Conversational Analysis: The Sociology of Talk Among Gorontalonese Speaker

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Article Info

ABSTRACT

This study examines everyday conversational practices among Gorontalonese speakers through the perspective of Conversation Analysis as a branch of discourse analysis. The research focuses on how social interaction is organized in natural talk, particularly in terms of turn-taking, adjacency pairs, and overlap. The data were collected through field research by recording spontaneous conversations among Gorontalo community members in various informal settings, complemented by library research to support theoretical grounding. The findings reveal that Gorontalonese conversations are characterized by flexible turn-taking mechanisms, frequent self-selection, and extensive use of cooperative overlap. Adjacency pairs such as question–answer, offer–rejection, and information–acknowledgement appear consistently, although they are often delayed or embedded within insertion sequences. In addition, back-channel signals and choral repetition are commonly used to express attentiveness, agreement, and social solidarity. These interactional features reflect the cultural norms of familiarity, closeness, and mutual engagement within the Gorontalo community. The study concludes that conversation among Gorontalonese speakers functions not only as a means of exchanging information but also as a social practice that reinforces interpersonal relationships and communal cohesion.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A human being is the social creature which means a human being has the nature of living together, associates and communicates one to another. Communication plays important role in human activities. By communicating, a man can exchange ideas, feelings, wishes or thoughts with other people. One of the ways in doing communication is through conversation. As we know that in doing conversation, there more than one participant take place.

In analyzing conversation, it can be done through subfield of discourse. The term used in conversational which exchange of turn while doing conversation called turn taking. Turn taking is open of the basic mechanism in all types of dialogues and multi dialogues.

When the people doing the conversation, they use language as a means of communication. Language is never

separated from human, and always use every day. And it is a communication tool that used to establishment thoughts and feelings, wishes and actions. The more important aspect of the language is its function. When we make a conversation, they are two important participants in it: the speaker and the hearer. The speaker has a purpose to deliver the idea to be understood by the hearer while the hearer has a purpose to receive the idea to establish the social relationship. Most people have freedom to speak, to take turn naturally and to exchange ideas.

In every country have their own language, so also in Indonesia. Indonesia consists of several province. And every province has their own language that usually they used every day. Regional languages usually used in conversations among local communities and only those who understand the meaning of the language. For example, Gorontalo language, it is only used by people of Gorontalo in their conversation.

Gorontalo language used by the people who lives in the province of Gorontalo. Gorontalo is the 32nd province in Indonesia. Previously, it is a district and municipality of North Sulawesi. It consists of 5 districts and 1 municipality, they are Boalemo, Pohuwato, Bone Bolango, Gorontalo, North Gorontalo and Gorontalo City [1]. Gorontalo language serves as a communication tool in family and society, especially people in the village. Different things happen when it is outside from their neighborhood, they will use Gorontalo language if they know each other. However, if they do not know each other they will use Manado's dialect or use Indonesian language. There are 3 languages known by the people of Gorontalo, they are Gorontalo language, Suwawa language, and Atinggola language. The development process of Gorontalo language is dominant, so it is better known by the people of Gorontalo. Currently, it has been influenced by Indonesian language and Manado's dialect.

Based on the reason above, the writer interested to analyze the conversations in the sociology of talk among Gorontalonese speakers.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer presents some theories related to the topic of the research.

2.1 Discourse Analysis

Spoken discourse is often considered to be less planned and orderly, more open to intervention by the receiver.

According to [2], discourse analysis has evolved into *Critical Discourse Studies*, which examine how language is used to construct and reproduce power relations, ideology, and social inequality. This perspective expands earlier structural views by positioning discourse as a form of social action embedded in historical and institutional contexts.

Similarly, [3] argue that discourse analysis should integrate linguistic, social, and cognitive dimensions. They emphasize that meaning is not produced solely through linguistic structures but through interaction between language users, cultural norms, and communicative purposes. This approach extends Crystal's focus on naturally occurring spoken language to include social interaction and identity construction.

Moreover, [4] propose *Multimodal Discourse Analysis* as a dominant contemporary framework, asserting that discourse is constructed through multiple semiotic resources such as language, images, gestures, spatial design, and digital media. This theory broadens [5] concept of discourse coherence by acknowledging that meaning is created across modes, not only through verbal language.

