



Conversation Analysis of Repair and Adjacency Pairs on An Interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin in NBC News AmericasENASSDRA

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Abstract: Conversation is one of the essential parts of communication that needs skills and knowledge between participants. Many errors happen while people are in conversation. The crucial factors are conversation more spontaneously and many aspects influencing communication. Therefore, this study aims to reveal the process of conversation using theories of conversation analysis repair and adjacency pairs by Brian Paltridge (2012) in NBC News Interview with Vladimir Putin. The documentation method is used to collect the data. The data source is collected from an English transcription interview between Keir Simmons and Vladimir Putin accessed on the official website NBC News. Qualitative content analysis is used as a technique for analysing the data. The results of this study show 39 data of repairs, 32 self-initiated self-repair, 2 self-initiated other-repair, and 5 other-initiated self-repairs. As for adjacency pairs, show a total of 52 data, 28 questions-answers, 16 assessment-agreement, 5 request-agreement, 2 blame-denial, 1 offer-acceptance, and 1 closing-leaving. In conclusion, the interview ran well despite using different languages in conversation and limited times. Furthermore, the interviewee's institutional background influenced the process of interview.

Keywords: Conversation Analysis, Repair, Adjacency Pairs.



INTRODUCTION

The conversation is part of communication with minimal interaction between two-person expressing anything to their interlocutor, and it often happens spontaneously (Prastowo, 2016, p. 1). This conversation practice required participants' understanding of the interaction process. People can only have a conversation when they understand the rules in the interaction. If these parts are neglected, the conversation may fail to achieve the target. One kind of conversation that is familiar to human life is an interview.

An interview is a structured conversation between a minimum of two-person, where the first person is an interviewer or asks questions, and the second person is the interviewee or provides answers (Meriam Webster, 2016). Interviews are used on station television as a television talk show. One example of a television interview that many people watch is a news interview. This type of interview aims to gather information, clarify or explain issues, and seek opinions related to politics.

In 2021, NBC News interviewed Vladimir Putin in Russian. This interview has become one of the famous political interviews in 2021 since almost 13 million people viewed it. In 2021, NBC News conducted a political interview. The participants were Keir Simmons with Russian President Vladimir Putin, and this interview has become one of the most famous political interviews. This interview used different languages, and issues mostly between US and Russia made this interview more intense. In this interview, the interpreter helped Keir Simmons and Vladimir Putin, but it became a problem where it took much time to discuss. Based on those situations that trigger problems, the researchers used conversation analysis Paltridge (2012) to reveal the process of this interview. This study aims to: 1) To identify repair found in NBC news Interview between the Interviewer and Russian President Vladimir Putin, 2) To identify adjacency pairs used in the NBC News interview between Russian President Vladimir Putin. Furthermore, besides the types of repair and adjacency pairs, this research also reveals the institutional background of Vladimir Putin as President influenced the interview or not.

Conversation analysis (CA) is an approach in applied linguistics that deals with spoken discourse and reveals how people manage their everyday interactions (Paltridge, 2012, p. 90). Furthermore, CA is an approach that aims to investigate or uncover how social interactions are structurally organized in the conversation (Okeke & Van Der Westhuizen, 2020). The results analysis of CA can assess the course of the interactions and decide whether the process of conversation is successful or not in transferring the messages. According to Paltridge (2012), conversational analysis has types or patterns. First, there are opening and closing as introduction and end of a conversation or interaction. The second is feedback. The feedback analysis uses 'response tokens' as an example, "hmm" or "okay". Third, turn-taking is the process of turns to speak from each participant in the conversation. Fourth is repairs. It solves any problems that may happen in conversation. Fifth, adjacency pairs it is part of sequences in conversation. However, this study only applied repair and adjacency pairs because the data is the conversation that used different languages.

Repair

Repair is also one of the significant parts of conversations. Repair is always needed in conversation. Without it, the participants cannot solve the problems in interaction, such as misunderstanding, mishearing, and others. Repair plays a crucial role in conversation because it works to maintain overall coherence (Chalak & Karimi, 2017, p. 3). Utterances need to be clear so that it reaches the recipient. In repair, some people make errors and initiate fixing the problems. There are four types of repair patterns: Self-Initiated Self-Repair, Self-Initiated Other-Repair, Other-Initiated Self-Repair, and Other-Initiated Other-Repair. This research tries to find and identify those kinds of patterns of repair. Besides repair, Adjacency Pairs are also a significant part of the conversation.

