ABSTRACT

Aulia, Marissa. Gossip Talk between Female Students of English Department Airlangga University (A Conversation Analysis Approach). A thesis submitted as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Sarjana Degree of English Department, Faculty of Letters, Airlangga University, 2007.

This study is about gossip talks between female students of English Department Airlangga University. The aims of this study are to find out the conversational features and the functions used by female students of English Department Airlangga University while gossiping in campus.

This study uses Conversation Analysis as the methodology. The participants of this study are a group of friends consisting of five persons and they were all female students of English Department Airlangga University. The data were taken when the participants were gossiping at canteen in their campus. The procedures of data collection are recording gossip conversation and divide the data based on the subject the participants were talked about. Then, the techniques of data analysis are transcribing the data by adapting the transcription convention, translating the data into general English language, presenting the findings of conversational features which appeared in the conversation, such as minimal responses, tag questions, back channel response, interruptions and overlaps, and then, analyzing the functions of these conversational features and making a conclusion.

Based on the data analysis, it shows that the subjects of this study (female students) use certain language strategy when gossiping which is called collaborative style. The conversational features mostly used by the participants are minimal responses, tag questions, overlaps and interruptions. The functions of these conversational features are to show that the participants are collaborating and supporting to each other. Therefore, any violation rules of turn-taking are acceptable because it has no purpose to dominate the conversation.

Key words: *Gossip talk, Women's Collaborative Style, Minimal responses, Tag questions, Turn Taking Patterns (Overlaps and Interruptions), Conversation Analysis, a group of friends Female students of English Department Airlangga University.*