

Foreigner Talk in Conversation from YouTube Channel "Abroad in Japan"

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ABSTRACT

This paper entitled *"Foreigner Talk in conversation from YouTube Channel "Abroad in Japan"* explains language adjustment used by the native speaker to address the non-native speaker known as Foreigner Talk. The purpose of this research is to identify types of modified input and types of modified interaction of Foreigner Talk. The main theories are from Ellis (1986) and Long (1981). Source of data taken from speeches in 2 videos from YouTube channel "Abroad in Japan". The method used in this research is descriptive analysis method, which describes the collected data and drawing a conclusion in general. Steps taken are watching videos, choosing videos, finding the Foreigner Talk, transcribing, categorizing the data, identifying Foreigner Talk that consists of 3 types of modified input and 9 types of modified interaction, and then drawing a conclusion. The results of this research show that there are two types of modified input that are often used by the native speaker in video 1, namely Grammatical and ungrammatical Foreigner Talk (36%) and No Input Foreigner talk (36%). Type of modified input which is often used in video 2 is Grammatical Foreigner Talk (57%). Type of modified interaction, which is often used in both videos, is confirmation check, in video 1 there are 11 data (47%) and in video 2 there are 9 data (34%).

Keywords: Foreigner Talk; Modified Input; Modified Interaction; YouTube Channel.

INTRODUCTION

Spontaneously, the native speaker (NS) uses a different kind of speech when it comes to addressing the non-native speaker (NNS) who is not fluent in the second language (native speaker language). Researcher had long before investigated this phenomenon and later Stanford University professor, Charles A Ferguson (1968) named it "Foreigner Talk", Ferguson (1968) defined Foreigner Talk as a simplified form of speech used by native speakers while talking to foreigners who are

felt to have limited command of a language or no knowledge of it.

Foreigner Talk is part of the Second Language Acquisition study, which covers how the second language is learned. Second Language Acquisition is an interdisciplinary study between sociolinguistics, psychology, education, and others. This study looks at the modified input and interaction of foreigner talk outside of the classroom.

In general, foreigner talk has an unusual pattern of conversation used in conversations

among native speakers (NS) (Gass & Selinker, 2001: 261).

NS speech	Foreigner talk
<i>D'ya wanna go</i>	<i>Do you want to go?</i>
<i>No, I can't</i>	<i>No, I cannot.</i>

Table 1. Foreigner Talk

Ferguson (1975) describes Foreigner Talk at phonological level, characterized by slow delivery, clear articulation, pause, emphasis, loud volume, and excessive pronunciation, at the level of grammar, characterized by omission, expansion, and replacement. According to Ellis (1981) the Grammatical and ungrammatical Foreigner Talk, ungrammatical Foreigner Talk is marked socially, often implies a lack of respect from native speakers and less favored by learners. The ungrammatical Foreigner Talk is marked by the deletion of certain grammatical features such as copula *be*, modal verbs (for example, *can* and *must*) and articles, the use of the verb in a base form on the past tense, and the use of special constructs such as '*no + verb*'. There is no convincing proof that learners' errors come from the language that they are exposed to.

Various types of modifications as well as baseline talk of fellow speakers (Native Speaker) can be identified. Grammatical Foreigner Talk is the norm. First, the grammatical Foreigner Talk is delivered at a slower pace. Second, the input is simplified, Third, the grammatical language talk is sometimes organized, for example, is the use of full and not abbreviated forms ("*will not forget*" instead of "*won't forget*"). Foreigner Talk sometimes consists of the use of the language elaboration. It involves the extension of phrases and sentences to make the meaning clearer.

Example 1

Baseline Talk: You won't forget to buy the ice cream on your way home, will you?

Ungrammatical Foreigner Talk: No forget buying ice-cream, eh?

Grammatical Foreigner Talk: The ice-cream-you will not forget to buy it on your way home-get it when you are coming home, all right?