In addition, [6] introduce *Enhanced Rhetorical Structure Theory*

(eRST), which reconceptualizes discourse coherence as a relational and graph-based structure. This theory advances earlier notions of coherence by providing a flexible model that accounts for complex discourse organization, including spoken, written, and digitally mediated discourse.

According to [7] that discourse analysis is concerned with the study of the relationship between language and the contexts in which it is used. Communication can be done through writing and speech. So, discourse as the use of language in communication can also be divide into written discourse and spoken discourse.

According to [8] also says that discourse analysis is used to refer both to the study of language above the sentence and also to the study of naturally occurring language.

Discourse analysis is possibly the field within sociolinguistics that has undergone more research activity in recent years than any other. The language issues treated within discourse analysis are myriad: in a sense the study of discourse is the study of any aspect of language use. The analysis of discourse shows two tendencies. One trend is to analyze how people manage their discourse behavior with respect to their cultural backgrounds and their interactive goals at the time of talk [9].

2.2 *Conversational Analysis*

Conversational analysis covers all the conversational data which occur in one interaction between speakers. In conversational analysis, the emphasis is not upon building structural models but on the close observation of the behavior of participants in talk and on pattern which recur over a wide range of natural data.

Conversations are happened if there two people or more take interaction and have topic to talk. According to [10] in conversation, at least and not more than one party talks at a time. Conversation is a type of discourse. It is spoken dialogic discourse.

According to Wikipedia [11] Conversation analysis is an approach to the study of social interaction, embracing both verbal and non-verbal conduct, in situations of everyday life.

According to [5] there are some characteristics of conversation, are:

a. It is not primarily necessitated by a practical talk.
b. Any unequal power of participants is partial suspended.
c. The number of participants is small.
d. Turns are quite short.
e. Talk is primarily for the participants and not for an outside audience.

In addition, [12] says conversation maybe taken to be that familiar predominant kind of talk in which two or more participants freely alternate in speaking.

The work of [13] is important in the study of conversational norms, turn taking and other aspects of spoken interaction.

According to [14] there are eight system constraints that universal in all human communication, they are:

a. Channel open/ close signals
b. Back-channel signals
c. Turnover signals
d. Acoustically adequate and intelligible message
e. Bracket signals
f. Non participant constraints
g. Preempt signals
h. Gricean norms

According to [12] there are more basic findings that have been resulted the research of conversational analysis related with this research, are:

a. Turn Taking

In the classic ethnomethodological way, discourse analysis has observed how participants organize themselves to take turn at talk. Sometimes turn will occur smoothly, with only little overlap and interruption, and only very brief silences between turns.

Turn taking is a of course common to many human activities than involve more than one person. They utter utterances by turns, one after another. One participant passes the floor and usually another participant takes the floor.

The way in which speakers hold or pass the floor, vary between cultures and between language in conversation mis called turn taking mechanism [5].

When the listeners are offered the floor, they might take it and be the next speaker. However, they may also refuse the change and remain silent until the previous speaker continues [10]. But usually, a listener produces minimal response such as 'mm', 'ah-ha', yeah', 'sure' to indicate that they are attending to the message of the speaker. That is known as back channel [7]. Back channel can also be used by listeners as a way to avoid turn taking when the opportunity is given. Another possibility, the listener may reject the change to take turn and produce a possible. Pre-closing such as 'all right', 'okay', 'so', and 'well' [10].

[13] set out to account for follow from three rules. The rules come into play in order at each transition-relevance place. These are the rules [9]:

1. If the turn is constructed so as to involve the 'current speaker selects next' technique, then the person so selected has both the right and obligation to speak and no one else has such a right or obligation.

2. If the turn is not so constructed, then another speaker may self-select at the next transition-relevance place, but no one has to self-select. If self-selection is instituted the first person to do so gets the turn and turn exchange occur there.

3. If the 'current speaker select next' technique is not being used, and no one else has self-selected, then the current speaker may continue, but need not.

In conversation to get a turn people sometimes followed these specific convention [7] they are:

1. Wait for the possible completion.

2. Use specific linguistic devices which vary in the level of formality and appropriacy to different situation.

    Example: If I may Mr. Chairman . . .
    I wonder if I may say something
    Can I just come in here?
    Shut up, will you?

