

**OVERLAP IN SKY SPORT FOOTBALL DEBATE: “MESSI VS RONALDO – IS THE DEBATE FINALLY OVER?”****Nashr Hamid Abu Zayd<sup>1</sup>, Ruminda<sup>2</sup>, Hasbi Assiddiqi<sup>3</sup>**

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**ABSTRACT****Keywords:**

Overlap, Types Overlap, Reasons Overlap, Debate.

One of the turn-taking infractions in discourse is overlapping. It happens when the following speaker interrupts the present speaker while they are still speaking, so denying them their turn. Although overlap is still a common occurrence and many speakers are ignorant of its forms and causes, this does not imply that it is always troublesome because, depending on the circumstances, it can sometimes be unproblematic. As a result, they have been unable to effectively employ overlap between those who and do not interrupt the discourse. Thus, this study's goal is to classify the many types of overlap that are created and examine the reasons of overlap in the debate in the video "Messi VS Ronaldo - Is The Debate Finally Over?" Descriptive qualitative methodology was employed in this study, and documentation was the method of data collection. The primary theories that are employed are Schegloff's (2000) categories of overlap and Wardhaugh's (1985) explanations of overlap. The researcher discovered the kinds of overlap that took place and the underlying causes based on the data analysis of the dispute between the two football players. It is intended that this study would assist individuals in making appropriate use of overlap and avoiding overlap that might interfere with a interview.

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**INTRODUCTION**

It has been more than a decade that the most talked about topic in the world of football is about Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. It has been one of the most heated and long-lasting discussions in the world of sports, especially football. Both players have been breaking records and winning individual awards and leading their teams to success both at club and international level for over ten years. This has led to many debates among supporters, football professionals, and even other football players. The focus of this research adopts one such debate which is outlined in the video "*Messi VS Ronaldo - Is this the debate finally over?*" which was posted on YouTube exclusively. In the video, the speakers argue who deserves to be the best player of all time whether it is Messi or Ronaldo. Where both players have their own advantages, Messi is known for his intelligence and great playing vision while Ronaldo is known for his hard work and high fighting power, with which they have received many individual awards both from their clubs and from the world soccer federation, FIFA. This brilliant achievement has sparked a debate between them as to who deserves to be named the best player of all time or known by the abbreviation GOAT (Greatest of All Time).

This research object features a very intense discussion by experts regarding the two players. There are three speakers in this research object video, the first is Rachel

Stringer as the host, then there are Zac Djellab and Kyle Walker as speakers who debate between Messi and Ronaldo. More than that, this debate also explores the potential of the two players in crucial moments such as in the final match of a major tournament. That is the reason why this object was chosen as the topic of discussion because it symbolizes the eternal battle in sports that divides fans into two very harsh camps. The debate is not just about statistics and basic player issues, it also involves emotions and subjective opinions such as loyalty to a club or national team. Perhaps it is also the case that the Ronaldo and Messi discussion is one of the hottest discussions that allows for a rich context to analyze the communication. The video is filled with overlapping conversations between speakers trying to defend their position in the conversation, often talking over each other. In debates like this there is often an intense exchange of opinions and interrupting of others and it is this phenomenon that caught my attention, as this kind of verbal interaction allows for a lot to be analyzed. Furthermore, the efforts made by the speaker to win the argument at all costs are also very interesting to discuss and research.

The object of research that I researched is included in the context of debate because according to Wimala (2021) it is mentioned in a type of debate called American debate. In this American debate, each speaker prepares a theme in advance through careful collection of materials and compiling statements / arguments appropriately. In this American debate, the speakers are usually people who are experts in debate or already have good public speaking skills. This is relevant to the object I am researching because in the video two expert football influencers are presented, then they prepare materials and then convey their respective opinions regarding the figures they support, namely Messi and Ronaldo. Then on the *Sky Sport Football* Youtube channel, it is also stated that the video is included in the debate content. In contrast to other content, there are football shows and also analysis of a football rumor, match and player transfer.

