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## An Analysis of Adjacency Pairs in the Main Characters of the Netflix Series *Bridgerton* (2020)

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### Abstract

This research aims to analyze and classify the types of adjacency pairs that are most frequently used between the main characters 'Daphne and Simon' in the *Bridgerton* series (2020). With a total of 103 data, the identified adjacency pair types include (4) greeting/greeting, (9) blame/denials, (1) apology/apology, (51) request for information/grant, (19) request for information/denials, (5) offer/accept, and (14) offer/reject. The research results show that the most dominant types of adjacency pairs are request for information-grant, with 51 data points. The researcher concluded that the most dominant of adjacency pairs plays an important role in supporting the development of the storyline between main characters, Daphne and Simon. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method for analysis. The researcher collected data through observation, transcription, identification, and classification of conversations between the main characters into various types of adjacency pairs. This study is expected to contribute significantly to a further understanding of the structure of conversations in drama series and to show that adjacent pairs play an important role in character development and storyline.

## INTRODUCTION

Communication is an important aspect of human life. Without communication, humans would be unable to convey ideas, express emotions, or form meaningful relationships with one another. By instinct, humans cannot live alone. Yule (2010) also emphasizes that humans always live in groups, so a form of communication is needed to create social interaction. Communication usually involves two speakers who take turns talking to exchange ideas. According to Levinson, conversation is the most common and intimate form of speech, as it gives each participant an equal opportunity to speak in turn Savitri (2022). Through conversation, there will be adjacency pairs that become the basis for analyzing a conversation. Adjacency Pairs are a pair of utterances (two speakers) in a conversation that are sequential, which usually consist of the first speaker and the second speaker (Yule, 1996). By paying attention to how someone speaks and responds to their conversation partner through adjacency pairs, we can explore more deeply how a person's relationship becomes closer or more intimate through their conversation. Therefore, conversation is not only about language ability, but also about the social skills to build relationships and harmony.

According to Levinson (1983), the primary focus of conversation analysis lies in description and empirical investigation within the field of pragmatics. One of the most popular objects of research is film, as conversation analysis has been widely applied in movie studies. As stated by Tarigan (2016) and Sinaga et al. (2020) that effective coordination between speaker and listener is crucial for successful communication. Through the use of adjacency pairs, movies can showcase coordination and character interaction. Movies are a significant area of research, especially for literature students, as they have been widely studied by many researchers. In addition, movies also serve as a form of mass media that essentially shapes contemporary culture (Husaina et al., 2018). As a result, movies commonly used by literature students, not just for their entertainment value, but also as sources of motivation, material for analysis, and primarily as modalities for deepening discourse on social issues. The researcher aims to analyze the adjacency pairs of the main characters in the *Bridgerton* (2020) series. This analysis applies the theory of adjacency pairs developed by Sacks et al. (1974). Furthermore, the researcher used the *Bridgerton* (2020) series produced by Netflix as the object of this research. This series, set in the 19th century and following the lives of Daphne Bridgerton and Simon Basset, depicts the complicated love story between 'Daphne and Simon'. In Daphne's family,

children are expected to marry early to maintain the family's reputation. This is a huge contrast to Simon, who has a high social status but chooses not to marry and does not want to have children due to personal issues he has experienced. Therefore, 'Daphne and Simon' agree to make a fake relationship to achieve their respective goals. However, as time goes by, their fake relationship slowly turns into genuine and deep feelings.

In previous studies, it has been shown that many researchers analyze films by examining the conversations between characters. First, Nurfadilla & Rizkiani (2021) In their study, entitled "Adjacency Pair of Conversational Script in *Storks* 2016 Movie," they identified adjacency pairs spoken by the actors in the *Storks* 2016 movie and discovered the structure of the adjacency pairs, analyzing the conversations. Second, Fitri et al. (2024) in their study, entitled "Adjacency Pairs and Insertion Sequence in *Big Hero 6* Film," the researchers aimed to identify the types of adjacency pairs and find the types of insertion sequences in the film *Big Hero 6*. Third, Pardede et al. (2021) analyzed adjacency pairs in the film *Black Panther* and found that patterns such as question–answer, greeting–response, and offer–acceptance reflect the social relationships between the characters. Fourth, Mubarok (2025) in his research entitled "Child Talk, Adult Power: A Conversation Analysis of *The Boss Baby* Movie", the researcher focuses on exploring how linguistic elements shape and oppose the traditional roles of children and adults. Fifth, Maulidia & Rosyidah (2024) in their research on "*The Croods: A New Age* Movie," they aim to explain the types of adjacency pairs and preference structures in the utterances of all the characters.

