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Examining Adjacency Pairs in “The Croods: A New Age” Movie: A Conversational Analysis

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Abstract

The aims of this study are to explain the types of adjacency pairs and preference structures in the utterances of all the characters in *The Croods: A New Age* movie. The writers use the theory of adjacency pairs proposed by Yule (1996). This study employs a descriptive qualitative method for data collection. The source of data for this study is the *The Croods: A New Age* movie, and the data of this study are the utterances of all characters in *The Croods: A New Age* movie that contain adjacency pairs. The data collection steps are watching the movie, reading the transcription, and selecting and identifying the data. As a result of the study, the writers found 110 instances that consist of types of adjacency pairs and preference structures, which are categorized into preferred and dispreferred responses. In terms of the types of adjacency pairs pattern, there are: greetings with 6 instances, question-answer pairs with 31 instances, offers with 11 instances, requests with 9 instances, invitations with 4 instances, thanking-responses with 2 instances, and assessments with 34 instances. For the preference structure, there are 43 instances categorized as preferred responses and 67 instances categorized as dispreferred responses.

Keywords: Adjacency pairs, Dispreferred structure, Preferred structure.

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menjelaskan jenis-jenis pasangan berdekatan dan struktur preferensi dalam ucapan semua karakter di film *The Croods: A New Age*. Penulis menggunakan teori pasangan berdekatan oleh Yule (1996). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk mengumpulkan data. Sumber data dari penelitian ini adalah film *The Croods: A New Age*, dan data yang dikumpulkan adalah ujaran-ujaran dari semua karakter dalam film *The Croods: A New Age*. Metode pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan cara menonton film, membaca transkrip, memilih, dan mengidentifikasi data. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa penulis menemukan 110 data yang terdiri dari jenis-jenis pasangan berdekatan dan struktur preferensi yang dikategorikan menjadi struktur yang diinginkan dan struktur yang tidak diinginkan. Dalam bentuk pola jenis pasangan kedekatan, terdapat sapaan dengan 6 data, pertanyaan-jawaban dengan 31 data, tawaran dengan 11 data, permintaan

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dengan 9 data, undangan dengan 4 data, respon ucapan terima kasih dengan 2 data, dan penilaian dengan 34 data. Sedangkan untuk struktur preferensi, terdapat 43 data yang dikategorikan sebagai respons yang diinginkan dan 67 data yang dikategorikan sebagai struktur yang tidak diinginkan.

Kata Kunci: *Pasangan berdekatan, Struktur yang diinginkan, Struktur yang tidak diinginkan.*

INTRODUCTION

Language is the main means for people to communicate and make interaction with others. According to Hataluju and Herman (2019), language is a tool of communication that plays an essential purpose in communication. The use of language is commonly needed in a conversation. Conversation involves two or more people to create a topic, exchange information and convey a message. A conversation consists of two people: one person will take the role as the speaker while the rest will be the hearer who can give responses to form a good conversation, even though the response given does not match with the expectation

Conversation is an important social activity that used by people to share their thoughts and listen to others to maintain a smooth flow (Aisyah, 2021). Conversation is the way in which people socialize, develop and sustains their relationship with each other (Liddicoat, 2007). In other words, conversation is something that dominates everyone to interact in daily life. A speaker must be able to choose and use language appropriately so that the intent of an utterance can be understood by the hearer, therefore everyone must have the ability to reshape understanding of phrases, sentences, expressions, statement, question and responses. Conversation analysis is the study that is recommended to solve all of these problems, where the function of the study itself emphasizes more on the function of language to communicate in everyday life.

