

# CHAPTER I

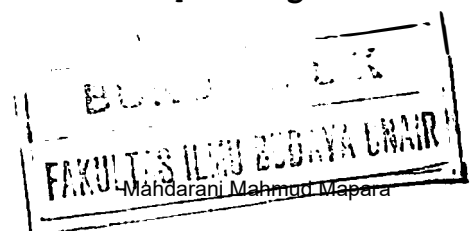
## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Language is important as the tool of communication. To communicate means to transfer ideas and to express feeling from one person to another. People cannot interact with others without language. By using spoken or written language, people can express and share their experiences, feelings, and their needs to each other. According to Jovanovic (2004), the elements of language are usually easy to establish and there is a number of hierarchically ordered organizational units or building blocks that we can speak of, starting from distinctive, feature, phonemes, morphemes, words, phrases to sentences or utterances.

Everything in language has a meaning. In communication, the language we uttered has a certain meaning. When having a conversation, people sometimes use utterances that grammatically have no connection with the previous or following sentences. These utterances carried some message about feeling or emotion. Utterances which express people's mental states, attitudes or reactions to perceived stimuli in communication are called interjection (Cruz, 2000).

It would be difficult to us to express our feeling without the presence of interjection. We tend to use a simple word such as, "ah" to express a knowing feeling to someone rather than "yes, I understand this belief, but it is a new information for me, I get it for the first time now" which is quite long. The



meaning of an interjection itself is part of speech that usually has no grammatical connection to the other part of the sentence (Ameka, 1992a). Interjection is usually used to express emotions or someone's feeling. Interjection could be words or phrases like *whoa*, or *oh god*. It is used to show excitement or emotion such as anger, joy, pain, annoyance, fear, surprise, enthusiasm, etc. For example, "Ouch! It's so hurt!". In that sentence, the word 'ouch' is showing the speaker's pain.

We usually find interjections in our daily conversation. Using interjection in a sentence means give a feeling or emotion in it. However, if we go back to the definition, interjection has no grammatical connection to the sentence. If the interjection taken out from the sentence, the sentence will have the same meaning like before. For example "I think ,*oh god*, this is amazing!" If the word '*oh god*' erased, the sentence is still correct and complete. It will become "I think this is amazing!" and the sentence still has the same meaning as when there is an interjection in it. Interjection does not affect the whole sentence at all, yet the sentence with interjection tends to look more alive.

The writer finds out full presence of interjections not only in our communication but also in television program. The presence of interjections, especially in oral communication, makes the language used becomes more noticeable. In this research, the writer uses television series namely Top Gear as the object to be analyzed. Top Gear is television series program which is directed by Brian Klein and produced by BBC in United Kingdom. The show is presented by Jeremy Clarkson together with two other Co-presenters, Richard Hammond

and James May. Top Gear is aired in BBC since 2002 until now. Now, there are 21 season and 167 episodes, including 10 special shows. This British television series mainly discusses about motor vehicle, primarily cars.

The writer is interested in using Top Gear since it is a non-fictional program that does not require a long and full script like a movie. In the regular episodes, the show is held in the studio where the presenters speak spontaneously based on their knowledge and the presenters talk using their own words. There will be guests to be interviewed, news to be discussed and cars to be reviewed. There are also many audiences in the studio and the presenters interact with them. The writer of this study decides to use this show as the research object because the three presenters use spontaneous language more than the script given.

After the writer did a small research in the episodes of Top Gear, the writer decided to use the two last special shows from the latest season to be the subject since there are many interjections appear than other episodes. Moreover, the reason of focusing on the interjection as the subject is because of the amount of interjections the presenters used during the show. It is necessary to conduct this research since the interjections used carry certain meanings. In addition, there is no research about Top Gear with the focus on interjection yet.

In order to enable the process in obtaining the data, the writer uses the theory of interjection proposed by Felix Ameka (1992a). He classifies interjections based on their lexical structure into two main classes: primary interjections and secondary interjections. Primary interjection is non-words such as, *sh*, *ouch*, *yuck*. Secondary interjection is words that can be used as utterances

by themselves, for example, *oh god*, *well*, and *shit*. Based on the communicative functions, Ameka (1992a) classifies the main class of interjections into three: expressive interjections, phatic interjections and conative interjections. Expressive interjections are used to express emotion or feeling. Phatic interjections are usually used to show the hearer understanding to the speaker's previous utterance. While conative interjections are used to show emotions by demanding some actions directed to the hearer.

Some researchers have done the study about interjection. There are a lot of previous studies about interjections. Matrood (2010) investigates about the pragmatic significance of teaching ESL or EFL learners of how to use interjections. While Fauziah (2011) examines interjections used by the character in Kung Fu Panda movie. The last is Rifai's (2012) study about the use of interjections in School of Rock movie in discourse point of view.

None of the studies mentioned above discussing the interjection used by the three presenters of Top Gear. However, the studies about interjection mostly use Ameka's theory (1992a) or other theorists to investigate the types of interjection whether or not this neglected part of speech he has discussed exist universally. In the light of current research, it is clear that this research, by contrast, utilizes the Ameka's theory of interjection (1992a) as a tool to examine the use of interjection used in context by presenters of Top Gear. The writer of this study argues that an interjection can best account as an important part of language.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

The writer formulates the statement of the problems in this research as follows:

1. What are the most frequent types of interjection words used by the three presenters of Top Gear?
2. What types of interjection words used by the three presenters of Top Gear?
3. What are the functions of interjection that the three presenters of Top Gear used?

## **1.3 Objective of the study**

Based on the problems mentioned above, the objectives of this research are:

1. To explain the most frequent type of interjection words used by the three presenters of Top Gear.
2. To identify the types of interjection words used by the three presenters of Top Gear.
3. To discover the function of interjection that the three presenters of Top Gear used.

## **1.4 Significance of the study**

There are some significances of doing this research. This study is expected to give both theoretical and practical significance to the study of language, particularly on the aspect of semantic and pragmatic. For theoretical significance,

by this research, the writer expects to give valuable contribution to anyone who learns about language, particularly interjection. The findings of this study hopefully can also be used as additional information sources for other researchers who are attracted to investigate the same topic. In practical significance, the reader will gain the knowledge regarding the interjections appeared in television series. The readers will understand the types, the function and the meaning of interjections and how they are used in context.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This research focuses on the interjection used in television series Top Gear season 21 episodes 6 and 7. The writer limits the research and focuses on the analysis only on interjections used by the three presenters of Top Gear using the theory of interjection by Ameka (1992a). The limitation is made in order to avoid the broadening of the discussion and to make this research easier to understand.

### **1.6 Definition of the Key Terms**

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpreting to the reader, the writer formulates definition of key terms of some technical words used in this research.

- 1. Interjection:** Words that conventionally constitute utterances by themselves and express speaker's current mental state or reaction toward an element in the linguistic or extra linguistic context (Ameka, 1994).
- 2. Main class of interjection:** A classification of interjection based on their lexical structure (Ameka, 1992a).

**3. Communicative function of interjection:** A function of main class of interjections based on what is perceived to be the predominant function of the item in question with respect to its semantics (Ameka, 1994).

# **CHAPTER II**

# **LITERATURE REVIEW**