Not only that, the selection of this object is also very relevant to the theory taken. The debate between Messi and Ronaldo is not just a local phenomenon, but has become a global topic that has often been discussed by various groups, both from children to adults. This can be seen from the number of views on the video which reached more than 300,000 viewers from various countries and different backgrounds. This shows that the debate between the two players has a universal appeal, engaging fans to discuss this never-ending issue. In addition, what makes this debate even more interesting to study is because these two players have made an extraordinary history and can be said to be world soccer legends. But because of the many fans of both players, there are also many debates around the world that create intense debate discussions and each side tends to overlap when arguing. This provides an interesting opportunity for further research.

After the object discussed, the perspective taken in this study focuses on overlap as a conversational phenomenon that arises in emotional debates. This occurs when more than one speaker speaks simultaneously or interrupts another, usually to emphasize a point that is directly related to the point made by the interlocutor, or it can also be when the speaker disagrees with the argument spoken by the interlocutor, so there will be cuts in a discussion or debate. This happens quite normally and naturally because the topic discussed in the debate was very intense, namely the debate between Messi and Ronaldo. Then the fans of the two players usually have high loyalty to defend their idols, therefore all abilities will be mobilized to win this debate. It should also be underlined that Messi and Ronaldo are actually friends but it is only their fans who make it seem as if they are enemies. Even though they still compete healthily and become rivals when on the field only.

This general study of overlap theory has several benefits and objectives in this research. To help understand how this overlap occurs in a conversation, especially a debate like the object of my study. Then it helps to know what the purpose is produced from the conversation after this overlap occurs, whether there is a special meaning or other meaning from an overlap. And finally, it helps us to know how the overlap affects each speaker and what effect it has. Although overlap in conversation is often called a grammatical offense, in the context of intense debate it is a natural and unavoidable part of verbal interaction.

Overlap in conversation has previously been studied by several researchers. However, the previous research examined a debate between presidential candidates and also on several talk shows. Then overlapping in a debate is not just an interruption, but a strategy to defend the position of the argument and the right to speak. As for the purpose, usually in this debate it aims to dominate the debate, try to break the opponent's argument and also speed up the delivery of opinions. Overlapping in conversation, can tell us about how turn-taking occurs in everyday verbal interactions as illustrated by Schegloff (2000). In this context, interruptions can be a form of maintaining control over the conversational floor. In an additional study, Jefferson (1986) examined the treatment of overlap in everyday speech as a sign of being active in the interaction, although in the context of debate it is considered a form of verbal competition.

The new contribution of this research is to explore the role that conversational overlap plays in emotionally heated debates, particularly in football. While the issue of overlap has been addressed in many studies in everyday conversational or conversational interactions and in formal mediated events, there has been little work on the issue within areas where debates circulate through media channels, such as sports debates that involve highly emotional elements. This research aims to fill that void by investigating the ways in which panelists engage in overlap through ‘*Messi VS Ronaldo - Is this debate finally over?!*’ videos as a way to strengthen their arguments or to deter debate opponents. Therefore, the findings from this study not only contribute to the communication of football debates, but also enable a better understanding of conversational strategies in situations that generate emotional tension.

Although sport is one of the contexts that is often overlooked in conversational analysis, many are also affected by the outcome of this particular debate about soccer. Therefore, this research represents a new approach to conversational overlap by exploring the topic of soccer debates, but more specifically about whether Messi or Ronaldo is the greater. In addition, this debate phenomenon also shows how platforms such as social media and YouTube shape the communication patterns displayed by fans. Because debates in this modern age are not just limited to a single location or space, but have reached a virtual place where verbal interactions have become much more complex as larger audiences observe every word and challenging counter-arguments have been prepared in a short period of time.

