Evaluating Power and Status in Turn-taking Mechanism in *Insight with Desi Anwar* Talk Show

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**Abstract**

In a talk show, conversations naturally operate by taking turns. Sometimes the participants ignore the rules and focus more on gaining significant attention from the audience than making successful conversations. The participants involved in the conversation have the power to organize the distribution of conversational turns. This research applied qualitative research, which concerns evaluating the power and status of turn-taking mechanism used by the participants in talk show. The data used all utterances produced by participants from two episodes in *Insight with Desi Anwar* talk show. The utterances were transcribed using Jefferson's transcript notation. In addition, the data were analyzed by using the theories, such as Stenstrom, Sacks et al., and Brown and Levinson. The study reveals three findings related to the research questions. First, the results showed that taking the turn strategy was the most often used by the participants of the two episodes in talk show, followed by holding the turn strategy and yielding the turn strategy. Second, the phenomenon of turn-taking mechanism is influenced by power and status, where status affects participants in dominating turn-taking. Third, the quality of the conversation can be seen from the fluency of conversation itself in applying the rules of turn-taking mechanism. The participants use two rules, selecting the next speaker and self-selection. Pedagogically, this study can be used to make the teachers and students consider the significance of having an understanding of turn-taking mechanism, knowing the rules and how to maintain turn-taking, and the meaning of words in the spoken interaction.

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INTRODUCTION

Conversation is made up of turns. If we do a conversation, we should give a turn or chance to the interlocutor to express their idea. The turn-taking mechanism is influenced by several aspects, including strategies and rules that can be fulfilled in giving or getting a turn to speak (Mey, 2001). The talk show is a television show that discusses a variety of topics. The speaker must know the rules, the strategies of the mechanism, how to maintain turn-taking, and the meaning of words, both in formal and informal talks. Sometimes the participants in the talk show ignore the rules and focus more on gaining significant attention from the audience than making successful conversations, where the participants involved in the conversation have the power to organize the distribution of conversational turns. Hence, the conversation will also reflect the power and status in taking the turn.

Turn-taking is the change of speaker during the conversation and how each speaker takes a turn in the conversation (Yule, 1996). In turn-taking organization focus on who should talk and when. These organizational rules can make conversations more organized. Based on Sacks et al. (1974), there are two rules for the allocation of turn based on transition relevance place (TRP). Therefore, the participants do not speak simultaneously. Sometimes, the participants do not always obey the rules and do not wait their turn, and to organize the conversation, each participant must know the turn-taking mechanism (Mey, 2001). The turn-taking mechanism involves three basic strategies which are taking the turn, holding the turn, and yielding the turn (Stenstrom, 1994).

However, the influence of social context comes from participants, namely personality status and social power. In this case, it will affect the interaction of participants when they do a turn-taking. Brown and Levinson (1987) stated the status or social distance as balanced relation between the speaker and the interlocutor. Besides, power is the asymmetrical social relations between the speaker and the interlocutors of the relative power. Based on Pratama (2019), one of the social factors that influence the type of conversation behavior is power, which refers to the relative power of speakers in society. In addition, power is shown not only through action but also through language. It means that when people communicate their minds, they can build some social functions that call their strength as individuals. Therefore, social grouping affects the relationship of power in society (Fairclough, 1989).

Turn-taking mechanism is also widely explored in debates, talk shows, movies and so on. There were some researchers investigated turns taking mechanisms in talk show (Olutayo, 2013; Jucker and Landert, 2015; Ali, 2018; Giovanni and Fitriati, 2018; Suryaninggram et al., 2019; Hasan et al., 2020; Jie and Miaomiao, 2016). Comparing the talk shows that have been researched, their studies describe turn-taking mechanisms between the participants in talk shows. They argue that every talk show has its own turn-taking rules and strategies. Where in every conversation, there is always a turn to create interactive conversations. In addition, the importance of strategy in conversation is to know the rules of the speaker's turn and get the desired information (Pradana and Laila, 2020).

The conversation will also reflect the power and status relations. Turn-taking could be influenced by status and power in taking turns in conversational mastery. The social distance or differences in status can give speakers control and power. Iqbal et al. (2020) found that the unequal distribution of turns impacts the unequal distribution of power between the statuses of each participant in the talk show. The host controls the power through his speech because he controls the topic of discussion throughout the program. In line with Mizil (2012) showed that conversational behavior can reveal power relationships in two very different settings. Thus, the status or distance between the participants can be reflected in how often and when they take turns.

