

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter is introduction of the research. This chapter consists the background of research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, clarification of key terms and organization of writing.

### 1.1 Background

Talk show is television or radio program that discuss particular subject matter. It is conducted by host that will ask some questions to the guest. A Talk show becomes the interesting program to be watched because it has human interest value. The people always interested about life of other people like celebrity, president, or other people. In talk show we can see them talking about their life, hot issue or other interested things. The most influential element which attract in talk show is a host. From the host we can see the talk show is interesting or not. Host should be the people who can communicate well and brings the good atmosphere in talk show. One of the favorite host is Ellen Degeneres. She is also a comedian. So, in every talk show she always brings laugh to the audience. Her talk show “The Ellen Show” has the high rating in television.

Talk show presents the dialogue or conversation. There is the communication between a host and the guests. Communication can form as verbal and non-verbal. Verbal communication also called spoken language which is related to the utterance. It transmits the sound-waves that are produced by organ of speech and catch by auditory organ (Leech 1994: 10). It consists speaking and listening process. Verbal

communication related to the visual organ and non verbalized. In daily life, verbal and non-verbal communication maybe use together. Non-verbal communication will emphasize the verbalization.

In a talk show, a host is not only as a speaker but also as a listener. Between host and guest has the same role as sender and receiver a code swiftly. Many linguistic studies focused on the speaker's utterance not to the hearers. Goodwin (in Gardner, 2001: 1) says "The primary source of data for the study of language has typically come from the activities of the speaker, Noticeably lacking within linguistic, has been systematic study of the action of hearers". In conversation speaker and hearer take the important role. Both of them could be the source data of linguistic research. In fact there are many researchs about speaker, one of them is pragmatic.

Gardner (1994: 2) mentions that listener takes the important role in conversation. Listener in this case, not a passive one. Listener can give any information or response to the speaker. Listener can give a response to what the speaker's says. "Listeners, through short verbalizations and non-verbal signals, show how they are engaged in the dialogue" (Petta 2003: 321). In this case, the listener not turn taking on conversation, but that kind of signs means the listener wants not to have a turn to talk. It shows what the listener's feeling include the agreement or disagreement.

"It shows, we are listening and do not wish to interrupt by giving back-channel signals, such as *yes*, *uh-huh*, *mmm*, and other very short comments" (Macaulay, 1994: 84). This term of it, is called backchannel. Backchannel is not constituted turns or attempts to take turn but, the listener indicates the speaker to continue. Backchannel signal do not change the role of the speaker and the listener. Technically, the listener act like a speaker. The listener can utterance some words or shows non verbal language, but the listener not take a turn in conversation.

Backchannel is not only verbalized word but in non-verbal as well. As Cheng (2003: 115) says, “*Back-channel* signals may be preferred to a *non-verbal* response”. Verbal meaning is expression by the word. Non-verbal response is like gesture heads nods, smile, etc. Every sign as backchanneling has its own meaning. How it said determines the meaning like in the areas of intonation, rate of speech, volume, and the use of silence (Mindess, 28: 1999). Backchannel signs that is shown can express something from the listener. Every word or gesture that expressed, brings its own meaning.

There are many researches about backchannel. One of them, is the research which was written by Pipek in 2007 from Masyrk university. In that thesis he used the method of backchannels as mentioned in the most recognized grammar books and linguistic anthologies. He found out that in backchanneling involved the rising or falling tone. He also found out that women used more backchannel signals than man.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher will analyze the backchannel used in “The Ellen Show”. It is about the form and the meaning of those backchannel signals.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the questions as follows:

1. What are the meaning and function of verbal backchannel’s form appeared in Ellen Degeneres’s talk show?
2. What are the meaning and function of non-verbal backchannel’s form appeared in Ellen Degeneres’s talk show?

## **1.3 Research objective**

The purposes of the study are:

1. To know the meaning and function of verbal backchannel's form that is appeared in the Ellen Degeneré's talk show.
2. To know the meaning and function of verbal backchannel's form that is appeared in the Ellen Degeneré's talk show.

#### **1.4 Research Significance**

This research is useful to the academics, directly for the linguistic students and lecturers who want to analyze backchannel in communication. This research can improve the knowledge of form backchannel. It can describe verbal and verbal communication in backchanneling, including the words, gesture, face expression, etc. This research will interpret the meaning of backchannel especially in Ellen Degeneré's talk show. The researcher also describe the function of backchannel based in the context. The researcher also hopes that this research can make the students understand about the backchannel as one of the responses in conversation.

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#### **1.5 Organization of writing**

This paper consists the five chapters. First chapter consists of introduction which describes the research background, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, clarification of key terms and organization of writing. Then, chapter two consists of theories that related to this research like conversational analysis, speaker role, listener role, response and the backchannel as the main problem in this research. Chapter three shows the methodology that used in this research like research method, data, and sources of data, techniques of collecting

data and techniques of analyzing data. Chapter four, the researcher will describes the result of the research. The research will classify and interpret the meaning of communication that indicate the backchanneling. The last, chapter five present the conclusion and the recommendation for this research.

