



ISSN: 2663-8118 (Online) | ISSN: 2074-9554 (Print)

Journal of Al-Frahedis Arts

Article Available Online: Iraqi Academic Scientific Journals, Open Journals System

Tikrit University

J.A.A.

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Journal of Al-Frahedis Arts

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#### Keywords:

- Conversation Analysis (CA)
- Interruption
- Backchannel
- Interviewer (IR)
- Interviewee (IE)

#### ARTICLE INFO

##### Article History:

Submitted: 01/03/2020

Accepted: 10/05/2020

Published: 23/07/2020

## A Conversational Analysis of Selected Episodes of "Hard Talk" And "Bil-Harf Al-Wahid" Programmes

### ABSTRACT

Interruption, as a conversational strategy, can be employed to achieve different functions in conversation. This study deals with conversation analysis as a main method of the study. It aims at analyzing conversational interruptions and their interactive effects between the interviewer (IR) and the interviewee (IE) in different political statuses, and to identify different types of interactional response tokens practiced by the IR and IE within the political context.

The problem of the study is that interruption may have different forms. In this case, investigating interruption types is necessary to know how interruption usually occurs and the purposes behind it.

This study used a quantitative and a qualitative method to describe the phenomena under study. The data of study are selected from videos of Two episodes of BBC Hard Talk (a British programme) and Bil Harf Al-Wahid (an Iraqi programme) with prominent political figures. Utterances are the unit of analysis in this study.

The model adopted in this study is an eclectic one consisting of: Ferguson classification of interruption types (1977), Murata's theory of interruption functions (1994) and Gardiner's classification of backchannels (2001).

To validate the aims of the study, some hypotheses are suggested:

1. Interruption phenomenon is associated with the interviewer who has the main role in controlling the whole interview.
2. Both English and Arabic TV programmes exhibit different types and functions of interruptions because of the controversy inside the interview.
3. There is a difference between English and Arabic political programmes with regard to the backchannels and their classifications.

The main conclusions the study arrived at are: (1) In both programmes "BBC Hard Talk" and "Bil Harf Al-Wahid", most instances of interruption are associated with the interviewer (IR) who has the main role in controlling the whole discussion, and this achieves the first hypothesis. (2) In the Iraqi programme "Bil Harf Al-Wahid" all types of interruption occur in most of the episodes. On the contrary, in "BBC Hard Talk" program in which not all types of interruption occur. (3) In "BBC Hard Talk" programme, head nods are more frequent non vocal backchannels used by the interviewer. They are employed more than the vocal backchannel while, in "Bil Harf Al-Wahid" programme, the interviewer uses variant types of vocal backchannel. The expression mm is the most frequent one followed by zen.

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## 1. Introduction:

Language is a means of communication where people use it to communicate, to share information, and to interact with each other. It is also used to convey thought, ideas and feelings. A conversation is one form of communication. It is a social activity in which people socialize, develop and maintain their relationships with each other. It requires two or more individuals interacting with each other. So, successful conversation involves a mutual connection between the speaker and listener. Besides, language, eye gaze, gestures and silence are also used to explain many things through conversation. In conversation, there are some rules that guide participants to enable the conversation to run smoothly with a minimal gap and overlap. The most basic rule governing turn taking in conversation is only one party speaks at a time. Sometimes the speakers can't wait for transition relevance place (henceforth TRP) or the possible sentence completion to get the turn to talk. Thus, interruption occurs.

Interruption is considered a violation of turn-taking rules. A study of interruption was first done by West and Zimmerman (1975). They state that interruption is a violation of current speaker rights to complete a turn. Interruption may have different forms. People who interrupt can usually do their interruption in different ways due to lack of awareness of how to practice their interruption. As a result of this fact, there must be different types and functions of interruption occurring in conversation.

This study analyzes different types and functions of interruption in some political interviews in BBC Hard talk and Bil Harf Al-Wahid TV programmes to show how interruption typically occurs in the course of television news interviews and the purpose behind it. Besides, backchannel and its classification, in irregular turn-taking interruption cannot be avoided. It could appear in everyday conversation; Political interview is a part of it. This is the main problem upon which the study is based.

The Present study aims at: identifying and describing types and functions of interruption practiced by the interviewer and the interviewee in the two selected programmes "BBC HardTalk" and "Bil Harf el-Wahid". identifying backchannels which occur in several conversations of the two Programmes, and showing aspects of similarity and difference between the two programmes of Four interviews (BBC) Hard Talk and Bil Harf Al-Wahid) with regard to types and functions of interruption and backchannels.

This study hypothesizes that: Interruption phenomena is associated with the higher power speaker. Both English and Arabic TV programmes exhibit different types and functions of interruptions because of the controversy inside the interview. There is a difference between English and Arabic political programmes with regard to the backchannels; and their types and functions.

