

# I. INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the discussion concerning the background, objectives, scope, and definitions of terms will be discussed in order to provide an insight into the research and justify the significance of this research.

## 1.1. Background

Speaking is basically a process of building and sharing meaning through the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols, in a variety of context (Chaney, 1998). Everyone uses this skill for several purposes, pretty much depending on the need. Some people speak only to get something or to get their goals achieved, while some others speak to build a more personal closeness among people. The speaking activity that is intended to exchange information in order to get the job done belongs to transactional speaking, while the interactional speaking is intended to establish and maintain social relation (Brown and Yule 1983a in Hedge, 2000 : 264). However, the process of sharing meanings, communicating with others, is not only through sounds and verbal symbols. In some cases and situations, the communication is done indirectly by creating an effort to create dialogue with readers in much the same way as we explore our relationship to people we talk to (Gould, 1989), through writing.

The linguists, up to now, have been focusing on the differences between the two skills. One opinion stated by Halliday was that writing does not incorporate all the meaning potential of speech, writing and speaking are in practice used in different context for different purposes, and they impose different grids on experience (Halliday, 1985 : 92). Another comparison proposed by van Lier showed that speaking is auditory, temporary, prosody, involves immediate feedback, and its planning and editing is limited by channel. It is totally different from writing that is visual, permanent, involves punctuation, delayed, and unlimited in terms of planning, editing, and revision. (van Lier : 1995).

In further consideration, Harmer states that speaking and writing are both productive skills (Harmer, 2001). So, rather than being separate manifestation of language, writing and speaking should exist as a continuum (Nunan, 1991 : 84). Nunan also stated that some spoken text will be more like written text than others, while some written text will be more like spoken text than others. However, the transcriptions of spoken language look less structured because they represent 'unedited' language. If we could examine all the draft of a piece of writing, it may also look as unstructured (Nunan, 1991 : 85). As the two belong to the same category of skill, there must be a close relationship between them that needs to be analysed and characterised. According to Hammond (1987), it is important to understand the relationships between writing and speaking for providing helps to the development of effective pedagogy in teaching. The analysis and characterisation would probably show more details that may be useful for integrating both skills for many purposes that may benefit language users and learners.

## **1.2. Problems**

Based on the background above, the problems in this research are formulated as follows :

1. What are the similarities between participants' utterances in conversational writing and interactional speaking in words ?
2. What are the similarities between participants' utterances in conversational writing and interactional speaking in utterances ?
3. What are the similarities between participants' utterances in conversational writing and interactional speaking in speech acts ?
4. What perceptions do the participants have of how the conversational writing is related to the interactional speaking ?

## **1.3. Objectives**

In relation with the problems above, some objectives of this research are explained below :

1. To find out the similarities between participants' utterances in conversational writing and interactional speaking in words.
2. To find out the similarities between participants' utterances in conversational writing and interactional speaking in utterances.

3. To find out the similarities between participants' utterances in conversational writing and interactional speaking in speech acts.
4. To find out the participants' perceptions of how the conversational writing is related to the interactional speaking.

#### **1.4. Uses**

In accordance with the previously explained objectives, this research is intended to have some uses as follows :

1. This research is expected to provide a support to the development of linguistics, especially in the field of spoken and written language study. It is expected that the findings may enrich the available theories and trigger further research on related field.
2. More practically, as the interactional speaking and conversational writing are closely related to English teaching, this research is intended to give ideas for education practitioners to develop teaching activities and materials.

#### **1.5. Scope**

As there is no research that can cover anything, some limitations for this research were also set. This research mainly deals with interactional speaking and conversational writing in informal settings. In the setting, the two primary subjects and a secondary subject, who are close friends with similar cultural and

academic background, were engaged in some talks in both interactional speaking and conversational writing.

From the talks, some similarities on word, utterance, and speech acts level were expected to be elicited. Therefore, this research focuses on the similarities that appear between interactional speaking and conversational writing, not on those that are influenced by the other skills.

Other data in form of primary subjects' perceptions were also taken into account. The elicitation of these data was done through informal interviews.

## **1.6. Definitions of Terms**

Considering the presence of the non-general terms in this research that may cause misunderstanding, some definitions of such terms are provided below :

1. Language : the medium for communication that contains meaningful words, utterances, and speech acts.
2. Conversational Writing: the writing activity that is not for transactional purpose but for social or interactional purpose
3. Interactional Speaking : the speaking activity that is done in daily life situation for the purpose of social interaction