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Conversational Analysis of Piers Morgan's Show "Uncensored": Interruption as a Case in Point

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Abstract

An interaction is achieved by precise rules elucidated in the conversation analysis. Interaction depends on turn-taking as a communicative strategy, highlighting one of its most distinctive and intriguing aspects. To maintain the conversation's flow, turn transitions are timed at probable completion points in the speaker's speech, thereby avoiding interruption. Interruption is a symbol of dominance. It happens when the listener cuts off the current speaker's turn. The study aims to investigate the role of interruptions as an interactive strategy employed by Piers Morgan's show "Uncensored." The study specifically analyzes the episodes of Piers Morgan with Bassem Youssef and Piers Morgan with Andrew. The study adapts Li's (2001) model of interruptions and the modifications set by the researchers to identify interruptions' types and their functions. The main finding reveals a clear correlation between interlocutor roles and interruption types, specifically with disagreement and floor-taking interruptions. Unsuccessful categories also have the same functional significance. Since the repetition of unsuccessful interruptions by interlocutors eventually leads to a struggle to take the floor, the intensity of conversation increases.

تحليل الحوار في برنامج بيرس مورغان "انسرد": المقاطعة انموذجا

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المستخلص

يتحقق التفاعل من خلال قواعد دقيقة مُوضحة في تحليل المحادثة. يعتمد التفاعل على تبادل الأدوار كاستراتيجية تواصلية، مما يُبرز أحد أبرز جوانبه وأكثرها إثارة للاهتمام. للحفاظ على سير المحادثة بسلاسة، يتم تحديد أوقات انتقال الأدوار عند نقاط اكتمال مُحتملة في كلام المتحدث، وبالتالي تجنب المقاطعة. تُعد المقاطعة رمزاً للهيمنة، وتحدث عندما يقاطع المستمع المتحدث الحالي. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى بحث دور المقاطعات كاستراتيجية تفاعلية مُستخدمة في برنامج بيرس مورغان "انسرد". تُحلل الدراسة حلقات بيرس مورغان مع باسم يوسف وبيرس مورغان مع أندرو. تُكَيّف الدراسة نموذج لي (2001) للمقاطعات والتعديلات التي أدخلها الباحثون لتحديد أنواع المقاطعات ووظائفها. تكشف نتائج الدراسة عن وجود ارتباط واضح بين أدوار المُتَحاورين وأنواع المقاطعات، وتحديدًا مع مقاطعات الاختلاف في الرأي ومقاطعات أخذ الدور. كما أن للمقاطعات الغير ناجحة نفس الأهمية الوظيفية. لأن تكرار المقاطعات غير الناجحة من قبل المحاورين يؤدي في النهاية إلى أخذ الدور.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تحليل المحادثة، المقاطعات الناجحة، المقاطعات الغير ناجحة.

1. Introduction

Conversation is a social phenomenon that is an integral part of human life and culture. It is a means utilized by human beings to maintain and develop their relations with each other (Liddicoat, 2021, p. 16). Every time participants are involved in a conversation, they should realize when to listen or to speak to keep the conversation flowing. To attain this, they should be aware of the turn-taking strategy. It is the essential rule for producing a successful discussion and conversation (Afrina, Yusuf, Hanafiah, & Research, 2022).

Conversation Analysis (henceforth CA) was introduced by Sacks et al. at the end of the 1960s and 1970s (Al-Sa'ati & Alshoka, 2024). It is a method of analyzing interaction among participants to identify and explore comprehensible behavioral processes. (Goodwin & Heritage, 1990). A wide range of fields, such as anthropology, cognitive science, and psychological science, have influenced it (A.Tymbay, 2021). CA primarily concerns daily conversations, whether informal, such as those among friends or family members, or formal, such as those between doctors and patients, officials and employees, or teachers and students, and encompasses the social behaviors of the participants. CA also aims to analyze the speech behavior and participants' identity construction in different aspects and situations. It focuses on analyzing huge corpora to explain discourse patterns (Rahimpour, Sotoudehnama, & Sasani, 2018)

Among the various studies analyzing conversation rules, Sacks, Schegloff, & Jefferson's (1974) Suggest viewing a conversation as a turn-taking rule, in which a transition of speaker occurs, and one party speaks at a time; these rules enhance the conversation flow and reduce violation of turn-taking. In turn-taking, the interlocutors alternate between their roles, switching from listener to speaker to initiate their speech. CA is deeply concerned with parties applying turn-constructual units to perform their social interactions (Sacks et al., 1974, p. 207). One turn, in any conversation, has a unit type; it may consist of one word or many sentences (Sacks et al., 1974), or even a backchannel response like “yeah, really, hm, or right” as a sign that the listener does not want to take a turn (McCarthy, 1992). Conversational turns are prominent strategies in social life interactions; furthermore, they are susceptible to competition (Hutchby & Wooffitt, 2008, p. 4). Sometimes, at the beginning of any conversation, interlocutors face some confusion; they do not know the turn size, the turn order, or how to assign turns between them (Wooffitt, 2005, p. 26). This leads to the occurrence of interruptions, gaps, or overlaps.

