

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the study's background, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Political interview is a specific form of journalistic interview in which political figures are interviewed in public setting. Montgomery (2007) defines political interview as broadcast meeting that journalist ask politicians about issues of public concern. Further, Feldman (2016) explores that the aim of political interview is to questioning public figures related with the issues of public concern, vision, and mission. The public has the right to obtain comprehensive information, so that the action and intention of politicians are transparent. In addition, political interview can serve as turn-taking, persuasion, and face management. Yao et al. (2025) highlight that in political interview, speakers can completely manage the turn-taking to achieve mutually dealing. Also, this requires speakers to carefully identify the relevance of transition in turn-taking.

A study conducted by Shu'e and Yanqing (2018) focuses on the use of discourse markers in U.S. presidential debate in the first 2016. In debates, especially presidential debates, presidential candidates do not simply argue with the opponents, but rather focus on how the messages and statements can be understood and accepted by the public. Therefore, the use of discourse markers, whether conscious or not, is very useful in guiding the

public to better understand the candidates' intentions with less processing effort. Further, the study on political interview is different from non-political interview. First, in terms of communicative purpose. In non-political interview, the communicative purpose is simply to provide information. While in political interview, in addition to providing information, it can also serve to maintain image and power, as well as influence public opinion (Feldman, 2016). Next, in term of persuasiveness. Non-political interview tends to be low in terms of persuasiveness. In contrast, political interview tends to be high and fully strategic. Lastly, the topic presented. Usually, non-political interview address topic related to life. However, in political interview usually address topic related to ideology and policy. Therefore, political interview study is worth studying because it is different from non-political interview, as explained earlier.

Additionally, there is a lack of study on Indonesian politicians, especially on an international scale and at a timely moment. For instance, the study conducted by Yafi and Maris (2025) analyze the facework strategies in public interview of Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Muhaimin Iskandar on Mata Najwa. The interview in this study was conducted in Bahasa Indonesia, in which the audience reach was not as wide as an interview conducted in English. Or in other words, it is only on a national scale. This interview was held after the declaration of Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Muhaimin Iskandar candidate pair in 2024 presidential election. At this moment, only Indonesian people who needed this information, because they would face the elections to choose the leader who

would lead Indonesia for the next five years. While in this study, the researcher studies Prabowo Subianto's interview on Al Jazeera, which was on international scale and occurred at a timely moment because it was conducted immediately after the 2024 presidential election.

This study has relationship with other researches that had been done by Cahyanti in 2021, which focuses on types and functions of discourse markers in a vlog video by Bnay Youtube channel. The concern of this study is about the use of discourse markers in informal way, which can help to improve speaking fluency of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students. In this study, there are ten types of discourse markers according to Biber et al. (1999) theory. One example is discourse markers serve as opening frame markers, such as *what's up*, *hello*, and *well*. The speaker uses *what's up* to greet the audience through the camera.

The second study conducted by Santoso et al. (2024). This study specifically focuses on interpersonal discourse markers in presidential debate between Trump and Joe Biden. The aim of this study is to find the types and functions of interpersonal discourse markers. Trump uses around nine interpersonal discourse markers, each with function. In other hand, there are five interpersonal markers with its function used by Joe Biden. The use of interpersonal marker provides a new understanding of the use of markers, especially in political sector.

Another study conducted by Jayanti et al. (2021) focuses on the types and functions of discourse markers in social situation. This study specifically investigated Steve Job's speech at Stanford Commencement

Address. The finding shows the dominant discourse markers used are connective, cause and result, and temporal adverb. The connective markers take the dominant because it plays a significant role in linking the statement used to support the inspiring stories by Steve Jobs. On the other hand, marker of response is unfrequently used, because the speech is set on formal occasion. This inspired researcher to study discourse markers, especially in political interviews, because it rarely noticeable, different to discourse markers in non-political interviews, as previously discussed.

