

**THE USE OF PAUSES, OVERLAPS, AND BACKCHANNELS IN POLITICAL
CONVERSATIONS ON NAJWA SHIHAB'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL:
PRAGMATICS ANALYSIS**

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the use of pauses, overlaps, and backchanneling in political conversations on Najwa Shihab's YouTube channel, specifically between Najwa and Ahok, using Yule's (1996) Pragmatics theory. The research method is a descriptive qualitative method with a conversation analysis approach. Data were collected through conversation transcripts and analyzed using conversation analysis theory. The results show that pauses are divided into short and long pauses. Short pauses occurred 6 times, typically happening when a speaker is thinking or formulating the next words, while long pauses occurred 9 times, providing space for the interlocutor to think and respond. Overlaps occurred 26 times and were categorized into three types: difficulty in conversation with an unfamiliar person occurring once, expressions of closeness and solidarity occurring twice, and interruptions occurring 23 times. These overlaps often happened when both speakers spoke simultaneously, arising from awkwardness, enthusiasm, or interruptions to present a different argument or defend a point of view. Additionally, vocal backchannels, such as "mmm," "yes," and "okay," occurred 11 times, while non-vocal backchanneling, such as nodding, occurred once. Backchannels serve as short responses from the listener to indicate attention, agreement, or understanding. This study concludes that these elements play a crucial role in enriching the dynamics of political conversations on social media, enhancing interaction between speakers.

Keywords: Backchannel, Conversation Analysis, Najwa Shihab Youtube Channel, Pause, Political Conversation, Pragmatics And Overlap

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis penggunaan jeda, tumpang tindih, dan backchanneling dalam percakapan politik di kanal YouTube Najwa Shihab, khususnya antara Najwa dan Ahok, dengan menggunakan teori Pragmatik Yule (1996). Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan pendekatan analisis percakapan. Data dikumpulkan melalui transkrip percakapan dan dianalisis menggunakan teori analisis percakapan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa jeda terbagi menjadi jeda pendek dan jeda panjang. Jeda pendek terjadi sebanyak 6 kali, biasanya saat pembicara sedang berpikir atau merumuskan kata berikutnya, sedangkan jeda panjang terjadi sebanyak 9 kali, memberi ruang bagi lawan bicara untuk berpikir dan menanggapi. Tumpang tindih terjadi sebanyak 26 kali dan dikategorikan menjadi tiga jenis: kesulitan dalam percakapan dengan orang asing terjadi satu kali, ekspresi kedekatan dan solidaritas terjadi dua kali, dan interupsi terjadi 23 kali. Tumpang tindih ini sering terjadi ketika kedua pembicara berbicara secara bersamaan, yang timbul dari kecanggungan, kegembiraan, atau interupsi untuk menyampaikan argumen yang berbeda atau mempertahankan sudut pandang. Selain itu, backchannel vokal, seperti "mmm," "yeah," dan "okay," muncul 11 kali, sementara backchannel nonvokal, seperti anggukan, muncul satu kali. Backchannel berfungsi sebagai respons singkat dari pendengar untuk menunjukkan perhatian, persetujuan, atau pemahaman. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa elemen-elemen ini memainkan peran penting dalam memperkaya dinamika percakapan politik di media sosial, meningkatkan interaksi antara pembicara.

Kata Kunci : Backchannel, Analisis Percakapan, Saluran Youtube Najwa Shihab, Jeda, Percakapan Politik, Pragmatik, Dan Tumpang Tindih

INTRODUCTION

Conversation is one part of human communication. Any person freely interacts through conversation to convey feelings or ideas to others. Conversation involves two or more participants to convey information, ideas, emotions, and opinions. It involves verbal interaction between the person speaking (the speaker) and the person being spoken to (the interlocutor). Conversation comes in two primary forms: informal and formal conversation (Syahputra & Ritonga, 2019). Informal conversations are usually found in everyday interactions, such as casual chats with friends, family conversations, or interactions on social media. Meanwhile, formal conversations are found in official meetings, academic discussions, and interviews. Every conversation has specific patterns that help participants to understand and respond to each other. In this case, the participants take turns speaking to each other and adhere to particular rules for effective communication to avoid disruptions in the conversation. This process is studied in conversation analysis, which focuses on the patterns and structures of verbal interaction (Mendes et al., 2023).