Turn-taking is a strategy individuals employ through conversing. He classifies turn-taking as overlapping/interruptions, which occur when speakers speak simultaneously. Directness: The messages are conveyed straightforwardly by utilizing exclusive deictic pronouns, such as "me," "my," and "I." Indirectness: This strategy is employed through the use of hedged, tag questions, and hints. Typically, this refers to inclusive deictic pronouns like 'we', 'our', and 'us'. Silences: refer to pauses or gaps in the conversation flow. Topic-raising: When a speaker raises or introduces a new topic to discuss (Tannen, 2012).

The participants' identity is a multi-level construct involving objective characteristics like gender, age, ideology, and cognition that reflect conceptual thinking (Van Dijk, 2010). It has a prominent impact on the exchange in any debate, since it determines their language, suggesting that language means can roughly contribute to producing many identities, and it is a relational phenomenon (A. Tymbay, 2021, p. 2). The speaker's identity is not stable. It can change based on the communication strategies used to achieve a goal, leading to a new conversation pattern. Also, the linguistic functions of culture affect the conversation stream (Al-Saati & Bachi, 2022). (Van Dijk, 2006) categorizes the participants' roles as their social, interactional, and communicative roles; these roles influence turn-taking and show their identities. Recently, with the spread of AI, studies on CA, especially interruptions in parasocial digital interactions (Zhang & Lee, 2024), pose an essential challenge for researchers designing conversations between humans and chatbots (Cao et al., 2025).

As far as political powers are concerned, political debates correlate with turn-taking systems, such as turn frequency and various interruptions (Prabhakaran, John, & Seligmann, 2013). There is a relation between dominance and interruptions, especially when conflict and competition are present (James & Clarke, 1993, p. 243). (Yao, Liu, & Li, 2025, p. 15) claim that CA has a strong illustrative power in persuading the public through the use of euphemisms by political interview guests. In political interviews, the fluency, relevance, and coherence of participants' speeches directly influence the outcomes of the political inquiry. This requires the interviewer to be proficient at precisely identifying the transition-relevance places and to utilize turn-construction units to facilitate turn-taking.

The strategies of interaction of political interviews and those related to fateful and crucial issues differ from ordinary interaction. That is, some strategies organize the structure of discourse by discursive markers, which are used to initiate, develop, and end the discourse (Amin & Rahman, 2024). There are also strategies to manage the topics. Interlocutors should know how to manage the

topic by smoothly initiating, shifting, and ending a specific topic (Nielsen, 2012). The purpose of interruptions in such interviews is to determine a specific speaker's intention; they are competitive interruptions, not intended to facilitate smooth turn transitions (A.Tymbay, 2021).

While turn-taking organization in interviews is rule-regulated, it is not without unpredictability. Conversational turn-taking in these situations is regarded as a challenge for participants to balance between their commitment to the interview norm and their intention to achieve goals and impose their point of view at the penalty of violating turn-taking rules (Ilie, 2006, p. 8). These violations of norms and rules can reveal the differences among participants' identities through verbal and nonverbal expressions.

Seizing one's right to talk can secure priority for voicing one's views. It is an essential tactic in interviews that deal with crucial or political issues. By claiming the turn, the participants use interruptions and repetitions to compete for the right to speak. (James & Clarke, 1993, p. 232) Acknowledge that interruption is competitive, since interrupters want to control the floor and prevent the ongoing speech of the current speaker from finishing their speech. Many researchers regard interruption as a face-threatening act and an impoliteness strategy to gain the turn (Yao et al., 2025, p. 16). Interruption is a strategy that deliberately violates the cooperative principle of interaction. As for (Gravano & Hirschberg, 2012) They distinguish overlap from interruption. Overlap occurs almost after the completion of the prosodic unit; it does not affect the meaning of the turn, since the competitive nature of it is placed at the transition point of the turn. Usually, it does not occur to gain the floor. While interruption most probably happens before the completion of the prosodic unit. (Brady, 1968) describes overlap as interruption, and double talk, while (A. Tymbay, 2022) regards interruption as a competitive overlap.

It is crucial to decode the speaker's communication intention, as it is a compound mental state comprising a sequence of intertwined intentions (Wilson, 2019). (Purba, Purba, Herman, Sinurat, & Nainggolan, 2023) claim that the turn-taking strategy begins when the speaker initiates speech, holds, or yields his turn to the next speaker. The turn-taking strategy ends when the participants declare the conversation has ended, need to pause for breath, or have nothing further to add.

