelling, or giving information (1990: 77). For example:

A: Um, Doc [tor ..
B: [this] is the thing you gonna know about Bree.

In the dialogue, B as the male speaker performs a report talk by giving information to his partner. He shows that he understands more about the topic that they discussed than his partner so his partner is forced to pay attention to him. He makes his partner listen to him and indirectly he won the attention of his partner in the conversation. Men tend to use conversation as arenas for performing his knowledge to get attention. Therefore, report talk is one of their ways to make them the center of conversation.

2) Commands

Command is identical with power. Someone performs a command if he/she is more powerful or has a higher status than the others they command. In cross-sex conversation men are more powerful than women, so they tend to give more commands than women.
Men use a command to maintain their status as the one who has a higher position in conversation and has power to ask the others do what they said. According to Tannen (1990:26), men have a tendency to give commands to other people in conversation as a primary means of establishing status by telling them what to do. For example:

A: I think [we…
B: Go ahead and play!].

The dialogue above illustrates a conversation between husband and wife who give a suggestion to their children when they have dinner in the restaurant. Their children ask their permission to play at the play room. A as the wife said that they should finish the dinner first because it was a family time. On the other hand, B as the husband gives a command by interrupting his wife and let the children play in the other room. He shows that he is more powerful to give an order and make a decision in their conversation. From the example, it is clear that men use a command as the way to maintain their status as the one who is more powerful and has the right to control the conversation.

3) Teasing

According to Warm (1997) in Keltner et.al (2001:233), teasing is a deliberate act created by the teaser to make somebody feels worry, angry, embarrassed, and humiliated. Thus, it can be the way someone disturbs others by delivering unpleasant utterances. Men more frequently use teasing in conversation than women. They usually use teasing as the way to show their dominance and their power to humiliate others. It can be used as a way to make someone feel
ashamed and disturbed. By teasing, men can show their dominance through their jokes that make others uncomfortable or offended.

Teasing not only has negative purposes such as humiliating someone but also has positive purposes in establishing a good relationship. Teasing can be a form of friendly jokes that make the communication more fun, so it can be used to strengthen the relationship. Tannen (1990: 162) states that men often tease to show affection through a combative way since men are expected to control their feelings. Men always try to maintain their higher status in the conversation. It is reasonable that they tease to create a close relationship with women through a combative way. They probably think that showing their feelings to create affiliation with women explicitly is not prestigious. Thus, they try to control their feeling and try to maintain their status by teasing their partners in their conversation. For example:

A: I really hate the way you talk to me.
B: and I really hate that I spent $15,000 on your diamond necklace that you couldn’t live without, but I’m learning to deal with it.

In the conversation, B as the male speaker responds to the speaker A’s utterance by teasing her. He shows his power and humiliates the speaker A by saying that she cannot live without the diamond from him although she says that she really hates the way he speaks to her. From his teasing, he shows that he is more powerful than she.
4) Swearing

Another feature of men’s language is swearing. It is usually seen as a rude, profane, vulgar, taboo and offensive language. Swearing is used to express someone’s emotion to others. According to Cressman et.al (2009: 119) swearing is a socially constructed linguistic practice that associated with identity building and discursive power. It is reasonable if swearing has been associated to men rather than women because men tend to show their power in a conversation. Lakooif (in Merchant, 2012:12) adds that women tend to swear less and speak more politely than men. Lakooif (in Haas, 1979: 617) also states that men employ stronger swearing words, such as ‘damn’ or ‘shit’ in the conversation. The following is an example of swearing.

A: All we need is a few more sessions and I’m sure we [can …
B: Damn it ! ] a few more sessions isn’t gonna fix us.

The dialogue is about an argument between a husband and a wife who discuss their marriage counseling. The speaker A, the wife, thinks that they need a few more sessions of counseling to fix their marriage. On the other hand, the husband, the speaker B, interrupts her by delivering swearing words to show his emotion, his disagreement and his power in the conversation. He shows that he is the one who has an authority to decide something. He shows that he is more powerful than his wife by emphasizing his opinion with swearing words.
3. **Conversation Analysis**

Conversation is one of the most important things in a social interaction. People can communicate their ideas to each other through a conversation. According to Mey (1993:214), conversation is a way of using language socially and a way to do things with words with others. Similarly, Liddicoat (2007:1) states that conversation is the way people socialize and develop their relationships with others. For instance, when people buy something in a market, they have to conduct a conversation with the seller to get what they need. Thus, conversation cannot be separated from human’s activities because it is the way they fulfill their needs and the way they maintain their social relationship with others.

As an inescapable activity in human life, conversation has received a great attention from many researchers who are interested in social activity. As said by Burke (1993) in Liddicoat (2007:1), many researchers have focused on the rules or ideas to describe what a conversation should be. They focus on creating an appropriate conversation by describing how language is used to make a good conversation. According to Gardner in Davies and Elder (2004:263), one of approaches that primarily focuses on talk or spoken conversation is conversation analysis.

Conversation analysis is developed by Harvey Sacks and followed by Emmanuel A. Schegloff and Gail Jefferson. Lerner in Liddicoat (2007:4) says that conversation analysis concerns with the understanding of the organizational structure of talk which has influenced a number of social science disciplines concerned with human communication. Similarly, Liddicoat (2007:4) states that
Sacks developed conversation analysis as the study of social action which is aimed to investigate social order in the practices of everyday talk.

Harvey Sacks, by Emmanuel A. Schegloff, and Gail Jefferson in Pridham (2001:23) argues that conversation has its own dynamic structure and rules used by speakers to organize a conversation efficiently. They look at the way people take turns, what turn types there are, such as adjacency pairs and at discourse markers which indicate openings, closures and links between and across utterances (Pridham, 2001:23). In line with Pridham, Gardner (2004:264) states that the objectives of conversation analysis are to describe various sub-systems of talk combination and to focus not only on how speakers’ utterances are constructed but also on how speakers cooperate in an orderly taking of turns and how these turns are sequenced.

4. Turn-Taking

One of the fields clearly discussed in conversation analysis is turn-taking. According to Sack via Mei (1993:216), the basic unit in a normal conversation is “turn” which refers to a shift in the direction of the speaking flow. Generally, a conversation involves two or more people. To have a smooth conversation, the members of the conversation have to know when they have to switch their roles either as a speaker or as a listener. The switch of their position is called turn-taking (Mei, 2001:139).

People who conduct a conversation have to pay attention to their turn to know the transition of their roles to achieve a smooth conversation. Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson (1974) in Gardner (2004: 271) set the rules of turn called
transition relevance place (TRP) which is defined as the turn which becomes relevant or legitimate place for another party in the conversation to begin speaking.

The rules are explained as follows:

a. If the current speaker selects the next speaker, then the next speaker is obliged to take the turn, and the current speaker stops talking.

b. If the current speaker does not select the next speaker, the other member of the conversation then may take the floor/ take the turn. They may select themselves.

c. If the current speaker has not selected the next speaker, and no one of the conversation selects themselves, the current speaker then can continue or stop his/her turn.

Based on the rule of turn-taking, it is clear that there is only one speaker who speaks at a time. When someone as the first speaker is done with his/her speech and reaches the transition relevance place, he/she may give the turn to other participants of the conversation. He or she must be listening and stop talking when another is holding their turn whether the floor is gained by selecting themselves or by being selected by him or her. If there is no one who takes the turn after his/her turn, he/she has a right to continue or to stop.

5. Interruption

People should be aware to the turn-transition when they are having a conversation with others to create a smooth conversation. In conducting a conversation, the participants are expected to follow the turn-taking rule which clarifies that only one speaker may talk at a time. However, many of them violate
the role of turn-taking and perform interruption. They start talking when another person is talking. The act to cut someone’s utterances is the basic idea of interruption.

The term “interruption” or as first defined as an “overlap” by Sacks et.al (1974) is found in the conversation when there is a violation in the turn of the speaker (Meziane, 2013: 13). Similarly, Zimmerman and West (1983) in Marche (1993:388) also state that interruption is an instance of a simultaneous speech that disturbs another speaker’s turn. In line with the previous theories, Zhao and Gantz (2003:349) defined interruption as an act in which a new speaker starts a turn while the current speaker has not yet completed his/her turns; therefore, the smooth switch between speakers is impossible to reach. It means the next speaker cuts the first speaker’s ongoing utterance. Furthermore, James and Clarke via Zhao Fei (2010:14) also state that interruption is an act to prevent the current speaker from being able to finish his or her utterance and to allow the next speaker to take the floor.

In Yule’s opinion, turn is also defined as the floor or right to speak (1996:72). When someone speaks in a conversation, it means he/she holds the floor or has right to speak. He/she has right to choose the next speaker by giving the floor to the other participants. He/she may select the next speaker directly by calling the name, or just giving a certain sign that his/her utterance is completed and let others take the turn. It is in line with the rule of turn-taking that is set by Sack et.al. In contrast, when other participants cut the first speaker’s turn and starts talking, the rule of turn-taking is violated, and interruption happens. It means that
they take other’s floor or someone’s right to speak. Therefore, it is reasonable that interruption is seen as rudeness and an impolite act toward others in a conversation.

a. Types of Interruption

To find out the types of interruption, this research uses the theory classified by Ferguson in 1977 (in Marche, 1993:394). He concludes that there are four types of interruption. Most types of interruption seem to involve some simultaneous speeches. He divides the types of interruptions into four that are simple interruptions, overlaps interruptions, butting-in interruption, and silent interruptions. The further explanations of those types are presented below.

1) Simple Interruption

Simple interruption occurs when the original speaker’s utterance is disrupted by another participant who speaks simultaneously and succeeds in taking the floor. In simple interruption, a simultaneous speech may occur, and the utterance of the first speaker is incomplete. For example:

A : I didn’t have time, [last
B : I don’t want hear your excuses].

The dialogue shows that A cannot complete his/her utterance because the interruption performed by B. After being interrupted, A cannot take the floor back while B holds the floor and completes his/her utterance.

