Comparing the Features and Strategies in TV Talk Show Discourse: A Conversation Analysis

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ABSTRACT

Conversation analysis is one of the subfields of discourse analysis that uncovers the intricate dynamics in everyday conversations including in TV talk shows. This study aims to understand how conversation analysis features such as turn-taking strategies, feedbacks, adjacency pairs, and repair mechanisms were used in two different TV talk shows. This study adopted a qualitative content analysis, more specifically the conversation analysis approach. The data collected comes from two interviews of the same person by two different hosts in two different TV talk shows. The results found that there are many similarities and some differences in the conversation analysis features between The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and Jimmy Kimmel Live! talk shows. In conclusion, while both shows employs similar strategies, they differ slightly in terms of how it was used and in the overall tone created. These differences point out the unique conversational styles of each host, shaping the viewer's experience and the overall atmosphere of the interviews.

INTRODUCTION

Discourse has always been an inseparable part of human life. Talking with a family member, watching a funny tv drama, reading a romantic novel, and even writing a letter, all of them are discourse. We pretty much live in a world where discourse never cease to happen at all which is why it is an inseparable part of human life. In time, researcher starts to analyse the different parts of discourse from everyday life which is called a discourse analysis. Discourse analysis examines how meaning is constructed, communicated, and understood through the use of language in various contexts (Smith, 2012; Johnstone & Andrus, 2024; Rahman et al., 2024). In the last few years, the topic of discourse analysis has seen a notable surge of popularity and widespread (Wang, Wu & Li, 2022; Zhou et al., 2023; MacLeod, Ellaway & Cleland, 2024; Yuzar et al., 2023). The surge of popularity can be attributed to its nature as an interdisciplinary topic which attracts researchers across various disciplines, the advancements of digital tools, which in-turn increase the

availability of texts from all over the world, also created a boon of data for researchers to explore and analyze.

Conversation Analysis

One of the subfields of discourse analysis is conversation analysis. Essentially, conversation analysis analyzes everything from tone, pauses, back & forth, and the context of the interaction (Moerman, 2010; Van Zant et al., 2025). The main aspect of conversation analysis includes turn-taking, adjacency pair, and repair mechanisms. In the last few decades, conversation analysis has been applied to analyze telephone calls, doctor-patient consultations, legal hearings, news interviews and all kinds of interactions in courtrooms and classrooms. Few however, had spent their time in analyzing the intricate dynamics and conversational strategies in talk shows.

Conversation analysis has its roots from the work of Garfinkel and Goffman (Paltridge; 2012). From these works, Sacks and his colleagues developed conversation analysis as "an approach to the study of social action which sought to investigate social order as it was produced through the practices of everyday talk." (Mazeland, 2006; Paltridge; 2012). Further, conversation analysis examines many concepts that give structure to conversation such as turn-taking, adjacency pairs, feedback, preference organization, sequence organization, repair mechanisms, and relevance to context. In this research, the researcher analysed the turn-taking, feedback, adjacency pairs, and repair mechanisms.

Turn Taking

Furthermore, conversation analysis examines how people take and manage turns in spoken interactions (Meredith, 2019). The basic rule is that one person speaks at a time. There are various ways or strategies in turn-taking, mainly; turn-claiming, turn-holding, turn-yielding, and interruption. Turn-claiming refers to a strategy in which a speaker may claim the turn without being nominated by the previous speaker (Paltridge, 2012). The strategy may include the use of interjection, conjunction, or even the rise in the tone of voice. Turn-holding is a strategy in which the current speaker tries to keep their turn. Speaker my hold on to a turn by not pausing too long, extending a syllable, the use of conjunction, or speak over someone else's attempt to take their turn (Paltridge, 2012). It can also be a non-verbal gesture such as hand movements, head movements, or even their eye movements. Turn-yield is a strategy where the current speaker ends their turn and yield it to another speaker directly or indirectly (Paltridge, 2012; Anjarwati & Rahayu, 2023). This strategy may be signalled through falling intonations, pausing, or utterances at the end of sentence such as "go..", "yeah..", "so yeah..", etc. which signals the yielding. Interruption is the last strategy where a speaker spoke or claim a turn when the current speaker has not finished their turn. Interruption can be identified through the use of high tone at the start of the utterance and the current speaker being cut mid-speech.

Feedback

Feedback is a strategy used by listeners to show that they are attending to what is being said by the speakers. This strategy can be done using 'responding token' like "yeah", "oke", "uh-huh", etc., or paraphrasing (Paltridge, 2012). Feedback is important since it shows that the listener is paying attention to the speaker.