Conversation Analysis (CA) is used to analyse how conversations occur in everyday life. CA studies the structure of conversations and the patterns of verbal interaction used by participants in conversations to manage communication effectively. This approach focuses on phenomena that occur in conversations, such as pauses, overlaps, and backchannels. Pauses indicate moments where the speaker pauses, which can indicate uncertainty or allow time for thought. Overlaps occur when two speakers speak simultaneously, often reflecting an interest or a drive to control the conversation. Meanwhile, backchannels are short verbal responses from listeners, such as “Yes” or “Hmm”, which indicate that they understand or pay attention to the speaker without interrupting the conversation (Syahputra & Ritonga, 2019).

Phenomena such as pauses, overlaps, and backchannels in conversation do not always run smoothly. Overlaps that occur too frequently can disrupt the flow of the conversation, cause confusion between participants, and lead to inappropriate turn-taking, making it challenging to manage the conversation. On the other hand, pauses that are too long can create tension or a sense of uncertainty in communication. Meanwhile, inappropriate use of backchannels can signal a lack of attention or engagement in the conversation. In more serious discussions, managing these phenomena is crucial, as they can affect how the audience understands the message and alter the intended meaning. Therefore, understanding the appropriate use of these phenomena is essential for maintaining effective communication. Mastery of conversational cues can improve clarity and ensure messages are conveyed as intended (Beyer, 2019).

These phenomena are not only found in everyday language use but in political contexts, especially in political interviews that feature heated and tension-filled discussions related to pauses, overlaps, and backchannels. Political interviews focus on political issues, where journalists or interviewers ask questions relating to policies, political decisions, and interviewees' views on relevant issues. This demonstrates the role of interviews in promoting transparency and dialogue in a political context. Topics often covered in political interviews typically include government policies, legal and legislative issues, economic issues, national security, international relations, and responses to social issues such as education, health and the environment. Interviewers usually focus on political programs, campaign strategies, and controversial decisions made by political figures to provide information and perspectives to the public (Nojoomizadeh, 2022).

Political conversations can be found on platforms like Najwa Shihab's YouTube. Najwa Shihab, one of Indonesia's leading journalists and interviewers, often facilitates political discussions through her programs. While maintaining communication ethics, Najwa's assertive interviewing style is engaging to study, especially in terms of how pauses, overlaps, and backchannels can affect the dynamics of political conversations. Of the many interview topics hosted by Najwa Shihab, the

researcher is interested in examining political interviews because many people always watch them, and there is a lot of interesting data to be studied with conversation analysis. Furthermore, political interviews often feature complex conversational situations and require in-depth analysis of how participants interact. Therefore, this study will focus on how pauses, overlaps, and backchannels are used in political conversations hosted by Najwa Shihab (Trihartanti, 2020).

To further understand the significance of this conversational phenomenon, it is essential to study it through the perspective of pragmatics. Pragmatics focuses on how language is used in context, mainly how meaning is constructed through interaction and participants' social roles in communication (Israel et al., 2023). In pragmatics, several types of phenomena are considered, such as deixis which focuses on context-dependent words, acts of speech which include statements or commands, implicature which refers to meanings that are not explicitly expressed but can be understood based on the situation or context and conversation analysis which refers to the approach of analysing patterns of conversational interaction such as pauses, overlaps and backchannels. These phenomena are important in determining how messages in conversations are understood. In the context of political interviews, pragmatic analysis allows us to explore how pauses, overlaps, and backchannels affect the message's meaning beyond just the words spoken. Here's a bit of the conversation between Najwa Shihab and her interviewee, Ahok.

The conversation above shows the typical dynamics of an interview involving the discussion of sensitive issues. Pauses appear while Najwa is speaking, for example, in the pauses “eh—” and “when eh—,” which indicate she is thinking or looking for the right words to continue her argument. These pauses are short. These pauses provide space for Ahok to overlap, where he interrupts Najwa's speech before she finishes conveying her idea, marked with a double slash (/). This overlap reflects Ahok's communication style, which tends to be spontaneous and straight to the point. In addition, Najwa gave a backchannel as “Mmm” after Ahok finished speaking. This shows Najwa actively listening without interrupting, giving a verbal signal that she is processing the information that has just been delivered. Combining these elements creates a dynamic conversation with different communication styles between the two parties.

