

ALTERNATIVE QUESTION PATTERNS IN POPULAR INDONESIAN PODCASTS

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: 22-05-2026 Revised: 27-06-2026 Accepted: 23-07-2026 Published: 31-07-2026 Volume: 10 Issue: 3 DOI: 10.33019/lire.v10i3.632	This study examines the types of alternative questions in Indonesian podcast discourse. Alternative questions consist of two or more propositions that offer a set of choices. Out of 718 questions identified across five podcasts, a total of 34 alternative questions were found. The data were drawn from podcasts available on the YouTube channels of Grace Tahir, dr. Richard Lee, Melaney Ricardo, Deddy Corbuzier, and Denny Sumargo. The theoretical framework employed in this study is based on Quirk et al.'s theory of alternative questions and John Searle's theory of directive speech acts. The findings reveal three main types of alternative questions: (i) explicit–explicit alternative questions, (ii) explicit–implicit alternative questions, (iii) implicit–explicit alternative questions, and one additional category (iv) contextual implicit alternative orientation. The results indicate that explicit–explicit alternative questions are the most frequently occurring type.
KEYWORDS <i>Alternative, explicit, implicit, pragmatics, question,</i>	

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, podcasts have developed into one of the most popular forms of public communication media in Indonesia. The podcast format generally consists of conversations between interviewers and guest speakers. Podcasts are commonly accessed through video-sharing platforms such as YouTube. Podcasts have become an interesting object of study because conversations within podcasts appear to contain various types of questions delivered by interviewers. These questions demonstrate several question types, namely polar questions (*yes-or-no questions*), content questions (*wh-questions*), alternative questions (*alternative questions*), and tag questions (*tag questions*). These categories are consistent with the classification proposed by Randolph Quirk et al. (1985). However, Quirk et al. (1985) did not use the term *polar questions*; instead, they referred to them as *yes-no questions*. The term *polar question* was later introduced by Geoffrey K. Pullum (2002). Likewise, Quirk et al. (1985) did not use the term *content question*, but instead used the term *wh-questions*. The term *content question* was also proposed by Pullum (2002). From a syntactic perspective, questions are viewed as interrogative constructions. From a pragmatic perspective, however, questions are regarded in terms of their directive function, namely utterances intended to elicit responses.

With regard to question types, Pullum (2002) proposed a more concise classification by dividing questions into three categories: *polar questions*, *content questions*, and *alternative questions*. He grouped *yes-no questions* and *tag questions* into the category of *polar questions*, while *wh-questions* were classified as *content questions*. Although these approaches differ in the number of categories proposed (Quirk et al. classified questions into four types, whereas Pullum classified them into three), both approaches similarly position *alternative questions* as an independent question type rather than merely a variation of *polar questions* or *content questions*.



Alternative questions in English are generally marked by the conjunction *or*, which connects two propositions offering different choices. Studies on alternative questions from the perspective of lexical markers such as *or* have received relatively little scholarly attention. In contrast, pragmatic approaches examining how alternative questions are delivered and interpreted remain open for further investigation.

In the development of pragmatic studies, alternative questions are no longer understood merely as grammatical structures, but also as interactional strategies. Recent studies have shown that alternative questions are frequently employed to direct topics, frame the position of guest speakers, and manage conversational dynamics. Therefore, alternative questions function not only to request information, but also to perform evaluative, rhetorical, and discourse-control functions. Furthermore, from a pragmatic perspective, questions are not only interpreted as utterances requiring informative responses, but also as communicative strategies designed to achieve specific interactional purposes. Referring to John Searle's speech act theory, questions belong to the category of directive speech acts because they encourage interlocutors to provide responses. However, in practice, questions often carry meanings that are more complex, such as expressing opinions, conveying evaluations, or even restricting possible answers that are considered "acceptable." In this context, alternative questions become particularly interesting because they may simultaneously function as requests for information and as instruments for directing discourse.

Furthermore, in public interactions such as podcasts, the use of alternative questions cannot be separated from the concept of implicature and the principle of cooperation proposed by H. P. Grice (1975). According to Grice, meanings conveyed in utterances are often not explicitly stated, but instead emerge through inference constructed by interlocutors based on context. Therefore, alternative questions with varying degrees of explicitness, whether fully explicit or implicit, may produce different pragmatic effects. In some cases, implicit forms allow interviewers to convey sensitive questions more subtly without directly threatening the guest speaker's public image.

