

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background, focus, objectives and significance of the research.

A. Background of the Study

As social creature, people need to communicate in order to maintain their relationship and to give or gain information from others. In these interactions, conversations occur between two or more people in which one person in a particular time plays as an informant or speaker, and the other plays as a listener. Conversation is a cooperative activity between a speaker and a listener. In maintaining cooperative activity, people should know the right time when to speak in accordance to make the conversation flows. Yule (1996: 72) in his book entitled *Pragmatics* states that people should be aware of the right time to speak. This particular timing of speaking turns is called turn taking which serves to maintain smooth transition in a flowing conversation.

Since conversation is an organized sequence of talking, there is a basic role for establishing who talks and who talks next. Naturally, only one person talks at a time regardless who speaks to whom in what language. The talk is socially organized (Wiemann and Knapp, 1975: 78). Organizing taking turns is fundamental to conversation. People may give a signal by taking some actions, such as lowering or raising an intonation, moving eye gaze smoothly, or naming the next speaker to show that he/she finished his/her utterance.

Sustaining smooth transition in series of talk, especially in spontaneous conversation, is not as easy as it could be. Sometimes, people disturb their partners in order to grab their chance to speak and try to be dominant by taking other's floor. This phenomenon of battling the floor in conversation is called interruption (Wiemann and Knapp, 1975: 88). Interruption happens when the current speaker who is interrupted (interruptee) does not finish his or her utterances because the listener grabs the speaker's floor. Usually the interrupter (the person who interrupts) talks at the same time with the speaker and makes the speaker stop his/her utterances. People usually regard this phenomenon as a way to dominate the conversation.

An interruption is not permanently an action to dominate a conversation.

This is in line with what Tannen says

[...] interruption is inescapably a matter of interpretation regarding individuals' rights and obligations. To determine whether a speaker is violating another speaker's rights, you have to know a lot about both speakers and the situation. (Tannen 1990:93)

According to Tannen, having known the speaker's intention and the situation may help another speaker to know the purpose of interruption. Sometimes, an interruption is needed to support smooth conversation, and in this context, interruption plays for cooperative purposes. If an interruption occurs when the interrupter still gets confused about the interruptee's idea, this interruption belongs to neutral interruption Goldberg (1990:888). This interruption does not have a purpose to disrupt or cooperate with the interruptee. However, this interruption occurs to collect a brief information from the speaker. This idea is supported by

Tannen (1994: 61) who states that a listener sometimes interrupts the speaker not in order to disrupt but to show enthusiasm.

An interruption is an interesting object to be analyzed under conversation analysis approach since it is an aspect of a conversation which gives a big impact on both the speaker and listener. In a series of context, an interruption might have different purposes. Therefore, the context and situational context are important to be taken into account to analyze the purpose of occurring interruption. Moreover, Heritage & Atkinson (1984:11) states that in Conversation Analysis studies, talk and interaction are examined as a site where intersubjective understanding concerning the participants' intentions, their state of knowledge, their relation, and their stance towards the talked-about object is created, maintained, and negotiated.

People cannot abandon the occurrence of interruption in daily conversation. Besides, the phenomenon of interruption also appears in a movie whether it occurs to support or to disrupt the speaker speech. It is interesting to analyze interruption which is taking place in a movie because movie is one of the entertainment media which reflects daily interaction at least between two people. *12 Angry Men* is one of movies where the phenomenon of interruption in a courtroom discussion can be observed.

12 Angry Men is selected to be the object of the research because of several reasons. Firstly, it is an American drama film which portrays the discussion of jury consisted of 12 men acquitted the defendant in the lawsuit. Courtroom language is more specific and standardized than language of everyday conversation. Secondly, this film has a uniqueness of using one set screen play, the jury room, and the

characters in this movie are all male characters. Thirdly, in 2007, *12 Angry Men* was selected by the US Library of Congress for being culturally, historically, aesthetically significant. Moreover, this movie also won BAFTA Film Awards 1958 for best foreign actor, Henry Fonda, Berlin International Festival: Golden Berlin Bear and OCIC Awards, Sidney Lumet, and etc. *12 Angry Men* won 16 Awards and 11 Nominations in total. Consequently, the phenomenon of interruption in this movie is presented to answer the research problem in this research.

B. Focus of the Study

12 Angry Men presented numerous problems regarding the language. Firstly, this movie can be analyzed under sociolinguistic approach. *12 Angry Men* consists of 12 male jurors with various ages. From the conversation, the twelve men language style is unique since they have different personality and mind set. The twelve male jurors also hold different occupation which gives big deals on how they communicate each other. One of the sociolinguistics aspects that can be applied to research this courtroom drama movie is the language variation.

Secondly, this movie portrays how jury is trying to show their wisdom for the defendant. The conversation in the jury room become an interesting object of speech acts study because many utterances contain locutionary, illocutionary, and perlocutionary acts. Thirdly, the phenomenon of interruption in this movie is also interesting to be analyzed since most of the jury tend to interrupt most of the time. Interruption occurs in several cases in this movie to show certain purposes.

Given a number of issues in this movie which have possibility to be analyzed, the researcher eventually focuses on the problem related to the phenomenon of interruption. The first problem is the type of interruption which are based on Ferguson's theory in Beattie's journal 1982. In his journal entitled "*Turn-taking and Interruption in Political Interviews: Margaret Thatcher and Jim Callaghan Compared and Contrasted*", Ferguson classifies interruption into simple interruption, overlap, butting-in, and silent. Then, the second problem is the purpose of doing interruption. Every interruption has disruptive or cooperative purpose. The aim can be identified using some cues which the speaker employs when interrupting. To be able to analyze the purposes, context needs to be taken into account.

Based on the description above, the researcher proposes some questions as follows:

1. What types of interruption are employed by the characters in *12 Angry Men*?
2. What are the purposes of interruption done by the characters in *12 Angry Men*?

C. Objectives of the Study

In correlation with the problems formulated above, the objectives of the research are:

1. to reveal the types of interruptions employed by the characters in *12 Angry Men*, and

2. to describe the purposes of interruption employed by the characters in *12 Angry Men*.

D. Significance of the Study

This study on interruption has two significances which can be in the form of theoretical and the practical forms;

1. Theoretical Significance

The research of this study may enrich linguistics research, especially in the field of conversation analysis. Moreover, this research enriches knowledge to the society about the phenomena of interruption in daily life. It also contributes at giving deeper understanding in the analysis of interruption especially in a movie.

2. Practical Significance

This research may become an additional reference for the researcher who focuses on the same theme, interruption. It can help English Department students to gain deeper understanding on learning conversation analysis especially interruption as well. It is expected that this research can stimulate other researchers to conduct a research on the same topic with different object.