Research on pauses, overlaps, and backchannels has been widely conducted in various contexts. Yachya (Siddiqui, 2018) entitled *A Study of Gaps, Overlaps, And Pauses in Conversations Between Students and Teachers in English Language Classroom*. The study used qualitative research that examines when gaps, overlaps, and pauses happen to teachers and students. At the same time, they communicate using the English language and how gaps, overlaps, and pauses signify the English language learning process. The study found that the students' average had gaps and pauses. Additionally, the study found that some students were hesitant to respond to their teachers because they were not fluent enough in a foreign language and had not mastered the English vocabulary. In addition, the writer found three instances of overlap in the classroom when both teachers and students talked simultaneously.

Halimi (Fahmi, 2018) examined these conversational features in a study entitled *The Analysis of Pauses, Overlaps, and Backchannels in The Lion King 2019 Movie*. The research focuses on finding the type and frequency of movie pauses, overlaps, and backchannels, using the theory of Pragmatics book by George Yule and a previous study: *An analysis of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels in the Reasonable movie directed by Petter Howit*. This research uses 2 research methods: the qualitative method to find the types of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels and the quantitative method to calculate the frequency of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels. The study results found two types of pauses: filled and unfilled pauses, two types of overlaps, cooperative overlaps and interruptions, and two types of backchannels: vocal and nonvocal backchannels.

Another study by Ningrum (CHE et al., 2018) entitled *The Lecturer-Student Conversational Structure In Pragmatics Learning Interaction*. The research aims to describe the structure of lecturer-

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student conversation in Pragmatics class interaction. Use the theory of pragmatics by Yule. The type of research used in this study is descriptive qualitative with data collection done by recording and note-taking techniques (Ash Shiddiq et al., 2023). The results showed that the interaction of lecturers and students in Pragmatics class interaction has a conversational structure: turn-taking, pauses (long and short), overlap, backchannel, and adjunct pairs. This shows that the lecturer-student interaction process goes well. The students felt enthusiastic in responding to the lecturer's questions (McBride et al., 2013).

Although the above studies provide an understanding of conversational features in the context of movies, the context of conversations in movie scripts does not represent natural conversations that occur in everyday life. Then the research only focuses on analyzing the type and frequency without explaining in detail the pragmatic meaning when the conversational features occur. Research on language learning in the classroom only focuses on pauses and overlaps. Analyzing the backchannels is no less important to research because it includes listener feedback to the speaker. In this case, the researcher wants to fill the void by analyzing conversational features in the form of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels in a political context by finding out the meaning of the appearance of these features (Wahyuningrum & Latifah, 2020).

This research is certainly different from previous studies which can be seen from the data source and also the theory that will be used. This research is entitled "The Use of Pauses, Overlaps, and Backchannels in Political Conversations on Najwa Shihab's YouTube Channel: A Pragmatic Analysis" The purpose of this research is to analyze the use of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels in political conversations broadcast by Najwa Shihab. This research seeks to identify how these features shape communication and find out their meaning. The findings of this study are expected to contribute to a broader understanding of conversation analysis in media discourse, particularly in the field of political communication.

METHOD

According to Creswell & Creswell (Syahputra & Ritonga, 2019), qualitative research was a way to explore and understand the meaning that individuals or groups gave to a social or humanitarian problem. The process began with formulating dynamic questions and procedures, followed by data collection and inductive construction of data, and ended with the researcher interpreting the meaning of the data. This study used a qualitative research design with the Conversation Analysis (CA) approach as the main methodological framework. This approach was chosen because it focused on analyzing language use in naturally occurring interactions. It fits the research objective of analyzing conversational features such as pauses, overlaps, and backchannels in political conversations. The data were taken from political interviews broadcast on Najwa Shihab's YouTube channel, where the interaction involved real-time conversations between interviewers and interviewees discussing political topics. The analysis focused on identifying, categorizing, and interpreting these features based on George Yule's theory in the book *Pragmatics*.

This research used videos of political conversations on Najwa Shihab's YouTube channel as its data source, specifically the videos titled "Mendengar Ahok Blak-blakan di #BertemuIndonesia" and "Ahok soal Jokowi, Prabowo, dan Jakarta". The data in this study are the results of observations, which were transcripts of conversations from the videos that contain conversational features such as pauses, overlaps, and backchannels (Haristiani, 2019).

