

Flouting maxims in *The First Grader* movie (2010)

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Abstract

This study investigated about the flouting of Grice's maxims in The First Grader movie. This study concerned on finding the types of flouting maxim that occur in the movie and examine the reasons why the characters of The First Grader movie flouted the Grice's maxims in the dialogue. The present study employs descriptive qualitative research, by analyzing critically each conversation occur in the movie. The data of the study were in the form of utterances that contained a flouting maxim. The context of conversation in the movie also took a part as the evidence if it is flouting maxims. Implicatures that caused by the speaker is also become the important element in investigated the reason why those maxim are flouted by considering the linguistic context, cultural context, and situational context. The results of the research showed from twenty five utterances that indicated flouting maxim, all types of maxim were flouted in the movie. They were maxim of quantity (18,5%), maxim of quality (22,2%) , maxim of relation (29,6%), and maxim of manner (29,6%). From the finding and analysis, the writers concluded that in several conditions the characters of the movie were flouting the maxims because of some reasons. The major reason that occur in the movie are to give sarcasm, to express angry, and to convince someone.

Keywords: Cooperative Principle: Flouting maxim: Context of conversation: Implicatures, Movie;

INTRODUCTION

People do not always or even usually not say what they mean (Thomas, 2013 : 1). One of the most interesting facts about communication is that people mean a lot more than what actually say. And sometimes people mean exactly the opposite of what they say. According to Grice (1989), what a speaker means by an utterance can be divided into what the speaker says and what the speaker thereby implicates. Each utterances created by particular speaker can contain utterance or speaker meaning and sentence meaning. Sentence meaning is what a sentence itself means. On the other hand, utterances

meaning is what speakers implies when uses a string of language. When the speaker does not mean what he or she said, but means the opposite, how does that work? How can we understand the messages? how do we know people not being literally true? how do we know people doesn't intend for us to infer nothing else?. Herbert Paul Grice was the first who tried to explain this phenomenon in his book *Logic and Conversation* (1975). He invented the term "Implicature". Implicature is something which implied in conversation, that is, something which is left implicit in actual language use (Mey, 2001 : 45).

To understand this phenomena, Grice proposed a theory called the Cooperative Principle. This principle helps us to understand how this inference works and how we know when to take someone literally and when to look for a hidden meaning or an indirect or an implied meaning in what they say. This principle enables an effective communication when people obey this principle. It is said that "make your contribution such as it is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purposed or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged" (Grice, 1989 cited in Yule, 1996). The cooperative principle elaborates in four sub-principle called Conversational Maxims. There are maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation and maxim of manner that should be followed when communication occur. The importance of considering the cooperative principles and maxims in this context is, since they are assumed to be constantly at work in our interactions, awareness of their role is needed in order to be better understand communication.

The interesting fact is, Grice knew that people do not always follows the conversational maxims as they communicate (Lindblom, 2006 : 3). So that Grice describes four ways in which maxims may go unfulfilled in ordinary conversation. One might violate a maxim, the second is infringe a maxim, the third is opting out a maxim, the fourth might suspending a maxims, and the last is flouting a maxim (Thomas, 2013 : 64).

The present study investigates conversational implicature that occurred in the literature term, that is movie, especially focusing to attempt in analyzed the flouting of Grice's maxims in dialogue of *The First Grader* movie and find out the reasons why the characters of *The First Grader* movie flouted the Grice's maxims in the dialogue of the movie. A flouting maxim takes place when participant put certain meaning on their utterance. It means what they

say and what they mean do not accord. Sometimes when the maxims are not obeyed, we cannot convey the information that should be understood by the other participants. Hence, flouting maxim is the reason why some conversation can be understandable by the participants. It means that when flouting occurs, it will make the listener think what the meaning of what has been said before. As Bilmes has expressed in Mey (2001 : 45) that in everyday talk, we often convey proposition that are not explicit in our utterances but are merely implied by them. Those circumstances lead to a misunderstanding because speaker expects something different through their utterances, and the hearer fail to understand what the speaker's mean by its utterances. It becomes the reason why a conversation must be done effectively by the speaker and the hearer as well to avoid misunderstanding and misperception (see Mey, 2006 : 1).

METHOD

This present study classified as descriptive analysis study under the qualitative approach since it was aimed at describing the phenomena of conversational implicature (see Johnson & Christensen, 2004: 347) especially the flouting maxim found in the movie. This descriptive analysis qualitative design was used because the data that gained in this study were in the qualitative form and it was analyzed descriptively. The writers used this type design because this study focused on analyzing data in utterances form and the writers develop an in-depth analysis in the dialogue of the movie to investigate the flouting maxims in *The First Grader* movie, and also to find out the reasons why the characters of the movie flouted the maxims. That was the consideration of this research categorized as a descriptive analysis under the qualitative approach.

The object of this study was the flouting maxims in utterances that occur in the dialogue of *The First Grader* movie. In this research, both primary and secondary data were used. The primary data in this research were in the form of utterances that contained a flouting maxim from the dialogue of each character in the movie. Besides, the primary data were taken from the behavior of each character in every plot of the story in *The First Grader* movie. The secondary data were from the books or journal which are related to the study.

The writers also get the data as a movie, subtitle, synopsis or other from internet or from another sources.

In order to gain a valid and reliable data based on the purposes of this research as implied in the research questions, the main instrument of this study is the researcher herself. In conducted this research, the writers also helped by Data Card to made the data that gained were easier to be analyzed.

