INTERRUPTION IN LUMET'S 12 ANGRY MEN MOVIE: A CONVERSATION ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This research employs Conversation Analysis (CA) to analyze interruptions in 12 Angry Men. This research is aimed at giving a description about the types of interruptions employed by the characters in the movie as well as the purposes of interruptions. In attaining the objectives of the research, descriptive qualitative research was employed in this research. The data were collected in the form of utterances indicating interruptions, while the context of the data was in the form of dialogues. Two findings can be drawn in this research. Firstly, the four types of interruptions are found in this research. They are simple interruptions, overlap interruptions, butting-in interruptions, and silent interruptions. Overlap interruptions appear frequently and it means the interrupter is highly involved and very enthusiastic to follow the conversation. Secondly, all of the functions of interruption are found in this research. They are disruptive interruptions, cooperative interruptions, and neutral interruptions.

Keywords: Conversation Analysis, Interruption, 12 Angry Men

I. INTRODUCTION

As social creature, people need to communicate in order to maintain their relationship and to give gain information others. from these interactions, conversations occur between two or more people in which one person in a particular time plays as an informant or speaker, and the other plays a listener. Conversation is a cooperative activity between a speaker and a listener. Yule (1996: 72) in his book entitled *Pragmatics* states that people should be aware of the right time to speak. People should know the right time when to speak in accordance to make the conversation flows.

Since conversation is an organized sequence of talking, there is a basic role for establishing who talks and who talks next. Naturally, only one person talks at a time regardless who speaks to whom in what language. The talk is socially organized (Wiemann and Knapp,1975: 78). Sustaining smooth transition in series of talk, especially in spontaneous conversation, is not as easy as it could be. Sometimes, people disturbs their partners in order to grab their chance to speak and try to be dominant by taking other's floor. This phenomenon of battling the floor in conversation is called interruption (Wiemann and Knapp,1975: 88).

An interruption is not permanently an action to dominate a conversation. This is in line with what Tannen says

[...] interruption is inescapably a matter of interpretation regarding individuals' rights and obligations. To determine whether a speaker is violating another speaker's rights, you have to know a lot about both speakers and the situation. (Tannen 1990:93)

According to Tannen, having known the speaker's intention and the situation may help another speaker to know the purpose of interruption. Sometimes, interruption is needed to support smooth conversation. and in this context. interruption for cooperative plays purposes. This interruption occurs to collect a brief information from the speaker.

People cannot abandon the occurrence of interruption in daily

conversation. Besides, the phenomenon of interruption also appears in a movie whether it occurs to support or to disrupt the speaker speech. It is interesting to analyze interruption which is taking place in a movie because movie is one of the entertainment media which reflects daily interaction at least between two people.

This research analyzed an interruption by using conversation analysis approach to reveal the types of interruption appear in the movie entitled 12 Angry Men.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Beattie (1982:96), interruption is indicated as losing a speaker's floor before he/she intended to finish it which makes his/her utterance incomplete. It means that the current speaker lost their floor. In other word, the interrupter successfully takes the floor. However, Zimmerman and West (1983: 115) have categorized interruption instance as an simultaneous speech which violates the rules of turn-taking. Ferguson (1977) (in Beattie, 1982:101-103) divides four types of interruption, simple i.e. interruption, overlap interruption, butting-in interruption, and silent interruption.

If an interrupter (a person who interrupt) takes the floor when the interruptee (The current speaker who is interrupted by interrupter) still manages to complete his/her sentence, this is called as Simple Interruption. The interrupter succeeds to disrupt the interruptee's talk so the interruptee stops his/her speaking. Therefore, the interruptee listens to the interrupter until the interrupter finishes his/her talk, then the floor comes back to the interruptee. The example is shown below:

S1: I know what you thought I know you S2: Ya still see her anymore?
(Zimmerman, 1975: 114)

In overlap interruption, the floor is shared between the participants because they speak at the same time. Nevertheless, he/she still can interrupt even though the original speaker does not stop until he/she completes his/her utterance. After the first speaker finishes, the interrupter still grabs the floor, so there is no break during the simultaneous speech. It is clear in the example below:

LG: ... I wonder whether people feel that this is because the Labour Party has run out of some steam. It hasn't so many

\ ideas. JC: ∫ I think i-,

I think it's because they are, ah answers to what are, gross over claims by the Conservative Party, ...

