

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Speaking is one of the fundamental language skills that requires some practice to acquire it. At a glance, people can speak their language easily because they hear the language being used by the others. Through repetition of common expressions, they can easily communicate with one another in the form of social relationship.

In fact, people speak for the fun of talking to one another and express their thoughts and feelings. Through speaking both speaker and listener (interlocutors) exchange life experiences that make the interaction interesting and useful. They can start their conversation without any pressure from either side. They simply know what to do to make the conversation more meaningful. For instance, they should know through their daily interaction that speaking will continue when the two interlocutors agree to do it so. There are certain rules in mind which make them speak to each other more communicatively.

Speaking basically has two purposes namely for interaction and transaction (Yule, 2010). In the interaction, the two interlocutors just exchange information as social facts that they think will contribute to the enhancement of the conversation. The main purpose here is to share the life experiences as the human expressions for existence. For instance, speaker A might just mention about what she thinks is interesting in her life which should be responded to by listener B. There is a

process of contributing some information to make the conversation go on until they are satisfied with the topics at the end of the talk.

On the other hand, in the transaction, the interlocutors exchange scientific knowledge or information which is provided seriously. For instance, in a seminar, a conference and a scientific debate, the speaking is meant to impart information from speaker A who is a resourceful person to listener B or an audience who should respond by giving equal level information. This means that when they choose a certain topic of science, they should stick to all the concepts that are used in the particular science being discussed. If they talk about linguistics, they should naturally raise issues about language use and problems of communication.

Certainly, not everyone can conduct the effective transaction because it requires some specific knowledge about the topic being discussed. When there is an imbalance of knowledge between the two interlocutors, the transaction will get stuck as they want to continue the talk. In a common conversation, the imbalance is not a big problem. Speaker A can guide listener B to understand the topic by using simple language. For example, when listener B cannot understand what speaker A means, the listener B can ask for clarification. In reality, the two interlocutors have no desire to show off their knowledge about a topic because they know that the purpose of the conversation is just to build up a social relationship that binds two different people into a better understanding of each other.

The writer had observed many people conducting conversations in their everyday life. Although it might seem simple, but something struck her mind. Not

everyone was good at conducting a conversation. This was proved by the fact that some people could not sustain their conversation in English until it lasted for half an hour. There were questions in the writer's mind. What were the ways of making the conversation last long? Was it due to the personality of the speaker like an extrovert who talked much about herself?

To find the answers, the writer began to survey some reference books about conversations. What she had found was really important to discuss here. First, an introvert or someone who talks a little could actually change her personality by understanding the nature of a conversation. This interaction should not be taken for granted. It was a process that could be analyzed to know the secrets of conducting a conversation successfully. It was not automatically easy to have a conversation although the speaker could use the language fluently. There must be an art of speaking. For example, there are certain ways of sustaining a conversation after uttering the openings such as a greeting or an "attention getter". An attention getter is any utterance that is spoken to attract the attention of another speaker so that she is willing to start a conversation. This is also called a "gambit", that is, the remark by a speaker to start a conversation. Having a conversation is like playing chess. The speaker who wants to start a conversation must take an initiative in the form of gambit so that the other person will be willing or ready to join in the conversation (Kerner and Warner, 2005).

The more facts were collected from the books discussing the nature of conversation, the more interested the writer was in finding the speaking strategies to sustain a conversation. She had come to the conclusion that although a speaker

could master the grammar of English, there was no guarantee that she could automatically become a good, communicative and effective speaker in English. In her observation, many teachers of English were good at grammar but they could not speak the language communicatively with the native speakers. This means that there was something else to the mastery of the grammar. Also, a conversational skill should be practiced everyday to achieve a higher level of proficiency in using English as an international language.

The writer as the researcher found it difficult to speak English fluently. There should be certain strategies that enabled the other people to become good conversationalists in the daily conduct of life. She believed that they knew the strategies applied to be able to speak English well so that the conversation could be sustained to satisfy both interlocutors. Her interests in the area of speaking were worthwhile because she would find out what made a speaker of English a good conversationalist. Speaking English like a native speaker must be the goal of learning speaking as one of the four language skills.

To conduct the research on the speaking strategies by native speakers required a specific situation. As in the component of research, the feasibility of the study suggested, there should be two native speakers who would hold a conversation. By recording their utterances, the writer could analyze the data to reach a conclusion. However, the researcher assumed that this was difficult to carry out since the situation in this country could not lead to such real-life observations. Therefore, she had decided to choose a novel in which characters spoke to each other for the communication in doing their jobs. The writer believed

that the author of the novel as a native speaker knew the speaking strategies for the characters in the story to make the conversation continue until they reached a negotiation of terminating the talk. There were many conversations in the novel to be analyzed to confirm the speaking strategies as suggested in the conversation analysis theory.

B. The Problem of the Study

The problem of the study consists of the following questions:

1. What were the speaking strategies as used by the characters in the novel “Black Echo”?
2. How was the dominant speaking strategy applied by the author of the novel?
3. Why were such speaking strategies applied in the context of conversation?

C. The Objective of the Study

This study was aimed at analyzing the speaking strategies in sustaining a conversation in the novel “The Black Echo” and finding out the speaking strategies applied in the novel, the realization of the dominant strategy by comparing the elements of strategy and the context of using the strategies to make the story understandable.

D. The Scope of the Study

This study was limited to the analysis of the speaking strategies in sustaining a conversation by the characters in the novel “Black Echo”. The strategies consisted of elements or components that could be compared to each other to find out the speaking strategies, the dominant one and the reason of using the strategies.

E. The Significance of the Study

The results of the conversation analysis in this study will be useful and meaningful to the following people

1) Theoretically:

- a) Teachers of English who teach speaking skills to reach a higher level of proficiency. The findings will show them that there are speaking strategies to be applied in conducting a conversation in English.
- b) Students at the English Department who will learn more about the nature of conversation from the linguistic point of view. They benefit from the suggestions given to make them become good speakers in the future.

2) Practically:

Anyone who is interested in understanding how a conversation actually takes place among the native speakers or those who can speak English well. The suggestions can improve the knowledge about what to do with a conversation.