

A CONVERSATION ANALYSIS OF VERBAL BACKCHANNEL RESPONSE IN RADIO PROGRAM *VALENTINE IN THE MORNING* INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL BUBLÉ

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate verbal backchannel response uttered in a radio program *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl  using conversation analysis approach. The objectives of this study are to identify the types and functions of verbal backchannel response uttered by Sean as the announcer and Michael Bubl  as the guest in the radio program. This research applied descriptive qualitative as the method. The data were in the form of utterances, while the contexts of the data were the dialogues uttered by Sean and Michael Bubl . The sources of the data were the video of Michael Bubl 's episode of *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl  and its transcript. The data were collected by selecting dialogues containing verbal backchannel responses. The primary instrument was the researcher herself, while the secondary instrument was a data sheet. The results of this research are stated as follows. (1) All types of verbal backchannel response are employed by Sean and Michael Bubl , i.e. repetition, short question and answer, short verbalization, lexical item, phrase, and sentence. Among six types of verbal backchannel response, short verbalization is the main type of verbal backchannel response performed in the radio program *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl , while phrase becomes the least type of verbal backchannel response performed. Short verbalization often performs because it is used to avoid disruption and it is easier to be uttered. (2) There are seven functions of verbal backchannel responses, i.e. supporting the idea and indicating agreement, showing awareness, requesting clarification, expressing exclamation, indicating reference, attempting interruption, and waiting for the complete sentence. Among those functions, attempting interruption is the only function that does not appear in the radio program *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl , while showing awareness is the main function appearing in the radio program *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl . Either Sean or Michael Bubl  employs verbal backchannel response to show their awareness that they still pay attention to the conversation.

Keywords: conversation analysis, verbal backchannel response, *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl 

BACKGROUND

Expressing feelings, exchanging ideas, sharing information, and delivering messages are activities people usually do by conversing. They are demanded to

understand the rules in conversation. For example, people should know how to respond to what a speaker said and when they should take the floor to establish a conversation simultaneously. Those cases often occur in natural conversation; people

show attention, interest, and support by uttering small word, nodding, and laughing, and they take the floor when the speaker finishes his/her utterances or interrupts the speaker.

In conversation, both the speaker and the listener will automatically exchange the roles. Both of them know when they have to take the floor by understanding the clues given by the speaker before finishing his/her sentence. When the speaker is talking, the listener can insert short utterance to express his/her utterance without interrupting the speaker. This phenomenon is called backchannel response. Yule (1998: 127) defines that backchannel is a vocal indication of attention, e.g. *Uh-huh*, *hmm*, and *yeah*.

There are two kinds of backchannel response: verbal backchannel response such as *mm-hm*, *uhh-huh*, and *okay*, and non-verbal backchannel response such as head nod, eye gaze, and laugh (Heinz, 2003: 63). Those types of verbal backchannel response usually appear in daily conversation. However, the phenomenon of backchannel response also can occur in institutional setting, for example, in television program: talk show, news interview, and television drama or series, and radio program: radio interview, and radio-in-phone. Even though the environment of such programs is set up, the conversation flows naturally.

According to some scholars, verbal backchannel response can be divided into several types. However, the researcher classifies entailment into seven types of verbal backchannel response, which are repetition, short question and answer, short

verbalization, lexical item, phrase, and sentence (Sungkaman, 2007)

The first type of verbal backchannel response is repetition. This type is done by repeating the speaker's utterance. It can be form of a word, phrase, and/or sentence. Therefore, repetition functions to support the previous speaker's utterances, to request a clarification, and to signal the attention. For example:

- Anne : You look very happy*,
 Brian. What has happened?
 Brian : ***Happy**, Oh yeah, today is
 the happiest day in my life.
 (* is symbol
 of verbal backchannel
 response)
 Anne : Really?
 Brian : Yes. Finally, I got 100 on
 the last English test

This dialogue shows that Brian performs partial repetition *Happy* after Anne states that Brian looks very happy today. The partial repetition *Happy* employed is in the form of the lexical item. Furthermore, it has a function to support Anne's utterances that he is really happy today. Brian responds Anne before she completes her utterances; it is signed with (*).

