



## AN ANALYSIS OF ADJACENCY PAIRS IN SPEAKING CLASS AT CEC KAMPOENG PARE MATARAM 2022

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**Abstract:** This study aimed at finding and analyzing the types of Adjacency Pairs and their preference structures used by a teacher and students in speaking class. This study used a descriptive research method using changing observer. The sample included teacher and students of 2<sup>nd</sup> Level speaking class at Cake English Course (CEC) Kampoeng Pare Mataram. The data were collected using video recording then transcribed to be analyzed. The study shows that there are eleven types of adjacency pairs and seven of their preference structures discovered in teaching learning process. The first type is question – answer in which its preference structure is expected as preferred response and unexpected as unpreferred one. The second type is request – acceptance/rejection which acceptance is as preferred and rejection as unpreferred response of its preference structure. The next type is apology – acceptance/refusal in which both preferred and unpreferred occurred as preference structures in this type. Then, complaint – apology/denial was found in which its preference structure is preferred and unpreferred. Furthermore, invitation – acceptance in which its acceptance response is known as preferred response in preference structure. Lastly, suggestion – disagreement and offer – rejection, each of this pair has its preference structure in formed of unpreferred. However, announcement – acknowledgment, greeting – greeting, summon – answer and closing – closing adjacency pairs also occurred in this study, yet their preference structure does not exist.

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### INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the important parts of human's life. Without language, humans will face a lot of difficulties in their communication. Therefore, there will be no interaction among people. In language, discourse is divided into two categories, the written and spoken. Written language displays a synoptic view that describes its universe as a product rather than a process. The spoken language, on the other hand, presents a dynamic view that defines its universe primarily as a process, encoding it not as a structure but as construction or demolition (Halliday, 1979: 97).

One function of language is for communication. People who live in society need to interact with another one because they live socially. This means that social interaction requires the production of utterance. To participate in verbal exchange, both speaker and listener who are involved in conversations need knowledge and abilities which go significantly beyond the grammatical competence in which they are required to decode messages.

Generally, in exchanging verbal communication, people usually do it through conversation. Conversation means people are talking to each other for the purpose of talking, or to indicate some activities of interactive talk, independent of its purpose (Paul, 2000:4). Some purposes of making conversation are to have a lot of friends, exchange information, and even to harm each other. In doing conversation, it is usually preceded by an organized manner. An utterance has to be responded by another speaker when it is produced by a certain speaker.



In conversation, interactions between two or more characters will be found. For example, the first speaker asks the second speaker and the second speaker answers it and this is known as *adjacency pairs*. Adjacency pairs can be defined as the automatic sequence which occurs in conversation when two speakers are doing interaction (Yule 1996:77). The variety of adjacency pairs will depend on the situation, purposes, and participants of the conversation. Adjacency pairs' knowledge may enable the writer to conduct some studies. Adjacency pairs have important roles as the framework of conversation. In particular stage and context, adjacency pairs are important to establish an utterance of a particular part, for instance "hello" can have different functions in conversation, it can be a greeting, a summon or an answer of summon (Levinson, 1983:310). Therefore, the appropriate analysis in conversation may be done through Conversation Analysis (CA). The expression of "conversation analysis" as a broad term, it can show any study of people talking together, oral communication or language use (Paul 2000:5).

Class activity is one of the places or activities where the conversation always happens among the teacher and students or students with other students. Moreover, speaking class tends to make the students active in talking, whether in the form of discussing in a group or just between two people. Brown (2000: 63) explained that the student course book should be designed in specific language and pre-scripted conversation to help them more active in speaking. In addition, Nunan (2003: 49) stated that students have been taught for many years in speaking class by having them repeat sentences and recite and memorize the textbook dialogue. He added that this way aimed the learner to speak and practice their structural grammar then later using them in conversation.