It is important to differentiate between interruptions and overlaps. Overlap occurs when the speakers talk simultaneously. It is distinguished into two types: competitive overlaps, where more than one speaker is involved in a conversation

and one of them has to yield the turn; cooperative overlaps occur when speakers produce the speech cooperatively, like a backchannel (Skantze & Irfan, 2025), to show continued attention (Schegloff, 2000). Whereas interruptions differ from overlapping, first of all, an interruption can occur without overlap when the speaker pauses without yielding their turn. Furthermore, "some participant is violating the other participant's right to speak." (Skantze, 2021, p. 5).

2. Materials and Methods

This study adapts Li's model (2001) of interruptions and the modifications set by the researchers to identify the patterns of interruptions and the reasons behind using them in two episodes of Piers Morgan Uncensored. It employs a mixed-methods approach, merging both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to examine how the interviewer and interviewee use interruptions during debates on crucial political issues.

2.1 The Corpus of the Study

"Uncensored" is a weekly talk show dedicated to free speech, hosted by journalist, media personality, and broadcaster Piers Morgan, known for his no-holds-barred approach. Piers Morgan's Uncensored is broadcast on TV Talk, YouTube, and internationally by Sky News Australia. It is a global forum for fearless and lively debates, where interviewers have the right to share their opinions and views in a world where ambiguous opinions prevail. The show has elements of features characteristic of typical conversations, where the interviewer and interviewee are extremely interactive.

The research dataset consists two of the most popular episodes from the Piers Morgan Uncensored channel as subjects of the study: the first episode featuring Bassem Youssef, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VkGppmUEZel>, from 00:00 to 1:58:85 (access date: 8/17/23). The second episode features Andrew Tate, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGWGcESPltM>, from 00:00 to 1:14:49 (access date: 8/7/22).

2.2 The Purpose of the Study

An interruption in any debate can be tricky for many reasons. The present study examines the distribution of talk between the interviewer and interviewee in TV talk shows. The two-stage analysis of interruptions in TV show talk was conducted to meet many research objectives: to identify the nature of interruptions and the most dominant types. Identify the relationship between the interruptions and the speaker's identity, topic, and ideology.

The researchers' modifications are essential for a deep understanding of interruption as a conversation strategy, since interruptions are regarded as a rhetorical weapon, especially in controversial programs. Since the Li (2001) model categorizes interruptions as either cooperative or intrusive if the interrupter takes the floor. This led to a significant analytical blind gap. In Morgan's controversial programs, the large number of interruptions itself constitutes a powerful communicative act, whether or not the attempt succeeds. Furthermore, interruptions generally reflect the interrupter's intention, whether or not the interrupter agrees with the current speaker. Hence, unsuccessful interruptions have a functional completeness feature. When the interrupter attempts to interrupt the current speaker and continues his attempt to interrupt him, there is resistance and a power move in this debate to take the floor, to use tension as a barometer, or to be rejected in collaboration.

2.3 The Model of the Study

In any interaction, one speaker talks at a time to avoid any violation. Turn-taking is managed systematically. Each person has a right to speak until the other completes their turn, and this right can be renewed.

Interruptions have two prominent dimensions that occur with or without overlapping: successful and unsuccessful interruption. Additionally, there are complex interruptions when one speaker interrupts another consecutively.

Successful interruption: It occurs when the listener cuts off the first speaker's speech before he finishes his turn. It means in the middle of the first speaker's speech, and before the transition-relevance place. The interruption will be successful when the first speaker stops his talk while the interrupter continues to speak until he finishes his speech, so the interrupter gains the floor. (Li, 2001) classifies successful interruptions into two noticeable types: cooperative and intrusive.

Cooperative Interruption: This type happens when the interrupter coordinates with the first speaker to keep the flow of conversation. There is no competition to gain the floor.

There are three subcategories of cooperative interruption: agreement, assistance, and clarification. (Li, 2001)

- a- *Agreement:* In the case of agreement, the interrupter shows his support, agreement, or even elaborates on what the first speaker says.

- b- *Assistance*: When the first speaker needs help, the second speaker provides him with a word, sentence, or even an idea.
- c- *Clarification*: The interruption occurs to explain the information said by the first speaker. In other words, the listener tries to realize and understand what the first speaker says.

Intrusive Interruption: This type obstructs the process of conversation and causes a threat to the speaker.

The subcategories of this kind of interruption are disagreement, floor-taking, tangentialization, and topic change.