In addition, the characteristics of podcasts as digital media that are flexible and relatively unrestricted by formal broadcasting conventions also influence the questioning styles employed by interviewers. Podcasts enable conversations to become more fluid, spontaneous, and personal, resulting in more varied questioning strategies. In this context, alternative questions function not only as structures for presenting options, but also as rhetorical devices that may be used to build intimacy, create tension, or direct the course of conversation. Consequently, the analysis of alternative questions in podcasts becomes important for understanding how digital communication practices shape interactional forms within contemporary public media.

This study views alternative questions as a linguistic phenomenon that operates along a gradient continuum, ranging from fully explicit forms to forms that rely heavily on context and shared knowledge. Such an approach enables a more comprehensive analysis of how alternative questions are employed in podcasts to manage interaction, frame guest identities, and generate particular pragmatic effects. Within this framework, the present study not only complements existing classifications of questions, but also expands the understanding of the role of alternative questions in contemporary communication practices.



Based on a preliminary examination of Indonesian podcast interviews, one particularly interesting phenomenon is the use of alternative questions by interviewers. Initial observations suggest that alternative questions are realized through several different patterns. A micro-interactive perspective is therefore employed to identify and analyze these patterns. Accordingly, this study addresses the following research questions:

1. What structural types of alternative questions appear in the Indonesian podcast interviews that constitute the research corpus?
2. What pragmatic and interactional functions do these types of alternative questions perform in the interaction between hosts and guests?

The objectives of this study are (i) to identify and classify the types of alternative questions that occur in Indonesian podcasts and (ii) to explain the pragmatic and interactional functions of these alternative questions in podcast interviews. Theoretically, this study contributes to the development of alternative-question research by demonstrating the relationship between structural forms and pragmatic functions in digital media communication practices.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Indonesian Interrogative Markers and Disjunctive Forms

In the Indonesian linguistic system, the formation of alternative questions relies heavily on the disjunctive conjunction *atau* (or), which coordinates two or more distinct choices. Structurally, Alwi et al. (2017) categorize alternative questions within the broader scope of polar or closed-ended interrogatives, where the speaker presents explicit options to the interlocutor. However, in spontaneous spoken discourse like podcast interviews, the use of *atau* often shifts from a purely grammatical coordinator to a pragmatic device.

A prominent phenomenon in contemporary Indonesian media discourse is the use of elliptical disjunctive extensions, most notably the phrase *atau bagaimana* (or how/or what). Pragmatically, this construction functions as an open-ended hedge. Rather than forcing the guest to choose between two strictly defined propositions, the addition of *bagaimana* softens the interrogative force, transforming a potentially restrictive question into a more collaborative invitation for elaboration. This aligns with standard Indonesian interactional strategies where speakers avoid overt assertiveness to maintain conversational harmony.

Furthermore, Indonesian conversational discourse frequently employs colloquial tag-like interrogative markers, such as the particle *dong*. While traditionally described as an emotive or pragmatic particle used to assert a demand or consensus (Sneddon, 2006), when appended to an implicit question (e.g., *beda dong?*), it functions as a confirmation request that carries a high degree of speaker expectation. In interactional settings, such markers blur the boundary between a standard polar question and an alternative question, as they prompt the hearer to either validate the speaker's assumed alternative or present a counter-proposition. Therefore, analyzing these language-specific markers is crucial to understanding how explicitness and implicitness are interactionally negotiated in Indonesian podcasts.

Previous Studies and Research Gap

To date, studies specifically examining alternative questions within the context of Indonesian digital media remain relatively limited. Lidia Tanaka (2004), for instance, investigated the use of questions in Japanese television interview discourse by focusing on gender relations and the interviewer's interactional strategies. The study demonstrated that questions, including



alternative questions, were used to direct conversational topics and frame the position of guest speakers within media interactions. However, Tanaka's research focused primarily on television interviews and did not specifically classify degrees of explicitness in alternative questions.

Meanwhile, Cornelia Ilie (1999) examined the use of questions in English and Swedish talk shows, emphasizing the pragmatic functions of questions in public conversational interactions. Ilie showed that questions, including alternative questions, are frequently employed as rhetorical strategies to limit and direct guest responses. Nevertheless, the study focused more broadly on discourse functions and did not specifically address variations between explicit and implicit forms of alternative questions.