The data collection instrument in this study was observation. The researcher watched the video political conversations entitled "Ahok soal Jokowi, Prabowo, dan Jakarta" and "Mendengar Ahok Blak-blakan di #BertemuIndonesia" to identify relevant conversational features, such as pauses, overlaps, and backchannels. After that, the researcher downloaded the transcribed conversation from the videos, noting every word spoken and marking important moments related to

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the conversational features (Mendes et al., 2023). In this study, to analyse the use of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels in political conversations broadcast by Najwa Shihab, the researcher used the main technique in data collection, namely observation of the video of the conversation (SAMOSIR et al., 2021). These techniques were chosen to obtain accurate data relevant to the research objectives.

The data collected will be analysed descriptively using qualitative methods by performing the following steps:

- 1) Identify the pauses, overlaps, and backchannels in the conversation.
- 2) After finding and collecting them, researchers analysed the types and meanings of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels based on Yule's theory.
- 3) After that, the researcher identified how these elements occurred in the conversation on Najwa Shihab's YouTube video "Ahok about Jokowi, Prabowo, and Jakarta."
- 4) Concluding the research findings.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Data

This chapter presents and analyses data collected from two YouTube interview videos of Najwa Shihab titled "Mendengar Ahok Blak-blakan di #BertemuIndonesia" and "Ahok tentang Jokowi, Prabowo, dan Jakarta". Both videos consist of the same two participants, Najwa Shihab as the interviewer and Ahok as the interviewee. The data consists of transcriptions of these conversations, focusing on pauses, overlaps, and back channels (Aminulloh & Fianto, 2023). These videos were chosen because they provide real-life examples of how conversational features occur between the interviewer and the interviewee. The analysis will look at how these features appear in the transcriptions.

The researcher collected this data and classified it into pauses, overlaps, and backchannels. To simplify the presentation in the table below, each aspect of conversation analysis is represented using abbreviations: SP (Short Pause) and LP (Long Pause) for types of pauses; Uf (Unfamiliar), C (Closeness), and I (Interruption) for types of overlaps; and VB (Vocal Backchannels) and NVB (Non-Vocal Backchannels) for types of backchannels.

Table 1. Percentage of Aspects in Conversation Analysis

No	Aspects of Conversation Analysis	Types	Occurrences in Data	Amount	Percentages
1.	Pauses	Short Pause	7,14,17,19,21,31	6	11,32%
		Long Pause	1,3,8,18,33,34,36,48,53	9	16,98%
		Unfamiliar	2	1	1,89%
		Closeness	20,50	2	3,77%
2.	Overlaps		4,6,9,10,11,13,15,16,22,24,25,27		
		Interruption	6,29,32,37,39,41,43,44,46,47,49,52	23	43,40%
		Vocal	5,12,23,27,30,32		
3.	Backchannels	Backchannels	5,38,40,42,45,51	11	20,75%

