

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Generally, language is a media to convey messages to other people in our daily life. With language, people can deliver a lot of things such as opinions, feelings, needs, etc through the forms of speaking and/or writing. Sometimes, when a person verbally communicates his or her feelings, opinions, or needs to someone, he or she tends to convey the feelings, opinions, or needs indirectly. This indirectness may cause the hearer to have an interpretation which is different from the speaker's intention. As a result, neither the speaker nor the hearer is pleased. This is how a conflict happens.

A conflict is “a situation in which people, groups or countries are involved in a serious disagreement or argument” (Hornby). I believe that belonging to drama genre, the TV series *Private Practice* have plenty of conflicts which happen between one character and another. For this reason, I want to analyze the

conflicts that happen in *Private Practice* Season 1 which are caused or made worse by the characters' utterance.

According to H.P. Grice, implicature 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). Implicature is divided into two types by H.P. Grice. They are conversational maxim and conventional maxim. Grice also states that there are five ways of people's failure to observe the maxims. The failure of observing the maxim is called the non-observance of the maxims. People fail to observe the maxims in conversations because there is an ambiguous meaning, lack of information, or irrelevant answers. So, one side tries to make a good conversation but the other does not. In the end, it can make the occurrence of conflict, the occurrence of suspense and the occurrence of humor.

In this analysis, I choose Pragmatics as the area of linguistics that my topic belongs to. "Pragmatics is the study of speaker meaning. It is more about the analysis of what the speaker means by their utterances rather than what the words or phrases might mean by themselves" (Yule 3). The specific Pragmatic theory that I use to analyze my thesis is the conversational maxims created by H.P. Grice.

H.P. Grice is a British philosopher of language. His first work is theory of implicature published in 1967 which is a shorter version that is elaborated in a paper entitled "Logic and conversation" published in 1975.

In this thesis, I would like to focus on the non-observance of the Gricean maxims in creating and building up the conflict in the TV series *Private Practice* season 1. The reason why I choose this topic is because I find there are misinterpretations when people talk with others and they often fail to observe the

maxims in their conversations, which results in conflicts. The non-observance of maxims of some of the conversations in this TV series is very interesting to analyze. It will help people to realize that there are four conversational maxims. These maxims should be observed to make a good conversation in our daily life. I will analyze the utterances that will lead to the occurrence of conflict, and find out why such utterances that are categorized as non-observance of maxims can result in the occurrence of conflict.

The source of data that I use for my thesis is an American medical drama TV series entitled *Private Practice* created by Shonda Rhimes. The series takes place at Oceanside Health and Wellness Group. The main characters are dr. Addison Montgomery, dr. Peter Wilder, dr. Samuel Bennett, dr. Naomi Bennett, dr. Violet Turner, dr. Cooper Freedman, dr. Charlotte King. The series tells about a team of doctors who work together in a practice (small hospital). They help their patients with treatments that are different from the other hospital. Besides talking about their activities, this series talks about their friendship and love.

I choose this particular TV series as my data because I think there are many conflicts among the characters that are the result of non-observance of the maxims. In this analysis, I will focus on the significant characters that have a lot of conflict between them which are the main characters in that series. Many of the conflict between them happen because of the non-observance of the maxims in their conversations.

I believe this topic is significant because after reading this thesis, the readers will understand the conversational maxims and the differences between observance and non-observance of the maxim. In addition, the readers may also

know how to analyze conflict which is caused by non-observance of maxims in their daily lives. Lastly, this thesis can help people to be more attentive to the presence of non-observance of maxims in conversation which may result in the occurrence of conflict.

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1.2 The Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, I would like to analyze the following statement:

1. What type of maxim is not observed in the utterance?
2. What is the implicature of the utterance?
3. How does the non-observance of the maxims lead to and build up the conflict between the characters?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In this thesis, I intend:

1. To show the type of the maxim that is not observed in the utterance.
2. To show the implicature of the utterance.
3. To show how the non-observance of maxims lead to and build up the conflict between the characters.

1.4 Method of Research

First, I watch *Private Practice* series season 1 after I searched and downloaded it. Second, I find some theories on Pragmatics to support my analysis. Third, I start to analyze my data using theories of non-observance of Gricean maxims that I browse at first and last, I write a report in my thesis after analyzing.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

I divide the thesis into four chapters. The first chapter is Introduction which contains Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two consists of the theoretical framework in which I elaborate some approaches that I use to analyze the data. Chapter Three is the analysis of the article. The last chapter, Chapter Four, is the conclusion of the analysis. At the end of the thesis, I put Bibliography and Appendices.