Regarding information above, this study was conducted under the title *An Analysis of Adjacency Pairs in Speaking Class at CEC Kampoeng Pare Mataram*. It is believed that adjacency pairs as part of communication would automatically be used in speaking class at CEC Kampoeng Pare Mataram. There are two main general reasons why adjacency pairs would be automatically used in speaking class at CEC Kampoeng Pare Mataram. First, CEC Kampoeng Pare Mataram implements a full English system or they call it an English area where no one is allowed to use Bahasa Indonesia. If one tries to speak Bahasa Indonesia, he/she will be punished depending on what level of mistakes. Normally, for the first step, the fine paid is one thousand per word, meanwhile the second step is three thousand per word. Second, students are trained to use full English in speaking class at CEC Kampoeng Pare Mataram.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach to investigate how teachers and students responded to specific utterances. The population of this study consisted of a teacher and fifteen students from CEC Kampoeng Pare Mataram which is one of the largest English course institutions in West Nusa Tenggara..

The data in this study were collected through filming the conversation between the teacher and the students in speaking class and also note taking in order to avoid some unclear sounds from the tools of recording. The data which had been collected were analyzed through several stages: transcription process, identifying and classifying, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification.

The transcription was the process of transcribing the recording into written form so that the data was non-verbal action. Then, after having the extracted from the transcribed result, the data was identified and classified based on the theory of adjacency pairs. Next, the data was reduced through the optional process of writing summaries, coding, teasing out themes, making clusters, making partitions, and writing memos.

Furthermore, it was designed the display to assemble organized information to ease accessible and compact form so it could be seen what was happening either to draw justified



conclusions in a row and column of a matrix. Lastly, each adjacency pairs and its preference structure described to get more exploration of the research and relate it to a relevant theory or the previous study and verified the items through confirmation, revising, and repeating in a same or different way.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Findings

There were eleven out of sixteen types of adjacency pairs discovered in the speaking class interaction between the teacher and the students and seven of them occurred as their preference structure. The followings are the presented data.

#### 1. Question – answer (expected/ unexpected)

These pair parts are the most used in the conversation. The preference structures of these pairs are both preferred and unpreferred.

##### *Extract 2*

Teacher : How are you today?

Students : I'm good.

##### *Extract 6*

Teacher : Are you ready with the content?

Ferdi : Yes, but I have to take it first because I left it on my motorcycle.

Extract 2 shows that the teacher asked the students about their condition. He asked the students about their nature, whether they were in good health or not. The students answered that they were in good health. Extract 6 showed that the teacher asked about the content of the speech to one of the students who wanted to come up with his speech in front of his friend, whether he was ready or not. Unfortunately, he was not ready because he left it in his motorcycle. Yule (1996:81) stated that when second pair part expresses doubt, it is known as unpreferred response. Extract 6, the second pair part expressed doubt “*Yes, but I have to take it first because I left it on my motorcycle.*”

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Question – answer	Extract 2	<i>I'm good.</i>	Preferred (expected)
	Extract 6	<i>Yes, but I have to take it first because I left it on my motorcycle.</i>	unpreferred (unexpected)

#### 2. Request – acceptance/rejection

This case can be seen in this following extract, the request pairs existed forty-six times in the conversation being analyzed. This pair was the second most used in this study.

##### *Extract 2(appendix 3)*

Teacher : Before we start this meeting, let's open our class by praying “*basmalah*” together

Students : Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

##### *Extract 52(appendix 3)*

Teacher : Ok. Next, Ms. Ayudeta

Ayudita : *Ayudita Mr. not Ayudeta*

Extract 2 shows that the request was accepted by the students which meant the preference structure of this extract was preferred. Acceptance tended to be preferred response (Levinson,1983:304). It can be seen when student recited “*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*” as the marked of the request acceptance. However, extract 52 showed that the first pair part was rejected by the second speaker. It is shown from her answer which complaint her name “*Ayudita Mr. not Ayudeta*” which means this pairs preference structure was unpreferred. Refusal is known as unpreferred (Levinson,1983:304).