The second type of verbal backchannel response is short question and answer. This type is done by the listener if he/she utters verbal backchannel response in the form of short question-answer. It is usually accomplished by uttering *really?*, in forms of short question: what, why, where, which, who, and how, and/or in a form of the word that the speaker already said. It functions to request clarification, to express exclamation or awareness to the speaker.

The next type of verbal backchannel response is short verbalization. This type is accomplished when the listener performs verbal backchannel response in a single or set form, such as *mm-hmm*, *uh-huh*, and *yeah*. Regularly, it is employed to show that the listener is interested and pays attention to the topic carried by the speaker. The example of short question-answer and short verbalization is shown below.

Brian : An, do you know where is
my glasses?
Anne : ***Glasses?**
Brian : ***Yeah**. I forget where I put
it.
Anne : I don't know.

This dialogue shows that Anne responds Brian's question by employing the content word of Brian's utterances to be the question *Glasses?*. Then, Brian responds Anne's question by employing short verbalization *Yeah* and sentence to explain why he asks Anne about his glasses. Anne's short question is used to express exclamation about her curiosity about Brian's glasses, while Brian's short answer in the form short verbalization functions to support Anne's utterances that he really asks about his glasses to Anne.

Then, lexical item is the type of verbal backchannel response accomplished when the listener performs verbal backchannel response in a form of lexical item. It functions to show agreement, support an idea and/or awareness that the listener is paying attention to the speaker. While, phrase is the type of verbal backchannel response accomplished when the listener utters performs verbal backchannel response in a form of phrase. The listener usually employs it to request

clarification, to express agreement and to support ideas. For example:

Brian : Didn't Jason ever tell you
about Sean?
Anne : **his brother?**
Brian : ***Yes**, now he is in the navy

This dialogue shows that Anne responds Brian by employing phrase form *his brother?* when Brian asks her whether Jason ever tells her about her Jason. It is performed to request clarification that what Brian means is Jason's brother. Then, Brian employs lexical item *Yes* and a sentence *now he is in the navy* to respond Anne. It means that Jason is now in the navy.

The last type of verbal backchannel response is sentence. This is the verbal backchannel response performed at the sentence level. A sentence can be considered as the sentence of the verbal backchannel response when the listener attempts to respond the speaker by repeating and/or reasking what the speaker said. It is usually performed after the speaker completes his/her sentence and functions to support the speaker's idea and to indicate agreement or disagreement. It is usually performed after the speaker completes his/her sentence and functions to support the speaker's idea and to indicate agreement or disagreement. For example:

Sarah : What do we have for
dinner tonight, mom?
Mrs. Anne : I will make roast
beef and cream of
mushroom soup.*
Sarah : ***We will have
cream of mushroom
soup tonight!** Wow,
did you need help,
mom?

- Mrs. Anne : No, go do your homework and leave it all to me.
- Sarah : Thanks mom, I do not want to be late for cream of mushroom, call me as soon as possible when the dinner is ready.

In the dialogue above, Sarah asks her mother, Mrs. Anne, what they will have for dinner. Mrs. Anne replies that they will have roast beef and cream of mushroom soup. Immediately, Sarah repeats Mrs. Anne's utterance in the form of sentence *We will have cream of mushroom soup tonight!*. It means that Sarah loves it that cream of mushroom soup will be one of Sarah's family has as their dinner menu. Then, the following sentence *Wow, did you need help, mom?* emphasizes that Sarah loves cream of mushroom soup, hence she offers to help Mrs. Anne to cook dinner menu. However, Mrs. Anne refuses the offer because she wants Sarah does her homework. Sarah thanks her mother because she can do her homework and requests to call her as soon as the dinner is ready.