In the evolving landscape of digital media, scholarly attention has increasingly shifted toward podcasting as a distinct genre of public talk. Sharon (2023), for instance, outlines a comprehensive research agenda for podcast studies, emphasizing the unique, conversational freedom it offers compared to traditional broadcast media. Within the Indonesian context, contemporary studies like Saadah et al. (2024) have utilized conversational discourse analysis to examine turn-taking mechanisms in podcasts. However, while these studies acknowledge the interactional flexibility of digital talk shows (Persohn & Branson, 2024), specific explorations into how question designs particularly alternative questions are structurally deployed and pragmatically managed within Indonesian podcast discourse remain underdeveloped.

Unlike those previous studies, the present research focuses on alternative questions in Indonesian-language podcasts using a micro-interactional approach. This study not only identifies the presence of alternative questions, but also classifies them according to their degree of explicitness and explains the pragmatic functions emerging from interactions between interviewers and guest speakers. Therefore, this study is expected to fill the gap in research concerning alternative questions within contemporary Indonesian media discourse.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative research design with a descriptive-analytical approach. It adopts an interactional discourse analysis framework, drawing on Heritage and Clayman (2010), to explain how questions in public interviews function to manage turn-taking, direct conversational topics, and organize the agenda of interaction. Within this framework, alternative questions are analyzed through two principal dimensions: (i) the structural dimension, which concerns how questions are linguistically designed to present alternative meanings, and (ii) the interactional dimension, which concerns how such questions influence the direction of conversation, participant positioning, and face-management strategies in podcast interactions.

The data consist of conversation transcripts from five Indonesian podcast episodes published on YouTube between 2024 and 2025. The selected podcasts feature interviews with public figures, namely Baim Wong (Grace Tahir Podcast), Lisa Mariana (dr. Richard Lee Podcast), Adrian Maulana (Melaney Ricardo Podcast), Dedi Mulyadi (Deddy Corbuzier Podcast), and Rieke Diah Pitaloka (Denny Sumargo Podcast). The data were selected through purposive sampling based on three criteria: (i) the podcast employed a two-way interview format involving a host and a guest, (ii) the podcast demonstrated high public reach as indicated by viewership and audience engagement on its YouTube channel, and (iii) the interaction contained utterances exhibiting the use of alternative questions. The findings are intended to describe the



characteristics of the selected corpus and are not meant to be generalized to Indonesian podcast discourse as a whole.

No.	Podcast	Guest	YouTube Links	Release Date	Duration	Number of Questions	Alternative Questions
1	Grace Tahir Podcast	Baim Wong	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLJrWh0sNSo	30 September, 2024	35:28	92	7
2	dr. Richard Lee Podcast	Lisa Mariana	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjwA_HhBu6U	24 April, 2025	1:03:22	283	16
3	Melaney Ricardo Podcast	Adrian Maulana	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k7INxLBPUNK&t=3354s	8 September, 2025	1:05:13	119	8
4	Deddy Corbuzier Podcast	Dedi Mulyadi	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdqtYAgbfM	4 August, 2025	48:27	124	2
5	Denny Sumargo Podcast	Rieke Diah Pitaloka	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3wN75ZXREs	5 September, 2025	50:10	100	1
TOTAL						718	34

From a total of 718 questions identified across the five podcast episodes, 34 alternative questions were selected as the research data. Data collection was conducted in three stages: (i) selecting episodes that met the research criteria, (ii) transcribing the conversations using a simplified transcription convention without detailed phonetic symbols in order to maintain analytical focus on syntactic structure and pragmatic function, and (iii) identifying utterances that displayed an orientation toward alternative choices. At this stage, the researcher marked utterances containing the conjunction *atau* (“or”), elliptical forms such as *atau bagaimana* (“or what/how”), as well as other constructions indicating the presence of two possible responses that the guest was expected to choose between or negotiate.

Type	Operational Criteria	Indicators
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Type	Operational Criteria	Indicators
Explicit–Explicit	Both alternatives are linguistically realized.	Both options appear verbally within the utterance.
Explicit–Implicit	The first alternative is explicit, while the second alternative is inferred.	One option is explicitly mentioned, while the other option is understood from the context.
Implicit–Explicit	The first alternative is inferred, while the second alternative is explicit.	The first option is not verbally mentioned.
Contextual Implicit Alternative Orientation	The options are not linguistically realized, but can be reconstructed through the conversational context.	Alternatives emerge through pragmatic inference and the guest's/interviewee's response.

