

Interruption Strategies in Turn-Taking: A Contrastive Study of the Talk Shows “*Ini Talkshow*” And “*Odoru! Sanma Goten!!*”

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ABSTRACT

In this study, interruption strategies in turn-taking in two talk shows, namely “*Ini Talkshow*” from Indonesia and “*Odoru! Sanma Goten!!*” from Japan, are analyzed. By applying a descriptive qualitative research method and contrastive pragmatic perspective, this study aims to examine interruption strategies in terms of time, role, context, and communicative functions. Based on the study, interruption strategies in “*Ini Talkshow*” are used for creating humor and creating social closeness, reflecting the Indonesian communication pattern of interactive communication. On the other hand, interruption strategies in “*Odoru! Sanma Goten!!*” are used for several communicative functions, including clarification, sharing experiences, and discussion flow. This study revealed that interruption strategies are affected by both contextual and cultural communication factors.

Keywords: *Turn-taking, interruption strategies, talk show discourse, Indonesian and Japanese communication style*

INTRODUCTION

If one looks carefully at spoken talk, one can argue that repairing talk and pausing talk can be viewed as natural actions in managing talk flow. Arianingsih et al. (2025) have pointed out that repairing talk is an action in teamwork in managing talk flow in unplanned talk. The issue is raised that talk in spoken interaction is dynamic and is in the process of being constructed by the individuals who take part in such an interaction. Therefore, one can argue that various actions in the process of taking turns in talk, such as interruptions, can be viewed as natural actions in managing talk flow in the course of daily interactions.

There is already a lot of research on interruptions in taking, specifically in the areas of pragmatics and discourse analysis, mostly on public conversation such as those in a TV talk show. Interruptions in taking, aside from simply cutting off another person's speech, are seen as a speech act that has a variety of social functions, including creating jokes, clarifying, and controlling where the conversation is going. In conversation analysis, interruptions in taking are seen in terms of how the people in a conversation relate to each other, including issues of power, who is leading, and how they are both involved in the conversation (Zimmerman & West, 1975).

In a research carried out on the role of cutting in in media talks, Murata (1994) studied interruptions and grouped them into different categories like interruptions that assist in conversation and interruptions that cause problems. This thing finding indicates that interruptions are not always bad but can actually assist in the conversation of talks in such a way that they are beneficial to all parties involved. Another research carried out by Goldberg (1990) talks about the role of interruptions in fun conversations. In the research, Goldberg indicates that interruptions in talks where the aim

is to have fun are often used in a funny way to cut in and evoke some emotions like laughter among the parties involved.

In relation to this, studies that were conducted in Indonesia also sought to investigate the interruptions that take place in television broadcasts. Fatonah et al. (2024) sought to investigate the types of interruption that take place in The Elen DeGeneres Show. From the study, it is evident that the interruptions that take place in the talk shows are used by the host to ensure that the talk continues and that the audience has a connection with the guests through the reactions that the host exhibits. It is therefore evident that the interruptions that take place in the talk shows could be a strategic move by the host to ensure that the interactions that take place in the talk shows are of great interest to the audience. It is also evident that the interruptions that take place in the talk shows are not a negative occurrence in the process of interaction that takes place in the talk shows.

Moreover, although in his discussion of the pragmatics of interruptions, Ismael (2025) refers to interruptions as a communicative tool for turn-taking, it is apparent that, in accordance with this, the role of interruptions is dependent on the framework of the conversation, in addition to the social context and relationships of the individuals. These findings, in essence, reveal that the manner in which interruptions are used in a discussion is greatly dependent on the communicative context and relationships of individuals.

Another study by Lestary et al. (2018) examined interruptions in dialogues used in television shows in Indonesia. The study found that interruptions are used to provide more details, to add personal stories, and to make the interaction more dynamic between the host and the guests. This shows that interruptions can actually encourage the active participation of the participants in the discussion, especially in TV shows where interaction in dialogue is required to make the shows interesting.

In addition to this, Bearis et al. (2023) conducted a study on interruptions in public communication. In this study, they found that interruptions used in entertainment television shows were more flexible than interruptions used in formal discussions. In this context, interruptions are used to enhance emotional expressions and the rate of conversation. However, it can be observed that interruptions are used in a more flexible manner in entertainment shows than in formal discussions by using interruptions to control the rhythm of the conversation.