Actually, there are seven types of verbal backchannel analysis that is Thai backchannel response, type of verbal backchannel response in the form short question and answer mostly used in Mon language – one of Thai language. However, this type cannot be used because it is unrelated to the research context.

Based on the theoris stated in the literature review, the researcher focuses on identifying the types of verbal backchannel response and describing the functions of verbal backchannel response in a radio

program *Valentine In the Morning*. *Valentine In the Morning* is one of the top programs that American family often hear every morning and one of the best three radio programs that have a high rating based on monthly survey on online radio. As a result, it was awarded as ABC Radio Personality of the Year and RMA Personality of the Year. Moreover, the announcer of the program is Sean Valentine who has started his career as a radio announcer since he was 15 years old. He is a former police officer, USO Entertainer, and comedian. The most important attribute is when on-air, he is open with the listeners. He shares about his real life and shares about jokes. Therefore, it makes the guest and the listener comfortable to share their stories.

However, the research only scrutinizes *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl . Michael Bubl  is one of the brightest Canadian classic jazz and soul singers. He is invited to the program because he is in the process of album making and in the moment of waiting his child to be born.

In radio, a radio announcer talks naturally because the characteristic of radio is directly being broadcasted without any pre-recording and/or editing process. Hence, the radio announcer must talk simultaneously to maintain the program, especially when there is a guest invited to interview. To respond the guest and to maintain the program, the announcer usually responds by employing short verbalization, such as *uh-huh*, *mm-hm*, and *yeah*. It functions to indicate that the announcer pays attention to the conversation. Therefore,

there are possibilities that backchannel response can occur in a radio program.

Therefore, the researcher is interested to to examine this phenomenon by using conversation analysis. Conversation analysis is defined as the study of social action reflected through utterances (Wooffitt, 2005). Conversation analysis is relevant to this research because the object of this research has similar features with the concept of conversation analysis that can be used to discover types of backchannel response and to explore its function.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study was conducted by employing a descriptive qualitative method because the results were described in a narrative way. Vanderstoep and Johnston (2009: 7) state that descriptive qualitative method presents phenomena in words instead of number measure. A descriptive qualitative method was employed in this research since the research expounded one of the conversational phenomena which is verbal backchannel response.

This study was conducted by using conversation analysis (CA) which focused on the interactional process occurred in the radio program *Valentine In the Morning*. CA was employed because it can reveal and describe the types and the functions of verbal backchannel response in the conversation of a radio program; *Valentine In the Morning* which interviews Michael Bubl  in which those are the objectives of this study.

The data of this research were the utterances produced by the radio announcer and the guest in *Valentine In the Morning*.

The data were in the forms of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. It is in line with Bungin (2007: 103) who states that qualitative data are in the forms of sentences, utterances, and short stories. The context of the data was the dialogue between the radio announcer and the guest in *Valentine In the Morning*. Meanwhile, the data source was the video of Michael Bubl  episode of *Valentine In the Morning* that and the transcript of the interview.

The instruments of this research are the researcher as the main instrument and data sheet as the secondary instrument used to analyze the data. The researcher applied some techniques in collecting the data: watched the program, matched the transcript, took a note on the data transcript, selected and categorized the relevant data based on the classification, and transferred the data given symbol into the data sheet. Therefore, the researcher uses textual analysis technique, there were several steps of examining the data: observed and transferred the data into data sheet, categorized the data based on the formulation of the problem, described the data, answered the problem, and drew the conclusion. Thus, to gain trustworthiness, the researcher conducted data triangulation to check the accuracy of the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