The classification presented in the above table served as an analytical guideline for determining the degree of explicitness of alternatives in each datum. An alternative was categorized as implicit when it was not verbally realized but could be reconstructed from the conversational context, the participants' shared knowledge, or the guest's response in the subsequent turn. Data analysis was conducted in two stages. The first stage involved a structural analysis aimed at classifying alternative questions according to the degree of explicitness of the alternatives offered. In this study, an alternative was categorized as explicit when it was linguistically realized in the utterance, whereas an implicit alternative referred to an option that was not verbally expressed but could be inferred from the conversational context, shared background knowledge, or the guest's subsequent response. Based on these criteria, three primary types of alternative questions were identified: explicit–explicit, explicit–implicit, and implicit–explicit. In addition, one datum did not fully realize the structure of an alternative question but nevertheless exhibited the presence of alternatives that could only be inferred from the interactional context. This datum was classified as a *contextual implicit alternative orientation*.

The second stage involved an analysis of pragmatic and interactional functions. At this stage, each question was examined by considering the relationship between its linguistic form, the conversational context, and the guest's response. Quirk et al.'s (1985) theory of alternative questions served as the foundation for identifying the structural characteristics of alternative questions. The notions of explicitness and implicitness were subsequently employed to develop a classification of alternative-question types. At the pragmatic level, Searle's (1969) speech act theory and Grice's (1975) Cooperative Principle were used to explain how alternative questions generate meaning within interactional contexts. Furthermore, Heritage and Clayman (2010), Ilie (1999), and Tanaka (2004) were employed to interpret the functions of questions in media interviews as practices of discourse management and interpersonal relationship construction.

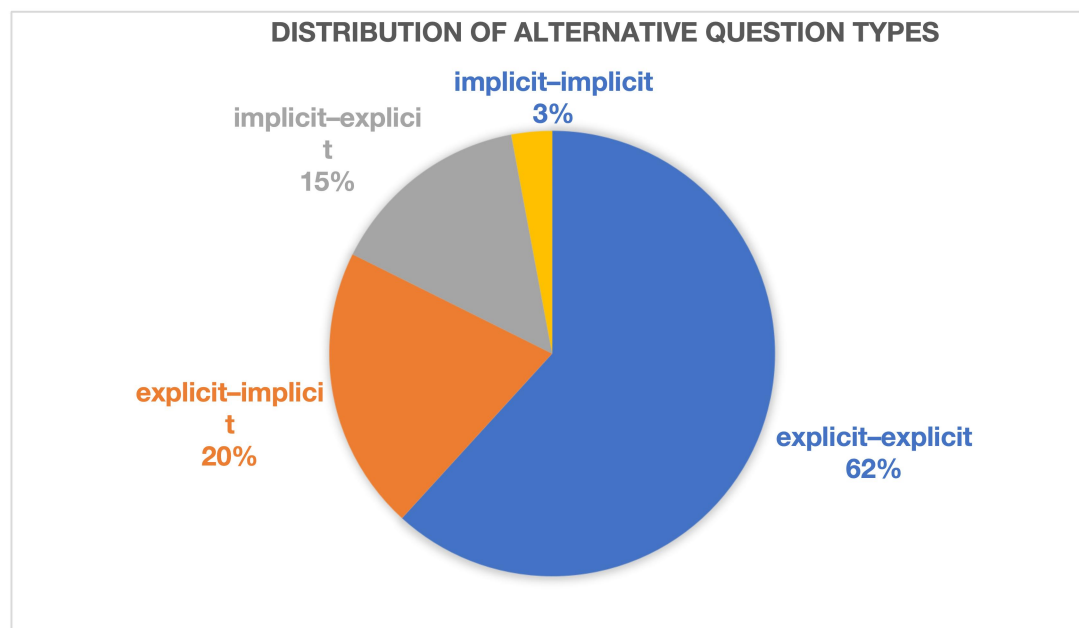
To enhance analytical consistency, each datum was classified according to the same set of operational criteria and repeatedly reviewed by taking into account the surrounding conversational context before and after the occurrence of the question. The findings are presented as narrative descriptions supported by representative excerpts from each category.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



