

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Study

As socialized individuals, we spend much of our lives talking, or interacting, with other people. Interacting is not just a mechanical process of taking turns at producing sounds and words. Interacting is a semantic activity, a process of making meanings. As we take turns in any interaction we negotiate meanings about what we think is going on in the world, how we feel about it, and how we feel about the people we interact with. As stated by Eggins and Slade (1997:7), “we treat conversation as an exchange of meanings, as text, and recognize its privileged role in the construction of social identities and interpersonal relations.” Further they added that conversation is the means language gives us for expressing interpersonal meaning about roles and attitudes. Being able to take part in dialogue then means being able to negotiate the exchange of interpersonal meanings, and being able to realize social relationships with other language users.

The use of language to interact, establish and maintain relationship is called interpersonal function. Interpersonal function of language as defined by Halliday (2000) is a strand of meaning running throughout the text that expresses the writer’s role relationship with the readers or the relationship between speakers, and the writer’s attitude towards the subject matters (Halliday, 2000). Halliday in Eggins (2004: 144) also mentioned that dialog exchanges are turns and taking a turn in a conversation is about who speak at the moment and who would speak later in time. In the nature of conversation, simultaneously a message is organized

and delivered among the speakers. This organization of message is carried out in the act of speaking conducted by the participants in the conversation. Messages in conversation, explained by Halliday (1994: 68) can be recognized as speech functions or speech role. The messages are conveyed in two terms; giving and demanding something. The speaker may give something to the listener or he may demand something from him. Giving means inviting to receive, and demanding means inviting to give. What they are exchanging are actually goods& services and information. These four basic move types of statement, question, offer and command are what Halliday refers to as speech functions. So we can say that every starting move in dialogue must be one or other of these speech functions and each speech function involves both a speech role and a commodity choice. For example, if we are demanding information we will question, or if we are demanding something we will command.

However, dialogue is inherently interactive: typically it does not involve simply one move from one speaker. We need also to recognize that after one speaker has initiated an exchange; another speaker is very likely to respond. Thus we need also to see that there is a choice between initiating and responding moves. Our choice of responding moves is constrained by the initiating move that has just been made. Every time we take on a role assign to our addressee a role as well. Every time we initiate an interaction we put our addressee into a role of responding if he/she wants to interact with us. Eggins (2004: 145) states that the alternatives we face in responding can be broadly differentiated into two types: a supporting type of responding move, versus a confronting type.

Talk show is one of the situations where conversation or dialog takes place. As defined by Illie (2006) talk show exhibit specific features with regard to the discursive organization of talk, the sequence of adjacency pairs and turns, and the participants' question-asking and question-answering roles. These features pertain with conversational discourse. In addition to that, Timberg (2002: 5) defines talk show as a program where one person (or group of people) will discuss various topics which are led by a talk show host. In talk show, the participants is usually stimulated, guided and facilitated by the host to present particular information exchange, related to personal experience, judgment or common sense. By this explanation it is obvious that in talk show language serve two of its interpersonal functions.

One of the most important things for a talk show to succeed is the ability of the host to built interpersonal meanings with her guest as the interlocutors in order to dig more information. Illie (2006) stated that the show host is monitoring most of the discussion by stimulating, guiding, and facilitating the participants' roles and contributions to the program for information exchange, confrontation, and entertainment. This implies that a host must be able to make the participants speak about things which are intended to be spoken out to the audience (public). To do this, the host, as we often see, takes a role as questioner; he/she asks some leading questions to the participants so they will answer the questions, and these answers are the information required by the talk show program to tell to the audience. This is in line with what Munson (1993) explains that questions are central to the structure of talk shows and are quite effective in exploring guests' professional and personal lives, and also with what Linke's in Saj (2012) found in

his study about talk show that more questions are asked in talk shows than in discussions.

In his research about interpersonal function in Oprah Winfrey's talk show, Arifin and Samanhudi (2013) found out that most of utterances used by Oprah are actually questionings interesting facts based on the discussed topics. This is much influenced by her role in the program as the Host whose main job is mediating the audiences and guests as the source of information. Wijayanti (2007) who did study in the same field also found out that a hosts use more questions to gain the information and takes role as initiator to start and guide the topic.