Adjacency Pair

According to Schegloff and Sacks, adjacency pair is a particular interaction composed of two adjacent turns by different speaker. Paltridge (2012) described it as utterances that were produced by two speakers in a way that the second utterance is identified as related to the first one as a follow up to that utterance. Adjacency pair can be in the form of Question-Answer, Statement-Response, Request-Response, Offer-Response, Greeting-Greeting, etc. Two turns of an adjacency pair might be separated by one or more turns (Rui & Ting, 2014; Muhammad, 2017; Pardede et al., 2021).

Repair Mechanism

Repair mechanism in conversation analysis refers to the way in which speakers or listeners in a conversation identify and resolve a problem in speaking, hearing, or understanding the message (Paltridge; 2012). Repairs were able to address issues such as mispronunciation, misunderstanding, or incomplete utterances. Repair mechanism may be initiated by the speaker themselves or the listeners (Paltridge; 2012).

Talk Shows

Talk shows has been one of the many milestones in the field of entertainment. It is the 'walking' evidence of the ever-advancing nature of entertainment. Talk shows starts gaining popularity since the 80s with it's comedic, light-hearted, interview-like format. American talk shows such as Oprah Winfrey, Ricki Lake, and Montel Williams were gradually exported to Europe and South America (Ilie, 2006). Talk shows typically features a host that engage conversation with at least one guest that ranges from celebrity to public figures to ordinary people with compelling stories. The conversational nature of talk shows creates a dynamic interaction between the host, guest, and sometimes even the audience. This interaction offers fertile ground for discourse analysis, especially conversation analysis.

The origin of talk shows can be traced back as early as the 1930s where interactive talk radio started to ask their listeners to phone in and speak with them (Ilie, 2006). Today's format of daytime talk shows was first adapted by Phil Donahue in 1967, and the format was consolidated by Oprah Winfrey in 1984. Nowadays, talk show can be defined as a television or radio program in which a host interviews guests, discusses various topics, and engages the audiences in conversation (Ilie, 2006). Talk shows usually features the following characteristics: 1) a host that control and facilitates discussions, 2) celebrity, experts, or ordinary people with intriguing stories as guests, 3) audience participation, 4) segments in between

different guests, 5) the programs are either broadcasted live or recorded in real time with little-to-no editing, and lastly, 6) The format vary greatly from informal and entertaining to serious and informative.

The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon is an American late-night talk show hosted by James Thomas Fallon, more known by his stage name, Jimmy Fallon, that airs on NBC TV network. The show first broadcasted on February 17, 2014. It is the seventh incarnation of NBC's long-running Tonight Show program. The show usually opens with the host's topical monologue, followed by segments filled with comedic sketches/games, and concluded with guest interviews and a musical performance or a stand-up comedy.

Jimmy Kimmel Live!

Jimmy Kimmel Live!, sometimes shortened to JKL, is an American late-night talk show hosted by James Christian Kimmel, more known by his stage name, Jimmy Kimmel, that were broadcasted by ABC TV network. The show first broadcasted on January 26, 2003. Almost similar to The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, JKL usually opens with the host's comedic monologue, followed by recurring segments filled with comedic sketches/games like "Mean Tweets", "Lie Witness News", etc., and concluded with guest interviews, a musical performance or special act and a closing remark. Some episodes include interactive segments with the live audience, such as games or Q&A sessions.

Research Questions

Although there are many studies that analyse conversations and interactions using conversation analysis. There are only a handful of studies that uses conversation analysis to analyse the difference between two different TV talk shows. Acknowledging this gap, this study seeks to understand how conversation analysis features such as turn-taking strategies, feedbacks, adjacency pairs, and repair mechanisms were used in two different TV talk shows. As such, two research questions were proposed:

1) What conversation analysis features were used in TV talk shows?

2) What are the differences between the two different talk shows? This research is beneficial to discourse research, mor specifically, to conversation analysis research.

METHODS

To analyse the features and strategies in TV talk show series, a conversational analysis is employed in this research. The data of this research includes the interview of actor, Thomas Stanley Holland or known by his stage name, Tom Holland, in both Jimmy Kimmel Live!, where he mainly tries to promote his latest

film titled "Spy in Disguise", and The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, where he talks about his experience in attaining sobriety and promotes his non-alcoholic beverages brand. The data of this study were video clips of the aforementioned TV talk shows taken from YouTube. The videos were taken from the official channel of each representative TV talk show. After finding and collecting the data in the form of videos, the data is transcribed. Then, the transcription is analyzed and classified according to its pattern in the conversation analysis (Given, 2008). The data collection process begins with the representative samples of talk shows, recorded transcriptions are then transcribed following the conversational analysis by capturing turn-taking patterns, pauses, and overlaps while also considering the contextual factors such as host-quest dymanics and audience involvement.