Adjacency Pairs

Adjacency pairs is one of fundamental parts in conversation. Interaction without the organization of talk is difficult to understand the conversation. Adjacency pairs are the organization of sequences in which one utterance pattern makes a circumscribed response in the next turn (Hutchby, 2019, p. 12). Adjacency pair characteristics were proposed by Jones (2018). He stated that the adjacency pair is characterized by the sequence of two utterances from a different person (it must be composed of two turns without a long pause). Then, the adjacency pair component must be placed after the other utterances. The pairs are divided into two pair pieces, first and second, that happen in order, and the pairs are relevant to each other. Therefore, the first pair are utterances that could be an offer, request, and question. The second place or utterances must be received or refused, agree/disagree, answered, and others. Repair and adjacency pairs are significant in revealing any conversation, especially in a political interview.

The political talk focuses on the particular pattern of human interaction in which two or more people are involved in a discussion related to political issues (Schmitt-Beck & Lup, 2013, p. 514). In the interview, politicians provide opinions or answer questions related to the issues delivered by the interviewer, and often it is not easy to deal with that. The participants must understand the interview process because politics is not entertainment but a serious discussion about society, countries, policy, and political issues. The roles of the CA can reveal the process of the political interview because it is also part of the conversation. The CA results can be used to judge the course of the interview so people can better understand the political interview situation.

The previous study by Azim (2016) found out how the adjacency pairs used can represent the institutional background of participants of the conversation, referring to some of the words used in adjacency pairs. Furthermore, similar research also conducted by Clifton (2019) showed that the position (institutional setting) of someone in the conversation could represent and influence the conversation process. Waiyaraphutra & Abhakorn (2017) also provide conversation analysis in analyzing the process of interviewing Thai Politicians with the result that they tend to avoid negative or personal questions in a political interview.

While in this research try to reveal to process political interview that used different languages and also connect the results from identifying repair and adjacency pairs with the institutional background of the interviewee. As the data of this research or the subjects are the English transcription interview between Keir Simmons and Vladimir Putin that held on NBC News America.

RESEARCH METHODS

The qualitative approach was used in this study to describe the process that happened in the interview. Furthermore, this research focuses on analysing the types of repairs and adjacency pairs found in the interview between Keir Simmons and Vladimir Putin on NBC News America. The data used in this study is the English transcription from an interview with Keir Simmons (Interviewer) with Vladimir Putin (Interviewee). The source this interview got was from the NBC YouTube channel in https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6pJd6O_NT0&t=1059s, uploaded on 15th June 2021. The video used English subtitles, and this transcription was also published on the official website NBC News America. Overall, Keir Simmons and Vladimir Putin finished this interview with 1 hour 22 minutes.

In this study, the participants are Keir Simmons and Vladimir Putin. Mostly, they are talking about the political issues related to other countries, especially discussing the relationship between Russia and US. Thus, Keir Simmons and Vladimir Putin are the subjects of this study. In data collection, this study used a documentation approach to collect the data. This method is

a legal way to collect data from the interview conducted by NBC News America. It is also as evidence in the study. The first step in collecting the data is accessing the video from the YouTube channel NBC News and downloading the English transcription from the official website NBC News at <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/transcript-nbc-news-exclusive-interview-russia-s-vladimir-putin-n1270649>. Second, the data was moved into Word file. The last, the data was verified with the real video and other sources of transcription.