This study is also important because there is a dearth of research exploring overlapping emotions in conversations in public spaces such as YouTube. Although some studies have investigated the interaction between emotions and conversational interruptions, they have generally examined formal interpersonal contexts such as interviews, everyday conversations and debates between presidential candidates. As in Handayani's journal, which is about overlap in talk shows and also Hartono's journal, namely overlap in the Indonesia Lawyers Club program. Therefore, this study aims to extend the current state of conversation analysis by applying it to sports debates laden

with emotions and opinions on social media. Thus, this research is not only an advancement in the theoretical realm of pragmatics and conversation analysis, but also provides a better understanding of what digitization through social media means for our communicative practices. It also addresses the shortcomings found in academic research on language and sport, as debates among fans differ from general investigations of conversation. This research offers a unique explanation of communication in sports debates by combining pragmatic overlap theory and conversational analysis in the context of an increasingly competitive digital age that demands emotional connection.

The important point is that this object is relevant to academia as well as the real world. Because this will enrich pragmatic studies especially on the topic of overlap in this conversation. Then this will add insight for soccer fans as well, especially fans of Messi and Ronaldo how the meaning of overlap itself in the context of intense and emotional debates. This research also offers a unique perspective by combining pragmatic overlap theory and also the phenomenon of global debates that often occur on social media, as the object I took was a video of a debate discussion uploaded by a YouTube account called *Sky Sports Football*. This reflects that conversational strategies including overlap are used as a way to defend a position and most importantly to win an emotional debate.

With the development of technology, the interactions that occur on various digital platforms are quite frequent and not only in academic forums or formal discussions as usual. And the object of research becomes clear because it already exists in the form of Youtube upload videos. Actually, there are many debates that occur on various social media, be it Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and so on. But usually the soccer debate there occurs in writing or textually. Therefore, I took the video object to make it clearer and more concrete. Then this research focuses on three main areas, the first is what overlap occurs during the debate between Messi and Ronaldo, then what meaning is produced afterwards, then what influence the overlap has on each speaker.

This study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the phenomenon of conversational overlap in highly emotional debates, such as the debate between Messi and Ronaldo. Using conversation analysis as the main method, this research will explore how verbal strategies such as overlap are used to maintain arguments and dominance in debates that are widely witnessed on digital media. By focusing on conversational dynamics on platforms such as YouTube, this research not only enriches the study of pragmatics, but also offers relevant insights into verbal interactions in the digital age. The contribution of this research is expected to make a meaningful contribution to communication studies, especially in the context of sports debates, and become a foundation for future research in the field of pragmatics and digital media.

## **METHOD**

This research uses a qualitative method which focuses on conversation analysis, where this research aims to analyze the overlap phenomenon that occurs in the video of *Sky Sport Football* debate between Messi and Ronaldo. This qualitative research method is used because it is more suitable and also effective for examining the object in this study, namely the debate that talks about Messi and Ronaldo. In addition, this method is also very suitable for the object of research because it can explore conversational interactions in depth. This research not only identifies the forms of overlap that occur in a debate, but also analyzes the functions and factors that influence the emergence of this overlap itself. The influencing factors include the unique emotional and competitive dynamics in a debate.

This approach through conversation analysis was introduced by Sacks, Schegloff, and Jefferson in 1974 and became the main approach in analyzing conversation structure in detail. Also included in this research is the form of overlap in a debate. In this context, overlap is seen as a form of response where each speaker makes a communication response quickly, be it to refute, respond, or it could also be to emphasize and strengthen a statement/opinion. As a conversation analysis approach, it is intended to examine conversations/debates that are natural and not contrived. Therefore, the debate between Ronaldo and Messi is appropriate as the object of this research because it is in accordance with the theory and approach used.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This research focuses on analyzing the overlap in the Messi vs Ronaldo debate contained in the Sky Sport Football video. Overlap occurs when there is more than one speaker speaking at the same time which disrupts the turn structure and conversation (Schegloff, 2000). To understand the overlap phenomenon, this study focuses on 2 important points, namely the type of overlap and also the cause of overlap. The theory that will be used in this study is based on Schegloff's theory and Wardhaugh's theory.

