

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In daily lives, people deliver their thoughts and feelings with one another through conversation. According to *Cambridge Online Dictionary*, Conversation is “a talk between two or more people in which thoughts, feelings, and ideas are expressed, questions are asked and answered, or news and information is exchanged”. In a conversation, the speaker and the hearer have to cooperate with each other which aims to avoid misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer by saying something explicitly. However, people do not always convey their thoughts and feelings directly but they tend to convey their intention implicitly. People sometimes mean the opposite of what they say and mean much more than their utterances. This can lead to misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer. This can even lead to

conflict which can be seen within people's utterances. According to Harry Shaw, conflict is "a struggle between man and man" (Shaw 91).

The topic of my thesis falls under the study of pragmatics which is a branch of linguistics which concerns with the speaker's utterances and the speaker's meaning in a particular context. According to George Yule, "Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader)" (Yule 3).

In a conversation, sometimes there are times when people actually have more meaning than what their utterances mean. And there are times when people say something which is different from the lexical meanings of their words. Thus, there is a difference between what the speaker says and what the speaker means. What is contained in the speaker's utterances sometimes does not only have one meaning, but could have several meanings apart from its overt meaning. Those meanings are called implicature. Therefore, if there is an implicature within the speaker's utterances, the hearer is required to understand the actual meaning behind the speaker's utterances. This aims to avoid misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer.

Herbert Paul Grice, who is an English language philosopher, introduces the Cooperative Principle, "Make your contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of talk exchange in which you are engaged" (Thomas 61-62), to make a conversation run smoothly. And he also introduces four conversational maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner.

People very often fail to observe the maxims for certain reasons when they are in a conversation. Sometimes people fail to observe the maxims because they do not want to hurt the interlocutors, they want to hide something from the interlocutors, they do not want to be involved in a conversation, and so forth. This communication performance is known as non-observance of the maxims as what Grice claims in *Meaning in Interaction* (1995) by Jenny Thomas. Furthermore, Grice indicates five types of failure in observing the maxims which are flouting, violating, infringing, opting out, and suspending a maxim. Those five kinds of non-observance of the maxims can lead to conflicts between the speaker and the hearer.

The reason why I choose to analyze non-observance of the maxims is because there is often a misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer which comes from their utterances that can lead to a conflict.

For my analysis, I choose a television series *Desperate Housewives* Season 6 as a data source. While the topic of my thesis is *Analysis of Conflicts Caused by Non-Observance of the Gricean Maxims in Desperate Housewives Television Series Season 6*.

Desperate Housewives film is about five women, Bree Van de Kamp, Lynette Scavo, Gabrielle Solis, Susan Mayer, and Edie Britt, who live in a perfect suburban fantasy, in the town of Fairview, Wisteria Lane, which is filled by secrets behind every house. Wisteria Lane is a place where everyone knows each other. According to *American Broadcasting Company*, this film exposes “jealousy, lust, passion, and sometimes murder in every seemingly

happy home”. I choose *Desperate Housewives* Season 6 as a data source of my analysis because this film has a lot of conflicts among the characters which are caused by non-observance of the maxims. In addition, there are a lot of implicatures within the utterances of each character.

This study will be very beneficial for students of the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Maranatha Christian University, because after reading my study, they will understand how to analyze the utterances of the speaker which contains non-observance of the maxims that can lead to conflict in a film. This is also beneficial for people outside the English Department because they will understand, that conflicts in their daily lives arise caused by non-observance of the maxims. Thus, they can avoid the conflicts by observing the maxims.

(779 words)

1.2 Statement of the Problem

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

1. What types of non-observance of the Gricean maxims are found in *Desperate Housewives* television series season 6?
2. What implicature is generated?
3. How does the non-observance of the Gricean maxims lead to conflicts?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this study are as follows:

1. To know the types of non-observance of the Gricean maxims found in *Desperate Housewives* television series season 6.
2. To know the generated implicature.
3. To know how the non-observance of the Gricean maxims leads to conflicts.

1.4 Methods of Research

There are seven steps in doing this thesis. First, I collected the information and theory related to the topic of this thesis. Second, I chose the television series *Desperate Housewives* season 6 as my data source which is suitable for the topic. Third, I started to watch the television series. Fourth, I watched the television series for the second time and noted down the speaker's utterances which contain non-observance of the Gricean maxims. Fifth, I analyzed the type of non-observance the Gricean maxims and the implicature that generated within speaker's utterance. Sixth, I analyzed the way the non-observance of the Gricean maxims leads to conflict. Finally, I wrote the research.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis contains four chapters. Chapter One is Introduction. It provides the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Methods of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two

is Theoretical Framework. It presents the theories used in writing the analysis of Non-Observance of the Gricean Maxims. Chapter Three is the analysis of data taken from the television series *Desperate Housewives* season 6. The discussion on Non-Observance of the Gricean Maxims that leads to conflict will be elaborated in this chapter. Chapter Four is Conclusion. It consists of my personal comments and opinions about the research. And this thesis ends with Bibliography and Appendices.

