Turn-Taking Strategies Used by Lincoln-Douglas Debate Final Round 2019

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Abstract

This study aims to find out what kinds of turn-taking strategies are used in Lincoln-Douglas debate final round between Nehal Chigurupati as the affirmative speaker and Grace Johannes as the negative speaker. This study has two purposes: the first is to find out what kinds of turn-taking strategies are used by the Lincoln-Douglas debate, and the second is to find out the most dominant type of turn-taking strategies used by the Lincoln-Douglas final debate. A descriptive qualitative method was used in this study while Stenstrom’s (1994) theory was applied to analyze the data. The results show that 31 data were found which consist of taking the turn strategies (16), holding the turn (10), and yielding the turn (5). The findings imply that the most dominant strategy used by the Lincoln-Douglas debate is turn-taking strategies.

Keywords: Turn Taking Strategies, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, taking the turn, holding the turn, yielding the turn

Introduction

In basic terms, English conversation can be depicted as a movement in which, generally, at least two individuals take turn at talking. The exchange turns of the speaker and the listener, or one person takes the turn of an interaction which happens simultaneously is commonly called turn-taking (Brown & Yule, 1983).

Generally, participants hold up until one speaker shows that he or she has completed, ordinarily by signaling a completion point. Speakers can check their turns as complete in various manners: by posing an inquiry, for instance, or by stopping toward the finish of a finished syntactic structure sentence. Other participants can show that they need to take the talking turn, in several ways. They can begin to make short sounds, normally rehashed, while the speaker is talking and regularly use body movements or outward appearances to flag that they remark.

Some previous studies related to turn taking focusing on conversation (Sari et al., 2021); (Dewi et al., 2018); (Ashidiq, 2022), debate (Yunus & Eliastuti, 2019); (Dwi Natalia et al., 2020); (Nugraheni, 2016), and talkshow (Habibi et al., 2020); (Agustianto & Putera, 2020). Meanwhile, Azhimi (2016) analyzed several conversation turn-taking rules in “Ini talk show” TV program and found out that the strategies used are overlap, interruption, and repairs. This research also limits the data from the selected dialogues, which means not all talk show conversations are being analyzed. Another study was conducted by (Khasanah, 2020) about turn-taking strategies used by host and guest on the talk show “The Ellen DeGeneres show”. The results show that the participants used the taking the turn strategy divided into starting up, taking over, and interrupting. (Sulistyowati, 2009) who studied turn-taking strategies used by the characters of “The Pursuit of The Happiness” using Stenstrom theory found out that the strategies used are taking the turn, holding the turn, and yielding the turn. Unlike previous studies, this research focused on turn-taking strategies used by
debaters, especially in Lincoln-Douglas debate final round. By investigating the strategies used by the debaters, the findings may become a model of how to use turn-taking strategies in a debate.

Theoretical Framework

(Stenstrom, 1994) states that there are three types of turn taking strategies. Those are taking the turn strategy, holding the turn strategy, and yielding the turn strategy.

Taking the Turn Strategy

At the point when the conversation starts, it implies that somebody has an activity to talk. There must be participation between the speaker and the audience for the conversation to go on easily. Unexpectedly, the speaker/the first speaker starts to talk with somebody who is welcomed (the audience/the subsequent speaker) to talk. After completing his/her talking, the audience offers a remark or a response to his/her (the first speaker). For example:

A: Good morning, everyone! Welcome back to my show, let’s skip the chit chat and move to the point where I introduce you to the most famous actor in the world, as you know, he’s playing a movie called Avengers, here it is, Chris Evans.
A: Welcome to my show Chris!
B: Yeah thanks for inviting me.

This condition is called talking the turn strategy. This talking the turn happen all the time until there is no more conversation. (Stenstrom, 1994) states that taking the turn can be complicated because the speaker who responds to the current speaker may not be well prepared. Therefore, Stenstrom divides taking the turn strategy into three parts. Those are starting up strategy, taking over strategy, and interrupting strategy. Each of them is explained below.