However, previous studies have been limited to discussing or linking the types of adjacency pairs and the most dominant type to analyze the relationship between main characters in a film or series. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this gap by analyzing how adjacency pairs are used to demonstrate the relationships and closeness between the main characters in the *Bridgerton* series. This study aims to (1) identify the types of adjacency pairs that occur in the conversation between the main characters in the Netflix series *Bridgerton* (2020) using the theory of Sacks et al. (1974), (2) determine which types of adjacency pairs are most frequently used by the main characters in the Netflix series *Bridgerton* (2020) and (3) analyze how the most dominant adjacency pairs could affect the deeper relationship between the main characters.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Adjacency Pairs**

According to Sacks et al. (1974) Adjacency pairs are the basis of a conversation consisting of two different utterances (first pair part and second pair part) that are related to each other, where the FPP determines how the SPP will respond. In addition, Levinson (1983) asserts that the operation of adjacency pairs follows a rule in which, after the first speaker completes the initial part of a pair, the speaker must stop talking. So, the next speaker is expected to produce the corresponding second part of that pair. Furthermore, adjacency pairs are categorized into the following types based on Sacks et al. cited by Nurfadilla & Rizkiani (2021): Greeting-Greeting, Summon-Answer, Complaint-Denial, Request-Apology, Request for Information-Grant, Offer-Accept, and Offer-Reject. However, this does not deny that other types of adjacency pairs exist, as identified by various researchers. Based on the definition above, researchers conclude that adjacency pairs are conversations that occur between two different speakers. This conversation can proceed smoothly if the first speaker's utterance can be clearly understood by the second speaker, so that the response given is in accordance with the utterance from the first pair.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. Through this approach, the researcher aims to identify and analyze the types of adjacency pairs that appear in conversations between the main characters. The researcher collects data by downloading and watching the *Bridgerton* (2020) series from the Netflix website. The *Bridgerton* (2020) series consists of three seasons, each series was published at different times, that is, in 2020 (season one), 2022 (season two), and 2024 (season three). The researcher used only the first season, focusing on the conversation exchanges between 'Daphne and Simon'. A laptop and a notebook were the primary tools used to access and analyze data, with the researcher being the main focus of this study. To collect the data, the researcher began by watching 8 episodes from the first season, each of which was less than half an hour long. While observing the drama series *Bridgerton* (2020), the researcher observed the conversations that happened between 'Daphne and Simon'. Then, the researcher downloaded the transcript of the series from the *Scraps from the Loft* website and matched it with the conversations in the *Bridgerton* (2020) series. Furthermore, the researcher gathered all communication between the main characters to identify and classify them, according to

adjacency pair types using the theory from Sacks et al. (1974), such as questions-answers, greetings, and others.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis, the researcher found 103 data, that could be categorized as adjacency pairs. The classification of adjacency pairs identified included greeting/greeting, blame/denial, apology/apology, request for information/grant, request for information/refusal, offer/accept, and offer/reject. In addition, the most dominant adjacency pair among the main characters in dialogues was a request for information-grant, with a total of 51 data. Moreover, to support the research analysis, the researcher gave one example and explanation for each type of adjacency pair found in the *Bridgerton* series, especially in conversations between main characters. The results are below.

**Table 1. Types of Adjacency Pairs in *Bridgerton* Series (2020)**

No.	Types of Adjacency Pairs	Frequency
1.	Greeting – Greeting	4
2.	Blame – Denial	9
3.	Apology – Apology	1
4.	Request for Information – Grant (Question – Answer)	51
5.	Request for Information – Refusal (Question – Refusal)	19
6.	Offer – Accept	5
7.	Offer – Reject	14
<b>Total:</b>		<b>103</b>

### Adjacency Pairs

#### *Greeting – Greeting*

In the conversations between ‘Daphne and Simon’ in the *Bridgerton* series (2020), researchers found that there is a type of adjacency pair known as greeting-greeting. According to Mubarok (2025), the types of adjacency pairs (greeting-greeting) refer to the utterances made by a speaker at the start of a conversation to acknowledge or address another person. This conversation occurred when Daphne met Simon, so they exchanged brief greetings.

#### Data 1.1

Daphne: “Ah. Here you are.” (greeting)  
Simon: “Oh, good morning, dearest.” (greeting)

*Episode: 6*

The data above shows that Daphne acted as the First Pair Part (FPP), the first speaker to initiate the conversation, while Simon acted as the Second Pair Part (SPP), the second speaker to respond. Daphne (FPP) opened the conversation with the greeting “Ah, here

you are,” because she finally found Simon at his workspace, and Simon (SPP) answered with “Oh, good morning, dearest,” because he knew his wife’s presence and said greetings, understood the greeting, and responded appropriately.