Further, the researcher collect the secondary data for supporting the analysis, and this involves articles, books and data from the internet. Therefore, in collecting the data from the internet, the writer needs to look for good quality information and manage it carefully (Blaxter et al., 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

After transcribing and analysing the youtube video titled *"Tom Holland Confirms Spider-Man 4, Talks Hiding Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield Cameos and BERO"*, uploaded on October 23, 2024, where Jimmy Fallon, as the host, interviews Tom Holland, as the guest. The following was found from the video.

Table 1. *Conversation Analysis Features*

No.	Strategies	Total
1.	Turn-Taking Strategies	
	1.1 Turn-Claimings	25
	1.2 Turn-Holdings	70
	1.3 Turn-Yieldings	16
	1.4 Interruptions	9
2.	Feedbacks	22
3.	Adjacency Pairs	25
4.	Repair Mechanisms	15

Turn-Takings

Here are a few examples of turn-taking strategies that Jimmy Fallon (JF) and Tom Holland (TH) used during their interviews ranging from turn-claimings to interruptions.

(1-1)   JF: "Yeah. I asked you. We were having a conversation, and I asked you, and I obviously trust you, and you trust me, and we're- Let's just-"

      TH: "We have that kind of relationship."

      JF: "Yes, we really do have that kind of- Well, let's just take a look at what you said."

(1-2)   TH: "I'd just like to add, though... I did say, "At the moment."

      JF: "Yeah... yeah..."

      TH: "So, I didn't technically lie... albeit I had just come from set with Toby and Andrew. Yeah..."

(1-3)   TH: "To which I then said to him, like, "Let's me and you have, like, a picture, and then the parents took a big step forward..."

      [Laughter]

      TH: ...like, "Wait a minute. What did you just say to our little kid?"

(1-4)   JF: "Oh, that's so funny. The kid is probably wishing he took a photo with you. Um- There is some chatter that "Spider-Man 4" is happening and that you'll be back as Spider-Man."

      [Cheers and Applause]

      JF: "But now we're here..."

(1-4)   JF: "Yeah, these are things that you learn as you.."

      TH: "As you go."

(1-5)   JF: "Do you agree, "Is Tom Holland the ultimate rizz master?"

      TH: I'd have to say I strongly agree."

      [Laughter]

(1-6)   TH: "Yeah. It's just... you know its-"

      JF: "Yeah, it's like, "Oh, that's not Tobey Maguire-"

(1-7)   JF: "And they didn't-"

      TH: "The disrespect!"

From the transcriptions above we can see that interaction (1-1) and (1-2) both uses turn-claiming strategy. In (1-1), when Tom interrupts Fallon by saying "We have that kind of relationship.", Fallon reclaimed his turn and acknowledges Tom's statement by saying "Yes" in a slightly higher tone than the rest of his sentence. In (1-2), after Fallon acknowledges his previous statement, Tom claimed the next turn by using the conjunction "So" in a slightly higher tone than the rest of his sentence.

Interaction (1-3) and (1-4) both uses turn-holding strategy. In (1-3), Tom holds his turn by narrating a humorous anecdote with vivid dialogues and uses the laughters from the audience as a pause and continuing his story with, "like, 'Wait a minute. What did you just say to our little kid?'", he uses the word 'like' as a bridge for his turn-holding. This stratefy ensures that he remains in control of the narrative despite the audience's reaction. In (1-4), Fallon uses filler phrases "Um-" to indicate that he is still constructing his next

sentences. He then smoothly transitioned into a new topic about "Spider-Man 4," keeping the audience interested and reacting to their cheers and applause for the flow of conversation. After the applause and cheering, Fallon holds his turn through the use of the conjunction 'but' at the beginning of his sentence.

Interaction (1-5) and (1-6) both uses turn-yielding strategy. In (1-5), Fallon uses an incomplete statement, "Yeah, these are things that you learn as you...," with a trailing pause, signalling an invitation for Tom Holland (TH) to complete the thought. In (1-6), Fallon explicitly yields the turn by asking a direct question, "Do you agree, 'Is Tom Holland the ultimate rizz master?'" This clear and engaging prompt shifts the focus to Holland, who humorously responds, "I'd have to say I strongly agree,".