According to Schegloff (2000), there are four types of overlap that are related to turn-taking and disrupt the structure of turn-taking and conversation. The first is “*terminal overlap*”, this overlap occurs when a new speaker completes their turn while the previous speaker is about to finish their turn (Schegloff, 2000). So this overlap only occurs in the last few words of the speaker and is not very long. Conveniently, this overlap occurs at the end of the speaking turn. The second is “*continuers*”, this overlap occurs when the other speaker gives signals such as “uh-huh” or “hmm”, this serves to show attention or support the speaker without taking over the turn. In this overlap, the speaker can continue their turn without being cut off by the overlap.

Furthermore, the third is “*conditional access to the turn*”, where this overlap occurs involving the participation of both speakers, but with a specific purpose, such as to ask for clarification or add certain points. This condition occurs when the listener feels the need to access the turn because there is a need for additional information. This overlap often occurs in the context of clarifications or direct responses that are considered urgent. Finally, “*choral*” occurs when multiple speakers simultaneously produce the same response, such as laughing or mentioning the same expression at almost the same time. Choral overlap is generally not intended to disrupt the flow of speech, but to reinforce a response or agreement between speakers. In the context of debates, choral overlap often reinforces emotional agreement or collective reaction to a particular argument, whereas conditional access allows for quick and urgent responses to the arguments presented, reflecting the high intensity and engagement between participants.

For the cause of the overlap itself, we will use Wardhaugh's theory. According to Wardhaugh (1985), there are several factors that cause overlap to occur. First is “*asking for help*”, this reason occurs when someone overlaps to ask for help when they are unsure or need clarification regarding the matter being discussed. The second is “*breaking up*”, this occurs when there is an attempt to interrupt the conversation or divert attention from the topic at hand. These two types of causes of overlap reflect the way listeners manage information when they are unsure or want to intervene in a particular topic.

Third is “*seeking clarification*”, this happens when listeners overlap to ask for further explanation or clarify topics that may be poorly understood. Fourth is “*correcting*”, this overlap occurs when someone feels the need to correct the information

or statement uttered by the speaker. Fifth, “*disagreeing*”, this overlap occurs when there is disagreement and this signifies a form of direct rejection of the interlocutor. These three types of overlap causes arise in situations when the listener feels the need to clarify or correct what was said earlier.

The sixth cause is “*completing*”, this overlap can occur when someone tries to complete a sentence or statement from another speaker, especially if they feel they know where the conversation is going. And the last is “*agreeing*”, where this overlap is done as a form of support or agreement that shows that the listener agrees or agrees with the statement conveyed. It is usually expressed through the words “well”, “right”, “exactly”, and many more. Wardhaugh points out that both types of overlap occur in collaborative contexts, where the listener is trying to reinforce the speaker's message or show support by complementing or agreeing with the previous statement. Then both types of overlap usually show a cooperative dynamic between speaker and listener that strengthens harmony in the conversation.

After conducting research on conversational overlap during the soccer debate in the video Messi VS Ronaldo - Is the debate Finally over?. This research examined what types of overlaps occurred during the debate and how they occurred and their impact on the flow and dynamics of the discussion. As this debate revolves around one of football's most polarizing topics, it features emotionally charged exchanges and competitive turn-taking strategies, making it a rich venue for pragmatic analysis.

No	Reasons of Overlap
1.	Asking For Help
2.	Breaking Up
3.	Seeking Clarification
4.	Correcting
5.	Disagreeing
6.	Completing
7.	Agreeing

The analysis began by categorizing the types of overlaps observed in the debate, guided by conversation theory, specifically Schegloff's (2000) framework on turn-taking and interruption. It then interprets theory from Wardhaugh (1985) on the reasons for overlaps, whether they signal agreement, competitive interruptions, or attempts to dominate the conversational floor. Finally, the discussion explores how these overlaps affect the rhetorical strategies of the participants and the overall tone of the debate, providing insights into the intersection of sport discourse and pragmatics.