(Beattie, 1982: 102)

Butting-in interruption involved simultaneous speech. However, in this interruption there is no floor taking as the other interruption done. In this case the interrupter is unsuccessful in interrupting the speaker and he/she intends to stop their utterance because the interruptee keeps saying his/her word and ignoring the interrupter's interruption. Below is an instance for clear understanding.

S1: . . . Although I don't think anybody would do that unless they're going against what she says and I
S2: Ya, but can't see anybody going against that.

(Marche, 1993: 395)

In silent interruption, there is no simultaneous speech because the interruptee intends to stop his/her utterance for a while before he/she finish his/her utterance. The example below shows the silent interruption.

S1: But before you knew all this stuff, before you knew that she was [(pause)

S2:] That was Tina. (Marche, 1993: 395)

Basically, there are two purposes of interruption, i.e. disruptive and cooperative as suggested by Murata (in Li, Han Z: 2001:369). On the other hand, Goldberg (1990:888) adds one purpose of interruption that is neutral interruption.

According to Chiung Yang (1996), disruptive or competitive interruption take place when one speaker attempts to take the floor by making his/her own comment in a higher priority over the main speaker's speech when the main speaker intends to continue. There are three categories of disruptive interruption, i.e. disagreement, floor taking, and topic change.

An interruption can be used as a way of saying disagreement to the current speaker's opinion when the previous speaker disagrees with the current speaker and he/she wants to deliver it immediately. In the purpose of floor taking, the interrupter has a desire to improve the quality of conversation by doing interruption. Therefore, he takes the floor to get a turn and interrupt the current speaker for delivering a message without changing the topic. However, the purpose of topic change is used to change the topic which is different from the previous one. The interrupter immediately changes the topic when the current speaker did not finish their speaks utterance. The interrupter aggressively to get the floor and guide the topic.

According to Murata (in Han Z. Li, 2001: 369), cooperative interruption is intended to help the speaker by coordinating on the process and/or

content of the ongoing conversation. Zhao and Gantz (2003: 354) suggest that cooperative interruption is providing to achieve some purposes. They are to show agreement which shows the interrupter agrees to the speaker as the response to the topic in the conversation; to show understanding means the interrupter comprehends the topic being discussed; to show interest in topic, it shows the interest of the interrupter in a certain topic being discussed as the interrupter is very high-involved in it; to show clarification which is used to clarify something because the interrupter may not be sure with the point of the topic that the speaker uttered.

This last purpose of interruption is neither negative nor positive. This purpose is not to show dominance or support the interruptee's speech. Sometimes, the occurrence of this interruption happens when the interrupter does not realize that the interruptee has not finished their utterance.

III. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is aimed to give a description of interruption employed by the characters in 12 Angry Men especially on the type and the purpose of interruption. Thus, the best research design to be applied in this research was descriptive qualitative research since

qualitative research gave a realistic description towards the phenomenon (Vanderstoep and Johnston, 2009: 167).

The object of this research was 1957 American drama film entitled 12 Angry *Men*. The data of the research were in the form of utterances indicating interruption spoken by the characters in 12 Angry Men. The researcher played as the primary instrument in this research because he was involved in the entire research process. Then, the secondary instrument used in this research was the data sheet in order to obtain the data accurately. Peer debriefing technique by discussing the data with the people considered competent in criticizing the process of analyzing the data was chosen by the researcher to triangulate the research.

