

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is one of the most important elements in our society since language is used to communicate in order to express their ideas. Brown (2005, p.5) states that language is a system of arbitrary conventionalized vocal, written or gestural symbols that enable members to communicate intelligibly with one another. Santrock et.al (2004, p.54) also state that language is a form of communication, whether spoken, written, or signed, that is based on a system of symbol. Jay (2003, p.2) also adds that “communication is behavior directed at another member of the same species that affect the recipient’s behavior and the initiator subsequent behavior”. From the statement above the writer could conclude that human beings use language to communicate about many things with one another in their environment.

One way to communicate is using conversation or dialogue. Conversation itself needs two people or more. It can happen in same-sex conversation or cross-sex conversation.

Conversation itself also can be divided into two, personal setting and institutional setting. Personal conversations include gossip, gab session, family matters, and romance. Conversation in institutional setting such as courts, church ceremonies and business transaction (Clark, 1996, p.453)

In this paper the writer would discuss about personal conversations especially in gossiping. Gossip itself is a kind of relaxed in-group talk that goes on

between people in informal context (Saville-Troike, 1982, p.298). The object of study is *INSERT infotainment*. The writer chose *INSERT infotainment* because that program is always hosted by two presenters who have different gender and it is the writer's focus of study.

It is a fact that male and female have differences in using language to communicate. There are many differences such as pronunciation, morphology, syntax, semantics, and style (Saville-Troike, 1989, p.284-285). The differences of man and women in conversation according to Jay (2003, p.454) is that men have a larger vocabulary production than women, and men use offensive language more frequently in public than women. Another difference is also stated by Tannen (2002, p.222) that women tend to see the world symmetrically where everyone is in the same level, while men tend to see other people as their competitors and frame them as higher or lower level. That statement is supported by Jay (2003, p.456) who suggests that "men viewed a conversation as hierarchical construct where they try to win the conversation".

From all statements above it seems that men hold the conversation. What about women, especially when they are gossiping? It is not surprising that gossip includes in linguistic features of woman language (Saville-Troike, 1982, p.298). According to Short (1996, p.206) "the speaker who dominates the conversation is the speaker who has the most turn, has the longest turn, initiates conversational exchanges, controls what is talked about and who talks when and interrupt other". In order to know who holds the power in

responding news, the writer would analyze both male and female presenters when they host *INSERT* in terms of interaction, interruption, feedback, turn, and explanation

1.2 Field of the Study

The research focuses on Linguistics

1.3 Scope of the Study

Sociolinguistics

This field is relevant to this study because it discusses about gender and language. Different gender influences the way language is used. Male and female have different characteristics, attitudes and styles in using language (Saville-Troike, 1982, p.284). Sociolinguistic is used to identify the power relation between male and female presenters. Who has the more power in cross-sex conversation especially in gossiping? The subject of the study is *INSERT* infotainment, a talk show on gossip.

Discourse

Discourse is used to analyze the conversation, so the writer knew about the domination of the conversation from the video record's transcript based on how long the turn, overlapping, and interruption.

The writer limited the research on the conversation between male and female presenters in responding to gossip news on *INSERT infotainment*.

It discusses about their opinion on the gossip news. The conversation between male and female presenters while giving their opinions was analysed to find out who holds power in those conversations.

1.4 Problem Formulation

In this paper the writer formulates only one problem. It is as follows:

Who holds the power of the conversation in responding to gossip news in *INSERT*: male or female presenters?

1.5 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is as follows:

To find out who holds the power of the conversation between male and female presenters in responding to gossip news in *INSERT*.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The writer wanted to study about the power and domination in responding to gossip news. The result will contribute to the study of Sociolinguistics especially in analyzing discourse between male and female presenters in responding to gossip news. This study will hopefully reveal the power between the male and female presenters.

1.6 Definition of Terms

1. Cross-sex conversation

Cross gender conversation, is a conversation that happens between male and female.

2. Gossip

Gossiping belongs to personal conversation. It is something usual that can be faced in daily activity. Saville-Trokie (1982, p.299) describes gossip as the kind of relaxed in-group talk that goes on between people in informal contexts. Although it is personal but it is not a formal conversation. Therefore, someone can do it with anyone who wants to share.

3. Dominance

In a conversation there must be one that dominates. According to Short (1996, p.206) the speaker who dominates the conversation is the speaker who has the most turn, has the longest turn, initiates conversational exchanges, controls what is talked about and who talks, when, and who interrupt the others.

4. Power

According to Brown and Gilman (1960, p.255) power is a relationship between at least two persons, and it is nonreciprocal in the sense

that both cannot have power in the same area of behavior. It is clear that only one person who has the power in a conversation.

5. Insert

INSERT is one of Indonesian infotainment that is broadcast on a private television. *INSERT* broadcasts everyday with three schedules, "*INSERT pagi*", "*INSERT siang*", and "*INSERT Investigasi*". In this paper, the writer chose "*INSERT siang*" as a study because this program is always hosted by two presenters with different gender.

