ABSTRACT

Anindyawati, Mega. A Study of Conversational Strategies in Mixed-Gender Conversation among English Department Students of Airlangga University. Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree of English Department Faculty of Humanities Airlangga University, 2012.

This study discusses about conversational strategies used among male and female students of English department of Airlangga University. The aims of this study are to examine how male and female students used conversational strategies and identify the functions of strategies produced. The writer intends to describe in details conversational strategies proposed by Coates (2004) that are minimal responses, hedges, tag questions, questions, directives, swearing and taboo languages and compliments found in the participants' utterances. The participants of this study are one male student and four female students of English department Airlangga University. They are close friends who had similar age range, ethnicity and social roles. The writer recorded the participants' conversation in the informal setting that is in the Wi-Fi area on April 27th 2012. Next, the writer classified the data and transcribed it orthographically. Then, she analyzed how conversational strategies are used by male and female students, identified the functions of the strategies, interpreted it and made a conclusion. The result of this study showed that the participants used all conversational strategies except compliments. Each of them used the strategies to carry on different functions which aimed differently. Male student and female student 3 used conversational strategies mostly to convey their domination. Female student 1 employed the strategies both to dominate others and connect with others. Meanwhile female student 2 and female student 4 utilized the strategies mainly to establish connection with others. Thus, each individual with their own personality had different ways in using conversational strategies regardless their gender.

Keywords: *conversational strategies, mixed-gender conversation*