- a- *Disagreement*: It occurs when the interrupter disagrees with what the first speaker says. So, he interrupts him immediately to express his opinion.
- b- *Floor taking*: This type usually occurs when the interrupter intends to develop the subject of the first speaker. He interrupts him as he attempts to take control of the floor from the current speaker.
- c- *Tangentialization*: This type of interruption reflects the listener's awareness by summarizing the previous saying of the first speaker.
- d- *Topic change*: In topic change, the interrupter has to achieve the task of changing the topic. In this situation, the interrupter usually tends to be more aggressive than taking the floor.

The researcher's contribution lies in putting forth categories for unsuccessful interruption, unlike Lie's (2001), who only formulates categories for successful interruption. These categories can be employed by the interlocutors along with their functions as follows:

Unsuccessful interruption: It happens when the interrupter begins to speak before the first speaker finishes their turn, either both continue to speak until they finish their speeches, or the first speaker, holding their turn, continues speaking, while the second is forced to stop. The researcher set a symmetrical taxonomy that specifies the intended meaning for all interruptions.

Cooperative unsuccessful interruption: This type occurs when the interrupter wants to help or support the first speaker, but fails to take the floor. Since the first speaker continues speaking, ignoring the interrupter's attempts. This subtype has three strategies as follows:

- a- Agreement:* This strategy is employed when the interrupter intends to show his enthusiasm or concurrence, while the speaker continues speaking without acknowledging his agreement.
- b- Assistance:* When the interrupter offers help, but the speaker doesn't yield his turn.
- c- Clarification:* The interrupter seeks elaboration or understanding of what the speaker says, but the latter proceeds without clarifying.

Intrusive unsuccessful interruption: the interrupter's goal is to dominate, redirect, or disrupt the speaker, but the speaker persists; hence, the second speaker fails to seize the floor and gain the turn.

- a- Disagreement:* This type occurs when the interrupter tries to challenge the speaker, but the latter holds the turn and withstands the opposition.
- b- Floor taking:* The first speaker holds the floor and retains the dominance, while the interrupter gains the floor to control the topic.
- c- Topic change:* The interruption aims to shift the topic focus unexpectedly, especially when the topic has been thoroughly discussed. While the first speaker rejects the move to another topic.
- d- Tangentialization:* The interrupter summarizes the speaker's point, but the first speaker keeps talking and reasserts what he says.

Complex interruption: a sequential turn interruption in which participants in the conversation interrupt each other. Rapid and multiple interruptions in a very short span. It is worth mentioning that all types of interruptions can occur¹ with or without overlapping.

¹ This type is not coded as a separate unit because it is very low-frequency in the data collection.

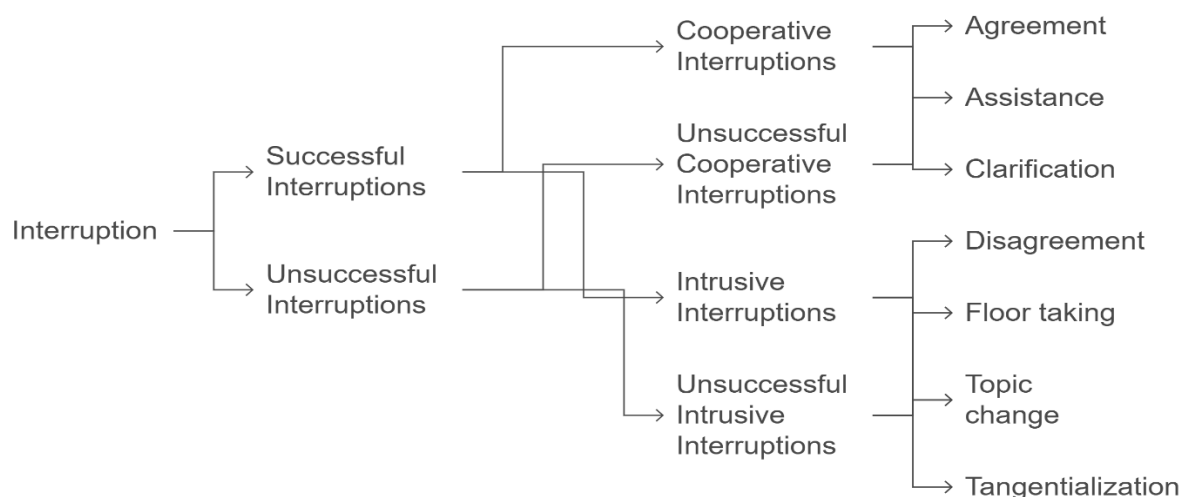


Figure 1: Interruptions Categories and Subcategories

2.4 The Methodology of the Study

The study specifies the interruption and positions it as a theory-driven intensive CA. The data selection is based on two high-stakes episodes in high-adversarial situations and popularity. The most popular episodes reflect the greatest social engagement and performative conflict. Hence, it makes the interruption mechanism more analytically visible. Furthermore, the study characterizes the density of interruption types. These results include approximately 300 interruptions, most of which are more complex and widespread. This approach focuses on theoretical insight and analytical depth and provides strong evidence that the taxonomy is useful for analyzing interruptions in institutional and controversial conversations. The researchers frame these two episodes as critical cases that explore mechanisms that may be less observable in natural interactions, laying the groundwork for future comparative studies.

