

QUESTIONING STRATEGIES ON TV INTERVIEW

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ABSTRACT

This research deals with questioning strategies, similarities and differences of questioning strategies employed by broadcaster, and linguistic realizations of the questioning strategies in interview sessions of Indonesian TV broadcasting. The objects of this study are 20 sessions of interview in *Liputan 6 Pagi*, *Liputan 6 Siang*, and *Liputan 6 Petang*. Questioning strategies are studied with reference to Strauss & Corbin's (1990) classification. The findings indicate that there are seven strategies used in the interview sessions, namely, close/open ended, introducing, specifying, direct, indirect, interpretative, and probing questions. They are also confirmation questions and turn-taking strategies to gain more information from the interviewees. Further, in gathering commentary information, the interviewer should employ interpretative questions more often and followed by close/open-ended questions. In gathering factual information, the interviewers should employ direct questions more often.

Keywords: Questioning strategies

INTRODUCTION

Interview on TV programs have been widely broadcast recently as a purpose of exploring informations from informants. In the case of Indonesia, there are ten TV stations : SCTV, RCTI, TPI, INDOSIAR, ANTEVE, LATIVI, TV7, GLOBAL TV, TVRI, TRANSTIVI. All of them use interview technique for gathering information for their own purposes of broadcasting. The present research tries to investigate interview strategies on SCTV channels, especially in LIPUTAN 6 PROGRAM. In the interview process, the broadcasters give questions to the informants. Therefore, they should use certain questioning strategies so that the interviewee will responses to the questions. Linguistically, a questioning strategy in interview is one part of conversation analysis (CA) since it concerns with the study of linguistic characteristic in conversation and in the process of interview, there are also conversation strategies, such as turn-taking and questioning strategies. There are several reasons behind the present study, namely :

1. Interviewers use certain questioning strategies which are meant to get information from informants on the certain focus of issues.
2. Questioning strategies are one part of conversation and therefore the analysis is of course under the focus of conversation analysis linguistically.

The present research tries to answer to following questions :

1. What kinds of questioning strategies are employed by LIPUTAN 6 broadcaster on their interview Sessions ?
2. Which one of the questioning strategies is dominantly used by those broadcaster ?
3. What similarities and differences of questioning strategies are employed among the interviewers ?
4. How are the questioning strategies realized in linguistic forms.

I. The Nature of Conversation

Barker (1984:132) states that conversation is also a communication meant by which people can coordinate the exchange of information. While the information maybe in the form of ideas or facts, the particular characteristic of conversation is that it conveys social information. Goodwin (1981: 231-234) also states that there are several aspects of conversation, which elaborated in the following subsections : (1). Address, (2). Agenda, (3). Adjacency pairs, (4). Adverbials, (5). Backtracking, (6). Co-operative signals, (9). Disagreement, (10). Humour, (11). Implicatures, (12). Monitoring talk, (13). Simultaneous speech, (14). Tag questions, and the last (15). Uncompleted sentences.

II. Conversation Analysis.

Conversation analysis according to Richard, Platt, and Platt (1992:85) is the analysis of natural conversation in order to discover what the linguistic characteristics of conversation are and how conversation is used in ordinary life. Conversation analysis researches insists on the use of audio or video recordings of episodes of 'naturally occurring', that is non-experimental, interaction as their basic data. Recorded data, instead, are indefinitely rich in empirical detail, which could never be produced by the imagination of anybody. So, recordings are conversation analysis's basic data. The transcriptions made after these are to be seen as a convenient form to represent the recorded material in written form, but not as a real substitute (Coulthard. 1997:98). It is to be stressed that transcriptions can't represent the recordings in their full detail. They are always and necessarily selective. The system used in Conversation Analysis is specifically designed to reveal the sequential features of talk.

III. Interview and Interviewing Strategies

Gorden, (1969:7) states that interviewing is a two-way communication process that allows for the interchange of ideas and information. People who are

good in an interview situation tend to be good communicators in general. Learning to be a good communicator means learning how to listen, respond appropriately and present our point of view.

