

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is a medium for communication. Communication takes place everywhere, for example: at home, at school, at office. Communication is absolutely needed in whole aspects of life. By communicating people build good relation one another. Communication happens in all kinds of situation and everywhere. People can share and get information by communicating one with another.

People communicate everyday and everywhere as a form of daily conversation. Besides, it is also part of casual conversation because communications as storytelling establish and maintain group identity. Eggins and Slade (1997, p.229) states gossiping is one of the examples of communication and part of storytelling. People do gossiping very often, everyday and everywhere. They do gossiping especially with people who have very close relation, for example gossip between adults, teenagers and even elderly people.

Gossiping is one of the most common forms of communication that occurs in casual conversation. Gossip also involves genre and generic structure. Gossip is very interesting to be analyzed because it always happens everywhere and every day. Gossiping is not always bad because actually there are some benefits that people get from this kind of social interaction. Jones (1980, p.243) defines gossip as "a way of

talking between women in their roles as women". The idea of gossiping is also defined by Tannen (1990, p.97). He says:

Telling details about others' lives is partly the result of women's telling their friend details of their own lives. These details become gossip when the friend to whom they are told repeats them to someone else- presumably another friend.

People usually do not pay attention to it, but actually there is a message and information when people do gossiping. Gossip itself has a social function in communication.

This study is a kind of genre analysis which is a branch of Discourse Analysis that explores specific uses of language (Hayland, 2004). Genre analysis seeks: (a) to provide social function of texts; (b) identify the generic structure. Since gossip cannot be separated from genre, the analysis will focus on generic structure and social functions. Here the generic structure of gossiping is as the form of spoken analysis. The study of genre in generic structure of gossiping involves three parts: first is field or subject matter, the second is tenor or the relationship between participants in the interaction, the third one is mode whether the text is written or spoken. The idea of genre in speech is defined by Bakhtin (1986, p.60). He says:

Each separate utterance is individual, of course, but each sphere in which language is used develops its own relatively stable types of these utterances. Special emphasis should be put on the extreme heterogeneity of speech genre, oral and written.

Bakhtin adds the category of speech genre should include short rejoinders of daily dialogue and these are extremely varied depending on the subject matter, situation, and participants.

In this analysis the observation seeks a number of related communicative events. The first is to identify these stages and then to decide which are optional and which are obligatory as well as their possible chronological order. Halliday and Hasan (1989, p.63-69) say ideally the analyst then arrives at the generic structure potential of a set of communicative events. The elements are not only shown to be compulsory or optional but they are also put in predictable sequences and recursive elements are identified.

The analysis of generic structure in gossiping is not only discussing the number of related communicative events only, but also about the difference of stages found in gossip between lecturers and students, and also among students themselves. The analysis is looked from some steps, first is from obligatory and optional elements. The obligatory and optional elements themselves have some parts too. The obligatory element itself has three parts. They are: third person focus, substantiating behavior, and pejorative evaluation. While the optional element itself also has three parts, they are: wrap up, probe, and recursion.

Besides the generic structure, gossip itself has some social functions which are interesting to be analyzed. Here the writer would like to use open ended questionnaire to analyze the social functions of gossiping in Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University.

The writer wants to analyze the genre found in gossiping, especially the generic structure and social function of gossip in Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University. Since there is no analysis about the patterns of generic structure

in gossiping before, the writer is interested in discussing about it. That is why the writer wants to see the generic structure of gossiping that may consist of the pattern of gossiping and its social function. The writer chose Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University as the setting of this research because this is the environment where the writer observed gossip and participated in it more often.

Based on the reasons above, the writer is very interested to analyze deeper about generic structure and social functions found in gossip. Hopefully from this study, the writer can learn more about genre and it can be used for other students in learning about genre.

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of the study is Linguistics.

1.3 Scope of the Study

This research focuses on discourse analysis especially in generic structure found in gossiping, and its social function. The writer only analyzed the gossip among the lecturer and student in Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University.

1.4 Problem Formulation

There are three research questions in this study:

1. What are the patterns of generic structure of gossip between lecturers and students in Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University?
2. What are the patterns of generic structure of gossip among students in Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University?
3. What are the social functions of gossip based on lecturers and students' opinion in Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

In this research there are three objectives of the study:

1. To find the patterns of generic structure of gossip between lecturers and students in Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University.
2. To find the patterns of generic structure of gossip among students in Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University.
3. To find the social functions of gossip based on lecturers and students' opinion in Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This research, hopefully, is beneficial for other students who have interest to learn deeply about genre in gossiping through the generic structure and social functions. Besides, the writer hopes that this study will give beneficial input for the students especially in language department in learning about the genre and discourse analysis. This analysis also makes the writer had more understanding about gossiping through its generic structure and social functions schematic structure and structural functions.

1.7 Definition of Terms

1. Gossip:

A way of talking between women in their roles as women (Jones, 1980, p.243).

2. Generic Structure:

An account of the expected unfolding of the genre, as it occurs within specific cultural context (Eggins and Slades, 1997, p.284).

3. Genre:

Type of spoken and written discourse that recognized by a discourse community (Brown, 2001, p.7)

4. Genre Analysis:

Genre analysis is an analysis used to describe the purposes, linguistic feature, and pattern of a text, and conducted on a basic framework offered (Eggins and Slades, 1994, p.32)

