TURN-TAKING STRATEGIES IN THE SECOND AMERICA'S PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE 2020: DISCOURSE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

Turn-taking is a way that can be referred to as the change of position when the speaker becomes the listener and vice versa in the conversation. This research aims to identify the turn-taking strategies utilized by the debate participants in the second America's presidential debate 2020. The researchers adhered to the theory of Stenström regarding turn-taking strategies. The research design was qualitative. The observational method and note-taking technique were employed to collect the research data. The analytical technique of discourse analysis and coding were performed to analyze the data. The results of this research were displayed descriptively in the form of words to sentences. The turn-taking strategies were taking the turn, holding the turn, and yielding the turn. The results revealed that the taking the turn strategy was frequently utilized by all of the participants in the debate. The interrupting strategy was commonly used by Donald Trump. Joe Biden with starting up strategy. Kristen Welker tended to perform a prompting strategy. Moreover, the silent pauses as the sub-strategy of holding the turn, appealing, and giving up as part of yielding the turn strategy were not found in the data source. The participants tended to avoid silent pauses and tried to take the floor to speak in order to show their dominance. The nature of the turn-taking system is in line with the existence of power between participants' relationships.

Keywords: conversation analysis, discourse analysis, debate, turn-taking

1. INTRODUCTION

Humans as social creatures cannot be separated from any interactions in society. They build a conversation so that their intention and certain goals can be achieved according to its discourse. To perform a conversation, language is the main tool of communication used among the participants involved. Communication is an interchange of ideas and feelings between people that requires language skills (Pradipta & Sugiharti, 2021). Further, Liddicoat (2007) explained that conversation is a way for people to socialize, develop, and sustain their relationships with each other. Usually, a conversation occurs between two or more people. A good conversation is usually supported by a cooperative manner between participants, understanding the topics that are being discussed, and managing the turn to speak (Natalia, at al., 2019).

Evidently, there is a system in the conversation called turn-taking.

Turn-taking is a conversational organizing technique (Sari, at al., 2021). It denotes the ability to notice and recognize the exact time to begin or give a turn while doing the conversation. In actuality, it is one of the small units of conversation to control the flow in switching the floor (Sinaga, at al., 2021). By comprehending the turn-taking system, could help people to build good communication skills in society. People who know how to do turn-taking in a conversation will be able to deliver their message clearly and minimize miscommunication.

The phenomenon of turn-taking can be found on social media such as YouTube. The researchers found one general phenomenon in the "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" talk show with the guest star actor Jason Bateman. It was posted on April 23rd, 2022 with the title "Jason Bateman Talks Ozark's Finale, Spoilers & the Show's Cryptic Symbols". In the video, the host Jimmy Fallon interviewed Jason Bateman who is one of the famous Hollywood actors. They were talking about how Jason Bateman accidentally spoiled the plot of his upcoming movie, Ozark, and talked about the meaning of the symbols of the opening show.

Jimmy : She's the greatest.
Jason : She does try to-
Jimmy : Oh, because you know? Because then she'll be in trouble, because she'll go to a dinner or something, then she has to lie and go, "I can't tell you".
Jason : Right, right.(00:28 – 00:59).

From that dialogue, when Jason was talking about his wife and made up a story then Jimmy cut off his talk and the conversation continued by Jimmy instead of Jason. It can be seen from the utterances "Oh, because you know?". It shows the phenomenon of turn-taking because the speaker succeeded in taking over the conversation even though another speaker was not finished talking. As stated by Stenström (1994) interrupting is used to take over the conversation by directly talking without waiting for the previous speaker to finish his turn.

In line with this, Liddicoat (2007) pointed out there are three broad areas in a conversational organization, and they are about how the participants organize the structure of turns at talk, the forms in which turns at talk are taking place and organized into conversation arrangements, and the last is about the instrument for producing an orderly talk. Moreover, Coulthard (1985) averred that turn-taking is a normal thing that is considered the basic rule in the conversation when the speakers and listeners change their roles to start their own speech. The participants of the conversation tend to give a signal every time one of them will come to finish the talk so that the other participant will notice it and begin to talk (Cook, 1989). Besides, turn-taking as believed by Yule (1996) is an activity to take control of the conversation in any situation and if it cannot be done, anyone involved in the conversation can attempt to take the floor and control the talk. How participants manage their turn is conforming to their power relationships (Fairclough, 2001).

