

CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS

4.1 The Motives of Male Students to Gossip

The writer used two instruments to collect the data. They were an open-ended questionnaire and the one-on-one interview. These two instruments were used to find out the motives that make the male students gossiped. In order to find out the motives, the writer used the concept of people gossiped because they wanted to mislead opinion, to exchange information, to have a good time with others, and to protect a group's norms from being violated. The explanation of each motive is presented below:

People gossip because they want to influence others and manipulate opinions, typically in a negative direction. By gossiping, people could influence others and manipulate their opinions in a negative direction. A gossip is categorized as the example of the first motive if it, for instance, aims at extending one's own power or destroying the reputation of the target (the person who is being gossiped about)" (Beersma & Van Kleef, 2012, p. 6).

People gossip because they want to get information from one to another. They gossip simply because there is a need of information. By gossiping, one can acquire new information about the person about whom one gossips, or check whether or not others share one's opinion of this person" (Beersma & Van Kleef, 2012, p. 6-7). This type of motive was one of motives that mentioned by Beersma and Van Kleef in their

theory. Moreover, the writer assumed that the participants' responses could be possibly classified as the examples of this motive. This motive was interesting to be researched.

A talk could be also classified as gossipy talks when someone talked to each other with desire to spend some good time with their friends. "By gossiping, one can simply have fun and distract oneself and others from routine activities. Gossiping then is motivated by the desire to have a good time with others"(Beersma & Van Kleef, 2012, p. 7). People have a need to feel happy which would them make a conversation that then could be classified as a gossipy talk. This was also a proof that human is a social being.

People also gossip because they want to protect the group and its norms against dangerous behavior. By gossiping, people can also warn somebody so that they will not violate any norms. Based on the open-ended questionnaire, one question was used as a sample of data analysis. The question was Question Number 1. The writer used Beersma and Van Kleef's theory to determine which answers represented either they wanted to mislead opinion, to exchange information, to have a good time with others, and to protect a group's norms from being violated.

This section presents the findings of the first research question, that is "What are the motives of gossipy talks among male students?" The data from the interview and the open-ended questionnaire showed that male students gossiped to:

4.1.1 Having a good time

The data from the open-ended questionnaire and interview indicated that most men in this study had gossipy talks because they would like to have a good time. Gossipy talks

relieve one from boredom. From the open-ended questionnaire, 17 respondents mentioned this fact.

For instance, Andre stated “to have some fun” (Open-ended questionnaire, Andre, 24 June 2021). Yuliano stated “Because someone have a topic for conversation and they tell me something that is very interesting” (Open-ended questionnaire, Yuliano, 24 June 2021). Peter stated “Personally I think because most people find other people's lives interesting especially personal issue related” (Open-ended questionnaire, Peter, 24 June 2021). Based on the research participants’ responses, the writer found the motivation of why they gossiped. Students enjoyed gossiping because they viewed gossiping as the opportunity to have fun, to spend free time, and also to share interesting topic. This proved that their answers could be classified as the examples of the motive of having a good time which mainly talked about gossiping as a way to simply have fun and social enjoyment.

4.1.2 Exchange and validate information

The second most common motive was to exchange and validate information. The data from the open-ended questionnaire and interview indicated that most men in this study had gossipy talks because they would like to exchange and validate information with their friends. Arya said “For me personally, gossip is a moment where we can exchange information from the gossip and can add a little insight to us indirectly” (Open-ended questionnaire, Arya, 25 June 2021). This implied as the sample of exchanging information by gossiping. Meanwhile, Alex stated “I do gossip because I want to know information about what someone doing or it is just to make me look like I'm in the same

level with my friends, but when we are talking about gossip that just share information, I sometimes just like searching something and share it.” (Open-ended questionnaire, Alex, 25 June 2021) The writer concluded that research participant number twenty three gossiped because he wanted to get some information.

The essential point of the exchanging information motive was that people could acquire information by gossiping. Based on the responses above, it is apparent that the research participants did gossiping in order to tell some news or a story to each other. This also means they shared information through gossiping. For example, Alex stated that he did gossip because he wanted to know about what someone was doing. Furthermore, Arya stated that he did gossip for exchanging information. So, the two responses above were classified as the examples of gossiping because they wanted to exchange and validate information.

4.1.3 Mislead opinion

The third most common motive was to mislead opinion to a negative direction. The data from the open-ended questionnaire indicated that most men in this study had gossipy talks because the research participant wanted to mislead opinion to a negative direction. For instance, Andro said that he gossiped because he wanted to uncover secrets or personal information that can be used for individual or group's gain (Open-ended questionnaire, Andro, 25 June 2021). The essential point of misleading opinion motive of gossip was people could influence others or manipulate other people's opinion by gossiping. Andro assumed that gossip could be used as a way to uncover secret or personal information for an individual or group's gain, typically in a negative

direction. This answer indicated that research participant number nineteen gossiped for getting an advantageous information or opinion for himself.