3. Use back-channel to make it clear to the speaker that we are attending to the message.

According to [12] turn taking is a distribution of a talk across two participants in an A-B-A-B-A-B model.

To understand the explain, it is a good idea to have the following of turn taking:

A: have a good weekend?
B: yes, quite nice. Spend Saturday evening with sue
A: what did she have to say?
B: nothing really

b.   Adjacency Pairs

Pairs of utterances in talk are often mutually, dependent, almost obvious example is that a question predicts an answer, and that an answer presuppose a question.

According to [7] adjacency pairs are composed of any two types of utterance that are linked, either by or convention. Given, the first element of an adjacency pair, the second is expected: upon its occurrence it can be seen to be a second item to the first, upon its non-occurrence it can be seen to be absent.

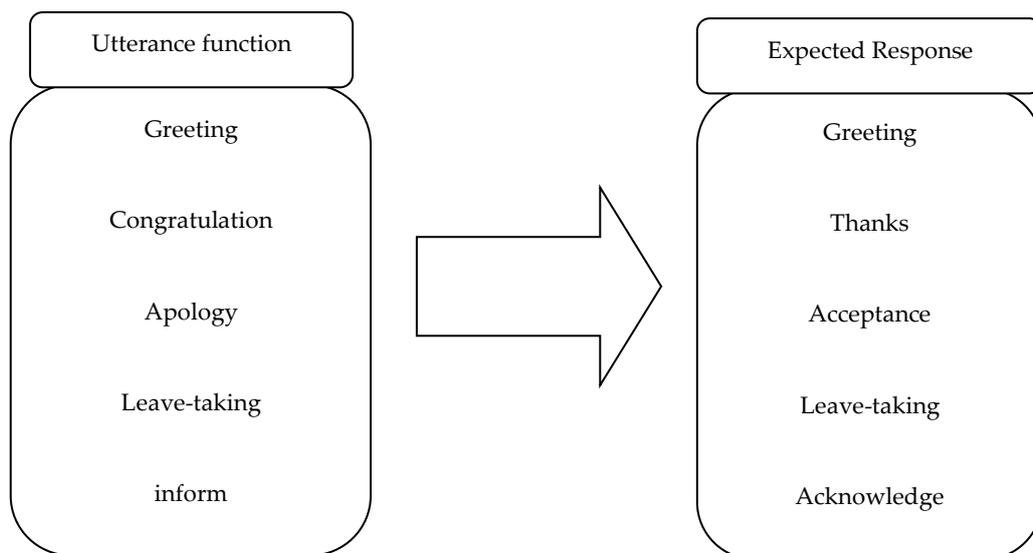Some examples of the adjacency pairs are:

Utterance function	Expected Response
Greeting	Greeting
Congratulation	Thanks
Apology	Acceptance
Leave-taking	Leave-taking
inform	Acknowledge

Figure 1. Examples of Adjacency Pairs in Conversation

c.   Adjacency Pairs

According to [5] explains that sometimes the second of an adjacency pairs can be delayed by an alternation of turn occurring within it, in which one question and answer pair contains another, like (Q(Q-A)A). This is known as an insertion sequence. For example:

A: did you enjoy the meal?
B: did you?
A: yes
B: so, did I

An important concept in adjacency pairs is side sequences.

It is a digression from the current topic goal of the conversation a sequence of utterances which interrupts the main flow of the conversation, and after which participants return to the main topic flow.

For the example, the speakers switch from the main topic to another unrelated one [5]:

A: I'm dying to know. Where's my watch by the way?
B: what?
A: what Gallian's aerobic sessions are like Ha Ha Ha

B: what aerobic session? It's here

A: Gillian does aerobic sessions every evening. LEADS them. Thank. Can you imagine

[5] also reveals that participants in a conversation drew attention to, or prepare to ground for, the laid of turn they are going to take next. The utterance and which do this are known as pre-sequence. Asses terms such as 'yes', 'okay', 'right' make it clear to the speaker that the listener has taken in and understood the previous message.