Counting on the growth of various studies and interests, there are many ways to analyze the conversation that exists in daily life, and one of the sciences is discourse analysis (Aulia & Simatupang, 2022). According to Yule (1996)'s explanation, discourse analysis is also associated with the study of language in use. As explained by Amir and Jakob (2020), conversation is a spoken discourse that may occur a form of discourse that has significant problems in terms of analysis given its apparently instructed naturally. It focuses on the inspection of the intercourse between language and the contexts where the language is applied as well (McCarthy, 1991). It can be understood that discourse analysis is all about how language, the contexts, and interactions happened at the same time and work in the general or specific context under consideration.

Significantly, a study of discourse analysis that focuses on the system of conversation or spoken discourse is conversation analysis. As claimed by Liddicoat (2007) conversation analysis is an analysis activity to expand the accounts of language for social interaction. Also on the statement of Reay (1998), conversation analysis is a kind of relatively developed technique with the purpose to examine and explore all about spoken language. It is an activity of methodical examination of the outcome of the conversation in daily human interaction by communication or can be said a talk-in-interaction (Hutchby & Wooffitt, 1998).

Moreover, this research is related to several previous studies. Ashidiq (2021) investigated the types and strategies of turn-taking found in Warren Edward Buffet Interview. The investigation was conducted by expounding Stenström (1994)'s theory of turn-taking strategies. The results showed that there were 15 data of starting up, 9 data of taking over, 13 data of interrupting, 13 data of holding the floor, 7 data of prompting, 5 data of appealing and the last was 5 data of giving up. On the other hand, Aulia & Simatupang (2022) explored the classification of turn-taking strategies found in the interview of "Spiderman: No Way Home" movie casts. The researchers adopted the theory of Stenström (1994) regarding the turn-taking strategies. The results displayed that the three strategies of turn-taking appeared and there were 32 of holding the turn, 13 of taking the turn, and two of yielding the turn.

Owing to the background of this study triggered the researchers to conduct this research to find out how turn-taking strategies occur in the debate. this research is using the same theory by Stenström (1994) to find out and define the strategies of turn-taking. However, compared with the previous research, this research chose the Second Presidential Debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden 2020 as the data source. Additionally, this research revealed how the turn-taking strategies influenced the politeness of each participant.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

There are three turn-taking strategies introduced by Stenström (1994) and they are taking the turn, holding the turn, and yielding the turn.

2.1 Taking the Turn

It is a strategy that is being used by someone to take their turn to speak and

state their statement to open the conversation. There are three sub-strategies as follows:

a. Starting up

There are two sorts of starting up called hesitant start and clear start. The hesitant start is a situation where a speaker starts his turn but takes a long time or is not ready to take over. To overcome this, a speaker tends to use markers like filled pauses (ə, ə:m) and verbal filler (I mean, a sort of, well, you know).

On the other hand, to perform a clean start, speakers tend to use the word "well" to start their utterances or say their words directly and precisely.

b. Taking over

Taking over is a strategy used when one speaker has finished his speech and the next interlocutor continues the conversation by utilizing uptakes or links. It is usually spoken by the first speaker, starting with appealer (e.g., you know) and followed by uptake (yeah, oh, well, ah, no, yes) by the next speaker. Further, the usage of links in the taking over is to initiate a main act with the selected form to produce the intended move in a turn. The links can be used for instance, to define an object by using the word "but", as an informed statement with "cos", or even a question by the word "so".

c. Interrupting

The interruption usually occurs when one speaker speaks but the other speaker also utters his utterance at the same time. As a consequence, it is causing an overlap then the turn is shifting from the speaker to the hearer.

2.1 Holding the Turn

This strategy can be used when the speaker is facing difficulty in talking.

