

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this chapter, the writer explains the findings after the analysis. The writer analyzes what topics that mostly occur in males' gossip and females' gossip of the sixth season of "Friends" TV Series. It was found that there are nine topic units in males' gossip and sixteen topic units in females' gossip. Following McCarthy's definition of topic as the writer used, the topics in gossip found in the film can be categorized as psychological inclination, physical appearance, and relationship with the kinds of topics and sub-topics as stated in Table 1.

Table 4.1 Topic Category of Gossip in "Friends"

Topic Category	Sub-Topics
Psychological Inclination	Behavior, personality, character, habit, attitude
Physical Appearance	Body
Relationship	Love Relationship, Sexual Relationship

4.1. Topics in Males' Gossip

It can be seen that males (in this film) have a tendency to talk about psychological inclination of other people, when they gossip. From nine topic units occurring in this data, eight units are about the psychological inclination of other people and only one unit about physical appearance of other people. Males like to talk about behavior, personality, character, and attitude of other people. This table below shows the topics occurring in males' gossip with its sub-topics

Table 4.2. The Topic Category and Its Sub-topics in Males' Gossip

Sub-Topic	No	(%)	Topic Category	No	(%)
Personality	2	(22)	Psychological Inclination	8	(88)
Attitude	3	(33)			
Behavior	2	(22)			
Character	1	(11)			

Table 4.2. The Topic Category and Its Sub-topics in Males' Gossip (continued)

Sub-Topic	No	(%)	Topic Category	No	(%)
Body	1	(12)	Physical Appearance	1	(12)
Total	9	(100)	Total	9	(100)

Males will face other people with different personality. In this case, personality means somebody's specific features and behavior that make them different from the other people. It relates with somebody's behavior, interest, conviction, ability and potential (Kartini & Gulo, 1987, p. 349). Thus, they usually share about what they know about the other people's personality. In the example below tells about a man knows there is a woman who does not like if other people move her stuffs and then he warns his friend not to move her stuffs.

Extract 1:

Ross : Chandler, **Monica is really weird** about this kind of stuff, all right.
 Believe me, I lived with her for 16 years. She's going to freak out.
 Oh my God. She's going to sit on you.

In this case, the word "weird" can be categorized as personality because it shows the specific feature of somebody that makes him or her different from the other people. In the Ross' utterance, weird means that Monica never allows other people to move her stuffs because she thinks that the others cannot do as well as she does. It shows Monica's conviction that cannot be changed. As the writer mention above that personality relates with somebody's behavior, interest, conviction, ability and potential. The word weird, here, relates with somebody's conviction.

Probably, for other people, especially for men, moving others' stuff is not a big deal. However, for some people, they like if their stuffs are arranged well and neatly. They will not let other people arrange their stuffs, because they sometimes do not believe that other people can do as well as they do. By knowing

this tendency, people, especially men can know how to face those kinds of people, what things that will make them angry.

The example below also shows gossip about personality. In this extract, there is a man finds that his room is changed to “feminine” room by his girl new roommate. She puts pink pillow and tinny little box. Then, he tells it to his friend.

Extract 2:

Chandler : Oh, my god!
 It's like a guy never lived here.
 You gotta be careful. This **girl thing is dangerous**. It's
 spreading.

Joey : It is?

Chandler : Is this your pretty pink pillow on the couch?
 Is that your tiny little box that's too small to put anything in?

Joey : No.

Chandler : Okay, this is not good. You are a guy, okay? This is a “guy's”
 place.
 Soon, you'll be soaking your fingers in stuff.
 And your head's gonna be under a big, brown, drying, big,
 drying...**It's not good**.

From the whole conversation, we can understand that this extract about the personality of other people because it shows the specific feature of that woman. It shows the woman's interest toward the “feminine” stuffs.