According to Wikipedia [11] many actions in conversation are accomplished through established adjacency pairs, examples of which include:

a. greeting → greeting
    "*Heya!*" → "*Oh, hi!*"

b. offer → acceptance/rejection
    "*Would you like to visit the museum with me this evening?*" → "*I'd love to!*"

c. request → acceptance/rejection
    "*Is it OK if I borrow this book?*" → "*I'd rather you didn't, it's due back at the library tomorrow*"

d. question → answer
    "*What does this big red button do?*" → "*It causes two-thirds of the universe to implode*"

e. complaint → excuse/remedy
    "*It's awfully cold in here*" → "*Oh, sorry, I'll close the window*"

f. degreeting → degreeting
    "*See you!*" → "*Yeah, see you later!*"

g. inform → acknowledge
    "*Your phone is over there*" → "*I know*"

d. Overlap

Overlapping is a term which is used in conversation analysis to describe a face to fac interaction in which two or more person talk in the same as another speaker to demonstrate an interest in the conversation, it occurs in only about five percent of conversation or less, strongly suggesting that speaker somehow know exactly when and where to enter.

In other hand, cooperative overlap can occur when one interlocutor is showing her enthusiastic support and agreement with another, when the speakers view silence between turn as impolite or as a sign of a lack or rapport.

According to [10] says overlapping is dealt with by one speaker ending his turn quickly, gaps between turns by another speaker beginning his turn or simply indicating that his turn has begun and incorporating the silence into it.

According to About.com [15] A term used in conversation analysis to describe a face-to-face interaction in which one speaker talks at the same time as another speaker to demonstrate an interest in the conversation.

Conversational overlap is one of the silent characteristics of this high-involvement style. According to [9] there are three kinds of overlap which are common in this style:

a. Cooperative sentence-building: here, the overlap occurs as the speaker and auditor try to complete the utterance together.

b. Requesting and giving verification: one of the participants asks for verification during the

ongoing talk of the current speaker. Without of change of turn taking place, the current speaker may skillfully work the verification into his or her ongoing turn.

c. Choral repetition: participants repeat (or rather anticipate) what the current speaker is saying, thus producing a simultaneous near-repetition of what the turn–holder is saying.

3. METHODOLOGY

The methodology and technique of analyzing data which would be used in this research shows how data is retrieved and analyzed. For this purpose, the writer used the method and the technique of collecting data and analyzing data with two ways. The first is library research, the writer reads some books and other material which related to the title of this research. The second is field research, the writer ask the participants to make the conversation and then record their conversation. Most conversation collected by phone.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
4.1 Results

In this chapter covers the data presentation and data analysis. The writer present and analyzes the data that have been obtained from some people of Gorontalo. In the following conversation participants are using Gorontalo language and also use dialect of Manado. And the conversation take place in various places.

a. **Conversation 1**

Table 1. Bilingual Conversation Transcript with Speaker Identification
(Conversation 1)

	Gorontalo Language		Indonesian Language
A:	tole Andi, ta hiya lio pilate le Andi *(silence)*	A:	Ada sama Andi, yang istrinya dipukuli Andi *(silence)*
B:	ja'o tawa'o, Indah so ba sapu ngana?	B:	aku tidak tahu, Indah sudah menyapu?
C:	haa?	C:	haa?
B:	so ba sapu?	B:	sudah menyapu?
A:	*Indah lia kamari ti Anisa	A:	*Indah tolong cari Anisa
C:	*sudah	C:	*sudah
C:	Haa?	C:	Haa?
A:	ti Anisa	A:	Anisa
C:	kita olo minta sampo	C:	yang penting aku minta sampo
A:	Indah mari dulu Indah	A:	Indah coba kemari dulu
C:	Ya Allah dia mo suruh lia pa ti Anisa *baru poli	C:	Ya Allah kamu menyuruh aku cari Anisa *terus
A:	*tidak ada yang ta sarah mo bilang	A:	*tidak ada yang ingin aku katakan

The conversation occurs in the kitchen in participant B house who was making a cake. In the first conversation the participant A is not being asked but the participant B answer that she don't know. And then the participant B switch the topic with asks the participant C. There is overlap between participant A, B and C. The participant B asks the participant C and participant A begins her conversation when the participant B talks, but participant B continue talking, she don't feel interrupted, and then the participant C answer the question from the participant B when the participant A talks.