There are six types of verbal backchannel response i.e. repetition, short question-answer, short verbalization, lexical item, phrase, and sentence. All of the types of verbal backchannel response suggested by Sungkaman were found in *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl . The

highest frequency of the types of verbal backchannel response is short verbalization. It is often employed because the listener tends to avoid complicated words in order to not disrupt the speaker. Meanwhile, not all functions mentioned by Sungkaman are found in *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl  that are six out of seven functions are found. They are supporting the idea and indicating agreement, showing awareness, requesting clarification, expressing exclamation, indicating reference, and waiting for the complete sentence. Furthermore, the function of verbal backchannel response which is not found is attempting interruption. It is because the listener does verbal backchannel response without making the speaker to stop talking. Even when the listener repeats the speaker's utterances, the speaker keeps talking naturally. Among the six functions found, the announcer and the guest often mostly perform verbal backchannel response to show that they still pay attention to the conversation and to show that they support the idea and indicate agreement.

The researcher describing the findings into two subdivides: types of verbal backchannel response and functions of verbal backchannel response in the conversation of *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl .

Repetition is accomplished by repeating the speaker's previous utterance. The listener usually repeats only the content word of the complete sentence, called partial repetition, and performs after the short verbalization. For example:

M: But apparently at 5 o'clock in the morning//

A: //It's little ***sketchy**

M: there's ***sketchy** drug-addicts and killers everywhere and it was like the scariest bacon and eggs I've ever gone.

(Datum 5)

In the example above, Sean claims that he always goes down to E 80th St, and he feels that it is safe. However, when he went to there at 5 o'clock in the morning he felt that the atmosphere was different from before, it was creepy. Here, Sean interrupts by saying *It's little sketchy*. Michael Bubl  repeats Sean's words *sketchy* which is followed with another adjective used to illustrate the situation at that time.

Sean's interruption does not disturb Michael Bubl  to continue what he wants to talk about. Moreover, *sketchy* is repeated by Michael Bubl  to continue his utterances. This repetition is categorized as the repetition in the form of the lexical item.

Sometimes the listener utters short comment in the form of question, then the speaker will answer it by uttering short answer and/or explaining with long sentences. Short question-answer is the type of verbal backchannel response in which usually the listener utters it when he/she needs to clarify something about what the speaker said.

A: Have you tried, like.. //at grocery stores that open for 24 hours?

M: //There was nothing open*

A: ***Really?***

M: ***No no**

(Datum 9 and 10)

In the dialogue above, Michael Bubl  tries to get bacon and eggs at 04.30 am in which it is far from his house. Then, Sean asks Michael Bubl  whether he tried to go to

grocery stores that open for 24 or not. Michael Bubl  interrupts Sean by saying *There was nothing open* before Sean completes his sentence. After Sean finishes his utterances, immediately he responds Michael Bubl 's interruption by employing the short question *Really?*. Furthermore, Michael Bubl  employs the short answer *No* that is uttered twice to respond Sean's short question.

This type of short question-answer is usually performed in daily conversation. Not only *really?*, people also employ general question like what, why, which, when, where, how, and in the form of the word that the other parties already said to respond their interlocutor.

Short verbalization is often employed in *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl . They are performed 60 times out of 85 total data. It is usually uttered after/when the speaker is talking. Here is the example:

M: I was n-not long I was in bed here in Los Angeles* and my wife said like 'I want bacon and eggs, go'.

A: ***Mm-hm**

(Datum 2)

In the example above, Michael Bubl  tells that when he was new in Los Angeles, her wife ordered him to buy bacon and eggs and her wife wants him to get bacon and eggs at 04.30 a.m. Here, Sean responds it by employing the short verbalization *Mm-hm* which is uttered when Michael Bubl  is saying *I was n-not long I was in bed here in Los Angeles*. The short verbalization such this type often occurs in the conversation of *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl .

Short verbalization can be performed alone or it can be accompany with other type of short verbalization: repetition, short-question-answer, lexical item, phrase, and sentence. Even short verbalization can be uttered continuously twice or more.

Lexical item is also often performed by the listener. It can be done by employing a single word to respond after/when the speaker is talking. For example:

A: And you meet her in Argentina?