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Request – acceptance/rejection	Extract 2	Bismillahirrahmanirrahim	Preferred (acceptance)
	Extract 52	<i>Ayudita Mr. not Ayudeta</i>	unpreferred (rejection)

### 3. Announcement – acknowledgement

One of the adjacency pairs was an announcement. Simply, an announcement means giving some information or it is a way of telling people about something, which the second pair of this type is called acknowledgment or response. Here is the extract example of this pair

**Extract 13**

Teacher : Ok, that’s enough for tonight, let’s continue our material. Thank you to Ms. Vira and Mr. Ferdi.

Ferdi & Vira: *Anytime sir.*

In Extract 13, the teacher gave an information about how he would continue his material and it was enough to do a speech as an ice breaker. It was responded with acknowledgement.

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Announcement – acknowledgement	Extract 13	<i>Anytime sir.</i>	-

### 4. Apology –acceptance/refusal

There were only three apology pairs which were found in the data. Two of them were accepted and one was refused. Therefore, both preferred and unpreferred as its preference structures appeared in this pair. Below are the examples of this pairs.

**Extract 29**

Teacher : Oh, sorry only 2. A night, one night only two people.

Nathan : *No worry, sir.*

**Extract 64**

Teacher : Sorry. It was my bad, it was my bad.

Ayudita : *Eee, mr this...*

The three extracts above showed that the teacher initiated the apology pairs. In Extract 29, the teacher apologized because there was wrong information given to the students. Then, the student’s response was an acceptance. Next, extract 64 was the opposite of the previous extract because the student gave a denial response to the teacher which wrongly mentioned her student’s name.

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Apology – acceptance/refusal	Extract 29	<i>No worry, sir.</i>	Preferred (Acceptance)
	Extract 64	<i>Eee, mr this...</i>	Dispreferred (Refusal)

### 5. Complaint – apology/denial

Complaint occurred in the form of a statement in which someone expresses dissatisfaction with something or situation to a person's action (Goddard, 2011:177). In Extract 33 and 63, the example of this pair was responded by an apology (*preferred*) and denial (*unpreferred*).

**Extract 33**

Nisfa : No, you can't change your mind.

Vira : *But I am pity on her*

**Extract 63**

Ayudita : Ayudita Mr. not Ayudeta

Teacher : *Sorry. It was my bad, it was my bad.*

In the extract 33 and 63, the complaint pairs were initiated by the students. Extract 33 showed that Nisfa complained about why Vira changed her mind; she was opposed to Vira's decision. However, Vira denied Nisfa's compliment because she pitied her friend. Meanwhile, in Extract 63, Ayudita complained to her teacher because he mispronounced her name. The teacher responded by apologizing to his students.

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Complaint – apology/denial	Extract 33	<i>But I am pity on her</i>	unpreferred (denial)
	Extract 63	<i>Sorry. It was my bad, it was my bad.</i>	Preferred (Apology)

### 6. Invitation – acceptance

Tracy (2002:15) explained that different acts can occur in some adjacency pairs, one of them is invitations which can be refused or accepted. Below are the instances of the invitation pairs.

**Extract 12**

Teacher : So, for the next speaker...please welcome to Mr. Ferdi, time and stage are yours. Give applause.

Ferdi : Ok. (Comes up and He delivers her speech to the end).

Extracts 12 presented that the teacher invited the students to come forward to deliver their speech in front of the audiences. Their response was acceptance, it can be seen when they came and delivered their speech. Acceptance tended to be preferred response (Levinson,1983:304).

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Invitation – acceptance	Extract 12	<i>Ok. (Comes up and He delivers her speech to the end).</i>	Preferred (expected)

### 7. Suggestion – disagreement

The appearance of suggestion was only one pair. Suggestion is something that a person says which implies that something happened. Extract 15 is the example of this pair.

**Extract 15**

Nathan : Ihan. Ihan. Ihan please, you are the next idol.

Ihan : *No, I don't want* (threatens to hit, it can be seen from the hand that is in stock).



In Extract 15, Nathan suggested Ms. Ihan became the next idol. Idol here means the next speaker to do a speech. He suggested her to the teacher so that the teacher will select her after the speaker that day. However, Ihan responded with a disagreement. Cutting (2002:30) explained that the responses of unpreferred tend to be refusal and disagreement.