Holding the turn means that the participants are trying to maintain their turn in the middle of the utterances. some of the speakers who face this problem tend to try to fill the silent pauses to avoid another speaker taking the turn to their unfinished talk. Stenström (1994) enumerated its three sub-strategies as follows:

a. Filled pauses/verbal fillers

It is usually utilized to show that the speaker is not aiming for a turn but is planning or thinking about what to say next. To maintain the turn, a speaker better avoid a pause that is too long because it shows an opportunity for the next speaker to take over his turn. Nevertheless, a speaker can perform the filled pauses/verbal fillers to prevent the long silent pauses.

b. Silent Pauses

Silent pauses act as a turn holder or as an effort to keep other speakers from taking their turn until the first speaker finishes his speech which is usually marked with long pauses. However, a silent pause is usually placed where it proves that there is still more to say in the speaker's utterances.

c. Lexical Repetition

According to Aulia & Simatupang (2022), the speaker tends to utilize lexical repetition by repeating the same word until they figure out the right word to say. It can be done in three ways such as single word, clause partials, and combination between single word and clause partials.

d. New Start

When a speaker is still unable to continue the conversation and has trouble making up his mind after doing a repetition, silent pauses, and filled pause, then the new start is the last

option that can be used. It is the best solution to avoid an empty gap while talking. The speaker can start the conversation all over again with a new topic.

2.3 Yielding the Turn

This strategy applies when the first speaker gives a turn as a chance for the next speaker to talk voluntarily. There are some ways to perform this strategy and they are prompting, appealing, and giving up.

a. Prompting

Prompting is a way for speakers to give their turn to the interlocutor by pointing them directly. To do this, speakers can use several prompting acts namely apology, greeting, invite, object, offer, question, and request.

b. Appealing

Appealing is another way for speakers to give their turn to the interlocutor. The speaker explicitly signals the hearer to provide feedback by using question tags and words such as "right, all right, ok, you know, you see".

c. Giving Up

One way to give a turn to speak is usually done when the speaker has nothing to say. At the same time, the interlocutor realizes it so he immediately chooses his interlocutor as the next speaker which is marked at the end of his speech, namely a long pause.

3. RESEACH METHOD

This research used the type of research in descriptive form and studied a case with a qualitative approach followed by the purpose of descriptive research to describe things that exist related to the study. Miles, at al. (2014) addressed that qualitative technique describes how individuals interact, act, and handle events in specific settings. Through qualitative research, meanings can be explored and comprehended by the individuals or organizations assign to a social or human issue (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The aim of this research was to analyze and identify the strategies of turn-taking in the Second 2020 Presidential Debate between Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

To collect the data this research used an observational method introduced by Sudaryanto (2015). The expert claimed that the observational approach is a way to gather the data by observing it. Hence, to do the observation to collect the data, there are some requirements that will be experienced by the researchers such as the use of sight and hearing senses. Furthermore, the note-taking technique was used when marking the data in order to apply the observational method. Creswell and Creswell (2018) explained that the data might be recorded as memos-note during the research process that offers reflections on the process or help to create codes and themes according to its context.

The researchers analyzed the data with the use of the analytic approach in discourse analysis. As stated by Flick (2014), analytical strategy concentrated on the text's internal structure. Its positioning as a discursive text and how it is constructed are of interest. Thereto, the researchers employed the process of coding. By giving a mark or a sign in the selected data, it helped the researchers to classify and group the data accordingly. Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2014) explicated that codes are identifiers that provide the descriptive or inferential data gathered during a

study a symbolic meaning and believed that coding is analysis. At last, in qualitative research, data displays typically come up in what is known as a narrative or analytical text. Analytic narrative highlights the characteristics of the displayed data, gives them meaning, connects them, and enables the analyst to make inferences and enhance interpretations (Miles, at al., 2014).

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
4.1 Result

The researchers found at least 188 data in total related to the theory of this research. Nonetheless, the researchers did not examine the whole data due to data repetitions discovered in the data source. Hence, data reduction transpired in this research to avoid mass data and reiterative analysis. Several activities of data reduction included selecting, centralizing, simplifying, outlining, and converting the data which showed up in the written transcription (Miles & Huberman, 1994).

Therefore, with the application of data reduction, the researchers then proceeded to examine 30 data that were found typical and infrequently arose in the data source. There are 20 for taking the turn strategy, followed by seven for holding the turn strategy and three for yielding the turn strategy. However, the researchers displayed the analysis per strategy. The numbers of the data are enumerated in table 1 below.

Table 1. The Result

No.	Turn-Taking Strategies	Total
1.	**Taking the Turn:**	**20**
	Starting Up	3
	Taking Over	4
	Interrupting	13
2.	**Holding the Turn:**	**7**
	Silent Pauses	0
	Filled Pauses/Verbal Fillers	2
	Lexical Repetition	4
	New Start	1
3.	**Yielding the Turn:**	**3**
	Prompting	3
	Appealing	0
	Giving Up	0
	Total	**30**

4.2 Discussion

Taking the Turn - Interrupting
(00:31:58 - 00:32:47)
Context: In the conversation that was previously excerpted below, both candidates of the debate were answering the question given by the moderator regarding Covid vaccine that will be distributed to Americans. Biden was the first speaker to answer the question.