Starting Up Strategy

The first thing that individuals need to do in the conversation is making the condition from quietness to discourse. There must be somebody who starts the conversation first. Beginning to talk can be a troublesome thing. Now and then, a speaker has not decent planning toward the start of the conversation. Starting up consists of two types, that are the hesitant start and a clear start.

a. Hesitant start

A hesitant start is a situation where the speaker hesitates to start talking. That is because the speakers are not ready, but she/he does not want the turn being foreclosed. In these circumstances, a speaker will use a filled pause or verbal filler.

For example:

B: Well, a: m I mean that a: m your opinion it’s really great---

In the example, the speaker means to say something, but it took time to say the next words. The speaker uses the verbal filler (well) and filled pause (a: m). Furthermore, this situation can be explained as a hesitant start.
b. Clear Start

A clean start is the opposite of a clean start, which is if the speaker is ready to start a conversation, then the speaker will make a clean start.

For example:

A: "Well, we going continue to the other case, and I will give a little bit time for the speaker to prepare what she/he is going to speak".

In the example, the speaker is clearly starting the conversation without using a filled pause or verbal filler. The word "well" is used as a linking device. Thus, the utterance uses a clean start.

**Taking over Strategy**

After the first speaker began a conversation, there are a few reactions from the audience members. She/he offers remarks to responses of what the speaker has expressed or inquired. On the off chance that the audience reacts to the speaker, it is brought as taking over in the conversation. There are so many ways to force the other speakers to speak or comment on the current speaker’s statements. According to Stenstroom (1994:71), taking over involves whether uptakes or links.

a. Uptakes are utilized by the speaker to react to the current speaker’s expression as demonstrating his/her understanding. The words that used are “ah”, “well”, “oh”, “yes”.

For example:

A: Actually, I want tell you something but a: m I forgot. Are you angry?
B: Yeah. Little bit

In the example, B is using uptakes in the beginning of the sentence. The word “yeah” indicates that B is agreeing with the previous speaker by responding to the utterance.

b. Links are utilized by the speaker to take a turn so as to proceed with his/her talking as indicating understanding, continuing, and giving reason or disagreement of the previous utterance. The word used is “and”, “but”, “and “so”

For example:

A: You know her.
B: No – No
A: But, she know you---

In the example, the speaker A used a link, intending to tell other speakers that he understood what B had been said by using the conjunction “but”.

**Interrupting Strategy**

During the conversation, the speaker does not generally wrap up with his/her conversation. Now and again, the audience hinders at the start or center of the current speaker’s conversation. Interruptions are an infringement of turn taking principles of conversation. The interrupting strategy is divided into Alert and Meta comment.

a. Alert is finished by the audience to interfere with the current speaker by talking stronger than other members to pull in the consideration.

For example:

A: “You must to listen what is your father said because…”
B: “Listen, I’m not a child anymore.”

In the example, B interrupts A by using a higher pitch to attract other participants’ attention to listen. Thus, the conversation can be investigated as an alerts strategy.

b. Meta comments actually give a comment on the talk itself, which allow the listener to come up with objections without appearing to straight forward and without offending the current speaker. In other words, it has a face-saving effect. And this strategy is called the polite on interrupting the current speaker, like can I say something? Can I just tell? Let me just... etc. for example:

A: “I don’t want to know, you should have made a new program for---
B: “Sir, can I just tell you about a new program? I’ve done make a new program Sir. I suggest you check your e-mail again”.

In the example, B interrupting A using met comments. This explains that B interrupt politely.

**Holding the Turn Strategy**

Holding the turn means to continue talking. It happens when the speaker cannot control or hold the turns constantly on the grounds that it is very hard to arrange for what to state simultaneously. She/he needs to quit talking and begin arranging part of the way through the turn. Silence should be avoided unless it is strategically placed because the listener mistakes it for a signal takeover. In other words, the speaker has to play for time. There are four devices to help/for holding the turn to avoid a breakdown or takeover. Those are filled pause and verbal fillers, silent pauses, repetition, and a new start.