In (1-5), Fallon uses an incomplete sentence, "Yeah, these are things that you learn as you..", with a trailing intonation and a pause which is a clear invitation, in a form of turn-yielding, for Tom to complete his thought. In (1-6), Fallon explicitly yields his turn as he asks a direct question to Tom, "Do you agree, 'Is Tom Holland the ultimate rizz master?'". This clear and engaging question prompt shifts the attention right back to Tom who says, "I'd have to say I strongly agree.".

Interaction (1-7) and (1-8) both uses interruption strategy. In (1-7), Tom begins expressing his thoughts, "Yeah. It's just... you know it's-," when Fallon interrupts him humorously, "Yeah, it's like, 'Oh, that's not Tobey Maguire-'," effectively redirecting the focus of the conversation to himself. In (1-8), Fallon starts recounting Tom's previous statement, "And they didn't-," when Tom interjects in rather strongly, "The disrespect!". Tom's interruption here combined with his comical non-verbal gestures adds dramatic effect and humour, aligning with the playful tone of the conversation.

Feedbacks

Here are a few examples of feedbacks that Jimmy Fallon and Tom Holland uses during their interviews.

> (1-8)   TH: But it was- it was hilarious. And it was- It was an amazing experience. It was really odd being there with them as a fan of the films from before.
> JF: Yeah.
> TH: And it was also really interesting because throughout the films, I was at my third film by this point, and I had been requesting a few things with my suit, like I wanted to be able to take my gloves off. I wanted to be able to, like, go to the bathroom without taking the whole suit off.

> (1-9)   JF: I want to talk about this. This is a big kind of cool thing you're doing now. It's a non-alcoholic beer.
> TH: Yes.
> JF: It's called Bero. 85 tis quality, by the way.

> (1-10)   TH: I tried to start with a month off, and what really scared me is how difficult I found it.
> JF: Yeah.

TH: And then I did a second month. It got no easier.

From the interaction transcript above, it was shown that all of them includes a feedback strategy that was used either by the guest or the host. In (1-9), Fallon provides a minimal but affirming feedback with "Yeah," signalling attentiveness and encouraging Tom to continue his narrative. This simple acknowledgment acts as feedback, showing support without interrupting TH's flow.

In (1-10), when Fallon shifts the topic, through feedback, Tom answers with a simple "Yes" which serves as an acknowledgement towards Fallon's statement and for him to continue talking as Tom shows that he is listening attentively.

In (1-11), Fallon once again uses minimal feedback, "Yeah", as a way to show acknowledgment and that he is attentively listening to what Tom was recounting. This acknowledgment helps maintain conversational momentum, which allows Tom to expand on his experience.

Adjacency Pairs

Here are a few examples of Adjacency Pairs that Jimmy Fallon and Tom Holland uses during their interviews.

(1-11)   JF: "It's nice to see you."
         TH: "Nice to see you too. It's my first time in here."

(1-12)   JF: "Yeah. I asked you. We were having a conversation, and I asked you, and I obviously trust you, and you trust me, and we're- Let's just-"
         TH: "We have that kind of relationship."
         JF: "Yes, we really do have that kind of- Well, let's just take a look at what you said."

(1-13)   JF: "Now we're here- Now we're here, we're actually- we can- we're touching. Now we're in the same room. Can we confirm this tonight?"
         [Drumroll]
         [Laughter]
         TH: "It's Happening."

From the video, the host and guest had used three types of adjacency pairs; greeting-greeting, statement-response, and question-answer. The above shows an example of each type from the video. In (1-12), it shows that Fallon as the host opens the interview by greeting Tom as the guest, and Tom greets him back. This interaction is the first adjacency pairs and in fact the first conversation analysis feature from the video. This type of adjacency pair is called the greeting-greeting pair.

In (1-13), Tom was shown to give the following statement, "We have that kind of relationship" and Fallon responded to this by saying "Yes" which affirms the statement made by Tom. This is a type of adjacency pair called the statement-response pair.

In (1-14), Fallon asks Tom the following, "Now we're here- Now we're here, we're actually- we can- we're touching. Now we're in the same room. Can we confirm this tonight?" and before Tom answers there's a sound of a drum rolling and audiences laughter. After it stops, Tom answers it positively with, "It's Happening". This type of adjacency pair is called the question-answer pair.

Repair Mechanisms

The following is a few examples of repair mechanisms in the interview between Jimmy Fallon and Tom Holland.