2) Overlap Interruption

In overlap interruption, there is a simultaneous speech between the speakers at the same time. Different from the simple interruption, in this type, the first speaker is able to complete his/her utterance although he/she is being interrupted by
the interrupter. The interrupter is also successful in completing his/her utterance without any break. For example:

A : I’m not obligated to share every little detail [of my life.  
B : Every little detail is one thing, weird secrets is another].

From the dialogue above, it is clear that there is a simultaneous speech between the speakers. Although being interrupted by the second speaker, the first speaker is able to complete his/her utterance. Without any break, the second speaker is able to interrupt his/her partner and complete his/her own utterance.

3) Butting-in Interruption

In butting-in interruption, there is a simultaneous speech between the speakers but the interrupter cannot complete his/her utterance. The first speaker who is interrupted is able to hold the floor and able to complete his/her utterance. On the other hand, the interrupter does not succeed in completing his/her utterance and he/she is not able to take the floor because the first speaker keeps talking and does not give any chance to him/her to take the floor. For example:

A : … Although I don’t think anybody would do that unless they’re going against what she says [and I  
B : Ya, but  
A : can’t see anybody going against that].

(Marche, 1993:394)

The dialogue shows that the first speaker can complete his/her utterance although being interrupted by the second speaker. The interrupter is not able to take the floor because the first speaker ignores him/her and continues his/her speech.
4) Silent Interruption

There is not a simultaneous speech involved in this interruption, and the current speaker’s utterance is not completed when the interrupter takes the floor. The interrupter takes the floor when the first speaker is silent for a while. In the pause of the first speaker utterance, the second speaker interrupts him/her, so he/she is not able to complete his/her utterance. For example:

A: But before you knew all this stuff, before you knew that she was [(pause<1sec)]
B: That was Tina]

(Marche, 1993:394)

The dialogue shows that there is not a simultaneous speech. The second speaker interrupts the first speaker at his/her silent. Because of the interruption, the first speaker cannot complete his/her utterance.

b. Purposes of Interruption

Interruption has different purposes based on the context. It is usually seen as a negative act because people think that it is used to take other’s right of speech, take other’s turn. Actually, interruption is not only has negative purposes but also has positive purposes in a conversation. There are two functions of interruption suggested by Murata (in Li, Han Z, 2001: 269) cooperative and intrusive/disruptive/competitive interruption while Goldberg (in Li, Han Z, 2001: 260) adds one function that is neutral interruption. The further explanation about each function is presented below.
1) Cooperative Interruption

Interruptions can be categorized as a cooperative one when the function of turn-taking is to finish another’s utterance or to add a supportive comment. Zhao and Gantz (2003: 354) suggest that cooperative interruption is used by an interrupter to show agreement, understanding, interest in topic, and the need for clarification.

a) To show agreement

An interrupter uses interruption in a conversation to show their agreement to a topic that his/her partner says. For example:

A: What problems could she have had? She was healthy, had a great home, a nice family. Her life [was]
B: Our life, yeah, you’re right].

The dialogue above shows that the interruption performed by the second speaker is used to show his/her agreement towards the idea delivered by the previous speaker, the A. The second speaker finishes the first speaker’s utterance by saying “our life”. Those words may represent the idea that will be said by the first speaker, so the second speaker tries to complete his/her utterance by interrupting him/her. The interrupter also says “yeah, you’re right”. It is clear that he/she is agrees with the previous speaker’s opinion.

b) To show understanding

The purpose of interruption here is to show understanding in response to an expressed opinion by the speaker. For example:

A: I shouldn’t have said anything. If my dad [found out] I won’t tell your father]
B: Zachary! it’s all right!
The purpose of the second speaker’s interruption is to show his/her understanding. He/she understands what will Zachary say. The interrupter understands the situation that makes her partner of conversation say that utterance, so he/she prevents him to continue his utterance because he/she already knows it.

c) To show interest in topic

Interruption is frequently performed in order to show the interest in certain topics that the speakers discuss. For example:

A: I can only imagine. Not knowing why Mary Alice
B: Why what?

The first speaker tells the second speaker an issue. The second speaker interrupts him/her to show his/her interest in the topic that the first speaker says. He/she shows his/her enthusiasm towards the issue delivered by the first speaker.

d) To show the need for clarification

It happens when an interrupter needs clarification of what the interrupted speaker has said. The form of interruption in order to show the need for clarification is usually in the form of question. For example:

A: Oh Doc, um, I will
B: Is there some truth there?

The dialogue above happens in a marriage counselor’s room. Previously, the speakers discuss the problem of the first speaker. When the second speaker as the counselor asks something, the first speaker as the client seems so doubt to answer the question, so the counselor interrupts her for need of clarification. The interruption performed by the counselor is cooperative because it is used to make
something clear. He needs a clarification from the client to know the problem clearly.

2) Disruptive Interruption

Speech turns can be classified into disruptive interruption when the balance/symmetry in a conversation is lost. The speaker disrupts another’s turn and restricts their contribution. It is used by an interrupter to show disagreement, to change topic, and to take the floor of the conversation.

a) Disagreement

The interrupter uses interruption in a conversation to show his/her disagreement to a topic that his/her partner says. For example:

A : If you excuse [me
B : No!] not until you tell me

The interruption used in the dialogue above shows the disagreement of the interrupter toward the first speaker’s statement. He/she uses interruption to make the first speaker unable to complete his/her utterances because he/she will not agree with the first speaker’s idea.

b) Floor taking

The purpose of this interruption is to take the floor without any intention to change the topic of the first speaker. For example:

A : So put the fish sticks in the toaster oven at five [o’clock for half an hour, that’s third time you’ve told me].
B :

The second speaker in the dialogue above simply cuts the first speaker’s utterance without any intention to change the topic of the conversation. They still discuss fish stick. The interrupter uses interruption to take the floor, to make the
first speaker stops speaking because it was the third time he/she talks about the same thing.

c) Topic change

This purpose is performed by the interrupter to change the topic of the conversation. It may happen because he/she has another interesting topic to be discussed. For example:

A : I’m thinking about chicken sal [timbocca]
B : I wanna divorce.

In the dialogue above, it is clear that the interrupter uses interruption to change the topic of the conversation. The first speaker talks about food while the second one talks about divorce. The interrupter cuts the first speaker’s utterance and forces him/her to discuss something that he/she wants.

3) Neutral Interruption

James and Clarke via Zhao Fei (2010:15) mention that many linguists, including Goldberg (1990), Bull and Mayer (1998), Tannen (1989), and so on, do find some instances of interruptions, which the interrupters do not want to take the floor on purpose, and also there is not clear support or agreement. In other words, these interruptions are neither clear cooperative, nor clear competitive. They are neutral cases of interruptions. For example:

A : I was thinking about driving up to the Germany Vineyard tomorrow for this wine tasting [and]
B : What time should me be ready?].
A : (laugh)

The interruption above is not about disagreeing or agreeing something because actually the first speaker does not invite the second speaker to join his/her
activity. He/she simply talks about his/her plan. The interrupter makes a joke with his/her question that makes him/her pretend to be invited to join the activity. There is not a topic change too because they still talk about the same topic. There also is not floor taking because the second speaker let the first speaker hold the floor again by asking a question. It is simply used to make the conversation more fun.

6. Desperate Housewives Season 1

In this study, the researcher uses an American TV Series entitled *Desperate Housewives*. The first season of *Desperate Housewives*, an American television series created by Marc Cherry, commenced airing in the United States on October 3rd, 2004, concluded on May 22nd, 2005, and consisted of 23 episodes. In the first premier, *Desperate Housewives* made the ABC proud because it attracted 21.3 million viewers. It won the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series in 2005. It also earned 15 nominations in that year, including winning Huffman’s Emmy.

It tells the story of Mary Alice Young, a seemingly perfect housewife who commits suicide, fearing that a dark secret, involving her, her husband, and their son would be exposed. At her wake, Mary Alice's four close friends and the main characters, Susan Mayer, Lynette Scavo, Bree Van de Kamp and Gabrielle Solis, are introduced. All of them live in the suburb of fairview on Wisteria Lane. Narrating the series from the grave, Mary Alice describes how her friends try to find out the reason for her suicide, while trying to deal with the problems of their personal lives.
The first season of *Desperate Housewives* consists of 23 episodes, but the researcher uses only the first-ten episodes to be the object of the research. The first-ten episodes are used as the object of the research because in those episodes the background of the whole story is introduced. In those episodes, the conflict and the problems of the characters are presented to attract the audience’s attention. This research focuses on the male main characters that consist of six people, Mr. Solis, Mr. Rex Van de Kamp, Mr. Tom Scavo, Mr. Mike, Mr. Paul, and Zachary.

7. Previous Studies

Interruption is one of conversational phenomena that becomes an interesting topic to be observed by many researchers. One of those researches conducting interruption as the topic of the research was Xiaquan and Walter Gantz (2003). They conducted a research entitled *Disruptive and Cooperative Interruptions in Prime-Time Television Fiction: The Role of Gender, Status, and Topic*. This research investigated the role of gender, status, and topic in their relation with interruption.

This research found that in *Prime-Time* Television Fiction, male characters interrupt more disruptively and less cooperatively than female characters. Disruptive interruptions are more likely to occur in interactions with either differential positive or negative status and less occurs in a neutral status. The topic of a conversation also influences the performing disruptive and cooperative interruption by male and female characters. This research used conversation analysis approach and a quantitative method in conducting the research.
The similarity between that previous study and this research is that these both discuss gender and interruption in a TV fiction. Compared to the previous study, this research does not discuss the role of a status and a topic in interruption. It discusses the types and functions of interruption. Different from that previous study that used a quantitative method, this research uses a descriptive qualitative method.