**Filled Pause and Verbal Fillers**

A filled pause usually can be taken to indicate that the speaker has no intention to yield the turn, but it is actually planning what to say next. For example:

A: Okay we have a new a: m --- idea for --- this meeting --- today.
B: I hope your idea can be understood by us.

In the example, A tries to hold his turn, but he has difficulty with what to say, so he uses verbal filler (a: m) and uses pause at this sentence.
Silent Pause

Silent pause is used as the turn holder and tried to keep the listener wait until the current speaker finishes his/her talking. In the silent pause, the speaker produces a pause where it is placed in a syntactically and semantically strategic place. For example:

A: ... that’s why I woke up late. I worked on the assignment all night long and=
B: =a: m
A: = and OF COURSE --- it’s done.

In the example, A tried to hold the turn by uses a silent pause after the word “of course.” This is used by A to hold the turn and give more information.

Lexical Repetition

It is used by repeating a single word many times because the speaker wants to go on speaking. For example:

A: ..... I forgot to to to set my alarm last night.

In the example, the speaker is using lexical repetition to keep holding the turn. He/she did it because it takes time to think about what he/she would say next.

A New Start

To avoid getting completely lost, the best solution is to make a new start. For example:

A: But I fell somehow, the sheer fact of not having to have. to have. this .really sort of - -
   it’s for one thing it does mark me.

Taken from (Stenstrom, 1994).

In the example, A has difficulties with what to say. A has tried to hold the turn using lexical repetition, pause, and verbal filler. However, in the end, he should start all over again.

Yielding the Turn

The last strategy is yielding the turn strategy. Sometimes, the speaker needs to part with the turn rather hesitantly, yet the speaker often yields the turn without much dissenting. The speaker appeals to the listener for a response (Stenstrom, 1994). Yielding the turn strategy is divided into prompting strategy, appealing strategy, and giving up strategy.

Prompting Strategy

In yielding the turn, the speaker can invite the participant to respond more to others so that it automatically turns them into turn-yielders. Moreover, the speaker can prompt, invite, greet, offer, question, request, object, and apologize. For example:

A: “Andrew”
B: “Yes”
A: “What are you doing?”
B: “I’m doing my homework”
In the example, A gives B’s question so that B responds utterance from A. This conversation above uses a prompting strategy that is A uses question “what are you”, so B has to answer.

**Appealing Strategy**

Appealing means the speaker gives the listener an explicit signal to make some kind of feedback, like question tags, all right, ok, you know, you see are being waited by the current speaker. For example:

A: “Kristen Stewart is an actress from American, you know? 
B: “Yes, I know about it”

In the example, the speaker uses the words “you know” because he/she wants the interlocutor to respond to his previous utterance.

**Giving up Strategy**

Giving up is the last strategy in yielding the turn. In the giving-up strategy, the speaker realizes that they do not have anything more to say and feels it is time for the listeners to speak (Stenstrom, 1994). The speaker should provide the interlocutor’s cues to take his turn, usually characterized by a long pause.

For example:

A: “I think if you want to a - - a: m-“ 
B: “Yes already know about something you going to say”.

In the example, the speaker A uses a pause long enough, that is almost 5 seconds as a signal for B that his turn to talk is over.

**Method**

This research used a qualitative descriptive research method. According to (Creswell, 2003), “qualitative research is largely inductive, with the inquirer generating meaning from the data collected in the field.” This method could be employed if the researcher is not certain which variables to control (Creswell, 2003). Therefore, qualitative methods would be helpful in situations where the researcher wishes to accumulate a general (not explicit) thought from the subjects, the objective being investigated, decipher, and depict a circumstance. Meanwhile, (Sugiyono, 2013) said, the qualitative research method is a research method that is used to examine the condition of the natural object, where the researcher is the key instrument, sampling is done by purposive data, collection technique by triangulation, data analysis is inductive or qualitative with the results emphasizing on significance and purpose rather than generalization. This study intends to describe real events, phenomena, variables, and circumstances that happen when the research introduces what happened, depending on the information.

