CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Conversation is a social activity involving two or more participants who talk about something (Stenstrom, 1994; p.189). Therefore, a conversation can only happen if there are at least two participants getting involved in it. In a multi-party talk, every participant is not required to take an active part, while in a two-party talk it requires mutual cooperation from both participants (Stenstrom, 1994; p.190).

Ending a conversation is not a simply matter of saying goodbye. People cannot stop a conversation and give a farewell without any other utterances mention about their leaving. Their co-participant can get confused and offended because they do not know why the conversation stops. Even when all participants know why and when the conversation should stops, people do not just suddenly say goodbye and leave the conversation. For example, when the bell rings, the teacher and students in a class know that it is time to end their conversation. Nevertheless, the teacher still says something before she or he says goodbye. This will be different in a situation with no time indicator for a leaving. In a situation where no agreeable time to stop or leaving, any speaker who wants to stop the conversation should announce his or her leaving before he or she really leaves. This announcement is part of the speaker's cooperation.

Ending a conversation is more complicated act than beginning, this is because the unit 'a single conversation' doesn't simply end, but it brought to a close (Schegloff and Sacks, 1973, mentioned in Ten Have, 2000; p.17)

Since a conversation is a cooperative activity, speakers should not just leave a conversation before negotiating a closing. Most problems occur because speakers do not know when and how to close a conversation or when they should cooperate with the other speaker's negotiation of closing. In this situation, speakers who want to close may send signals that they want to end the conversation, sending a closing signal is one of strategies in closing a conversation. According to Stenstrom (1994), when people want to end a conversation, they will initiate a closing. The options of closing the conversation can be initiated at any moment, even at the very beginning, before it really has been started. Therefore, to recognize the beginning of the ending, it must start from the first closing initiation. However, there are possibilities throughout a closing section, including the moment after a final 'goodbye', for re-opening the conversation (Schegloff and Sacks, 1973, as mentioned in Ten Have, 2000; p.22). In a conversation, participants must be aware when their addressee use strategies to close the conversation by recognizing the signals they send. Because, when people send these signals, it means that they try to negotiate a closing. Believes that closing signals are important in communication. Without these signals, people will encounter difficulties to end the conversation.

In addition, when the other speakers' keep insist on bringing up new topics and the ending processes become very long, this is even more difficult for the other speaker to end the conversation. Not only that the closing signals are needed, but also strategies in using those signals properly to reach the terminating.

The writer, on the other hand, chooses to have a research on an informal setting of face-to-face conversations. It can be said that an informal face- to-face conversation is more unpredictable, and that what makes the writer is interested in choosing informal conversations between speaking III students of English department at Muhammadiyah University of gresik that are not time-limited because the writer set a situation in an open role play that allow for openings up several times. In studying conversation, the more natural the conversation means the more accurate the data is. However, getting an appropriate conversation data about closing a conversation is difficult without setting a particular situation to let the participants use their strategies in ending their conversations. Nevertheless, setting a situation can create unnatural data. This is one reason why the writer chooses open role-play technique where the role-play is only given to one party and the other can speak naturally. Since what being observed does the participant who does not play a role do the closing, this technique does not have a great influence to the naturallity of the conversation data.

This research focused on the closing part of face-to face conversation only, but still the writer believed that the opening and the message parts

contribute processes in the closing section. Moreover, the writer found out that in certain situations, a conversation demands an appropriate speech. For example in closing a conversation, this can be easier if both participants agree to end a conversation. The more difficult the situation, the more appropriate strategies are needed to achieve an ending. This is one of the reasons why the writer sets a situation in collecting the data.

The writer observed ending conversation in Speaking III students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Gresik. Speaking III is the subject of English department at Muhammadiyah University of Gresik in the fourth semesters, before getting speaking III subject, they get speaking I and speaking II material but most of the activities in Speaking I and Speaking II are guided conversation.

1.2 Problem statement

The writer generated a research problem of this study as how to end a conversation according to speaking III Students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Gresik.

1. What are the strategies used by Speaking III students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Gresik to end a conversation in an open Role-play situation?

2. Which closing function used mostly by Speaking III Students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Gresik in ending a conversation?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

By doing this research, the writer wanted to find out how speaking III students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Gresik ended a conversation, and what strategies they used in negotiating topic closing, pre-closing, and terminating a conversation. From the strategies used the writer wanted to see whether there was particular strategy that was commonly used by speaking III students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Gresik in ending a conversation. Then, the writer also intended to reveal the signals in strategies that speaking III students of English Department at Muhammadiyah University of Gresik used in ending their conversation.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research can give an idea for others in closing their conversation properly. Thus, when they face the same situation, their negotiation of closing will avoid hurting their co- participants' feeling. This research is also important for people to recognize when their addressee sends closing signals. Then, they can cooperatively give appropriate responses. In other words, this research can be useful for maintaining relationship by closing conversation cooperatively. The writer also hopes that the research will contribute something to linguistics fields especially in discourse analysis and Sociolinguistics.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

This is a discourse analysis study and concerns on spoken discourse. The spoken discourse in this research is limited on conversation. Thus, the writer used conversation theory of how to close a conversation, terminating, and ending processes. The situation of the conversation to analyze is limited to a conversation in which speaker one wants to close it, but speaker two does not want to close it.

1.6 Definition of key terms

The definitions of key terms are given in order to avoid misinterpretation in this research.

Strategy

Strategy is a systematic plan that is intended to achieve a particular purpose (Oxford)

Conversation

Conversation is a social activity involving two or more participants who talk about something (Stenstrom, 1994; p.189)

Topic closing

Topic closing is a closing that happens before introducing a new topic or closing the whole conversation (Stenstrom, 1994; p.152)

Pre closing

Pre closing is the signal given by each participants when he or she is ready to close the communication channel with use falling intonation, such as well, so, okay (Hatch, 1983; p.12)

Closing

Closing is where the parties 'settle the affair' and say good-bye. It function as a post message talk ending the conversation (Stenstrom, 1994; p.11)

Terminating

Terminating is involves closing the old topic before introducing a new one or before closing the entire conversation (Stenstrom, 1994; p.152)