A more contemporary study by Rivai & Wijana (2022), which focuses on interruptions in comedic talk shows in Indonesia, showed that not only are interruptions indicative of control in a conversation, but they can also be collaborative in nature, even to the point where they can generate positive feedback from the audience, like laughter. This shows that in comedic shows, interruptions are often used as part of the humor to create a light-hearted environment.

Besides, research conducted by Ani et al. (2024) on interruptions that occur in the process of turn-taking indicates that interruptions are cooperative and intrusive in nature and are functional in different ways, like clarification, assistance, changing topics, and managing turn-taking. The research reveals that interruptions are not always negative and can be a strategy for effective communication and clarifying information in verbal interactions. All these ideas portray interruptions as a vital part of interactional mechanisms that are responsible for more dynamic interactions.

As per the research mentioned earlier, it may be considered that interruption is a multifaceted communication event that has been influenced by a number of factors, including cultural settings, the social status of the speakers, and the purpose of the communication event. Although much research has already been conducted on the phenomenon of interruption in the context of a conversation, there exists a scarcity of studies that compare the technique of interruption used in Indonesia and Japanese talk shows. Hence, the present investigation aims at filling the existing knowledge gap by comparing the differences in the technique of interruption used in two talk shows that belong to different cultural backgrounds.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Turn-Taking in Conversation

The idea of turn-taking has the function of a major component in talk, which guides the way in which people manage the opportunity to talk in a discussion. As Sacks et al (1974) discuss, a discussion has a structured form that allows the participants to take turns in a predictable manner. This structure of turn-taking reveals the way in which

participants identify the places of transition relevance (TRPs), which are the places in a discussion where the talking turns may pass to another person. In the structure of turn-taking, the participants in a discussion use different verbal, vocal, and situational cues to identify that the talking turns of another person are about to end. When the cues appear, another person may take the talking turn appropriately. However, in case a person starts talking before the end of the talking turn of the current speaker, it may result in the occurrence of overlapping talk or the cessation of talk.

Interruption in Conversation

Generally, interruption has been defined as a situation in which a speaker starts speaking before the previous speaker has finished speaking. Based on Goldberg (1990), interruptions are not necessarily disruptive; rather, they can have different functional roles depending on the context of interaction. Goldberg has identified different functional categories of interruptions. There are some interruptions that are considered cooperative; that is, these interruptions are helpful and support what has been previously said by another speaker. On the other hand, disruptive interruptions are those that are considered to be intended by a speaker to take control of the conversation or change the subject of discussion. In some contexts of interaction, interruptions can be considered a means to create humor in entertainment programs. It is therefore not necessarily impolite to interrupt; rather, it can be a means of using a communication strategy in interaction. Moreover, the use of interruptions in conversation is also associated with the norms of politeness in conversation. In this regard, Leech (1983) argued that the strategies of communication in conversation are associated with the politeness principle, which is concerned with the maintenance of social relationships with the person being spoken to. In this case, interruptions can be regarded not only as a structural feature of conversation but also as a pragmatic feature associated with the norms of the particular society.

Conversational Style and Cooperative Overlap

One other idea regarding interruption is from Tannen (1994), who proposed that when people talk over each other, and thus interrupt each other, it is often associated with different means by which various people in conversations communicate. In this regard, Tannen proposes the idea of cooperative overlap, which describes instances in which people who listen to the talk also talk at the same time as the main talker. According to Tannen, this is often an attempt by such people to demonstrate how much they are interested in the talk. In such instances, talking over each other is not an attempt by one person to take control of the talk; instead, it is an attempt by such persons to enhance the bonding between them and other persons in attendance. In talk shows, for example, it is not always appropriate to view instances in which talkers talk over each other as acts of bad behavior; instead, they can be viewed as means by which such talkers attempt to communicate in an attempt to be humorous.