b.   **Conversation 2**

Table 2. Bilingual Conversation Transcript with Speaker Identification
(Conversation 2)

	Gorontalo Language		Indonesian Language
A:	te kada depe taman suruh pigi kasana	A:	temannya menyuruh Kada datang kesana
B:	tita?	B:	siapa?
A:	te kada	A:	Kada
B:	wau ti mama mu?	B:	dan ibumu?
A:	bulum ada	A:	belum ada
C:	apa ley?	C:	apa ini?
A:	jamowali molayu, mohulndalo… lawololo de manggasara utiya	A:	tidak bisa memakai bahasa Indonesia, harus bahasa Gorontalo karena akan dikirim ke Makassar
C:	*Mohulondalo wolo?	C:	*Bahasa Gorontalo apa?
D:	*de'olita?	D:	*kepada siapa?
A:	nde he'o posirita mola	A:	ayo berbicara
D:	mohile ole-ole te Alipong, *wau ta ati sabun muka	D:	Alipong minta oleh-oleh, *dan ati sabun muka
E:	*susu	E:	*susu

This conversation occurs in living room when participants watch tv. The participant A begins the conversation. It means she takes the first chance of the turn. She just gives the information to the participant B. and then participant B asks her. After that the participant A answer the question the participant B asks again the participant A with another topic. In the question 'ti mama mu?' it is don't mean his wife also will go with his son but it's mean whether his wife was at home or not. After that there is the participant C asks the topic but the participant A doesn't answer the question, she just prohibits the participant C to speaks Indonesia language. It also occurs in the conversation between A, C and D. The question from C and D doesn't answer by participant A. And in the last conversation there is overlap between participant D and E.

c.   **Conversation 3**

Table 3. Bilingual Conversation Transcript with Speaker Identification
(Conversation 3)

	Gorontalo Language		Indonesian Language
A:	nde amba monga yee Alipong	A:	pokoknya makan saja alipong
B:	tuheta olo *jamowali	B:	pantasan saja *tidak bisa
A:	*Alid amba monga	A:	*Alid pokoknya makan
C:	*amba monga alipong	C:	*pokoknya makan alipong
A:	ti ta inong olo amba bomo diilo wau jamo mudu'o	A:	inong ini tahunya hanya mencium dan tidak mau menggendong
B:	babon… ma bilelia lio mai le nunu?	B:	babon… nunu sudah menelpon?
A:	(silence)	A:	(silence)
C:	sudah	C:	sudah

This conversation still occurs in living room when they are resting at home. In this conversation occur the overlap

choral repetition between participant A and C. The conversation in this session is not related to each other. In the last conversation the participant B asks to participant A about the telephone from his son but the participant A just silence and the participant C take the turn to answer the question. In this part occur the self-selection when the participant C answer the question that directed to another participant.

d. **Conversation 4**

Table 4. Bilingual Conversation Transcript with Speaker Identification
(Conversation 4)

Gorontalo Language		Indonesian Language	
A:	Dadata Botie Ta ilundangimu Hasmin?	A:	banyak yang kamu undang Hasmin?
B:	o'o	B:	iya
A:	ih dadata delo to pitu hui boti pilo undangimu?	A:	banyaknya sama seperti undanganmu di tujuh hari?
C:	oohh	C:	oohh
A:	pata'o botie bo ngoindi ta ilo na'o-na'o mai	A:	terus, hanya sedikit yang datang ke sini
C:	tau yito odito, wanu ta mailona'o de pitu hui ma amo na'o de *patopulo hui	C:	orang itu begitu, kalau sudah datang di tujuh hari tidak akan datang di empat puluh hari lagi
B:	*yitolo	B:	*iya begitu
A:	ja pilohutumu *dulahu taa	A:	kamu tidak buat *siang hari saja
B:	*ti tante ma'o satu kali saja	B:	*kata tante sekalian saja
C:	uwito gaga ma satu kali mopolahu paita to kuburu pe'enda	C:	lebih bagus kalau sekalian dengan membawa batu nisan ke kuburan