General format for an interview according to Gorden (1969:193-199) are :

(1). Opening, the interview opening are to establish rapport and to orient the interviewee by making gestures (e.g., eye contact, handshake, bow), (2). Body of the interview, composed mainly of questions, responses, and discussion that results from the questions. The interviewer must first develop an interview guide and it can be developed around a cause-effect, space, time, topical, or problem-solution sequence, (3). Closing, an interview closing is intended to create a favourable lasting impression.

There are several types of interview questions as proposed by Sudman and Bradburn (1982:19-99) as elaborated in the following :

1. Closed/Open ended questions.
2. Introducing questions, for example 'can you tell me about....?'
3. Probing questions, for example 'could you say something more about that..?'
4. Specifying questions, for example 'what did you think at that moment?'
5. Direct questions, for example 'have you ever done...?'
6. Indirect questions, for example 'how do you think other people would regard the issue of....?'
7. Structuring questions, for example 'I'd now like to introduce another topic,...can we move on to talk about something a bit different?'
8. Interpreting questions, for example 'so do you mean that you felt angry?'
9. Silence, pause are okay to reflect.

Sudaryanto (1979; 163) states that there are three types of question in Indonesian language, they are :

1. Interrogative Pronoun, according to Sudaryanto, 'jenis pertanyaan ini memiliki fungsi tertentu, baik inti maupun tidak, baik dalam tataran klausa maupun subklausa, sehingga terlibat dalam struktur fungsional'. Examples :
 - a. Mengapa dia datang?
 - b. Dimana dia melihat film itu ?
 - c. Apa kerjanya disana ?
2. Question tag, this kind of question, the interrogative pronoun is separated by the comma. Example :
 - a. Dia makan, bukan?
 - b. Dia makan, ya?
3. Clausal interrogative pronoun, this type is attached in the clause, and that way it is included in the structural function. Example :
 - a. Apakah dia menulis ?
 - b. Sanggupkah dia menulis ?

METHOD OF RESEARCH

The object of the study are interviews conducted in Liputan 6 on SCTV Channel which are divided into three programs ; Liputan 6 Pagi, Liputan 6 Siang, and Liputan 6 Petang, and there is an interview session which focused on the actual topics of the day. The newsreader are directly became the interviewers and in each program, the newsreaders are different.

The interview processes were recorded covering 7 sessions in each program. So, there were 21 recordings.

The 21 records will be transcribed as suggested by Strauss & Corbin (1990:95). Then the transcript will be coded based on the following step ;

1. To find out the classification of questioning strategies employed by the interviewers then the coding system is based on the questioning strategies classification proposed by Sudman and Bradburn (1982:19-99) previously stated.
2. To find out the dominant questioning strategies employed by the interviewers, then percentage technique will be applied. In this step, each question strategy will be noted as 1 strategy, then it will be classified into the classification and being summed up.
3. For the process of coding, each strategy is abbreviated as follows :
 - a. Closed/Open ended questions (COEQ)
 - b. Introducing questions (IQ)
 - c. Probing question (PQ)
 - d. Specifying question (SQ)
 - e. Direct question (DQ)
 - f. Indirect question (INQ)
 - g. Structuring questions (STQ)
 - h. Interpreting Questions (InterQ)
 - i. Silene (SQ)

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

Data Collection

There are seven types of questioning strategies used by the interviewers for gathering information.

- a. The interviewer used Close/Open ended question for gathering information from the interviewee, as shown in the in the following interview session. Example ;
"Iya,...pak Sobri, apa kedepannya ini bagaimana?. Apa rencana dari pihak FPI sendiri menahan atau menyerahkan kembali Habieb kepada polisi ?." (LIPUTAN SIANG, April 21, 2003, IK)
- b. Introducing question. Example ;