M: yeah, in Argentina, when I met her she didn't speak English*, and I didn't speak Spanish.

A: ***Alright**

(Datum 18)

In the dialogue above, Sean asks about the first time Michael Bubl  met his wife that if he met Luisana in Argentina. Michael Bubl  replies by saying *yeah, in Argentina, when I met her she didn't speak English, I didn't speak Spanish*. It means that Michael Bubl  met her wife in Argentina, but when they met they did not communicate because Michael Bubl  cannot speak Spanish, so does Luisana she does not speak English. When Michael Bubl  is talking, Sean responds it by employing the lexical item *Alright* to signal Michael Bubl  that he still pays attention to the conversation.

Beside a lexical item, the listener also performs verbal backchannel response in the phrase form. For example:

A: Is that Luisana has a craving and it's all that she wants?*

M: ***that day...** but that all she wants lately, it's been blood sausage.

(Datum 11)

In the conversation above, Sean asks Michael Bubl  if it is only bacon and eggs that his wife has been craving. It means that

nowadays Luisana is not craving bacon and eggs. Michael Bubl  replies by saying *that day* which is categorized as the phrase and it is followed by a sentence to explain further about what Luisana is craving nowadays. *That day* here means that the day when Luisana was craving bacon and eggs, but lately Luisana is craving blood sausage.

Even though verbal backchannel response usually kind of short form, verbal backchannel response also in a form of sentence. It is performed to emphasize what the speaker said by repeating and/or to request clarification about the speaker conveyed.

M: That's.. I can't swear, swear, can't I?

A: No, yeah. I can see it in your eyes! Michael Bubl  is in the studio three times Grammy winner, thirty millions albums, and he is concentrated not to swear.

M: It's actually forty million* copies.

A: ***It's forty millions!**

(Datum 66)

In the dialogue above, Michael Bubl  wants to swear, but he cannot be allowed. Then, Sean teases Michael Bubl  who refrains himself not to swear by mentioning the rewards and the amount of the record copies that Michael Bubl  acquired. However, Sean mentions the wrong amount of the record album sold that is thirty million albums. Then, Michael Bubl  repairs the amount of the record album sold by saying *It's actually forty million copies*. Immediately, Sean repeats what Michael Bubl  said *It's forty millions!* and it is

categorized as the repetition in the form of the sentence.

There are six out of seven functions found in *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl . The first function of verbal backchannel response is supporting the idea and indicating agreement. It is employed to show that the listener agrees and supports what the spaker uttered. It is usually accomplished by saying *yeah*, *okay*, and *right*. For example:

M: Well, like in England they have it too!* but it's a...yeah it's just like congealed blood, it sounds like...the weird part is actually tasty.

A: ***yeah.**

(Datum 15)

In the dialogue above, Michael Bubl  says that Luisana is craving blood sausage nowadays, and Sean thinks that it is a weird food from Argentina. Sean assumes that blood sausage is a weird food form Argentina because Argentinean loves meat, they usually consume blood sausage, or called *Morcilla* in Argentina; however, American does not like blood sausage. Then, Michael Bubl  explains that blood sausage is Argentinian food, however blood sausage is not only in Argentina, but many countries also have it, such as England. He says that blood sausage is like congealed blood and the weird part is actually the tasty one. Here, Sean responds it by saying *yeah* which is categorized as the short verbalization. It means that Sean agrees about what Michael Bubl  said that blood sausage consumed by Luisana is Argentinian food which is not only in Argentina, but also in another country like England.

The listener employs verbal backchannel response to signal the speaker that he/she pays attention to the conversation. This function is often performed in daily conversation as well as in the conversation of the radio program *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl . There are 39 data show awareness function in which the short verbalization is the type mostly employed in the conversation of the radio program *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl . For example:

M: but honestly even if the kid has both parts*// as long as healthy, as long as he she's healthy, I will be happy.