Another research is conducted by Amalia Putri Lestari (2014) as an undergraduate thesis entitled “A Sociopragmatic Analysis on Interruptions Performed by the Male Characters in New Girl Season 2 TV Series”. This research has three objectives which are to identify the linguistic features employed in the interruption performed by the male characters, to discover the types of interruption which appear in the male characters’ utterances, and to describe the purposes of the interruption performed by the male characters in New Girl: Season 2 TV series.

The result of the research showed that there were four linguistic features employed in the interruptions performed by the male characters in New Girl: Season 2 TV series. They were report talk, command, teasing, and swearing. Then, there were only three types of interruptions which appeared in the male characters’ utterances in New Girl: Season 2 TV series, i.e. simple interruption, overlap interruption, and silent interruption. From 34 data, overlap interruption became the highest rank. Based on the function, both disruptive and cooperative interruption appeared to accomplish a certain purpose. Three purposes of disruptive interruption were employed, i.e. disagreement, floor taking, and topic change. Meanwhile, only
two purposes in cooperative interruption appeared, i.e. to show understanding and to show the need for clarification.

Similar to the previous study explained above, this research concerns with the linguistic features, types and the purposes of interruptions performed by the main characters of Desperate Housewives. The difference of these researches is on the object of the research. The object of that previous is New Girl: Season 2 TV series while this research uses Desperate Housewives Season 1 TV series as the object.

B. Conceptual Framework

This research is conducted under a sociopragmatic approach. Sociopragmatics is a combination of sociolinguistic and pragmatic study. The researcher uses sociolinguistic study to identify the linguistic features of male language in performing interruption in Desperate Housewives Season 1. The researcher uses Tannen’s theory in identifying the linguistic features of male language. Tannen (1990: 77-220) distinguishes men’s linguistic features into four, namely report talk, commands, teasing, and swearing.

In identifying the types and the purposes of interruption, the researcher uses conversation analysis under pragmatic approach to analyze the types and interpret the purposes based on certain contexts. To analyze the types of interruption, the researcher uses Ferguson’s theory dividing interruption into four types. They are simple interruption, overlap interruption, butting-in interruption, and silent interruption. The purposes of interruption are observed by using Murata and
Goldberg’s classification dividing the purposes of interruption into disruptive, cooperative, and neutral interruption.

Disruptive interruption consists of showing disagreement, taking the floor, and the changing of topic conversation while interruptions are classified into cooperative when it is used by the interrupter to show agreement, understanding, interest in topic, and the need for clarification. Furthermore, interruptions are classified into neutral if the functions are neither clear cooperative, nor clear competitive. Based on this conceptual framework, the researcher makes an analytical construct in order to make the framework of the concept used in this research clearer.
A SOCIOPRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF INTERRUPTIONS BY THE MALE CHARACTERS IN MARC CHERRY’S DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES SEASON 1 TV SERIES

Figure I. Analytical Construct
CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter describes the research method which includes type of the study, form, context and source of data; research instrument; data collecting technique; data analysis and trustworthiness.

A. Type of Research

This research used descriptive qualitative approach. There were two primary reasons why this approach was the main method in this research. Firstly, the data of this research were analyzed descriptively. As stated by Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009:7), the qualitative method was used to describe the phenomenon in narrative or textual form. This research focused on interruption phenomenon and explained the phenomenon in narrative description based on the theories. By using qualitative research, the phenomenon in its context could be analyzed clearly and described deeply in a narrative way. In line with Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009:167), qualitative research is aimed to be more descriptive in order to make a deep and understandable research. However, to interpret the data, to support the findings, and to present the number of data found in this research the research also used quantitative method, quantitative method was also used.

Secondly, the phenomenon analyzed in this research was interruption in human daily conversation. It was one of the social phenomena that can be explored deeply by using qualitative method. According to Creswell (2009:6), qualitative method was used to explore and understand the meaning of social or
human problem. Since interruption was a conversational phenomenon in society, qualitative research was an appropriate method to be used.

**B. Form, Context, and Source of Data**

Since the object of this research was a TV series, the primary data of this study were the utterances spoken by the main male characters in the *Desperate Housewives Season 1*. The data used in this research focused on the interruption and men’s linguistics features that carried by the characters when interrupting. The data were in form of words, phrases, or sentences uttered by the main male characters. The contexts of the data were the dialogues or conversation containing interruption taken from the TV series. The sources of the data were the first-ten episodes in the first season of *Desperate Housewives* TV series and its transcript. They were selected because the background of the whole story was introduced in those episodes.

**C. Data Collecting Technique**

Several techniques used to collect data in qualitative study. Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009:189) explain that there are some techniques of qualitative data collection, i.e. interviews, ethnography observation, analysis of documents and material culture, and visual analysis. They state that visual analysis is the technique that is used in interpreting mediated communication texts such as films or television programs. Therefore, the researcher used visual analysis that was the most appropriate technique since the data is taken from TV series.
The procedures of data collection in this research are:

1. watching *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV series,
2. checking the accuracy of the transcript,
3. selecting the dialogues which contain interruptions, and
4. marking the interruptions and the men’s linguistic features in the transcript and recording the time of the interruptions.

D. Research Instruments

According to Lincoln and Guba (in Vanderstoep and Jonston, 2009: 188), the best instrument for qualitative research is human. They argued that human instruments are shaped by his/her experience and he/she can adjust the circumstance of the research easily. This is in line with what Creswell (2009: 175) said that the researcher is the main instrument in qualitative research. He added that the qualitative researchers may use other instruments for collecting the data but they are the ones who conduct examination, observation, or interview to gather the data. Therefore, in this thesis, the primary instrument was the researcher herself. The researcher was involved in all process of the research observation, analysis, and the data interpretation. The secondary instrument of this research was the data sheet which is explained as follows:
Table 1: Linguistic Features, Types and Purposes of Interruptions Performed by the Male Characters in *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV Series

Notes:
- RT: Report Talk
- C: Command
- T: Teasing
- S: Swearing
- Di: Disagreement
- FT: Floor Taking
- TC: Topic Change
- TSA: To show agreement
- TSU: To show understanding
- TSI: To show interest in topic
- TSC: To show the need of clarification
- N: Neutral

1/1/00:26:44-00:26:48: number of data/episode/time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Dialogues</th>
<th>Linguistic Features</th>
<th>Types of Interruption</th>
<th>Purposes of Interruption</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RT</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/1/0</td>
<td>Bree: “I think [we” Rex: “Go ahead and play]”</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This dialogue happens when their child asks permission to play at the other room of the restaurant. Bree as the mother thinks that it is family time so her child should be there. Her husband, Rex shows his disagreement through his interruption. He also uses command interrupting.
E. Data Analysis Techniques

After the data were collected and served in the data sheet, the researcher analyzed them. According to Cresswell (2009:183), in qualitative research, the process of analyzing data involves preparing data, understanding data, presenting and interpreting data. He also said that qualitative data analysis is conducted simultaneously by gathering data, making interpretations, and writing reports. Since this research was qualitative research, the analysis was started when the raw data were classified and arranged in a data sheet. The steps in analyzing data were illustrated as follows:

1. putting the collected data in a data sheet,
2. categorizing the data based on the classification,
3. analyzing the data based on the context and the theories to answer the research questions,
4. discussing the data in the data sheet with her peer reviewers who are linguistics students,
5. consulting the data to the supervisors, and
6. writing the research report and drawing the conclusion.

F. Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness is established to ensure the quality of the data analysis. According to Vanderstoep and Johnston (2008:179), trustworthiness can be gained by using triangulation. Norman K. Denzin in Given (2008:892) defines triangulation as a combination of methods to study interrelated phenomena from multiple and different perspectives. He presents three triangulation methods. The
first one is investigator triangulation that is used to achieve trustworthiness by involving more than one investigator in collecting and investigating the data. The second one is theory triangulation that is used to check the research findings by using different theoretical perspectives. The last one is triangulation of data sources that is used to present the evidences from various data sources.

In order to reach credibility and accuracy of data findings, the data of this research were triangulated by referring to some relevant theories and discussing the data and findings with the researcher’s peer reviewers. They were Maulida Fitriyanti and Ridhofarianti. They were chosen because they are linguistics students and they understood the topic of this research. The researcher also consulted the results of the triangulated data findings with her supervisors, Titik Sudartinah, M.A and Susana Widyastuti, Ph.D.
CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the result of the research, the linguistic features, the types and the purposes of interruption done by the male characters in Desperate Housewives Season 1 TV series. This chapter provides a deep explanation about the results and describes them into two main sections. They are findings and discussion. The first section shows the frequency of linguistic features, types of interruption, and purposes of interruption. Then, the discussion section presents some detail explanation of the findings.

A. Findings

The findings of this research, the frequency of linguistic features, types interruption, and purposes of interruption in Desperate Housewives Season 1 are showed in this section. From all the analyzed utterances, the total data collected in this research are 20 data and are showed in Table 2 to support the discussion and to provide more information about the frequency of the occurrence of the result data. Several types and purposes of interruptions are found but some of them do not exist. All the linguistic features are also found in this research.
Table 2: Frequency of Occurrence of Linguistic Features, and Types and Purposes of Interruptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Men’s Linguistic Features</th>
<th>Types of Interruption</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Purposes of Interruption</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>S</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Si</td>
<td>Di</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Report Talk</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Command</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Teasing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Swearing</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
- S : Simple Interruption
- O : Overlap Interruption
- B : Butting-in Interruption
- Si : Silent Interruption
- Di : Disagreement
- FT : Floor Taking
- TC : Topic Change
- TSA : To Show Agreement
- TSU : To Show Understand
- TSI : To Show Interest in Topic
- TSC : To Show Clarification

Based Table 2, three types of interruption are found, namely simple, overlap, and butting-in interruption. Not all types classified by Ferguson (1977) are found in this TV series. Silent interruption is the type which is not found in this research meaning that there is no interruption which happens in the silent moment of the current speaker. From those three types of interruption, simple and overlap interruption are the ones frequently employed by the male characters.