(Ellis: 1997)

Foreigner Talk has formal and functional characteristics. These formal characteristics also known as **modified input** and functional characteristics also known as **modified interaction**. Given the different modifications of inputs and interactions, also the types of grammatical and not grammatical inputs (Ellis: 1986, Long: 1983) Foreigner Talk divided into three types:

1. Foreigner talk consisting only modified interaction and has no modified input whether grammatical or non-grammatical.
2. Foreigner talk consists of modified interaction and modified input grammatical (no modified input non-grammatical)
3. Foreigner talk which consists of modified interaction and both modified input grammatical and non-grammatical

What type of Foreigner Talk happens is the result of various factors related to the topic of the conversation, the age of the participant (whether they are children, adolescents, or adults) and in particular, the learner's skills and the relationship with the native speaker.

Based on the types of Foreigner talk (Ellis: 1986, Long: 1983), **modified input** of Foreigner Talk consists of three namely:

1. Grammatical Foreigner Talk (Involves modifications in grammatical language rules).
2. Grammatical and ungrammatical Foreigner Talk (Involves grammatical and non-grammatical modifications)
3. No input of Foreigner Talk (Does not involve modification of grammatical and non-grammatical inputs)

Example 2

NNS: *How have increasing food costs changed your eating habits?*

NS: ***Well, we don't eat as much beef as we used to. We eat more chicken, and uh, pork and uh, fish, things like that.***

NNS: *Pardon me?*

NS: ***We don't eat as much beef as we used to. We eat more chicken and uh, uh pork and fish...We don't eat beef very often. We don't have a steak like we used to.***

NNS: *Oh, okay.*

The types of modified input and interaction of foreigner talk in the above conversation can be detected quite easily. The modified input of foreigner talk applied by NS is grammatical of foreigner talk with the grammatical feature used is the elaborated language use. Elaborated language use is applied on the utterance, "*Well, we don't eat as much beef as we used to, we eat more chicken, and uh, pork and uh, fish, things like that*". The utterance "*We eat more chicken, and uh, pork and uh, fish, things like that*" is the elaboration of the previous utterance "*Well, we don't eat as much beef as we used*

to", but NNS still does not understand it then responds to "*pardon me*" for NS to repeat his words. NS finally repeated it "*We do not eat as much beef as we used to. We eat more chicken and uh, uh pork and fish ...*", then NS add more explanation "*We do not eat beef very often. We do not have a steak like we used to*" to make the meaning clearer.

Krashen (1982: 27) argues that to succeed in the language acquisition process "comprehensible input" is necessary, i.e. input slightly beyond the level of the learner. This input must be real and appealing to the learner. It deals with conditions that the learner should be able to understand what is going on from the context of the interaction. In agreement with this, the modified input is important to make input comprehensible but modified interaction is more important because modified interaction occurs more consistently in Foreigner Talk. Following Long (1980: 81-83) claims **modified interaction** refers to modifications to the interactional structures of NS-NNS discourse, and they are usually in the form of here and now topics, clarification requests, confirmation checks, repetition, and among others.

No.	Type	Description	Example
1	More "here and now" topics	Native-speaker refers to objects/events which are contiguous.	NS: What's that you are wearing?
2	More topic-initiating moves	The native speaker starts a conversational topic by asking a question or making a comment.	
3	More confirmation checks	Utterances designed to elicit confirmation that a learner utterance has been correctly heard or understood.	NNS: I went to cinema. NS: The cinema?
4	More comprehension checks	Attempts by the native speaker to establish that the learner is following what he is saying.	NS: It was raining cats and dogs. Do you follow?

5	More clarification requests	Utterances designed to get the learner to clarify an utterance which has not been heard or understood.	NNS: She very high. NS: Sorry?
6	More self-repetitions	The native speaker repeats part or the whole of his preceding utterance.	NNS: He got stuck in the window trying to get in. He got stuck.
7	More other- repetitions	The native speaker repeats part or the whole of the learner's previous utterance without seeking confirmation.	NNS: I went to the cinema. NS: Yeah. You went to the cinema.
8	More Expansions	The native speaker expands the learner's previous utterance by supplying missing formatives or by adding new semantic information.	NNS: I wear a sweater. NS: Yes, you are wearing a red sweater
9	Shorter responses	The native speaker restricts the length of his response to a learner question or comment.	

