Unveiling Interaction Dynamics: Exploring Novel Turn-Taking Strategies In The Ellen Degeneres Show

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Abstract

This study examines turn-taking methods in Hillary Clinton and Ellen DeGenere's interactions on The Ellen Show. More specifically, the research examines how these strategies improve speech flow. These approaches are crucial to conversational coherence and order. Ellen DeGeneres and Hillary Clinton used different turn-taking strategies in their interactions, and this study identifies and analyzes them. Conversation analysis defines turn-taking as switching roles between speaker and listener after each turn (Sacks, Schegloff, & Jefferson 1984). This study used qualitative data from YouTube footage of Hillary Clinton's guest appearances on The Ellen Show. These discussion transcripts were meticulously analyzed using Miles and Huberman (1994) and Saldana (2016) frameworks. The data show that these talks use three main turn-taking methods. These methods are "taking the floor," "holding the floor," and "yielding the floor," where a person [1]gives up their turn to let another speak. Notably, "yielding the floor" was the most common approach, accounting for 52% (66.6% of all instances). Due to its prevalence, efficient communication dynamics are advised, making it easy for Ellen DeGeneres to regulate the conversation and giving Hillary Clinton several chances to respond and interact authentically. In conclusion, this research illuminates the intricate mechanics of turn-taking in broadcast interviews. These data also show that these strategies help presenters and visitors interact coherently and engagingly.

Keywords: conversation analysis, Ellen DeGeneres, Hillary Clinton, talk show, turn-taking strategies

Introduction

"The Ellen Show" with Hillary Clinton is a well-known daytime talk program that is broadcast on the Columbia Broadcasting System. The purpose of this study was to investigate the turn-taking tactics that are utilized on the show. The television program, which kicked off in 2003 and has already aired 19 seasons, has been a hit in the United States for almost twenty years. Ellen DeGeneres is a well-known American comedian, television host, actor, and writer. She is also well-regarded for her kindness and her ability to encourage others to be themselves. A lawyer and politician from the United States, Hillary Clinton served as a senator from the United States from 2001 to 2009 and as secretary of state from 2009 to 2013 during the administration of Presidential candidate Barack Obama.

Interviews involve asking and answering questions to gather information or assess qualifications. It can be used for research, job interviews, and celebrity discussion programs.

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The researcher chose Hillary Clinton's interview because of her power as the most powerful and dominant person in the US, her tendency to give lengthy responses or get off topic, and her tendency to overlap with her interviewee's activities.

Conversation analysis studies how people communicate, take turns, interpret meaning, and understand one other. It was created to study spoken languages and help us understand discourse patterns and concepts. It also emphasizes understanding the various ways people talk and determining the interlocutor's position or turn-taking, which affects discussion coordination. In "The Ellen Show" episode featuring Hillary Clinton, this study examines turn-taking tactics. The study will emphasize discussion and the interviewer's role in it. Conversation requires taking turns so speakers and listeners can play diverse roles. To maintain a fair and cooperative conversation, participants should be aware of the different ways to take turns. This study analyzes conversation data to examine turn-taking. Turn to speak was developed from study on how people shift their oral thinking.

Turn-taking strategies include taking, losing, and keeping the floor. The floor is taken when someone speaks without waiting their turn in a discussion or argument. Holding the floor means speaking uninterrupted, whereas taking it means speaking longer. This allows the speaker to engage the audience with their thoughts, feelings, and knowledge. Someone who takes the floor immediately draws attention and announces themselves. Respect and allowing place for others to speak include giving up the chance to speak. This is "yielding the floor."

These turn-taking skills are crucial for a balanced and cooperative conversation. This study analyzes successful talk show turn-taking tactics for seamless talks.

The significance of the study lies in its contribution to discourse analysis, specifically the turn-taking techniques used by Ellen DeGeneres on her talk show. It seeks to give useful information and knowledge about how the conversation flows in this particular setting by evaluating the laws of turn-taking methods. Researchers, linguists, and professionals interested in discourse analysis and communication techniques might benefit from the study's findings, which provide insights into the dynamics of communication in talk shows.

In practice, this study should provide information on form turn-taking strategies of host and guest in a conversation and can be used in daily conversations. However, this research cannot just focus on turn-taking strategies. The study is limited to the effectiveness of turn-taking strategies and which types of turn-taking strategies are used in this show. After this study, participants will be able to understand the strategies and how to make conversations well.

Research Question

- What types of conversational turn-taking strategies are employed in the presentation format of the Ellen DeGeneres Show?