IV. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The data in this research are taken from the utterances in the dialogue presented by the characters in 12 Angry Men. There are 39 data found in this research which describe the types and purposes of interruption. All the types of interruption occur in different frequencies. Meanwhile, not all the purposes of interruption are found in the movie and gain a significant difference between one purpose of interruption to the other ones.

Overlap interruption reaches in highest frequency of occurring interruption. In overlap interruption, the interruptee is highly involved in the conversation. So. the interrupter interrupts the interruptee by speaking at the same time. Meanwhile, silent interruption reaches in the lowest position. In silent interruption, the interruptee is intended to continue his speaking but he stops his utterance for a while. The interrupter interrupts the interruptee in his silent time.

There are three categories of purpose of interruption: disruptive, cooperative, and neutral. From the three categories of purpose of interruption, disruptive interruption has the highest occurrence which is followed by cooperative interruption and neutral interruption is in the last position.

1. Types of Interruption

a. Simple Interruption

Simple interruption is an interruption which is simultaneous speech occurs between the speakers. One speaker loses his turn because the other is handling the floor to give his idea. In 12 Angry Men, simple interruption reaches the second place as the highest interruption after overlap interruption. This interruption is found as much as 14 data out of 39 data. Simple interruption happens because the current speaker

cannot finish his utterance since the interrupter grasp his floor. The example of simple interruption found in the movie is described as follows.

TEN: Great. I heard pretty good story last night...

EIGHT: That's not why we are sitting here for.

TEN: All right. Then you tell me what are we sitting here for?

(2/13:42:196 - 13:44:364)

There are eleven jury voting not guilty out of twelve jury. In addition, in the preliminary vote, there is one juror who votes not guilty, juror number eight. Juror number Eight votes not guilty under the reason that the child is about 18 years old. Juror number three assumes that 18 years old is old enough for someone to be punished. Some jury debate with the juror number Eight about his vote.

Juror number Nine uttered that he is willing to sit an hour for discussing the case. However, the juror number Ten prefers to tell about his last night story. Before he tells about his story and finish his utterance, juror number Eight interrupts him to show his disagreement toward juror number Ten. This interruption is categorized as simple interruption because juror number Ten cannot finish his utterance.

b. Overlap Interruption

All the male characters in this movie perform overlap interruption spontaneously. This interruption appears when both of the speakers speak at the same time in a simultaneous speech. There is no apparent break in continuity. Moreover, the result of this research shows that overlap interruption has the highest rank which appears 15 times out of 39 data. An example of overlap interruption which is found in this movie is shown in the datum bellow.

SIX: Well, it don't exactly prove anything. It's just part of the picture.

EIGHT: well, you said it provided a motive.

(6/19:46:351 – 19:47:663)

The expression in bold is uttered by juror number Eight when he disagrees with juror number Six. They discuss about the woman in the apartment across the hall from the kid's apartment. She swears that she saw a fight of argument between the boy and his father. Further, juror number Eight asks him about a motive that juror number Six explain previously.

Juror number Eight performs interruption which is classified as overlap interruption since he interrupts juror number Six who keeps telling his idea about the fact. It is about the boy run angrily out of the house after fighting with his father. Juror number Eight asks juror number Six to explain it. However, juror number Six prefer to say it is not so

important. This interruption that is performed by juror number Eight is used to oppose juror number Six's argument.

c. Butting-in Interruption

Butting in interruption is a type of interruption in which the interrupter fails to disrupt the interruptee. Subject to the occurrence of this interruption, fails in interrupter taking the interruptee's turn and he remains to stop his utterance. This interruption occurs in a simultaneous speech where it seems that both speaker speak at the same time but it is actually not considered as overlap interruption. According to the findings of this research, a brief description of butting-in interruption described below.

SEVEN: I mean what's the point of this whole thing?

FIVE: wait. Hold it a second, will

you?

SEVEN: oh, and the Baltimore rooter is heard from again now and pop-ups are falling for base hits wherever we look.

