

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes the background of the research that explains the statement of problems, research objectives, research significances, and definition of key terms of the research. Additionally, it also shows some previous researches to support this research.

### **A. Research Background**

As social creatures, human needs to communicate with other humans in order to express their feelings or ideas using the language they speak. Without language, it is impossible for humans to create an effective and smooth communication. Communication takes two types, there are verbal communication that helps humans to share their feelings, ideas, opinions and experiences through spoken or written words and non-verbal communication that helps humans to do the same things but through sign language and body language.

Conversation is a part of verbal communication between two or more people who act as a speaker and listener either in person or through phone call where information and ideas are exchanged. According to Liddicoat (Putri et al., 2019), Conversation is the way people socialize, establish, and maintain their relationships with one another. The role of speaker and hearer is not always fixed, but will change vice versa for both parties depend on the conversation. When people are interacting,

neither of them know how many turns they will take, how long each turn may be and what topics will be in the order (Wooffitt, 2005).

The thing that makes a good conversation is turn-taking, where people who are involved in the conversation understand when is the right time for them to talk and to listen. If the parties implement the turn-taking rules, a conversation will run smoothly and effectively. However, turn-taking in daily conversation does not always succeed, especially if there are more than two parties, because they could talk at the same time. This kind of violating in a turn-taking conversation is called as “interruption”.

Conversation analysis (CA) is the most suitable study to analyse interruption phenomenon in a conversation. CA is an approach that studies social interaction in daily conversation or casual talk but has now been also applied in other interactions, such as courtroom and news interview (Goodwin & Heritage, 1990). CA can be used to analyse the types, functions and reasons of interruption.

In a conversation that involves two or more parties, there is always a moment where interruptions are possible to happen. It can be because they are in the middle of an argument, debate, or the topic is too interesting, so they cannot wait for their turn to speak, or even uninteresting so they try to change it. However, Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson (in Li, 2001) say people need to organize an ideal conversation so that interruptions will not occur. Interrupting someone who is talking is commonly considered impolite, and conversationally inappropriate

(Lycan, 1977). However, interruption is not always impolite depending on the situations and conditions.

Types of interruptions stated by Ferguson and reasons of interruptions stated by Wardhaugh are used in this research to analyse if the interruption that occurred in a conversation is impolite or polite. Ferguson (1977) mentions that there are four types of interruptions in a conversation; (1) simple interruptions, (2) overlap interruptions, (3) butting-in interruptions, and (4) silent interruptions. To avoid misunderstanding to happen between the parties, Wardhaugh (in Septiany, 2018) states seven reasons of people doing interruption in a conversation, namely (1) asking for help, (2) breaking up, (3) completing, (4) seeking clarification, (5) disagreement, (6) correcting, and (7) agreement

Apart from daily conversation in real life, interruption can also appear on television programs or YouTube content. For examples talk shows, interviews, political debates, drama series, films, variety or reality shows, video blogs (vlog), and so forth. All of those programs involve more than one parties where people can interrupt each other's speech to show agreement, disagreement, or interest in the topic of the conversation.

For this research, the researcher is interested to take one of Korean pop (K-Pop) groups as the object of research. NCT is a K-Pop boy group who is famous with their limitless members and multicultural concept because they consist of a lot of members from various countries who have different cultural and language backgrounds. They auditioned from several different countries such as South

Korea, Japan, America, Canada, Thailand, and China. NCT is designed as a group based in South Korea and international, hence at least the members must be able to communicate in Korean and English in order to have a good conversation with other members and their national and international fans. It is because among the many languages in the world, English is one of the most widely spoken languages in almost all over the world. English needs to be mastered by everyone since it makes people be able to communicate with foreigners either in person conversation or through internet platforms.