Literature Review

Turn-taking in talk shows is a crucial aspect of the conversation process, where the host controls the turn and the guest receives it. The host must be knowledgeable and understand the program's goal to maintain the conversation. In talk shows, guests and hosts have equal relations, and the host gives the guests their turn to give opinions and information. Participants need to be aware of when to begin a topic and when to remain silent in order to facilitate talks that are both organized and comprehensive. As a dynamic interaction that is formed by linguistic, cultural, and social characteristics, turn-taking is a dynamic interaction. The application of turn-taking is dependent on the duration of the topic as well as the personalities of the participants. Turn-taking methods can be broken down into three categories: taking the floor, yielding the floor, and holding the floor.

One of the most important aspects of conversation analysis is the investigation of turn-taking. When it comes to turn-taking, one of the most essential features is the occurrence of interruptive overlaps, which take place when one person talks before another person has finished their turn. The "Framework of Conversation Analysis" (CA) is a framework that analyzes how individuals use language in a conversational setting to continue discussion by adhering to turn-taking rules such as yielding and holding the turn. The transitions that take place in a conversation are referred to as Transition Relevance Places (TRPs), and they normally take place at particular or clearly defined moments. CA examines how speakers express themselves and anticipate straightforward responses. scholars have increasingly turned to Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to uncover the underlying paradoxes embedded within these frameworks. Khan et al. (2017) highlighted the ideological discursivity. Ramzan and Khan (2019) discussed the stereotyped ideological construction and Bhutto and Ramzan (2021) elucidated the gender issues and feminine injustice in Pakistan. Ramzan et al (2020) have explained that speech act theory is useful for ideological purposes. Nawaz et al. (2021) have discussed the ideological representation in speech acts. Ramzan et al. (2023) align the link between social media usage and academic achievements and performance. Ramzan et al (2023) used the power of social media and collaborative strategies of influencers to enhance ESL learning. Ramzan et al. (2023) checked ESL learner motivation internal structures and classroom environment. Chen and Ramzan (2024) used social media to promote English learning. Language challenges are trouble for new students along that student interaction affects (Akram & Abdelrady, 2023; Javaid et al., 2024). Ramzan and Alahmadi (2024) discussed syntax instructions.

These ideas were first formalized by Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson (1974), who proposed that conversation is structured in turns, with speakers taking turns at TRPs. They were among the first to formalize these aspects of conversation. After researching the talk show genre, Heritage and Greatbatch (1986) discovered that the importance of turn-taking in accomplishing the interactional aims of the show was a significant finding. Clayman (1992) explored the mechanics of turn-taking in news interviews, focusing on the interaction between journalists and politicians. He also highlighted the complexities of the relationship. Hutchby (1996) investigated talk radio and the mechanics of turn-taking within this setting. He placed an emphasis on the function of the presenter in managing conversations. An examination of the conversational tone of television interviews was conducted by Tolson (2001), who also discussed the ways in which turn-taking is utilized to generate a story. The concepts of turn-taking were included in the thorough summary of conversation analysis that was offered by Liddicoat (2007). Within the context of interaction, Schegloff (2007) investigated sequence structure and delved into the complexities of turn-taking. An introduction to conversation analysis was provided by Sidnell (2010), who covered core topics such as turn-taking. An investigation on turn-taking was carried out by Stivers et al. (2009), who undertook a cross-linguistic study that revealed both universal and language-specific characteristics. In their 2010 article, Enfield, Stivers, and Levinson investigated the cognitive roots of turn-taking in human communication. Heritage and Clayman (2010) conducted an investigation of the interaction that takes place between hosts and guests during political interviews. They focused on the strategic utilization of turn-taking. According to Mondada (2013), the multimodal components of turn-taking, which include gestures and other non-verbal indicators, were investigated. A discussion was held by Ford, Fox, and Thompson (2013) regarding the grammar of turn-taking and its influence on the flow of discourse. In their study, Drew and Couper-Kuhlen (2014) offered some insights into the prosody of turn-taking, with a particular focus on the impact that intonation plays. Haugh and Chang (2019) did study on the cultural variations in turn-taking, with a special emphasis on applications in East Asian contexts. Their findings were published in the year 2019. In order to undertake the study of the turn-taking strategies that were applied in Ellen DeGeneres' talk show with Hillary Clinton, a mixed style of analysis was utilized. As a foundation for the theoretical framework that was utilized in this investigation, this analysis served as the basis. According to the findings of the research, there are three basic

categories that can be used to classify turn-taking approaches. These categories include taking the floor, holding the floor, and relinquishing the floor. These categories are based on the interactions that took place between Obama and Clinton.

In the course of their discussions, Ellen DeGeneres and Hillary Clinton used a variety of turn-taking tactics. The purpose of this research is to shed light on how these methods contribute to the coherence and dynamics of the dialogue by providing insights into the sorts of turn-taking strategies their conversations utilized.