On the other hand, there are other phenomena in turn-taking mechanism, such as pauses, interruptions, and overlap. Some
researchers have investigated that phenomenon related turn-taking mechanism (Hirvenkari et al., 2013; Riest et al., 2015; Martinez, 2018; Skantze, 2021). The main focus in the previous research is things like how the conversation works, what rules are obeyed, and how sequencing can be achieved, such as pauses, interruptions, overlaps, and so on. Besides, Lestary et al. (2017) in their study found that there was a violation in taking turns by interrupting the speaker during the conversational mechanism. Hussein (2020) revealed that women are more dominant in violate the turn rule for various reasons, mainly because they don’t wait their turn.

Compared to some issues from previous studies, the researchers identified an apparent empirical gap in the prior research concerning the review of related literature. There are still few studies empirically evaluate turn-taking in English-language talk shows from Indonesian talk shows. Therefore, the researchers are interested in using the talk show Insight with Desi Anwar as the subject of the study. In addition, the previous researchers’ findings still give more facts about the turn-taking mechanism because the upgraded research is still needed. One interesting is to know the turn-taking mechanism based on how participants' status and social power affect their turn-taking strategy during the conversation in Insight with Desi Anwar Talk show.

Further, this current study expected that the result give scientific information about the turn-taking mechanism in spoken interaction. Practically, the result of this study can inform the reader about the effect of the turn-taking mechanism so that they can use it properly. Pedagogically, this study is expected to make the teachers and students consider the significance of having an understanding of the effect of the turn-taking mechanism, knowing the rules and how to maintain turn-taking, and the meaning of words in the spoken interaction

METHOD

This research applied qualitative approach which concerns evaluating the use of turn-taking mechanism used by the participants in Insight with Desi Anwar talk show. The data of this research is used all utterances produced by participants from two episodes in Insight with Desi Anwar. In every episode, Desi Anwar as the host invites some guests. In this research focused only on certain guests. In the episode “The new round of Russian-Ukraine conflict” Desi Anwar invited Lyudmila Vorobieva (Russian Ambassador for Indonesia) as the guest in May 1st 2022. On the other hand, in episode “Nasi Padang Gone Viral” Desi Anwar invited Audun Kvitland Rostad and Audun Amundsen as the guest in June 8th 2021.

This study collects the video as a data source. After that, the video was observed, and the utterances were transcribed using Jefferson's (2004) transcript notation. Also, all the data obtained from those steps were analyzed further and then interpreted. The data were analyzed by using the theories, such as Stenstrom’s (1994) theory of turn-taking mechanism strategies, Sacks et al. (1974) theories of the rules of turn-taking mechanism, and Brown and Levinson's (1987) theories to analyze the power and status relation. Moreover this study used investigator triangulation to check the analysis of the data. It was conducted by consulting with the expert.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This section discusses and explains the findings. This research was conducted to answer three research questions concerning the realization of turn-taking mechanism strategies that the participant frequently turns up, and also the roles of power and status in the use of turn-taking mechanism, reflect the quality of turn-taking mechanism based on how participants' status and social power affect their turn-taking strategy in Insight with Desi Anwar.

The Realization of Turn-taking Mechanism Strategies

The difference of using turn-taking mechanism strategies realized by participants in the talk show as described in Table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turn-taking Mechanism Strategies</th>
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Table 1. Turn-taking Mechanism Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Turn-taking Mechanism Strategies</th>
<th>Data I</th>
<th>Data II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Types of TTM Strategies</strong></td>
<td><strong>Times</strong></td>
<td><strong>%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking The Turn</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>84.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holding The Turn</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yielding The Turn</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>39.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on Table 1, the participants used three kinds of turn-taking mechanism strategies, namely taking the turn, holding the turn, and yielding the turn. There were similarities of turn-taking mechanism strategies found between those two episodes of the talk show. The occurrence of taking the turn strategy more often used followed by holding the turn strategy and yielding the turn strategy.

