

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Language is very important for people in the world because language is used by human beings to communicate. With language we can communicate with others because language as a system of communication using sounds or symbols enables us to express our feelings, thoughts, ideas and experiences (E. Bruce Goldstein 2008:4). In general, language is tool of communications.

English is one of languages that all people use as International Language. As we know, some countries use English as their first language (L1) and others adopt it as their second language (L2) or foreign language (FL) such as in Indonesia. In Indonesia, English is taught from primary school to the university and has been strongly hoped that the students are going to have sense to receive and treat English as a language which they may use in communication beside Bahasa Indonesia.

In classroom interaction, students and teacher communicate using language. It happens when the students speak or discuss about some topics or some things to others or to their teacher. This process is called conversation.

In conversation, somebody or someone can be more dominant than the others. It can happen if they can control the conversation. That's why conversation sometimes becomes asymmetric or dominating only by one conversant.

Everyday conversations, is usually characterized by asymmetrical. According to **Linell** and **Luckmann** (1991; 8), asymmetries appear to be an

intrinsic feature of spoken interaction and even relatively 'symmetrical' conversations involve asymmetries of various sorts. Asymmetries in everyday conversation, such as conversation between students in classroom, may also be related to social and contextual factors. Some of researchers have investigated the influence of speaker gender on the distribution of interactional features in everyday conversation (Zimmerman and West, 1975; Fishman, 1983; West and Garcia, 1988). More generally, as **Van Dijk** (1989 ; 29) has argued that social inequalities such as those between the rich and the poor people, men and women (gender), adult and children influence relationships between speakers in everyday conversation, and are especially evident in asymmetries in the control of dialogue, turn taking, use of speech acts, topic choice and style. Asymmetries in everyday conversation may also be related to roles developed in the course of interaction such as expert and non-expert or story teller and listener.

Besides that, asymmetries in conversation can happen because one speaker of that conversation dominates more on the topic of the conversation than the other speaker.

This study attempts to analyze the speech of the eleventh grade students of SMA Negeri 6 Kupang. The writer chose some students of eleventh grade, who had good speaking ability. This study focuses on who dominates during the conversation performed by the eleventh grade students. Through conversation we will able to see the differences of one's ability in speaking to others. It can be seen from the process of turn taking, amount of talk among students and their speak

styles of each speaker in conversation. That happens not only in English but also in Bahasa Indonesia in classroom interaction.

The writer will be examining who is more dominant during the conversation and how the dominance can happen. This study is carried out under the title: AN ANALYSIS OF DOMINANCE IN THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE ELEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS OF SMA NEGERI 6 KUPANG IN THE SCHOOL YEAR 2012/2013.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, this study is conducted to answer the following questions:

1. Who is more dominant in conversation based on the gender of the eleventh grade students in SMA Negeri 6 Kupang?
2. Who is more dominant from male group and who is more dominant from female group in conversation based on the topic control of the eleventh grade students in SMA Negeri 6 Kupang?

1.3 Objective of the study

The objective of the study is the aim of what a study wants to find out. The objectives of the study are presented below:

1. To find out and to know who is more dominant in conversation based on the gender of the eleventh grade students in SMA Negeri 6 Kupang.

2. To find out and to know who is more dominant from male and female group in conversation based on the topic control of the eleventh grade students in SMA Negeri 6 Kupang.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

Based on gender and topic control in conversation, we can analyze who is more dominant of the conversations with some manner. For examples: the amount of talk, interruption, turn taking, topic dominate in conversation and also style male and female talk. This study focuses on dominance in conversation based on gender and on topic control, which speaker talks more and which one talks less.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is benefit of a study. The result of this study will provide some important ideas, particularly for the reader, the writer and English learners.

1. For the readers
 - a) To inform the readers regarding the dominance in conversation based on the gender and on the topic control.
 - b) To assist the readers in understanding about dominance in conversation based on the gender and on the topic control.

2. For the writer
 - a) By conducting the writing the writer will know about how to analyze the dominance in conversation.
 - b) This study is a bridge to enrich the writer's experience in analyzing the dominance in conversation.
3. For the English Learners
 - a) Through this study the English learners can know how to analyze the dominance in conversation.
 - b) The English learners will know about the conversational style based on the gender and on the topic control in conversation.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In this part, the writer would like to define some terms regarding this study. They were presented in detail below.

1. Dominance

According to Eastwood John in Oxford Dictionary (2008:133), dominance is having a control or power over somebody or something. In conversation the dominance can happen if the one speaker in conversation tends to control the other speaker. In social level, the dominance can happen because of gender differences and topic control.

2. Conversation

According to Eastwood John in Oxford Dictionary (2008:95), conversation is informal talk involving a small group of people. Two way exchange information

which is regarded a significant consideration to obtain active ability in speaking. Conversation can mean that people are talking with each other, just for the purpose of talking, as form of sociability, or it can be used to indicate any activity of interactive talk, independent of its purpose (Ten Have, 1999; 3). In this study conversation is an activity that can be done by the second year students to share their feelings, ideas or emotion to one to another. The conversation in the writers study is created by giving some specific topics and the conversation is aimed to discover the more dominant students based on gender and topic.

3. Conversational dominance

Conversational dominance refers to three things as asymmetry, control and dominance. Asymmetry is conversation imbalance, between one speaker and the other. While control is that regulated each other of turn taking in conversation and dominance can be defined the one speaker tendency to control the other speaker interactional of conversation. The writer was conducted the study about the dominance in a conversation by a giving some topics to male group, female group and mixed group. The writer wants to see who are more dominant in the conversation.

4. The Eleventh Grade students of SMA Negeri 6 Kupang

The subject of the study is where the writer conducted the study in order to find out the case that put as the caution in this study. The students of SMA Negeri 6 Kupang are those who join the classroom activity where the study or the analysis was conducted.