Methodology

The research investigated the turn-taking methods that Hillary Clinton employed when appearing on "The Ellen Show." The objective of the mixed approach is to notice and characterize the traits, frequencies, and categories that are present in theoretical data. For the study, a video interview from the YouTube channel known as "The Ellen Show" was utilized to gather, analyze, show, verify, and ultimately result in conclusions. Three characteristics of turn-taking methods were used to categorize the data. These include taking the floor, relinquishing the floor, and holding the floor. There was a finding made on the percentage of turn-taking tactics utilized by both the host, Ellen DeGeneres, and the guest, Hillary Clinton. It was the purpose of this study to get a more in-depth comprehension of turn-taking tactics and how they are utilized by both the guests and the host on "The Ellen Show."

A mixed-method approach was used for the study design, and the primary focus was on conducting a comprehensive and in-depth investigation of the turn-taking tactics utilized on the Ellen talk show. Furthermore, the technique contains the framework for data analysis that was developed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana. This framework enables the successful classification and interpretation of turn-taking tactics that were observed throughout the discussion. The process for collecting data consisted of employing the Documentation method, which entails categorizing written items that are associated with the study subject.

This method allowed the researchers to systematically analyze the collected data, identifying patterns and types of turn-taking strategies used in the conversation.

Data Analysis and Findings

Data after collection was classified according to turn-taking strategies. In this study, the researcher analyzed the data based on 3 aspects of turn-taking strategies from Mey (2002). They are taking the floor, yielding the floor and holding the Floor. After the identification of data researcher separated and counted all the turns. The turn changed when Ellen DeGeneres finished giving a question or opinion and Hillary Clinton took her turn by providing answers. The analysis of total turn-taking is provided in the table below.

Table 1.1 Percentage of total turn-taking

Number	Speaker	Turn-taking	Percentage
01	Ellen DeGeneres	34	51.5
02	Hillary Clinton	32	48.4
	Total	66	100

Table 1.1 shows that Ellen DeGeneres had more turns than Hillary Clinton. Ellen DeGeneres
had 34 turns (51.5%) while Hillary Clinton had 32 turns (48.4 %). The researcher further analyzed the percentage of every turn-taking strategy and found the dominant turn-taking strategy used in the talk show.

Table 1.2 Percentage of Turn-taking Strategies

The turn-taking strategy	Frequency	Percentage
Holding the floor	12	15.3
Yielding the floor	52	66.6

Taking the floor	14	17.9
Total	78	100

Table 1.2 shows that yielding the floor has the highest score 52 (66.6%). The middle score is from taking the floor 14 (17.9%). Furthermore, holding the floor has the lowest score 12 (15.3%). Based on the table, yielding the floor was the dominant turn-taking strategy found in The Ellen Show.

Table 1.3 Percentage of holding the floor

No	Turn-taking strategy	Speaker	Frequency	Percentage
01	Holding the floor	Ellen DeGeneres	3	25
		Hillary Clinton	9	12
		Total	12	100

Holding the floor is one of three types of turn-taking strategies Mey (2002). After analyzing the overall usage of turn-taking strategies, the researcher found out the percentage of usage of those strategies by guests and hosts. Table 1.3 shows the use of holding the floor by host and guest on The Ellen Show. Results show that the frequency of use of holding the floor by the guest is 9 out of 12 (75%) which is higher than the host. The frequency of holding the floor by the host is 3 out of 12 (25%).

Table 1.4 Percentage of taking the floor

No	Turn-taking strategy	Speaker	Frequency	Percentage
01	Taking the floor	Ellen DeGeneres	7	50
		Hillary Clinton	7	50
			14	100

 Table 1.4 shows that the frequency of usage of taking the floor (turn-taking strategy) is equal by both host and guest. Host Ellen DeGeneres used this strategy 7 times during the whole talk show and the frequency of usage of this strategy is also 7 by the guest.

Table 1.5 Percentage of yielding the floor

No	Turn-taking strategy	Speaker	Frequency	Percentage
01	Yielding the floor	Ellen DeGeneres	29	55.7
		Hillary Clinton	23	44.2
		Total	52	100

Table 1.5 shows the frequency of usage of yielding the floor by both guests and hosts. Hosts used this turn-taking strategy 29 times out of 52 (55.7%) while guests used this strategy 23 times out of 52 (44.2%). Yielding the floor was the dominant strategy among all three.
Findings further show that the use of more than one turn-taking strategy is possible in a single turn. The researcher analyzed which turn-taking strategy has been used with other strategies in a single turn. Results show that only holding the floor has been used with other strategies i.e yielding the floor and taking the floor. Researchers found the percentage of usage of more than one turn-taking strategy in a single turn.