Sometimes, males also face other people have different way of thinking with them. Then, they will be interested to gossip about different attitude of other people. Attitude means somebody's inclination in giving response toward something or some situations. The response can be positive response or negative response (Kartini & Gulo, 1987, p. 35). The example below tells about a man who wants to repel a woman so he wants to know what things that women dislike. He tells it to his friends and they give some information about women's dislike.

Extract 3:

- Ross : **Girls don't like** it when I start talking about **science**.
- Ross : They **don't like you correcting their grammar**.
- Joey : And they **don't like it when you explain why your jokes are funny**.
- Ross : They **don't like it when you keep asking them if they like you**.

As the writer mention above attitude is the inclination in giving response to something or situation. The words “like”, here, show the girls’ inclination in giving response to something or some situations; whether they like or dislike to something or some situations. In extract two shows the girls’ inclination in giving response to some situations; such as their boyfriends talking about science, their boyfriends correcting their grammar, their boyfriends explaining why their jokes are funny, and their boyfriend keep asking them if they like them

By gossip about the attitude of other people, they share about what they know about the different way of thinking of other people. By sharing it, they will understand other people more.

Sometimes, males also face other people with weird behavior. Then, they also like to share about it to their friends. Behavior means every action of somebody that can be seen the other people (Kartini & Gulo, 1987, p. 45). In the example below, there is man who realizes that his friend blows him off. Then, he begins to check it and tells about it to his friend.

Extract 4:

- Ross : Remember, how **Chandler and Phoebe blew us off** yesterday?
- Ross : **Chandler's angry at us** for not getting him a ticket to that Knicks game.

The words “blow off” and “angry” show the action of somebody. As the writer mention above that behavior is every action that can be seen by other people. In this case, Chandler blows Ross and Joey off and it shows that he angry of them. Blowing off and angry are behaviors that can be seen by other people. Usually, people relate blowing off with angry. It may be seen from the

expressions that show somebody does not give response to people whom he or she angry of.

If we consider that conversation above, Ross seems to recheck whether Joey realizes that Chandler angry of them or not. Unfortunately, Joey does not realize it. Ross seems to give information that Chandler angry of them and she wants to ask Joey's suggestion to solve this problem.

Males also face other people with their own character. Sometimes, they do not like with those people's character. In this case, character means somebody's personality that is considered from morality value such as the honesty (Kartini & Gulo, 1987, p. 64). In the example below, there is man whose father never cares of him. He is very sad and disappointed of his father. Then, he begins to tell about it to his friend.

Extract 5:

- Paul : Chandler, did your dad ever hug you?
 Chandler : No. Did he hug you?
 Paul : No! no. It's just that **my dad never did**. I miss my dad.
 Chandler : I'm a little busy here, Paul.
 Paul : **That's what my dad used to say.**

In this case, the word "did" refers to father's hug. In this extract shows that Paul's father never hugs him because he is very busy. The words "that's what" refer to Chandler's utterance. He says that he is busy so he cannot hug Paul. Giving hug is one of expression that parents care of their children. Taking care of the children is related with morality, because it is related with the responsibility of parents to take care of their children. In that conversation, it seems that his father does not responsible of his children. He neglects him and makes him sad.

Probably, they like to share what they know inside of other people, so their gossip partner can also know about the psychological inclination of the object of gossiping. By knowing that, they can know how to face other people with different psychological inclination. Thus, this kind of gossip can be beneficial for the gossipmonger, because they can know more about the psychological

tendencies of other people. It is not always common that gossip has a pejorative connotation, because gossip can give the advantages for the gossipmonger. By gossiping we can share what we know about other people's life so we can understand about other people more.

Males not only talk about the psychological inclination of other people, but also the physical appearance of other people; although its percentage is in very small number. From nine gossip units, the topic about physical appearance only occurs once. For example, a man who is attracted by a sweet and beautiful woman, he tells about it to his friend.

Extract 6:

Joey : I **like her** so much. I know, **she's so sweet**. I just want to **feed her grapes and brush her hair**.

