

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Humans are social creatures that cannot live without other people. People need to interact with other people in everyday life. People need friends to talk to. People need to eat and drink. People cannot get what they want by themselves. To have all of those things, they need other people's help. In the process of getting what they want, they communicate. Humans can use signals, write and speak to communicate.

In communicating, people use language. Language is a valuable tool people use daily to learn and communicate. It is more than just a grouping of words because through language, people can communicate one another in written or oral form. According to Owens, language is a complex dynamic system of conventional symbols that is used in various modes for thought and communication (1996, p. 9). To do, to get or even to convey something, people need to use language. In daily life, people usually use language to have a conversation.

Conversation is a process of exchanging information. The process can be with or without intended purpose. A person produces an utterance to share something. As a feedback, he or she will receive responses from the listeners. The response can be a long one like telling their experiences.

According to Paltridge, “ A conversation is the main way in which people come together, exchange information, negotiate and maintain social relations” ( 2006, p. 107). On the contrary, short responses are received such as words “yes”, “no”, “I understand” or any kinds of expression like “that is great”, “how wonderful”. The conversation may not end after a response is accepted. There will be continually responses to one another.

The types of the conversation are various. People include all sorts of conversation in their daily life. One of the types is casual conversation. Casual has two meanings which are natural and informal. There is no aim to hold something. Moreover, it happens daily in everyday’s life. People may talk about someone’s weakness. Talking about what happens to other people, talking about their dream, talking about what they do in a day, talking about funny or embarrassing moment happening at one morning are some of the instances. When people meet other people, they will have a small talk such as talking about weather and someone’s condition.

The conversation can be differed not only for the situation, but also for the people they talk to. The conversations depend upon the situation, the general mood and the nature of the participants involved. As all know, there are two genders of human in this world, the male and the female. Both genders convey their feelings and emotions in a different manner. In a conversation, the participants may be among males, females, male and female. In women conversation, they show some problems or to share something bad happened, talk about them (Tannen, 1990, p. 80). Topics

from a to z, z to a, from simple to the complex one are common in women's conversation. Among all of them, there are some differences in term of the language they use and how they convey what they want to say (Fronkim, Rodman & Hyams, 2011, p.449).

The writer is interested in holding a genre analysis research in casual conversation among women. Very few researchers have not investigated this field. The nature of casual conversation sometimes makes researchers reckon that it is impossible to analyze it since it is unpredictable. Besides, it is brand new to know that story telling text-genres like narratives, anecdotes, recounts and exemplums do occur in conversations. Moreover, the writer took women as the object of the research as women have their power in conveying their own feelings, opinions and thoughts. They like to gossip. Nonetheless, Not all of women's talks are only about gossip. Gossip is just one of genres in casual conversation. There are many other genres occurring in women casual conversation.

The conversation can occur in any places and time. As long as there are people to speak to whether the speaker knows the people they are talking to or not. In a coffee shop, a rail way station or even on a road, for instance, the conversation can be done. The research, however, was conducted at Faculty of Letters, Soegijapranata Catholic University which is very suitable and appropriate place to hold this research because the



writer would be easily get natural data and interpret easily what the participants talk in the recording.

## 1.2 Field of the Study

The field of this study is linguistics.

## 1.3 Scope of the Study

In this research, the writer limits her research to the kinds of genres and which genre is mostly spoken by 2008 female students of the Faculty of Letters. The study is based on discourse analysis especially in genre analysis in casual conversations among female students.

## 1.4 Problem Formulation

In this research, there are two problems that have been arranged as follows:

1. What are the types of genre found in the casual conversations among 2008 female students of Faculty of Letters, Soegijapranata Catholic University?
2. Which type of genre dominates the casual conversations among 2008 female students of Faculty of Letters, Soegijapranata Catholic University?

### 1.5 Objective of the Study

The writer would like to achieve the objectives of the study in this thesis which are:

1. To find out the types of the genres of the casual conversations among 2008 female students of Faculty of Letters, Soegijapranata Catholic University.
2. To find out the types of genres dominates the casual conversations among 2008 female students of Faculty of Letters, Soegijapranata Catholic University.

### 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 result of the study can be developed by other researchers dealing with the study of casual conversation in different perspective.

## 1.7 Definitions of Terms

1. 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).
2. Genre: a socially ratified way of using language in connection with a particular type of social activity (Eggins and Slade, 1997,p. 231).
3. Genre analysis: an analysis used to describe the purpose, linguistic feature, and pattern a text, and conducted on a basic framework offered (Eggins and Slade, 1994, p.32).
4. Generic structure: An account of the expected unfolding of the genre, as it occurs within specific cultural context (Eggins and Slade, 1997,p. 284).