Since the data is about the interview, qualitative content analysis (QCA) is used as it is appropriate for the data of this study. Shava (2021) mentions that this approach is not just verbally or textually data but can describe how people use languages. Based on this technique. QCA has some steps in the process manage the data in this research. First, the data is prepared before analyzing with the CA's theory. The English transcription retrieved from the official NBC report is put into a Microsoft Words file in this section. Second, the researcher focuses on reducing the unit of analysis. In this part, the texts from the data are identified or sorted, including CA's aspects. This process also referred to the reduction from the data interview. Third, this process involved creating classifications or a coding system. The data transcription that has been identified in previous steps is coded into the classification of conversational analysis theory. Those classifications include Adjacency Pairs becomes AP, Repair becomes R, Preferred as P, and Dispreferred as DP. Fourth, all conversational interactions in the data transcription were coded according to the coding scheme prepared in the previous steps. The interviewer and interviewee in this research differentiate with Keir Simmons as KS and Vladimir Putin as VP. Fifth, the data that have been coded or the results displayed according to the types of CA and presented in figures. Lastly, the researcher concluded from the results of adjacency pairs and repairs.

FINDINGS

The results of this interview found how repairs are used, namely, Self-Initiated Self-repair, Self-Initiated Other Repair, and Other-Initiated Self Repair. Then, this interview has no found pattern Other-Initiated Other-Repair. The Adjacency Pairs results found six patterns: greetings-greetings, assessment-agreements, blame-denial, request-acceptance, questions-answers, and closing-leaving.

Repair

The findings reveal that only three of the four types of repairs were found in the interview between KS and VP. With details, thirty-two data were Self-Initiated Self-Repair, two were Self-Initiated Other-Repair, and five were other-initiated other-repair. The study's findings revealed a total of thirty-nine data repairs. The percentage of the repairs is shown below.

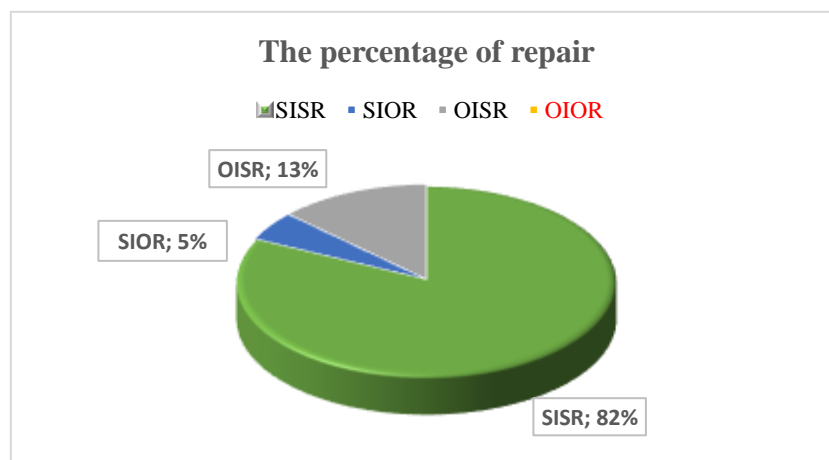


FIGURE 1. The percentage of repair

As the interviewer and interviewee that was having a conversation for almost an hour and a half, KS and VP committed some errors. The Self-Initiated Self-Repair dominated based on the aforementioned percentages. Additionally, there is a huge difference between the other varieties. In this interview, not even the other-initiated other-repair took place. Furthermore, VP finished twenty-four data as the repair initiator, and Keir Simmons finished with fifteen data. In Self-Initiated Self-Repair, VP dominated with eighteen data while KS had only fourteen data. In the meantime, VP controls the Other-Initiated Other-Repair as an initiator with five data. This pattern was not discovered in Other-initiated Other-Repair during this interview.

1. Self-Initiated Self-Repair (SISR)

The SISR type is one in which the initiator repair is the person who uttered. Since SISR can carry out the repair on its own, no one else is required to start it. It can be described as follows:

Data R33:

VP: **There is nothing— there's nothing h— nothing offensive** about it.

According to the aforementioned data, VP repeats a phrase. He used "**There is nothing**" two times before continuing his utterances. It happened because he failed to convey the complete point to the recipient, so VP recycled his utterances.

In SISR, ten strategies can be found when the person uses SISR. Those strategies proposed by Schegloff (2013), He said there are replacing, recycling, parenthesizing, aborting, inserting, sequence jumping, deleting, reformatting, searching, and reordering. The strategies used in this SISR were dominated by recycling with 53%. Then, replacing with 31%. Reformatting and inserting with each 8%.