1. Taking the Turn Strategy

In taking the turn strategy, they used several ways, starting up, taking over, and interrupting. The participants used this strategy to respond to the previous utterance marked by some signs or signals. Also, some participants use connecting links at the beginning of the utterance. Here is an example of the data I:

**DA:** //**Yes,** [I have been] umping more than four years.

**AL:** **And how are you enjoying it** umping so far?

**DA:** **Oh,** umping much. **I like Indonesia** umping much.

**u::h It was a (.)** umping love at first sight when I came to Indonesia. Indonesia is a beautiful country with **u::h** beautiful people=

The strategy used by DA in the takeover of the speaking turn is by using the link as a connector in the lexical element in the form of the conjunction 'and' at the beginning of the speech. Then in the next turn, **AL** uses uptake ‘oh’ to answer DA’s questions about her opinion while living in Indonesia. The other example happens in data II, a conversation that uses starting up in taking the turn strategy:

**DA:** Two Auduns, well both you are in Oslo, Norway. Is that right?

**AK:** Actually we are in Trondheim. In Norway, u::h but u::hm not that far=

In this conversation, a clean start is part of the starting up (taking the turn strategy). This can be seen by the fact that there is no use of silence or a filled pause at the beginning of her speech when **DA** asks the origin of the residence of the two speakers. It can be seen that **AK**, as the next speaker, continues the conversation smoothly by using the word 'actually' as a starter to open his turn. According to Stenstrom (1994), lexical responses are often used in planning to initiate turns and to maintain the flow of communication between participants.

2. Holding the Turn Strategy

Holding the turn strategy is used when one of the participants, either **Desi Anwar** or the interviewees, tries to hold the turn using several ways, such as a filled pause or verbal filler, silent pause, lexical repetition, and a new start. When the participants get their turn to speak, they usually used their opportunity to express what they want to talk about. Therefore, participants used this strategy to maintain their turn in speaking as much as possible and to avoid the problems when completing their turn.

**AL:** //**[Of course]** because of the western powers u::h dragged >Ukraine into this crisis they u::h for eight years they’ve been training Ukrainian army< brainwashing Ukrainians to believing that Russians are their enemies=

**DA:** =**Okay,** I’m- I’m afraid u::h you know (.) the Ukrainians probably think differently and of course u::m us in the rest of the world we’re very sad to see what’s happening and nobody likes to have war especially when civilians u::h become victims and when lives are lost but it’s been over two months how many more months and **why has it been taking so long for this military operations to actually be completed?** =

Here both participants **AL** and **DA** use holding the turn strategy in their speech. **DA** uses filled pause 'u::h' in maintaining her turn while processing the sentence she wants to say. Meanwhile, **DA** uses filled pauses and verbal fillers in her speech. In addition, she uses the filled pause 'u::h' and 'u::m' when she wants to continue her utterances or turn. To cover the filled pause that is too long, the speaker also uses
the verbal filler 'you know'. Stenstrom (1994, p. 76) stated that filled pauses or verbal fillers are usually interpreted that the current speaker does not intend to hand over her turn to the next speaker, but it is used to plan what to say next.

AK: *Well*, to be honest the first thing that attracted me was the pictures of stunning nature. It's so much beautiful nature in Indonesia and when I went to Indonesia I really got even more impressed because it looks even more stunning live so the first thing was the nature definitely.

DA: *Hmm absolutely* yes, we and uh seventeen thousand islands here and each is very unique and of course the food aspect is very much a part of the Indonesian culture. Nasi Padang I mean you know it—it is a great favorite even amongst us Indonesians() what was what came through your mind when you first actually tasted it and where were you were you in a Warung? were you in a you know, in a restaurant I mean. Tell us a little bit so that it—it gave such a big impression on you that you just had to go and write a song about it.

The other example happens in data II. This conversation shows a new start, which is part of the holding the turn strategy. Previously, AK, as the current speaker gave his argument about his first impression of nature in Indonesia, and he admired it. After AK finishes his turn, DA, as the next speaker, takes her turn. She uses holding the turn strategy, including verbal filler. 'I mean you know' followed lexical repetition ‘it’ and ‘were you’ twice. DA used verbal filler and lexical repetition before holding the turn. Here DA explained that Indonesia has many islands and diverse foods, one of which is the most famous Nasi Padang. After that, DA looks difficulty explaining the next word, so she used verbal filler and lexical repetition to hold the turn. When she said, Warung was the place to taste Nasi Padang. Then she repaired and continued the turn into a new sentence by explaining again how the first time tasting Nasi Padang in a restaurant that made inspired AK to write a song about it.