The data will be analyzed using the model proposed by Li (2001), with the researchers' modifications, namely the categories of unsuccessful interruption.

Microscope talk features in two episodes are described in detail using the analytical methods of conversational analysis (Li, 2001), with the modifications mentioned above set by the researchers. (Stivers & Rossano, 2010) argue for data on a crucial perspective that emphasizes the study of a single case with its details as a unique case, not neglecting it in pursuit of sweeping generalizations.

Also, (Schegloff, 2009, p. 389) argues that the data corpus in any study should be case-by-case rather than used to drive overarching findings based solely on quantitative methods. This approach is acceptable in CA. Due to the microscopic nature of traditional CA, the disparity in episode duration is inconsequential to the study analysis. It doesn't adhere to the statistical irregularity of discourse (Munalim, Genuino, & Tuttle, 2022, p. 47).

The study examines the role of interruption and its effect on the debate between the interviewer and interviewee in two episodes of Piers Morgan's Uncensored TV talk shows. The selection of episodes has been based on the highest viewing rates on Morgan's YouTube channel. The duration of episode 1 was 50:19 minutes, while the duration of episode 2 was 1:14:49 minutes. The researchers downloaded two episodes of "Uncensored" from Piers Morgan's YouTube channel, with an average length of 70–100 minutes. The episodes are converted into audio through video processing software. Then, each audio file is processed with online AI transcription tools, such as Otter, followed by manual proofreading to verify accuracy word by word by comparing the transcription with the speech. Paralinguistic pauses, overlaps, and interruptions are transcribed manually in detail using Sacks et al.'s transliteration system (Sacks et al., 1974). The interruptions were then identified according to (Li, 2001) and the modifications set by the researchers, as mentioned above.

For more precise statistical analysis, consider all types of interruptions (successful, unsuccessful, cooperative, intrusive). The percentage of interruptions by episode duration has been taken into account. Furthermore, a mathematical equation was formulated. Episode 1: ≈ 1.7 interruptions per minute, Episode 2: ≈ 2.7 interruptions per minute. This quantitative difference refers to more dynamic turns and the power struggle over who takes the turn.

3. Results and Discussions

The researchers consider the qualitative and quantitative approaches. The former concentrates on identifying the subtypes of interruptions and the functions they play. The latter, however, is used to transfer the frequency distribution for data categorization.

The results reveal two types of interruptions: successful and unsuccessful. Both have two main functions: cooperative and intrusive, with and without overlapping.²

² For lack of space, links will be provided for easy access to the data.

Table (1): Types of Interruptions in Episode 1: Morgan with Bassem and Others

Seq.	Types of Interruption	Successful		Unsuccessful		Total
		Overlap	Without Overlap	Overlap	Without Overlap	
1	Disagreement	4	4	7	0	15
2	Floor-taking	7	10	26	1	44
3	Topic change	1	1	1	0	3
4	Tangentialization	1	0	0	0	1
5	Agreement	1	0	7	0	8
6	Assistance	0	0	0	0	0
7	Clarification	5	4	5	2	16
	Total	19	19	46	3	87
		38		49		

Table 1 shows that the total number of interruptions in episode 1 varies by type, with floor taking being the most frequent, occurring 44 times.

As far as successful vs. unsuccessful interruptions are concerned, Table 1 demonstrates that unsuccessful interruptions are more than successful interruptions. It also shows that the floor-taking gains the highest number (27), especially with overlapping unsuccessful interruptions. Moreover, it appears that tangentialization is the lowest; it occurs once in successful interruptions with overlap.

Table (2): Types of Interruptions in Episode 2: Morgan and Andrew

Seq.	Types of Interruption	Successful		Unsuccessful		Total
		Overlap	Without Overlap	Overlap	Without Overlap	
1	Disagreement	8	25	5	6	44
2	Floor-taking	48	21	26	19	114
3	Topic change	0	0	0	0	0
4	Tangentialization	1	7	1	0	9
5	Agreement	1	2	4	2	9
6	Assistance	0	0	0	0	0
7	Clarification	5	26	2	0	33
	Total	63	81	38	27	209
		144		65		

Table 2 shows that the total number of interruptions in episode 2 is significantly higher than the number of interruptions in episode 1. Also, floor-taking gains the highest number of interruptions, being used 114 times.