Biden : "…We're about to go under a dark winter. A dark winter. And he has no clear plan and there's no prospect that there's gonna be a vaccine available for the majority American people before the middle of next year."

Welker : President Trump, your reaction he says you've got no plan-

Trump : "I don't think we will have a dark winter at all. We're opening up our country, we've learned and study then understand the disease which we didn't at the beginning…

When Welker asked for feedback from Trump, Trump did not wait until the moderator finished and started to talk, "I don't think we will have a dark winter at all", then the turn is shifting from Welker to Trump because of the interruption. By means of this, DT performed interrupting within the taking the turn strategy as his strategy to take over the conversation.

Taking the Turn – Starting Up
(00:32:23 – 00:34:27)
Context: Following the previous topic about the distribution of vaccines in the middle of the catastrophe of the Covid-19 virus, the moderator gave the turn to deliver the speech after Trump to Biden.

Welker : "Vice President Biden, your response."
Biden : "My response is, he is xenophobic but not because he shut down access from China and he did it late after 40 countries had already done that…"

The moderator asked Biden to give a response to Trump's previous speech by saying "Vice President Biden, your response". With confidence, Biden took his turn in talking immediately without stuttering, by delivering his opening speech with "My response is". The way Biden started his talk, showed the strategy of turn-taking, namely taking the turn specifically starting up and classified into a clean start. According to what is described by the expert, Stenström (1994), a clean start in the starting up indicates that the speaker is ready and sure of what he will say.

Taking the Turn – Taking Over
(00:34:29 – 00:35:47)
Context: The debate below held a discussion about the condition of the US community in the midway of Covid-19 and the shutdown plan. The first speaker who delivered the speech was Trump. In his speech, he stated that even though the virus is harmful but most people recovered and survived. He also said that the nation did not need to fully shutdown.

Trump : "…We have to recover. We can't close up our nation. We have to open our school and we can't close up our nation, or you're not going to have a nation."
Welker : "And of course the CDC has said young people can get sick with Covid-19 and can pass it. Vice President Biden, I want to talk broadly about strategy, though."

Right after Trump ended the talk, Welker instantly continued the conversation by responding to Trump's speech by saying "And of course the CDC has said young people can get sick with Covid-19 and can pass it" before she moved on to the next speaker. In order to take over the turn in talking, Welker performed one of the turn-taking strategies scilicet taking the turn specifically taking over with links. It is proven by the word "And" used by Welker to start her turn to talk after the previous speaker finished talking. With the use of the word "And" as the link, Welker was showing the significant act to start her turn with identify an object which is Trump's speech.

Holding the Turn – Lexical Repetition
(00:35:48 - 00:36:40)
Context: It was Biden's turn to deliver his opinion regarding the spread of Covid-19 virus. At the near end of his speech, he blatantly blames Trump because Trump said the virus was not dangerous and did not take any responsibility for that. The moderator, Welker, then took over the turn in talking and wanted to ask about Trump's strategy.

Biden   : "…We dangerous, you tell the people who's dangerous now? What should they do about the danger? And you say "I take no responsibility"."

Welker : "Let me talk about your strategy very quickly."

Trump   : "Excuse me. I take – I take – full responsibility. It's not my fault that it came here, it's China's fault, and you know what, it's not Joe's fault that it came here either…"

Trump performed turn-taking strategy namely holding the turn. Trump tried to carry on his talk to take over the conversation with lexical repetition, "I take – I take –". That was intended so that the turn to speak remains on Trump and will not get interrupted by the other speakers while he tried to continue his speech. As explained by Stenström (1994), lexical repetition is one of the ways for the speaker to keep his turn in talking and it is part of the holding the turn strategy. The lexical repetition uttered by Trump is clause partials.

Holding the Turn – New Start
(00:38:17 – 00:39:28)
Context: In the snippet of the conversation above, the moderator asked about their shutdown plan during the Covid-19 pandemic. KW asked JB to deliver his speech first and after he finished talking, KW instantly responded to his statement regarding JB's shutdown plan.