This conversation occurs when they gather in the veranda of house. They talk about the event of forty days of death. The participant A begins the conversation by asking the participant B. The participant B takes her turn by using pre-sequence "o'o" (yes). And then participant A explain the topic, and participant C using back channel "oohh" to respond the participant A. And between participant A and C occurs the overlap. The participant A takes her turn before the participant C finish her talks. Overlap also occur in the last conversation between participant A and B.

e. **Conversation 5**

Table 5. Bilingual Conversation Transcript with Speaker Identification
(Conversation 5)

Gorontalo Language		Indonesian Language	
A:	jiya'a tailohala engondi eyi?	A:	ada yang melaut hari ini pak?
B:	bo ti pante Indah wau ti Pasifik	B:	hanya pante Indah dan Pasifik
A:	pata'o yilohama dadata?	A:	dapat banyak hasilnya?
B:	bo ngolo botu	B:	hanya beberapa biji saja
A:	wau yilohi lita botie olemu	A:	dan sapa yang kasih ini punya kamu?
B:	yilohi mai li pante Indah, pasific, wau inter. Boli inter botie dilata	B:	dikasih oleh pante Indah, Pasifik, dan inter. Hanya inter yang dapat banyak
A:	ooo	A:	ooo
B:	wopato pulo tasi, utii bo hilama'u mai. Lali dulo tasi ola'u, lapata'o	B:	ada 40 kantong, ini hanya aku ambil saja. Jadi dua tas punyaku, terus

Gorontalo Language		Indonesian Language	
	masakiringi mota wau yiladelo		dimasak kering saja dan dijemur
A:	yii jailade eyi supaya gaga tiyo botahuwalo to kulkas	A:	jangan dijemur pak, biar bagus disimpan dalam kulkas saja
B:	hhmm…oohhh asali moyihewo yee	B:	hhmm…oohhh biar lama yaa

The conversation occurs when the participant A as wife see her husband as participant B coming. The participant A asks to participant B and then participant B takes her turn to answer her wife question. He answers the question "pasific, pante indah and inter" as the name of ship. And next conversation the participant B explain about fish catches to his wife. And then participant B respond that with back-channel "oohh". And the participant A asks to her wife to drying fish, but the participant B rejects his offer. In this conversation occur the adjacency pairs offer-rejection between participant A and B. And then participant B understand and agree to his wife. It is known with the sign back channel "hmmm..oohh".

f. Conversation 6

Table 6. Bilingual Conversation Transcript with Speaker Identification
(Conversation 6)

Gorontalo Language		Indonesian Language	
A:	ngongolo ngo basket?	A:	berapa satu keranjang?
B:	bo lantaran ti ibu botie *te bos jatawa haraga lio	B:	hanya karena ibu ini *bos saya tidak tahu harganya
A:	*ngolo uwito?	A:	*berapa itu?
B:	jatawa haraga lio	B:	saya tidak tahu harganya
C:	tola wolo boito?	C:	ikan apa itu?
B:	tola *dehu	B:	ikan *dehu
A:	*campuran	A:	*campuran
B:	woluo *dehu, lajang, buyu	B:	ada juga *dehu, lajang, buyu
A:	*buyu, lajang, tilahu	A:	*buyu, lajang, tilahu
C:	kira-kira yilodungga jam ngolo ohui?	C:	kira-kira sampai jam berapa semalam?
A:	yilo dungga jam ngolo ohui?	A:	sampai jam berapa semalam?
B:	jam 12 liwat, ngope'e jam 1	B:	jam 12 lewat, hampir jam 1
C:	pata'o pilotalimu to'u tonu olemu?	C:	terus dijual di mana ikanmu?
B:	olemu pilotalimu ta'u tonu?	B:	punya kamu dijual di mana?
C:	to polelangan	A:	di polelangan
B:	ola'u olo	C:	punyaku juga

This conversation occurs at the beach when the fishman up from catching fish. the conversation occurs when the participant A come beside the participant B and asks him about the price. And the participant B answer that he doesn't know about the price, but the participant A doesn't listen well and she asks again "how much". And then participant C asks to participant B, but the participant A takes the turn to answer the question, it is known as self-selection and then overlap occur between participant A and B. The participant C take her turn again and asks the participant B with another topic. In conversation between C and A occurs the overlap choral-repetition. The participant A repeat the question

simultaneously. And in the last conversation the participant C asks to participant A. He doesn't answer but asked back to participants C with the same question. The conversation between participant B and C occur the adjacency known as insertion-sequence.