In terms of men’s linguistic features, there are three features proposed by Tannen are found in this research, namely report talk, command, and swearing. Based on Table 2, the most frequently used is report talk. It is employed 17 times out of the total 20 data. It indicates that the male characters mostly use
conversation as self-display and being the center of conversation through their speaking in form of story telling or giving information.

In addition, there are three main purposes of interruption presented in Table 2, i.e. disruptive, cooperative, and neutral interruption. As presented in Table 2, neutral interruption is not found meaning that all interruptions in this study have either disruptive or cooperative purposes. The difference in the frequency of cooperative and disruptive interruption implies that the male characters in this TV series more frequently use interruption disruptively than use it cooperatively. It can be seen from the 20 purposes that are presented in Table 2, the most dominant purpose of interruption is to show disagreement. In contrast, the purpose of showing agreement is not found in this research.

B. Discussion

This section presents detailed explanation of the findings and describes the interpretation of research data in order to address the research objectives. It exposes the findings of the types of interruption, men’s linguistic features, and purposes of interruption.

1. Men’s Linguistic Features

The researcher uses Tannen’s theory (1990) to analyze the men’s linguistic features. As Tannen said that in performing interruption, men also carry certain linguistic features so this research analyzes the men’s linguistic features in interruption. Based on the findings, there are three men’s linguistic features proposed by Tannen (1990) are found in this research, i.e. report talk, command, and swearing.
a. Report Talk

Report talk is found to be used to show knowledge and skill, to hold the floor, to maintain status, to solve a problem, and to be the center of conversation through stories, jokes, or information they conveyed. As shown in Table 2, report talk becomes the most common feature used by male characters in the dialogue. It indicates that the male characters in the TV series mostly use conversation as an arena to display their dominant role and to maintain their social status by attracting other's attention through their verbal performance. The following is an example of report talk.

Bree: Mrs. Stark, you handle this however you see [fit ...]
Rex: Bree! I’ve gone to an attorney, you’re gonna be served divorce papers later today. (12/7/00:10:22-00:10:27)

In the dialogue, Rex’s interruption can be one of report talk as he gives information to his wife. Bree, does not know that he need to go to an attorney and prepare a divorce. Rex interrupts her by using report talk to prevent her in continuing speech. Because of the information he said, his wife is speechless and cannot continue her utterance.

The dialogue takes place in the headmaster’s room in Andrew’s school. Andrew, the son of Rex and Bree, amuses some of his friends by shoving a freshman’s head into a locker. He breaks the boy’s nose. The headmaster calls Rex and Bree to inform that the school cannot tolerate their son’s action. She says that Andrew has to leave the school. Rex thinks that her son is angry because of his parents’ marital problem. When his wife attempts to ask the headmaster to handle
the problem, Rex cuts her utterance because he thinks that they are the ones who must take the responsibility of their son’s action.

The next example of report talk can be seen in Lynette and Tom’s conversation at their house.

Lynette: I am stuck in the middle and it is really [starting to get to me. Whoa! Whoa! For your information!] I thought you throw an amazing dinner party tonight.

Tom: [15/7/00:40:09-00:40:14]

Tom tells his wife that she makes an amazing dinner and shows his disappointment implicitly by saying “amazing dinner” which implies that Lynette has ruined his dinner. By saying “for your information” with a loud voice, he emphasizes that his wife has to know what he thinks toward what Lynette did that night.

The dialogue takes place after Tom’s dinner party with his colleagues at his house. After the dinner, his colleagues ask Tom to tell his idea related to their business. When Tom explains his idea to his colleagues, Lynette cuts his speech and tells her own. The colleagues are more interested in Lynette’s than Tom’s idea. When the party is over, Tom and Lynette have an argument. Lynette tries to explain that she just wants to participate in the forum but Tom thinks that she makes his idea seen bad. Lynette thinks that what Tom did is not fair. She was a great career woman before they had kids. She tries to be a great wife and mother to fulfill her husband’s expectation. Thus, in high tensions, she says “I am stuck in the middle” which means she cannot be what she wants to be, she leaves her career and tries to deal with the situation that she does not like.
Another example of report talk is also found in the conversation between Susan and Mike.

Susan: I wouldn’t know because you never let me in. You’re completely [walled off.]
Mike: I have a gun] for protection and cash for emergencies. I’m a good guy Susan, you should know that.

(17/8/00:30:40-00:30:49)

Through this report talk, Mike gives an information to Susan that she must not be suspicious about the things that she found in his house. He explains that the gun is used for protection and the cash is for emergency purpose. He emphasizes his information by saying “I’m a good guy Susan, you should know that”. He informs her that he is a good guy and he wants her to trust him.

The dialogue takes place in Mike’s house, the day after, Susan finds a gun and some money in cash at Mike’s shelf. She finds the things unintentionally when she tries to find the dog biscuits for Mike’s dog. She is suspicious about what Mike actually does. She asks him to get an explanation. Firstly, Mike does not want to tell her because he thinks that she must trust him. Then, in the next day, Susan comes to Mike again and asks about the same things because she wants to confirm that he is not a drug dealer. Mike informs her about the used of the gun and cash and gives her explanation that he is a good person.

b. Command

There is only two phenomena of command found in this TV series. Commands are used by the male characters when they perform interruption to show their authorities to decide something or to ask others to do what they want. Generally somebody who gives a command is the one who has higher status than
the one who is commanded. Command is classified as one of men’s linguistic features because it relates to power. In society, men are assumed as the figures who are more powerful than women. Thus, they tend to give more commands to women in cross-sex conversation. An example of command found in this TV series is presented in Bree and Rex conversation.

Bree : This is family time I think [we ...].
Rex : go ahead and play.  
(2/1/00:26:47-00:26:48)

The interruption performed by Rex clearly contains a command. Rex cuts his wife’s utterance and commands their children who ask their permission to play at the play room in the restaurant. Bree thinks that it is family time so they must spend the time together. She does not accept the children’s permission. Before she completes her utterance, his husband interrupts her and gives command to the children to play. In this dialogue, Rex shows his power to decide something in his family. Bree cannot debate him when he let their children to play although she actually disagrees with her husband’s idea.

Another example of command found in this TV series is presented below.

Bree : He’s trying to buy your [love].
Rex : For God’s sake don’t be paranoid!  
(13/7/00:20:19-00:20:24)

In the dialogue, Rex commands his wife by saying “don’t be paranoid”. He shows his power and his dominant role through his order and emphasizes it. By taking order upon what Rex said, Bree implies that Rex is the one who is more powerful than her.
The dialogue occurs when Rex gives some gifts for his children. He gives a car to his son and a luggage to his daughter who wants to go to modelling academy in New York. He also permits his daughter to join the modelling academy before discussing it with Bree. Bree orders her children not to accept the gifts from their father because she thinks that it is Rex’s strategy to get their attentions. In her opinion, his husband wants to make the children more respect to their father than her after the divorce. On the other hand, Rex disagrees with his wife’s opinion so he interrupts her and commands her not to be paranoid.

c. Swearing

In Table 2, there is only one phenomenon of swearing found in this research. Swearing can be defined as the use of offensive language like ‘shit, ‘damn’, ‘fuck’, and so on. Men are assumed to swear more than women in conversation in order to show their power. They often use swear words when they are in anger or in disappointment to emphasize their feeling. An instance of swearing found in this TV series is presented below.

Bree : all we need is a few more sessions and I’m sure we [can ... Damn it,Bree!]
Rex : a few more sessions isn’t gonna fix us.
( 7/3/00:16:08-00:16:12 )

Rex performs swearing by saying “damn it” to his wife. In this case, he uses that word to emphasize his anger toward what his wife has said before. He interrupts Bree after she talks to Dr. Goldfine in their marriage counseling that they need a few more sessions to fix their relationship. He interrupts his wife in order to prevent her in completing her utterance because he thinks that their relationship
cannot be fixed. Rex disagrees with her idea and expresses his anger as Bree does not accept his decision to divorce her.

2. Types of Interruption

Based on Ferguson’s theory (1977) of the types of interruption, it is found that not all types of interruption are found in this TV Series. The types found in this research are simple interruption, overlap interruption, and butting-in interruption.

a. Simple Interruption

Table 2 shows that simple interruption is the most common type which occurs 10 times out of the total 20 data meaning that in delivering interruption to others, the male characters in this TV series mostly use simple interruption. It occurs when the interrupter succeeds in taking the floor and the current speaker cannot complete their utterance after being interrupted by the second speaker or the interrupter. In simple interruption, a simultaneous speech may occur between the interrupter and the current speaker which means the interrupter starts talking when the interrupted speaker is still speaking.

An instance of simple interruption is presented below.

Lynette : So put the fish sticks in toaster oven at five [o’clock \textbf{For half an hour}]. I know that’s the third time you’ve told me.  
\hspace{1cm} \begin{table}[h]
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{Time} & \textbf{Event} \\
\hline
10:00 & Lynette \textit{\quad} put the fish sticks in toaster oven at five \textbf{For half an hour} \textit{\quad} I know that’s the third time you’ve told me. \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
\end{table}

The conversation contains simple interruption because Tom stats talking and prevents Lynette in continuing her utterance. She cannot finish her utterance after being interrupted. Therefore, the interruption performed by Tom is categorized into simple interruption. Furthermore, there is simultaneous speech
between Lynette and Tom. By saying “for half an hour”, Tom prevents Lynette to continue her speech because he already knew what she wanted to say.

The conversation takes place in the house. Lynette is going to dinner party with her best friends to reminisce about Mary Alice Young, her bestfriend who dies because of the suicide. Both of them are invited but Tom must stay at home because they cancelled the nanny to keep their children. Before leaving home, Lynette reminds her husband about their children’s schedule. She also explains what time the children eat and what foods must be prepared. Tom interrupts her because she talks about the same thing many times.

Another example is also showed in Bree and Rex’s dialogue that shows that dominance can influence the use of interruption. The dialogue occurs in the restaurant when their children ask permission to play at another room. Bree does not permit them but Rex commands them to play.

