

## ABSTRACT

**Nainggolan, Priskila Poida, Reg. No. 2163220036, Speaking Strategies in Sustaining a Conversation in the novel “*THE BLACK ECHO*” By Michael Conelly, Thesis, English and Literature Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts, State University of Medan, 2023 .**

This study deals with the speaking strategies in sustaining a conversation as applied by the characters in the novel *The Black Echo* by Michael Connelly, the crime story author. There were 12 conversations randomly selected from the talk by the characters. The main ones were Bosch and Wish the detectives who were involved in solving the mystery of the murder of Meadows who was dead under a tunnel at a pipe in California, near Hollywood. The characters should work together according to their roles and duties. Therefore, there were various conversations in terms of their length. Some are longer than the others but basically all the conversations are based on the 3 speaking strategies as simplified from the theory of conversations by Chamberlain (2014), Apps (2014) and Gabor (1983). It was found out that the 3 strategies were applied in all the 12 conversations with the following percentage: Strategy 1 (5 samples, or 41.66%), Strategy 2 (4 samples, or 33.34%) and Strategy 3 (3 samples or 25%). It is interesting to note that in order to sustain a conversation, more information should be contributed to the talk as done by the characters. It is suggested that those who study a foreign language or want to master English should be familiar with the speaking strategies as described in this study. A conversation is not as simple as most people think it is. There can be miscommunication when the two interlocutors never apply the strategies to produce good communication.

**Keyword: Speaking Strategy, Length of Conversation, Topic Shifting, Communication**