Here are some utterances of the well-known host Oprah Winfrey in Oprah Winfrey Talk Show which are mostly questioning when Hosting Queen Rania of Jordan (Arifin, 2010).

1. You were recently here in New York, and as I understand it, you went to Ground Zero with Mayor Giuliani. ***What was that like?***

<i>What</i>	<i>was</i>	<i>That</i>	<i>like?</i>
Wh/complemet	Finite	Subject	Complement
MOOD		RESIDUE	

*Mood* : Finite ^ Subject = Interrogative  
*Speech Function* : Question  
*Markedness* : Unmarked

2. When this first happened on September 11, I think it came as a shock to so many of us that other people in the world hated us so much. ***Can you help explain that to us?***

<i>Can</i>	<i>you</i>	<i>help explain</i>	<i>That</i>	<i>to us</i>
Finite	Subject	Predicate	Complement	
MOOD		COMPLEMENT		

*Mood* : Finite ^ Subject = Interrogative  
*Speech Function* : Question  
*Markedness* : Unmarked

The interpersonal analysis on Oprah's utterances above shows that Oprah uses speech function of questioning when triggering information from the participant.

Yet, recently, in a talk show named Just Alvin talk show, the host built interpersonal function in various ways to maintain the conversation, and even very often uses speech functions of statement in his utterances to dig information from his guests as interlocutors. Here is the example of the dialog transcript:

- Conversation with Puput Melati in Just Alvin Talk Show episode of in God's hand

1. A : Apa kabar? Dia manggil aku uncle...heheh. Kurusan ya. (*statement*)
2. P : Masa sih? efek baju kali. (*confronting response*)
3. A: Efek baju? Nggak lho. **Kita ketemu yang kemarin yang ini lebih..lebih slim.** (*declarative*)

<i>Kita</i>	<i>ketemu</i>	<i>yang kemarin</i>	<i>yang ini</i>	<i>lebih slim</i>		
Subject	Finite	Predicate	Adjunct	Subject	Finite	predicator
MOOD		RESIDUE		MOOD		RESIDUE

*Mood* : Subject ^ Finite = Declarative

*Speech Function* : Statement

*Markedness* : Unmarked

4. P : Ya, ngurus anak kali, uda banyak soalnya. Makin banyak anaknya. (*supporting response*)
5. A: Nah, sedang...(question tag)
6. P : Yah alhamdulillah dititipin lagi sm Allah ini rejeki anak, amanah. Uda tiga bulan, inyaallah kurang lebih tiga bulan.
7. A: **Put, lebih sehat, sudah bisa lebih nerima kelihatannya ya.** (*statement*)

<i>Put,</i>	<i>(kamu)</i>	<i>lebih sehat</i>
Adjunct	Subject	Predicator
RESIDUE	MOOD	

*Mood* : Subject ^ Finite = Declarative

*Speech Function* : Statement

*Markedness* : Unmarked

<i>(Kamu)</i>	<i>sudah bisa</i>	<i>lebih nerima</i>	<i>Kelihatannya</i>	<i>ya</i>
Subject	Finite	Predicator	Adjunct	Adjunct
MOOD		RESIDUE		

*Mood* : Subject ^ Finite = Declarative

*Speech Function* : Statement

*Markedness* : Unmarked

8. P : Yah insyaallah mudah-mudahan harus..harus kak. (*supporting response*)
9. A: **Karna kan gini ya, apa yang puput alami kan, banyak ya put. Yang pertama sudah ingin mengajukan cerai ya, kemudain bener-bener cerai, kemudian balik kembali, so many things happened ya. Banyak yang terjadi.** (*statement*)
10. P : Yah, itulah perjalanan hidup ya kak. Makdsudnya gk ada yg ke...gk ada keinginan untuk sesuatu hal yang buruk pasti dalam setiap hidup manusia. Tapi ketika kita harus dihadapkan hal yang seperti itu ya jalan satu-satunya hmm berpasrah aja terus berdoa mudah-mudahan semua ini bisa menjadi diri aku lebih baik lagi. (*supporting response*)

In digging information, Alvin does not always questions as he did in utterance 1 by initiating the conversation by commenting on Puput's appearance using statement that she looks skinner, and then he emphasized in utterance 3 that she does looking skinner than the last time they met. This result in Puput supporting responses by giving information that now she has a lot of things to do dealt with taking care of three of her children and that she is now pregnant. In utterance 7 Alvin as the host again gives comment in statement about her appearance that now she is looks healthier and then using statement he confirms that she is now can deal with the reality which then it is justified by Puput. Then in utterance 9, again Alvin use speech function of statement where he states his knowledge about things that Puput has been gone through, and his statement is responded by Puput with some more information that she sees every problem in her life is to make her a better one and that all she can do to face them is praying.