Conversation analysis is an approach to social research that investigates the sequential organization of talk as a way of accessing participants understanding of, and collaborative means of organising, natural forms of social interactions (Hutchby & Wooffitt, 2008). Based on the citation above, conversation analysis (CA) is an important method in social research that investigates the structure of conversation as a way to get insight into how people collectively make sense and structure common social interactions, it means the centrality of the social dimension of language study has been highlighted through conversation analysis. It refers to the arrangement of two speakers where the conversation takes place and the utterance is produced. Therefore, conversation is like a dance, with the conversational partners coordinating their movements smoothly (Yule, 1996)

The sequences of two utterances are known as adjacency pairs. Furthermore, Yule (1996) describes they always consist of a first part and second part, produced by different speaker. The utterance of a first part immediately creates an expectation of the utterance of a second part of the same pair. Moreover, Yule (1996) states that there are eight types of adjacency pairs, they are: 1. Greeting-Greeting, 2. Question-Answer, 3. Offer Acceptance/Refusal, 4. Request-5. Acceptance/Refusal, 6. Invitation-Acceptance/Refusal, 7. Suggestion-Acceptance/Refusal, 8. Thanking-Response, 9. Assessment-Agreement/Disagreement.

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The same definition comes from Paltridge (2006), there are two patterns of adjacency pairs, they are first pair part and second pair part. The second pair part is the response of the first pair part and it is known as preference structure. The adjacency pair patterns will generate preferences namely preferred and dispreferred response. Preferred response is comparable to positive or appropriate response while dispreferred response is comparable to a negative response.

Adjacency pairs can be used as the concept of analysing conversations such as; daily conversation, interview, podcast and movie. This research focuses of the use of adjacency pairs existing in a movie. Movie consists of several moving pictures that appear on screen. It uses a variety of techniques including acting, music, sound effects, cinematography, and dialogue to attract viewers, create strong feelings and tell a story. The things that make movie has interesting side to be analyse because movie provide a window into complex characters, creative storytelling strategies that often related to life. One of movies that is interesting based on its storyline is *The Croods: A New Age*.

The Croods: A New Age is an animation movie with comedy-adventure genre which was produced in the United States on November 25,2020. This movie is directed by Joel Crawford and this is a sequel of movie entitled *The Croods* which was released in 2013. The researcher also concerns *The Croods: A New Age* movie as the data source of this research because the language used in this movie is light and informal, this style of language is often used in daily conversation. in addition, in the conversation of each character in the movie, there were several utterances that including to the type of adjacency pairs and the used of preference structure that is applied to identify the second speaker responses.

Many researchers interesting to analyse about Adjacency pairs. There are some previous studies which related with Adjacency pairs. The first study focuses on Adjacency pairs and preference structure entitled “An Analysis of Adjacency Pairs in *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before* Movie Script” by Utami (2023). The researcher tries to identify the first part and the second part of adjacency pairs in *To All the Boys I’ve loved before*. In this research, the researcher examines the utterances of all characters. The second previous study is from Oktavia (2022) entitled *Adjacency Pairs and Preference Organization in Emma Watson and Dan Steven Interview*. This research focuses to find out two elements of conversation analysis namely adjacency pairs and preference organization that found in the conversation between Emma Watson and Dan steven. The third previous study comes from Fadilla and Rizkiani (2021) entitled *Adjacency Pairs of Conversational Script in Storks 2016 Movie*. This research investigates the structure of adjacency pairs in the conversation of the speaker which applied in *Stork 2016* movie. They used descriptive-qualitative as a method in analysing the data. They used theory proposed by Sacks et al. (1974) to find the types of adjacency pairs contain in the movie. The last previous study is *An Analysis Adjacency Pairs of Conversation in Black Panther Movie* belongs to Pardede et al. (2020). The object of this study is the five main characters in the movie. They transcribed the data in written form and examine it by using the theory of adjacency pairs proposed by Yule. They used qualitative research by applying content analysis as research design.

This study uses movie as the main data and the theory of adjacency pairs proposed by Yule (1996) to find out the types of adjacency pairs and preference structures in the conversation of all characters in *The Croods: A New Age* movie. While in the previous research, there was a writer who chose interview as the main data and they also used the theory of adjacency pairs proposed by Levinson (1983), Paltridge (2012) and Sacks et al. (1974) to answer the research questions. In addition, some of writers only examines the conversation of the main cast or chosen characters. From all the previous studies that have been mentioned, it

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can be concluded that the things that differentiate this study with the previous studies are from the theory used, source of data and research questions.