## 2. Conversation Analysis:

Conversation is one of the most predominant uses of human language. All human beings are involved in conversational interactions and human society rely on conversation in order to communicate. It has been

defined differently by different linguists. Liddicoat (2007:1), for example, shows that "Conversation" is an activity in which people socialize, develop and maintain their relationship with each other. Conversation analysis (henceforth CA) is "a study of talk-in-interaction" (Cameron, 2001:87). It is a distinctive approach to the study of language in use. It was developed from a work carried out by the sociologist Harvey Sacks and his colleagues Emmanuel Schegloff and Gail Jefferson in the early of 1960. Inevitably, Sacks, Schegloff and Jefferson (1974) are the pioneers of this approach of spoken interaction "CA" because they find it dealing with social interaction.

### **3. Turn-Taking:**

Turn-taking is one of the most noticeable features in conversation. Turns in conversation are stretches of language which vary in their structure. Turn-taking is a normative process which must be achieved by participants, i.e. turn-taking behavior is socially constructed behavior. Coulthord (1977:59) points out that one of the most fundamental facts about conversation is that the roles of the speaker and listener change with remarkably little overlap and few silences. Sacks et al (1974:703) state that turns in conversation are resources which are systematically distributed among speakers. They have conducted a general system for the organization of conversation.

Sacks et al (1974) model of turn-taking is shaped by two main components. These components include two main units: turn-constructional unit and turn-allocation units.

#### **3.1. Turn-Constructional Unit (TCU):**

Turn-constructional component refers to the way in which speakers shape their unit-type in turns. Holtgraves (2002:107) states that TCU is a feature which determines what constitutes a turn. Sacks (1974:702-704) states that turns may consist of many TCUs and the point where speakers change occurs usually at the end of each TCU, this point is called (TRP). According to Sacks et al (1974:702-704), TCUs vary from a single word to a complete sentence. They identify four types of TCUs in conversation which are clausal, phrasal, sentential and lexical units. They give signal about transition among participants and allow them to project their completion points.

#### **3.2. Turn-Allocation Unit:**

Turn-allocation unit demonstrates how the speakers organize their turns in real interaction. According to Liddicoat (2007:63), there are two basic ways in which turns at talk can be allocated at any TRP. For Sacks et al (1974:702), TRP "is the place in the turn at which it becomes relevant or legitimate for another party in the conversation to begin speaking". These two ways are as follows:

1. Current speaker allocates the next speaker.
2. Next speaker is allocated by self-selecting.

### **4. Turn-Taking Relation to Grammar and Prosody:**

Turn taking is one of the basic forms in the organization of conversation. CA does not study the syntactic form as a part of language

but, as a resource which designs the practice for organizing turns at talk. TCU is the starting point at which interlocutors build turn-at-talk. Turn constructional unit may be a single word, phrasal or clausal unit (Sidnell and Stivers, 2013:475-476). Schegloff (2007:3) states that grammar is one of the basic organizational resources in producing and recognizing turn-constructional units. Brown and Yule (1983:15) outline some characteristics of spoken language regarding syntax. They state that syntax of spoken language is less structured than written language as follows:

1. Spoken language has many incomplete sentences, simply a sequence of phrases.
2. Spoken language contains little subordination.
3. Conversational speech, active and declarative forms are normally found.

Ibrahim (2011:35) explains that interrogative statement has a role in giving and determining a sign that the turn is complete or possible completion, whereas, declarative statement does not, as in the following example:

**(5) Are you ready to go?**

Concerning prosody, participants in conversation not only project to take the turn on the basis of grammatical (syntactic) cues, but they can project a TCU on the basis of particular prosodic cues such as pauses, pitch, loudness and intensity. Prosody is a term used in supra segmental phonetics and phonology to refer to the variation in the pitch, loudness, and rhythm. It has a significant role in conversation through which speakers can take, maintain and yield the turn (Crystal, 2008:393).

According to Roach (2002:62), prosody refers to the features of speech which consist of sequences of more than one sound, these prosodic features include intonation, stress, rhythm, ... etc. He supposes that the speaker uses various prosodic features to indicate turn –end or elicit turn taking such as in question tags, the difference between falling and rising intonation signals to the listener what sort of answer is expected.

## **5. Some Types of Interactional Organization:**

### **5.1. Repair:**

Repair is an important strategy speaker use in interaction that is used to deal with troubles of hearing, producing and understanding at talk.

Sidnell (2010:110) defines repair as "a set of practice through which participants in conversation are able to address and resolve such problem of speaking, hearing or understanding" Sacks et al (1974:701) point out that the repair mechanism deals with turn taking errors and violation, e.g. if two parties find themselves talking at the same time, one of them will stop ultimately, and the trouble is resolved. Repair can be initiated by the speaker of trouble source or by someone else (hearer). The classification of repairs proposed by Sacks and his colleagues contain four models. They are:

**1. Self-Initiated Repair:** in which repair is initiated and resolved by the speaker of trouble source.

**2. Self-Initiated Other-Repair:** in which the speaker of trouble source initiates the repair, but the recipient resolves it.