(1-14)   JF: "We were Zooming, yeah. But I appreciate you doing that because it's hard to... That was a confusing time for the world and hard to- hard to get guests and everything. And you- you actually were great to us. Well, I'm saying that, but to be really honest, you were a little- you were a little- you were a little tricky to- to me."

(1-15)   JF: "Yeah. I asked you. We were having a conversation, and I asked you, and I obviously trust you, and you trust me, and we're- Let's just-"
TH: "We have that kind of relationship."
JF: "Yes, we really do have that kind of- Well, let's just take a look at what you said."

From the examples above, the host and the guest had used two types of repair mechanism strategies; self-initiated and other-initiated. In (1-15), Fallon uses the self-initiated repair mechanism, in this turn he uses the repair mechanism two times. Once when he said, "But I appreciate you doing that because it's hard to... That was a confusing time for the world and hard to- hard to get guests and everything" to correct and reiterate his statements in order to articulate his thoughts more clearly. The other is when he said, "you were a little- you were a little- you were a little tricky to- to me" this happens because Fallon had made a mistake in that he had forgotten what he said and to buy some time to remember what he wanted to say.

In (1-16) Fallon had made a mistake by giving an incomplete utterance, "…and you trust me, and we're- Let's just-". Tom, recognizing the mistake, initiated the repair by saying, "We have that kind of relationship." Then Fallon acknowledges the mistake and the repair said, "Yes, we really do have that kind of-". This example showcases the other-initiated repair mechanism.

Jimmy Kimmel Live!

After transcribing and analysing the YouTube video titled *"How Tom Holland Drunkenly Saved Spider-Man"*, uploaded on December 5, 2019, a detailed analysis of its content was conducted. In the interview, Jimmy Kimmel (JK) serving as the host, engage in a conversation with Tom Holland (TH), as the guest. The discussion focuses on Holland's personal experience and involvement in his new project in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

The analysis focuses on key conversational elements between the two, the researcher found some conversational analysis features during the observations, here are the findings derived from the video.

Table 2 *Conversation Analysis Features*

No.	Strategies	Total
1.	Turn-Taking Strategies	
	1.1 Turn-Claimings	18
	1.2 Turn-Holdings	55
	1.3 Turn-Yieldings	45
	1.4 Interruptions	4
2.	Feedbacks	21
3.	Adjacency Pairs	61
4.	Repair Mechanisms	23

Turn-Takings

The following are a few examples of turn-taking strategies that Jimmy Kimmel and Tom Holland uses during their interviews ranging from turn-claimings to interruptions.

(2-1) JK: "With the Russo Brothers, you did the avengers with them, but this is not a superhero-related movie..."
TH: "This is very not a superhero movie. Yeah..."

(2-2) TH: "I'm sorry, guys, I'm sorry..."
JK: "so, also would you consider yourself to be a Browns fan now?"

(2-3) TH: It's just coffee in a needle.
[Laughter]
TH: Um.. But it's going really well.

(2-4) TH: So, we just been sitting there drinking.
[Laughter]
TH: But we had a menu, and we like- we came up with our own version of how they should play the game.

(2-5) TH: I don't know, this is about as much football talk as I've ever had, so…
JK: Dolphins, Aquaman, yes?

(2-6) TH: The Dolphins actually came to London to play when I was a kid, and they got spanked.
JK: They did, and did that make you not like them? "Oh, those guys suck".
TH: We don't understand the sport-

(2-7) JK: So, the Browns get Spiderman, Chiefs get superman. well, the Patriots already have Captain America, because Chris is a big Patriots fan-
TH: Pratt, Pratt likes the Rams? No?

(2-8)   TH: No, actually I have, I just met him, we were doing press earlier. But we've
been working together for tw-
JK: You met him today?
TH: Yeah, for the first time.

From the interactions above, it can be seen that interaction (2-1) and (2-2) uses turn-claiming strategies. In (2-1), Jimmy Kimmel (JK) begins by framing a question about Tom Holland's (TH) collaboration with the Russo Brothers. Before Kimmel can complete his turn, Tom interjects with "This is very not a superhero movie. Yeah..." to emphasize the non-superhero aspect of the movie. This early response is a turn-claiming strategy where Holland asserts his position in the conversation before Kimmel fully concludes, signaling his eagerness to address the topic. In (2-2), Tom apologizes ("I'm sorry, guys, I'm sorry..."), potentially reacting to audience cues or conversational dynamics. Kimmel quickly reclaims the floor with a seamless transition ("so, also would you consider yourself to be a Browns fan now?"), using the conjunction "so" to assert control and guide the conversation toward a new topic.