METHOD

This research uses descriptive qualitative method because the writers compile the data in the conversation involves all characters in *The Croods: A New Age* movie. The data are classified on the types of adjacency pairs, explained, interpreted and then analysed. Qualitative research seeks to comprehend and interpret social phenomena in depth by delving insights into the underlying causes and motivations, Furthermore, Fossey et al, (2002) add that qualitative research is a broad umbrella term for research methodologies that describe and explain person's experiences, behaviours, interactions and social contexts. The writers choose the utterances consist the pattern of adjacency pairs, describe, interpret and then analysed the data that occurs in the conversation of each character in *The Croods: A New Age* movie. According to Kothari (2004) qualitative research is concern with subjecting assessment of attitudes, opinions, and behaviour. This means that qualitative research focuses on understanding and interpreting rather than quantifying. Therefore, this research uses descriptive qualitative method because the data will be described in detail regarding events and phenomena. In addition, the data are based on the character's conversation and behaviour.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Findings

As the purpose of this study, the writers focus to identify the types of adjacency pairs and the types of preference structure occur in the conversation of each character in the movie. After data being compiled, the researcher concluded there are 110 data included the types of adjacency pairs and preference structures.

The first finding is about the types of adjacency pairs in *The Croods: A New Age* movie. After finishing the categorization process, the researcher found 110 utterances that considered as adjacency pairs type. The data for greeting is 6 occurrences, the data for question-answer are 31 occurrences, the data for offer are 11 occurrences, the data for request are 9 occurrences, the data for thanking-response are 2 occurrences, and for the last pattern there are assessment with 34 occurrences. Depend on the data has been collected, it can be concluded that assessment is the highest occurrences within the movie with 34 data found. And for the least occurrences there are thanking-response with just 2 data found.

The second finding concerns with the preference structure in *The Croods: A New Age* movie which aims to identify the second speaker's response. the total data of preferred statements are 44 data and dispreferred are 66 data. From the data being collected, it can be seen that dispreferred responses are more common in occurrences than the preferred one.

Discussion

There two sections of the discussion to fulfil the purposes of this study. The first is answering the types of adjacency pairs found in the movie and the next section is identifying the preferred and dispreferred statements depend on the second part's responses. The researcher mentions or includes the data from the conversation of each character in the movie that have been found. Furthermore, the researcher explains the utterances that are made. The researcher

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takes 1 data of each type of the patterns of adjacency pairs and preference structure to be analysed.

Types of Adjacency Pairs found in *The Croods: A New age Movie*

Yule (1996) mentioned 8 types of adjacency pairs that consist of greeting- greeting, question-answer, offer, request, invitation, suggestion, thanking- response, and assessment. All of these types are found in *The Croods: A New Age* movie and shown in the explanation below.

1. Greeting-Greeting

According to Yule (1996), greeting is one of the patterns of adjacency pairs that refers to the social act of recognizing someone's presence or creating communication with them. The conversation involved Eep and Guy above is the example of this pair.

Excerpt 1

Guy: **Hey**

Eep: "Hey" what? Guy: Hey, you.

Eep: "Hey, you" back.

The data in excerpt 1 is found in the early part of the movie, more correctly in minute 00.07.25. This conversation involves Guy and Eep trying to rebuild the romantic atmosphere between the two of them by greeting each other using soft voices. This flirting activity occurred when the Croods family manages to survive being chased by wild animals that had been targeting them for a long time.

The conversation between Guy and Eep are classified into greeting pattern. Guy as the first speaker said "Hey" to start a conversation which is already explained by Yule (1996) that "Hey" or "Hi" are words that people usually used to greet each other.

2. Question-Answer

Question-Answer is one of pattern of adjacency pairs that takes a role as fundamental aspect of conversational structure. In this pair, one speaker poses a question and the rest responds with an answer. The utterance conveyed by the first speaker immediately creates an expectation of the utterance by the second speaker or the responders (Yule, 1996).

Excerpt 2

Guy: Eep. Eep, **are you awake?**

Eep: Yeah.

This conversation took place on a dark night in the middle of a cold forest. The Crood's family slept in a stacked position to protect and warm each other's bodies. At that time, Guy felt he had not been able to fall asleep completely. He tried to find Eep among the bodies that were piled up, so that they have privacy to talk more intensely.