Based on this conversation, researchers classified it as a greeting-greeting adjacency pair because their conversation proceeded in a mutually correlated manner and followed a common greeting pattern.

### ***Blame – Denial***

Through Daphne and Simon’s conversation in the *Bridgerton* series (2020), the researcher classified them into adjacency pairs in the form of blame-denial. According to Fitri et al. (2024) Blaming is an action that refers to accusing, condemning, or reprimanding someone, while denial is a statement when someone denies something that is not true. In this conversation between Daphne and Simon, which refers to that type.

#### **Data 1.2**

Daphne: “Is this truly what our marriage will be for the future? You out all night, doing God knows what with God knows whom?” (blame)

Simon: “With whom? You wound me. Not three weeks since we were wed, yet already you imagine me disloyal” (denial)

*Episode: 7*

The conversation above shows that Daphne (FPP) indirectly accuses Simon of cheating through her statement, “You out all night, doing God knows what with God knows whom?” This accusation arises because Simon stays out late at night, which is unusual for him. In fact, Simon was actually boxing with his friend, Will Mondrich. However, Simon responds to the accusation with an indirect denial through the sentence, “With whom? You wound me. Not three weeks since we were wed, yet already you imagine me disloyal.” Based on this exchange, it can be confirmed that this pair of utterances falls into the category of denial of accusation, because Daphne accuses Simon, and Simon responds by denying the accusation. Through their conversation, it is confirmed that this is a denial of wrongdoing, as Daphne accuses Simon, and Simon responds with a denial.

### ***Apology – Apology***

The adjacency pairs apology-apology are a rare occurrence in films. According to Levinson (1983) Adjacency pairs, It is an expandable context-dependent, which allows new forms of conversation types, such as apologies, to emerge in certain situations. This type usually occurs when someone accidentally wrongs another person. In such a situation,

the apology-apology conversation occurs when the First Pair Part and the Second Pair Part apologize to each other.

### **Data 1.3**

Daphne: “Oh! Pardon Me” (apology)  
Simon: “Forgive Me” (apology)

*Episode: 1*

In conversation analysis, the adjacency pair (apology–apology) occurs when one party expresses an apology, and the other party responds with an apology as well. Based on the data above, Daphne (FPP) accidentally bumped into Simon, so she apologized first. However, Simon (SPP) also felt guilty for not looking while walking and apologized too, because he realized that he was also wrong. Therefore, the conversation between Daphne and Simon above falls into the apology–apology category.

### ***Request for Information – Grant***

According to Yolannisa (2019), Questions function to seek information, clarification, etc., where a question requires a response/answer to the information provided and clarification given. This type of adjacency pair will occur when the First Pair Part (FPP) asks for something, and it can find out information and clarify about the intended person or the Second Pair Part (SPP).

### **Data 1.4**

Daphne: “Tell me why you are so adamant.” (request for information)  
Simon: “Because I swore a long time ago that I would never sire a child.”  
(grant)

*Episode: 7*

The data above shows that Daphne (FPP) asked Simon (SPP) why he was so persistent in not having children. So, Simon (SPP) clarified/answered that he would not have a child because of his past vows. Therefore, the conversation between Daphne and Simon very clearly shows the request for information-grant adjacency pair type.

### ***Request for Information – Refusal***

Based on the conversations between the main characters, Daphne and Simon, the researcher found conversations that were categorized as the adjacency pair type request for information-refusal. A conventional adjacency pair occurs when one character asks a question and another character provides a relevant response, resulting in an interaction that helps advance the plot (Mubarok, 2025).

In this type of adjacency pair, the First Pair Part (FPP) typically asks a question, and the Second Pair Part (SPP) will respond with an answer. However, the information or

answers provided are often evasive or in the form of a direct statement that the Second Pair Part (SPP) refuses to answer the question.

#### **Data 1.5**

Daphne: “Where have you been all night?” (request for information)

Simon: “I did not think you concerned about my whereabouts.” (refusal)

*Episode: 7*

Based on the data above, Daphne (FPP) asked a question aimed at obtaining personal information from Simon (SPP). She asked about Simon’s whereabouts the night before because she was surprised, considering that Simon did not usually come home late at night. However, Simon’s response indicated refusal, because he did not expect Daphne to care about his whereabouts. Through this conversation, it can be confirmed that this interaction falls under the adjacency pair type request for information-refusal.