No	Types of Overlap
1.	Terminal Overlap
2.	Continuers
3.	Conditional Acces to The Turn
4.	Choral

After analyzing the conversational data in the Sky Sport Football debate video using the overlap theory, the author discusses the entire data to answer the research problem. The researcher found several types of overlap and the underlying reasons that occur in the video “Messi vs Ronaldo - Is The Debate Finally Over?”.

- Data I

*Djellab: "I'm not saying Ronaldo [is bad], i think that's what sometimes people can kind of some across and saying that, you're just saying that Ronaldo is nowhere near him, Ronaldo's been unbelievable as well, but just in comparison to Messi, it's not close for me."*

*Walker: " [hehe]"*

*Walker: "What are we comparing?you're just comparing maybe what you [love of football], what some people will love goals, who's got more goals?Cristiano Ronaldo."*

*Djellab: " [yeah] [yeah] [i think it can just come down to personal preference], right?if you are a guy that love seeing just a physical specimen, get the ball in the black of the net, then Ronaldo is maybe your preference and also if you were maybe United fans in the early, and you also probably are a Ronaldo fans as well, but when it comes down tu pure footballing ability, it is Lionel Messi."*

In the transcript, there are several types and reasons why overlaps occur. By type there are several overlaps that appear in the dialog, the first is continuers. This overlap appears when Walker laughs briefly when Djellab is saying “i'm not saying Ronaldo is bad”. In this section, Walker responded with a short laugh that aimed to show attention or support the speaker without taking over the turn of speech (Schegloff, 2000). Then when Djellab responded to Walker's statement with “yeah” it was also included in the continuers type because he only gave a brief response indicating agreement without interrupting and taking over the turn of speech. In addition, the type of overlap that occurs in the dialog is terminal overlap. Where when Djellab said “*I think it can just come down to personal preference*”, it happened when Walker almost finished his conversation, therefore the overlap that occurred was terminal overlap, according to Schegloff (2000), terminal overlap occurs when someone overlaps where the previous speaker has almost finished his conversation.

As for the reason why the overlap occurs, there are several reasons that make the speaker do it. The first is agreeing, according to Wardhaugh (1985), agreeing becomes a reason for the overlap as a form of support or agreement that shows that the listener agrees with the statement conveyed by the speaker. This corresponds to Walker who laughed briefly as a response of agreement, then Walker showed that he agreed and appreciated the views given by Djellab without interrupting his flow of speech. Then when Djellab says “*yeah*”, the same reason is agreeing where Djellab also agrees with Walker's statement, but the difference is when he says “*I think it can just come down to personal preference*”, there is another reason that makes Djellab overlap, the reason is completing where when someone feels the need to complete the sentence or statement (Wardhaugh, 1985). This is consistent with Djellab who directly explains that preferences can be based on emotional influences such as the relationship between Ronaldo and Manchester United.

- Data II

*Djellab: "He has a fantastic heading and leaping ability, and Messi just doesn't have that side to it, however heading isn't really football like that's not when you think of football, it's not heading the ball in the back of the net realistically, it's about taking the ball, dribbling, [and]*

*Walker: "[wait, wait, wait] heading is part of the game."*

*Djellab: "[it's part], if i went to you are, like how amazing is football, heading is not going to be in your top [five]"*

*Walker: "[No] but when you talk about certain players, they've got certain attributes, David Beckham great free kick taker, you don't talk about him or you don't discredit him for the other things.*

In this conversation, there is overlap and underlying reasons. Djellab is comparing Ronaldo's header skills with Messi's, then he emphasizes that headers are not the main aspect of football, while dribbling is more reflective. There then Walker overlaps by saying "wait, wait, wait", the overlap that occurs is conditional access to the turn, according to Schegloff (2000), this overlap occurs when the speaker feels the need to access the turn for certain purposes such as the need for additional information. Then he added that heading is part of soccer. And the reason Walker overlaps is correcting, which Walker needs to straighten out that the ability to head the ball is part of soccer.