	Non-vocal Backchannels	28	1	1,89%
Total			53	100%

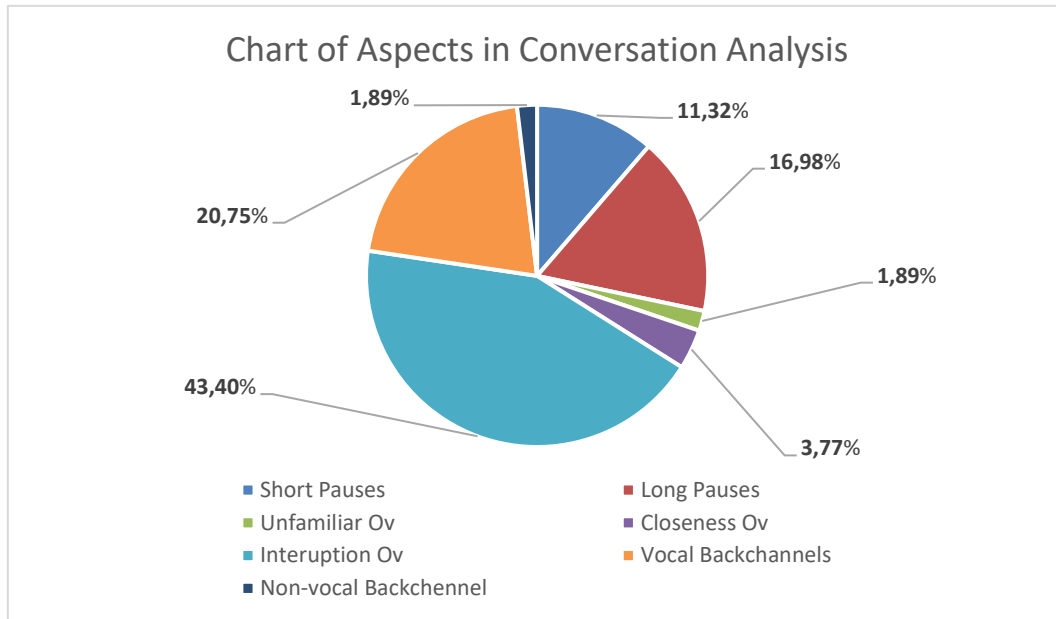


Figure 1. Chart of Aspects in Conversation Analysis

The findings show that overlap (49.06%) is the most frequently occurring feature, indicating an interactive and fast-paced conversation. Pauses (28.3%) played an important role, with short pauses occurring when speakers were still formulating their thoughts, while long pauses allowed for deeper consideration or signalled a turnover to the interlocutor. Backchannels (22.64%), consisting of vocal and non-vocal, indicate active listener involvement. These features create a dynamic interaction where participants often demonstrate engagement and understanding.

How do the Pause, Overlap, and Backchannel Occur in a Political Conversation on Najwa Shihab's YouTube Channel

In political conversations on Najwa Shihab's YouTube channel, aspects of conversational analysis such as pauses, overlaps, and backchannels play an important role in the host and interviewee dynamic. Pauses often occur as short pauses in the middle of sentences, which give the speaker time to think and compose their following words. They can also be longer, especially at the end of a statement, giving the interlocutor space to respond. Longer pauses are usually used when the speaker waits for a reaction, especially when finishing a statement and giving the other person space to respond (Handoko & Afifi, 2022).

Overlap is when speakers speak at the same time. This also happened in Najwa and Ahok's conversations, and often, when one of them made a statement simultaneously, the other speaker responded. This overlap occurs before the speaker finishes his statement and when the speaker pauses in his sentence, allowing the other speaker to take over the conversation. The implied meaning of overlap is that the other speaker wants to interrupt due to awkwardness between participants, expressing the same opinion or enthusiasm, and wanting to make an argument, hence the interruption.

In addition, backchannel is another common phenomenon observed in these conversations. It involves vocal or non-vocal responses from the listener to show attentiveness or understanding, such as saying "yes," "Mmm," "okay," or nodding in agreement. In this context, backchanneling actively participates in the conversation without taking over the discussion. These responses indicate that the

listener follows along and comprehends the points. Pauses, overlaps, and backchanneling are vital in maintaining the flow of conversation, ensuring that both speakers and listeners are engaged and that the interaction remains smooth and effective.

Finding

One of the aspects found in the analysis of this research is the use of pauses in the conversation between Najwa Shihab and Ahok. A pause is defined as a temporary break in the flow of a conversation that can last for several seconds. The findings show that the observed pauses consist of short and long pauses. There were 6 short pauses, accounting for 11.32%, and 9 long pauses, accounting for 16.98% of the 53 data points collected. Short pauses in this study are marked with a dash (-) and sometimes filled with filler words such as “uh,” which serves to give the speaker time to think. In political conversations, speakers often need time to think critically when answering questions. Meanwhile, long pauses are characterized by a pause duration that serves to wait for a response from the interlocutor or provide space for other speakers to respond. Overall, the pauses in this interview serve as a break in the conversation and as a tool to create a deeper and more reflective space of interaction between the speaker and the interviewee (Herisetyanti & Suharyati, 2019).

In the analysis of overlaps, three distinct types were identified. The first type is difficulty in conversation with an unfamiliar person, which occurred once and made up 1.89% of the overlaps. This type of overlap arises when there is awkwardness or a challenge in communication, prompting a spontaneous response from the other speaker. The second type is expressions of closeness and solidarity, observed twice, accounting for 3.77%. This overlap reflects mutual understanding or agreement between speakers, often signifying a sense of connection or shared opinion. The third and most frequent type is interruption, which occurred 23 times and made up 43.40% of the overlaps. In these cases, one speaker interrupts the other, either to present a different argument or to defend their point of view. Overall, these overlaps contribute to a more dynamic and energetic conversation, enhancing the flow of the dialogue and fostering a more engaged exchange between the speakers (Widyastuti, 2019).