   Bree : This is family time I think [ we ... 
   Rex : [Go ahead and play].
   ( 2/1/00:26:47-00:26:48 )

The dialogue contains simple interruption because Rex talks when Bree is still talking. She cannot complete her utterance because her husband succeeds in taking the floor. The dialogue shows that Rex, the husband, is more powerful than her in controlling conversation because she cannot finish her speech and complete her idea after being interrupted by her husband.

The other example of simple interruption is also found in dialogue between Bree and Rex when they are in marriage councelling.
Bree: Um, Doc [tor ...  
Rex: This is the thing you gonna know about Bree. She doesn’t like to talk about her feelings.  
( 5/2/00:18:07-00:18:10 )

Rex’s interruption clearly categorized as simple interruption because he takes the floor and explains his opinion about his wife’s problem before she completes her sentence in answering a question from the doctor. Although there is a simultaneous speech between them, Bree stops her speech when her husband speaks.

b. Overlap Interruption

Overlap interruption is the second rank of the most frequent type found in this TV series which emerges 9 times. It occurs when there is a simultaneous speech between the interrupter and the interrupted speaker. Different from the previous type where the interrupted speaker cannot complete his/her utterance, in this type, both speaker can finish their utterance. The interrupted speaker does not stop talking even though he/she is being interrupted.

An example of overlap interruption can be seen as follows.

Susan: Well, every little detail is one thing, weird secret is [another.  
Mike: Whatever! I don’t wanna be with somebody who doesn’t trust me.  
( 17/8/00:30:53-00:30:58 )

The dialogue shows that Susan, the current speaker, succeeds in completing her utterance even though she is being interrupted. Thus, Mike’s interruption can be categorized as overlap interruption.

Mike interrupts Susan to show his anger because she comes to his house to ask about the gun and cash she found in his shelf. He explains that those things
are used for protection and emergency. He says that he has no obligation to share every detail of his life to others. She thinks that it is a weird secret and she keeps asking about it. Because of the suspicion, he cuts her utterance and says “Whatever! I don’t wanna be with somebody who doesn’t trust me”. He is angry because she does not trust him.

Overlap interruption is also used by Rex in his dialogue with his wife, Bree. The dialogue is presented as follows.

Bree: Maybe if we take it away from him, he’ll understand what he did. He has not shown an ounce remorse since the accident.
Rex: Of course, he feels bad. He’s just, you know, keeping up a facade.

(18/9/00:10:03-00:10:06)

There is a simultaneous speech when Bree says “accident” and Rex says “Of course”. The dialogue shows that when she is still talking, he cuts her utterance and does not wait her to finish her speech. Although being interrupted, she can hold her turn and finish her utterance. Both speaker can complete their idea. Therefore, Rex’s interruption is classified into overlap interruption.

The dialogue takes place at a swimming pool where their son, Andrew, joins a swimming competition. She asks Rex to make Andrew quit from the swimming team as a punishment for crashing somebody and running away which make them throw the car away to save their son. Although she saves her son from the police, she wants to make her son take a responsibility of what he did. On the other hand, he does not agree with her idea. He thinks that his son feel bad but he can hide the feeling.
Another example of overlap interruption is also found in the dialogue between Bree and Rex in a golf yard.

Bree : Yes, I [am].
Rex : If you try], I’m gonna go to the coach and tell him to ignore you.

(19/9/00:21:43-00:21:46)

Rex’s interruption can be categorized as overlap interruption because he starts talking in the middle of her wife’s speech but she keeps talking and holding her turn even though being interrupted by her husband.

The setting of the dialogue above is in a golf yard where Bree meets and tells Rex an important information. She finds the smell of marijuana in Andrew’s room. She forces his son to put his urine in a bottle and she asks Rex to test the urine. If the result is positive, meaning that Andrew smokes marijuana, she will ask her husband to take Andrew out from the swimming team as the consequence of his action. He does not agree with her wife’s idea and says that she cannot take Andrew out from the swimming team even though the result is positive. She debates him by saying “yes, I am”, but she is interrupted by him. He threatens her by going to their son’s coach and telling him to ignore her if she tries to take their son out from the team. In this case, he shows his power over his wife to take a decision in his family.

c. Butting-in Interruption

Based on Table 2, Butting-in interruption occurs once in this research. Different from the two previous types where the interrupter is able in completing his/her utterance, in butting-in interruption, the interrupter is not able to hold the
floor and to finish his/her utterance after being ignored by the first speaker. On the other hand, the first speaker who is interrupted is able to hold the floor or to take the floor back so he/she can finish his/her utterance.

The following dialogue presents an example of butting-in interruption.

Zachary : If my dad found out...
Bree : I won’t tell you your father!
I promise! Zach, its all...
Zachary : No, I just, I can’t get you involved].

(10/5/00:26:52-00:26:58)

There is a simultaneous speech in the dialogue above. Both speakers attempt to hold the floor. The first speaker, Zachary is interrupted by Bree. Ignoring what she says, he takes the floor back and interrupts her. He does not give any chance to her to speak. Zachary is able to complete his speech while she cannot deliver her idea completely.

The dialogue takes place at Bree’s house. She invites Zachary to a dinner and makes plum pudding that reminds him to his mother, Mary Alice, who committed suicide. She sees his sadness so she tries to share her sadness story about her mom. She tells him about her mother who died hit by a car. She talks to him that she has never told the story to anyone before. Knowing that Bree shares her secret, Zachary wants to share his secret too. He tells her that he knows why her mother committed suicide. Suddenly, there is a slight tremor in his hand because of his fear. He remembers that his father never let him share the secret story of his family. Then, he stops telling about his family and tries to go out from the house. She tries to calm him by telling him that she will not tell his father about their conversation, but it does not work.
3. Purposes of Interruption

This section discusses the purposes of interruptions which can be classified into three, i.e., disruptive interruption, cooperative interruption, and neutral interruption. Based on Table 2, not all purposes are found in this research. Neutral interruption is not found in the TV series. Therefore, this part only discusses the detail explanation about disruptive and cooperative interruption.

a. Disruptive Interruption

Interruption can be disruptive if it is used to disturb somebody’s turn and prevents his/her contribution in conversation. The disruptive interrupter wants to be the one who is more dominant in conversation, so that he/she uses interruption as a tool for gaining the floor, debating other’s opinion, blocking somebody to speak, changing the topic, etc. Therefore, disruptive interruption has three functions; showing disagreement, floor taking, and topic change. All of them are found in this research and described deeply in the following explanation.

1) Disagreement

Disagreement is the purposes of interruption which appears the most. It indicates that most interrupters use interruption to deliver their idea which is different from the current speaker’s idea. It can be understood because mostly in daily conversation, interruption happens in an argument where it is mostly caused by the emerging different opinion between the speaker and his/her interlocutor.

There are some examples of disagreement presented in dialogues between Bree and Rex who are presented as a complicated couple. They always debate and argue with each other.
Bree : This is family time I think [ **we ...**
Rex : Go ahead and play].

( 2/1/00:26:47-00:26:48 )

When the children ask to play in the play room at the restaurant, Bree says that it
must be a family time, meaning that she does not permit them to play. On the
other hand, Rex shows his disagreement toward her idea by giving a command to
go and play. He interrupts her and prevents her to continue her speech to show his
disagreement.

Rex also shows his disagreement to Bree when they are in marriage
counseling.

Bree : all we need is a few more sessions and I’m sure we [can ...
Rex : Damn it,Bree!]

a few more sessions isn’t gonna fix us.

( 7/3/00:16:08-00:16:12 )

He does not have the same idea as Bree who wants a few more sessions to fix
their marriage. However, he does not say directly that he disagrees with her by
saying “I disagree with you”, but he states the opposite of what she has said.
When she asks a few more sessions to Dr. Goldfine in order to fix her relationship
with her husband, he interrupts her by saying that a few more sessions cannot fix
their relationship.

Another example comes from dialogue between Lynette and Tom’s
dialogue after they have a dinner with Tom’s colleague.

Lynette : No, no, I’m sorry, I didn’t mean [**that ...**
Tom : **No, no, no!** ] we both know

that your career was going so much better than mine before we

had kids and you never let me to forget that.

( 14/7/00:39:28-00:39:35 )
Tom shows his disagreement directly by saying “No, no, no”. He repeats his utterance and interrupts Lynette to emphasize that his idea contradicts with hers. He interrupts her to prevent her in continuing her speech because he thinks what she is going to say is not true. She says that she does not intend to do something Tom supposed by saying “I’m sorry, I didn’t mean that...”. She attempts to explain her opinion, but he does not give a chance for her in completing her speech.

The dialogue takes place in their home after they have dinner which is aimed to launch Tom’s idea about some business project with his colleague. In the middle of his presentation, Lynette joins the discussion and conveys a brilliant idea to his colleague. They are more interested in Lynette’s idea than Tom’s. When the dinner is done, they have an argument. She says that she does not intend to humiliate him but he disagrees with her. He thinks that she wants to show him that she’s better than he.

A direct disagreement is also presented in Zachary and Julie’s dialogue.

Julie: What’s bad? You can tell [me.]
Zachary: No, I can’t! it’s better that you don’t know.

Zachary interrupts in order to show his disagreement toward Julie’s idea. She suggests him to share his problem with her but he says different idea by saying “it’s better that you don’t know”. He shows his disagreement directly by saying “no” in his interruption. He emphasizes that he cannot do what she suggests to do so.
The dialogue happens when he runs away from the mental rehabilitation center and comes to Julie’s house. He hides in her room because he cannot meet his father because he will bring him back to the mental rehabilitation center. When Julie asks about his problem, he just says “it’s bad”. She attempts to gain more explanation by asking him “what’s bad?” and she tries to convince him that he can tell her about his problem. When Julie’s utterance is almost done, he interrupts her to emphasize his disagreement because he thinks it is a bad idea to share his secret to her.

2) Floor Taking

In this research, there are 2 phenomena of interruption which are aimed to take the floor. An instance of floor taking is presented as follows.