In this film, it shows that Joey falls in love with Janine because she is very beautiful and sexy. Thus, he tells about it to his friend. In this extract, the word "sweet" can be categorized into the sub-topic body. It is because, in this extract, what Joey means by sweet is Janine's body, her body is very sexy.

In this case, that man wants to give a reason to his friend, why he falls in love to that woman. Thus, by gossiping that woman, that man can give the explanation why he falls in love with her. By doing so, his friend can understand that man's feeling.

Sometimes, in gossiping males also include their feeling. If we consider at the gossip above, that male shows that he loves that woman very much. He says, "I like her very much, I know she's so sweet. I just want to feed her grapes and brush her hair." The use of the word "like and so sweet" shows the man wants to express his feeling to the woman.

4.2. Topics in the Females' Gossip

It can be seen that females (in this film) also have a tendency to talk about psychological inclination of other people, when they gossip. From sixteen gossip topic units, there are ten gossip units that include psychological inclination of other people. Two gossip units are about physical appearance of other people and

four gossip units are about the social relationship of other people. Females like to talk about behavior, habit, personality, and attitude of other people. This table below shows the topics occurring in females' gossip with its sub-topics

Table 4.3. The Topic Category and Its Sub-topics in Females' Gossip

Sub-Topic	No	(%)	Topic Category	No	(%)
Habit	1	(6)	Psychological Inclination	11	(68)
Attitude	2	(12)			
Behavior	6	(18)			
Personality	2	(32)			
Body	1	(6)	Physical Appearance	1	(6)
Love	1	(6)	Relationship	4	(26)
Relationship					
Sexual Relationship	3	(20)			
Total	16	(100)	Total	16	(100)

Sometimes, females also realize that other people have their own habit. Habit means somebody's behavior that is gotten and manifested consistently (Kartini & Gulo, 1987, p. 198). In the example below shows that there is a woman knows her friend good habit. Then, she tells it to her friend. In this case, habit is a behavior that is done consistently by a people.

Extract 7:

Monica : Phoebe, you gotta take her. I said some bad stuff but Rachel has qualities that make her a good roommate. **She has 147.00 pair of boots. She lets borrow them. She gets tons of catalogs and folds down the pages of things I'd like.**

Monica : **When I take a shower, she leaves me notes on the mirror.**

Monica : **When I fall in asleep on the couch, she covers me with a blanket.** And I told her I was gonna move in with Chandler, she was really supportive. She were so great.

The sentences that are bold typed by the writer can be categorized as habit. As the writer mention previously, habit is behavior which is gotten consistently. Those sentences show Rachel habit when she leaves in Monica's room; they are letting borrow her boots, folding down the catalogs' pages of things Monica's like, leaving notes on the mirror when Monica takes shower, covering Monica with a blanket when she falls in a sleep.

If we consider the conversation above, it seems that Monica promotes Rachel to Phoebe. She says that Rachel's habit is good and she is very nice to be her roommate. Sometimes, by telling other people's habit, it can make other people assume whether those people are nice or not.

Women also realize that other people also have their own attitude. Their way of thinking is different with them. Moreover, sometimes that difference can make misunderstanding among them. Thus, by gossiping they can know other people's attitude and reduce some misunderstanding among them. In the example below, a woman is informed that her friend does not like mass-produced stuff; whereas she wants to buy them. Then, her other friends warns her not to buy them.

Extract 8:

Rachel : **Phoebe hates Pottery Barn?**

Monica : **She hates mass-produced stuff.** She thinks her furniture should have a story behind it.

The word "hates" show that somebody does not like with something or situation. As the writer explain in males' gossip topic that attitude is the way in giving response toward something or situation. Thus, the writer can categorize "hates" as attitude because in this extract shows that Phoebe does not like with something; that is mass-produced stuffs.

In the next extract, it shows that there is a girl says her boss hates her. It is because, her friend wants to borrow the copier machine in her office to make pamphlet. However, she already know that her boss does not like her and she tells it to her friend so her friend can be understood.