- "Kita akan mendengarkan Merdi Sofansyah yang saat ini tengah berada ditengah kota Baghdad Irak, Hallo,...apa kabar Merdi ?" (LIPUTAN 6 PETANG, April 12, 2003, AS)
- c. Probing question. Example :
 "Merdi,...kekacauan sosial tampaknya masih terus terjadi e,...hampir 3 x 24 jam, pasukan e,...koalisi menduduki kota Baghdad, hal ini juga tidak teratasi. Sakarang bagaimana reaksi masyarakat Baghdad atas situasi tanpa hukum ini. Apa yang mereka e,...lakukan disana, atau situasimseperti ini ?" (LIPUTAN 6 PETANG , April 12, 2003, AS)
- d. Specifying question. Example :
 "Kalau sekarang,...situasinya sudah seperti ini, gendrang perang oleh GAM dan pemerintah Indonesia, apa komentar bapak ?," (LIPUTAN 6 SIANG, April 25, 2003, IK)
- e. Direct Question. Example :
 "Bagaimana bisa pak, itu tanggal tidak tau persis pak ?." (LIPUTAN 6 PETANG, April 24, 2003, AS)
- f. Indirect question. Example :
 "E,...Oliv, bisa gambarkan sedikit saja akan ada juga pembicaraan mengenai krisis Irak antara Rusia dan Indonesia seperti apa posisi Indonesia dalam mengkonsolidasi pandangan ini e,...mengenai krisis Irak ?" (LIPUTAN 6 PETANG, April 20 2003, IK)
- g. Interpreting Question. Example :
 "Ada satu hal, pak Ibrahim,...maaf saya potong, ada satu hal menggelitik keingin tahuan para pemirsa bhawa, sangat tidak mungkin pihak representasi GAM tidak tau jadwal pasti kapan pertemuan antara Pemerintah dengan wakil GAM di Jenewa. Mengapa hal ini merupakan hal tehnis, seolah-olah disepelekan dari pihak GAM, sementara kita sudah memeperlihat kan komitmen begitu keras untuk segera mengadakan pertemuan yang akhirnya untuk merintis perdamaian di Aceh ?" (LIPUTAN 6 PETANG, April 24, 2003, AS).
- h. Confirmation. Example :
 "Iya,...." (LIPUTAN 6 PETANG, April 24, 2003, AS)
- i. Turn Taking. Example :
 "Yak,...." (LIPUTAN 6 SORE, April 24, 2003, AS)
 "Baik,...." (LIPUTAN 6 SORE, April 24, 2003, AS)

Table 1. Dominant Questioning Strategies.

No	Types	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1	Close/Open ended questions (COEQ)	18	16.5
2	Introducing Question (IQ)	5	4.58

3	Specifying Question (SQ)	2	1.83
4	Direct Questions (DQ)	39	35.78
5	Indirect Questions (IQ)	12	11.002
6	Interpretative Questions (inter Q)	27	24.77
7	Confirmative Question (CQ)	1	0.92
8	Probing Questioning (PQ)	3	2.75
9	Turn-Taking (TT)	2	1.83
	Total	109	100

No	Types of Question Strategies	Interviewer										F	%
		AS		IK		AH		RS		JT			
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%		
1.	COEQ	9	20	6	16	0	0	3	38	0	0	18	16.8
2.	IQ	4	8.9	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	4.67
3.	SQ	1	2.2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.87
4.	DQ	12	27	8	21	0	0	3	38	14	100	37	34.5
5.	INQ	4	8.9	6	16	0	0	2	25	0	0	12	11.2
6.	Inter Q	11	24	15	39	1	50	0	0	0	0	27	25.2
7.	CQ	1	2.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.93
8.	TTQ	2	4.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.87
9.	PQ	1	2.2	1	3	1	50	0	0	0	0	3	2.80
	Total	45	42	38	36	2	2	8	7	14	13	107	100

Table 2. Similarities and Differences between the Interviewers

Table 2 above shows the following findings.

1. From the whole interview session in both LIPUTAN 6 SIANG and LIPUTAN 6 PETANG, IK and AS read for four times. Whereas, IK broadcasted for six times.
2. There are some typical differences between AS and IK in broadcasting the news or in interviewing the informants. The differences are lied on the strategies they are employed.
3. AS dominantly used direct questioning strategies. He used this strategy for 12 times or about 27% fro the whole strategies he used. This indicates that in gathering information, AS tends to finds out facts rather than opinions.
4. IK dominantly used interpretative questioning strategies. She used it for times or 39 % from the whole strategies she employed. This indicates that in gathering information, IK tends to draw her own interpretation and saking the interviewee whether her inetr pretation was correct or wrong and gives further opinion on her interpretation.