(30/53:33:87 4 – 53:35:078)

In the datum above, it is noticed that juror number Five fails to interrupt juror number Seven. Juror number Seven ignores juror number Five's interruption. Since juror number Five cannot take the floor to speak, he remains to stop his utterance by lowering his voice. Although the interruption presented by juror number nine is a complete

utterance, but it is classified as butting-in interruption since there is no floor taking in the occurrence of this interruption.

This interruption occurs after the juror number Eight asks to call another vote. In this vote, juror number Eleven changes his vote from guilty to not guilty. When this utterance arises, juror number Five asks about it curiously. Juror number Five is doubtful about the old man who could run to the door because he is getting a stroke. The old man testify that he takes fifteen second to walk from his bed to the front door.

d. Silent Interruption

The last type of interruption found in the data is silent interruption. Silent interruption is an interruption where there is a silent between utterance. An interruptee gets a silent for a while in his utterance for some purposes. In this short silent, an interrupter cuts the current speaker who actually wants to continue his utterance. Therefore. ongoing speaker's utterance is incomplete. Meanwhile, the chance to speak is taken speaker, interrupter. by new the Moreover, simultaneous speech is left in this kind of interruption since there is a silent between speakers. Silent interruption constitutes only 1 datum in the data of this research. Here is the example of silent interruption:

FOUR: He went directly to a neighbourhood junk shop where he bought one of those (silent)

FIVE: switch knives.

(15/26:52:71 0– 26:54:381)

The dialogue above presents after juror number Three asking to discuss about the knife which is found by the police the night after the killing. The juror number Eight wants to see the knife and asks the Foreman to bring the knife. Juror number Five takes his turn when there is a silent in juror number Four's utterance. Juror number Five, who understands what juror number Four means, takes the floor to finish juror number Four's utterance.

Juror number Four takes a turn to describe the chronological event when the boy bought switch knives. He describes several facts that happen during the night of the murder. After he gets his second fact, he cannot manage to name the thing used by the boy to kill his father. He interrupts juror number Four to support him. After juror number Five success to interrupt juror number Four, the turn comes back to juror number Four. Then he continues to explain his ideas.

2. Purposes of Interruption

a. Disruptive

This interruption has three purposes, i.e. disagreement, floor taking, and topic change, in which only two of them

appears in *12 Angry Men*. Each of the purposes is described in the following description.

1) Disagreement

This interruption is used to show disagreement of the interrupter. The interrupter expresses his interruption to convince that he disagrees with the current speaker. He feels urged to break the rule of turn taking to express his ideas which differ with the current speaker. This purpose of interruption becomes the most frequent purpose of interruption since it occurs 15 times in the data. An instance of disagreement interruption is shown below.

FOREMAN: There's nothing personal **about this FIVE**: **No, there was something personal**.

(10/22:49:36 7– 22:50:859)

This interruption performed by juror number Five is used to show his disagreement toward the Foreman. It is seen from the utterance by juror number Five who states "no, there was something personal." He clearly states his disagreement by employing an interruption to give a signal that the juror number Four and juror number Ten have hurt him about his past.

This conversation occurs when juror number Ten give a support to juror number Five about his opinion on slum children. He really agrees that children with slum background are the worst since they are uneducated. He expresses that he did not want to be part of a slum. It is a coincidence that juror number Five feels insulted by juror number Ten's utterance.

2) Topic Change

Topic change is the second purpose of disruptive interruption found in the movie. This purpose of interruption is used to show disagreement indirectly by changing the topic being discussed. The current speaker as the interruptee has his utterance remain incomplete. The interrupter speaks aggressively to get the floor. He cuts the current speaker's utterance before the current speaker finishes it. This purpose of interruption appears six time in whole movie. An example of this purpose of interruption is shown in the datum below.

TEN: you're forgetting the important stuff. I mean, all of sudden, everybody here...

EIGHT: J I want to call for another vote.