The interactions in (2-3) and (2-4) demonstrate turn-holding strategies effectively. In (2-3), Tom uses a brief pause filled with laughter and a filler phrase ("Um..") to maintain control of the turn before continuing with additional information ("But it's going really well"). Similarly, in (2-4), Tom employs a conjunction ("But") to link his statements and extend his contribution without yielding the floor.

The interactions in (2-5) and (2-6) demonstrate turn-yielding strategies as the speakers facilitate the flow of the conversation. In (2-5), Tom concludes his turn with a reflective statement ("...so…"), signaling the end of his contribution and inviting Kimmel to take the floor, in which Kimmel promptly responds with a new topic ("Dolphins, Aquaman, yes?"). In (2-6), Tom provides a complete response about his experience with the Dolphins then Kimmel asks him with a straight forward question and yields the turn to Tom.

The interactions in (2-7) and (2-8) demonstrate turn-holding strategies effectively. In (2-7), there is a clear instance of interruption where Kimmel starts discussing the connection between football teams and superheroes icon, and Tom briefly interjects with a question about Chris Pratt's preference for the Rams. In (2-8), Tom talks about meeting Will Smith during a press event. However, Kimmel interrupts before Tom can fully explain, asking, "You met him today?" This interruption cuts off Tom's explanation.

Feedbacks

Here are a few examples of feedback that Jimmy Kimmel and Tom Holland uses during their interviews:

(2-9) TH: Yeah, but it's going amazing. It's been a really strange experience for me, because
i've been doing the super hero thing for a while now...
JK: Uh-huh
TH: ...and now i'm doing heroin.

(2-10)   TH: No we- I don't know, we had a really good plan for what we were going to do with Sony, the future with Spiderman was really bright. Um- But it would've been a shame to take him out the MCU, you know?

        JK: Right.

        TH: That's where he belongs, and we've built such a strong character in that world, and it would have been a shame to lose that. But I'm just really glad that we made it.

(2-11)   TH: It's tough.
        JK: Yeah.
        TH: I don't know how you do it every night.

(2-12)   TH: Yeah, we're doing a quiz.
        JK: Ok.
        TH: : And I'm like three pints in, right?

In the interactions (2-9) and (2-10), feedback strategies are evident. In (2-9), Kimmel's simple "Uh-huh" serves as a minimal feedback strategy, signaling that he is listening and encouraging Tom to continue. In (2-10), Kimmel provides a more explicit feedback strategy with "Right," signaling understanding and agreement with Tom's perspective on Spider-Man's future in the MCU. In (2-11), Kimmel's "Yeah" serves as a minimal feedback strategy, signaling acknowledgment and empathy toward Tom's statement about the difficulty of the task. In (2-12), Kimmel's "Ok" acts as another feedback strategy, indicating that he is following along with Tom's story.

Adjacency Pairs

Here are a few examples of Adjacency Pairs that Jimmy Kimmel and Tom Holland uses during their interviews.

(2-13)   JK: Tom, it is very good to see you. How are you?
        TH: It's good to be back.
        JK: It's good to have you back.
        TH: Yeah, it's good to be back…

(2-14)   JK: It is going well, and you enjoy being in Cleveland?
        TH: I love Cleveland.

(2-15)   JK: You guys don't stop for commercials.
        TH: Not really.

(2-16)   TH: Pratt, Pratt likes the Rams? No?
        JK: Does he?
        TH: I don't know, I think- he likes a team-
        JK: No, he likes the Seahawks.

From the examples above, the host and the guest had used four types of adjacency pairs; greeting-greeting, question-answer, statement-response and offer-response. In (2-13), Kimmel greets Tom and asks how he is, and Tom reciprocates with a positive response saying, "It's good to be back" establishing a friendly and casual tone. Then, Kimmel reinforces the greeting by saying, "It's good to have you back," and Tom agrees, further solidifying the friendly exchange.

In (2-14), Kimmel asks Tom whether he enjoys being in Cleveland, and Tom answers enthusiastically, "I love Cleveland," providing a clear and direct response to Kimmel's question.

In (2-15), Kimmel stated that soccer game doesn't stop for commercials, and Tom responds with "Not really," acknowledging Kimmel's statement and confirming that fact in a concise manner.

In (2-16), Tom offers a piece of information about Pratt's football preferences, albeit uncertain. Kimmel responded with uncertainty as it contradicts his information, "Does he?" before Tom clarifies, and Kimmel offers the correction, "No, he likes the Seahawks." This exchange shows a collaborative effort to clarify information and keep the conversation flowing.