g. **Conversation 7**

Table 7. Bilingual Conversation Transcript with Speaker Identification
(Conversation 7)

Gorontalo Language		Indonesian Language	
A:	ta Yati pengumuman li taati botie *omoluwa?	A:	ta Yati pengumumannya mereka *kapan?
B:	*lombu perpisahan lo SMP 9 le dandi wole Yopi, lapata'o timongolio mo maso to SMK 2	B:	*besok acara perpisahan SMP 9 Dandi dan Yopi, terus mereka mau masuk di SMK 2
A:	lapata'o omoluwa pomasomu?	A:	terus kapan kamu akan daftarkan mereka?
C:	yi'ee… omoluwa te Dandi pomasomu bunda?	C:	tidak tahu… Dandi kapan mau didaftarkan, Bunda?
B:	dema sama-sma	B:	nanti sama-sama
C:	hhmm	C:	hhmm
B:	dema sama-sma boito mopo maso to SMK	B:	nanti sama-sama kita daftarkan di SMK
C:	te Dandi japo masomu to SMA 1?	C:	Dandi tidak kamu daftarkan di SMA 1?
B:	de'eh ma pomso'u to SMK 2	B:	tidak, saya daftarkan saja di SMK 2
C:	o'o… nilai limongolio olo borenda, ma pomasolo to SMK 2	C:	iya, nilai mereka juga rendah, daftarkan di SMK 2 saja

This conversation occurs in participant C house when she gathers with her neighbor. The participant A begins the conversation with asks the participant C but the participant B answers the question with only an implication of the question or the answer is only relating but not the real answer. The participant also takes her turn self-selection. After that the participant A continue her question to participant C. And participant C answer the question, then asks to participant B. when the participant B answer the question, participant C uses the back-channel "hhmm" to respond the answer. It is mean she is understood. And in the last conversation there is an action of adjacency pairs that occurs between participant B and C. The participant C gives the question as a suggestion to participant B, but participant B reject that suggestion.

4.2 Discussion

Based on findings of this research, conversation practice among Gorontalese speakers strongly reflect the main features of reflect the main features of Conversation Analysis, namely turn-taking, adjacency pairs, and overlap. These features emerge naturally in everyday interactions and represent the social and cultural norms of communication within the Gorontalo community.

First, turn-taking appears as the most prominent mechanism and operates flexibly. Gorontalonese speakers do not always wait for a formally completed turn; instead, self-selection frequently occurs, where participants take the floor even when the turn is directed to someone else. This indicates that conversational turn management in Gorontalo culture is fluid and

informal, reflecting close social relationships among participants.

Second, adjacency pairs such as question–answer, offer–rejection, and information–acknowledgement are consistently present in the conversations. However, these pairs are not always produced in a straightforward manner. Some adjacency pairs are delayed or interrupted by insertion sequences, in which another exchange occurs before the initial pair is completed. This phenomenon demonstrates that Gorontalonese conversational structure is dynamic and highly context-dependent.

Third, overlap is the most frequently observed phenomenon in the data. The overlaps are largely cooperative, rather than competitive interruptions. Speakers often talk simultaneously to express agreement, enthusiasm, or engagement with the ongoing conversation. In addition, choral repetition is observed, where participants repeat or anticipate another speaker's utterance,

reinforcing solidarity and shared understanding.

Furthermore, the frequent use of back-channel signals such as "ooh," "hhmm," and "o'o" serves to indicate attentiveness and comprehension without taking over the speaking turn. These signals contribute to the smooth flow of interaction and help maintain social harmony during conversations.

4.3 Conclusion

This study demonstrates that everyday conversations among Gorontalonese speakers are characterized by flexible turn-taking, frequent use of adjacency pairs, and a high occurrence of cooperative overlap. Speakers often employ self-selection, back-channel signals, and choral repetition, indicating active participation and close social relationships. These conversational features reflect cultural values of solidarity, familiarity, and mutual engagement, showing that conversation in the Gorontalo community functions not only as a means of communication but also as a way to maintain social cohesion.

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