(29/51:49:47 1-51:50:088)

The simple interruption occurs in the dialogue above is used to change the topic being discussed. It is seen from the utterance stated by juror number Eight who wants another vote to prove that there would be one juror changes his vote from guilty to be not guilty. The phrase "I want to call for another vote" is not in

line with juror number Ten's statement. Juror number Eight expresses it aggressively when he cuts juror number Ten's utterance. Therefore, he left juror number Ten's utterance remain incomplete.

This utterance is used by juror number Eight to show that he disagrees with juror number Ten indirectly by changing the topic of the discussion. This conversation begins when juror number Ten expresses his anger about the discussion that is going nowhere. He depicts his madness by yelling to all the jury especially juror number Five. He claims that all the jury just concern about the little detail of the case that he thinks it is not very important for him.

b. Cooperative

This interruption is used by the new speaker to cooperate with the current speaker. This interruption is used to support the interruptee since they have the same idea. The interrupter performs interruption to show his interest, enthusiasm, and high involvement in the conversation. The interruption also shows that the interrupter is an active listener, enjoying a topic in the current discussion, or trying to seek a joint solution to a problem.

This kind of purpose of interruption consists of four types. They are to show

agreement, to show understanding, to show interest in topic, and to show clarification. All of this purpose of interruption is found in the movie except to show interest in topic.

1) To show Agreement

This cooperative interruption is used by the interrupter to support the interruptee's idea. In this interruption, the interrupter is in line with the interruptee. He supports the interruptee by saying his agreement directly to the interruptee. To show agreement occurs four times in the data. All of them constitutes two types of interruption; simple interruption and overlap interruption. In this purpose of interruption, the interrupter gives his approval by saying his agreement toward the topic being discussed. Here is the example:

FOREMAN: and uh, well, we can vote on it right now and...

FOUR: I think

it's customary to take a preliminary vote.

SEVEN: Yeah, let's – let's vote.

Who knows? Maybe we all can getoutta here, huh?

FOREMAN: uh uhuh

(1/10:51:317 - 10:53:902)

This cooperative interruption appears in the first ten minutes of the movie. This cooperative interruption occurs in simple interruption which means the current speaker does not finish his utterance yet. The utterance of the

current speaker or the interruptee remains incomplete since the interrupter is very enthusiastic to support the interruptee.

This dialogue above contains cooperative interruption appears after all the jury gathered in the jury room. This cooperative interruption occurs after the Foreman gives an explanation and sets the rule about the discussion. The foreman wants to take a vote, so they know where all the jury stand for. Juror number Four interrupts the Foreman to show that he agrees with him.

2) To show Understanding

The interrupter tries to be involved in the conversation by taking the floor from the interruptee. The interrupter who interrupts the current speaker has a purpose to develop the conversation. The findings show that there are three datum containing this purpose. Each of the data employs different types of interruption. it means that the interrupter tries to have the floor since he knows very well about the topic in the conversation. The example is shown below:

SIX : I mean I could be wrong, but I... }

ELEVEN : It was eight o'clock.

(4/19:30:979 – 19:31:878)

The conversation above takes place when juror number Six has his turn to express his reason why he gives a verdict of guilty to the accused. Juror number Eleven employs simple interruption in the purpose to support juror number Six's utterance by showing his understanding on juror number Six's idea. juror number Eleven succeeds to grab the floor and shows his understanding.

Juror number Six does not give a clear argument about his reason, but he just looks for a motive behind the murder. Juror number Eight is the only juror questioning about the motive that juror number Six is looking for. He asks whether the chronology when the father hit the boy twice which make the boy run angrily out of the house is a strong motive or not.

3) To show Clarification

This purpose of interruption employs three kinds of interruption i.e. simple interruption, overlap interruption, and butting-in interruption. Mostly, the interrupter employs interruption in the purpose of gaining clear information and showing the need of clarification. In this purpose of interruption, the utterance that is used by the interrupter is mostly in the form of question. This purpose appears seven times in the data. Below is the example of this purpose.