Repair Mechanisms

The following is a few examples of repair mechanisms in the interview between Jimmy Kimmel and Tom Holland.

(2-17) JK: I'm curious. As you know, I'm always curious as to what the brother- because he works for you.. right? (Self-initiated)

(2-18) TH: Pratt, Pratt likes the Rams? No?
     JK: Does he?
     TH: I don't know, I think- he likes a team-
     JK: No, he likes the Seahawks.
     TH: That's right! (Other-initiated)

From the video, the host and guest had used two types of repair mechanisms; self-initiated and other-initiated. In (2-17), Kimmel starts by asking a question about someone working for Tom, but the phrasing is a bit unclear or incomplete. He self-initiated a clarification by rephrasing his question, "I'm curious as to what the brother... because he works for you, right?" This repair makes the question more understandable and coherent, ensuring that Tom completely understand what Kimmel is asking.

In (2-18), Tom initially offers and information about Pratt liking the Rams, but when Kimmel responds with uncertainty as it contradicts his information, "Does he?", Tom realizes the mistake and tries corrects himself, saying, "I think he likes a team..." Kimmel then provides the correction, "No, he likes the Seahawks," and Tomm acknowledges the correction with "That's right!" This other-initiated repair helps to fix the confusion about Pratt's football preference, ensuring the conversation continues smoothly.

Discussion

The findings from the conversation analysis in the two TV talk shows, *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, reveals a lot of notable similarities and differences in how the hosts and guests employ turn-taking strategies, feedbacks, adjacency pairs, and repair mechanisms, the basic features of conversation analysis. These features play crucial parts in maintaining the flow of conversation, enhancing the humor, and creating a smooth interaction between the host and guest. By analyzing these features, we gain insights into the conversational style of each show, as well as how these strategies contribute to the overall tone and atmosphere of the interviews.

Turn-Taking Strategies

One of the most striking similarities between the two shows is in the use of turn-taking strategies which includes turn-claimings, turn-holdings, turn-yieldings, and interruptions. Both Jimmys, as hosts, employ all four strategies to guide the flow of conversation and manage a smooth conversation between themselves and their guests.

In The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, turn-claiming strategies are more frequently used, as seen in interactions like (1-1) and (1-2), where Fallon often reclaims his turn after Tom briefly interjects or finishes his thought. Fallon's ability to smoothly claim the turn, particularly through slight tone changes, conjunctions or reaffirming statements, showcases his control over the interview / conversation. This is a tad bit similar to Kimmel's use of turn-claiming in Jimmy Kimmel Live!, (e.g., in (2-1) and (2-2)), where he reasserts control after Holland makes a brief statement or offers an apology. Although Fallon uses this strategy more frequently than Kimmel did, both hosts seem to be more than adept at maintaining the conversational flow by asserting their dominance when necessary.

Turn-holding strategies are also prevalent in both shows, with both hosts and guests using pauses, fillers, and conjunctions to extend their turns. In The Tonight Show, Tom Holland often holds his turn with pauses and conjunctions, as in (1-3), where he uses audience laughter as a natural pause before continuing his narrative. Similarly, in Jimmy Kimmel Live!, Tom holds his turn with brief pauses and fillers (e.g., in (2-3) and (2-4)), but there is a notable difference in the way both hosts handle these pauses. Fallon tends to embrace longer pauses filled with laughter and audience reactions, while Kimmel's pauses are shorter, keeping the focus on the guest's response and makes the conversation flow faster.

Like the previous two, turn-yielding strategy are frequently use in both shows, with both hosts and guests using long pauses, incomplete sentences, and questions to yield their turn to the next speaker. While both hosts demonstrate high mastery in turn-yielding, their approaches reflect their own distinct styles. Fallon's use of incomplete statements and collaborative pauses creates an informal, conversational atmosphere. This strategy aligns with his playful and approachable hosting persona and the more humorous

characteristic of the show, allowing guests to feel at ease and smoothly contributing to a relaxed dialogue. Kimmel, on the other hand, adopts a more structured approach, relying heavily on direct questions and topic transitions. This technique ensures a steady conversational flow and maintains focus on the guest's responses, aligning with Kimmel's slightly more formal and analytical style.