**3. Other-Initiated Self-Repair:** in which the next speaker or the recipient of the trouble source indicates a problem and the speaker resolves it.

**4. Other-Initiated Other Repair:** in which the recipient trouble source both indicates a problem and resolves it (Sacks et al, 1977:368).

### **5.2. Adjacency Pairs:**

Adjacency pairs (henceforth APs) are the basic structure unit in conversation. They are deeply inter-related with turn-taking organization as techniques for selecting a next speaker.

Richard et al (1992:7) define APs as a "sequence of two related utterances by two different speakers, the second utterance is always a response to the first". AP is a kind of paired utterances of which question-answer, greeting-greeting, offer-acceptance, are prototypical (Liddicoat, 2007 :107).

#### **Question-answer:**

John: What time's it?

Betty: Three uh ciock.

#### **Greeting-greeting:**

Amy: Hallow

Jean: Hi

Each of the examples above, is composed of two ordered turns. These two turns are relevant to each other, the first turn institutes some action and makes some next action relevant. Thus, the basic sequence of APS are composed of the first pair part (hence forth FPP) and the second pair part (henceforth SPP).

### **5.3. Preference Organization:**

Preference organization is relevant to the notion of APs which consists of two parts. The FPP and the SPP. Preference organization is concerned with (SPP) which constitutes an answers to (FPP). These answers can be preferred or dispreferred. These two concepts are fundamentally social in their nature. They express the idea that some responses are problematic to the social relationship while the others are not. For example, we have two possibilities for invitation:

Invitation: Accept-Preferred

Decline-Dispreferred (Liddicoat ,2007:111)

Pomerantz (cited in Schegloff, 2007:59) views that preference organization focuses on speaker's response to the first part, it can be preference or dispreference. Levinson (1983:333) states that preference organization is divided into two second parts: Those which are preferred and those dispreferred. They are different from each other. For example, if the first part is a request, the preferred second part tends to accept, while the dispreferred second part on the other hand tends to refuse. He proposed a general pattern of preferred and dis-preferred structure as follows:



**Table (2.1) Levinson's (1983) General Pattern of Preferred and Dispreferred Structure**

First Part	Second Part	
	Preferred	Dispreferred
Request	Acceptance	Refusal
Offer/Invite	Acceptance	Refusal
Assessment	Agreement	Disagreement
Question	Expected Answer	Un expected Answer
Blame	Denial	Admission

**5.4. Backchannel: Listener Activity:**

The use of backchannel (henceforth BCK) items make the flow of the conversation run smoothly. BCK is the way the participants use to indicate that they are listening to the current speaker. The term 'BCK' was introduced in the context of turn taking by Victor Yngve (1970) to cover messages such as "mm-hmm" and "head nods" to indicate that both the person who has the turn and his partner are simultaneously engaged in both speaking and listening. Yule (1996:127) argues that there are two types of BCKs. They are:

- **The vocal BCK:** it can be verbal expression such as well, okay, yes or variant sounds like uhm, huh, or laugh.
- **The non-vocal BCK:** it can be described by head nods, smiles, and other facial expressions and gestures.

In addition, Gardner (2001:2-3) classifies BCKs based on their function into various types:

1. Continuers-which are short listener responses functioning to keep the floor open for the current speaker to continue speaking, e.g *mm, hm, uh* and *huh*.
2. Acknowledgement tokens which are distinguished by falling intonation which shows understanding and hearing to the current speaker, e.g. *Mm, Yeah*.
3. Newsmakers –marking what the prior speaker has said as a newsworthy in some way, e.g. *oh, really and right*.
4. A change of activity which marks the transition for a new activity or topic, e.g. *okay* and *alright*.
5. Assessment i.e. evaluating the talk of the current speaker, e.g. *great, awesome, ... etc*.
6. Brief questions for clarification such as *who? Or which book do you mean*.

**5.5. Floor Management and Turn taking Strategies:**

In CA, the term *floor* was first defined by Sacks (1972) as a ticket, that is a right to begin to talk or to make a first statement. For example, by asking a question such as:

**(20) You Know What?**

The speaker get a ticket to begin to talk (Hayashi, 1996:30).

According to Wardhaugh (2006: 301), 'floor management' means who of the participants has the right to speak. Two types of floor are distinguished by Tannen (1993:9). The single floor and collaborative floor.

The former is characterized by one speaker holds the floor, while others listen and response to the first speaker. Whereas, the latter is characterized by all members sharing in the ongoing conversation.

Regarding turn taking strategies, a successful management and control of turn taking in conversation requires a number of strategies. Let's considers these strategies as follows:

#### **5.5.1. Holding the Turn Strategy:**

When one would like to indicate that he/ she does not finish speaking and intends to continue his/her turn, strategies for holding the turn are employed. To hold the turn means to carry on talking (Stenstrom,1994:70). He states that there are some devices to help the speaker to avoid a breakdown and take over the turn, such as pauses and verbal fillers that are used by the speakers to indicate that they have more to contribute.