The utterance of Guy is considered as question-answer type because Guy's initial question seeks a response, and Eep answer directly addresses the question. This means their exchange fits the question answer characteristic in adjacency pairs where the first part sets up an expectation for a specific response and the second part fulfils the expectation set by the first part. The things that also shown this utterance is question because within the movie, Guy as the first part uttered a sentence end with question mark (?) and there is "are" that symbolizes a question statement.

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3. Offer-Acceptance/Refusal

According to Yule (1996) Offer is one of the patterns of adjacency pairs that produced by people to offer something or when people offer someone to do something. The response by the second part of this pair might be acceptance or refusal.

Excerpt 3

Guy: **Do you, Eep Amber Crood, think you could spend your Tomorrow with me?**

Eep: I do

In this scene, Guy gathers his courage to express his feelings. he gently offered Eep to live together and form their own pack instead of continuing to be followed by the Crood's q family. Guy feels he wants unlimited time to always be with Eep without anyone interfering. therefore, this is an offering scene which can actually be referred as a proposal.

Guy's utterance in the datum 16 above is considered as offer pattern. The things that shown the sentence is offer can be seen by the words "Do you". In the utterance conveyed by Guy, there is a context that indicates his desire to live with Eep by ensuring her willingness first.

4. Request-Acceptance/Refusal

Request is one of the types of adjacency pairs that occurs when the speaker request something to someone, the response of this turn might be acceptance or refusal. The second speaker can either agree to fulfil the request or decline it (Yule, 1996). Pay attention to the example below.

Excerpt 4

Hope: **Ugga, can you tell your son to keep his grubby hands on my stuff please?**

Ugga: (silent)

In this movie, the character of Hope is portrayed as a woman who is haughty, unempathetic and always makes unilateral decisions. Unlike Ugga, the crood's mom who is more humane, sympathetic and wise. But there is no mother who will not be hurt if one of her children is said as "grubby hands" especially the one who says is a woman who is also a mother who certainly has a precious child. therefore, in the datum above, even though Hope expressed her request statement politely, Ugga preferred not to respond her and only kept quiet to stabilize the emotions she was holding back.

According to Yule (1996) request is a part of adjacency pairs involves one speaker making a request. In the context of conversation, it definitely involves two participants to interact. But that does not mean their communication have the same goals. The speaker cannot force to get a positive response as he/she expected. As happened to Hope in the datum 91 above, her utterance is considered having type of adjacency pairs that was Request. Although she already delivered the request statement politely but Ugga as the second part rejected it.

5. Invitation-Acceptance/Refusal

Yule (1996) define Invitation as a type of adjacency pairs that often used by the first part to invite someone. The example of this pair is shown in the explanation below.

Excerpt 5

Grug: **Come on, Thunk. We're going outside**

Thunk: I don't wanna, I'm watching birds.

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The utterance quoted in datum 41 was said by Grug to Thunk. Grug tries to invite Thunk to do some activities outside the tree house instead of sitting in a chair all day looking out the window. Grug feels his son is no longer productive as he used to be. Sadly, Thunk seems more interested in the visuals of the outside world that are captured through the rectangular window.

Based on the conversation above. Grug said utterance to ask Thunk to going outside by indicator word “Come on” which is a characteristic of an invitation sentence. As mentioned by Yule (1996) the common invitation words and phrases that are typically used by the first part consists of; would you like, let’s, see you, come on and so on. Grug as the first part already conveyed one of these phrases. For that reason, the utterance of Grug in datum 41 is classified into invitation pattern.

6. Suggestion-Acceptance/Refusal.

According to Yule (1996) suggestion is the pattern of adjacency pairs that often used by people to provide a suggestion or an advice for something being discussed. As the second part of this pair, they can give any feedback such as accepting or refusing the suggestion.

Excerpt 6

Ugga: **If you give this place a chance, you might actually like it here.**

Grug: Do I have to like Phil?

Ugga: **You have to be nice. No hitting.**

Gruh: Okay

The datum 033 occurred when Ugga had a conversation with Grug. She advised her husband to try to get used to this new place. a place where they could feel comfortable, not have to risk their lives for food and adapt to an ever- evolving life. Actually, Grug could have agreed to all that but he was a little doubtful about himself who always required to establish a good relation with Phil. Ugga tried to convince her husband once again that this was an easy thing and only needed to control emotions by being patient and willing to be more mature while handling to things.