It also demonstrates that floor-taking is the most frequently used strategy in both successful and unsuccessful interruptions, occurring 69 and 45 times, respectively. In contrast, each of agreement and tangentialization occurs only 9 times.

Table (3): Types of Interruptions in Episodes 1 and 2.

Seq.	Types of Interruptions	Successful		Unsuccessful		Total
		Overlap	Without Overlap	Overlap	Without Overlap	
1	Disagreement	12	29	12	6	59
2	Floor-taking	55	31	52	20	158
3	Topic change	1	1	1	0	3
4	Tangentialization	2	7	1	0	11
5	Agreement	2	2	11	2	17
6	Assistance	0	0	0	0	0
7	Clarification	10	30	7	2	48
	Total	82	100	84	30	296
		182		114		

In all data analysis, the researchers identify 296 interruption cases; successful interruptions are more frequently used than unsuccessful ones. Floor-taking interruptions are more frequently used than the others. While the topic change was the lowest, it occurred only 3 times.

Within intrusive interruptions, floor-taking is a strategic power used a lot in institutional debate. A total of 158 floor-taking interruptions were identified. In episode 2, with Andrew, the floor-taking function is more frequently used than in episode 1, especially by Morgan. This refers to a significant Morgan's challenge to control the debate. Since Andrew is known as "one of the most infamous men in the world, Andrew Tate's misogynistic tirades," as Morgan describes in the episode's introduction. Andrew's views led to an increase in the controversy between them. In this episode, Morgan uses a floor-taking strategy as a moderator while performing institutional authority to argue with Andrew about his thoughts and to redirect the topic.

The interruptions with overlapping are more frequent due to the expressed disapproval and the struggle to control the floor in the interview. In episode 1, the guest, Bassem, comes to explain the Arab ideology. Nonetheless, the issue concerns Arabs in particular and the world in general. This interruption is

initiated either by calling the other person's name (the interviewer's or interviewee's) to take the floor or by trying to express the interrupter's point of view. After more than one attempt at unsuccessful interruption, the interrupter controls the floor. There is a relation between the turn size and taking the floor when the current speaker holds the turn and seizes the conversation. The following is an example of a floor-taking interruption:

E.g., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbb-A0G330s>

Youssef: He even like failed in all of the interviews you make because to become like to become like a human shield. I would believe Ben Shapiro_____.

(13:49) Morgan: = So let's go with that_____.

(13:51) Youssef: NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO. Let me ask you// ↑if we agree, if we agree, if we agree ↓that for the 14000 casualties,? Because that's a lot of weapons Pires. I mean, mean, Hamas of course is packing.

(13:52) Morgan: = At some point, Bassem I must ask you question. It's not a monologue for you.

It is worth mentioning that Bassem's responses are often cumbersome and lengthy, which prompts Morgan to use interruption tactics to control the floor and steer the conversation in the right direction.

In this example, Morgan, as the host, tries to manage the interview and start a new topic. He interrupts Bassem's turn at TRP and takes over the floor by continuing thoughts about Bassem's point. But Bassem holds the turn, so Morgan interrupts Bassem's turn again, making an unsuccessful interruption with overlapping to express his dissatisfaction through unsuccessful interruption when he says, "At some point, I must ask you a question. It's not a monologue for you." There are a competition and struggle to control the floor. Hence, high tone and repetition are tactics to hold or take the floor. Unsuccessful interruptions reveal a micro-struggle to take the floor and for conversational territory.

Disagreement interruptions occurred in 59 instances, pointing to contentious discussions. This type of interruption is highly frequent in Andrew's episode and refers to strong opposition to Andrew's point of view about women. It is known that such topics have a wide resonance in the world, especially in the Western world.

E.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGWGcESPltM>

(10:03) Morgan: But as an equal partner in a loving union,, the woman is given to you as a bit of chattel.

(10:14) Andrew:= I agreed with you.

(10:14) Morgan: So why say it?

(10:15) Andrew: = But Peris, that's the way that people often ask me the question. People say to me ____

(10:18) Morgan: = Can't blame people for asking you questions. Surely, if you want Don't blame the question.

(10:25) Andrew: I own the response.

Morgan argues with Andrew about his controversial remarks about women. He interrupts Andrew directly when he disagrees with Andrew's justification, pointing out that he should be accountable for what he said instead of blaming people. He refuses Andrew's excuse and redirects the discussion, prompting Andrew to take responsibility for their words. The topic, the guest's identity, and ideology provoke stronger consideration to control the floor.