The analysis of backchannels, which refers to brief responses or verbal and non-verbal cues given by the listener to show attention or agreement, found that this aspect consists of vocal and non-vocal backchannels. Vocal backchannels were 11 with a percentage of 20.75%, and often took the form of words such as “yeah”, ‘mmm’, or “okay”. Meanwhile, there was 1 non-vocal backchannel with a percentage of 1.89% in the form of head nods. Both backchannels confirm that the listener actively follows the conversation without interrupting the speaker. In this interview, Najwa Shihab usually used the backchannel to show her interest in and engagement with Ahok's statements. For example, Najwa often said “yes” or nodded her head when Ahok spoke, indicating a responsive and supportive interaction in the conversation. Using these backchannels enriched the conversation and created a warmer and more collaborative feel of communication between the two speakers. Overall, backchannels played an important role in keeping the conversation flowing and strengthening the interactive relationship in the interview (Arnoi & Ashadi, 2021).

Discussion

This study aims to discover the types of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels and how they occur in the conversation between Najwa Shihab and Ahok in the YouTube video interview. The findings of this study show that there are specific patterns in the use of these three aspects, which provide deeper insights into the dynamics of interaction in this kind of conversation. To support this research, it is important to know the similarities and differences between the results of this study and previous research so that the findings obtained can be understood in a broader context and make a significant contribution to the study of pragmatics (Saifudin, 2019).

Previous research by Maziyah (Shaharuddin & Harun, 2022) in “Conversation Problems in Man of Steel Movie” identified two main conversation problems: gap and overlap. Gaps occur for reasons such as the speaker's unfocusing or consideration of the following utterance, while overlaps only occur once and use self-selection techniques to start the conversation earlier. In this study entitled “The Use of Pauses, Overlaps, and Backchannels in Political Conversations on Najwa Shihab's YouTube Channel: Pragmatics Analysis,” different results were found. This study recorded 7 short pauses when the speaker was thinking or composing words and 8 long pauses that gave space for thinking. Overlaps occurred 26 times, reflecting a more dynamic interaction involving interruptions, enthusiasm, and awkwardness between participants. In addition, this study also identified vocal and non-vocal backchannels that were not addressed in Maziyah's study. The context of the conversation can explain this difference; conversations in movies are more structured, while political conversations are more live interactions, allowing more overlap and backchanneling.

Yachya's (Cesaria et al., 2023) research entitled “A Study of Gaps, Overlaps, and Pauses in Conversations Between Students and Teachers in English Language Classroom” analysed pauses and overlaps in conversations between teachers and students. The overlaps in Yachya's study often occurred when the teacher gave explanations, corrections, or warnings, indicating a more structured interaction in the learning situation. These overlaps occur when the teacher speaks simultaneously as the student, for example, clarifies or corrects a student's mistake. In contrast, the pauses that occur in these conversations, whether short or long, are often used by both parties to think or formulate sentences, especially when teachers or students encounter situations that require further thought. These pauses give participants time to process information or search for answers. The striking difference is that overlaps tend to be more spontaneous in the context of political conversation and relate to the intensity of the discussion, where each party often speaks simultaneously to defend or respond to their opinions. Meanwhile, pauses in political conversations also give time to think but are often used to formulate arguments (Prayitno et al., 2019). This difference in context explains why overlaps in classrooms tend to be more structured and function within a teaching framework, while in political conversations, they reflect more competition in arguments (Arnoi & Ashadi, 2021).

Kuswandi (Rahayu, 2021) conducted a study entitled “An Analysis of Pauses, Overlaps, and Backchannels in Conversations on the Vlog of Nessie Judge”, identifying two types of pauses: filler and non-filler pauses, each occurring five times. The study also identified four vocal backchannels, while overlaps occurred only once throughout the vlog. In comparison, this study found more frequent overlaps in the conversation between Najwa Shihab and Ahok, likely due to the political nature of the interview, where the conversation tends to be more dynamic and interactive. Additionally, Kuswandi's research did not identify non-vocal backchannels, such as head nods from the interlocutor, which were present in this study, indicating the role of non-verbal interaction in enhancing communication. This study uses short and longer pauses based on Yule's (2010) theory, which differentiates pauses by duration. Although Kuswandi used the terms filler pause and unfiller pause, the meaning is similar to the short and longer pauses identified in this research. These differences show variation in categorisation and methodological approach, although both studies focus on understanding the dynamics of spoken communication in conversation.