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Suggestion – disagreement	Extract 15	<i>No, I don't want</i>	unpreferred (disagreement)

### 8. Offer – Refusal

This type might be answered by an acceptance which indicates the offer is accepted. In contrast, refusal indicates that the offer is refused. However, the offer pair was responded by refusal. Cutting (2002:30) explained that the responses of unpreferred tend to be refusal and disagreement.

#### *Extract 36*

Teacher : Maybe Mr. Fandi you can choose Mr. Nathan for the next speaker.  
Nathan : No, I mean I will come up with them together sir.

In extract 36, the teacher offered Mr. Fandi (the student) to choose Mr. Nathan as the next speaker to convey his speech after him. Nathan responded to the offering by refusing. He did not mean to come forward after Mr. Fandi but he wanted to come up together at one time. Yule (1996:81) stated that words such “No, I guess not, not possible” are the way to do unpreferred response.

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Offer – refusal	Extract 36	No, I mean I will come up with them together sir.	unpreferred (Refusal)

### 9. Greeting – greeting

Conversation is usually begun by greeting. Greeting also might be gestures or smiles. In extract 1, the teacher greeted the students. The students responded by saying “hello.”

#### *Extract 1*

Teacher : Well, hello everyone.  
Students : *Hello sir.*

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Greeting – greeting	Extract 1	<i>Hello sir.</i>	-

### 10. Summon – answer

Schegloff (1972) in Levinson (1983) suggested that the ring of telephone may take place in adjacency pairs as well. The response of this type is an answer. He added that Summons – Answer sequences are minimally consisting of three turn sequences.

#### *Extract 19*

Teacher : *Ms. Ihan?* (Summons)  
Ihan : *Ya?* (Answer)  
Teacher : *Are you ready with that?* (Reason for summons)

Extract 19 shows that the teacher tried to call one of the students (*Ms. Ihan*) in order to ensure she listened to her friends who selected her become the next speaker. Yet, she looked confused because she did not really understand what was being talked about in the class. Then, the teacher told her by questioning her whether or not she was ready to come forward and became the next speaker.

### 11. Closing – closing

This closing pair was proposed by the teacher only. The teacher thought that the meeting of that class was enough for that day. See the extract 132 below as the example of this pair.

**Extract 132**

Teacher : See you.  
 Students : *See you sir.*

Extract 132 shows that the teacher wanted to end the class because the time was up. The teacher ended the class by saying the closing pairs. All the students responded with the same utterance “*See you*”.

Types of adjacency pairs	Extract	Utterance	Preference structure
Closing – closing	Extract 132	“ <i>See you</i> ”.	-

### Discussion

Based on findings above, these types of adjacency pairs and their preference structure were discovered in various sections of the speaking class. **Question – answer pair** was considered as the most common pairs discovered in the conversation. This pair had two responses in its preference structure: Expected was known as preferred and unexpected was unpreferred (Mey 2004:152). *Question – expected* refers to a pair that one of the conversation participants used a preferred part through responding to the question. As the first participant inquired “*can I start?*” and the second participant answered “*yes, you can*”. On the other hand, this adjacency pairs type did not only consist of the expected responses but also the unexpected. Usually *Question - unexpected* happened when the second speaker of the conversation used unpreferred form to answer the question, such as when the first speaker asked “*Why do you want to bring your phone*” and it was responded with “*I don’t memorize my speech sir.*”

**Request – Acceptance and Rejection** can be regarded as when first part makes a request or an offer, structurally the second part will expect acceptance or refusal. This structure is called as preference (Yule, 1996: 79). First, **request – acceptance** means someone (the speaker) is attempting someone else (hearer) to do something which the second pair can respond to with acceptance (Goddard, 2011:136). According to the extract findings, the teachers asked the students to do what he said and he also gave the students an opportunity to ask the other students or even the teacher himself-do something. For example, “*Ms. Vira please choose one. One of your friends. The girl, the girl*” and the second part which was the student of the speaking class accept the teacher request by choosing one of her friends “**Ihan**”. This acceptance called as preferred response (Levinson,1983:304) **Question – rejection** refers to the utterance of second part which tend to refuse or reject the first part. The extract on the finding showed when the teacher asked “*Next, one sentence*” but the second part which was the student reject it by saying “*I don’t know*” she definitely did not know how to make sentence. Yule (1996:81) stated that word “*I don’t know*” considered as a way to do dispreferred response because it expresses a doubt.



