

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Aside from food and clothes, communication is one of the most important things that humans need. In order to communicate with others, humans use language. Whether it is spoken (verbal) or written (non verbal), sometimes a person is unable to express his/her feeling through words well. Sometimes in a conversation, he faces some difficulties to choose the appropriate words to express his/her feelings, which frequently leads to a misunderstanding or even a conflict.

In linguistics, there is a field of study called pragmatics. Pragmatics is the study about learning communicative meaning in sentences (Thomas 2). Implicature is implied meaning within an utterance (Thomas 56). Therefore, we need to be aware of the implicature of utterances. With pragmatics, we can study and reveal the true meaning of an utterance. Pragmatics is important: by studying pragmatics, we can avoid false interpretations.

In this thesis, I would like to acknowledge the characters' utterances in an American TV series. I am going to use a drama television series, *Damages*, as my source of data. The reason why I chose *Damages* series seasons 1 and 2 as my data source is that I find the characters in the series often fail to observe maxims, which frequently leads to conflicts.

Basically, this story revolves around a famous lawyer and her freshly-graduated employee. The boss is famous for winning difficult cases, as a result of her dishonesty. She hired a freshly-graduated woman because she knows this woman has a secret key to her winning cases.

There are more than ten characters in this series, but I would like to focus on the main character, as she holds the most role in the stories in this series. The character whose utterances I am going to observe is the protagonist called Ellen. She is a freshly-graduated and wants to be a lawyer. She is accepted at Hewes' law firm. She is a naive person; at first she really believes Patty is a respectable woman. But as time goes by, she changes into a strong woman, because she wants to crush Patty. This character is important in my research because she often fails to observe maxims which sometimes lead to conflicts.

The other important role is Patty Hewes. She is a powerful and famous lawyer. However, she is not an honest lawyer, because she will do anything to earn a large amount of money by winning cases, including criminal acts. She is fox-like and also a sneaky woman. This character often violates maxims because she will try all within her might to win the cases.

The non-observance theory of Gricean maxims is the theory I use to observe the characters' utterances. The theory is applied whenever the maxims are

not observed or when a speaker has tendencies to deceive or mislead ; and when a speaker is in certain circumstances, events, or culture when he performs the imperfect linguistic performance.

The topic of my thesis is “The Occurrence of Conflicts due to the Non-observance of Gricean Maxims In *Damages* Series Seasons 1 and 2.” In the area of Linguistics, the non-observance of Gricean maxims belongs to Pragmatics. Pragmatics is the branch of linguistics dealing with language in use and the contexts in which it is used, including such matters as deixis, the turn taking in conversation, text organization, presupposition, and implicature (“Pragmatics”).

The person who made the Gricean maxims is Paul Grice. There are four maxims he introduced in order to understand the Conversational Implicature. They are: Maxim of Quantity, Maxim of Quality, Maxim of Relation and Maxim of Manner. According to him, there are five categories about how people sometimes fail to observe the maxims. They are flouting a maxim, violating a maxim, infringing a maxim, opting out of a maxim and suspending a maxim.

This study is done to show how the non-observance of the Gricean maxims may lead to conflicts, which is seen in *Damages* series seasons 1 and 2, as one of many examples of how the non-observance of the Gricean maxims occurs around us in our daily life. By doing this thesis, I would like to make the readers notice how sometimes what a person says might be different from his/her real intention. Sometimes it is hard to utter our true feelings and we find difficulty in choosing the right words, which might cause some misunderstanding or even conflicts. By writing this thesis, I would also like the readers to know more about the non-observance of the Gricean maxims. Besides this, they can learn how to

avoid giving ambiguous utterances and choose more appropriate words to utter their feelings.

(764 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems that I am going to analyze are :

1. What types of non-observance of Gricean maxims are found in *Damages* series seasons 1 and 2?
2. Which maxims are not observed?
3. How does the non-observance of Gricean maxims lead to conflict?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The study is done :

1. To know what types of non-observance of Gricean maxims are found in *Damages* series seasons 1 and 2.
2. To find out the maxim which are not observed in the conversation.
3. To know how the non-observance of Gricean maxims leads to conflict.

1.4 Methods of Research

In researching my thesis, I watched *Damages* series seasons 1 and 2 and then I sorted out the utterances which fail to observe the Gricean maxims. Then, I analyzed the non-observance of maxims which occur in *Damages* series seasons 1

and 2. Finally, after my data analysis was finished, I made a conclusion based on the analysis I made.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, the second chapter is Theoretical Framework. The third chapter is Discussion, and the last chapter is Conclusion. After the four chapters, there is Bibliography which is the list of sources I used in making this thesis.