

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

It is obvious that language is one of the vital elements in human life. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, language is “the use by humans of a system of sounds and words to communicate” (Hornby 843). Another element of language is to give some information to the hearer; yet, sometimes people tend to give less, more or even false information in order to make the hearer think of another plausible meaning. The plausible meaning itself is called implicature. “An implicature is generated intentionally by the speaker and may (or may not) be understood by the hearer” (Thomas 58). When one makes an implicature, he or she wants to hint or suggest something which is indirectly said.

In Applied Linguistics, there is a study of speaker meaning, namely Pragmatics. In Pragmatics, there is a theory of Conversational Maxims, which is proposed by a linguist, H. P. Grice. “Grice’s theory is an attempt at explaining how a hearer gets from what is said to what is meant, from the level of expressed

meaning to the level of implied meaning” (Thomas 56). Grice helps us to understand the process of how the hearer is able to perceive what the speaker means. When the Conversational Maxims are unobserved, it is said that the hearer fails to observe the maxim. In Pragmatics, it is called non-observance of the maxims. “People may fail to observe a maxim because, for example, they are incapable of speaking clearly, or because they deliberately choose to lie” (Thomas 64). There are many consequences from the failure of observing the maxim, such as rise of conflicts, occurrence of humour, suspense building. Those consequences can happen when the speaker gives less, more or false information, an unclear and ambiguous statement, or an irrelevant statement from the topic.

The topic of my thesis is Analysis of the Rise of Conflicts Due to the Non-Observance of the Gricean Maxims in the TV Series *Suits* Seasons 1-2. The reason why I choose this topic is because in daily conversation there are many occasions when people fail to observe the maxims, which results in conflicts. Thus, this particular topic is interesting to be chosen as a topic of my thesis.

The reason why I choose this topic is that in normal conversations, there are occasions when a conversation between a speaker and a hearer leads to conflicts. This thesis can help the readers to see how non-observance of the conversational maxim results in conflicts. Moreover, this thesis can also help the readers to prevent themselves from failing to observe the maxims. Thus, their conversation will not lead to conflicts.

Suits is a US drama television series. This television series was started to air on 23 June 2011. There are many writers who contribute in this television

series; yet the main writer of this television series is Aaron Korsh. He also writes *Everybody Loves Raymond*, *Just Shoot Me!*, *Love*, and others.

The setting of place in this television series is New York City, New York, USA. This drama television series is about a story of several lawyers from the same and different firms. Mike Ross, a brilliant yet college-dropout man, is hired as a lawyer in an exclusive firm, Pearson Hardman. He is employed by Harvey Specter, one of New York City's best legal closers. The employees in Pearson Hardman should be Harvard Law School graduates, but Mike is not. Harvey and Mike should keep their secret so that others will not know that Mike is not a Harvard Law School graduate.

I choose this television series because there are many speech events in the television series that I can analyse in terms of the non-observance of the Gricean Maxim. The speech events also lead to conflicts.

This thesis is significant as people will be able to understand the real intention of the speaker when they fail to observe the conversational maxims. People can also see how non-observance of maxims leads to conflict. I believe my thesis will help the reader to distinguish what type of maxim that the speaker fails to observe and to understand the process of how the non-observance of maxim can lead to conflicts.

(696 words)

Statement of the Problem

There are four problems that I would like to analyze in my thesis, namely:

1. What utterances in *Suits* Seasons 1 to 2 are classified as non-observance of the Gricean maxims?

2. What type of non-observance of the Gricean maxims does the speaker in *Suits* Seasons 1 to 2 fail to observe?
3. What is the implicature generated from the non-observance of the Gricean maxims?
4. How does the non-observance of the Gricean maxims lead to conflicts?

Purpose of the Study

The purposes of the thesis are:

1. To show the utterances in *Suits* Seasons 1 to 2 classified as non-observance of the Gricean maxims.
2. To show the types of non-observance of the Gricean maxims that the speaker fails to observe in *Suits* Seasons 1 to 2
3. To show the implicature which is generated from the non-observance of the Gricean maxims
4. To show how the non-observance of the Gricean maxims leads to conflicts

Method of Research

There are six steps that I have done in writing this thesis. First, I searched for and downloaded *Suits* Seasons 1-2. Second, I searched for the theory of Pragmatics which focuses on the theory of non-observance of Gricean maxims and also the theory of conflict. Third, I watched *Suits* television series. Fourth, I searched the utterances in the television series which contain non-observance of Gricean maxims. Fifth, I analysed the utterances in the television series using the theory of non-observance of Gricean maxims and humour. Finally, I wrote the research report.

Organization in the Thesis

There are four chapters in this thesis. Chapter One is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problems, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is Theoretical Framework. In this chapter, I elaborate the theory of Pragmatics, the theory of non-observance of Gricean maxims and also the theory of conflict. Chapter Three is the analysis of the data that I have collected. Chapter Four is the conclusion of the thesis. This is also the last chapter of my thesis. Bibliography and Appendix are put at the end of the thesis.