Bree: Um, Doc [tor ...  
Rex : This is the thing you gonna know about Bree. She doesn’t like to talk about her feelings.

( 5/2/00:18:07-00:18:10 )

The dialogue happens in a marriage counselling. The counselor, Dr.Goldfine, asks Bree about what she feels about her marriage problem. When she tries to explain her problem and her feeling to him, Rex cuts her utterance to take the floor in order to deliver something he knows about her.

In the dialogue above, Rex does not change the topic of conversation. He still talks about Bree’s problem as what Dr.Goldfine asked. He simply cuts her utterance to prevent her telling something she does not like. He wants to express his idea immediately because Dr. Goldfine has to know why she does not explain her feeling before she tells him by herself.
Another example of floor taking is also presented in the dialogue between Susan and Mike.

Susan: Well, every little detail is one thing, weird secret is [another. Whatever! I don’t wanna be with somebody who doesn’t trust me.]

Mike: I don’t wanna be with somebody who doesn’t trust me.

(17/8/00:30:53-00:30:58)

Mike interrupts Susan to take the floor and to make her stop talking. He does not intend to show disagreement or to change the topic of conversation. He simply takes the floor because he does not want to hear Susan. He says “whatever” immediately to prevent Susan talking further because he thinks that she will not believe him even though he tries to explain the problem they discuss.

The dialogue takes place in Mike’s house after Susan finds a gun and cash at his shelf. She comes to him to get an explanation about those things. He explains but she does not believe him. He takes the floor in the middle of her speech to show her that he does not want to talk with her because of her suspicion.

3) Topic Change

The last purpose of disruptive interruption is topic change that is used to control the conversation by changing the topic. The interrupter may not want to talk about certain topic that is uttered by the current speaker so he/she interrupts to change the topic before the current speaker discusses further about something he/she does not like. An instance of this interruption is presented below.

Bree: I’m thinking about chicken saltimbocca.
Rex: I want a divorce.

(3/1/00:26:11-00:26:12)

The dialogue above shows that Bree as the current speaker talks about food and she expects Rex to give comment about food too. Unfortunately, Rex interrupts
her in the middle of her speech and changes the topic that contradicts with what she has discussed before. He does not want to talk about chicken saltimbocca but divorce.

The conversation happens in the restaurant. After the children go to the play room, Rex initiates to discuss about their marriage problem but Bree precedes him to open their conversation by talking about dinner for the next day. She says that she is going to make chicken saltimbocca. Before she completes her utterance, Rex interrupts her and says something she does not expect before. Rex ignores about what Bree said and suddenly changes the topic of conversation into his want to divorce.

Another example of topic change is also found in a dialogue between Bree and Rex when they are in Andrew’s school.

Bree : Mrs. Stark, you handle this however you see [fit ...
Rex : Bree!] I’ve gone to an attorney, you’re gonna be served divorce papers later today.
( 12/7/00:10:22-00:10:27)

Mrs. Stark, the headmaster of Andrew’s school calls Rex and Bree because their son shoves a freshman’s head into a locker. When Bree asks the headmaster to handle the problem, Rex cuts her utterance and changes the focus of conversation by saying that he went to an attorney and prepared the divorce. Rex’s utterance is not relevant to the previous topic that said by Bree. She discusses about the consequence of Andrew’s act with Mrs.Stark but suddenly Rex interrupts her and talks about the divorce. He changes the topic of conversation from discussing Andrew’s problem into their marriage problem.
b. Cooperative Interruption

Interruption not only has disruptive function but also has cooperative function. It can be cooperative if it is aimed to create an interactive communication, meaning that the member of conversation can communicate their idea with each other. In this interruption, the interrupters disturb the other’s turn in order to give a positive respond toward what the current speaker said. They do not have intention to show their power, to debate the others, or to take the others’ floor. The purpose of cooperative interruption is classified into four; to show agreement, to show understanding, to show interest in topic, and to show the need for clarification. This section does not explain about the purpose of showing agreement because it is not found in this research. The description of the three purposes is presented below.

1) To Show Understanding

Showing understanding becomes the most common purpose of cooperative interruption. In this interruption, the interrupters might cut the others’ utterance because they have understood about what the others said before they completed their utterance. The example of showing understanding in interruption is presented as follows.

Susan : Hi, Mike, I brought you a little house-warming gift. I should have brought something by earlier but[ ... 
Mike : Actually you’re the first for today to stop by. 
(1/1/00:15:45-00:15:47)

Mike cuts Susan’s utterance before she completes her utterance because he knows what she wants to say. Susan says that she should have brought something earlier.
It implies that she feels reluctant for the late gift she brought. Mike knows what she feels and knows what she wants to say. He shows his understanding by saying “Actually, you’re the first to stop by” which implies “it’s ok. You’re the first one who give the gift even though you are not give it earlier”.

The dialogue takes place at Mike’s house. He moves to Wisteria Lane and becomes the new neighbour for Susan and the other residents of Wisteria Lane. Susan comes to him to give a little house-warming gift as a welcoming tradition. She feels reluctant because she thinks it is too late to welcome him. She gives the gift not in his first day in Wisteria Lane. Mike understands her feeling so he interrupts her before she explains more.

Another example of showing understanding is found in Paul’s interruption in his conversation with Bree.

Bree : Oh hi, Paul. I was [just ...]
Paul : I heard. Thank you but we already have plans for tomorrow.

Paul shows his understanding directly by saying “I heard”. He prevents Bree to finish her utterance because he has heard what she wants to say. It implies his interruption is not aimed to take the floor or to debate her but it is aimed to inform her that he has understood what she wants to say.

The conversation happens when Bree comes to Paul’s house to invite him and his son, Zachary, to come to a dinner party in her house. The dinner is held to memorize Mary Alice Young, Paul’s wife, who committed suicide. When she knocks the door, Zachary comes out and asks her necessity. Bree talks to Zachary that she wants to meet his father to inform him about the dinner party. In the
middle of her conversation with Zachary, Paul comes out. He interrupts her utterance because he has heard the information from the house when she explains the invitation to his son.

Another interruption that is aimed to show understanding is also found in the dialogue between Lynette and Tom. The conversation takes place in their house when Lynette has a plan to go to dinner party at Bree’s house to honour Mary Alice. Because they cancel to call a nanny, Tom must stay at home to look after their children. She explains the schedule of the children and the menu for them to Tom in many times because she worries to leave the children. She doubts Tom’s ability to handle the children so she reminds him in many times.

Lynette : So put the fish sticks in toaster oven at five [o’clock For half an hour]. I know that’s the third time you’ve told me.
( 9/3/00:22:43-00:22:45 )

Tom : I know that’s the third time you’ve told me. He interrupts Lynette and copies her words to show that he have known what she wants to say because she talks to him about the same thing before. By interrupting her, he indirectly tells Lynette to stop talking because she have told him three times.

Showing understanding is also found when Zachary interrupts in his conversation with Julie.

Julie : Mom, please don’t do this. If you knew what Zach had been through [...]
Zachary : [Julie, Julie] it’s ok. I’ll be fine.
( 21/10/00:18:01-00:18:03 )
The dialogue happens in Julie’s house. Susan, Juli’s mother finds Zachary who hid in her house after running away from the mental rehabilitation center. Susan asks Mike to bring Zachary to his father, Paul. Julie prevents her mother to bring Zachary back to his father because she knows that he does not have mental problem. His father sends him to the mental rehabilitation center to keep their family secret. When Julie talks to her mother, he cuts Julie’s utterance.

Zachary interrupts Julie to calm her because he knows what she feels and what she wants to say to her mother. He prevents her talking further about his problem because he wants to keep the secret from Julie’s mother. He shows his understanding toward Julie by saying “it’s ok. I’ll be fine” which implies that she do not need to say anything more because he will be fine.

Furthermore, showing understanding is also found in a dialogue between Mike and Susan when they have argument about a gun and cash that Susan found in his shelf.

Susan: I wouldn’t know because you never let me in. You’re completely [walled off.

Mike : I have a gun] for protection and cash for emergencies. I’m a good guy Susan, you should know that.

( 17/8/00:30:40-00:30:49 )

In the dialogue above, Mike does not state his understanding directly. He interrupts Susan to calm her and to make her stop talking because he knows what she wants to say. Although being interrupted, Susan is able say her utterance completely. It can be seen that Susan is very angry and Mike tries to calm her because he knows what Susan feels and what Susan thinks about him. He interrupts her by giving her information through his statement “I have a gun for
protection and cash for emergencies” as a way to answer her suspicion about him. Mikes knows what she mean by saying “completely walled off”, she wants to know about the things he hide. He continues his speech by saying “ I’m a good guy Susan, you should know that “ although Susan does not state that he is a bad guy. He knows what Susan thinks although she does not say it directly. Thus, he interrupts in order to show his understanding toward what Susan wants to say.

2) To Show Interest in Topic

Sometimes, people interrupts to respect their partner in conversation. They may talk when the others are talking by performing back-channel such as “yeah”, “oh”, or “hmm” in order to show that they are interested in what the others said. Although they talk in the middle of the others’ speech, their action is not seen as a rude act because it is used to show their respect to others’ speech. Their action is not seen as a rude act because it is used to show their respect to others’ speech by showing their interest in the topic that is discussed.

The example of interruption which is purposed to show interest in topic is explained below.

Paul : We’re trying to move on. It’s been pretty tough.
Susan : I can only imagine. Not knowing why Mary A[lice ...  
Paul : Why what?].

(6/2/00:24:27-00:24:28)

The dialogue above shows that Paul cannot wait for Susan to finish her speech. He starts talking when the name of his wife is mentioned by Susan. He shows his interest in the topic, the topic about his wife. He does not intend to take the floor or to disturb Susan’s speech but he shows his attention to Susan who is talking about his wife.
Susan comes to Paul’s house when he is busy to prepare his movement. The conversation begins with talking about Paul’s preparation to move to another place. He decides to move because he does not want to remind about his wife. In the middle of conversation, Susan says something about Mary Alice. When she mentions the name of his wife, Paul interrupts her because he interests to talk about his wife.