While with Bassem, the episode revolves around a political topic. Due to the polarized nature of political discourse, it is very likely to find this type of interruption. But what distinguishes Bassem's episode is that he defends his opinion with an ironic sense, which is what makes his voice reach all over the world. He was invited to present, clarify, and convey the Arab ideologies. The high number of disagreement interruptions without overlap is more frequent with Morgan. This reflects his profession as an interviewer, utilizing a turn-taking tactic at TRP to manage the interview and directly challenge the guest's point, thereby controlling the floor.

Topic changes are interrupted, found only 3 times in episode 1. It occurs when the interrupter wants to move on to another subject after being satisfied or taking advantage of what the current speaker has said. This type is used by the interviewer, Morgan, who manages the interview.

E.g., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbb-A0G330s>

Youssef: It took you 80 years 80 to change one word from Jewish to Muslim. And then you transferred Peris your guilt to us and surely and took away our lives. // ____

That deal sucks, man.

(18:7) Morgan: Bassem, let me ask you one question Bassem.

(18:9) Morgan: Let me ask you a question. How do we get from where we are now to peace?

Here, the topic change occurs through Morgan's request to ask him about the peace. While Bassem was talking about Israel's violence toward Arabs.

In the above example, Morgan makes an unsuccessful attempt to change the topic. Youssef appears to be in a state of strong emotional speech, which is related to historical and political issues. He links it to a sucky deal. Then, Morgan tries to change the topic and steer the conversation in a new direction by using metacomment: "Bassem, let me ask you a question." Morgan's first attempt is unsuccessful because there is a sudden halt with no smooth conversation transition, as Youssef emotionally engages in the speech. Then Morgan repeats his attempt to interrupt Youssef by using the same phrase and gains the floor to shift the conversation to the peace topic through a successful topic change interruption. The first unsuccessful interruption has paved the way for a successful interruption. This type of interruption reflects Morgan's tactic to redirect the political discussion and his attempt to reassert dominance.

It is difficult to make a successful interruption and change the topic without significant pushback when talking about lives lost or guilt. Tangentialization is used when the interrupter summarizes what the current speaker intends to say or even their intended meaning. It occurs 11 times; 7 of them are unsuccessful without overlap.

E.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGWGcESPltM>

(17:49) Andrew: If someone gives you, can a person can ____

(17:50) Morgan: Voluntary authority Andrew is not authority,

(17:52) Andrew: = No, but that's the point. Pierce. ____

(17:55) Morgan: Andrew star,

(17:56) Andrew: = Pierce. If a woman comes to me and says, She is handing me authority for her safety.

In the above example, there is a discussion about voluntary authority. The first Morgan's interruption is about disagreement; there is a struggle with the main point. Each of them asserts their point of authority views. Andrew likens the responsibility to protect women to authority. Morgan interrupts Andrew with the phrase "Andrew star" to conclude that Andrew wants to look like a star, the man who protects the women. By this type of interruption, Morgan can end this part of the conversation and move away to another relevant area.

According to cooperative interruptions, agreement interruptions occurred 17 times in total. It is a low number compared to other types. The number of interruptions reflects some alignment between the interviewer and interviewee. The number of unsuccessful interruptions in episode 1 refers to their attempts to show support. Since they talk about political issues that resonate throughout the world, Morgan wants to be neutral and show his sympathy for what happened to the Qaza people. In episode 2, agreement refers to their attempt to find common ground among them. Since both the interviewer and interviewee have opposite perspectives.

E.g. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VGWGCeSPltM>

(47:31) Andrew: You know what? I'm not going to allowresponsibility. I'm going to get up, and I'm going to fight this as hard as_____

(47:30) Morgan: By the way, on that I agree.

(47:31) Andrew: So, we agree.

Morgan immediately interrupts Andrew's declarative statement about taking responsibility before he finishes his turn. This successful interruption is regarded as an agreement interruption, since it is a collaborative engagement with Morgan's thought. In this interruption, Morgan cut off Andrew's turn and demonstrated his agreement with him.

In data analysis, there are 48 instances of clarification interruptions. With Bassem, this type of interruption is due to the complex Qaza issue; the interlocutors challenge each other's understanding. While with Andrew, Morgan was securitized by Andrew's answers. Seeking inconsistencies in Andrew's views. The interruptions without overlap refer to Morgan's attempt to understand Andrew's opinion before challenging him to achieve the objective challenge.

E.g., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbb-A0G330s>

Morgan: The question, because you raised it earlier, I honestly don't.

I don't. I've been watching the airstrikes ____

(10:35) Youssef: =So, what's your question?

(10:38) Morgan:= Well, I would ask you a question, if you were Israel, //

(10:43) Youssef: =Aha, if I was Israel

Morgan: If you were Israel↑ Bassem and that had may happened to you, The appropriate way for the country to respond?