This research employed a visual analysis technique in which the participants’ utterances in a recorded Lincoln-Douglas Debate. Video was interpreted and analyzed. Visual analytics is the study of systematic reasoning supported by interactive. Visual analytics strategies permit leaders to
consolidate their flexibility, creativity, and background knowledge with the huge stockpiling and handling limits of the present computers to pick up knowledge into complex issues.

## Results and Discussion

### Results

Table 1 shows the findings of turn-taking strategies used in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Final round. There are 31 data found in the debate classified into three types of strategies. They are taking the turn (16), holding the turn (10), and yielding the turn (5). Taking the turn is divided into start-up (3), taking-over (7), and interrupt (6). Start-up consists of hesitant start (1) and clear start (2), taking-over covers uptake (3) and links (4), and interrupt has two strategies alerts (4), and meta comment (2). Whereas, holding the turn has four strategies, and yielding the turn has three strategies. Based on the total number, among three strategies, taking the turn is the most strategies used, thus these strategies will be the concern of the discussion below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEBATE</th>
<th>Taking the Turn</th>
<th>Holding the Turn</th>
<th>Yielding the Turn</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SU</td>
<td>TO</td>
<td>Interrupt</td>
<td>FP &amp; VF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debate</td>
<td>HS</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>Upt</td>
<td>Links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Discussion

Taking the turn as listed in the table above shows the most frequent strategy used in the debate. This strategy is divided into start-up, taking over, and interrupt strategies. Start-up as listed in the table above has three data found covering hesitant start and clear starts. There are seven data found in taking over classified as uptake (3), and links (4). Whereas interrupt has alerts (4) and meta comment (2). Each type of these strategies is discussed below.

### Table 2

Types of Taking Turn Strategies used by Lincoln-Douglas Debate based on Stenstrom’s Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Utterances</th>
<th>Kinds of Strategy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Grace: Honey, I’m ready our any means of violence just as a response to political oppression.</td>
<td>Clear start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Nehal: All right. Is everybody wants again, so let’s start on your contention one about how violent revolution allows illegitimate leaders in right? Grace: Yes.</td>
<td>Clear start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Nehal: But can you provide any holistic statistics to prove that violent or the nonviolence will work Grace: Well. a: m well the citizens I read to you in my second detention says that it’s less likely to encounter mass killing I’m a= Nehal: Okay, but Caucasian overthrow the governments.</td>
<td>Hesitant start</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Nehal: I mean I can provide you with the empirical study
   Grace: **Okay. That’s fine**, if revolutions lead to government that don’t actually reflect be oppressed is that a successful one.

5. Nehal: Okay. Gotcha, so in your worlds can the oppressed seek any recourse.
   Grace: **Yes.** I argue they can see grief resource through nonviolent means but if that feels it’s preferable to leave the country than fight.

6. Nehal: So, how is an oppressed person supposed to flee the country how is someone stuck in North Korea supposed to flee their country when the government is shooting them at the board?
   Grace: **Yeah.** So that’s a really interesting thought experiment you cite to me it’s hard to be able to leave from North Korea, I argue it’s easier for them to leave than to find military weapons trained themselves in their friends to overthrow that government and not cause mass chaos in the country.

7. Grace: more violence responses and doesn’t solve for pressure
   Nehal: Okay
   Grace: I’m saying... yes
   Nehal: **But** can you like provide any holistic statistics to prove that violent or the nonviolence will work

8. Grace: Okay. Guerilla groups often use things like sexual coercion and rape
   Nehal: **No.**

9. Grace: Innocent children or civilians being killed, do you advocate for those types of violence to?
   Nehal: **No.** there’s very big distinction between terrorism and guerilla warfare terrorism is when the groups specifically target innocent civilians guerilla warfare is what happened in the American Revolution, when you specifically target government troops.