Theoretical Framework of the Study

On the basis of the turn-taking theory by Sacks et al. (1974), interruption theory by Goldberg (1990), and the concept of conversational style by Tannen (1994), interruption in conversation may be seen as a constituent of the overall structure of conversation. These three theories offer a conceptual base for understanding how interruptions in conversation occur, what role they play, and how they affect conversation. Considering that TV talk shows are characterized by spontaneous and dynamic interaction, interruptions may be seen to play a significant role in determining conversation flow. Therefore, interruption theories are used in this study to examine interruption forms and functions in TV talk shows, including *"Ini Talkshow"* and *"Odoru! Sanma Goten!!"*.

METHODOLOGY

The present study used a descriptive qualitative approach in dealing with the phenomenon of interruption in conversation within talk shows. This is because this approach is appropriate in dealing with the analysis of meaning, function, and context of interruption in conversation. This approach will allow the researcher to understand how interruption occurs within the turn-taking process and how interruption functions within the context of conversation between the host and guests. The sources of this study are two talk shows. One is *"Ini Talk Show"* from Indonesia, while the other is *"Odoru! Sanma Goten!!"* from Japan. These talk shows were selected because they are spontaneous and interactive between the host and guests. The sources of this study are utterances that have interruption in

conversation between the host and guests. These are selected because they are active interactions between multiple participants in which the interruption of conversation can occur.

The data collection in this study was conducted through a series of stages. Firstly, the researcher observed and listened to the selected episodes of both talk shows. Then, the researcher transcribed the conversation from the episodes that were related to the research. Finally, the researcher identified the utterances that included interruptions in the conversation. Following this identification, the data that included interruptions was classified in relation to the types of interruptions used in the conversation. The data was analyzed by applying the turn-taking theory, interruption theory, and cooperative overlap concepts by Sacks et al. (1974), Goldberg (1990), and Tannen (1994), respectively. Similarly, the analysis of the data was conducted in a series of stages. Firstly, the researcher identified the conversation that included interruptions in the transcribed data. Then, the researcher classified the interruptions in relation to the types of interruption used in this study. Finally, the researcher analyzed the functions of interruptions in the conversation. At the end of this stage, the researcher compared the results of both talk shows in order to compare the similarities and differences of interruption usage in relation to Indonesian and Japanese communication.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following table 1 presents the classification of interruption types used as the basis for analysis in this study of the talk show *Ini Talkshow*.

Table 1. Interruption Data in *Ini Talkshow*

No	Time	Speaker	Interrupted Speaker	Context	Type of Interruption	Function
1	10:39	Sule	Joshua Suherman	Taking photo of Nunung	Humorous	Creating humor
2	15:13	Sule	Nunung	Nunung about to sing	Humorous	Lightening atmosphere
3	27:52	Nunung	Brandon Salim	Self introduction	Humorous	Wordplay
4	29:38	Nunung	Laura Theux	Name mention	Humorous	Joke
5	32:55	Nunung	Bayu Skak	Explaining Anya	Humorous	Comic response
6	34:56	Sule	Anya Geraldine	Story about learning Sundanese	Humorous	Audience engagement
7	1:31:28	Nunung	Sule	Comedy sketch	Humorous	Reviving atmosphere

Table 1 shows seven instances of interruption identified in *Ini Talkshow*. Most of the interruptions in the program fall into the category of humorous interruption. This indicates that interruptions in *Ini Talkshow* are primarily used as a comedic strategy to generate laughter and maintain the dynamics of conversation between the hosts and the guests.

The following table 2 presents the classification of interruption types used as the basis for analysis in this study of the talk show *Odoru! Sanma Goten!!*