The writer found that there were twenty-five responses that match each category. Among the twenty-five responses, it was the “have a good time with others” motive that dominated the motive of the gossipy talk. There were seventeen out of twenty-five research participants whose responses could be categorized as the samples of the “have a good time with others” motive. The second most commonly used motive was the “exchange and validate information” motive. There were five people whose responses were grouped as samples of exchanging and validating motives. It was the motive of mislead opinion that became the third most commonly used. There was only one person whose answer was classified as a sample of misleading opinion motive. Finally, there was no person whose response represented protect a group’s norm motive.

The virtual interview further confirmed the findings from the questionnaire. Among fifteen research participants in the interview, there were ten research participants who gossiped because they would like to have a good time. They intended to spend their time leisurely. For instance, research participant of interview number two said: “My motive is maybe just for spending time, and when I’m in the mood.” (interview, 31 July 2021). The key phrases of wasting my time and when I’m in the mood were the indication that the research participant of interview number two did gossip because he wanted to spend a good time with others. Another example is stated by research participant of interview number ten. Research participant number ten said

“In my opinion, my motivation for gossiping someone or something is just to have fun so when I go with my friends or with my gang. So, we have something to discuss.” (interview, 31 July 2021). By stating “to have fun when I go with my friends ...”, the writer could classify that answer as the example of have a good time motive. Since he said that he wanted to have fun with others, then it was obvious that he gossiped because there was a need to make his day become fun and exciting.

In the one-on-one interview, the writer found that there were five research participants who gossiped because of exchange and validate information motive. For example, research participant of interview number seven said “I don’t usually start a topic for gossiping but suddenly my friend give me an information about something then we discuss it.” (interview, 31 July 2021). He gossiped because he need an information. This was the essential point of exchange and validate information motive. By gossiping, people could get some information that they needed. They needed that information because they wanted to know if the others’ opinion were the supportive or contradictive with what that people assumed. Gossiping is an excellent way to find out whether others think the same about some mutual acquaintance (Beersma & Van Kleef, 2012). Another response from the research participant of interview that indicated the exchange and validate information motive was stated by research participant of interview number twelve. He stated “My motive is I need to know what the hottest news in my, our society. I mean like what our friends did and is something they did wrong or good.” (interview, 31 July 2021). From his statement, the writer could classify research participant of interview number twelve as the proof of exchange and validate

information motive. His phrases such as he needed to know what the hottest news were the key feature of exchange and validate information motive. He simply gossiped because he needed to know what happened around his society. The need of knowing something happening around them was something natural since human is a social being. It means that someone could get information by doing every type of talk and one of those types was the gossipy talk. The gossipy talk was done by the research participant number twelve so that he acquired the information he wanted to know.

4.2 The Most Discussed Topics of Student's Gossipy Talk

From the data, it is evident that public matters were the most discussed topics when male students gossiped. This is in line with what Tannen (1990) suggested. She wrote that the topics of gossip for men are more about public matters (general) than personal matters, for example business or sports.

In his study, the second research question is aimed to find out the most discussed topics when male students gossiped. The writer found that there were 15 responses (60%) of topics of gossip that could be classified as public matters. Meanwhile, there were 10 responses (40%) that could be classified as personal matters. The topics of gossip for men are more about public matters than personal matters, for example business or sports. This statement was used as a guidance to determine which topics that the research participants suggested classified as personal matters or public matters (general). Below are some samples of responses from the 25 research participants from the open-ended questionnaire.

Table 4.2.1

The Most Discussed Topics of Gossip in Questionnaire

Personal Matters	General Matters
“Usually about someone's life issue.” (Open-ended questionnaire, Peter, 24 June 2021)	“Women, State Problems, Religion, Politics, Economy, Recent Events, Things that are currently viral, and many more.” (Open-ended questionnaire, Yanto, 25 June 2021)
“About someone’s relationship and many things” (Open-ended questionnaire, Yuliano, 24 June 2021)	“Football transfer, basketball tournament etc” (Open-ended questionnaire, Will, 24 June 2021)
“Gossiping about news that shows the artist is going through something” (Open-ended questionnaire, Yanto, 24 June 2021)	“Games” (Open-ended questionnaire, Andro, 25 June 2021)
“About girls, mostly our crush” (Open-ended questionnaire, Topan, 24 June 2021)	“For example like gossiping about somebody's attitude in class or maybe gossiping lecturers.” (Open-ended questionnaire, Joseph, 25 June 2021)

To answer the research question number two, the writer employed an open-ended questionnaire for the twenty-five research participants. The writer could classify the writer’s findings into two groups. The two groups were the most discussed topics of gossipy talks that could be considered as personal matters and the most discussed topics of gossipy talks that could be considered as general matters. The examples of personal matters of gossipy talk were found in the following two research participants. A research participant that the writer called as Peter said, “Usually about someone's

life issue.” (Open-ended questionnaire, Peter, 24 June 2021). The words of someone’s life issue indicated that Peter preferred gossip about personal matters when he gossiped. Yuliano suggested another example of personal matters of gossip. This research participant said, “About someone’s relationship and many things” (Open-ended questionnaire, Yuliano, 24 June 2021)