Table 2. Modified interaction of Foreigner Talk

Example 3

NS: **What classes are you taking at 10 o'clock?**

NNS: **Sorry? 10 clock?**

NS: **What classes at 10 o'clock?**

NNS: **10 o'clock, classes, uh...Science.**

From the above example, the conversation contains negotiation of meaning which is a modified interaction of the foreigner talk, there are two types of modified interaction found in the above example, they are clarification request and confirmation check performed by NNS. Clarification request and confirmation check are in the same utterance "sorry? 10 clocks?". NNS asks clarification "sorry? 10 clock?", because the previous utterance of NS hasn't been heard or understood clearly. NNS makes a mistake in the words "10 clock ", then NS answer by clarifying the question as well as correcting

the error of NNS "What classes at 10 o'clock?" and finally from the negotiation of meaning, NNS understands the NS question and fixes its error by saying "10 o'clock, classes, uh ... Science".

METHOD

This study uses descriptive analysis method, the Descriptive analysis method is a method that serves to describe or give an overview of the object of research from data or samples collected as is and make conclusions in general. The authors categorize data based on video 1 and video 2, then describe modified input and modified interaction of Foreigner Talk used by the native speakers when speaking with non-native speakers from conversation found in video 1 and video 2 in the YouTube channel "Abroad in Japan".

The purpose of this study is to identify

data that addresses the following two general research questions:

1. What types of modified input of foreigner talk used by the native speaker in conversation in video 1 and video 2 on YouTube channel "Abroad in Japan"?
2. What types of modified interaction of foreigner talk found in conversation in video 1 and video 2 on YouTube channel "Abroad in Japan"?

The data were collected from two videos taken from the YouTube channel "Abroad in Japan" The steps taken in analyzing data on this thesis are as follows:

1. Watching videos on the YouTube channel "Abroad in Japan"
2. Choosing videos which have a conversation between native speakers and non-native speakers. There are 2 videos selected, Video 1 titled "Japanese Thought on Foreign Chocolate" and video 2 titled "Japanese Guy Vs English"
3. Find Foreigner Talk in a conversation in video 1 and video 2
4. Write Foreigner Talk transcripts that have been found in video 1 and video 2.
5. Categorize data based on video 1 and video 2
6. Identify the Foreigner Talk based on modified input and modified interaction of Foreigner Talk
7. Draw a conclusion in accordance with existing data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Description of video 1: In the video entitled "Japanese Thought on Foreign Chocolate", Chris (NS) meets Natsuki (NNS) to answer many questions from viewers of Youtube Channel "Abroad in Japan" who are curious about Japanese opinion

on chocolates, especially chocolates from outside Japan. Natsuki will compare four of the world's branded chocolate products; Cadbury Dairy Milk from the UK, Lindt from Switzerland, Hersey's from America and The Chocolate from Japan, Natsuki will use a blindfold and give a score of 1 (lowest) to 10 (premium).

Data 1

Situation: Chris (NS) asks Natsuki (NNS) to try the first chocolate.

NS: *ready?*

NNS: *yeah*

NS: **chocolate time! so these are the four different chocolates that you will try, today you will decide which one is the best, which one is the number one chocolate**

NNS: *ung (Japanese meaning yeah)*

NS: *and we want you to try them without looking to put on this visual disabling units, there you go! the first one (giving the plate to Natsuki) okay, go!*

