

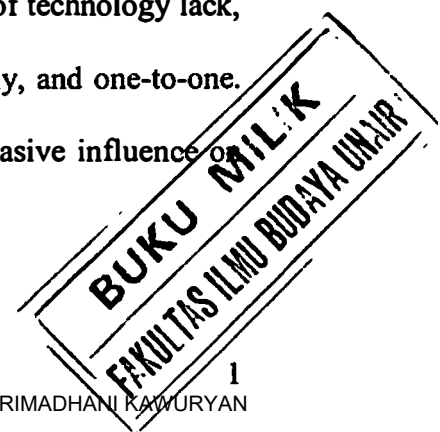
## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Talking to someone is always interesting, especially to people who has close degree of intimacy. However, face to face conversation sometimes cannot be done because most people might not have much time to meet each other. Mobile phone is an example of distance communication devices that has become very popular in recent times. Although it has similar characteristics as landline phone, it also has a lot of other function such as sending text messaging, browsing the internet and others. Conversations through mobile phone might be a simple way out for a busy people to reach their friends anywhere and anytime. Having conversation by mobile phone is very interesting, because it will not waste our time, but the conversation still can happen. There are many people prefer to choose have a conversation by mobile phone rather than by landline phone and sometimes it can give a particular interest.

It is interesting to see how people make conversation through mobile phone. As Adam (1996) said that the new technologies are themselves dramatically changing the nature of the language we use (Bodomo, 2010, p.38). Mobile phone as a modern digital communications technology is characterized by flexibility, connectivity and interactivity that traditional forms of technology lack, such as conversation many-to-many, many-to-one, one-to-many, and one-to-one. Those kinds of things made them enable to have a more pervasive influence on



forms and uses of language (Bodomo, 2010). The first thing is that people may talk differently compare through the landline one, for example, they rarely ask for the recipient name, they can call the right person that they want to talk, and sometimes they can also talk about the topic directly. There are various conversations that can occur by mobile phone, not only formal conversation but also informal conversation. The conversation that are sometimes happen by mobile phone such as gossiping with friends, sharing something to other friends, about school assignment that they get in the class and also between family member.

Nevertheless, it is said that the nature of mobile phone somehow different from landline phone, some researchers investigated that there are other use of mobile phone. Campbell (2007) made a survey which data are taken from the students from Japan, Sweden, Taiwan, Hawaii, and the U.S. Mainland, he argued that mobile phone also considered as a fashion. He also stated that the attitudes about mobile phone may different in public setting, they may talk differently for example they lower their voice when receive a call in a meeting but they would say louder voice when no one around. He also argued that mobile phone use for safety/security, instrumental purposes and expressive purposes. His result showed that there are differences and similarities in the use of mobile phone among the cultural groupings.

From that phenomenon, it makes the writer interested in conduct this research about mobile phone conversation especially done between those who have close social relationship, since this conversation considered as casual conversation. It is suspected that casual conversation has special characteristic that

can be analyzed. Conversation Analysis that proposed by Schegloff is used as the main theory of this research

Conversation Analysis (CA) is a field of study concerned with the norms, practices and competences underlying the organization of social interaction. CA is concerned with all forms of spoken interaction including not only everyday conversation between friends and acquaintances, but also interactions in medical, education, mass media and socio-legal context, relatively 'monologic' interactions such as web-based multiparty communication (Drew & Curl, 2008, p.22).

In Conversation Analysis, Levinson defines that there are 3 stages in conversation such as opening, middle and closing stages (Paltridge, 2000). According to Schegloff (2007), every turn in a conversation, like opening sequences, is central to form an organized and good sequence of interaction between two parties. Therefore, it is natural when a person greets someone; he/she expects a response from the addressee or anyone who notices the greetings, however, if there is no response to the openings, the interaction cannot occur. 'hi' components function as the first initial pair in a conversation in which people usually start their conversation. After that, people continue their turn construction to *howareyou sequence* to know one's condition before the other topic can be uttered.

People might think that words just like "hello" "good morning" and "yeah" does not have any effect in an opening phone conversation because sometimes they say it unconsciously. Nevertheless, they keep saying it continuously on the phone conversation. Schegloff (1986) argued that even the

opening sequence may begin with unworthiness ritual but there must be 'a routine' behind all of that (Schegloff, 1986, p.112). In mobile phone conversation, people might not aware of the function and the effect of those words on their everyday conversations where is actually those words might embed something influential to the conversation and they do it automatically.

Schegloff (1986) had made a research about American telephone conversation opening and proposed that there are four sequences that always happen. The first sequence is summons/answer sequence which symbolizes when both parties ready to talk. After that, the identification sequence that always followed by the greeting sequence. The last is 'howareyou' sequence.

This writer wanted to know the pattern of opening sequence in Indonesian mobile phone conversations and compare it to Schegloff's American telephone conversations. By using Schegloff's pattern of opening sequence in American telephone conversation as the general theory, the writer tried to find the pattern of opening sequences that lies in Indonesian mobile phone conversations especially those who have close degree of intimacy. However, telephone and mobile phones have different characteristic but this study will be the benchmark because it will create new form of mobile phone conversation that can be identified, specified, and characterized (Arminen, Leinonen, 2006, p.339). Moreover, Schegloff (1986) stated that it is important to know the differences in the organization because some motives might influence it, and also more general accounts of the organization of conduct will allow us to treat the varying practices as orderly alternatives.

## 1.2. Statements of the Problems

Based on the explanation above, the writer would like to state the problems

1. What is the pattern of opening sequence in Indonesian mobile phone conversations?
2. How different is the opening sequence in Indonesian mobile phone conversations to Schegloff's American telephone conversations?

## 1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the pattern of opening sequence in Indonesian mobile phone conversations.
2. To identify the differences between opening sequences in Indonesian mobile phone conversations to Schegloff's American telephone conversations.

## 1.4. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to contribute on media and communication field, especially in communication between people through media communication. It is suspected that research in different language may bring different pattern, in this case is Indonesian to Schegloff's American which apparently has different culture and might result different pattern in talk in interaction.

The aim of the study is to gain more knowledge on the study of Conversational Analysis, on how linguistics pattern is influenced by means of communication used in opening sequences in mobile phone conversations. Otherwise, through this study, readers are provided by how Conversational Analysis brings communicative environment on people's interaction based on mobile phone conversations. Moreover, Schegloff (1986) also stated that this kind of study may contribute to the sense of significance which analyst attribute to what appears to vary.

#### 1.5. Definition of Key Terms

- Opening Sequence** : beginning. initiating exchanges that establish social relation. (Burn and Joyce, 1997)
- Mobile phone** : a technological communication device created for making mobile telephone calls (Lloyd, 2007)
- Conversational Analysis** : The study of talk and other forms of conduct (including the description of the body in gesture, posture, facial expression and on going activities in the setting) in all forms of interaction (Schegloff, 2002).

**CHAPTER II**  
**LITERATURE REVIEW**