Rising a pitch at the end of TCU can be considered as a way to indicate the desire to continue speaking by the speaker who has more to add (McCarthy,1991:10).

#### **5.5.2. Yielding the Turn Strategy:**

Strategies for yielding the turn allow for speakers to relinquish of their turn or to pass the ball to someone else. Turn yielding strategies are used by the current speaker to give a hint to the second speaker to begin speaking (Ibrahim, 2011:19-20).

### **6. Turn-Taking Irregularities (Overlap and Interruption):**

#### **6.1. Overlapping Talk:**

Overlap is an act of interruption by which two voices are heard at the same time. Tannen (1990:78) views that "overlap is an act of interruption without leaving any pause". According to Coates (1986:99), overlaps are instances of slight over expectation made by the next speaker instead of beginning to speak immediately following the current speaker's turn, and the next speaker begins to speak at the end of the current speaker's turn, overlapping the last word (or part of it).

Concerning types of overlap, Schegloff (2000:4-6) views two types of overlapping talk:

1. Competitive overlap (problematic) in which the next speaker tries to take the floor before the current speaker reaching TRP.
2. Non-competitive overlap (un problematic) in which the next speaker does not challenge to take the floor. It begins beyond TRP.

#### **6.2. Interrupting Talk:**

In a conversation, sometimes the speakers can't wait for the TRP or the possible sentence completion to get the turn to talk. Thus, interruption occurs. Coates (2004:113-114) states that interruptions are violations of turn taking when the next speaker begins to talk while the current speaker is still speaking, and the current speaker turns could not be defined as the last word. A study of interruption was first done by West and Zimmerman's (1975 :125). They state that "interruptions are just violations of current speaker's rights to complete a turn".

### 6.2.1. Types of Interruption:

Interruption can be categorized into types and functions. Ferguson (1977) suggests four types of interruption:

- **Simple interruption:** in which simultaneous speech happens, and before the current speaker completes his/her utterance, the interrupter takes the floor. The interrupter succeeds to violate the interruptee's talk, so the interruptee stops his/her speak.

**(27) A: I Know What You Thought I Know You:**

**B: Ya Still See Her Any More:** (Zimmerman & West, 1975:114)

In this conversation, simple interruption occurs when A cannot complete his utterance and he decides to stop and listen to B speech.

**2. Overlap interruption:** in overlap interruption the floor is shared between the participants because the simultaneous speech is present at the same time and the original speaker manages to finish his/her utterance.

**(28) LG: I wonder whether people feel that this because the Labour party has run out of some steam. It hasn't so many new ideas I think**  
**JC: I think it's because they a, ah answers to what are, gross over claims Over by the conservative party** (Beattie, 1982:102):

Here, the conversation above shows overlap interruption because there is simultaneous speech occurs between LG and JC. JC interrupts LG because he wants to say his opinion about the topic, but LG refuses to yield the floor and completes his utterance before turn taking occurs.

**3. Butting-in Interruption:** This type also involves simultaneous speech. There is no turn exchange in this type of interruption since when the interrupter tries to interrupt the first speaker, he/ she intends to stop his/her utterance because the interruptee keeps saying his /her words ignoring the interrupter's interruption. To make the explanation clear let's consider the following example (Marche & Peterson, 1993:395).

**(29) S1: Although I don't think anybody would do that unless they're going against what she says and I:**

**S2: ya, but:**

**S1: Can't See Anybody Going Against That:**

In this conversation, the interrupter S2 does not succeed in obtaining the floor from S1. He cannot say his opinion fully because S1 still keeps the floor and continues his speech and there is no disturbance from S2. This kind of interruption is considered as unsuccessful interruption because the turn taking does not occur and the interrupter fails to take the floor.

**4. Silent interruption:** There is no simultaneous speech, but turn taking occurs because of the current speaker silence before finishing his/her utterance. When he pauses, the new speaker takes the floor. The conversation below shows this type of interruption:

**(30) S1: But before you knew all this stuff, before you knew that she was (Pause)**

**S2: that's was tina** (Marche & Peterson, 1993:395)



In this conversation, there is no simultaneous speech, but the turn exchange occurs. When S1 pauses for a while, S2 takes the floor to say her response where as the S1 utterance remain incomplete.

### 6.2.2. Functions of Interruption:

Concerning functions of interruption, Murata (1994:101) suggests two types of interruption: **cooperative interruption** and **competitive/intrusive interruption**. For cooperative interruption, the interrupter shows help, interest, enthuses and listens to the current speaker topic by coordinating on an ongoing conversation and providing feedback, even when the current speaker does not complete his/her utterance. Kenndy and Camden (cited in Li Hanzhi, 2001:269) classify cooperative interruption into two subcategories **agreement** and **clarification**; and Hanzhi Li adds another category that is **assistance**.

**A) Agreement:** agreement function appears when the listener has the same opinion as the current speaker. He/she may interrupt to show his /her agreement or supportive idea (Beaumont et al, 2001:431).