In the concrete of the conversation involves Ugga and Grug, there are two utterances by the first part that consist of suggestion type. In the first line, the second speaker not immediately giving his response but asking first to make sure of something. This thing is spell out by Yule (1996) as insertion sequence. Referring to Yule (1996) this sequence occurs when a second pair is embedded within the original pair. In addition, the sentence “*You have to be...*” by the first part is a characteristic of suggestion statement.

7. Thanking-Response

Thanking-responses is one of patterns of adjacency pairs proposed by Yule (1996) that used by the speaker to appreciate someone’s kindness. In this research, the researcher only found 2 data that contains this type. One of the data is shown in conversation below.

Excerpt 7

Eep: Safety off, babe.

Guy: **Thanks.**

Eep: You’re welcome.

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The datum above occurred when Eep told Guy to remove a small thing that covering his machete. Guy shows his grateful by thanking Eep who took the enterprise that indirectly prevented accidents that might have happened to him. According to Yule (1996) thanking is a type of adjacency pairs that emphasize the importance of interactions in maintaining social harmony and effective communication between the speaker and hearer. Based on the conversation above, the utterance by Guy is considered having type of thanking- response. It is proven by the word “thanks” which often used to rate highly of someone kindness.

8. Assessment-Agreement/Disagreement

Assessment is one of the types of adjacency pairs that was discussed by Yule (1996) as a pair that used to provide an evaluation or opinion in a discussion. For the response of this pair, an agreement might lead to elaborate the positive comments. Also, disagreement might prompt a different point of view or debate.

Excerpt 8

Ugga: Can you imagine what that would do to Eep? **It would absolutely destroy her!**

Grug: Well, initially.

Based on the conversation involves Ugga and Grug as mentioned in the datum 065, it can be highlighted that Ugga told Grug about her worries if the betterman separates Guy and Eep. This is happened because previously, Hope told them to kick out from the house and left without Guy.

In this scene, Ugga said the sentences that shows her prediction about what will happen to Eep if the Bettermen’s family takes Guy apart from her. “It would absolutely destroy her!” by delivering this utterance the speaker demanding Grug as the second speaker to considering her opinion and find a way to prevent the betterman from doing so. This means the first part in datum above shared an opinion that is called assessment.

Preference Structure Found in *The Croods: A New Age Movie*.

Preference structure of adjacency pairs has a purpose in maintain the coherence and social harmony of conversation. Preference structure used by the second speaker to determine the expected and unexpected response in a specific utterance. Yule (1996) divides that preference structure into preferred and dispreferred acts. These two kinds of responses are found in the utterances of all the characters in *The Crood’s: A New Age* movie. And revealed in the explanation below. In this section, the researcher mentions three examples of each type.

1. Preferred Response

Preferred is structurally expected next of the second part in a conversation. They are typically delivered directly and promptly without hesitation (Yule, 1996). This response contributes to the flow of conversation and promoting positive interaction between the speaker and hearer. In this research, the researcher found 44 data that contains preferred responses conveyed by the second part in the conversation involves all the characters in *The Crood’s: A New Age* movie. Several data are mentioned below.

Excerpt 9

Guy: Eep, Eep, are you awake

Eep: **Yeah**

In the datum 011, Eep as the second part gave guy the answer as well as he expected. The word “Yeah” delivered by Eep is called expected answer because she directly answers Guy’s

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question, confirming that she is awake. this replay effectively fulfils the information required by the first part without unnecessary elaboration and becomes an appropriate response in the context of a simple yes or no question. In addition, Yule (1996) explained that expected answer is a part of preferred, this thing indicates that Eep's utterances is considered as preferred response.

Excerpt 10

Guy: Do you, Eep Amber Crood, think you could spend your Tomorrow with me?

Eep: **I do**

In the conversation, Eep as the second part said "I do" to accept Guy's proposal. This answer is classified as preferred or positive response to the first part's statements and effectively communicates the speaker's acceptance and emotional connection.