3) To Show the Need for Clarification

Generally the interruption that is used to show the need for clarification is uttered in a question form because the interrupter wants to ask something to the interrupted speaker. He/she does not understand what the current speaker said or what happened to him/her so he/she performs interruption to make clear what the current speaker means. The interruption is done to make the current speaker stops talking further and explains about what he/she said before he/she continues his/her speech.

The following dialogue presents an example of showing the need for clarification.

Carlos : You’ve been like a nightmare for a month.
Gabrielle : [stop.]
Carlos : What’s wrong?].

The dialogue takes place in Carlos and Gabrielle’s room. Gabrielle is mad because Carlos does not have much time for her and he does not make an exciting relationship. She wants him to excite her like the first time they met. She wants Carlos to give her a romantic thing and gives enough time to be spent together. She actually does not want to say it literally. She expects Carlos to understand her
feeling without any explanation from her. That is why she does not want to answer the question of her husband. Carlos interrupts her to emphasize his ignorance and shows his need for explanation.
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter consists of two parts: conclusions and suggestions. The conclusions include the summary of the findings and discussion related to the formulation of the problem and the objectives of the research. The second part provides some suggestions to the readers and other researchers.

A. Conclusions

Based on the findings and discussion, the conclusions of the research can be presented as follows.

1. The first objective of this research is to identify the types of interruption by the male characters in Desperate Housewives Season 1 TV Series. Based on the findings, there are three types of interruption found in the TV Series. They are simple, overlap, and butting-in interruption. Simple interruption appears 10 times out of 20 total data and becomes the highest frequency of the types of interruption. Overlap interruption is the second highest number that appears in the data which occurs 9 times. The last position is butting-in interruption which happens once.

   The simple interruption becomes the type which appears the most in this research. It indicates that most of the current speakers, the female characters in the TV series, are not able to complete their utterances after being interrupted by the male characters. The female characters mostly keep silent and give the floor to the male characters because the setting of the TV series is the society where the male characters are more powerful than the female characters. Therefore, they tend to respect the male characters by listening to them although they cut their speech.
Thus, after being interrupted by the male characters, the female characters are not able to take the floor back and continue their speech.

The lowest number that appears in the research is butting-in interruption. In butting-in interruption, the first speaker who is interrupted can hold the floor from the interrupter so he/she can finish his/her utterance. It has the fewest number because in the TV Series most of the female characters are not able to hold the floor. They likely respect and listen to the male characters who are more powerful.

2. The second objective of this research is to find out the linguistic features employed in the interruptions by the male characters. There are three linguistic features proposed by Tannen (1990) found in the research; report talk, command, teasing, and swearing. Report talk is the most frequently used linguistic feature which is employed 17 times out of the total 20 data. Command appears twice out of 20 total data. Meanwhile, swearing only appear once out of the total data.

The feature which is most frequently used by male characters is report talk, meaning that the male characters in the TV series mostly use conversation as an arena to show their knowledge and skill, to hold the floor, to maintain status, or to solve a problem through their speech. In this TV series, the male characters frequently control the conversation by stating something that attracts the attention of the female characters which makes them as the ones who are more dominant in the conversation.
On the other hand, swearing is less performed by the male characters in this TV Series because the setting in *Desperate Housewives Season 1* is family and close community. The male characters rarely use swearing to provoke others and to show their anger because they respect the others’ feeling and they maintain the close relationship. There is only one phenomenon of swearing in the TV series. It is performed by Rex who has very complicated problems with his wife. He uses swearing in his interruption when he has a debate with his wife to emphasize his argument. The other male characters do not use the features in delivering interruption.

3. The last objective of this research is to describe the purposes of interruptions. Neutral interruption is not found in this research, meaning that all the interruption phenomena found in the TV series have either cooperative or disruptive purposes. Among the 20 purposes, disruptive interruption occurs 13 times and cooperative interruption occurs 7 times. It means that the male characters in this TV series more frequently use interruption disruptively than use it cooperatively. In disruptive interruption, all the three purposes of interruption are found. They are disagreement which occurs 9 times, floor taking which occurs twice, and topic change which occurs 2 times. Meanwhile, in cooperative interruption, not all the purposes of interruption are found. There are only three purposes of cooperative interruption found in this research because to show agreement is not found. To show understanding which appears 5 times becomes the highest rank of cooperative interruption. Both to show the need for clarification and to show interest in topic are found with only 1 occurrence.
The highest purpose of interruption is showing disagreement. It means that interruptions are mostly used by the male characters disruptively as a tool to argue their partners and to show their different opinions. In *Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV Series, interruption mostly happens when the characters are implicated in an argument which is mostly caused by the different opinions between them.

**B. Suggestions**

The researcher suggests that the readers especially those majoring in linguistics and other researchers analyze language phenomena in TV series since TV series contains people’s daily conversation so it can be used to enrich the knowledge about how language phenomena occur in everyday conversation. When conducting research on language phenomena uses TV series, it is important to analyze the setting of the story to understand the effect of the culture to the used of language.

The researcher also suggests that other researchers who have interest in interruption phenomena provide a deeper analysis. They can observe the relationship between interruption and gender differences or interruption and power by using a different approach or different object. They can use other relevant objects to complete all the types and functions of interruption that are proposed in the theory to provide a deeper analysis.
REFERENCES

A. Printed Sources


B. Electronic Sources

### Appendix A. Data Sheet of Linguistic Features, and Types and Purposes of Interruptions by the Male Characters in

*Desperate Housewives Season 1* TV Series

**Notes:**
- **S:** Simple Interruption
- **RT:** Report Talk
- **Di:** Disagreement
- **TSA:** To show agreement
- **N:** Neutral
- **O:** Overlap
- **C:** Command
- **FT:** Floor Taking
- **TSU:** To show understanding
- **B:** Butting-in Interruption
- **T:** Teasing
- **TC:** Topic Change
- **TSC:** To show clarification
- **Si:** Silent Interruption
- **S:** Swearing
- **TSA:** To show interest in topic
- **TSU:** To show clarification

1/1/00:15:45-00:15:47: number of data/ episode/ the time in which the dialogue is happened

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Dialogues</th>
<th>Types of Interruption</th>
<th>Linguistic Features</th>
<th>Purposes of Interruption</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1/0</td>
<td>Susan: Hi Mike, I brought you a little house-warming gift.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mike is Susan’s new neighbour. One day, she brings a house-warming gift to Mike. She is feeling reluctant because she does not bring it earlier. Mike understands what she wants to say, he cuts the Susan’s utterance and shows his understanding. The interruption performed by Mike is categorized into simple interruption because he simply cuts the first speaker’s utterance and makes her unable to complete her idea. Susan wants to explain more but she is interrupted. Mike performs report talk in his interruption to give information that he already knew.</td>
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<td>0:15:</td>
<td>I should bring something by earlier but[...</td>
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<td>45-00:</td>
<td>Mike: Actually you’re the first to stop by.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:47</td>
<td>Mike is Susan’s new neighbour. One day, she brings a house-warming gift to Mike. She is feeling reluctant because she does not bring it earlier. Mike understands what she wants to say, he cuts the Susan’s utterance and shows his understanding. The interruption performed by Mike is categorized into simple interruption because he simply cuts the first speaker’s utterance and makes her unable to complete her idea. Susan wants to explain more but she is interrupted. Mike performs report talk in his interruption to give information that he already knew.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/1/0 0:26:47-00:26:48</td>
<td>Bree : This is family time I think [ we ... Rex :Go ahead and play].</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>This dialogue happens in the restaurant. Andrew and Danielle, their children, ask their permission to play at the other room because the restaurant has a video game. Bree, as their mom, says that it is family time. She thinks that it is inappropriate time to play. On the other hand, Rex shows his disagreement toward her wife’s idea. He permits their children by letting them to go and play. He interrupts his wife to show his disagreement.</td>
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<td>3/1/0 0:26:11-00:26:48</td>
<td>Bree : I’m thinking about chicken saltimbocca [bocca Rex : I want a divorce].</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Bree talks to her husband about menu for dinner for their family. She says that she has an idea to make chicken saltimbocca. In the middle of her speech, Rex cuts her utterance by saying another thing. He changes the topic and says that he wants to divorce. The interruption performed by Rex is categorized into overlap because there is simultaneous speech between his utterance and Bree’s utterance. Even being interrupted, Bree can complete her utterance. Rex performs report talk to give...</td>
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<td>4/2/0</td>
<td>Carlos : You’ve been like a nightmare for a month.</td>
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<td>✓</td>
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<td>Carlos asks his wife, Gabrielle, about what happen to her that makes her act like a nightmare or very sensitive. His utterance is not just a question; he shows that he knows there is something wrong happen to his wife. Thus, his utterance is included in report talk. When Gabrielle attempts to stop him asking, he performs interruption to show his need of clarification. The interruption is overlap because both speaker, Carlos and Gabrielle, can complete their idea and they talk in simultaneous time.</td>
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<td>0:09:28-00:09:29</td>
<td>Gabrielle: [stop. Carlos : What’s wrong?].</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>information that he wants to divorce.</td>
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<td>5/2/0</td>
<td>Bree : Um, Doc[tor .. Rex : This], is the thing you gonna know about Bree, she doesn’t like to talk about her feeling.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Bree and Rex go to marriage counselling. When the doctor asks Bree about their problem, she tries to explain but Rex cuts her utterance. His interruption is aimed to take the floor. Bree cannot complete her utterance and fails in holding the floor, so it was a simple interruption. Rex uses report talk in his interruption because he shows his knowledge about Bree, and takes the others’</td>
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### Code Dialogues