Based on the analysis of 34 alternative questions identified in five popular Indonesian podcasts, namely the Grace Tahir Podcast, dr. Richard Lee Podcast, Deddy Corbuzier Podcast, Melaney Ricardo Podcast, and Denny Sumargo Podcast, three primary structural types of alternative questions were identified: (i) explicit–explicit alternative questions, (ii) explicit–implicit alternative questions, and (iii) implicit–explicit alternative questions. In addition, one datum exhibited a contextual implicit alternative orientation, in which the alternative options were not linguistically realized but could be inferred from the interactional context. These findings reflect the distribution of alternative-question forms within the selected research corpus and are not intended to represent Indonesian podcast discourse as a whole. The distribution of the identified categories is presented in the table and chart below.

Type	Count	Percentage
Explicit–Explicit	21	62%
Explicit–Implicit	7	20%
Implicit–Explicit	5	15%
Contextual Implicit Alternative Orientation	1	3%



As shown in the table and the chart, explicit–explicit alternative questions constitute the most frequent category in the corpus, with 21 occurrences. This is followed by explicit–implicit alternative questions, which occur 7 times, and implicit–explicit alternative questions, which occur 5 times. In addition, one datum was classified as a contextual implicit alternative orientation. These findings suggest that explicitly realized alternatives are more common in the selected podcast interviews than alternatives that rely heavily on contextual inference. The

structural characteristics and interactional functions of each category are discussed in the following sections.

4. Discussion

4.1. Explicit–Explicit Alternative Questions

Explicit–explicit alternative questions are questions posed by the host that provide alternative answers within the question itself. This type of question explicitly presents two or more options within the uttered sentence. Each alternative is connected by the explicit conjunction word "atau" (or).

Data 1

Baim Wong in the *Iso-Late-Show* podcast on Grace Tahir's YouTube channel

{Context: Grace Tahir asks about Baim Wong's reasons for transitioning from the entertainment industry to the business world.}

1. G: Apakah kamu masuk bisnis ini,
2. → karena memang dari dulu tuh pengen jadi seorang businessman,
3. → atau kamu merasa, dengan umur, dengan effort yang kamu harus keluarkan itu,
4. memang masa depannya harus di bisnis, bukannya di depan layar lagi?
5. B: Umur sih sebenarnya. Saya balik lagi, kalau misalkan kita ke hidup kita ya...

Grace's question to Baim takes the form of an explicit–explicit alternative question with two options fully presented within its sentence structure. The intent of Grace's question is whether Baim's choice was "due to passion" or "due to realistic considerations." By constructing two explicit propositions, pragmatically Grace is not merely asking a question; rather, she is reinforcing an answer framework for Baim, suggesting that his decision to switch career fields was indeed driven by one of the motives she mentioned. Grammatically, this form follows the pattern of a *full alternative question* as explained by Quirk et al. (1985), which closes off the possibility of answers outside the two options.

The interactional effect of this strategy is the emergence of discourse control by the host. Baim is forced to negotiate his stance within the two choices of meaning established by Grace. Within the *podcast* context, such an interrogative form demonstrates the dominant position of the host, who acts as the conversation director, while the guest star functions as a confirmer of meaning.

Pragmatically, the occurrence of explicit–explicit alternative questions demonstrates the interviewer's strategy to direct the interpretive framework of the guest star's response. By presenting two options explicitly, the interviewer does not merely request an explanation, but also frames the reasons considered most relevant to explain an action or decision. This strategy allows the host to restrict the scope of possible answers while simultaneously prompting the guest star to position themselves against the two offered frameworks of meaning.

4.2. Explicit–Implicit Alternative Questions

An explicit–implicit alternative question is a question posed by the host that presents the first alternative explicitly, while the second alternative is conveyed implicitly. The constituent marking the choice can be observed in phrases such as "atau gimana?" (or what/how?) or "atau bagaimana?" (or how/what?).

Data 16



Lisa Mariana in dr. Richard Lee's *podcast*

{Context: dr. Richard asks why Lisa previously did not have an issue with her relationship with Ridwan Kamil.}

1. R: Kenapa kamu enggak ada masalah?
2. → Karena kamu ditransfer, atau bagaimana?
3. L: Ya, masih dinafkahi. Karena masih dinafkahi.