The result of the questionnaire regarding the most discussed topics also showed that male students liked to gossip about something general (public matters). In fact, the writer found that more research participants were likely to gossip about general matters (public matters). A research participant that was called as Yanto suggested the topic of gossip that he liked to talk about. He said, “Women, State Problems, Religion, Politics, Economy, Recent Events, Things that are currently viral, and many more.” (Open-ended questionnaire, Yanto, 25 June 2021). In his answer, this participant mentioned those general topics without specifying a certain name of woman, which state that was currently facing a problem, or even whose religion was being talked about. He mentioned that those were the topics that he liked to gossip about. Another example of a topic of gossip that was considered as general topic was found in Will’s answer. This participant said “Football transfer, basketball tournament etc” (Open-ended questionnaire, Will, 24 June 2021). The writer categorized Will’s topics of gossip as something general. This was proved by the words of football transfer and basketball tournament that the participant used. He simply mentioned the name of the sports that he liked to talk about in his gossip without giving a specific name of someone who did those sports or even he did not mention himself. He could gossip about sports with his

friends who have the same interest with him.

Table 4.2.2

The Most Discussed Topics of Gossip in Interview

Personal Matters	General Matters
<p>“I seldom gather together with my friends but if I gossip it’s usually related to someone who has a family or educational problem.” (interview, Peter, 31 July 2021)</p> <p>”The most topic of gossip I usually discuss is about that people’ daily live. It’s just their daily live, I guess.” (interview, Andre 31 July 2021)</p>	<p>“The thing I usually gossip about is about friends, something viral just like the Zara & Okin’s case. That is something viral in Twitter. Then, I make that as something to gossip about.” (interview, Brian, 31 July 2021)</p> <p>“Me and my friends usually gossip about girls, what is happening on the internet right now, and then we always talk about the lecturers who are very annoying who give us a lot of assignments.” (interview, Topan, 31 July 2021)</p>

The results from the questionnaire were confirmed by the students’ responses during the interview. There were several research participants who liked to gossip something general and there were other several research participants who preferred to gossip something personal. For the examples of general matters, the writer picked some answers from the research participant who participated in the one-on-one interview. For instance, Brian in the interview said “The thing I usually gossip about is about friends, something viral just like the Zara & Okin’s case. That is something viral in Twitter. Then, I make that as something to gossip about.” (interview, Brian, 31 July 2021). The topics of gossip that Brian suggested were related to general matters

because his topics were about some celebrities' viral posts. This matter was something that people in general can access easily on the internet. This was why the writer classified Brian's topics of gossip as the samples of general matters. Another example of general matters of gossip was also found in the response of Brian. He stated "Me and my friends usually gossip about girls, what is happening on the internet right now, and then we always talk about the lecturers who are very annoying who give us a lot of assignments." (interview, Brian, 31 July 2021). What Brian suggested as gossipy topics were grouped as general matters. He mentioned gossiping about girls in general, what was happening on the internet, and also about lecturers who gave him some assignments. These topics were something that people in general could access and his friends in his faculty could know (Lecturers who gave him a lot of assignments). This was why the writer classified this answer as the samples of general matters.

In the interview, the writer also found several research participants who suggested personal matters topics that they liked to gossip about. For instance, Peter said "I seldom gather together with my friends but if I gossip it's usually related to someone who has a family or educational problem." (interview, Peter, 31 July 2021). He said that he seldom gathered together but if there was the time for him to gossip then he had some topics that he liked to gossip about. Those topics were the family problem and educational problem. When someone had a family issue or education problem in his life, then it was usually inappropriate for the people who didn't know him well to meddle with. This was why the writer classified that Peter as something personal. Another example of topic of personal matters was found in Andre's response.

He said "The most topic of gossip I usually discuss is about that people' daily live. It's just their daily live, I guess." (interview, Andre, 31 July 2021). The topic of daily life of someone in particular was something personal. It's something that some people did not want to be disturbed from. Someone's daily life usually started from the time he woke up and then ended by the time he went to sleep. Was it really important for someone else to really know about the exact things that he did? It's more likely inconvenient for the person whose daily life was paid attention by someone else that much. This was why the writer classified this topic as a personal matter.

The data of most discussed topics that were found in the one-on-one interview showed that most of the male students of the Faculty of Language and Arts, Soegijapranata Catholic University liked to gossip about public matters (general) more than personal matters. It seemed that these people were aware enough how important it was to respect each other by not meddling with someone's personal matters too much. It was fine to know about someone's life issue but it would be better if they did not share it without the fact and the consent from the person itself.

If the writer combined the result of the open-ended questionnaire and the result of the one-on-one interview, it could be concluded that most of the topics that the male students of the Faculty of Language and Arts mostly talked about were public matters (general).