NNS: *Katta (Japanese meaning hard)*

NS: **It's hard?**

NNS: *Hard... Milky*

NS: **Milky taste?**

NNS: *ung (yeah) long sweet, sweet, long time Sweet oh it's good.*

NS: **it's good?**

NNS: *ung (yeah)*

NS: *One to ten?*

NNS: *Nine*

NS: *Nine! Nine out of ten! okay Wow!*

The type of modified input in data 1 is only a grammatical foreign talk, there are two features of the grammatical foreign talk applied by Chris (NS), No contraction and Elaborated Language Use, both in the same speech "**chocolate time! so these are the four different chocolates that you will try, today you will decide which one is the best, which one is the number one chocolate**", No contraction is the use of basic sentences with no contractions such as, "you'll try"

rather than “you will try” then “you’ll decide” instead of “you will decide”. Elaborated language use occurs in speech **“today you will decide which one is the best, which one is the number one chocolate.”** the phrase **“which one is the number one chocolate”** is the elaboration of the previous phrase **“today you will decide which one is the best”**

The type of modified interaction used by NS in data 1 is one, namely confirmation checks. Confirmation checks are found in 3 utterances in order to negotiate the meaning. The first Confirmation check is **“it’s hard?”** where NS wanted to make sure if NNS word was “hard” as NNS had earlier said Katta (meaning hard in Japanese), then NNS agreed by responding “hard” added with “milky”, “Hard,,, Milky” so NS did the second confirmation check **“milky taste”?** and NNS answered yes followed by a new statement “ung (yes in Japanese), long sweet, sweet... long time Sweet oh it’s good” and NS did confirmation for the third time “it’s good?” and NNS answered yes “ung” (yes in Japanese).

Data 2

Situation: Chris (NS) asks Natsuki (NNS) which chocolate brand is the first chocolate.

NS: **which chocolate do you think it is?**

NNS: UK style, Cadbury... Cadbury

NS: **okay... okay**

NNS: Cadbury

NS: **I won’t tell you, I won’t tell you until the end.**

The type of modified input of foreigner talk used by Chris (NS) in the above conversation is only grammatical foreigner talk. The grammatical foreigner talk feature that is applied is a basic sentence. The basic sentence in data 2 occurs in the first sentence **“which chocolate do you think it is?”** which is the complete basic question sentence

without removal of the auxiliary verb “do” and correct wh-question structure.

There is one type of modified interaction of foreigner talk found in data 2, namely self-repetition. Self-repetition applied in two utterances, the first is **“okay... okay”** where NS repeated the word “okay”, then the second **“I won’t tell you, I won’t tell you until the end”** where NS repeated the whole first sentence “I won’t tell you “.

Data 3

Situation: Natsuki (NNS) tries the second chocolate.

NS: *okay next chocolate here we go (while giving the chocolate)*

NNS: *uh? (confuse face)*

NS: *haha why you confuse?*

NNS: *Uh? strange taste*

NS: *yeah, why is it strange?*

NNS: *mixed taste*

NS: **mixed flavor?**

NNS: *mmm yeah*

NS: *milky?*

NNS: *milky and berry*

NS: **milky and berry, No berry**

NNS: *fruit fruit?*

NS: *nope just milk chocolate*

NNS: *just milk?*

NS: *yeah*

NNS: *mmm seven*

NS: *seven?*

NNS: *mmm*

Conversation in data 3 does not have any modified input of foreigner talk, either grammatical foreigner talk or ungrammatical foreigner talk. The above conversation only has modified interaction.

The type of modified interaction of foreigner talk used by NS in data 3 is two, confirmation check and other repetition. Confirmation check applied in two utterances, the first Confirmation check is **“mixed flavor?”** NNS said earlier “mixed

taste”, this conversation contains negotiation of meaning NS asked whether the NNS mean by saying the mixed taste is mixed flavor then NNS replied, “mmm yeah”. The second confirmation check is NS confirm the meaning of the previous NNS’ sentence which is not understood or not heard clearly by

NS before NNS said “mmm seven” then NS confirm “seven?”. Other repetition can apply in utterance **“milky and berry, No berry”** in which NS repeated the entire previous NNS’ words “milky and berry” without asking for confirmation.