### 3. Yielding the Turn Strategy

Yielding the turn, was found to use in several ways, including prompting, appealing, and giving up. The strategy is used by speakers to give up their turn and to invite a direct response from the next speaker.

DA: *Hi ()* >Ambassador Lyudmila< *may I call you?*

AL: *Yes, Please do. Hello.*

The data showed the strategy used by DA in yielding the turn is greeting, which is one of the categories of prompting. In her turn, DA said ‘Hi’ at the beginning of the speech. The expression can be categorized as a greeting that encourages opening a conversation with the speaker. Similarly, AL responds as the interviewee by saying ‘Hello’ to greet or respond to the previous utterance. In addition, there is another category, namely the polarity question. In her speech, after greeting, DA asked, 'Ambassador Lyudmila may I call you?'. Based on Stenstrom's (1994) theory that polarity question is asking something with the answer yes or no. Then answered by AL with the answer, 'Yes, Please do. Hello'.

DA: *Two Auduns, well both you are in Oslo, Norways. Is that right?*

AK: *Actually we are in Trondheim, In Norway, u:hm but u:hm not that far=*

The appealing example above happens in the excerpt of conversation data II. DA uses appealing when giving her speech at the end of the sentence. She says the confirmation question, ‘is that right’. And she used the feedback signal on the word right when confirming whether the two Auduns live in Oslo (Norway). That is why she uses the signal to get feedback.

In line with this study finding, Dewi et al. (2018) stated that successful conversations can be achieved through turn-taking strategies as an important part of the conversation. Their findings show that the turn-taking strategies used by the participants in the conversation create different personalities among the participants. Habibi et al. (2020) revealed that participants used several turn-taking strategies in the talk show, including taking the turn, holding the turn, and yielding the turn.
The participants used the turn-taking strategy refer to how the next speaker takes over the previous speaker's speech or vice versa. In addition, they used the strategy to make the conversation flow well.

**Power and Status in Turn-taking Mechanism**

Power refers to the social status between speakers and their speech partners, while the social distance between them determines status. Everyone has the right to dominate the conversation. This dominating action causes interruptions to be considered an action to prevent speakers from completing their speaking turn. The difference of interruption by participants in the talk show as described in the following table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2. Interruption in Turn-Taking Mechanism</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interruptio</td>
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<tr>
<td>n in TTM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the table from the first data, Ambassador Lyudmila, as the interviewee, is more dominant in interrupting the conversation. Meanwhile, in the second data, Desi Anwar, as the interviewer, has higher power, compared to those interviewed, Audun Amundsen and Audun Kvitland Rostad. At the same time, the listeners try to get their turn because one speaker tends to have more power in taking turns. In contrast, Ambassador Lyudmila, Desi Anwar tends to be more formal in her utterance and tends to respect Lyudmila, whose position is representative of the Russian ambassador.

**Quality of Turn-taking Mechanism through the Status and Power**

This section discusses the quality of turn-taking mechanism of power and status in talk shows. The researchers analyzed the data based on the theory of Sacks et al. (1974), where there are two rules to regulate the construction of turns. These rules are known as Transition Relevance Place (TRP). Furthermore, the quality here is to determine whether the differences in status and power can affect the talk show's turn-taking. The results of the analysis show that both data use turn-taking pattern rules. The most realized turn-taking pattern rule is current speaker selects the next speaker, followed by self-selection to be the speaker. Based on the analysis of both data, the phenomenon of grabbing the floor (interruption) was found. The role of power and status of each participant influences this.