**B) Clarification:** the interrupter may not be sure about the speaker's topic. So, he/she interrupts him /her to request clarification (Beaumont et al, 2001:431).

**C) Assistance:** the interrupter perceives that the speaker needs help to complete his/her utterance (Li et al.,2005:252).

The second type of interruption function is categorized as intrusive/competitive interruption. Goldberg (1990:896) describes this type as an impolite, disruptive, and inappropriate act, in which the interrupter is being aggressive, rude, and poses a threat towards other participants. Murata suggests three subcategories: **disagreement, floor taking, and topic change**. Then, Kenndy and Camden develop the intrusive interruption subcategories by adding **tangentialization** (Li Hanz,2001 :269). Let's consider these sub-categories in details:

**A) Disagreement:** Disagreement appears when the listener does not agree with the speaker's utterance. Therefore, he interrupts him/her to deliver his/her opposing opinion (Beaumont et al, 2001:431).

**B) Floor Taking:** the interrupter wants to develop the topic. He/she takes the floor from the current speaker to add his opinion without any indication to change the topic (ibid).

**C)Topic-Change:** the interrupter intends to change the topic of the current speaker after successfully taking the floor. This category could also occur when the interrupter introduces a new different topic to the current speaker (ibid:432).

**D) Tangentialization:** the interrupter summarizes what the speaker wants to say before the message is delivered completely. By interrupting, the listener prevents himself /herself from listening to information that has s/he heard before and already known to him/her (ibid).

The last function of interruption can be categorized as a neutral interruption. (James and Clarke, 1993:240) state that interruption can be neither disruptive nor supportive in function. It typically occurs in the situation when the interrupter warns the current speaker about something

that requires immediate attention and when the interrupter wrongly begins his/her turn while the current speaker has not finished his/her turn. The following example clarifies the neutral function of interruption:

**(36) A: I'm just gonna take this:**

**B: wait! Don't touch that, it's hot! you may burn Your hand!**

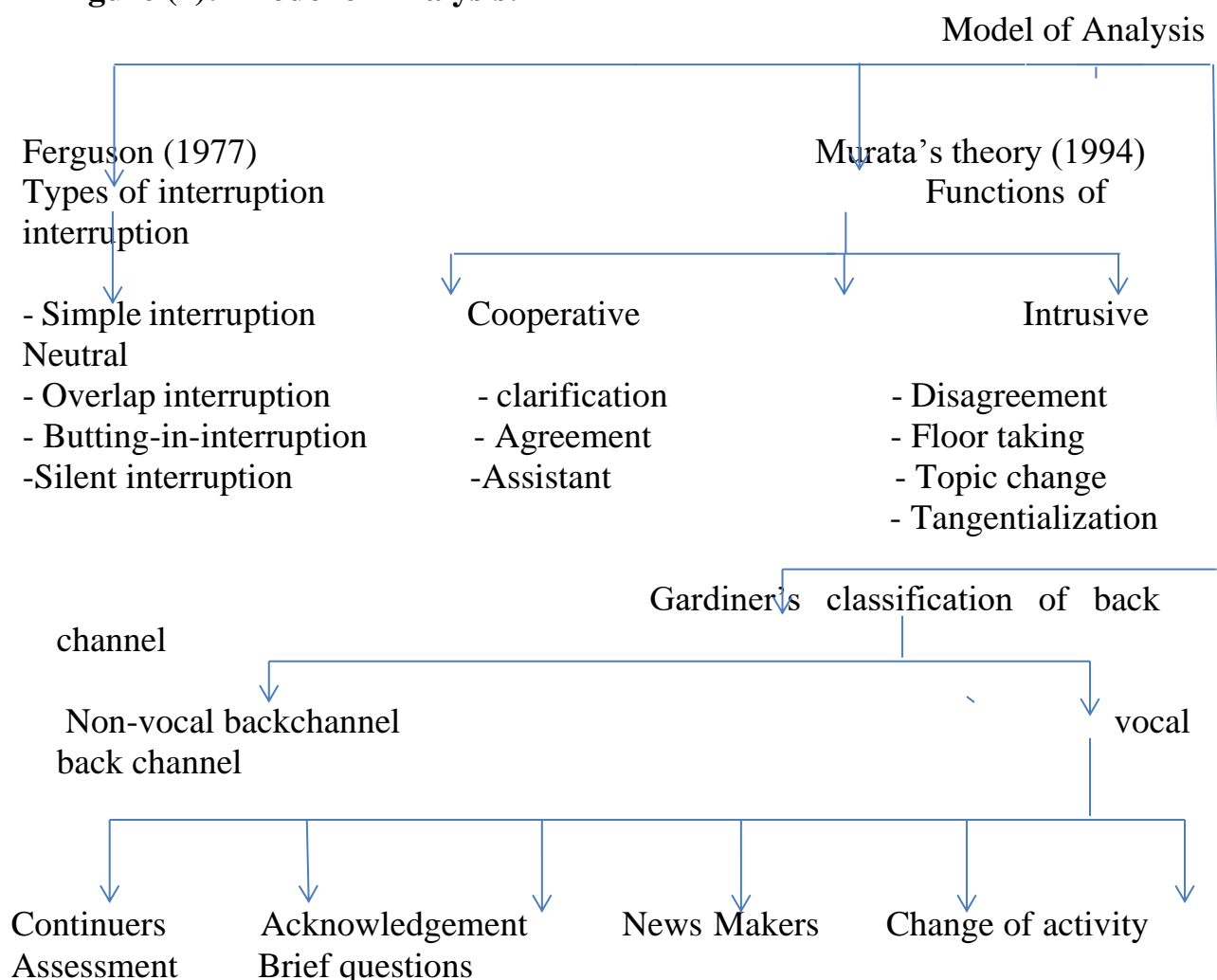
(James and Clarke, 1993: 240):