NINE : It would be so hard for him to recede into the background.. SEVEN : wait a minute
NINE : when there was a chance.
(25/45:23:012–45:26:865)

Juror number Nine explains how an old man really feels if he is quoted by others even just once. It is very important for him to be like that especially in public area. Juror number Nine is able to make this argument since his age is almost 80 years old and he really knows what has just happened to the witnesses. Juror number Nine also assumes that the old man needs to be recognized by others since his appearance attracts people around him.

Juror number Seven employs butting in interruption to get a clarification from juror number Nine. However, he fails to interrupts juror number Nine since he still manages his floor to finish his word. Therefore, there is no floor taking in this simultaneous speech.

c. Neutral

This interruption is neither clear cooperative nor clear disruptive. People who do an interruption with this purpose merely to convince themselves about the information they get. Actually, they do not understand what the speaker said or they do not get the important word or information from the speaker. They will make an interruption to ask more explanation. Neutral interruption appears only four times in the data. This purpose of interruption employs overlap interruption and butting-in interruption in his occurrence. For clear understanding, below is the example of neutral interruption:

TEN: Sure, when you want them to, they do, or when he wants them to, they do. You know what I mean?

FOREMAN: hey.. okey. keep the yelling down.

(28/51:34:510–51:36:371) The Foreman interruption belongs to overlap interruption since the Foreman interrupts juror number Ten still manages his speaking. Juror number Ten and the Foreman speaks at the same time in a simultaneous speech. The interruption used by the Foreman is used to show his neutrality toward every juror especially juror number Ten.

This conversation takes place when juror number Ten asks to juror number Eleven whether the old man sees the boy running out of the house at 12:10 or not. Then, juror number Eleven agrees on it. It makes juror number Ten feels so pleased with his question to juror number Eleven. He continues his joyful by yelling around. The Foreman who leads this discussion wants juror number Ten to lower his voice.

v. CONCLUSIONS

Some conclusion is drawn based on the findings and discussion in chapter IV.

1. Four types of interruption are found in this movie i.e. simple

interruption, overlap interruption, butting-in interruption, and silent interruption. From the four types of interruption, overlap interruption reaches the highest rank which constitutes 18 out of 39 data. Overlap interruption performed by the characters in 12 Angry Men mostly to disrupt the current speaker. In addition, overlap interruption also produces to support the current speaker, and being neutral in the conversation. The interrupter performs overlap interruption since they are highly involved in the conversation. They are very enthusiastic to show his ideas upon the case by speaking at the same time with the speaker. In addition, the interrupter performs interruption to make an elaboration on the topic being discussed.

2. Prior to the purposes of interruption, there are three main purpose interruption, of i.e. disruptive, cooperative, and neutral. The disruptive purposes are to show disagreement, to take the floor, to change the topic of the discussion. To show agreement, to show understanding, to show interest in topic, and to show clarification belongs to cooperative interruption where interrupter performed it to support the interruptee. In relation to the purpose of disruptive interruption, all the jury tends to employ his disagreement towards the

current speaker's idea, the interruptee. However, cooperative interruption is employed mostly to show clarification. All the jury try to clarify the evidence stated by the current speaker. They try to seek the most significant evidence by discussing together. However, neutral interruption only occurs in overlap interruption and butting-in interruption. It is performed by the jury to show his neutrality. This interruption appears neither to disrupt nor to collaborate with the current speaker.

There is a correlation between types and purposes of interruption. simple interruption does not used to show neutrality; it appears mostly to disrupt the interruptee. However, overlap interruption almost occurs in all the purposes of interruption except in Floor Taking and To Show Interest in Topic. Butting-in interruption is performed To To Show Disagreement, Show Clarification, and To Show Neutrality. Finally, silent interruption merely occurs in the purposes of To Show Understanding and employed by juror number Five.

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