Biden   : "…he should have been negotiating with Nancy Pelosi and the rest of the Democrats and Republicans about what to do about the acts they were passing for billions of dollars to make sure people had the capacity."

Welker : "But you haven't ruled out more shutdowns. "

Biden   : "Well, no, I'm not shutting down the nation but there are, look, they need standards. The standard is, if you have a reproduction rate in a community that's above a certain level, everybody says, slow up…"

Biden employed a turn-taking strategy in order to maintain his speech. It can be seen from this line "look, they need standards" after a brief pause, Biden decided to talk about something new instead of explaining his shutdown plan asked by the moderator. This occasion indicates that Biden was doing the holding the turn strategy, specifically a new start. It is clear to see how the conversation brought by JB is changed to a new conversation about the standards of living with the Covid-19 virus.

Holding the Turn – Filled Pauses/Verbal Fillers (01:04:32 – 01:05:29)

Context: The conversation was about the restlessness of nuclear tests by North Korea that happened in the era of Obama. The moderator asked Biden about his thoughts on governing in the middle of the constant threat of nuclear. After Welker gave the question, Biden took the turn of the conversation to answer the question given accordingly.

Welker : "…Vice President Biden, to you. North Korea conducted four nuclear tests under the Obama administration. Why do you think you would be able to reign in this persistent threat?"

Biden : "…I made it clear, and as a spokesperson in the administration when I went to China, that they said, "Why are you moving your missile defense up so close? Why are you moving more forces here? Why you continue to do –ə – ə:m – ə – ə – ə:m – ə:m – military maneuvers with South Korea?" I said…"

It can be seen from the piece of the script where Biden smoothly delivered his speech. However, Biden seemed like he forgot his line which is to be uttered in the middle of the oration, and said "– ə – ə:m – ə – ə – ə:m – ə:m". In order to avoid the opponent of the debate snatching his turn due to a long pause, Biden decided to keep his turn by doing verbal fillers. From the aforementioned data, Biden performed a turn-taking strategy called holding the turn, filled pauses/verbal fillers. As comprehended in the theory of Stenström, it can be understood that filled pauses/verbal fillers generally denote that the speaker has no purpose to give the turn to the next speaker, instead planning the next words to be said.

Yielding the Turn – Prompting (00:43:26 – 00:45:08)

Context: In the snippet of the dialogue above, the discussion was about the effect of shutdown due to Coronavirus spikes in the US. Responding to Trump's speech, Welker as the moderator wanted to ask for clarification of Trump's statement in the previous debate where Trump called Dr. Anthony Fauci the nation's disease expert "idiots".

Welker : "…President Trump, this week you called Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's best-known infectious disease expert quote "a disaster". You described him and other medical experts as quote "idiots". If you're not listening to them, who are you listening to?"

Trump : "I'm listening to all of them, including Anthony. I get along very well with Anthony. But he did say, "Don't wear masks". He did say, as you know…"

Previously, Trump said that the government should protect the people from the danger of the virus yet he also thought that the disease expert is an idiot. It led the moderator to give Trump a question by asking "If you're not listening to them, who are you listening to?". In this case, Welker gave Trump

space to talk and a turn to speak. It shows that Welker used yielding the turn strategy by giving her turn to speak in the form of a question. More precisely, the method of the strategy is called prompting. Stenström, the expert on turn-taking strategy, declared that prompting is the way for a speaker to give their turn by directly pointing at another speaker in order to continue the conversation.

5. CONCLUSION

This study testifies that a kind of system exists in the spoken interaction to exchange the speaking turn. Therewith, it revealed that taking the turn strategy is the most frequent strategy employed by both debate candidates and the moderator in the debate. As a matter of fact, the usage of the turn-taking strategy evidently affects the continuity of a conversation and its quality. Unconsciously, each participant involved in a conversation has their own strategy and strength that may vary and it depends on its discourse and where the interaction is held. In political discourse, the candidates tend to convince the public.

Hence, the ability to master the floor and show dominance is a common thing that happened in a debate. It is proven that the nature of the turn-taking system is in line with the existence of power between participants' relationships. Eventually, this kind of study is essential to be observed for depth analysis considering the development of interaction that perpetually changing in every era or century. Perhaps there will be another point of view, motives, or even span-

new knowledge discovered from the forthcoming research.

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