On the other hand, Djellab also overlapped with the reasons of agreeing and seeking clarification, he said "it's part", he agreed with Walker's statement about heading is part of football and he also clarified his statement that heading is part of football but not the main thing. According to Wardhaugh (1985), seeking clarification can occur when the speaker wants to clarify a point that is not understood. Conditional access to the turn is also a type of overlap in this section because it occurs when Djellab needs to access his turn because he needs additional information. But overlap also occurs again when Walker says a confident "No" to Djellab when saying "heading is not going to be in your top five", conditional access to the turn is again this type of overlap and the reason Walker does this overlap is breaking up and correcting, where Walker immediately cuts off the conversation and corrects that heading is a skill like David Beckham who has a very good free kick ability.

- Data III

*Walker: "Shearer great got he could score the most Premier League goals crown, we're not comparing headed goals come on*

*Djellab: " [but we're not comparing]*

*Djellab: " [yeah, but we're not comparing them as the greatest player of all time] and so don't get me wrong, Ronaldo gets the heading one fine by me, [tick next to Ronaldo], but then the most creative player that's the craziest thing for me right with messi, is when you think about the best goal scorer is Lionel Messi, the best dribbler is Lionel Messi, the best set piece taker is Lionel Messi, and then when he's got all of that, he's the best creative player of all time as well, and like he's the better teammate.*

*Walker: [hahaha, okay]*

Still related to the previous conversation, Walker and Djellab are discussing the difference between Ronaldo and Messi's skills. Here Walker mentions that Shearer can score the most goals in the Premier League, this relates to the previous context when Walker discussed each player has their own attributes or advantages. And Walker also



explained that he was not discussing goals through heading, that's where Djellab overlapped and the type of overlap was terminal overlap, according to Schegloff (2000), terminal overlap occurs when someone overlaps where the speaker is close to completing it. Here Djellab is in accordance with Schegloff's theory, where he overlaps when Walker is about to finish her talk. Then the reason he overlaps is agreeing and correcting, he explains that “*but we're not comparing them as a greatest player of all time*”, he implies agreement with Walker's views but with a different focus.

In addition, another reason for Djellab's overlap is seeking clarification, where Djellab makes it clear that his views on Messi's all-round expertise, such as the best goalscorer, the best creative player, and a good teammate. But before that he also acknowledged that Ronaldo has excellent heading skills, and Walker responded with a laugh. This is also one of the overlaps, namely choral, according to Schegloff (2000), choral occurs when the speaker has the same opinion and issues the same response. Walker responded to Djellab's words when he said that Ronaldo has a very good ability to head the ball, he laughed and said “*okay*”, which means Walker agreed with Djellab's expression. And the reason for the overlap is agreeing, where Walker shows agreement with the statement delivered.

## CONCLUSION

In the highly passionate debate video, “*Messi vs. Ronaldo: Is this debate finally over?*”, this study investigates the phenomena of conversational overlap. This study analyzes the kinds of overlaps that occur in passionate soccer talk and explains them using the perspectives of pragmatic theory and conversation analysis. The results demonstrate how speakers strategically employ overlap, whether it be as a means of challenging opposing views, as an interruption to establish control, or as a tool to support their position in competitive talks. According to analysis, conversational overlap in these disputes reflects the speakers' emotional investment and rhetorical devices in addition to being a distraction. Overlaps can highlight the participants' dedication to their individual positions, promote lively discussion, and deepen the debate. This is consistent with earlier studies by Jefferson (1986) and Schegloff (2000), who found that overlap is essential for controlling turns and accomplishing conversational objectives, particularly in situations that are emotionally charged.

Furthermore, this study emphasizes how important it is to examine sports discussions as miniature representations of larger discursive practices on websites like YouTube. Understanding the overlapping phenomena provides insights into how emotional engagement impacts communication dynamics at a time when discussions cross physical boundaries and become a part of a global digital conversation. This research bridges the gap between conversation analysis and sports discourse by bringing attention to this understudied topic and advancing the study of pragmatics and digital engagement. The study also lays the groundwork for future investigations into overlap in various digital contexts, improving our comprehension of conversational tactics in a communication environment that is becoming more interconnected and competitive.

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