10. Nehal: **And then you** bring up this per Kowski 18 study right
    Grace: **No.** I read to form Kim

11. Nehal: Right. So I think there are a couple problems with your analysis, first of all we can never definitively say that one variable will cause a more oppressive government or a less oppressive government. In fact per war Ski 12 a meta study conducted from Duke University concluded that in the body of available of political science in the body of available statistics it’s impossible to come to a definitive statistical conclusion that one variable will lead to a better
    Grace: Okay
    Nehal: government
    Grace: **That’s not my question.** I’m asking you for an example of a violent revolution that didn’t perpetuate oppression

12. Nehal: Right. I can give you better than examples, I can provide you with an empirical study of past historical examples which
    Grace: Okay
    Nehal: says that non-violence does contribute to non
Grace: Do you have any of those examples available?
Nehal: I mean I can provide you with the empirical study

13. Nehal: Okay. So, let’s talk about this idea of innocent deaths are innocent deaths justified in the long term if they can actually stop political oppression.
Grace: You have yet to give me an example of where innocent deaths have led to outcome good even if you could provide that to me, I would argue that like using four hundred thousand innocent lives as a bartering chip it’s never simple...

Alert

14. Nehal: Okay, but Caucasian overthrow the government
Grace: I’m not specifically saying that it’s more successful at that, I’m saying the thing that’s most successful is actually fleeing your country and using your power as a diaspora as a refugee to make change

Alert

15. Nehal: I’m talking about the study that says that there was three times more likely to be mascot
Grace: That’s from Carnes and Chenoweth.
Nehal: That’s Carnes and Chenoweth okay where did the sample size from that study come from?

Meta comment

16. Nehal: I think that’s the fault of the government, I think the actual rebels are being very effective at actually countering Assad and in actually protecting innocent civilians and I think we can look to more historic examples – going back to example of the American Revolution where the United States military which is one of the weakest on the planet was able to overcome the British military which had the strongest naval force which had the strongest land force in a decisive victory and that really attests the power of guerilla warfare
Grace: Okay
Nehal: able to overcome these oppressive
Grace: He’s specifically cites that we able to overcome oppression
Nehal: Right

Start-up strategies
Referring to Table 2., there are particular expressions used to mark the strategies. Different marks will indicate different strategies.

Clear start
A clear start is marked by the expressions I’m ready and let’s start. The words ready and start representing explicit meaning which shows literate sense. There is no hesitation in this context.

Hesitant start
However, in a hesitant start, the speaker does not use an expression with explicit meaning such as Well. a: m well. This is assumed that the speaker is unsure.

Taking-over strategies
Taking over strategies as listed in Table 1., consist of uptake and links.
Uptake
In uptake strategies, expressions like Okay. That’s fine, Yes. Yeah., are used to mark that there are uptake strategies.

Links
There are four data found which refer to the links strategy. It is indicated using the expressions But, No., No., And then you, No..

Interrupt
This strategy is divided into alerts and meta comments. Alerts are marked by the expressions of that’s not my question, I mean I can provide you with the empirical study, You have yet to give me an example, and I’m not specifically saying that in the data.

Meta Comment
This strategy is marked by the expressions That’s from Carnes and Chenoweth and He’s specifically cites that we able to overcome oppression in the data.

Conclusion
Based on the evaluation above, it is found that there are 31 turn-taking strategies used by the debaters - Nehal Chigurupati as affirmative speaker and Grace Johannes as Negative speaker in Lincoln-Douglas final debate. The strategies according to Stenstrom’s (1994) theory are taking the turn (16), holding the turn (10), and yielding the turn (5). Among the three strategies found, taking the turn is the most frequently used by the debaters. This finding may implicate as a model for those who would like to take part in a debate.

References