**Announcement – Acknowledgment** refers to the way first pair part gives some information or it is a way of telling people about something to the second pair part, which the second pair of this type is called acknowledgment or response (Flowerdew: 2013:121). This pair was the third most used in the conversation analyzed. Based on the extract which discovered on the data, it showed the first speaker which was the teacher gave the announcement “*Ok, that’s enough for tonight, let’s continue our material. Thank you to Ms. Vira and Mr. Ferdi*” but the second part responded it by acknowledgement “*Anytime sir*”.

**In Complaint – Apology and Denial**, Goddard (2011:177) said that Complaint occurs in the form of a statement in which someone expresses dissatisfaction with something or situation to person’s action. However, to respond the complaint is a denial or apology which indicates regretful. *Complaint – apology* can be seen on finding extract such as when the first part said “*Ayudita Mr. not Ayudeta*” she tried to complain about her name was wrongly mentioned, and second part answered it by an apology by saying “*Sorry. It was my bad, it was my bad*”. When second speaker did an apology of first speaker’s complaint was known as preferred response (Mey: 2004). Meanwhile, *Complaint – denial* existed in this data, which meant the unpreferred response of preference structure was discovered in this adjacency pair. Cutting (2002:30) explained that the responses of unpreferred tend to be refusal and disagreement. For example, first part complaint about the second part statement and she who was the first speaker said “*No, you can’t change your mind*”. However, second speaker denied as stated by “*But I am pity on her*”.

**Apology – Acceptance and Refusal** means that when someone does something wrong, they have to apologize to someone else. Apology also can occur before someone makes some imposition. This type can be responded by an acceptance and refusal (Goddard, 2011:155). *Apology – Acceptance* refers to the second speaker emphasized an acceptance when the first speaker did an apology is known as preferred response. This extract as evidence. “*Oh, sorry only 2. A night, one night only two people.*” First speaker tried to apologize because due to wrong in providing information, but the second speaker did not mind that and answered with an acceptance “*No worry, sir.*”. Otherwise, *Apology – Refusal* means that the second speaker emphasized more on the unpreferred response due to the first speaker’s mistakes. Levinson (1983:304) stated that refusal tends to be characteristic of unpreferred response. The example of this type such as this extract “*Sorry. It was my bad, it was my bad.*”. The first pair part tried to apologize to the second pair part one but the second part which was the student refused that apologize by stating “*Eee, mr this...*”. Yule (1996:81) stated that “*eee, oh, well, er, em*” is one of the ways to do unpreferred response”.

**In Invitation – Acceptance**, invitation is when someone else asks to come to an event, whether it is in written or spoken form request. Tracy (2002:15) explained that different acts can occur in some adjacency pairs, one of them is invitations which can be refused or accepted. However, the findings only showed that this pair was responded by acceptance. As it can be seen in the example of the extract “*Ok then. Now, please welcome to Ms. Vira, time and stage are yours. Give applause.*”. The first part asked to Vira which was the student of speaking class delivered her speech in front of audiences (*the other member of speaking class*) and it was responded by the act of “*(Coming up and standing up), can I start?*”. This showed that she was ready to come and speech in front of her friends. This acceptance was known as preferred response as well (Cutting, 2002:30).