5. Form the total questions they are employed, the average questions employed by AS were higher than IK. AS broadcasted in the data collection for four times. But he made questions for 45 times or the average questions he made is 11 times. IK broadcasted for six times but she only asked for 38 times. She gave questions in each of her interview for about 6.3 questions.
6. This fact is reasonably accepted since both IK and AS employed different strategies dominantly. AS most often used direct question strategies whereas IK mostly used interpretative questions.

Linguistic Realization

Linguistically, the questions employed by the broadcasters were realized in the following terms :

1. Interrogative Pronoun. In this case, the broadcasters used interrogative pronoun in their questions, such as ;
 - a. "Apa kita akan mendengarkan dari pemerinath Republik Indonesia sekarang " (LIPUTAN PETANG, AS, Thursday, April 24, 2003)
 - b. "Bagaimana sikap PBB anda pandang pada saat ini ?" (LIPUTAN 6 SIANG, AS, Thursday, April 10, 2003)
2. Question Tag. Here the broadcasters also used the question tag in their questions, such as :
 - a. "Dengan demikian, kita akan segera membuabarkan e,...komite bersama, gitu pak ?." (LIPUTAN 6 PETANG, AS, Thursday, April 24, 2003)
 - b. "Oke,...yang anda rasakan pasti bahagia ya?" (LIPUTAN /6 PAGI, RS, Thursday, April 17, 2003)
3. Clausal Interrogative Pronoun. It is dominantly used by the broadcasters, such as :
 - a. "Adakah jalan menuju sana pak ?" (LIPUTAN 6 SIANG, AS, Thursday, April 10, 2003)
 - b. "Apakah luar negeri Refublik Indonesia akan sanagat terpengaruh dengan kondisi politik dalam negeri ?" (LIPUTAN 6 SIANG, AS, Thursday, April 10, 2003)

Moreover, in terms of types of interview question, the questions are linguistically realized in several types of question, namely :

1. Wh-question. This question is using question word or interrogative pronoun for giving the question. In Indonesian language, the interrogative pronouns are mengapa, apa, siapa, bagaimana, dimana, kapan, mana, berapa, seberapa.
2. Yes-no question. This question is for the answer of yes or no
3. Declarative question. This question is in the form of declarative sentence in which implies a question in the sentence.

4. Question-tag is the sentence in which it requires the confirmation from the informant.

Those questions are realized in the following realization.

- 1). Close/Open-ended Question. The realization of this question is shown below.

Table 3. COEQ A strategies

<i>Types of Question</i>	<i>Number of Use</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Wh-Question	8	44.44
Yes – No Question	5	27.78
Declarative Question	2	11.11
Question-Tag	3	16.67
Total	18	100

The Wh-question is dominantly used in this close/open ended question. It is realized for 8 times or 44.44% from the whole types of question.

- 2). Introducing question. The realization of this question is shown below.

Table 4. IQ Strategies

<i>Types of Question</i>	<i>Number of Use</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Wh-Question	3	60
Yes – No Question	1	20
Declarative Question	0	0
Question-Tag	1	20
Total	3	60

The Wh-question is dominantly used in this introducing question. It is realized for 3 times or 60 % from the whole types of question.

- 3). Probing question. The realization of this question is shown below

Table 5. PQ Strategies.

<i>Types of Question</i>	<i>Number of Use</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Wh-Question	0	0
Yes – No Question	0	0
Declarative Question	0	0
Question-Tag	3	100
Total	3	100

The question-tag dominantly used in this probing question. It is realized for 3 times or 100 % from the whole types of question.

- 4). Specifying question. The realization of this question is shown below.

Table 6. SQ Strategies

<i>Types of Question</i>	<i>Number of Use</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Wh-Question	2	100
Yes – No Question	0	0
Declarative Question	0	0
Question-Tag	0	0
Total	2	100

The Wh-question is dominantly used in this specifying question. It is realized for 2 times or 100% from the whole types of question.

5). Direct question. The realization of this question is shown below.

Table 7. DQ Strategies

<i>Types of Question</i>	<i>Number of Use</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Wh-Question	15	38.46
Yes – No Question	10	25.64
Declarative Question	8	20.51
Question-Tag	6	15.38
Total	39	100

The Wh-question is dominantly used in this direct question. It is realized for 15 times or 38.46% from the whole types of question.

