

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some subchapters such as background of the study, statements of the research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study. These are important to explain because they describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is the process of transferring ideas, thoughts, desires, and convey opinions and information from one to another. When two people or more transferring information automatically they are having a conversation. Stenstrom (1994) said that conversation is a social activity involving two or more participants who talk about something. In a two-party talk, it requires mutual cooperation from both participant.

Since a conversation is used as communication tool, the participants must have a topic to discuss during the conversation so that the conversation runs smoothly. They do not only discuss something about one topic but also they have various kind of topics. It is impossible for them to talk about one topic from beginning until the end of the conversation. They will change or shift the topic from one to another which may be similar or different.

Topic shift in conversation often happen when speaker breaks the conversation (after a silence, e.g.), or after a story, the next speaker shift the topic. Sometimes they shift back to the previous one, refocus on something (inappropriately) in the previous speaker's talk, or disagree with the previous

speaker, sometimes they do not, either of which can elicit a topic shift (Maynard, 1980). Therefore, topic shift becomes an important thing in the conversation because the speaker can manage and change the roles.

Topic shift does not only happen in daily conversation but also happen in talk show program. Talk show becomes one of popular television programs in several countries. Popularity of talk show is difficult to be separated from the role of host who becomes the main actor in leading the talk show and invites the guest to make the talk show more interactive.

There are many talk show programs in television. One of talk shows which have a great popularity because of its host is *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show. It is an American late-night talk show, which is hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, and broadcasted on ABC Studios. The show premiered on February, 04, 2011, and is produced by Jackhole Productions. *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show is the longest running late-night talk show in ABC's history for 15 years and starting from July 10, 2018. The show has been nominated for 23 Primetime Emmy Awards and Creative Arts Emmy Awards. In 2008, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show becomes the winner of Outstanding Picture Editing of Clip Packages for Talk, Performance, Award or Reality Competition Programs. In 2018, it becomes the winner of Outstanding Original Music and Lyrics. In 2010, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show becomes the winner of Outstanding Costumes for a Variety, Nonfiction, or Reality Programming.

Quick-witted, amusing and down to earth, Jimmy Kimmel is one of the wealthiest and most successful American talk show hosts. He reached the

highpoint of his career and achieved great success in the field of late-night show with his hit show *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*. In 1989, he got his first job in the Seattle based radio station, KZOK-FM, as the co-host for the show *The Me and Him Show*. Jimmy Kimmel has some awards and achievements such as: he was the recipient of the Daytime Emmy Award as ‘Outstanding Game Show Host’ along with Ben Stein for the show ‘Win Ben Stein’s Money’ (1999), he was featured on Time Magazine’s list of ‘100 Most Influential People in the World’ (2013), and he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame (2013).

There are some reasons why *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* is chosen as source of data in this study. The first reason is because this talk show and the host achieve a lot of achievement which have been explained in the previous paragraphs above. Besides, there are so many interesting topics which is presented by the host in the talk show. Here is the example of the data that the host applies topic shift:

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76. Jimmy : You have some really heavy songs. One of them is called "I thought about killing you." is that song about somebody in particular? And is it me?
[laughter]
77. Kanye : You know, someone e-mailed me after that song came out and said that they had -- their mom had passed away and that they had taken 60 pills. And that they tried to kill themselves. And they wrote at the end of it, "premeditated murder." so it's --
78. Jimmy : ***And that is a refrain, you say premeditated murder. That came from somebody writing you?***

From the example above, there are conversation between Jimmy and Kanye. Kanye is invited by Jimmy in his talk show. They talk about anything. One of interesting topic that they discuss about one of Kanye’s heavy song “I

thought about killing you". Suddenly, Jimmy is shifting the topic at turn (78) by stating about premeditated murder. In this case, Jimmy's statement is clearly related with the previous topic. Jimmy supposes that one of Kanye's heavy song "*I thought about killing you*" is inspired by premeditated murder. Also, Jimmy uses topic shift clue "*and*" to indicate that they discuss different topic which has relation between old and new topic.

The writer of this study decides to analyze topic shift because sometimes both of speaker and listener do not realize that they are shifting the topic. Besides, there is no study about topic shift which is observed by the students especially students of English Study Program in the writer's university as their study.

Many studies on topic shift have been conducted because topic shift helps the speaker to have various kind of topic in conversation, so that the conversation runs smoothly. The first previous topic shift study was conducted by Malawu (1997). He just analyzed topic shift marker. The other previous study was conducted by P. Sharimila Bai and Kuang Ching Hei (2011). They analyzed various topic shifts and communication strategies. Icu in 2000 also conducted topic shift. Although there have been some people conducted studies on topic shift, yet none of them conducted studies on Jimmy Kimmel's Live talk show.

The previous study and this recent study have two statement of research problem about topic shift and topic shift clue. But both of the previous study and this recent study use different theory of topic shift.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, there are two statements of the problems. Those are:

1. What are the kinds of topic shifts found in *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show?
2. What are topic shift clues found in *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of the research problems, this study is focused on:

1. To explain the kinds of topic shifts found in *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show.
2. To explain topic shift clues found in *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to provide contributions both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to give contribution for further study whether analyzing the same theory or the same source of data. This study is hoped to provide clear information and help other writers to get more knowledge about how to analyze topic shift in the talk show, especially about kinds of topic shift and topic shift clues. Topic shift is like the soul of conversation because it is always used in any kinds of conversation; either formal or informal to make the conversation more interesting.

Practically, this study is expected to help people understand and learn deeply about topic shift that occur in daily conversation. This study also becomes the alternative way for the readers to improve their knowledge about topic shift which can be applied not only in daily conversation but also in various talk shows to make the conversation more interesting. So, people will not feel weird and

confused when they find topic shift in the talk shows. In addition, this study hopefully can be a reference for future writers who intend to conduct the study related to the same topic. This study also inspires other hosts or readers to apply topic shifts correctly.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is in the field of discourse analysis that concerns the discussion of topic shift in talk show, especially in *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show. This study focuses on the kinds of topic shift that are found in conversation dialogues between Jimmy Kimmel and his guests in talk show of *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show. In addition, the writer also analyzes topic shift clues in that conversation.

The writer limits the study in the utterances of conversation which contain topic shift used by Jimmy Kimmel. The guests are Kanye West and Zlatan Ibrahimovic. To narrow down the topic, the writer only focus on analyzing topic shifts which are found in *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* talk show by using the theory of kinds of topic shift proposed by Steinström (1994) and topic shift clues proposed by Reichman (1978).