Extract 9 :

Rachel : You could still use the copier where I actually work. But come by at lunch so my boss doesn't see you. Kim will freak out.

She doesn't like me.

The word “doesn't” also shows the attitude of other people. In this case, Rachel's boss gives response toward her. She gives negative response to her. It means that she does not like her.

This kind of gossip can be beneficial for the gossipmonger, because they can know what other people think about something. Furthermore, they may reduce misunderstanding among them. It is because, they already know what things that makes other people like and do not like.

Sometimes, women are treated badly by other people. It makes them do not like those people's behavior. Thus, they begin to tell about other people's behavior to their friends. In the example below, there is a woman that has dumped by her boyfriend and it makes her sad. Then, she tells it to her friend.

Extract 10:

Rachel : Yeah, **he dumped me**. He said, “Rachel, I can't do this. Even though, you're a very, very beautiful woman. I can't do this. I'm married and I'm sorry.” but he said “and you will never get promoted especially not above Kim, who is an integral cog in the Ralph Lauren machine.”

Kim : Oh my God! **He gave you the coldest look** I've ever seen. It's like he hates you! Then it is true.

In this extract, the words “dump” and “give the coldest look” can be categorized as behavior. As the writer mention previously, behavior is every action that can be seen by other people. “Dumping” and “giving coldest look” is action that can be seen by other people.

The example below also shows about the gossipmonger who does not like with other people because her father has treated her badly. Her father gives her a punishment and it makes her angry of him. Then, she begins to tell it to her sister.

Extract 11:

- Jill : **Daddy cut me off.** You know what I said?
I said, “ I’ll hire a lawyer, sue you, take all your money and cut you off!”
- Jill : That **he wouldn’t pay for my lawyer.** Then he told me to learn the value of money from the one daughter he’s actually proud of.

In this extract, the word “cut off” and “wouldn’t pay” can be categorized as behavior because other people can see that somebody does not pay for a lawyer and cut other people off, in this case Jill’s father does not give her pocket money anymore.

In the next extract, the writer also shows the gossip unit which is about behavior of other people. In the example below, there is a man tries flattering a woman. She is a massager and he is one of her clients. When she massages him, he touches her butts and he is naked.

Extract 12 :

- Phoebe : Well, **he came in for a massage**, and everything was fine until (Phoebe shows to Monica that her massage customer has touched her butts). And all of sudden, **his hands weren’t the problem anymore.**
- Monica : Was it?
- Phoebe : Boy scouts could’ve camped under there (it means that he is naked).

In this extract, we can see those people are gossiping that man’s behavior; although there is no exact word to show his behavior but if we try to understand it, we can see that what they gossip is behavior. It is because, other people can see when that man touches her butts.

Women also face other people with different personality. Sometimes, they do not like those people’s personality. Then, they tell it to their friends. In the example below shows there is a woman who does not like a man’s personality and she tells it to her sister.

Extract 13:

Jill : No, no, no. He's just...I don't know. You know, **he's just a little bookish.**

Rachel : Are you saying **he's a geek?**

Jill : You think so too?

Rachel : No. **Ross is not a geek.**

The word “bookish” and “geek” can be categorized as personality. In this case there are two women talk about their friends’ personality, Ross’ personality. “Bookish” and “geek” show someone’s specific features that make him or her different from each other. It also relates with someone’s interest. “Bookish” show somebody’s interest toward books. In this case, Ross’ interest toward science books that makes him as a geek person.

From this example, that woman tells to her sister that their friend, Ross is bookish. She tells that he is not her boyfriend type. However, at the end, she realizes that he is really a nice guy. Sometimes, women share what they feel about other people with their friends. In sharing what they know about other people, they also include their feelings. For example when Jill says that Ross is really nice to her.

In the extract bellow, the writer also shows gossip about other people’s personality. In this example, there is a woman has boyfriend but he never tells about his private life to her.