Discourse markers are words or short phrases like *well, but, you know, oh, and I mean* that function to smooth flow, connect, and organization of speech (Schiffrin, 1987). On the other hand, Fraser (1999) define discourse markers as expression that indicate the relationship between the previous utterance and the next utterance. Their presence is important in helping a speaker gain fluency and make the speech sound natural and less rigid, especially in spontaneous situations such as an interview (Mohammed, 2018). Similarly, Biber et al. (1999) classify the discourse markers into different classes, such as interjections, greeting and farewell, response form, and hesitators, in accordance with their role and position in a conversation or sentence. While the role of discourse markers in political interview is to manage interaction, shaping political persona, and subtly influence audience interpretation. For instance, the study by Fu et al. (2024) investigate two political interviews between CGTN's The Point with Liu Xin and BBC's HARDtalk. It is found that discourse markers, especially *you know* and *I mean* are used to ensure mutual understanding, engaging the

audience, and clarify or reframe the statement. Discourse markers can also function to guide the flow of talk, maintain coherence, and manage interaction (Lenk, 1998). Therefore, study about discourse markers is significant to conduct.

The focus of this study is to identify and analyze the types and functions of discourse markers utilized by Prabowo Subianto in his Al Jazeera interview "Victory, Controversies, and Hopes" using relevant established theories. The researcher chooses discourse markers as a topic of the study because discourse markers, especially in political interviews are rarely noticeable and different to discourse markers in non-political interviews, as explained above. Also, the use of discourse markers in political interviews may reveal the speaker's perspective. In addition to uncover the speaker's perspective, discourse markers may also reveal how Indonesian politician persuade, control narratives, and negotiate meaning. Furthermore, English learners are able to recognize the cohesion, coherence, and structure of each discourse. While the reason the researcher chooses Prabowo's interview in Al Jazeera because as Indonesian politician, which is interviewed in an international scale, this is matter to observe, especially in terms of how he maintains his power and credibility. It is also interesting to know how discourse markers maintain the flow of the conversation during interview.

The interview of Prabowo Subianto is released in Al Jazeera YouTube channel. The researcher chooses the interview in Al Jazeera because this platform is the first independent news channel in the Middle

East. Independent here, means that all the things that is published is purely without direct interference from the government in shaping the content and delivery of interview. Therefore, the interview offers more authentic communication. Also, the questions asked to Prabowo tend to be critical. The interview is titled “Victory, Controversies, and Hopes” which represented the entire content of the interview. It is conducted after he won the 2024 presidential election. It began by discussing his victory in winning nearly 60% of the votes throughout Indonesia. He also explained the factors and strategies he used to win the recent presidential election. Interestingly, Prabowo chose Gibran who is related with Jokowi, as his running mate. After discussing the victory, a number of controversies during the campaign and the election are also discussed. One of the highlights is the “cartoon and *gemoy* dance” gimmick, which became the selling power for the Prabowo-Gibran pair in the presidential election.

To analyze the relationship of the text, structure, and coherence, a branch of linguistic called discourse analysis is needed. Discourse analysis is a critical tool of how language function beyond its surface-level meaning (Putri, 2025). Likewise, discourse analysis is a broad term for the study of how language is used by humans, both in written and spoken form (McCarthy, 1991). In addition, discourse analysis is focused on the study of the relation between language and the context in which it is used. Also, it relates to the content of communication and how to analyze messages in a discourse are organized and understood in order to comprehend the intentions conveyed in that discourse (Wathi et al., 2014).

Furthermore, to examine the communication strategy, the implicit meaning, speaker intention, and face management, pragmatics study is needed. Pragmatics is an important aspect of language that goes beyond the simple exchange of information between speakers and listeners (Dey, 2023). Huang and Yan (2016), describe that pragmatics involves interpreting meaning in context and taking into consideration factors such as the speaker's intention. Another important aspect of pragmatic is the study of implicature, that refers to concluded meaning that is not explicitly stated by speaker (Grice, 1975). In addition, pragmatics also includes the study of discourse, that refers to a broader order of language that goes beyond the sentence level and involve interactions between speakers and listeners (Schiffrin, 1987). Therefore, this study uses double theories to maximize the findings.

