

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, research question, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study and the scope of limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication plays an important role in daily activities. Humans cannot separate communication from its daily function. We communicate by sharing our feelings, emotions, and ideas through utterances (Herman, 2015). Humans definitely need communication with each other to convey thoughts, share information, and share opinions. Communication refers to the interaction between people (Rahmawati, 2021). The interaction between individuals and groups is what facilitates the distribution of information through communication.

A conversation requires the participation of a speaker and a listener. In a conversation, the responsibilities of both the speaker and the listener are distinctly independent, indicating that each side is aware of their own contributions and the appropriate responses based on the previous statements made by the speaker (Mudra, 2018). Both speakers and listeners own different responsibilities and roles. Therefore, a conversation requires individuals to take turns speaking. Only one person may speak at a time; otherwise, there will be unwanted gaps of silence.

Language study that focuses on the meaning of words used in speech is called pragmatics. According to Yule (1996), pragmatics examines the meaning conveyed by a speaker (or writer) and understood by a listener (or reader). The goal of the branch of linguistics is to understand how context affects language meaning. Pragmatics involves language and context along with communication (Herman, 2015). The speaker conveys information to the listener through

delivered sentences. Conversation do not occur solely between one speaker and one listener; they also involve multiple speakers who take turns conveying information. This dynamic is influenced by the context of the conversation, which plays a crucial role in the transfer of information from one person to another.

In a conversation between the first speaker and the second speaker, the reciprocity of the two can be defined as adjacency pairs. A conversation always consists of a first pair and a second pair, which occur from different speakers (Yule, 1996). Adjacency pairs are defined as utterances made by first pairs and second pairs when they are expressing opinions or just sharing information. Adjacency pairs are conversational patterns where the utterances of one speaker affect the responses of another (Al-Sa'adoon & Al-Zubaidy, 2024). As previously mentioned, the information provided by the speaker significantly influences the listener, thereby enabling them to formulate an appropriate response.

The following exemplifies adjacency pairs in the context of Request-Acceptance, in a situation where A requests B to pass the salt during a dinner together.

Example with second pairs preferred response:

A: can you pass me the salt over there? (Request)
B: sure, here you go! (Acceptance)

Example with second pairs dispreferred response:

A: can you pass me the salt over there? (Request)
B: I'm sorry, but I can't reach it right now (Refuse)

In the context of adjacency pairs, the interaction between A and B can illustrate both preferred and dispreferred responses. In the first example, A asks, "Can you pass me the salt over there?" to which B responds, "Sure, here you go!" This exchange exemplifies a preferred response, as B's acceptance aligns with social expectations and facilitates smooth communication. Conversely, in the second example, A makes the same request, but B replies, "I'm sorry, but I

can't reach it right now." Here, B's response is a dispreferred one, as it does not fulfill A's request and introduces a level of awkwardness into the conversation. This contrast highlights how preferred responses promote cooperation and harmony, while dispreferred responses can complicate interactions and require further negotiation.

As explained above, adjacency pairs have several types according to Yule's (1996) theory, such as Greeting - Greeting, Question - Answer, Offer - Acceptance/Refusal, Request - Acceptance/Refusal, Invitation - Acceptance/Refusal, Suggestion - Acceptance/Refusal, Thinking - Response, and Assessment - Agreement/Disagreement. Additionally, these types of adjacency pairs have different responses. Yule (1996) explains that the preferred action is the structurally predicted response, whereas the dispreferred action is the structurally unanticipated response. Therefore, a harmonized conversation occurs when the first pair and second pair have good responses and reciprocity.

Adjacency pairs are not exclusively present in everyday conversations; they can also be identified in the musical film "La La Land." Released in 2016, this film is a romantic comedy featuring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone, who share an extraordinary chemistry. The movie tells the story of Sebastian, who aspires to become a jazz musician, and Mia, who dreams of becoming a famous actress. Both characters have ambitious dreams but must confront significant challenges in their relationship. In "La La Land," the main characters engage in numerous conversations. However, what sets this movie apart is that it is a musical. The main characters, Mia and Sebastian, sing to convey their emotions and thoughts. Therefore, the main characters do not only express their emotions and thoughts through conversation. This aspect is what makes the movie different from typical movies.

With various conversations covering a range of topics, this musical film undoubtedly contains types of adjacency pairs. By analyzing these various types of adjacency pairs, viewers can gain deeper insights into how Mia and Sebastian communicate their desires, fears, and aspirations, ultimately enriching the

narrative and enhancing the film's exploration of love and ambition. Additionally, the responses given by the main characters during their conversations reflect the preference structure of adjacency pairs. Therefore, the writer aims to analyze the use of types of adjacency pairs and the preference structure exhibited by the main characters, Mia and Sebastian.

1.2 Research questions

In this study there are two research question that necessary to be conducted:

1. What are the types of adjacency pairs that occur in the “La La Land” movie?
2. What are the preference structures of adjacency pairs uttered by the main characters in the movie "La La Land"?

1.3 The objectives of the study

In this study there are two objectives of study that necessary to be conducted:

1. To identify the types that applied in the “La La Land” movie.
2. To explore the preference structures of adjacency pairs uttered by the main characters in the movie "La La Land".

1.4 The significance of the study

From the study’s objective of study, there are theoretical and practical expected significances for this study there are:

1) Theoretical Significance

This study has the potential to enhance understanding of conversation, particularly in the context of adjacency pairs. This study will greatly benefit future research on adjacency pairs, particularly by students of English Study Program.

2) Practical significance

This study aims to contribute to understanding how people talk to each other in everyday conversations. Furthermore, this study serves as a valuable reference for other researchers who are conducting research on conversations or adjacency pairs, serving as a point of comparison or initial investigation. This study can be a valuable guide for future research by

improving upon it, thus encouraging the development of adjacency pair research.

1.5 The scope and limitation of the study

This study focuses on conversation analysis, especially on adjacency pairs in the movie “La La Land”. The writer conducts an analysis of the study, focusing on the types of adjacency pairs present in the conversations between the main characters. Furthermore, the writer examines how the adjacency pairs in “La La Land” respond to the characters' utterances. This research only focuses on the conversation between Mia and Sebastian, the main characters in the movie “La La Land”. To describe the types of adjacency pairs that occur in conversation between the main characters, this study analyzes these interactions using the theory presented by Yule (1996) in his book titled *Pragmatics*. Additionally, the analysis employs pragmatics principles to better understanding the context and implications of the adjacency pairs in their dialogue. Moreover, the limitation for this research is the utterances made by Mia and Sebastian, as the main characters, during the conversation in the movie that contain types of adjacency pairs.