This question falls under the explicit–implicit form, where the first alternative question "*karena kamu ditransfer*" (because you were transferred) is presented clearly, whereas the second alternative "*atau bagaimana*" (or what/how) remains open-ended. Its pragmatic function serves as a *face-saving strategy*, as the host utilizes an alternative form to grant the guest star the room to provide their own answer. By presenting one clear option and one open-ended option, dr. Richard Lee subtly provides Lisa Mariana with the opportunity to answer the question according to her own wishes.

Interactionally, this form attempts to emphasize a conversation that is not grounded solely in prejudice. The effect is that the guest star becomes free to answer from their own perspective, which has the potential to expand the information provided. The *podcast* can become more intense and develop its own unique appeal for the audience due to this additional information. Within this context, the question "*atau bagaimana*" functions as a reasonably effective means of mitigation to maintain the guest star's image, even if it may appear superficial.

Pragmatically, the occurrence of explicit–implicit alternative questions demonstrates the interviewer's strategy to maintain a balance between topic direction and granting interpretive space to the guest star. By delivering one alternative clearly and the other openly, the interviewer can propose a possible explanation without fully restricting the response. This strategy allows the guest star to negotiate their position more flexibly, ensuring the conversation remains cooperative and does not feel confrontational.

4.3. Implicit–Explicit Alternative Questions

An implicit–explicit alternative question is a question posed by the host where the first alternative is conveyed implicitly through the preceding context, followed by an explicit expression of the second alternative. The speaker assumes that the first option is already understood and subsequently emphasizes the second option to clarify the meaning.

Data 8

Lisa Mariana in dr. Richard Lee's *podcast*.

{Context: dr. Richard asks about Lisa's feelings regarding the "*pelakor*" (homewrecker) label given to her by netizens.}

1. R: Bagaimana perasaan kamu mendengar perkataan tersebut?
2. → Dan jika kamu merasa bukan, menurut kamu apa realita yang paling cocok untuk kamu?
3. L: Aku pelakor? Iya betul pelakor. Tapi itu kan 4 tahun silam ya, udah lama.

This question by dr. Richard Lee falls under the implicit–explicit category because the first alternative, which, if uttered, would be "*jika kamu merasa benar*" (if you feel you are right)—is only conveyed implicitly through the context of the conversation, whereas the second alternative, "*jika kamu merasa bukan*" (if you feel you are not), is expressed explicitly. Pragmatically, this utterance functions to maintain politeness (*face-saving strategy*). Dr. Richard attempts to



demonstrate empathy by not directly accusing or forcing Lisa to accept the negative label in question. The first alternative creates space for the guest star to reject or correct the label through her own response. This strategy reflects the politeness principles of Brown and Levinson (1987), wherein the speaker utilizes implicature to avoid threatening the hearer's *positive face*.

Interactionally, the effect of this question is the creation of an impression that the conversation does not prioritize mere prejudice. By posing an alternative question that contains an implicit element, the host demonstrates empathy, thereby making the guest star feel secure enough to express an answer from her own perspective. For the audience, this form of question constructs a balanced narrative between clarification and respect for the guest star's privacy.

Pragmatically, the occurrence of implicit–explicit alternative questions demonstrates the interviewer's strategy in managing the sensitivity of the topic of discussion. By conveying the first alternative implicitly through context and only then emphasizing the second alternative explicitly, the interviewer can raise a potentially sensitive issue without stating it directly. This strategy allows the speaker to maintain interpersonal relationships within the conversation while simultaneously opening up space for the guest star to interpret or negotiate the meaning of the implied alternative. Within the context of *podcasts*, which frequently discuss personal experiences or public controversies, this type of question functions as a pragmatic mechanism to reduce the potential for confrontation while encouraging the guest star to provide clarification regarding the issue being discussed.

4.4. Contextual Implicit Alternative Orientation

A contextual implicit alternative orientation is a question posed by the host that does not mention the alternative answers at all. The two options are merely implied through a question that, at first glance, does not appear to be an alternative question. An utterance such as "*beda dong?*" (it's different, right?), which seems to request emphasis from the guest star, actually carries the underlying meaning of soliciting a "yes" or "no" response from the guest star as a bridge to transition to the next topic.

