

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Two girls who have different ethnics: Arab Indonesian and Javanese were talking about their teacher. The Arab Indonesian girl said “Ih, Bapak itu lho *hoyal yah?*” (“That teacher is strange, isn't he?”). Then, the Javanese girl gave her a response and said “iya, aneh banget” (“yes, he is very strange”). This kind of communication is called inter-ethnic communication because it is conducted by two different ethnic members.

People need to communicate with others to build relationships. Communication is the reception of information and the understanding of one speaker to another speaker. People may get knowledge, information, and experience by doing communication. For that reason, the understanding of conversation, believe, and control is much needed. One of the communication forms is called conversation.

In order to make a conversation with others, people usually use their daily language. Language is an important tool to communicate or to make a conversation. In multicultural society, most people are bilingual or multilingual. The formal language becomes the standard language learned at schools. Besides, people also have their mother tongue. In big cities, most people even also learn an international language as their second language. In other words, Indonesian

people speak not only their standard language called Indonesian and their own local language but also an international language.

Flanders (1970) stated that when two persons are involved in a conversation, there are always an initiative and response, which are the characteristics of interaction between two or more individuals. For example, when two people are standing at a bus stop in a rainy day and one turns to the others and says “My God, it's so cold”, it means that the speaker wants to be friendly and to invite the other to talk. In this case, the first speaker has an initiative to start a casual conversation and also hopes a feed back from the other speakers. Nevertheless, if in a conversation the first speaker always has the initiatives or talks too much and does not wish for feed back from the recipient, it indicates that he or she dominates the conversation.

According to Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson (1974), when a speaker dominates a conversation, it means that he/she in some ways try to break the turn-taking rules. There are many conversational strategies that can be used to gain dominance, for example: talking too much, non-cooperation strategies, or taking more than your fair share of conversation and stopping others from having it. Non-cooperation strategies can be in the form of interruption, no response or delayed response, and silence. Overlapping and interruption can also be seen as speaking domination.

Overlapping in conversation happens when one person starts before the other ends. According to Deng (in Afiana, 2006), the overlap can be classified into two categories. There are transitional overlap and non transitional overlap.

Transitional overlap can occur in Transitional Relevance Place (TRP) and non transitional relevance place. According to Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson (1974), the moment in the conversation when a transition from one speaker to another is possible is called TRP. Therefore, interruption is an attempt to prevent somebody from having the right to speak. Thus, if people frequently interrupt while the others are silent, it will be considered as speaking domination.

According to Drew and Heritage (1992), there are institutional talk and ordinary talk. Institutional talk refers to formal talk that is conducted in institution such as law courts, schools, news, interviews, and etc. Then, ordinary talk refers to a non formal talk considered as a simple talk without any formality produced by the speakers. According to Gardner (1955), being modified or transformed in order to prove another set of rule of the institutional talk is the basic rules of ordinary conversation. It means that ordinary talk is the modification form of institutional talk or formal talk. It is a conversation that is not restricted by formal speech.

The writer will focus only on ordinary talk such as in the teenagers' conversation. Most teenagers' conversation is conducted in informal situation. The conversation of teenagers includes gossip, the interest of opposite sex, and the subjects in school. For example, when two girls sit together, one girl says, "I was like, Oh my God!, are you sure? He's a total mint!". It indicates that the two girls talk about someone. This is what we called ordinary talk which is not restricted to specialized setting.

In this thesis, the writer analyzes the inter-ethnic conversation between Javanese people and Arab Indonesian people. The study investigated the application of major aspects of the structural organization, practices or resources in conversation, in the interethnic conversation of the Arab Indonesian and the Javanese. In this thesis, the major aspects include turn-taking, sequential and sequence organization of conversation, and overlap. Besides, the writer also investigated the domination of one ethnic in the conversation.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Based on the background of the study above, the writer would like to formulate several problems:

1. How are the major aspects of the structural organization, practices or resources, used in the interethnic conversation of the Arab Indonesian and the Javanese?
2. Is there any domination in the process of conversation between the Arab and the Javanese? Why?

1.3 Objective of the study

The first objective of the study is to analyze the major aspects of the structural organization, practices or resources, in conversation which are responsible for its orderliness and meaningfulness. The second objective is to analyze whether there is any domination in the inter-ethnic conversation and the reason why there is domination.

The main purpose of this study is to see the pattern of interaction between the Javanese and the Arabic. It can be turn taking and overlapping pattern. The participants might mix Indonesian and Arabic language during the conversation. They also might bring their accents and manners in transferring utterances from Indonesian into Arabic language. These participants' characteristics may create interesting phenomena of inter-ethnic conversation.

1.4 Significance of the study

Since this study is a sociolinguistic study, the writer is eager to contribute a worthwhile fact-finding on the field of sociolinguistic. Moreover, it also contributes additional information to linguistic knowledge, particularly on how participants construct their social world and accomplish orderly and meaningfully social interaction through talk.

1.5 Definition of key terms

Since this study uses some particular terms, the writer is encouraged to give the definition of the key terms in order to facilitate the readers in understanding the intended terms and to avoid misinterpretation. The definitions of the key terms are listed below:

1. Turn taking : the norm for who talks, when, and for how long (Paltridge, 2000)
2. Interethnic Conversation : communication or conversation under conditions of ethnic

difference (Ross, 1978)

3. Male Teenagers

: a person who have sex male from thirteen to nineteen (Karr, 1994)

4. Informal Situation

: designating or of the words, phrases, and idioms characteristic of speech or writing that is casual, ordinary, unceremonious, etc.;

colloquial