A: ***yeah**// you're good.

(Datum 22)

In the dialogue above, Michael Bubl  claims that if he gets a baby who has both parts, a part signed male and female, he is good as long as the baby is healthy. Then, Sean employs the short verbalization *yeah*, and it is followed by a short comment that he acquires by interrupting Michael Bubl  *you're good*. Here, *yeah* which is said to indicate that Sean as the listener concerns about something that may happen to Michael Bubl . Then the following sentence, *you're good* is not categorized as the sentence of verbal backchannel response. It is because when Sean utters *you're good*, Michael Bubl  does not stop talking. It is only general sentence which functions to express his opinion about what Michael Bubl  said that he will feel good even when his baby has both parts. To simply put, *yeah* employed is categorized as a short

verbalization and it is used to indicate that Sean still pays attention to the conversation.

Verbal backchannel response also can be used to request clarification. It is usually uttered by repeating the speaker's previous utterance in the form of short question or asking with the short question. For example:

A: Have you guys checked if it's gonna be a baby boy or baby girl?

M: Ah...we haven't.

A: ***You haven't?!**

M: We haven't because it's too early probably we can find it out next week or something.

(Datum 20)

In the dialogue above, Sean asks if Michael Bubl  has checked that his baby will be a baby boy or a baby girl. Michael Bubl  replies *Ah... we haven't*. It means that he has not checked out the sex of the baby yet, hence he does not know if the baby is a baby boy or baby girl. Then, Sean shocks about Michael Bubl 's statement that he has not checked out the sex of the baby yet, he repeats Michael Bubl 's utterances in the form of the short question *You haven't?!* It has a function to request a clarification that if it is right that he has not checked the sex of the baby yet. Furthermore, Michael Bubl  replies by saying *We haven't because it's too early probably we can find it out next week or something*. Here, Michael Bubl  explains the reason why he and his wife have not checked out the sex of the baby yet that is because he thinks it is too early to check out the sex of the baby, and maybe he will find it out next week.

Performing verbal backchannel response also functions to express the listener's exclamation. It can be

accomplished by employing short question-answer or by repeating the speaker's previous utterances in the form of the short question. For example:

A: It's forty million?!

M: You just ripped ten million* off of me.. I worked very hard for those!!@

A: ***Oh my God, congratulations dude!!@**

(Datum 67 and 68)

In the dialogue above, Sean mentions Michael Bubl  's record copy; that is thirty million, when he tries to tease Michael Bubl   who is holding himself not to swear. However, the amount of the record copies sold which is mentioned by Sean is not correct. Michael Bubl   corrects it with the right of the amount of the record copies, forty million record copies. Here, Sean repeats it in the form of the short question *It's forty million?!.* Then, Michael Bubl   responds that Sean just ripped ten million off of what he acquired while laughing. Sean also responds it happily while laughing by saying *Oh my God, congratulations dude!!.*

Actually, this function is as same as the function of the requesting clarification, if the utterances contain the function of the requesting clarification, it can be ensure that the utterances have the function of the expressing exclamation. However, if the utterances show having the function of the expressing exclamation, it cannot be ensured that the utterances also have the function of the requesting clarification.

The listener can performs verbal backchannel to indicating reference in order to know about what the speaker's purpose. It can be accomplished by employing phrase, sentence, and/or short question-answer.

However, in the conversation of the radio program *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl  , it can be only found one datum that contains this function. Here the datum containing the function of the indicating reference.

A: Is that Luisana has a craving and it's all that she wants?*

M: ***that day...** but that all she wants lately, it's been blood sausage.

(Datum 11)

In the dialogue above, Sean asks Michael Bubl   about what Luisana has been craving if it is only bacon and eggs. Michael Bubl   responds it by employing the phrase *that day* and followed by the sentence that explains about what Luisana has a craving lately. It means that nowadays Luisana is not craving bacon and eggs. Here, *That day* refers to the day when Luisana had been craving bacon and eggs and the following sentence explains what Luisana wants and craves is blood sausage.