In this example, neutral interruption is noticed when B initiates his interruption while the interruptee A plans to take something that can transfer hot. To save the A from any possible harm, B cuts off A while he /she is expressing his/her intention. In this case, the interruption categorized as neutral because the interrupter just wants to warn the interruptee about something which needs immediate action.

## 7. The Model Adopted:

Generally, this study is investigated under the umbrella of conversation analysis (CA) as a main method. CA is concerned with the organization of interaction. This study makes use of a number of writings in the field of CA. It aims at finding types and functions of interruption and their occurrence based on Ferguson's (1977) classification of interruption '*Simultaneous Speech, Interruptions and Dominance*', Murata's theory (1994) in his writing *Intrusive or Co-operative? A Cross Cultural Study of Interruption*, and to find types of backchannel based on gardner's (2001) classification of backchannels in *When Listener Talk*.

**Figure (1): Model of Analysis:**



## 8. Data Analysis:

### 8.1. First Interview: Stephen Sacker with Jeremy Hunt:

This interview is of Jeremy Hunt (JH) as the guest with Stephen Sacker (SS) as the host in the TV programme **BBC Hard Talk**. JH is one of Britain's top diplomat, UK Foreign Secretary. The context is political and the topics variant between political and formal. The two participants are of the same genders. This interview was aired on Jun 5, 2019.

Table (1) Analysis of the First Interview:

Line N.	Types of Interruption	Functions of Interruption								BCK	Discussion
		Cooperative			Intrusive				Neutral		
		CL A	AG R	AS S	DI S	FL O	TO P	TA N			
39-42	Simple Interruption				√						In these lines ,simple interruption is noticed when the IR (SS) breaks in the explanation of IE (JH) without waiting for IE to finish his utterance expressing disagreement to the IE (JH) statement saying: <i>we haven 't had a cabinet minister of the seniority fired for more than 30 years and we are talking about the betrayal of the confidence ...I repeat about disarray in your government today?). see appendix and asking more information specifically about disarray inside the walls of National Security council.</i>
67-69	Overlapped Interruption								√		In these lines, the overlapped interruption occurs because the IR (SS) begins his speech in the mid of IE utterance. It is categorized as a neutral interruption because the IR just

											wants the IE to the to notify
Line N.	Types of Interruption	Functions of Interruption								BCK	Discussion
		Cooperative			Intrusive				Neutral		
		CL A	AG R	AS S	DI S	FL O	TO P	TA N			
67-69	...(Comp).										IE to the word of the prime minister saying: <i>have heard the prime minister 's word</i> .To gain more information without any indication to take the floor.
100										Right	In these lines, the IR marks the utterance of IE as a newsworthy by using vocal back channel <i>Right</i>
103-115-126-136-195-221-250-278										Head nodes and eye contact	Whereas IR is talking, the IE nodes his head and blinks his eyes. This reaction indicates that he pays attention and listens to what IR says
129-137	Simple Interruption					√					In these lines, simple interruption occurs when the interviewer (SS) breaks in the mid explanation of the interviewee (JH) about the role of US in the world, and successes in grabbing the floor asking the interviewee about the importance of US decisions to him saying: <i>There is a super power and the super power is telling us you cannot use 5g Hauwei in the 5g network and expect to continue the close security ....)</i> .
Line N.	Types	Functions of Interruption								BCK	Discussion

	of Interrupti on	Cooperative			Intrusive				Neut ral		
		CL A	AG R	AS S	DI S	FL O	TO P	TA N			
138- 142	Simple Interruptio n						√				In these lines, the topic change function of interruption is presented when the interviewer (SS) interrupts the interviewee (JH) by saying: <i>It's clear it's clear...</i> twice and states another issue. Sacker performs the interruption because he thinks that the interviewee's message is already known to him. So, he prevents Jeremy Hunt (IE) from talking by interrupting him and changing the topic immediately.
167- 183- 184	Butting-in Interruptio n					√					Butting- in interruption is noticed in these lines when the IE 's (JH) utterance is interrupted by the IRs (SS) who interrupts him. IR who wants to take the floor cannot state fully his opinion because the interruptee (JH) continues his talk about Britain by rising his voice ignoring the interrupter's interruption saying: <i>But secondly and I think relating to the values point you make people...</i> . So, turn exchange does not occur.

