

**THE ADJACENCY PAIRS ANALYSIS ON ‘SIX MINUTES ENGLISH’
CONVERSATION SCRIPT OF BBC LEARNING ENGLISH: A STUDY OF
DISCOURSE ANALYSIS**

Lukman Isgianto

*Student of English Linguistics, Master Degree Program, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas
Padjadjaran, Bandung Indonesia
Lookmenis@gmail.com*

ABSTRACT

The essay aims to identify and to explain the application of adjacency pairs categories on a conversation script. The paper analyzes the process of adjacency pairs on ‘Six Minutes English’ conversation script; a program of BBC Learning English. The findings hope to prove that linguistic choices in conversation analysis play an important role in building up the interaction process between communicators. Adjacency pairs has a crucial role in the conversation process as a framework of communication. The method which is used is qualitative descriptive. The writer takes the data from ‘Six Minutes English’ conversation script of BBC Learning English.

The essay is divided into four parts. The first part explains the roles of language and language studies in social life. The second part notes the application of adjacency pairs categories on conversation script. The third part deals with Richard and Smith’s (1983) theory as a guideline for this analysis. The last section of the essay offers concluding remarks about result of the discussion.

Keywords : *Adjacency pairs, conversation analysis, communication process, categories, framework*

A. INTRODUCTION

Communication has a variety range of patterns in social life and language is the main tool to deliver message. One of the types of communication is through conversation or oral communication. Human being as a social creature needs conversation to other people. Conversation has a crucial role to deliver the meaning in communication. We need partner to conduct conversation and one of the components of conversation is adjacency pairs.

The particular context and stage of the conversation, then, are important for assigning an utterance the status of a particular pair part, for example, ‘Hello’ can perform many different functions in a conversation. It can be a greeting, a summons as in ‘*Hello...anybody home?*’, or a response to a summons, as in answering the telephone Richards and Schmidt in Paltridge (2000:88). Equally, ‘*Thanks*’ could be a response to a statement of congratulation, a compliment, or an offer (Paltridge, 2000:88). Further, a pair of utterances may play more than one role in conversation. For example, the ‘question-answer’ pair in the example above could also be described as a ‘clarification seek’ followed by a ‘clarification provide’.

Adjacency pairs are utterances produced by two successive speakers in such a way that the second utterance is identified as related to the first one as an expected follow up (Richards and Schmidt 1983)

The following example illustrates adjacency pairs types:

A: Hi (greeting)

B: Hello (greeting)

A: OK, see ya (farewell)

B: So long (farewell)

A: Is that what you mean? (Question)
 B: yes (answer)

(Richards and Schmidt 1983:128)

Adjacency pairs are Pairs of utterances in talk are often mutually dependent. They are considered to be an automatic sequences consisting of a first part and a second part. These parts are produced by the different participants in a conversation. After the speaker utters the first part, the first speaker immediately expects his conversation partner to utter the second part of the pair. The most obvious example of adjacency pairs are thanking-response, request-acceptance, and question-answer sequences. Thus, the adjacency pairs are considered to be one of the factor that contribute to the flow of conversation.

Consequently, there are more than one factor that help to accomplish smooth conversation in order to minimize the gap and overlaps between the turns during an interaction. Those elements are turn taking rules, turn taking cues and the organization of sequence.

This essay employs qualitative descriptive research method. Three main purposes of research are to describe, explain, and validate findings. Description emerges following creative exploration, and serves to organize the findings in order to fit them with explanations, and then test or validate those explanations (Kratwohl, 1993).

The data is taken from 'Six Minutes English' conversation script of BBC Learning English on 24th February 2016 entitled "The Commute". The script is in PDF form and downloadable for public. The data is available on the <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/general/sixminute>

B. DISCUSSION

Adjacency pairs are sequences of two related utterances which are given by two different speakers. The second utterance is always a response to the first. Adjacency pairs are the smallest unit in conversation. The adjacency pairs pattern in the 'Six Minutes English' conversation script of BBC Learning English on 24th February 2016 entitled "The Commute" are as follows:

(1) Greeting - Greeting

Neil : *Hello and welcome to 6 minutes English, I'm Neil*
 Alice : *...and I'm Alice*

The pattern of greeting and introduction are commonly used in opening conversation. The first participant greets and introduces to the second participant or to the other participant in this case audience. The second participant reply the first participant. The process of adjacency pairs happen automatically as a common system in conversation.

(2) Question - Answer

Neil : *How do you get to work?*
 Alice : *I cycle*

In conversation the activity of asking and answer is needed to get the information. The first participant asks and the second participant answers. The first participant asks the second participant by saying – *How do you to get to work? //* and the second participant answers by saying – *I bicycle//*. Thus, the first participant's expectation to get information is accomplished. The first participant plays role as an information seek and the second participant as an information provide.

(3) Opinion provide - Comment

This combination showed that the first participant tells the second participant about certain events, state, or affairs. The second speaker responds to the first participant's information by agreeing to it.

Alice : *Well, I'll have to see if I can catch you on your way into the building- I'm intrigued about this sporty Neil I didn't know about!*

Neil : *'Intrigued' means to be very interested in something. Well, Alice, I'm flattered. And today's show is about commuting –or travelling between your home and your work.*

From the script above, it can be seen that the first participant tells the second participant about something that she heard then makes an opinion about that case. Then, the second participant makes a comment to that information. This pattern shows that the first participant express her opinion and the second participant agrees and it is responded by giving a comment. It means that what the first participant said is being accepted as a valid contribution to the conversation.

(4) Assessment – Agreement

The first participant expresses his feeling, judgment or evaluation about certain events, people or objects. Moreover, the response to this pattern is an agreement, stating that the second participant agrees to what the first participant's opinion.

Neil : *The American researcher must be talking about commuters who aren't engaged in active travel, mustn't she? Because if you cycle a longer distance then you are being more physically active.*

Alice : *I think you are right, for once, Neil!*

From the script above, it can be seen that Neil makes an assessment to the recent condition of commuters and the second participant tells the first participant that she accepts or agrees what the first participant says about the condition that she has been thinking by saying — *I think you're right //*. The expression indicates that the second participant agrees to the first participant.

(5) Suggestion - Acceptance

In conversation activity the participants may propose the suggestion to give the options about the topic being discussed. The suggestion pattern looks like the Question – Answer, however the meaning is different in contextual.

Neil : *Why don't you hop on your bike, Alice? Then we can both wear Lycra to work.*

Alice : *That's fantastic idea, Neil! Moving on!*

This pattern the first participant gives suggestion to the second participant by saying - *Why don't you hop on your bike, Alice? //*. This expression is a suggestion and the second participant express her acceptance by saying - *That's fantastic idea, Neil! //*. The expression indicates that Alice accepts Neil's suggestion.

C. CONCLUSION

The adjacency pairs creates an obvious meaning in social interaction through conversation. The pattern determines the meaning being delivered and minimize the misunderstanding between participants. There are five types of the adjacency pairs found in the 'Six Minutes English' conversation script of BBC Learning English on 24th February 2016 entitled "The Commute". They are (1) Greeting-Greeting, (2) Question – Answer, (3) Opinion provide – Comment, (4) Assessment – Agreement, and (5) Suggestion – Acceptance.

Website References

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