6). Indirect question. The realization of this question is shown below.

Table 8 InQ Strategies.

<i>Types of Question</i>	<i>Number of Use</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Wh-Question	2	16.67
Yes – No Question	5	41.67
Declarative Question	1	8.33
Question-Tag	4	33.33
Total	12	100

The Yes-no question is dominantly used in this indirect question. It is realized for 5 times or 41.67% from the whole types of question.

7). Interoretative question. The realization of this question is shown below

Table 9. InterQ Strategies

<i>Types of Question</i>	<i>Number of Use</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Wh-Question	13	48.15
Yes – No Question	3	11.11
Declarative Question	5	18.52
Question-Tag	6	22.22
Total	27	100

The Wh-question is dominantly used in this interpretative question. It is realized for 13 times 48.15% from the whole types of question.

Confirmation question. The realization of this question is shown below

Table 10. CQ Strategies

Types of Question	Number of Use	Percentage
Wh-Question	0	0
Yes – No Question	0	0
Declarative Question	0	0
Question-Tag	1	100
Total	1	100

The Wh-question is dominantly used in this confirmation question. It is realized for 1 times or 100% from the whole types of question.

9). Turn-taking. The realization of this question is shown below.

Table 11. TTQ Strategies

Types of Question	Number of Use	Percentage
Wh-Question	0	0
Yes – No Question	0	0
Declarative Question	2	100
Question-Tag	0	0
Total	2	100

The Turn-taking question is dominantly used in this turn-taking question. It is realized for 2 times or 100 % from the whole types of question.

DISCUSSIONS

The reason for not using silence and probing questions are due to the time limitation in which they have limited time to gain information from the interviews. They should use their time allocation for interviews as efficient and effective as possible. In silence strategies, the broadcaster should keep quiet for few seconds so that it will time consuming.

There are two other strategies that used by the interviewers in which not proposed by Sudman & Bradburn (1982:19-99) namely confirmation questions and turn-taking questions.

Direct questions are dominantly used to gain information. The use of this strategies for the purpose of TV news broadcasting is not appropriate since the interviewers will get limited information. Perhaps, the interviewees wanted to say more than what the interviewers wanted to ask.

The interviewers should use interpretative question strategies dominantly, especially for the commentary information. Whereas for the purpose

of factual information, they should employ dominantly direct question strategies. The use of interpretative for commentary opinion could gain much information from the interviewers.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

After analyzing the data, conclusions are drawn as the following

1. The interviewers used seven strategies as proposed by Sudman and Bradburn (1982;19-99), namely; Close/open ended questions, Introducing Questions, Interpretative Questions, and Probing Questions. They also used confirmation questions and turn-taking strategies to gain many more information from the interviewees.
2. The interviewers use direct questions dominantly followed by the interpretative questioning strategies.
3. There are some differences of questioning strategies employed by the interviewers. AS used 45 questions or 42 % form the whole questions. IK used 38 questions or 36 %, AH used 2 questions or 2 %, RS used 8 questions or 7%, JT used 14 questions or 13%. AS tends touse direct questions, whereas, IK tends to use Interpreting questions.
4. Questioning strategies are realized by four types of questions, they are Wh-questions, Yes-no question, dclarative question, and question tag.

Suggestions

In relation to the concusions, suggestions are stated as the following.

1. Interviewrs should use their time as effective and efficient as possible in gathering information through interviews, especially on TV News program.
2. In gathering commentary information, the interviewerw should employ interpretative questions more often and followed by close/open ended questions.
3. In gathering factual information, the interviewers shold employ direct questions more often.
4. Arief Suditomo is suggested to use interpretative questions more often in gathering commentary information, so that the TV viewers will get more information on the public figures' comments or opinions.
5. Further research should be conducted to investigates the following terms ;
 - a. The linguistic realization of questioning strategies especially for the purpose of discourse analysis.
 - b. It is also suggested to investigate the effectiveness of questions employed by the interviewers based on the viewers' perspectives. It is purposed to find out whethjer the questions are understandable enough for them or not.

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