Excerpt 11

Ugga: If you give this place a chance, you might actually like it here. Grug: Do I have to like Phil?

Ugga: You have to be nice. No hitting. Grug: **Okay**

Grug accept the suggestion by Ugga marked with the word "okay" which is a characteristic of preferred responses. Despite in the datum above, there is an insertion sequence used by Grug to make sure of something, but in the end of their dialogue, Grug still accept the suggestion of the first part without further resistance.

2. Dispreferred Response

Yule (1996) discussed dispreferred response in adjacency pairs is a reaction or answer in a conversation that is socially less acceptable or unexpected. Among the utterances of all characters in *The Croods: A New Age* movie, the researcher concluded 66 data as dispreferred responses. Several data showing the dispreferred response made by all the characters in the movie are shown below.

Excerpt 12

Thunk: Mom, am I sick?

Ugga: **No, Honey. You are full.**

In this datum, Ugga answered Thunk not as he expected. In the conversation, Thunk wants to make sure that what he is experiencing now is sick (an unhealthy body condition). But Ugga gave an answer that did not match with the first part's expectation by saying "No, Honey. You are full". Therefore, her utterance is classified into unexpected answer which is defined by Yule (1996) as a mean to convey dispreferred responses.

Excerpt 13

Phill: Do you wanna see something really cool?

Grug: **I don't know**

As described by Yule (1996), that to convey a dispreferred response can be accomplished without actually saying "No". This means that saying "no" directly is not an only way to reveal a dispreferred response. Express doubt is one of the ways that usually used by

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the second part to express a refusal of the statement, this strategy used to show that they are not entirely confident or interest in their response. In this case, the second part can say “I’m not sure” or “I don’t know”. As occurred to Grug in the datum above, He says “I don’t know” which indirectly refuse Phil’s offer. He wants Phil to notice that he is not interested in the offer.

Excerpt 14

Hope: Dawn, listen to yourself. We’re not like them!

Dawn: **Dad need us.**

In the conversation above. Dawn produced a dispreferred response by saying “Dad need us”. She did not explicitly say “no” but she told Hope as the first part that she should join the Croods instead of just standing there waiting for is father to return. It can be concluded that her decision as an external commitment or responsibility that can be a reason to convey dispreferred response and this strategy is known as a characteristic of mention an obligation which has been mentioned by Yule (1996) as a way to deliver a dispreferred response.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This research discussed the analysis of adjacency pairs types and preference structure in the utterances made by all the characters in *The Croods: A New Age* movie. The researcher used the theory of Yule (1996) to answer the research question. While collecting the data, the researcher found 110 utterances that contains adjacency pairs patterns and preference structure. Following the result assessment is the pattern with the highest occurrences with 34 data, question-answer with 31 data, suggestion with 13 data, offer with 11 data, request with 9 data, greeting with 6 data, invitation with 4 data and for the last pattern there is thanking-response with the lowest occurrences with 2 data.

The second purpose of this research is to identify the preference structure produced by the second part in the utterances of all the characters in *The Croods: A New Age* movie. Yule (1996) defined the previous structure of adjacency pairs into preferred and dispreferred response. Based on the movie, the researcher categorized 44 utterances of the second part as preferred and 66 utterances as dispreferred. The second part shows using some characteristic that categorized by Yule (1996) as tools to convey the preferred response such as expected answer, acceptance and agreement. Meanwhile, to express the dispreferred response the second speaker also use several parts of dispreferred such as preface, delay/hesitation, express doubt and appeal for understanding.

Depend on the research results above, the writers proposesome suggestions for the future researchers regarding to this research. This research is finished by providing finding pattern of adjacency pairs and preference structure that build up from what is stated by the theory. The findings of this research can be used as subjects for future researcher as comparison studies that using the same topic. This research is also expected can be used as a reference for the future researchers that take adjacency pairs and preference structure as the topic with new theories or new data source, such as song, podcast, interview and so on. The writers use the theory of adjacency pairs proposed by Yule (1996) to answer the research question. For the next researchers, it is suggested to analyse this movie by using different topics based on the theory proposed by Yule (1996) such as cooperative principle, turn taking, illocutionary act and any other related topics.

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