2. Self-Initiated Other-Repair (SIOR)

SISR occurs when the current speaker starts as the initiator to repair the other. It can be described as follows:

Data R12:

VP: to Obama's administration in **Octo—**

KS: **In September.**

VP: We started in **September** and - during his last year in office. ...

When KS saw that VP had mistakenly selected the correct month, he immediately set out to fix and clarify it. VP attempted to explain Obama's presidency but fail mentioned the proper month. VP almost blurted "**October,**" then KS intervened and clarified that it was September. Here VP struggled and failed in search for the correct month, and then KS started to repair for him. As mentioned by Betty and Mahdi (2021), this strategy is first the other start to search the words then the self-cut-off or initiated to help the repair. Two data of SIOR found in this interview used this strategy.

3. Other-Initiated Other-Repair (OISR)

OISR happens when someone makes an inaccuracy or mistake during a conversation, and the other participants correct it. This type occurred when the listener was not paying attention, misheard the speaker's words, or received them in an ambiguous manner. It can be described as follows:

Data R19:

KS: If you were in America, what would you fear might happen next??

VP: **You mean if I were in America, what would I be— you mean if I were an American, what I would be afraid of? Is that the question?**

KS: What should Americans worry?

AP19 demonstrates how KS attempted to ask VP, but KS delivered it with unclear what he meant when he remarked, "**If you were in America,**" as this may be mean as Vladimir Putin travels to America or become an American citizen. Then, to clarify the question, VP tries to

start a repair by asking to clarify the question. All of the data of OISR use strategy ensuring the questions as proposed by Benjamin (2013).

Adjacency Pairs

Based on Paltridge's theory, He proposed eleven different sorts of adjacency pairings. The research revealed six different types. Fifty-two adjacent pairs were discovered through discussion through interviews.

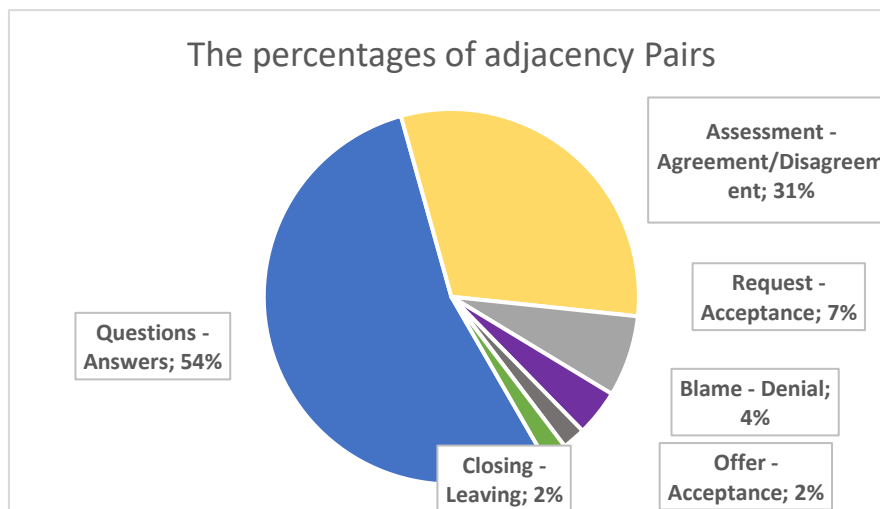


FIGURE 2. *The percentage of Adjacency Pairs*

It demonstrates how Q&A and assessment topped the other outcome with twenty-eight and sixteen data. Obtaining information and opinions is consistent with the interview's objectives. Furthermore, requesting with four data, blaming with two, offering and closing respectively with one data. Based on the AP findings, eight dispreferred AP respectively, and four data for questions and assessment patterns.

1. Question-Answer

It is a common pattern in human interaction that is often found in daily activities. As one person delivers questions and the other person answers the questions or not.

Data AP7:

KS: President Biden wants predictability and stability. Is that what you want?

VP: Well, these are the most important things.

From AP7, it is clear as KS delivered questions about predictability or stability. Then, VP answered it appropriately with the acts wanted by KS. This is preferred data, as there are twenty-four preferred and four dispreferred in this pattern.