Extract 14:

Rachel : Good. Although, you know **he's a private guy.** I wish I could get him to open up, share some feelings.

The word “private” can be also categorized as personality. It is because the word “private” shows the specific feature of other people. It means that someone never let other people know about his or her private life. It also relates with conviction because he or she may not believe other people to keep their private life. They may make it as a secret.

Women do not only like to talk about the psychological inclination of other people but also about the physical appearance of other people. There are two kinds of physical appearance of other people that are talked by the gossipmonger

in the film; they are the body of other people and the manner of other people. Firstly, this is the example of gossip that is about the manner of other people. In this conversation below tells about a woman realizes that the way her friend's run is weird. Thus, she tells about it to the other her friend.

Extract 15:

Rachel : I'm telling you, **when she runs**, she looks like Kermit the frog and the six million dollar man.

Monica : **She runs** weird?

The word "weird" here is not categorized as personality, but as manner. The writer's focus in analyzing its topic is not is the word "weird" but "run". Thus, the writer can say that what those people gossip is about manner. Manner means the way someone acts. Thus, the writer can conclude that those people discuss about how their friends run. One of them says that the way she run like Kermit the Frog and Six Million Dollar Man.

From this example, that woman seems to give a reason why she does not want to run with Phoebe anymore. It is because, the way Phoebe's running is weird and it makes her embarrassed. By giving that reason, her friend can give the solutions how to solve Rachel's problem.

Second, this is the example of gossip which is about the body of other people. In the example below, it tells about a woman that is attracted by a handsome man. She tells to her friend that she is attracted to him because she is very nice guy.

Extract 16:

Phoebe : A little. **He seems really nice**. Good kisser.

In this extract the word "nice" refers to the body of that man; although it is not expressed explicitly but from the film it can be seen that the woman is attracted by the man. It is because the man is very handsome.

The topic that also occurs in females' gossip is about the relationship of other people. There are two kinds of gossip topic about the relationship of other people. They are the love relationship and the sexual relationship of other people.

In the example below, it shows the topic about love relationship of other people. There is a woman assuming that her friends have a love relationship. Her friend seems flirting to her other friend. Then she tells it to other woman.

Extract 17:

Phoebe : No, it's just, I was with Ross and Jill after you left and I'm pretty sure I saw **a little spark between them**.

Phoebe : I mean, it's probably nothing. But I wanted to **warn you that there might be something**.

In this extract the phrases “a little spark between them” and “there might be something” show the gossipmonger talk about the love relationship of other people; although those phrases show it implicitly. Actually, the word “spark” and “something” can be assumed in many meanings. In this case, “spark” and “something” mean love relationship.

Second, this is the example of gossip about the sexual relationship of other people. There is a woman knows that her boss having sex with a woman whereas, she knows that her boss is already married. Then, she tells it to her colleague.

Extract 18:

Rachel : I hear **Ralph Lauren fooled around with someone** in the copy room.

Kim : Tell me every thing.

The word “fool” means that her boss lie about his status to a woman. He does not say that he is already married. Thus, he can have sex with that woman. If we look at the context of the conversation, we can understand its topic; although it is expressed implicitly.

The conversation below also tells about a woman finds that her boss has an affair with her friend, and then she tells about it to her other friend.

Extract 19:

Rachel : You are never gonna believe this but **Phoebe made out with Ralph Lauren.**

Rachel : **She ran into him** at my office and **they just made out.** The craziest thing is know my boss likes me because I tell her about the best gossip she's heard all year.

Monica : I can't believe **Phoebe made out with Ralph Lauren.** I'm so jealous.

In this extract, the phrase "made out" means having sex. Phoebe is attracted with Ralph Lauren and they are having sex. Actually, the phrase "made out" can show many meanings but if we look at the context of the conversation, we can understand the meaning of "made out".

The example below also shows the gossip about the sexual relationship of other people. There is a couple get divorce because his wife finds him cheating on her with someone else. Then, their friend tell it to other friends.