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/2/0</td>
<td>Paul: We’re trying to move on. It’s been pretty tough.</td>
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<td>Susan comes to Paul’s house when he is busy to prepare his movement. Susan asks Paul about the suicide of his wife. When Susan mentions his wife’s name, Paul cuts her utterance because he cannot wait what Susan saying. His interruption is aimed to show his interest in the topic. His utterance is included in report talk because he says it to show that the topic is something that he already knew.</td>
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<td>6/2/0</td>
<td>Susan: I can only imagine. Not knowing why Mary Alice ...</td>
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<td>Paul: Why what?</td>
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<td>7/3/0</td>
<td>Bree: All we need is a few more sessions and I’m sure we can [...</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Bree and Rex argue about their marriage counselling. Rex wants to divorce. On the other hand, Bree wants a few more sessions of counselling to fix their marriage problem. Rex interrupts her by performing swearing to show his disagreement with Bree’s idea. His swearing is used to emphasize his disagreement. He shows his power in conversation by swearing and interrupting his wife. He does not give a chance for his wife to speak.</td>
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<td>7/3/0</td>
<td>Rex: Damn it! Bree!</td>
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<td>a few more sessions isn’t gonna fix us.</td>
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<td>8/3/0</td>
<td>Bree : Oh, hi, Paul. I was [just] heard, thank you but we already have.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>9/3/0</td>
<td>Lynette : So put the fish sticks in toaster oven at five [o’clock] For half an hour, I know, that’s the third time you’re told me.</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Code</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/5/00:26</td>
<td>Zachary: If my dad found Out... Bree: I won’t tell your father, I promise, Zach it’s all... Zachary: No, I just, I can’t get you involved.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Bree attempts to make Zachary tell her about the cause of the suicide of Mary Alice. He refuses to tell her because he is afraid if his father know that he tells their secret to their neighbour. In the dialogue, there is a simultaneous speech between Bree and Zachary. Bree interrupts Zach’s speech but she is not able to finish her speech because Zach is able to take the floor back. He interrupts Bree and continues his speech.</td>
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<td>11/7/00:10</td>
<td>Bree: Mrs. Stark you handle this however you see [fit ...</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Bree and Rex are invited to her son’s school because of a trouble by their son. Bree talks to the teacher about the problem that caused by his son. When Bree explains her opinion toward the son’s problem, Rex cuts her utterances and says another thing. Rex says that the trouble of his son is caused by their marital problem. He gives Bree information that he goes to an attorney and prepares their divorce. He simply interrupts her wife to change the topic that previously talked by Bree.</td>
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</table>
The interruption is categorized as simple interruption because Bree as the first speaker cannot hold the floor back and cannot complete her utterance. Moreover, Rex performs report talk to attract the others’ attention by giving them information.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/7/00:20:19-00:20:24 Bree : He’s trying to buy your [love. Rex : For God’s sake] don’t be paranoid !.</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rex buys a car and a luggage for his children as gifts. Bree says to the children that their father gives them the gifts to buy their love meaning to get attention from them. Rex shows his disagreement toward the judgement that Bree said by commanding her not to be paranoid. He emphasizes his argument through his interruption. He starts talking when his wife is not finishing her utterance yet. Although there is a simultaneous speech, both of them can complete their sentences. This is called overlap interruption.</td>
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<td>13/7/00:39:28-00:39:35</td>
<td>Lynette : No, no, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean [that ... Tom: No, no, no!] we both know that your career was going so much better than mine before we had kids and you never let me to forget that.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>The dialogue happens in their house. Tom and Lynette make a dinner and invites Tom’s friends to launch Tom’s idea about a business project. In the middle of the dinner, Lynette joins the discussion and delivers a brilliant idea. Tom’s friends are attracted by the idea and they are more interested to hear than Tom. When the dinner is done, they have an argument. Lynette says that she does not intend to humiliate him but Tom disagrees with her statement. He cuts Lynette’s utterance and prevents her to continue her speech. It is called simple interruption. Tom also emphasizes his disagreement by stating information about their career.</td>
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<td>14/7/</td>
<td>Lynette : I am stuck in the middle and it is really [starting to get to</td>
<td>ruptive</td>
<td>Cooperative</td>
<td>Lynette tries to explain</td>
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<td>00:4</td>
<td>me. Tom : Whoa! whoa! for your information! I thought you throw an</td>
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<td>that she has no intention</td>
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<td>0:09-</td>
<td>amazing dinner party tonight.</td>
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<td>to develop her career. She</td>
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<td>15/8/</td>
<td>Susan : I wouldn’t know because you never let me in. You’re completely</td>
<td>ruptive</td>
<td>Cooperative</td>
<td>Susan finds a gun and</td>
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<td>00:3</td>
<td>[walled off. Mike : I have a gun] for protection and cash emergencies.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>much money in Mike’s house.</td>
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<tr>
<td>0:40-</td>
<td>I’m a good guy, Susan, you should know that.</td>
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<td>As his girlfriend, she is</td>
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<td>00:3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>angry because she tells</td>
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<td>0:49</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>her boyfriend has a secret</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>she does not know. When</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Susan is saying about her</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>disappointment, Mike cuts</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>her utterance to clarify</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>the problem. Susan can</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>complete her utterance</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>although being interrupted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Dialogues</td>
<td>Types of Interruption</td>
<td>Linguistic Features</td>
<td>Purposes of Interruption</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Explanation</td>
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<tr>
<td>16/8/00:3 0:53-00:3 0:58</td>
<td>Susan: Well, every little detail is one thing, a weird creepy secret is <a href="https://example.com">another.</a></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>In the dialogue, Susan shows her madness to Mike because of his secret. She thinks that it is a weird thing that should not be hid. Because Susan does not trust him, Mike takes the floor and wants to stop the conversation by saying that he does not want to live with someone who does not trust him. He is not changing the topic or showing his disagreement toward what Susan says. He is simply interrupted her to take the floor and to stop the argument. There is simultaneous speech and both of the speakers can complete their utterances. It means the interruption is categorized into overlap. The feature that is used by Mike. There is a simultaneous speech in their dialogue so it is called overlap. Mike gives Susan information that the gun is used for protection and the cash is used for emergence. Mike understands what Susan feeling so he cuts her utterance to clarify the misunderstanding.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Linguistic Features</td>
<td>Purposes of Interruption</td>
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<td>Explanation</td>
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<td>17/9</td>
<td>Bree : Maybe if we take it away from him, he’ll understand what he did, he has not shown an ounce of remorse since the [accident. Of course] he feels bad. He’s just, you know, keeping up a facade.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mike is report talk because he emphasizes the information that he does not want to be with her.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rex :</td>
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<td>Bree and Rex discuss the accident that is caused by their son. Andrew, their son, drives the car, hits somebody, and runs. Nobody finds that he is the doer because his parents throw the car away. Because he fells safe, he acts like nothing happens. Bree has an idea to make him take the responsibility toward what he did. She proposes her husband to take Andrew from his swimming club. She thinks that by separating him from his hobby, he will feel guilty and learn to be a better person. Rex disagrees with Bree’s idea and emphasizes his disagreement by interrupting her. He shows that he is the one who more understand about their son. He knows that his son is feeling guilty but he pretends to be fine. There is an overlap between the speakers but they can complete their idea.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18/9/00:1 0:02-00:1 0:06</td>
<td>Rex : You’re not taking him off the team. Bree : Yes, I [am. Rex : If you try, I’m gonna go to the coach and tell him to ignore you].</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Bree attempts to make her son learn about the consequences of what he did. Bree asks Rex to agree with her by taking their son from the swimming team. Rex disagrees with her idea and threatens her. Rex shows that he understands more what the best for his son. The interruption performed by Rex is categorized into overlap because there is simultaneous speech but the speakers can complete their utterances.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19/9/00:3 0:54-00:3 0:55</td>
<td>Julie : What’s bad? You can tell [me. Zachary : No, I can’t!]. It’s better that you don’t know.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Zachary runs away from the mental rehabilitation center. He comes to Julie and hides at Julie’s room. Julie asks him to tell her about his family’s problem but he does not want to tell her. He disagrees with Julie’s idea to share the story. He shows that he knows better to keep the secret from Julie. The interruption in this dialogue is overlap interruption because both of the speaker’s utterance can be delivered completely.</td>
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<td>20/1000:18:01-00:18:03</td>
<td>Julie: Mom, please don’t do this. If you knew what Zach had been through [...]. Zachary: Julie, Julie, it’s ok. I’ll be fine.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Susan knows that Zachary hides in her house. She asks Mike to take him out and bring him back to his father, Paul. Julie prevents her mother to take Zachary out. She knows that his father will bring him back to the rehabilitation centre. She knows that Zach does not have any mental problem. His father makes him keep silent and keep the family’s secret by moving him to the rehabilitation. To prevent Julie explains more about his condition to her mother, Zach interrupts her. He shows his understanding toward Julie’s sympathy. He told her that it was ok.</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>10 9 1 0 17 2 0 1 9 2 2 0 5 1 1 0</td>
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<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SURAT PERNYATAAN TRIANGULASI

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Ridhofarianti
Pekerjaan : Mahasiswi
Nim : 12211141026

dengan ini menyatakan telah melakukan triangulasi data sehubungan dengan karya ilmiah yang telah dilakukan oleh:

Nama : Ratna Duwi Haryanti
Nim : 1211144010
Program Study : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni
Judul : A Sociopragmatic Analysis of Interruptions by the Male Characters in Marc Cherry’s Desperate Housewives Season 1 TV series

Demikian surat keterangan ini dibuat untuk dapat digunakan sesuai dengan keperluan.

Yogyakarta, 04 October 2016

Yang membuat pernyataan,

Ridhofarianti
SURAT PERNYATAAN TRIANGULASI

Yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : Maulida Fitriyanti
Pekerjaan : Mahasiswi
Nim : 12211144027
dengan ini menyatakan telah melakukan triangulasi data sehubungan dengan karya ilmiah yang telah dilakukan oleh:

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Yogyakarta, 04 October 2016
Yang membuat pernyataan,

Maulida Fitriyanti