2. Assessment-Agreement

Based on Paltridge (2012), Assessment is a process of seeking information from the recipient.

Data AP10:

KS: How would you describe President Biden?

VP: President Biden, of course, is radically different from Trump because President Biden is a career man. He has spent virtually his entire adulthood in politics.

KS attempted to solicit the VP's viewpoint regarding President Biden. Due to the fact that KS and VP effectively carried out the talk as anticipated, this is covered by the assessment where the recipients agree to give their opinion. This is preferred data, as there are twelve preferred and four dispreferred in this pattern.

3. Blame-Denial

Blame is an act where the speaker tries to say that someone does something wrong. it can be correct or not, depending on the situation.

Data AP14:

KS: Mr. Putin. Mr. Pres— President, are you waging a cyber war against America?

VP: Right. Right. you are conveying information to me as to who said that. But where is evidence that this was indeed done?

In the data, VP refuted the allegations made interviewer when he showed that he implicated Russia in a cyberattack in the US. VP demanded proof of the attack, but at the same time, KS could not provide it. This data is preferred where the other data in this pattern is the same as preferred.

4. Offer-Acceptance

Every person often uses this pattern when they want to offer something to another. As it only found one data in this research.

Data AP9:

KS: Let's get to some other issues.

VP: Yes, please.

From the data above, it is clear how KS tried to offer another issue for VP. Then, VP answer it with agree or accept the offering from KS. This data is also preferred data.

5. Request-Agreement

Request as a practice where someone wants the other person to do something. This is also the pattern that is often used in conversation.

Data AP44:

VP: I— I will tell you completely— can I— can I speak—

KS: Please. Yeah.

In the middle of the talk, KS interrupted VP. VP required more time to respond to the question thoroughly. VP asked KS additional times to finish his answer as he said he wanted to tell completely. It clearly illustrated the pattern of request and acceptance. This pattern and all of the request data are preferred data.

6. Closing-Leaving

Closing is the part where we want to end the conversation. As in television talk shows, the closing part is essential to give information to the audiences.

Data AP52:

KS: Very good. Thank you very much for your time, Mr. President. We've gone over, and I really appreciate it. It was a really interesting conversation, so thank you

VP: Thank you.

The data demonstrated that KS thanked VP for the interview then VP reciprocated by replying, "Thank you." This data as preferred AP.

DISCUSSION

Repair

SISR predominated as they spoke several languages. Due to limited time constraints and the fact that interpreters require time to translate, KS and VP find it challenging to communicate. As a result, rather than making comments about one another, the interviewer and interviewee

concentrate more on their own words. VP made eighteen data SISR, but he always goes into great detail to explain it.

KS and VP exclusively concentrated on their duties in the interview; gathering and providing information allowed the SISR to outperform the others. Additionally, they talk about important and serious political matters, including Russia's relations with other nations and its military activities. These subjects need the KS and VP to thoroughly plan their questions and responses before speaking to the intended audience.

Betty & Mahdi's study from the year 2021 found more than two hundred ninety data SISR, or eighty-five percent, on the subject of academic discussion. Additionally, when the context of discussion allows for numerous interactions, the amount of this SISR might be lesser. It shows in Trisanti's study in 2017 on the topic of students group interactions only forty percent or eighteen data.

SIOR was made possible during the interaction VP between KS because of the words spoken during a brief discussion. The research findings align with those of Rheisa (2014), who solely found two instances in SIOR data with the same topic as this study. Due to time constraints and language barriers, the interaction KS and VP were unable to focus on having intense interactions, which resulted in the discovery of five OISRs. The results of this study are consistent with Rahmah's (2019) research on the same subject, which demonstrates that no OISR data were discovered.

VP, in the interview, is capable of presenting a variety of viewpoints, whether his own or institutional. He substituted "We" for "I" in repair to prevent misunderstanding. Those are essential because he wants audiences from various nations can understanding his utterances reflective of his institutions or himself. This shows how the president's institutional background (VP) influenced the interview he followed. These results are also shown in Azim (2016), where "We" and "I" can represent a different condition in terms of the political interview.