#### ***Offer – Accept***

An offer is something that is offered to be given or done, usually accompanied by a response, whereas acceptance shows that the offer is accepted (Fitri et al., 2024). Through conversations conducted by Daphne and Simon, the researcher found data that corresponded to these types of adjacency pairs. This type of adjacency pair is usually the First Pair Part (FPP) will offer an invitation/giveaway/help, while the Second Pair Part (SPP) accepts the invitation/give/help

#### **Data 1.6**

Daphne: “Would you care to join me? I must admit, my brothers will think it odd if you do not.” (offer)

Simon: “Yes. Yes, I shall join you.” (accept)

*Episode: 8*

Based on the data above, Daphne (FPP) offers Simon (SPP) to come with her to Bridgerton’s residence, and she adds that it might seem strange if Simon doesn’t come with her, and Simon accepts Daphne’s invitation. Therefore, this conversation falls under the type of adjacency pair offer-acceptance, where the First Pair Part (FPP) invites, and the Second Pair Part (SPP) accepts the invitation.

#### ***Offer – Reject***

According to Hai (2021), the purpose of the offer from the first speaker is to prompt the second speaker to act. Based on the analysis results, the researcher found the offer-reject adjacency pair type in the Bridgerton (2020) series, highlighting the conversation between ‘Daphne and Simon’. In this adjacency pair type, the First Pair Part (FPP) usually

makes an offer or invitation, while the Second Pair Part (SPP) responds by rejecting the offer.

### Data 1.7

Daphne: “Would you care to break your fast with me?” (offer)

Simon: “I am sorry, my love.” (reject)

*Episode: 6*

From the data above, an adjacency pair is seen when Daphne (FPP) invites Simon (SPP) to have breakfast together. However, Simon (SPP) declines the invitation because he has a lot of work to finish in his office. Therefore, it can be concluded that this conversation is an offer–reject adjacency pair.

### Discussion

The results of this study indicate that the most dominant type of adjacency pair in the *Bridgerton* series (2020) is the request for information–grant, with a total of 51. By utilizing the most dominant adjacency pair in the *Bridgerton* (2020) series, the request for information–grant highlights how the two main characters are interested in each other and want to get to know each other better. Trihartanti and Septian (2021) suggests that adjacency pairs used by students have a social function, such as to express respect, solidarity, and empathy. This function suggests that the use of adjacency pairs can reflect the social and emotional relationships between speakers. Following this, the dominance of the request for information–grant type in this study also indicates the two main characters efforts to understand each other and build closeness through the exchange of information in their conversations.

Through this study, the researcher found differences from previous studies through this study. In previous studies, researchers did not conduct further research on how adjacency pairs can affect the development of closeness or language relationships between the main characters. Although previous studies also analyzed the types of adjacency pairs in films as a basis for analysis, there are clear differences between those studies and this study. The researcher identified the types of adjacency pairs used by the main characters for further study. With existing patterns such as “request for information–grant”, “greeting–greeting”, “blame–denial”, etc. The types of adjacency pairs most frequently used by the main characters can show how emotions or closeness develop between the main characters. In previous studies, no one has explained in detail how adjacency pairs can affect the level of closeness between the main characters, most have only emphasized the overall character without focusing on the relationship between the main characters.

Therefore, it is hoped that this study can provide a deeper understanding that adjacency pairs not only function as structures in conversation, but also as a means of establishing the flow and patterns of closeness between fictional characters in films.

## CONCLUSION

This study generally discusses the identification and categorization of adjacency pairs found in conversations between the main characters, Daphne and Simon, in the *Bridgerton* series (2020). The types of adjacency pairs found are greetings, blaming-denying, apologies-apologies, requests for information-giving/refusing, and offers-accepting/refusing. The researcher also examined the types of adjacency pairs most frequently used by the main characters. Based on the results of the study, the adjacency pair type of information requests-agreements appeared most frequently because it played an important role in supporting the development of the approach that occurred between Daphne and Simon. Initially, they were strangers, but their relationship grew closer over time, and then they became closer and finally fell in love. This development required the consistent use of this adjacency pair to maintain the flow of conversation and support the development of the storyline. In addition, the method that used in this research was qualitative descriptive analysis. Moreover, the data collection were obtained by watching drama series, downloading transcripts, and identifying and classifying conversations into relevant types of adjacency pairs. This study contributes to the understanding of conversational structure in drama series and shows how adjacency pairs are an important factor in character development. Therefore, this study can be a reference for other researchers to see that the type of adjacency pair can also affect the level of closeness between characters in a film.

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