Table 1.6 Percentage of use of more than one turn-taking strategies in a single turn

No	Turn-taking strategies	Frequency	Percentage
01	Yielding the floor +Holding the floor	10	83.3
02	Taking the floor + Holding the floor	2	16.6
	Total	12	100

Results show that in some cases speaker uses more than one turn-taking strategy in a single turn. If someone gives a turn to the speaker or he takes that turn and then holds the turn for a long time in such case speaker is using more than one turn-taking strategy. Table 1.6 shows that the frequency of yielding the floor and holding the floor in a single turn is 10 out of 12 (83.3) while the frequency of Taking the floor and holding the floor in a single turn is 2 out of 12 (16.6).

Table 1.7 Percentage of use of more than one turn-taking strategy in a single turn by the host.

No	Turn-taking strategies	Speaker	Frequency	Percentage
01	yielding the floor + Holding the floor	Ellen DeGeneres	2	66.6
02	Taking the floor + Holding the floor	Ellen DeGeneres	1	33.3
	Total		3	100

Table 1.7 shows the percentage of usage of a combination of holding the strategy with other turn-taking strategies. The frequency of yielding the floor and holding the floor in a single turn is 2 while the frequency of use of taking the floor and holding the floor is by host Ellen DeGeneres.

Table 1.8 Percentage of use of more than one turn-taking strategy in a single turn by guest

No	Turn-taking strategy	Speaker	Frequency	Percentage
01	Yielding the floor + Holding the floor	Hillary Clinton	8	88.8
	Taking the floor + Holding the floor	Hillary Clinton	1	11.1
		Total	9	100

Table 1.8 shows the frequency of use of a combination of yielding the floor and holding the floor in a single turn is 8 out of 9 (88.8%) while the frequency of use of a combination of taking the floor and holding the floor is 1 out of 9 (11.1%) by guest Hillary Clinton.

Discussion

The findings above illustrate that strategies of turn-taking may be an essential aspect on the political interview between Ellen DeGeneres as the interviewer and Hillary Clinton as the interviewee. The conversation started with Ellen DeGeneres welcoming Hillary Clinton to the show and asking about her thoughts on the presidential race. Hillary Clinton responded by expressing her concerns about the divisiveness in the country and the need for a leader who would bring people together. She discussed the challenges of running for the presidency, and Hillary Clinton spoke about her experience as a female candidate. The Conversation covered many topics, including the importance of voting, the impeachment trial, and Russia's interference in the 2016 election.

However, as already explained before, the focus of the analysis is the excerpt of a conversation or interview which contains turn-taking strategies that are used by Hillary Clinton as the interviewee. Turn-taking is the necessary feature to run the conversation. The end of the turn is to exchange of roles between speaker and listener. Participants do not always speak on their turn. Sometimes, if one is still speaking other participants also start speaking without waiting for a turn which causes overlapping in conversation. Overlapping is speaking of two participants at the same time.

From the finding above it can be seen that there are three types of turn-taking strategies. The first one is Taking the floor, Holding the floor, and Yielding the floor, but the most effective strategy in this talk show is Yielding the floor with the highest score of 52 (66.6%).

The researcher also identifies the types of turn-taking strategies in this research and also finds the effectiveness between the turn-taking strategies. In this study researcher counted the turns taken by one participant and then take average from the total turns. Researchers analyzed the percentage of every turn-taking strategy and found that Yielding the floor is the most effective strategy among all of these types.

If we discuss the previous research, they simply discuss the turn-taking strategies, Interruption and overlapping. In this research researcher focused on the effective strategy of turn-taking, and which strategy is more effective among all of these. The turn-taking strategies are analyzed by using Miles, Huberman and Saldana to see the turn-taking which mostly occurs in the conversation.

Conclusion

This part covers the answer to the research question proposed in chapter one, in which the answer is in light of the findings followed by a case study of turn-taking strategies used by Ellen DeGeneres and Hillary Clinton in this research. In the process of the interview, it can be further segregated into three kinds of turn-taking strategies

Findings show three types of turn-taking strategies used by guests and hosts on The Ellen Show that are according to Mey (2002). They are taking the floor, yielding the floor and holding the Floor. The researcher analyzed the data of this study based on 3 aspects of turn-taking. The dominant aspect found in The Ellen Talk Show with Hillary Clinton was yielding the floor has highest score 52 (66.6%). The middle score is from taking the floor 14 (17.9%) and holding the floor has the lowest score 12 (15.3%). The Ellen Show is a success in America, and it shows that a high percentage of yielding the floor allows the host to complete her turn and guests to use their turn to give answers or opinions properly.

Ellen spoke with Hillary Clinton about the challenging political circumstances she faced. Hillary Clinton also highlighted the issue of undecided voters, she talked about her new documentary and she also mentioned her childhood best friend and how she missed her in political campaigns. The analysis of the conversation between Ellen DeGeneres and Hillary Clinton reveals the presence of discourse features also, such as questioning and challenging, political contextualization.

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