NCT uploads their content via YouTube because it is a social media platform for video sharing so the international fans can watch it anytime and anywhere globally. Johnny Communication Center is one of NCT programs on their YouTube channel with mainly using English that hosted by NCT Johnny. The program is kind of a video blog (vlog) about the activities of Johnny with other NCT members. In Johnny Communication Center, his vlogs focused on his lifestyles, making things, promotions, and more. Johnny is the only member of NCT from Chicago, United States. He has American nationality though his ethnicity is Korean and it makes English his mother language. This ability of someone who can speak more than one language is called bilingual. When someone is bilingual or multilingual, sometimes they mix the languages in a conversation. Johnny often invites other NCT members as his guests, especially other foreign members such as Mark from Canada, Jaehyun from South Korea and Ten from Thailand.

Johnny Communication Center is chosen by the researcher as the object of research for several reasons. First, among many other K-Pop groups who mainly

use Korean language for their contents, NCT is the group who provide contents in various languages such as Korean, English, Japanese and Chinese. Johnny Communication Center attracts the attention of many international fans because of its interesting contents. Moreover, Johnny's Communication Center contents are mostly in English, so it is easy for international fans to follow the topics and jokes they were talking about. This program is based on daily life, so the conversations are real and simultaneous without script, such as in films or series.

Another reason is because all NCT members shared a good bond from the oldest to the youngest since they were trained together for years before their debut. Therefore, interruption often occur in their conversation when they are interested or excited about the topic. In Johnny's Communication Center, they often interrupt other member's speech so the conversation does not sound clear since a lot of people are talking at the same time. The researcher finds the phenomenon of people who share good bonds, have different language backgrounds but can interact with each other with fluent English and cause many interruptions to happen in a conversation interesting to discuss in this research.

Many researchers investigated interruption for over a period of time since it is a phenomenon which normally occurs in conversation, yet still many people consider it as trivial events. The researchers focused on various problems such as gender differences, linguistic features, cultural background, types or reasons of interruptions, etc. To conduct this research paper, the researcher picks some information from several studies about interruption in a conversation as the

references of previous research with the same topics. However, some researches below have different objects and problems compared to this research.

In the first research, Septiany (2018) analysed the types and reasons of interruption in an American political interview, Face the Nation, with her thesis, “Cooperative and Intrusive Interruptions in Political Interview between President Donald Trump and John Dickerson on Face the Nation, CBS NEWS”. Septiany identified the types of interruption using Murata’s theory and she found 23 data of interruptions in the program. The result showed 22 data of intrusive interruption and one cooperative interruption. Septiany also described about the reasons for interruption using a theory by Wardhaugh. The four reasons of interruption appeared in the program were breaking up, correcting, disagreement, and seeking clarification.

The second research done by Adeeb & Abbas (2019) in their journal “Sex- and Age-Based Approach to the Study of Interruption in “The Kings of Summer” Movie and “Pretty Little Liars” TV Series: A Case of Same-Sex Teenage Interactions” that investigated the interruption in conversations between teenagers. The results of the research showed that in interactions among teenagers, disruptive interruption was the dominant one than cooperative. In the findings, they concluded that teenagers often interrupted others in order to express disagreement, floor taking, and topic change.

The third researchers, Putri, et al. (2019) examined the types of interruption presented in Indonesia Lawyers Club (ILC) in their journal “Conversation Analysis

of Interruption Found in The Indonesia Lawyers Club”. ILC is a famous Indonesian debate TV show mostly talks about politics and current serious issues led by Karni Ilyas. Putri, et al. took Ferguson’s theory and found 25 data types of interruption in ILC. The investigation resulted overlap was the dominant type appeared the most among the four types of interruption. Then it was followed by simple interruption, butting-in interruption and then the least one was silent interruption.

The last one was a journal written by Johannes P, et al. (2020) entitled “The Interruption Used in Mixed Gender in Ini Talk Show on NET TV” that analysed about types and functions of interruption. Ini Talkshow is one of Indonesian talk shows hosted by Sule and Andre Taulany. To investigate the types of interruption, Johannes P, et al. used Ferguson’s theory in which he found 70 cases of overlap interruption as the type of interruption that emerged the most and butting-in interruption appeared the least with seven cases. Meanwhile, functions of interruption were analysed using Murata’s theory, namely cooperative and intrusive interruptions which were divided into several sub-categories. The results indicated that clarification had the most occurrences of 29 times, and the least was disagreement, which occurred only three times.