The last function of verbal backchannel response found in *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl   is waiting for the complete sentence. The listener preforms verbal backchannel response to wait the speaker to complete his/her utterance. In this case, the speaker is pausing and has not finished his/her utterances, so that the listener employs verbal backchannel response to wait the speaker to finish his/her utterances. It is usually performed by employing the short verbalization. For example:

M: but the truth is life is so much better without you! You've*...

A: ***yeah**

(Datum 60)

In the dialogue above, Michael Bubl   claims that he always writes a song about

love and romance, but he has never write a song about broken heart and/or how hurt his heart. Then, when Michael Bubl  has a thought that his heart has hurt and he wants to write that feeling to a song, he realizes that he has much better life than he is with his girlfriend. Here, Michael Bubl  pauses his utterances *you've*. He cannot continue what he wants to say that he was hurt because the love of his girlfriend. Sean responds it by employing the short verbalization *yeah* to signal Michael Bubl  that he still pays attention to the conversation and he still waits Michael Bubl  to continue his utterances.

Sean says *yeah* when Michael Bubl  is saying *You've*. It does not count as an interruption or an attempt to take the speaker's floor. It is because Sean does not any intention to interrupt or to take a turn. Sean employs *yeah*, it also means that he supports Michael Bubl  to continue what he wants to say.

To sum up, it can be seen that verbal backchannel response occurs when the speaker is talking; hence people claim verbal backchannel response as a part of turn-taking. However, verbal backchannel response is not considered as a part of turn-taking because the listener who is doing verbal backchannel response does not have an intention to take the speaker's turn.

Based on the findings, the types and functions of verbal backchannel response are closely related. Each type of verbal backchannel response may bring some functions and a function of verbal backchannel response may have more than one type of verbal backchannel response. Short verbalization has the highest

frequency and showing awareness function is the main function of verbal backchannel response. Moreover, it can be found that in one datum, there may be one or more types of verbal backchannel response, such as short question-answer and short verbalization. The listener prefers employing short verbalization because he/she tends to avoid complicated words in order to not disrupt the speaker. Hereby, it can be assumed that short verbalization is performed by the listener to show his/her awareness to the conversation that he/she still pays attention to the conversation.

CONCLUSIONS

There are six types of verbal backchannel response found in *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl  i.e. repetition, short question-answer, short verbalization, lexical item, phrase, and sentence. The highest frequency of types of verbal backchannel response employed is short verbalization. Short verbalization is employed 59 times out of 85 total data. Short verbalization becomes the mostly used type of verbal backchannel response because it is easy to be uttered and does not disrupt the speaker. The lowest frequency of types of verbal backchannel response uttered is phrase which can be only found in one datum.

Furthermore, there are six functions found found in *Valentine In the Morning* interview with Michael Bubl  i.e. supporting the idea and indicating agreement, showing awareness, requesting clarification, expressing exclamation, indicating reference, and waiting for the complete sentence. The main function appearing was

showing awareness which was found in 39 data out of 85 data. On the other hand, the functions that less appeared were indicating reference that can be only found in one datum. Showing awareness becomes the function mostly appeared because the main reason listener employs verbal backchannel response is to show that he/she still pays attention to the conversation.

SUGGESTIONS

Based on the result of the research which has been obtained, some suggestions are stated for further research. The suggestions are presented for some parties. For students of English Department and other researcher who are interested in studying verbal backchannel response, are expected to analyse it by using many other corpuses, such as movie, talk show, or in an interview/conversation which involved two people and by employing with different points of view, such as pragmatics, sociolinguistics, and discourse. Furthermore, for the readers, the readers will know the important verbal backchannel response in a conversation and they will know how to use verbal backchannel responses to signal that they still pay attention to the conversation since this study reflects conversations in daily life.

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