The aim of this study is to identify and analyze the types and functions of discourse markers utilized by Prabowo Subianto in his interview with Al Jazeera entitled "Victory, Controversies, and Hopes". This study can reveal how Indonesian politicians express their statement in international discourse. And also, can contribute to discourse analysis and political linguistic field. Furthermore, to identify the types of discourse markers, discourse analysis perspective is used. While to analyze the functions of discourse markers, pragmatics perspective is needed. Thus, this study is classified as interdisciplinary study. By analyzing not only the types and functions of discourse markers used by Prabowo Subianto in his

interview with Jessica Washington on Al Jazeera, but also the reason behind it.

B. Problems of the Study

Based on the elaboration above, this research produces the following problems of the study:

1. What types of discourse markers used by Prabowo Subianto on Al Jazeera interview?
2. What are the functions of discourse markers used by Prabowo Subianto on Al Jazeera interview?

C. Objectives of the Study

Related with the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the types of discourse markers used by Prabowo Subianto on Al Jazeera interview.
2. To identify the functions of discourse markers used by Prabowo Subianto on Al Jazeera interview.

D. Significance of the Study

The result of this study is expected to provide contribution in academic field. For the teachers, this study can be one of the references in teaching that related with linguistic aspect, such as discourse markers. Likewise, teachers can present students how discourse markers function in authentic communication rather than in textbook. For students, this study can contribute in enriching and deepen understanding of discourse markers in conversation. Also, by learning from the example of public figure like

Prabowo Subianto, students can see how discourse markers support argumentation and maintaining the flow of conversation. While for other researchers, this study can be a reference for conducting further investigations in discourse studies. It offers new insight how speakers employ discourse markers in political communication. The future studies can extend this research in analyzing other genres, such as debates, discussion, or classroom interaction.

E. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study focuses on utterances that included discourse markers on the interview between Prabowo Subianto and Jessica Washington in Talk to Al Jazeera segment, entitled: “Victory, Controversies, and Hopes”. This title represents the entire content of the interview. Also, it serves as a symbolic political platform to present himself as a new leader followed with the fresh and nationalist visions. The focus of this study is only on Prabowo Subianto’s utterance and the content of the interview. Not on the Al Jazeera platform in terms of ideology and principles. Therefore, this study is not classified as Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA).

The researcher employs discourse markers by Schiffrin’s (1987) theory to categorize the types. There are six types of discourse markers: Marker of Information Management, Marker of Response, Discourse Connectives, Markers of Cause and Results, Markers of Temporal Adverb, and the last is Information and Participation. While to classify the functions, the researcher employs Fraser’s (1996) theory. There are four functions of discourse markers in terms of pragmatic: Topic Change Markers,

Contrastive Markers, Elaborative Markers, and Inferential Markers. Moreover, to contrast this study to previous studies, the researcher states more elaboration about the reason why the speaker uses the discourse markers in the discussion section. This analysis is purely the researcher's opinion by exploring some related study as the support.

F. Definition of Key Terms

There are some key terms in this study. The following terms are the definition of the key terms:

1. Discourse Analysis : Discourse analysis is the study of how language is organized and employed beyond the level of the words, sentences, or clauses.
2. Pragmatics : Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies language use, language context, language appropriateness, and language awareness.
3. Discourse Markers : A word or phrase that help for connecting, controlling, and organizing conversations. Is typically used to indicate the relationship between different sentences or sections of text, such as contrast, conjunction, or transition.
4. Al Jazeera : Al Jazeera is one of the largest and most impactful international news networks in the world. They focus on the people and events that affect people's lives. And also, bring up topics that are often not covered, listen to all sides of the story.
5. Political Interview : Specific type of political discourse that has become the most effective form of communication between politicians and the public.