Data 34

Rieke Diah Pitaloka in the *Curhat Bang* podcast on Denny Sumargo's YouTube channel

{Context: Denny Sumargo highlights Rieke's dual identity as an actress and as a member of the House of Representatives (DPR).}

1. D: Pada saat Ibu mengenakan seragam pejabat gitu kan,
2. → dan pada saat menjadi, ya, Ibu Oneng kan pasti beda dong?
3. → Beda dong? Bahasanya beda, bagaimana bersikapnya juga beda.
4. Itu Ibu sudah pikirkan kan dari awal waktu pertama-pertama masuk tahun 2009?
5. R: Jadi kalau ditanya apa sih motivasiku jadi DPR gitu ya? Heeh. Karena aku berangkat juga dari aktivis mahasiswa 95 [...]

This question falls under the contextual implicit alternative orientation category because there is no explicit word "*atau*" (or) connecting the two alternatives; instead, the opposition of meaning is implied from the phrase "*beda dong?*" uttered by Denny. Denny provides an illustration of the alternatives through his narrative regarding Rieke's dual identity as both an actress and a politician. Through his question, Denny confidently depicts that Rieke must have a different approach when engaging in both professions. The utterance "*Bahasanya beda,*



bagaimana bersikapnya juga beda" (The language is different, how to behave is also different) is an utterance that pragmatically functions to provide an illustration for the guest star, where the expected response is either agreement or rejection from the guest star. This data is quite interesting because after providing an illustration of these alternatives, Denny asks a different question that does not take the form of an alternative question.

The interactional effect of this form is serving as a bridge or bridging to the next question. Rieke responds by asserting herself as an activist, not merely an actress or an official, thereby shifting the topic established by Denny. This contextual implicit alternative orientation form grants room for the guest star to perform a *reframing* of her own image, allowing her response to be more collaborative and provide additional information.

Pragmatically, the occurrence of contextual implicit alternative orientation demonstrates the interviewer's strategy in constructing an opposition of meaning without stating it directly in the form of explicit choices. By utilizing the conversational context and shared assumptions between the speaker and the hearer, the interviewer can present two possible interpretations that are implicitly understood by the guest star. This strategy allows the conversation to proceed more naturally because the offered alternatives do not feel like forced choices. Within the dialogic context of *podcasts*, this type of question also functions as an interactional device to open up space for reflection for the guest star, enabling them to self-interpret the position they wish to take. Accordingly, contextual implicit alternative orientation does not merely function to prompt a response, but also provide flexibility for the guest star to reframe the narrative being discussed.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis of 34 alternative questions identified across five episodes of Indonesian podcasts used as the research corpus, this study shows that alternative questions do not merely function as a means of obtaining information, but also serve as interactional devices used by hosts to direct topics of discussion, frame specific issues, and manage relationships with interviewees. The structural analysis reveals three main types of alternative questions, namely explicit-explicit, explicit-implicit, and implicit-explicit alternative questions. In addition, one instance of contextual implicit alternative orientation was found, namely an utterance that does not linguistically realize alternatives, yet still directs participants toward two possibilities that can be inferred from the conversational context.

The findings indicate that the explicit-explicit type is the most dominant form in the research corpus. This dominance suggests a tendency for hosts to present choices in a direct manner, making the direction of the question easier to understand for both interviewees and audiences. In contrast, the explicit-implicit and implicit-explicit forms show that alternatives do not always need to be fully expressed in the utterance. In some cases, unspoken alternatives can be reconstructed through conversational context, shared knowledge among participants, or the interviewee's responses in subsequent turns.

From a pragmatic perspective, the analysis shows that alternative questions can function to constrain the space of possible answers, guide conversational focus, manage sensitive issues, and construct particular positions for interviewees within interaction. However, these functions do not appear uniformly across all data but depend on the interactional context, the topic under discussion, and how interviewees respond to the questions posed. Therefore, the relationship



between question form and interactional effect should be understood as a tendency observed within this corpus, rather than a general characteristic of all Indonesian podcasts.

This study contributes to pragmatics and media discourse analysis by offering a classification of levels of explicitness in alternative questions and demonstrating the relationship between linguistic form and interactional function in podcast interviews. Nevertheless, since this study uses a limited and purposively selected corpus, the findings are not intended to be generalized to all podcast practices in Indonesia.

Future research is recommended to expand the corpus by including more podcasts, media genres, and different communicative contexts. In addition, a multimodal approach that considers intonation, facial expressions, gestures, and audience responses may also be employed to gain a more comprehensive understanding of how alternative questions function in public interaction.

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