

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

People are involved in communication with others, especially in the form of conversation. People have an important part in conversation. They are delivering information and messages through conversations. They are also receiving information and messages. According to Eggins and Slade (1997, p. 169), there are two reasons why participants are involved in the conversations. The first is a functional interpretation of dialogue as speech function. They are taking and positioning one another to predict speech role. The second, they need to do the conversations because they want to adjust the intimacy and do their different negotiation one another.

The conversations at campus usually happen between students and students, and between lecturers and students. The enjoyments of the participants also show how close the participants are. Students and students are often thrown together by circumstances over which they have little or no control (Eggins and Slade, 1997, p. 169). Students always chat with friends whom they want to chat with. The participants are free to choose their partner to have conversation and spend activities with them. Each of the activities shows the alignments of each student. For example, they gather with the students that they know equally well.

The *casual conversation* among male students will be very interesting because the male students do not usually have a lot of conversations. Eggins and Slade (1997, p. 267) state that apart from the chat segments of talk, the most frequently occurring stretch of talk in the all-male group was teasing or *sending up (friendly ridicule)*. The conversations among male students are surely very different from the conversation among female students. As we know that, the conversations among female students are usually about *gossip* and entertainment. According to Eggins and Slade (1997, p. 267) the men very rarely discuss personal details and their chat tend to be about work, rugby, soccer, etc. Men do not usually talk about *gossips*. This research will explore the *genre* of the conversation among male students.

The *generic structure* of each *genre* is examined. In our daily *casual conversation*, we usually have the conversations without thinking about the *genre* especially the *generic structure* of each conversation. This research will show that the *genres* in conversations have the generic structures. The generic structures help the speaker build the conversations that shape the *genre*. According to Thornbury and Slade (2006, p. 145) we will use the concept of *genre* to describe the structure of these longer turns of talk. There are many different approaches from different disciplines to the analysis of *genre*.

The writer is interested in analyzing the *generic structure* research in *casual conversation* among male students of 2011 Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University. Analyzing the *generic structure* research means the writer wanted to know not only the *genre* but also the *generic*

structures in each *genres*. Story telling genres like *recounts*, *exemplums*, *anecdotes* and *narratives* do occur in conversation, which is why it is worth investigation. Moreover, the writer took male students as the object of the research because they seldom like chatting. However, not all of male students do not like to chat. *Chat* is just one of *genres* in *casual conversation*. There are many other *genres* occurring in men *casual conversation*. Eventhough males do not like conversations. This research is worth because it is rare.

1.2. Field of the Study

The field of the study is Linguistics. This research can be categorized as discourse analysis.

1.3. Scope of the Study

This paper focuses on the *generic structure* of *casual conversation*. The subject of this research is all male-group (12 students) of 2011 Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University.

1.4. Problem Formulation

The problem formulation arouses the research questions for this topic :

1. What types of *genre* and *generic structure* are found in *casual conversations* among male students of Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University?

2. How often do the *genres* appear in the *casual conversations*?

1.5. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To know the types of *genre* which are found in *casual conversations* among male students of Faculty of Letters Soegijapranata Catholic University.
2. To find out the frequency of the *genre* appearance in the *casual conversations*.

1.6. Significance of the Study

The result of the study will give contribution to the study of *discourse analysis*, especially in giving description about *genre analysis* in *casual conversation*. Moreover, the other researchers dealing with the study of *casual conversation* in different perspective can develop the result of the study.

1.7. Definition of Terms

There are several terms that are needed to know first:

1. *Generic Structure*: An account of the expected unfolding of the *genre*, as it occurs within specific cultural context (Eggins and Slade, 1997, p. 284).
2. *Casual Conversation*: Fundamental human activity and one in which most of us engage many times a day and it may take form of small talk. (Thornbury & Slade, 2006, p. 1).