Adjacency Pairs

Based on the analysis, interaction between VP and KS consisted of twenty-eight data on Q&A and sixteen assessments. Another pattern type is used to complement the dominating type. The pairs in the categories were presented and dominated by KS as the initiator. VP completed the second pair. KS initiates the first turn in most of all kinds, except for the request type, where two data indicate that VP started the pairs. KS thereby dominated the first pair of interviewees in the interaction.

Questions and assessments predominated in this conversation based on the interview's purpose. The interview intended to get information from the interviewee. According to Adhabi & Anozie (2017), an interview refers to a dialogue in which the interviewer delivers questions or solicits feedback in order to learn specific information from the interviewee. Eight dispreferred replies were discovered in the outcome of this research. These unfavourable replies occurred due to KS's seeking opinion and delivering questions that provoked criticism of the VP, his nation, and the audience. VP declined to respond to those kinds of utterances.

Although KS and VP spoke and used two languages and an interpreter, their interaction proceeded as intended. The flaw in the interaction between KS and VP demonstrates how the restricted time and speaking of multiple languages minimize intense contact. It is evident from the questions and replies that KS and VP exclusively considered their respective positions during the interview. Because of the scenario's constraints, there is no further discussion of the answers provided by the VP or in-depth discussion of any one topic based on the conclusion of all of the data questions and assessment. Overall, KS and VP were successful in conducting the interview. however, there were some difficulties due to languages barriers and times constraints.

Based on the dispreferred Q&A, it represents the VP's institutional background. As a representative from Russia, VP has to provide the interviewer with clarity and prevent ambiguity. VP declined to respond to any inquiries that negatively assessed himself or his country. VP must defend his nation since he represents his institution as president. In AP22, KS

posed a question. Then VP said, “**who told you that I am scared by opposition**”. In AP24, KS asked VP, “**Are you a killer?**” then VP answered, “**As far as harsh rhetoric, this is an expression of U.S culture**”. The disputed questions are also included in data thirty-one and forty-three.

Based on the dispreferred assessments, it is represented institutional background from VP. The cooperation between Iran and the US is the topic of the AP3. KS reasoned that it might be risky for other nations. VP asked, “**Why we are talking about problems that do not exist?**” rather than responding to the query. In AP15, KS attempts to examine the relationship between US and Russian criminals and ransomware. VP responded, “**The simplest things to do is wait to joint work or meeting with US.**” AP29 and AP47 both also contain this motif. VP chose not to respond to 25% of the assessment since KS seeks to present false information and invalid sources that accuse Russia or VP.

The other research, there is research that involved Thai politicians as subjects. The study demonstrates how the respondents avoid responding negatively to the questions (Waiyaphutra & Abhakorn, 2017, p. 38). These types of avoiding tactics also reflect the interviewee's institutional background. Based on the analysis above from eight data dispreferred, it can be said that the institutional background of Vladimir Putin influenced the conversation or interaction between Keir Simmons and Vladimir Putin.

CONCLUSION

Based on this study, thirty-nine repair-related data were discovered. Thirty-two were dominated by SISR, including fourteen data for Keir Simmons and eighteen for Vladimir Putin. SIOR discovered two pieces of data. KS and VP, respectively, share one data. OISR discovered five, where VP started them all. However, no OIOR type was discovered during interaction.

Based on the findings, fifty-two adjacency pair data were discovered. Twenty-eight data are in all AP data, twenty-four of which are preferred, and four are not. Assessments with twelve data were preferred, and four were dispreferred for a total of sixteen data. Furthermore, the other data serve as complements. Those data include requesting with four data, blaming with two, offering and closing respectively with one data.

The analysis from repair and eight data dispreferred also shows how the interview between Keir Simmons and Vladimir Putin is influenced by the institutional background of the interviewee or Vladimir Putin. Mostly, the relation with the institutional background of the VP found in the AP results.

For the future study, it hopes to deal with the political conversation or interview involving more than two people to look at which one dominates the conversation. The drawback of this research, it is restricted to two subjects. It also can provide different situations or topics from this research to give a comparison with another type of interaction.

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