Table 2. Interruption Data in *Odoru! Sanma Goten!!*

No	Time	Speaker	Interrupted Speaker	Context	Type of Interruption	Function
1	02:28	Miyashita Kenshou	Ninomiya Meu	Indoor/outdoor discussion	Supportive	Clarification
2	06:53	Akashiya Sanma	Mauri Evelyn	Camping story	Humorous	Comic response
3	09:29	Miyashita Kenshou	Mauri Evelyn	Outdoor hobby	Supportive	Opinion
4	10:52	Noguchi Eko	Nikkaidou Takashi	Blue moment story	Supportive	Experience sharing
5	14:23	Noguchi Ken	Noguchi Eko	Sky color discussion	Corrective	Clarification
6	15:51	Noguchi Ken	Mauri Evelyn	Fuji mountain view	Supportive	Additional explanation
7	17:30	Mauri Evelyn	Tezuka Satomi	Train story	Associative	Cultural reference
8	18:20	Noguchi Ken	Diskusi Kelompok	Train rail discussion	Supportive	Recommendation
9	21:17	Noguchi Ken	Inukai Atsuhiko	Food topic	Corrective	Explanation
10	23:29	Akashiya Sanma	Noguchi Ken	Long speech	Disruptive	Managing turn-taking

Table 2 shows ten instances of interruption identified in *Odoru! Sanma Goten!!*. In contrast to *Ini Talkshow*, interruptions in this program serve a wider variety of functions, such as supportive interruption, corrective interruption, associative interruption, and disruptive interruption. This variation indicates that interruptions in the program are not only used for humor but also to expand the topic of discussion and maintain the dynamics of the conversation.

Interruption Patterns in *Ini Talkshow*

Interruptions in *Ini Talkshow* are mostly carried out by the major comedians in the show, namely Sule and Nunung. Interruptions in the show are mostly utilized in the creation of humor and in the efforts to lighten the conversation and

break the silence in the talkshow. In the style of a comedy talkshow like *Ini Talkshow*, interruptions are not considered interruptions in communication but rather as strategies in maintaining the dynamic and entertaining conversation.

For example, one such moment is when **Sule** interrupts Joshua Suherman at 10:39, saying something funny. At this particular time, Joshua is just about to take a picture of Nunung. The interruption, therefore, creates a funny moment that leads to laughter from both sides, that is, from both participants and from the audience. Another such moment is when **Nunung** interrupts Brandon Salim at 27:52, where she makes wordplay on the word “piano.” At this particular time, Brandon is just about to introduce himself. The interruption, therefore, creates a funny moment that changes the purpose for which one is required to do something. In addition, this is an interrupted utterance, yet it does not cause any disturbance in the flow of the dialogue. In itself, this is an evidence that this is an ordinary pattern for both participants. The interruptions, in essence, therefore, show how humor is used in such a strategic way to hold the attention of the audience. This is so that the dialogue is not monotonous. In this regard, it is safe to say that interruptions in this particular video are used in such an instrumental way so as to create the entertainment value for this program.

Apart from the above cases, similar phenomena may be seen in the other interruptions that Sule and Nunung make in the course of the conversation. Generally, interruptions may happen in the course of a conversation when the talk starts to become too serious or the speed of the conversation slows down. Through the humorous interruptions, the comedians in the talk show try to lighten the tone of the conversation and make it more interactive. This suggests that the interruptions in the talk show *Ini Talkshow* function socially as a means to ensure the audience’s involvement and the maintenance of the humorous tone that the talk show exhibits. This phenomenon may be seen as a manifestation of the concept of Humorous Interruption, as described by Goldberg (1990), which refers to the interruptions that the speakers make in the course of the conversation in order to create a humorous effect. Furthermore, the above phenomenon may also be seen as a manifestation of the characteristics of Indonesian communication style, which exhibits a collectivist and familiarity orientation.

Interruption Patterns in *Odoru! Sanma Goten!!*

In contrast to the use of interruptions in *Ini Talkshow*, the interruptions in the conversation of *Odoru! Sanma Goten!!* reveal the various functions of interruptions in a conversation. Although interruptions in the conversation of *Ini Talkshow* are employed only for the purpose of humor, interruptions in the conversation of the above-mentioned talk show can be employed for the sharing of personal experiences, reinforcing the discussion topics, and even correcting the statements of other speakers in the conversation.

One such incident may be seen when Akashiya Sanma cuts in on Mauri Evelyn's turn to speak at 06:53, saying, “A campfire? What are you, a caveman?” This is one incident of spontaneous humor, which is a response to Mauri Evelyn's discussion of her own experiences in relation to camping. Even though it is a funny interruption, it is related to what is being discussed.