The study by Ningrum (Solehah et al., 2022) titled "The Lecturer-Student Conversational Structure in Pragmatics Learning Interaction", and this study share similarities in analysing the use of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels, but with differences in the context of interaction. In Ningrum's study, pauses are divided into long pauses, which occur at the end of a statement due to the absence of a response from the interlocutor, and short pauses occur in the middle of speech due to hesitation in delivering the message. In contrast, in this study, pauses are categorised into short pauses, which occur when the speaker is thinking or formulating the next word, and long pauses, which provide space for the interlocutor to think and respond. Overlaps in Ningrum's study occur due to the speakers'

use of the same linguistic element. In contrast, in this study, overlaps frequently happen because of the desire to express the same opinion, enthusiasm, or awkwardness, and they are often linked to arguments or statements that respond to each other. This is evident in the political conversation between Najwa Shihab and Ahok, where overlaps reflect the dynamics and intensity of the discussion. Additionally, backchannels in both studies are found in vocal and non-vocal forms, showing attention, agreement, and understanding of the speaker's statements. These differences can be explained by the varying contexts of conversation: in the classroom, overlaps are more related to explanations or corrections, whereas in political discussions, overlaps reflect more dynamic interactions and differences in opinions between the participants.

Furthermore, this study is supported by the theory proposed by Yule (Handoko & Afifi, 2022) regarding pauses, overlaps, and backchannels in spoken communication. Yule categorises pauses into two main types: short pauses and longer pauses, which align with the findings of this study. Additionally, Yule's theory on overlaps and backchannels also supports the results of this research. The overlaps are more frequently found in the political conversation between Najwa Shihab and Ahok, functioning as interruptions and expressions of solidarity. At the same time, backchannels occur both vocally, such as "mmm," "yeah," and "okay," and non-vocally, such as head nodding. Overall, Yule's theory provides a strong foundation for understanding the phenomena discovered in this study and reinforces the findings, as it is relevant and applicable in a broader context of spoken communication, including political interview settings.

KESIMPULAN

As the final part of this research, it can be concluded that the analysis of the use of pauses, overlaps, and backchannels in political conversations on Najwa Shihab's YouTube channel, especially between Najwa Shihab and Ahok, provides an in-depth picture of their interaction patterns. These three aspects have a significant role in shaping the flow and quality of the conversation, reflecting how the two speakers communicate and manage differences of opinion, build arguments, and respond to each other in a political discussion. Based on the findings, the conclusions of this study can be divided into the following two main points:

1. This study identified three main aspects of the political conversation between Najwa Shihab and Ahok: pauses, overlaps, and backchannels. Pauses were divided into two types: short pauses, which occurred 6 times (11.32%), and long pauses, which occurred 9 times (16.98%). Overlaps were categorized into three types: first, overlaps due to difficulty in conversation with an unfamiliar person, occurring once (1.89%); second, expressions of closeness and solidarity, which occurred twice (3.77%); and third, interruptions, which were the most frequent, occurring 23 times (43.40%). Backchannels were further divided into vocal backchannels (such as "mmm," "yes," and "okay"), which occurred 11 times (22.64%), and non-vocal backchannels, such as nodding, which occurred once. These features played a significant role in shaping the interactive conversational patterns, with overlaps being the most dominant (49.06%), followed by backchannels (22.64%) and pauses (28.3%).
2. These three aspects show patterns of interaction that reflect the dynamics of political conversations between Najwa and Ahok. Short and long pauses allow each speaker to think or formulate a response, indicating consideration in presenting arguments or responding to questions. Short pauses occur in the middle of an utterance, while long pauses usually occur at the end. Overlaps often occur in the context of arguments or quick responses, which occur when both speakers are speaking at the same time. In addition, these overlaps occur before the speaker finishes his utterance and when giving short pauses in his speech. Meanwhile, backchannels are used to enrich the conversation, show attention and agreement to the point being discussed, and keep the conversation going without disrupting the main flow of the

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discussion. These patterns show that the conversation between Najwa and Ahok involves delivering information and managing complex interaction patterns to create a productive and meaningful conversation.

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