**NOTE: Types of interruption Categories of interruption**

**SIM= Simple Interruption Cooperative Interruption Intrusive Interruption**

**OVE= Overlap Interruption**

**DIS= Disagreement**

**CLA= Clarification**

**FLO= Floor taking**



**BUT= Butting-in Interruption****TOP= Topic change****SIL= Silent interruption****AGR=Agreement****TAN= Tangentialization****ASS=Assistant****8.2. Second Interview: Ahmed Mulla Talal with Saleh Al-Mutlak:**

This interview is of Dr. Saleh Al-Mutlak as the guest with Ahmed Mulla Talal as the host in the TV programme **Bel Harf Al- Wahid**. The guest (Saleh Al- Mutlak) is one who served many positions in the new government. He is a Deputy speaker of the prime minister previously and the premier of the Iraqi front for the National Discussion. The context is political and the topics are vary between political and formal and personal. This interview was aired on May 8, 2019. Let's consider the following table which shows the detailed analysis of the second Iraqi-Arabic interview:

**Table (2) Analysis of the Second Interview:**

Line N.	Types of Interruption	Functions of Interruption								BC K	Discussion
		Cooperative			Intrusive				Neutral		
		CLA	AGR	ASS	DIS	FO	TOP	TAN			
40-41-42-43	Simple interruption					√					In these lines, simple interruption is noticed because the IR (Ahmed Mulla) begins his interruption before the IE reaches the possible completion .This is An instance of interruption which fulfills floor-taking function because the IR succeeds in taking the floor expressing his opinion in relation to the matter under discussion without any intention to change the topic saying IR : <i>Al Daawa party who ruled Iraq from 2005-2018 also opposed the overthrow of the regime in this way.</i> م. ق: حزب الدعوة الي حكم العراق ٢٠١٨-٢٠٠٥ ايضا"كان معارض لاسقاط النظام بهذه الطريقه.
Line N.	Types of Interruption	Functions of Interruption								BC K	Discussion
		Cooperative			Intrusive				Neutral		
		CLA	AGR	ASS	DIS	FO	TOP	TAN			

58- 59- 60- 61- 62	Butting-in Interruption					√					In these lines butting-in interruption is presented when the IE (Saleh Al-Mutlak) goes on with his speech in spite of the interruption started by the IR (Ahmed–Mulla Talal) .While the IE expresses his opinion about the rate of Iraqi people who agree on the American decision for stopping Iranian expansion in the Iraqi lands. Simultaneous speech occurs, but IE seems not to let the IR to take the floor saying: <b>98-99 of the west governorates agree on this topic .</b> مرقى: ٩٨ - ٩٩ بالمية من المحافظات الغربية على هذا الموضوع. راضيه Interruption in this situation performs floor taking function.
10- 11- 17 18- 32 46- 49 58- 64 72- 131- 160- 175- 190- 191-										<i>mm</i>	In these lines, the IR gives these backchannel as a signal to the IE to complete his utterance fully without any indication to take the floor ( <i>mm</i> - vocal backchannel is categorized as continuers) .
Line N.	Types of Interruption	Functions of Interruption								BC K	Discussion
		Cooperative			Intrusive				Neutral		
		CLA	AG R	AS S	DI S	FL O	TO P	TA N			

71-74	Simple Interruption				√						<p>In this dialogue, simple interruption is noticed. It performs disagreement function of interruption. The IR (Ahmed Al – Mulla Talal ) breaks off the IE speech while he talks about keeping the Iraq away from the American –Iranian Struggle leaving IEs utterance incomplete, expressing his opposing opinion in relation to the issue being discussed by IE dr. Saleh Al-Mutlak saying: IR: <i>They can’t doctor</i></p> <p><i>IE: may be they can’t</i></p> <p><i>IR: No No they can’t doctor by virtue of the topic imposer itself...)</i></p> <p>م.ق: ميكدرن ض: ها! يجوز ميكدرن</p> <p>م.ق: لا لا ميكدرن بحكم الموضوع فارض نفسه .....</p>
87-88-89-90-	Overlapped Interruption	√									<p>In this dialogue , overlapped interruption is presented when the IR (Ahmed-Mulla) begins his speech before the IE ( Dr. Saleh Al- Mutlak) ends his statement. As a result , simultaneous speech occurs and the IR asks more clarification about the matter being discussed saying:</p> <p><i>Define me Iran</i></p> <p><i>Arms to tell you can pull them or not?</i></p>
Line N.	Types of Interruption	Functions of Interruption								BC K	Discussion
		Cooperative			Intrusive				Neutral		
		CLA	AGR	ASS	DISS	FLAG	TOP	TAN			

