

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Humans are inseparable from social interaction. Social interaction creates communication. As a result, communication exchanges of thoughts, ideas, and feelings between individuals, often serves as a fundamental way to connect and understand one another. According to sociolinguist Tannen (1984), communication is a fundamentally social act whereby participants participate to obtain understanding and maintain interactions. Conversation and discourse analysis are closely linked areas in the research of language and communication, each focusing on different but interconnected aspects of how language is used in social interaction.

This social interaction leads people to utilize language in many modes of communication, whether spoken, written, or signed. Discourse analysis investigates the way language use changes throughout texts and how language connects with social and cultural contexts. It considers whether texts and discussions generate significance within specific social, cultural, and political settings. Hence, discourse analysis helps us understand not only what people say, but also why and how they say it, based on the context where the communication takes place.

In addition, Liddicoat (2007) defines conversation analysis as the study of talk in interaction, which focuses on how participants in social interaction produce

and interpret the conversations that occur when they communicate with each other. Unlike formal or scripted dialogues, conversation analysis investigates spontaneous, real-time interaction to identify hidden norms and patterns that influence interactions. In the workplace, for example, conversation analysis can be used to examine meetings to understand how turn-taking happens, how decisions are reached, and how power dynamics play out in discourse.

Turn taking is a basic notion in conversation analysis that describes how people in a dialogue decide who responds and when. It is a method by the participants in a conversation take turns speaking, ensure that communication runs smoothly with minimal interruption or overlap. Based on the article by Mulyati et al. (2023), the turn taking approach is important to investigate as it can help participants manage and take turns speaking during interactions, thereby achieving discussion goals. Learn about the turn-taking system can help people communicate better in daily life (Ramdhany & Ambalegin, 2023).

Turn-taking consists of two main components: the Turn-Constructional Component and the Turn-Allocational Component. The Turn-Constructional Component refers to all the words a speaker says before another person takes over. These can be full sentences, phrases, or even just single words, and listeners usually recognize the end of a turn through cues like tone changes or sentence completion. The Turn-Allocational Component determines who speaks next. This can happen when the current speaker selects the next speaker, such as by asking a question, or when someone else self-selects and takes the turn themselves.

In formal settings like political debates, turn-taking also helps maintain order and fairness. Stenström (1994) identifies three main types of turn-taking strategies: taking a turn, holding the turn, and yielding the turn. Taking a turn means starting to speak, either from the beginning of a conversation or after another speaker finishes. This can involve a clean start, a hesitant start, or taking over by connecting with the previous speaker's words. Holding the turn means the speaker tries to continue speaking by using techniques like fillers ("uhm," "you know"), repeating words, or making silent pauses. Yielding the turn is when the speaker gives a chance to others, usually by asking a question, using question tags like "right?" or simply pausing when they have nothing more to say.

This research is done to understand how language and speaking strategies are used in important political events, especially in formal debates. By looking closely at turn-taking, the way speakers take, hold, or give up their turn to talk, this research wants to show how political figures use language to show power, take control, and persuade people. This research pays attention to small details in real conversations, like pauses, repeated words, or interruptions, and explains how these actions have bigger meanings. Through this, the research not only shows how political speech is structured, but also helps us understand how language is used as a tool to influence others and lead in public situations.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Considering the context of the research, the researcher discovered the following concerns in the research entitled "An Analysis of Turn Taking in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate: Discourse Analysis Approach". In the relation of this topic, there are several problem that can be identified as below.

1. Components of Turn Taking Strategies in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate.
2. Reasons for choosing Turn Taking Strategies in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate.
3. Types of Turn Taking Strategies in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate.
4. Meanings of Turn Taking Strategies in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate.
5. Contexts of Turn Taking Strategies in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate.

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Utilizing the research identification, the limitations of the problem in this research concentrated on:

1. The components of Turn Taking Strategies in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate.
2. The types of Turn Taking Strategies in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate.

#### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

In accordance with the formulation of the problem, the researcher formulated the main issues that will be answered in the following research questions:

1. What are the components of turn taking strategies found in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate?
2. What are the types of turn taking strategies used in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate?

#### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

In line with the research questions before, the objectives for this research are:

1. To figure out the components of Turn Taking Strategies used in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate.
2. To find out the types of turn-taking strategies in the 2024 American 1<sup>st</sup> Presidential Debate.

#### **1.6 Significances of the Research**

The significance of this research lies in its contributions both theoretically and practically. This research aims to provide valuable insights in two main areas:

##### **1. Theoretical Significance**

This research advances discourse analysis and conversation analysis by conducting a thorough evaluation of turn-taking techniques in a high-stakes

political situation. By examining how these methods are used during the 2024 American First Presidential Debate, the research improves our comprehension of the significance of turn-taking in controlling conversational behavior, particularly in competitive situations. The findings contribute to the corpus of knowledge on political discourse by providing empirical evidence that can help future conceptual development in conversation analysis and its usage in political communication. Furthermore, this research lays the groundwork for further research that might investigate turn-taking in other circumstances or across cultural boundaries.

## **2. Practical Significance**

The practical significance of this research comes from its possible uses in political communication and debate preparation. The results of the research provide insights to presidential candidates, debate coaches, and communication strategists looking to enhance their debate ability. This research can serve as a significant resource for educators in political science, communication, and linguistics by giving a practical framework to introduce debate skills and discourse management techniques. The findings may also impact media coverage and debate analysis, resulting in a more nuanced understanding of politicians' strategies during high-profile political events.

## 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

There are several essential keywords employed in this research to help the reader understand:

**1. Discourse Analysis:** Discourse analysis is a vast field of research that looks at how language is used in different types of communication to express meaning, build social identities, and shape social realities. Fairclough (1992) defined discourse analysis as looking for how language works within specific social and cultural contexts rather than isolated linguistic features.

**2. Conversation Analysis:** Conversation analysis (CA) is an approach to discourse analysis which focuses on the systematic examination of the framework and structure of discussion in interaction. Conversation analysis, as defined by Heritage (1984), investigates how speakers produce and evaluate conversational interactions, with a focus on micro-level language use. This research uses conversation analysis to examine the turn-taking methods utilized in the 2024 American First Presidential Debate, providing

insights into the candidates' interactional patterns and strategies.

### **3. Turn Taking:**

Turn-taking refers to the manner in which speakers in a conversation manage and negotiate their speaking turns. According to Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson (1974), turn-taking is a fundamental aspect of conversation organization, where participants alternate between speaking and listening roles. In the context of the 2024 American First Presidential Debate, turn-taking involves how candidates manage their speaking opportunities, whether through interruptions, overlaps, or pauses, to influence the debate's flow and achieve their communicative goals.