Another case is found in the scene wherein Miyashita Kenshou interrupts Nakagawa Shouko (25:01) by making a connection between their discussion and his own experience of enjoying time at home. Although this is also an example of humor in an interruption, it is also a case wherein an interruption is made to add more to the discussion by incorporating one’s own experiences.

Furthermore, there are a number of other interruptions that show different functions like explanation or adding information to the subject of discussion. In relation to Japanese variety shows, interruptions are used to keep up a swift rate of conversation and allow different participants to become involved in the discussion. Although interruptions involve cutting in on another’s speaking turn, they are still within the limits of social norms and etiquette.

Aside from the aforementioned findings, recent studies by Indonesian researchers have additionally underscored the importance of interruption as a vital device for regulating the flow of interaction in spoken language. In particular, Lestary et al. (2018) study indicates that interruptive acts within conversations are highly correlated with turn-taking processes and often serve as devices for controlling speaking turns among conversational participants. In this respect, it is evident that interruption is more of a productive tool than a disruptive activity.

In addition, researches that concentrate on media discourse in Indonesia have shown that interruptions are regularly employed by speakers to help keep the pace and momentum of interactions on television shows. According to Fatonah et al. (2024), in talk show interactions, the hosts tend to use interruptions as a way to keep their audience interested, guide the course of discussions, and bring up new things spontaneously.

The above shows that interruptions in the video “*Odoru! Sanma Goten!!*” show a dynamic and participatory style of communication. In Japan’s communication culture, interruptions are not necessarily a negative act; rather, they can be a positive sign of involvement in a conversation provided that they are sensitive to social context and relationships.

All these together serve to prove the point that interruptions within Indonesian communication, especially entertainment-related communications, do not have any negative implications. They serve as interactional resources and make the process of conversation easy and meaningful.

Though there is an increasing amount of literature on interruption in conversational interaction, from authors like Fatonah et al. (2024), Ismael (2025), Lestary et al. (2018), Bearis et al. (2023), Rivai and Wijana (2022), and Ani et al. (2024), most of these studies tend to concentrate mainly on one culture or particular interaction setting, especially among Indonesians or in general communication contexts. In this regard, the studies have managed to effectively illustrate that interruption can serve various purposes and is not necessarily viewed as negative, yet they have failed to give due attention to the way interruption behavior is influenced by cultural aspects.

For this reason, there appears to be a considerable gap in the field of research concerning the lack of comparative studies that consider the analysis of interruption strategies in varying cultural environments. Specifically, there is no significant number of studies that have focused on how the process of interruption works in dissimilar communication models, particularly in media that uses entertainment as its main tool. The current study attempts to fill in this gap through a comparative analysis of the use of interruption strategies in *Ini Talkshow* (Indonesia) and *Odoru! Sanma Goten!!* (Japan) with regards to their communicative function, contextual use, and the role played by culture in the practice of turn-taking.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This research has demonstrated that the use of interruption strategies in *Ini Talkshow* and *Odoru! Sanma Goten!!* is affected by cultural factors, the structure of the programs, and the social role of the speakers in the process of communication. Although both programs employ interruption as a factor in the dynamics of interaction, the use of interruption in both programs presents clear differences in the use of communication in Indonesia and Japan.

The use of interruption in *Ini Talkshow* tends to be used more by the comedians as a strategy in the process of creating humor in the program. The use of interruption in the program is spontaneous in the context of generating laughter together. This demonstrates the use of interruption as a factor in the process of creating familiarity in the context of public communication in Indonesia.

On the other hand, interruptions found in the conversation of *Odoru! Sanma Goten!!* reveal various kinds of function. Besides being used for humor purposes, interruptions can also be used to develop the topic of conversation, add personal experience, clarify something, or even respond spontaneously to other participants' talk. This is a characteristic of a fast-paced and highly intensive conversation. This is also part of the variety show format used in Japanese culture. In general terms, the differences can be concluded in three major aspects, which are the purpose of interruption, communication style, and interruption forms used in conversation. In terms of interruption forms used in conversation within Indonesian society, it is oriented towards humor and intimacy. On the other hand, within Japanese society, interruptions reveal various kinds of function. This study concludes that interruption forms used in turn-taking conversation are not only related to conversation structure but also to cultural values.

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