87- 88- 89- 90-	Overlapped interruption	√									م.ق: عرفلي اذرع ايران حتى اكولك تكدر تسحبهم لو لا ؟ This is an instance of interruption which describes a clarification function of interruption IR just wants a clarification and gives the floor back to the IE without any intention to take the floor or change the topic.
49- 83- 95- 97- 130- 134- 135- 190- 196- 201- 206-										Zen	These vocal back channels used by the IR are categorized as (change of activity ). It refers to the transition for a new topic and keeps the floor open to the IE to speak fully .It resembles the word okay – alright in English.
97 142										Jayid Jayid  good	The IR (Ahmed Mulla) uses the vocal back channel to evaluate the IE speech about the arms of Iran in Iraq and to assess his honest in answering the question freely.
Line N.	Types of Interruption	Functions of Interruption								BCK	Discussion
		Cooperative			Intrusive				Neutral		
		CLA	AGR	AS	DIS	FO	TOP	TAN			

92- 93- 94-										<b>Brief question</b>	In this dialogue ,a brief question used by the IR is categorized as kind of backchannel which performs a clarification function. It indicates the IR attention about topic under discussion and asking more clarification saying : <i>who are they ?</i> م.ق: الي همه منو؟
134- 135- 136- 137- 138- 139	Simple interruption					√					In this dialogue , simple interruption is presented when the IR (Ahmed Mulla ) succeeds in taking the floor from the IE (Saleh Al- Mutlak) before reaching possible completion and adds his comment in relation to the topic , asks more information to develop discussion without any indication to change it. saying : <i>All witness that the performance of muhammed Al-Halbousi is National, National ambitious personality who is capable of leading a project , Tell me about your position in this project? .</i>  م.ق: الكل يشهد ان اداء السيد محمد الحلبوسي اداء وطني ,شخصيه طموحه وطنيه قادر ان يقود مشروع , احبيلي موقعك في هذا المشروع

### 9. A Comparison Between the Two Political TV Programmes:

Based on the analysis of BBC Hard Talk and Bil Harf Al-Wahid Political TV Programmes, the following findings are revealed.

1. Both programmes are characterized as a face to face interaction without any previous preparation between the IR and IE about the agenda of topics discussed. As a result, many instances of interruption occur.



2. The relaxed and funny atmosphere is highly noticed between the IR and IE in "Bil Harf Al-Wahid" TV programme. On the contrary the whole atmosphere of "BBC Hard Talk" is stressed and less fun.
3. In "Bil Harf Al-Wahid" TV programme, the IR mostly used a strategy of provocation by annoying the IE to develop the whole discussion. While, in "BBC Hard Talk" this strategy is less frequent.
4. The participants of both programmes "Bil Harf Al-Wahid" and "BBC Hard Talk" use different types of interruption in political context to achieve different functions.
5. In "Bil Harf Al-Wahid" TV programme, all types of interruption happened. While in "BBC Hard Talk" not all types of interruption occur. Silent interruption does not occur.
6. In "Bil Harf Al-Wahid" and "BBC Hard Talk" TV programmes, most instances of interruption are associated with IR.
7. There is a difference in the use of backchannel concerning the two programmes. In Iraqi programme the vocal backchannel is highly presented. On the contrary non vocal backchannel in "BBC Hard Talk" TV programme has the higher frequency than vocal expression especially head nods.
8. In both programmes "Bil Harf Al-Wahid and BBC Hard Talk", floor taking sub-category has the greatest rate of occurrence.
9. In both programmes, the IR employs intrusive interruption more than cooperative one.

## 10. Conclusions:

The study has revealed the following conclusions:

1. Most instances of interruption which occurred in both programmes "BBC HardTalk" and "Bil Harf Al-Wahid" are associated with the interviewer (IR) who has the main role in controlling the whole discussion, and this achieves the first hypothesis.
2. The interviewer interruption has essential role in succeeding the questions by expressing discrepancy to the interviewee response.
3. Different functions of interruption are conveyed within this study; they are cooperative, intrusive and neutral. In both programmes intrusive interruption has the highest rate of occurrence this belong to the argument nature of this genre of institutional talk. Also, each participant attempts to express his opinion about the issues under discussion as soon as possible. While neutral interruption function has the lowest rate.
4. Several Pragmatic meanings are conveyed by using different backchannels in both programmes such as clarification, evaluation, continuation, hearing and transition towards a new topic. This reveals the importance of backchannel strategy to support the IE utterance.
5. One of the important conclusions is that the same backchannel is used for different functions and meanings such as *zen* and *mm which* appeared in different meanings in the same interview by the same interviewer.
6. Repeating the same backchannel one after the other results in having a different meaning such as *zen zen* which results in giving the intention of

changing the topic although this backchannel is used for other meanings when they are not repeated.

7. This study reveals that interruption has a communicative value portraying aspect of adverse attitude to the issue under discussion between the IR and IE in political interviews.

8. Political context, topics and their content, and interactional responses are represented the main factors that affect the interruption types and functions conveyed in both programmes.

9. Both programmes are characterized by flexible turn taking systems because, the IR and IE can interrupt and take the floor and start talking about any issue he/she wants.

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