Modification	Types	Data														Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Modified Input	No Input Foreigner Talk			√		√		√				√	√			5
	Grammatical Foreigner Talk	√	√		√									√	√	4
	Grammatical and Ungrammatical Foreigner Talk						√		√	√	√				√	5
Modified Interaction	“Here” and “Now” Topic														√	1
	Topic Initiating Move															0
	Confirmation Check	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√		11
	Comprehension Check															0
	Clarification Request						√	√	√		√			√		5
	Self-Repetition		√									√				2
	Other Repetition			√						√				√		3
	Expansion															0
	Shorter Response				√											1

Table 3. Results of 14 data taken from Video 1

Description of video 2: Chris (NS) records Natsuki’s (NNS) activity while learning English online with a tutor named Charlie (NS), Natsuki is learning English to prepare for going London in the next 2 months with Chris, Chris rarely met with Natsuki so he cannot teach him intensively.

Data 16

Situation: Natsuki’s English skills (NNS) still need to be improved because he wants to go to London, therefore Natsuki (NNS) learns English online with a tutor named Charlie (NS).

NS: **Can I call you Natsuki?**

NNS: Natsuki (pointing himself), my name is Natsuki

NS: Natsuki, nice to meet you, Natsuki

NS: I hear, that you are going to England soon, yeah?

NNS: yeah

The type of modified input of foreigner talk used by Charlie (NS) in the above conversation is only grammatical foreigner talk. The grammatical foreigner talk features applied are a basic sentence, no contraction and topic moving to the beginning. The basic sentence found in the first sentence **"can I call you Natsuki?"** which is a completely basic question sentence without the removal of the auxiliary verb "can" and following the correct structure of the question sentence. The next feature is No contraction applied to the sentence **"I hear that you are going to England soon, yeah?"** which NS use "you're" instead of "you are". The last grammatical foreigner talk feature in the 16th data is the topic moving to the beginning, found in the expression "Natsuki, nice to meet you, Natsuki" in which NS mentions Natsuki's name first, to show that he is talking about Natsuki whom he likes to meet.

The types of modified interaction used by Charlie (NS) in the above conversations are two namely topics initiating move and self-repetition. Topic initiating found in asking "can I call you Natsuki?" when NS starts a conversation by asking Natsuki (NNS). Self-repetition found in the utterance "Natsuki, nice to meet you, Natsuki", in which NS repeats part of his word, that is to repeat the name of Natsuki 2 times.

Data 17

NS: you need to probably get a taxi, don't you?

NNS: aahh get a taxi yeah

NS: so, I think it would be good if we role play

NNS: hmm ok

NS: Me... being a taxi driver... and you...

are the person who needs the taxi

Situation: Charlie (NS) knows that Natsuki (NNS) is going to London, he asks him to do a role-play if Natsuki will use a taxi in London.

From the above conversation, the type of modified input of foreigner talk used by NS is grammatical foreigner talk, while its features are by using question tag and fewer/no contraction. The question tag is in the speech, "you need to probably get a taxi, do not you? This speech has 2 sentences. The first sentence is a statement in the form of a positive sentence and the second sentence is a question in negative form. The next feature is the fewer / no contractions found in the speech "so I think it would be good if we role play" and "Me ... being a person who needs the taxi, ... and you... are the person who needs the taxi". The first sentence is a complete basic sentence with no contraction, using "it would" rather than "it'd" and in the second sentence also use no contraction, "you are" is used instead of "you're".

There is one type of modified interaction of foreigner talk found in the above conversation namely expansion. This expansion has seen clearly in the expression "Me ... being a taxi driver ... and you ... are the person who needs the taxi" which the NS does not directly say "you need the taxi" but expand the sentence by adding "you are the person".

There is one type of modified interaction of foreigner talk found in the above conversation namely expansion. This expansion has seen clearly in the expression "Me ... being a taxi driver ... and you ... are the person who needs the taxi" which the NS does not directly say "you need the taxi" but expand the sentence by adding "you are the person".