The technique of data analysis of this research are marked the dialogue of the characters that indicated a flouting maxims by used the movie's transcription, noted down the utterances that categorized as flouting maxims found in the dialogue of *The First Grader* movie by watched the movie several times, display the data into table form using Data Card, then the writers added descriptions and analyzed from each collected data. The researcher describe the implicature by implementing the theory of implicature by Grice (1989), and speech context by Song (2017), and then describe the kind of maxims' cooperative principles which are flout in the conversation by implementing the maxim theory of Grice (1989). After have been finished in added descriptions and analyzed the data, the writers finally able to organized the findings.

Results and Discussion

Flouting Maxims that Occur in The Movie

In this study, the writers found that the characters were flouted all types of Grice's maxim. There were twenty six times maxims were flouted by the characters of *The First Grader* movie. After analyzing the data carefully and thoroughly, the writers found there were two major maxims that were mostly flouted by the characters. There are maxim of manner and maxim of relation. The occurrence of those flouting maxims can be presented by the following data

Maxim of Manner

There are eight cases of flouting maxim of manner done by the characters that the writers succeed to investigate in the dialogue of the movie. Here is the example of flouting maxim of manner occurrence as shown in the conversation

This conversation happen in the school gate in the morning, when Maruge come to school and meet Kamau (the boy in his class who did not write number 5). Maruge offered a help to him

Maruge : “Hey, Kamau! I’ll help you with your number 5”
Kamau : “Old man, you can’t even sharpen a pencil”
Maruge : “Why are you so rude?”

Datum above consists of flouting a maxim of relation. In this dialogue, Kamau flouted a maxim of relation because his utterance was unmatched with Maruge’s question. The hearer (Maruge) ask that “Hey, Kamau! I’ll help you with your number 5” but the speaker (Kamau) tried to offense him by saying “Old man, you can’t even sharpen a pencil”. In this chance, ideally the speaker should answer with “yes/no” if he followed the maxim of relation. Unfortunately, he did not being cooperative and flouted a maxim of relation. The reason why Kamau flouted the maxim of relation was because he wanted to refused Maruge’s help by remind him about past accident that happened to Maruge when he wanted to sharpen a pencil and suddenly fell off because Maruge remembered a bad treat that British did to him when he was in the detention camp.

The Reason Why the Characters of the Movie Flouted The Maxims

After analyzing the data thoroughly, the writers was able to reveal the reason why the characters of *The First Grader* movie were flouted the maxims. The reasons that the writers succeed to found are serve in the table below:

Table 1 The Reason That Found In The Movie

NO	REASON	OCCURANCE
1	To denied someone	2
2	To give sarcasm	3
3	To give stressing into something	1
4	To give warning to person	1
5	To tell an unpleasant condition	1
6	To convince someone	4
7	To inform something	1
8	To self-defense	1

9	To avoid the conversation's topic	1
10	To denied someone's help	1
11	To express angry	4
12	To support an argument	1
13	To persuade someone	1
14	To express dissatisfied	1
15	To make a joke	1
16	To compliment someone	1
17	To show care to somebody	2
18	To accuse someone	1
19	To express happiness and excitement	2

From all the reasons that the writers found, the major reason that mostly become the evidence of flouting maxim are to give sarcasm, to express angry, and to convince somebody, to show care to somebody, and to express happiness.

Conclusion

The finding showed that all types of maxims were flouted by the characters of *The First Grader* movie. From twenty five utterances indicated as flouting maxim that found, it revealed that the total of flouting maxim were twenty seven times. There are flouting maxim of quality occurred for five times (18,5 %), maxim of quantity occurred for six times (22,2 %), maxim of manner occurred for eight times (29,6 %), and maxim of relation occurred eight times (29,6 %). Based on the analysis, sometimes a datum consist of two flouting maxim in the same utterance.

From the finding and analysis, the writers concluded that in several conditions the characters of the movie were flouted the maxims because of some reasons. The reason that the writers succeed to investigated by assessed the context of conversation were in amount of nineteen reasons. The writers classified the occurrence of the reason itself in major and minor quantity. The minor quantity belongs to the reason that occurred for only once during the movie. In this study, there are thirteen reason that classified as minor reason.

While the major reason is classified to the reason that occurred for minimum twice during the movie. The major reason that mostly found in the movie are: to express angry with the occurrence four times; to convince somebody occurred for four times; to give sarcasm occurred three times; to denied someone occurred twice; to show care occurred twice; and the last is to express happiness occurred twice during the movie.

From all those major reason, the writers found that those reasons become the evidence of the occurrence of particular flouting maxim. For instance, the reason to express angry were mostly caused a flouting maxim of quality, in reason to give sarcasm caused flouting maxim of manner occurred, the reason to convince somebody mostly become the evidence of flouting maxim of relation, and maxim of quantity mostly occurred because the characters tend to show their care to somebody.

Based on the concussion above, the writers believes that the character of The First Grader movie obviously generates an implicature in their dialogue by flouted the conversational maxims. Although the maxims were not obeyed by the speaker in their utterances, the hearer sometimes have problem in interpreting the speaker's intended meaning of their utterances, or in some cases, the speaker and hearer understand each other even the maxim were flouted in the dialogue.

The result of this study has function that people could be more understand the implicature which are generated by the speakers whether in the movie, daily activity or another place easily. In addition, people will understand the others background knowledge if they know the implicature that generated by the speaker. People will understand the meaning of other people, although that's far from the context of conversation.

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