To sum up, the four researches above highlighted similar problems to this research since the researcher is also concerned in analysing types and purposes or reasons of interruption. Nonetheless, this research has some differences compared to previous researches. This research analyses the occurrences of interruption in Johnny’s Communication Center v-logs that shows daily activities of NCT members on NCT YouTube channel where the simultaneous communications

happened, meanwhile the previous researches focused on analysing interruption in TV shows such as drama series and debate.

In comparison to the objects which were speaking their mother language in the previous researches, the object in this research is bilingual people who are fluent in more than one language and have different cultural backgrounds. In addition, the researcher describes the interruptions phenomenon in Johnny's Communication Center as impolite or polite through new points of view.

## **B. Statement of Problem**

In a conversation, there might be a phenomenon that people cannot avoid, such as interruption. In Johnny's Communication Center, NCT members often take the floor or interrupt before someone finishes their speech. This phenomenon can be taken as a problem since they performed different ways of interruption, for instance, they succeeded in interrupting someone's speech until the person chose to stop speaking or keep talking. The reasons that caused NCT members to cut speech in a conversation also influence the way they interrupt others. It could be because they disagreed or were too excited with the statement. Additionally, the response of the NCT member who was being interrupted is also various, they can feel annoyed or fine with it.

According to the problems, the researcher limited it into two research questions about types and reasons of interruption in Johnny's Communication Center that are formulated as follows:



1. What are the types of interruption performed by NCT members in Johnny's Communication Center?
2. Why do NCT members interrupt the conversation in Johnny's Communication Center?

### **C. Research Objective**

Based on the questions on the Statement of Problems section, the objectives of this research are explained:

1. To identify the types of interruption performed by the NCT members in Johnny's Communication Center.
2. To describe the reasons of interruptions presented by the NCT members in Johnny's Communication Center.

### **D. Research Significance**

The result of this research will be a contribution in giving some new knowledges and insights for several parties in two ways,

1. Theoretical Significance

This research theoretically is expected to give additional information from the source of the data, the members of NCT who performed interruptions in their conversation on Johnny's Communication Center. Moreover, this research contributes to give a deeper understanding for the readers about the types of interruption that are presented in a daily conversation and reasons of someone to do

interruption. The researcher hopes this research can also be a reference for other researchers who are interested in related topics about interruption.

## 2. Practical Significance

Practically, this research is expected to offer learning materials for teachers and lecturers to students about interruptions. Furthermore, the researcher is expected the result of this research can help readers to understand the interruption in their conversation by being able to avoid inappropriate interruptions and recognize the kind of interruptions that are less offensive and appropriate to be performed in a conversation instead. It is because a lot of people still think that interrupting someone when they speak always seemed inappropriate, so the reader can find out the reasons of someone doing a conversation interruption stated by a linguist expert in this paper.

### **E. Definition of Key Terms**

In order to clarify the key terms used in this study, some definitions are put forward below.

#### 1. Analysis

According to Indeed website (2020), analysis is a thorough investigation of a topic that involves research activities and produces sequential findings to form conclusions. It supports an argument on a topic with proof.

## 2. Conversation

Conversation is a mutual activity in which two or more people in a group use linguistic forms and nonverbal signs to communicate. It is used to express someone's feelings, ideas, opinions, etc. that are structured in adjacency pairs (Brennan, 2010).

## 3. Interruptions

Interruption is one of the phenomena that violates the continuity of a conversation. It occurs when someone cuts the current speaker's turn when they are still talking. Interruption is considered a negative behaviour since it interferes with the current speaker's utterance (Lestary, et al., 2018).