In line with Pradana and Laila (2020) found that the first rule of the current speaker selecting the next speaker dominates turn-taking in class sessions. In addition, turn-taking is a process of alternation between speakers that forms a recursive pattern (Napitupulu & Siahaan, 2014). Based on the findings, there is an interviewer and interviewee in a talk show. The interviewer here is Desi Anwar, who has the role of a controller who involves the interviewee in managing the turn interaction. Here Desi Anwar often applies the rule of selecting the next speaker in turn-taking mechanism, such as asking questions gradually based on the context of the conversation. Then the
rule of self-selection experienced disruption when the participant took a turn with interruptions and overlaps. They use self-selection along with interruption and overlap even though it may violate the rules of transition relevance place based on Sacks et al. It was supported by Armansyah et al. (2018) stated that turn-taking is a simple systematic way of organizing conversational turns. They also found some conversation violations, such as interruptions, overlaps, pauses, and gaps. Based on the findings in both data, self-selection is found in participants’ speech. The self-selected speaker aims to use the rule to express her opinion or respond to the utterances of the current speaker. Each participant as a listener in the conversation or the next speaker can choose himself or herself as the next speaker, as the turn allocation applies equally to all participants involved in the conversation (Sacks et al., 1974).

Moreover, the function of the turn-taking pattern rule aims to make the turn-taking mechanism run well without any interruption in the conversation. In reality, there are disruptions in the form of interruptions and overlaps. However, the purpose is only partially to disrupt the speaking turn. This is influenced by power and status when participants produce conversations in the talk show. For that reason, in interaction, no participant knows how long and how many turns they will take, the flow of topic discussion, and how turns are allocated between participants which indicates that conversational turn rules are naturally acquired and used in conversational interactions (Wooffitt, 2015).

In some contexts, the conversational is quite diverse in this study which is a talk show influenced by turn rules as in the conversational context, as well as turn-taking accompanied by interruptions that are influenced by status, where the interruptions and overlapping more often used by the participants who have dominant power and status. Therefore, Desi Anwar and the guest stars involved in the talk show have different roles. The role of power and status is one of the crucial things to be considered. Desi Anwar here has more power to control the turn-taking pattern. The findings found that the role of power and status influenced the phenomenon of interruption. The first data belongs to a political topic about government, in contrast to the second data about entertainment, discussing filmmaking, and songs. Ambassador Lyudmila tends to express her opinion without considering her interlocutor, Desi Anwar. Contrast with Audun A and Audun K represent their response and tend to respect Desi Anwar’s position as host. It is related to interruptions often used by someone with more power and status than the interlocutor.

However, this may violate the rule of suitable transition place proposed by Sacks et al. In this case, each participant using interruptions did not intend to compete with their interlocutors, like Desi Anwar using it to control the flow of turn-taking following her role as host. Then Ambassador Lyudmila aims to achieve her personal goals as a representative of her country by giving her response to developing issues. Meanwhile, Audun A and Audun K used utterances interruption to express their statement and respond to the interlocutors.

For that reason, in interaction, no participant knows how long and how many turns they will take, the flow of topic discussion, and how turns are allocated between participants, which indicates that conversational turn rules are naturally acquired and used in conversational interactions. In some contexts, the conversational is quite diverse in this study which is a talk show influenced by turn rules as in the conversational context, as well as turn-taking accompanied by interruptions that are influenced by status, where the interruptions and overlapping more often used by the participants who have dominant power and status. The analysis of turn taking mechanism is important to be studied by future researchers related to communication theory and social life, where both of them have their own rules for taking turns and are influenced by cultural and linguistic aspects.

**CONCLUSION**

It can be concluded that there are three strategies of turn-taking mechanism realized by the participants in Insight with Desi Anwar talk. From the data, among the three turn-taking
mechanism strategies, the most strategy applied by the participants in both data is taking the turn, followed by holding the turn, and yielding the turn strategies. The strategy aims to determine the realization of cooperation between speakers and interlocutors in organizing their turn. Moreover, power and status influence the phenomenon of turn-taking mechanism in insight with Desi Anwar's talk show. Power and status could affect the turn-taking mechanism, where status affects participants in dominating turn-taking. Additionally, in this study, both data show that the participants in this talk show can build a well-structured conversation, and the conversation can flow quite well. The quality of conversation can be seen from the fluency of the conversation itself in applying the rules of turn-taking mechanism in Transition Relevance Place (TRP,) according to Sacks et al. In some of the existing rules, participants in talk shows mostly apply the rule of the current speaker selecting the next speaker, followed by self-selection to be the speaker. However, not all speaking turns follow the rules and run smoothly. The phenomenon of interruption and overlap is used for several reasons, including showing agreement or disagreement, expressing opinions on one side, and changing the topic by taking a turn.

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