At the first interruption, Bassem didn't exactly understand the question, so he asked him to specify it. At the second interruption, Bassem wants to understand what he has heard with a sense of assertion.

It is worth mentioning that there is a **complex interruption** in which it is difficult to specify the turns, as in Bassem's unsuccessful interruptions to clarify what he means. This kind of interruption cause confuse and misses the flow of conversation as follows:

E.g., <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hbb-A0G330s>

(19:37) Morgan: No, no. ok no You're missing my point. No, no. You're talking in a generalized way about people in the I don't. // ____ I never have. I actually actually led the campaign. OK, so I don't see you. // I don't see people in the Middle East as savages. // But what I would say is __No, no. It's not about me. // It's about it's about the way Hamas behaved behaved on October the 7th There has to be. // there has to be a response. // ↑ My question to you is, Bassem, what is the proportionate response?

(19:45) Youssef: No, no, no. I'm talking about, of course, Western media.....

(19:55) Youssef: You are ...

(19:56) Youssef: You are one and very one of the good ones. I'm not talking about you Piers. You're great.

(20:01) Youssef: You're amazing. We love you.

(20:16) Youssef: Of course,

(20:18) Youssef: They should be eradicated.

Youssef: But I don't know. But there's no Hamas in the West Bank, and they're still dying there. So, what's your excuse?

Complex interruptions work as critical interaction tools in TV talk programs. This type of interruption usually occurs at non-TRPs. The host leverages syntactic ambiguity to enforce an institutional agenda, dominating the interview and overriding the guest's narrative through intrusive interruptions such as topic changes and floor taking. At the same time, the guest resists and struggles to gain the turn through disagreement, floor taking, or clarification interruptions to defend their point of view.

Complex interruptions are not just a violation of turn allocation but a strategic act of dominance and a ritual of power that manages the interview. It has led to power asymmetry and refers to institutional control, especially in institutional debates.

4. Conclusions

Grounded in Li's (2001) interruption categories and the modifications set by the researchers, the study reveals that the interaction among topic-sensitive reflecting participant ideology and identity shapes the types of interruptions in a talk show. Political and gender inequality issues cause different interruption strategies. Hence, making interruptions is an essential tool for negotiating power, identity, and meaning in broadcast public debate. Successful interruptions, like unsuccessful ones, both have identical intent. Unsuccessful interruptions are functionally rich acts that shape the discourse and depend largely on the setting of the conversation. They reveal a hidden power in negotiations in terms of different actional functions such as taking the floor and disagreement.

With the host, Morgan, controlling both successful and unsuccessful interruptions in both episodes, the data expose a clear correlation between interlocutor roles and interruption strategies. This dominance reflects Morgan's institutional responsibility as a host, hence, taking the flow of the dialogue. Especially in Episode 2, which deals with a more controversial subject, Morgan's interruptions show that the interviewer's insistence sharpens when discussing topics that involve the devaluation of women, particularly in emotionally charged conversations, as a means to maintain control and guide the discussion. Interviewee Andrew, on the other hand, interrupts less often and with less

success, underscoring the power disparity in the interviewer-interviewee relationship within the talk show structure.

Contentious and emotionally charged subjects like Arab political issues and gender inequality naturally cause regular intrusive interruptions like floor-taking and disagreement as participants fervently assert their points of view and fight for conversational control. The cultural, political identity, and ideology of the Arab guest shape a debate style that combines respect for turn-taking with fervent contestation, sometimes using topic changes to negotiate delicate subjects. On the other hand, the negative attitude of Andrew toward women reflects ideological and cultural conflicts inside the forum and generates more resistance, frequent interruptions, and tangentialization.

Morgan's hosting performance helps him manage the talk show. He, with his institutional power, is supposed to enable orderly turn-taking and uphold topical coherence while letting free expression in this "free forum" style. This is clear in episode 1 with Baseem, where Morgan's interruptions are fewer. The frequency of interruptions especially intrusive ones reflects the competitive character of the subjects as well as the institutional difficulty of juggling free expression with conversational sequence. Too many interruptions, specifically the complex ones, most certainly affect the success or failure of interruptions and the general flow, underscoring the complex interaction among institutional roles, participant identities, and topic sensitivity.

Clarifications across both episodes highlight participants' attempts to grasp and examine arguments, thereby underscoring the talk show's role as a venue for critical interaction rather than mere agreement or support.

Finally, the researchers have arrived at the fact that the study's results will be taken into consideration in future comparative studies, in natural languages. We also hope that future studies will be conducted to further analyze the practical applicability of Li's (2001) model of interruptions and the modifications set by the researchers to identify the different strategies and functions of interruptions for high-context communication style in the numerous types of communicative events, considering the various roles of the interlocutors.

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