**Greeting – Greeting** is another of the most common adjacency pairs in which the same word or phrase is conveyed: “*Hi*” answered “*Hello*” or “*Good morning*” answered “*Good morning*”. This type was discovered in the seventh findings above in which the teacher as the first pair part said “*Well, hello everyone...*” and students answered with greeting as well “*Hello sir*”. Yule (1996:77) considered that “*hello, hi, and good morning*” as automatic patterns of greeting pair in conversation.





**Summon – Answer** refers to utterance which orders someone to come to or be present at a specific place. Levinson (1983:310) stated that summon – answer patterns are components of (at least) three-turn sequences, as illustrated in the findings extract “*Ms. Ihan?*” when first speaker asked then second speaker answered it by question “*Ya?*” then the first speaker asked a question “*Are you ready with that?*”. The common use of question components in second speaker (such as *What? What is it? Yeah?*) demonstrates the three-part structure (Levinson 1983:81). It is assumed that this situation usually happened when the second speaker was in classroom but she daydreamed in the classroom. So, when the first speaker asked something the second speaker will ask back by saying what Levinson (1983) mentioned (such as *What? What is it? Yeah?*).

In **Suggestion – Disagreement**, suggestion is something that a person says which implies that something happened. Speaker (person) might distance himself or herself from any idea that she or he personally wants the receiver (someone else) to do it, and the receiver is free to acknowledge what she or he wishes (Goddard, 2011:147). Based on the findings above, suggestion pair was responded by disagreement in which the disagreement or refusal responses tend to be unpreferred. As it is shown on extract “*Ihan. Ihan. Ihan please, you are the next idol*”, the first pair part which was the student suggest to the teacher to choose Ihan as the next speaker, yet Ihan was responded by disagreement “*No, I don’t want (threatens to hit, it can be seen from the hand that is in stock).*” Yule (1996:81) stated that words such “No, I guess not, not possible” are the way to do unpreferred response.

**Offer – Refusal** refers to goods or services which someone said by utterances and given to someone else. This type might be answered by an acceptance which indicates the offer is accepted. In contrast, refusal indicates the offer is refused. However, the findings discovered the answer of this type was refusal in which, refusal response tends to be unpreferred (Cutting, 2002:30). This case can be found on extract “*Maybe Mr. Fandi you can choose Mr. Nathan for the next speaker.*”. The teacher offered Fandi which was one of the students in speaking class to select Natha also the student in that class to come forward after him. However, Nathan as the second part of conversation refused the offering from the teacher by saying “*No, I mean I will come up with them together sir.*” Words such “No, I guess not, not possible” are the way to do unpreferred response (Yule 1996:81).

The last findings were **Closing – Closing pairs**. Levinson (1983:316) stated that closing is the utterances which aim to end or shut down the conversation. The second pair of this type is closing as well. For example, when the first speaker said “*Good bye*”, second speaker answered “*Good bye*”. This type was found in the eleventh of the findings, where the teacher ended the class by saying “*See you.*” and the student answered “*See you sir.*” as well. Levinson (1983:316) stated that “Bye, Good bye, and See you” are words used in order to end a meeting.

## CONCLUSION

The pair types discussed are: Question – answer, Request – Acceptance /Rejection, Announcement – acknowledgment, Complaint – Apology/Denial, Apology – acceptance/refusal, Invitation – Acceptance, Greeting – Greeting, Summon – Answer, Suggestion – Disagreement, Offer – Rejection, Closing – Closing. The preference structure occurred in seven types of adjacency pairs: Question – answer, Request – Acceptance /Rejection, Complaint – Apology/Denial, Apology – acceptance/refusal, Invitation – Acceptance, Suggestion – Disagreement, Offer – Rejection.

There are three of the adjacency pairs which have preference structure are absent from the analysis: assessment – agreement/disagreement, blame – denial/admission, and compliment – acceptance/ rejection. There are 92 preferred responses which occur from five types of adjacency pairs: question – expected, request – acceptance, apology – acceptance, complaint – apology, and invitation acceptance. unpreferred responses occur twenty-one times from six



types of adjacency pairs: question – unexpected, request – refusal, apology – refusal, complaint – denial, suggestion – disagreement, and offer – rejection.

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