The way Alvin constructs meanings interpersonally in the progress of his conversations with his guests creates interest of the writer to do a research on his utterances. The writer argues that Alvin's use of statement in his utterances where he is supposed to question is done purposely to make the conversations more

polite and friendly, so the guests can feel comfortable to speak even about their very personal matters, as Brown and Levinson (1987) argue that declaratives and interrogatives could also be polite requests for goods-and-services since basic commands might be considered *Face Threatening Acts* thus highly impolite, and modals are also often used to disguise demanding proposals or soften propositions as explained by Bloor and Bloor (2004). The writer also believes that there are other kinds of interpersonal function in Just Alvin talk show to maintain the conversation between the host and his guests and to dig information from his guests. Thus, in this research the writer would like to analyze interpersonal function in Just Alvin talk show by employing Halliday's theory of metafunctions in Systemic Functional Grammar.

Just Alvin Talk Show is one of the famous talk show programs in Indonesia. It comes with a talk show format to review about the lives of celebrities. The program is capable to place the second top ranks for rating under Kick Andy in 2009 (Akbar, 2010). The high rating proves that this program achieved appreciation from audiences. This program has invited guests which are mostly celebrities. Just Alvin gives what is supposed to be presented by an event "talk". Because it uses the title 'talk', the emphasis is on interaction program that exists between host and guests. Alvin Adam (41) is a fairly well-known presenter of success thanks to the guide talk show. He is very able to make a deep conversation when hosting Just Alvin talk show.

When interviewed by Citizen Magazine (2013) he state that Communication is first impression. For him, the heart can only be touched by heart. Therefore, he gives space to others to talk because everyone has a chance to

reveal the story. Creating closeness to the speaker is important. When the speakers already feel comfortable, then there is no gap between the speakers and hosts. Resource persons came to relax and talk to your like friends. In this atmosphere, it will appear a deep conversation even interesting stories that may not be disclosed by the speakers in the other talk shows.

Therefore, from this study the writer would like to know how interpersonal functions is built and maintained in Just Alvin talk show through the speech functions chosen by the host and the guests.

### **1.2 The Problems of the Study**

The problems are formulated as the following.

1. What kinds of speech functions are found in the conversation between the host and the guests in Just Alvin talk show?
2. How are the speech functions realized in the mood?
3. Why are the speech functions used in the way they are?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the Study**

In line with the problems of the study above, the objectives of this study are

1. to describe speech functions in the conversation between the host and the guests in Just Alvin talk show.
2. to analyze how the speech functions are realized in the conversation between the host and the guests in Just Alvin talk show.
3. to elaborate the reasons for the occurrence of speech functions in the conversation between the host and the guests in Just Alvin talk show.



#### **1.4 The Scope of the Study**

This study will be focused on the conversation between the host and the guests in Just Alvin talk show program. The analysis of the utterances will be based on Halliday's theory of Interpersonal Functions and Eggin's theory about mood analysis. The investigation will be focused on the types of speech functions and the realization in the mood which occurred on the utterances. Interpersonal function of language is meaning about roles and relationship, this involves looking at what kinds of role relations are established through talk, what attitudes interactants express to and about each other, and how they negotiate to take turns, etc.

#### **1.5 The Significances of the Study**

Findings of the study offer theoretical and practical significances. Theoretically, it is expected that the findings of the study can give much contribution and insight to applied linguistics particularly functional grammar which can be used as a reference for the similar studies in the future, especially the studies which discuss about Speech function in Just Alvin Talk Show program. Specifically, the findings can add up more horizons to linguistics theories.

Practically, it is expected that the findings will be useful for the readers especially whose jobs are related to constructing meaning interpersonally to dig information from interlocutors. In addition, the findings can highlight the use of language in public situations. In other words, the findings can be of some use to the readers whose interests are related to broadcast talk.