Finally, the big difference lies in the frequency and nature of interruptions being used in both shows. Fallon tends to interrupt his guests more playfully and humorously, as shown in (1-7) and (1-8), where he humorously cuts in to redirect the conversation. This is indicative of the more informal, comedic tone of The Tonight Show. In contrast, Kimmel's interruptions, such as in (2-7) and (2-8), while still humorous, are less frequent and tend to occur when there is a slight confusion or when Kimmel wants to add a witty remark. This suggests that Jimmy Kimmel Live! may prioritize a slightly more structured conversational style, with interruptions used more sparingly.

Feedbacks

Feedbacks are essential strategy in maintaining the rhythm of a conversation. Both Fallon and Kimmel employ feedback mechanisms in order to show that they are paying attention and to encourage their guests to continue their stories. In The Tonight Show, Fallon uses minimal feedback, such as "Yeah" and "Yes,", and "Okay" to show engagement without interrupting Tom's flow, as seen in (1-9) and (1-11). This agrees with the pace of the show, which is a bit relaxed and humorous; shorter affirmations by the host allow the guest to continue developing his or her opinions without irrelevant interruptions.

Kimmel also uses minimal feedback such as "Uh-huh", "Right", "Yeah", "Yes", and many others as shown in (2-9) all the way to (2-12), but he tends to use somewhat more explicit feedback strategies than Fallon. For example, in (2-10), Kimmel's "Right" is a more substantive agreement with Tom's point about Spider-Man's future in the MCU. This more substantive feedback may suggest that Kimmel places more emphasis on the guest's narrative being recognized and affirmed, thus setting up a somewhat more conversational and reflective tone than Fallon's more playful and reactive feedback style.

Adjacency Pairs

Adjacency pairs is a conversation analysis feature where one speaker's utterance is immediately followed by a corresponding response from the other speaker-are a core feature of both shows (Paltridge; 2012). In Tonight Show, adjacency pairs, such as greeting-greeting (1-12) and statement-response (1-13), are important in the interactions between Fallon and Holland. It builds a friendly and cooperative relationship. For instance, the greeting exchange between Fallon and Holland in (1-12) sets a casual and playful tone for the rest of the conversation. These often flow quite seamlessly to reinforce the warm, comedic, and informal nature of the show.

In Jimmy Kimmel Live!, adjacency pairs also play a very important role in the continuity of the conversation. The most frequent type is question-answer pairs, as in (2-14). The frequent use of question-

answer pairs in Kimmel's show can point out the interview being more regulated, as he often directed the conversation with direct questions.

This contrasts with Fallon's more conversational style, where statement-response pairs are more common, and the flow feels more spontaneous and less scripted. The difference in adjacency pairs between the two shows underlines their different styles: While The Tonight Show is casual and more back-and-forth, Jimmy Kimmel Live! depends more on structured question-answer types to get the conversation going.

Repair Mechanisms

Repair mechanisms, which fix conversational disturbances or miscommunications, have also been applied in both The Tonight Show and Fallon (Paltridge; 2012). Throughout the interview in The Tonight Show, Fallon repeatedly makes use of self-initiated repair mechanisms, which mostly, as in the excerpt (1-15), involve repetitions and reformulations of the statements or questions to make sure that coherence is attained. In the area of repair mechanisms, Tom Holland, the guest, has also contributed his quotas in the excerpt (1-16) to complete what Fallon had said:. This collaborative repair mechanism contributes to the informal and humorous tone of the show, where mistakes or misunderstandings are handled in a light-hearted manner.

Similarly, in Jimmy Kimmel Live!, the repair mechanisms are used to explain something or to clarify the misunderstanding. For example, in example (2-17), it is Kimmel himself that initiates a repair to explain his question more clearly; while in (2-18), Kimmel initiates a repair when correcting Tom regarding Chris Pratt's football preferences. This makes sense given the more structured nature of Kimmel's show; indeed, the repair mechanisms do appear to be more a matter of sorting out confusion. By contrast, Fallon's repair mechanisms are often more playful and serve to enhance the comedic aspect of the conversation.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, both The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon and Jimmy Kimmel Live! use the features of conversation analysis such as turn-taking strategies, feedbacks, adjacency pairs, and repair mechanisms to create a smooth and engaging interaction between the hosts and their guests. While employing similar strategies, both shows differ slightly in their execution and in the overall tone created. Fallon's show merges more towards the spontaneous, less formal, even playful character of host's interruptions, and a minimum use of feedback, whereas Kimmel proceeds with his show in much more structured and reflexive manners, introducing explicit feedback, and the main attention to the question-answer adjacency pairs. These differences point out the unique conversational styles of each host, shaping the viewer's experience and the overall atmosphere of the interviews.

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