Data 18

Situation: Charlie (NS) and Natsuki (NNS) do a role-play, Charlie serves as taxi man and Natsuki as passengers.

NS: I'm a taxi man, so I'm sitting in my car,

waiting

NNS: yeah... hello

NS: **Hi mate, you all right?**

NNS: yeah I can ride, I wa..

NS: **you WHAT?** (exaggerating intonation)

NNS: I want to ride; I need to ride Lo... London

NS: **You need a ride to London?**

NNS: I need a ride to London

NS: all right

The type of modified input of foreigner talk in the above conversation is grammatical foreigner talk and ungrammatical foreigner talk. The modification of grammatical foreigner talk on data 18 has two features, namely elaborated language use, and un-inverted question. Elaborated language use is found in utterance **"I'm a taxi man, so I'm**

sitting in my car, waiting", the utterance "so I'm sitting in my car, waiting", is the elaboration of the previous sentence "I'm a taxi man ". The un-inverted question found in data 18 is **"You need a ride to London?"**, This question is called un-inverted question because it is preceded by the subject "you" and does not follow the "do + Subject" question pattern. The modification of ungrammatical input in data 18 has one feature: exaggerating intonation. Exaggerating intonation is in speech **"you WHAT?"** which is the excessive use of intonation of the word what.

There are two types of modified interaction of foreigner talk found from the above conversations; topic initiating moves and confirmation checks. Topic initiating

Modification	Types	Data																Total
		15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Modified Input	No Input Foreigner Talk								√			√						2
	Grammatical Foreigner Talk	√	√	√		√				√	√				√		√	8
	Grammatical and Ungrammatical Foreigner Talk				√		√	√					√	√		√		6
Modified Interaction	"Here" and "Now" Topic					√	√											2
	Topic Initiating Move	√	√		√							√						4
	Confirmation Check				√		√	√	√		√	√	√	√		√		9
	Comprehension Check																	0
	Clarification Request							√										1
	Self-Repetition		√								√		√					3
	Other Repetition	√								√		√		√	√		√	6
	Expansion			√														1
Shorter Response																	0	

Table 4. Results of 16 data taken from Video 2

CONCLUSIONS

The conclusions from 30 data collected are presented around the two research questions:

1. What types of modified input of foreigner talk used by the native speaker in conversation in video 1 and video 2 on YouTube channel "Abroad in Japan"?

There are three types of modified input of Foreigner Talk: Grammatical Foreigner Talk, Grammatical and ungrammatical Foreigner Talk, No Input Foreigner talk.

In video 1 there are 4 Grammatical Foreigner Talk data (28%), 5 Grammatical and ungrammatical Foreigner Talk data (36%), and 5 data that have no grammatical or ungrammatical (No Input Foreigner talk) modification type (36%),

In video 2 found 9 data Grammatical Foreigner Talk (57%), 3 Grammatical data and ungrammatical Foreigner Talk (18%), and as many as 4 data that has no grammatical or ungrammatical (No Input Foreigner talk) modification type (25%).

2. What kind of modified interaction of foreigner talk found in conversation in video 1 and video 2 on YouTube channel "Abroad in Japan"?

There are nine types of Foreigner talk modifications: Here and now topics, topic-initiating moves, confirmation checks, comprehension checks clarification requests, self-repetition, other-repetition, expansions, and shorter responses.

In video 1 found Here and now topics 1 data (4%), topic-initiating moves 0 data, confirmation checks 11 data (47%), comprehension checks 0 data, clarification request 5 Data (22%), self-repetition 2 data (8%), other-repetition 5 data (22%), expansions 0 data and shorter responses 1 data (4%), the most frequently used is confirmation checks of 11 data (47%).

In video 2 there are 2 (7%), topic-initiating moves (15%), confirmation checks (34%),

comprehension checks 0 data, clarification request 1 Data (3%), self-repetition 3 data (11%), other-repetition 6 data (23%), expansions 1 data (3%), and shorter responses 0 data, the most frequently used is confirmation checks of 9 data (34%).

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