Extract 20:

Rachel : Hey you guys, guess what. **Barry and Mindy are getting divorced.** Barry was the guy that I almost married and Mindy was my best friend.

Monica : Why did they get divorced?

Rachel : Well, apparently she caught **him cheating on her with someone else.** Isn't that sad? Can you imagine if I'd married him? How different would my life be?

The phrase "cheating on her with someone else" shows an affair with someone else. In the film shows that Barry has sex with other woman. Thus, this conversation can be categorized in the topic about sexual affair.

According to Tannen (1990), gossiping is the impression that women like talking too freely and too much in private situations. Label of gossip cast a critical light on women's interest in talking about the details of other people (p. 96). From this opinion about females' gossip, we can know the reason why females like to talk about the relationship of other people such as the sexual

relationship. Sometimes, they do not have any reason why they gossip about the sexual affair of other people. They just like to share what they know about the details of other people. In talking about it, they also like to include their feeling. For example, in the gossip unit above, a woman named Monica uses the word “jealous”. Monica says that she is jealous with Phoebe because she is having sex with Ralph Lauren, the famous businessman. In using the word “jealous”, she expresses her feeling toward this occurrence. Sometimes, expressing the feelings has no meaning to the partner of gossip. They just express their feeling. If we consider the gossip above, when Monica says that she is jealous of Phoebe, Rachel does not give any responses to what Monica says. However, if the conversation above is considered, Monica is not angry with Rachel because she does not any give response to her. It also shows that by expressing that feeling, she does not have any purpose, she just wants to express her feeling.

4.3. The Differences between Males’ and Females’ Gossip Topics

After the analysis, the writer cannot find the differences between males’ gossip and females’ gossip. If the writer consider the topics that mostly occurring in both males’ and females’ gossip, the topic about the psychological inclination of other people occurs more often than the other topic. This similarity probably is caused by the closeness among the characters in that film. Thus, there is no gap in talking about other people.

If some theories state that females like to include their feeling when they gossip, while males do not like when they gossip, that concept does not occur in the writer’s data. The male characters also like to include their feeling. Probably, this occurrence is also caused by the closeness among the characters in that film so they will not be embarrassed to show their feeling.

However, there is one difference between the topic that mostly occurs in males’ gossip and females’ gossip. The topics about the others’ social relationship occur in females’ gossip while in males’ gossip, that topic does not occur. Probably, as the writer has mentioned previously, gossip related to females says, they like to talk too freely and too much. They like to talk about the details of other people. Thus, sometimes women also like to talk about other people

although what they gossip does not have any relationship with them. If we consider at the conversation above (extract 5), actually, the affair of Phoebe and Ralph Lauren does not have anything to do with Rachel and Monica. However, they like to talk about it. It is just for giving the information what they know about other people.

However, if we consider at the all males' gossip units, what they gossip always have a something to do with them. The writer can say that what they talk has a purpose. They have purpose in talking about other people. If we consider at all males' gossip units, what they gossip always have something to do with them. In extract one, Ross wants to warn Chandler not to move Monica's stuffs. It is because, Ross is Monica's brother and Chandler is Monica's boyfriend. Ross knows that Monica does not like if other people moves her stuffs. He thinks that Monica will be angry to Chandler and he does not want it. Thus, he begins to warn Chandler and he says what he knows about Monica. In extract two, Chandler and Ross have a purpose in gossiping what women do not like from men. They wants to give a way to Joey how to repel a to a woman. In extract three, Ross wants to inform Joey that their friend, Chandler, angry of them because they do not invite him. Then, he seems ask Joey's suggestion how to solve that problem. In extract four, Paul seems wants to give a reason why he wants Chandler to hug him. it is because his father never does it and it makes him sad. While in extract five, whom Joey gossip is his new roommate and he gossip it because he wants to explain why he falls in love with her. Actually, what males are used to gossip have something to with their own life, while females sometimes do not have something to do with their own life.