

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is a really important thing for a human being, because people always need others throughout their life. The easiest way for people to communicate is usually by talking. However, in many cases, people cannot convey their real intention in their utterances. This may create a misunderstanding among people. Something that will be revealed from that misunderstanding is conflict. In this thesis I would like to analyse the misinterpretation of utterances between people which finally leads to conflict.

In this thesis I use the pragmatic approach to do my analysis. Pragmatics is “the study of the aspects of meaning and language use that are dependent on the speaker, the addressee and the other features of the context of utterance” (“What is Pragmatics?”). The writer of the book *Pragmatics*, George Yule, says

something unsaid must be recognized as apart of communication. He also states that the study of pragmatics is “the study of what gets communicated than is said” (3). Therefore from all the meanings above, the study of pragmatics involves the interpretation of what people actually mean in a particular context.

According to H. P. Grice, there are two kinds of implicature, namely conventional implicature and conversational implicature (Thomas 57). To understand conversational implicature, Grice suggests using a Cooperative Principle, which states that speakers “make (their) contribution such as is required at the stage at what it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which (they) are engaged” (Thomas 62).

When the speaker fails to abide by this Cooperative Principles, his/her utterance will not be considered informative, truthful, relevant, or brief (Thomas 63). In other words, the speaker performs a non-observance of the Gricean maxims (Thomas 64). There are four maxims or rules of speaking, according to Grice, which we need to use. They are: quantity, quality, relation, and manner. This theory is the basic principle that is used to analyse all misinterpreted and sarcastic utterances and criticism by the speaker in the data.

The topic of my thesis is “Analysis of the Non-Observance of Maxims that Builds the Conflict in *Devious Maids* TV Series Season 1.” I intend to analyse conflicts which happen because the characters often use implicatures to convey what creates conflict.

The data source that I use in this thesis is *Devious Maids* TV Series Season 1. The genre of this TV series is *comedy-drama*. *Devious Maids* TV series is a story about a scandalous life of four Latina girl friends who work as maids for rich

families in Beverly Hills. They are Zoila, Valentina, Rosie and Carmen Luna. All of them are important maids for their boss. When one of their Latina friends was murdered, a man called Eddie, who works for the same boss, is accused as the murderer. Marisol, Eddie's mother, does not believe her son has committed the murder. So she goes to Beverly Hills disguised as a maid. She makes friends with the four Latina maids in the neighbourhood to find out the truth ("Devious Maids").

Devious Maids TV series is a great material for my research because this TV Series provides many examples of non-observance of the maxims (flouting a maxim, violating a maxim, and other ways of failing to observe the maxims). The characters in this TV Series often fail to observe the maxims and this consequently produces implicature that lead to many conflicts in the characters' friendships, work and families. All utterances that I take for this thesis are those involving the maids: Marisol, Zoila, Valentina, Rosie and Carmen Luna.

This study is significant because people will be aware that in daily conversation, people are inclined to say something different from what they intend, which creates an implicature in their utterance. This leads to conflicts because the utterance is not clearly understood by the hearer. The other function of this study is to make people realize the impact of the implicature, namely conflict. This analysis makes all readers more critical in using an utterance to others and also in perceiving other's utterances.

Words: 672

1.2 Statement of the Problem

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

1. What types of non-observance of maxims are found in the utterances of *Devious Maids* TV Series Season 1?
2. What is the implicature of each utterance?
3. How does the non-observance of the maxims lead to conflict(s)?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In this thesis I intend:

1. To explain the types of the non-observance of maxims in *Devious Maids* TV Series Season 1.
2. To reveal the implicatures of each utterance.
3. To describe how the non-observance of maxims leads to conflict(s).

1.4 Method of Research

Firstly, I begin the research by finding the theories to analyse the data. Secondly, I watch several episodes of *Devious Maids* TV Series Season 1, and then I select the utterances as the data. I research all data, focusing on the maxims that the speaker fails to observe.

1.5 Organization of the Thesis

The first chapter is Introduction, which consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is Theoretical Framework. Chapter

Three contains the analysis of *Devious Maids* TV series and Chapter Four is the last chapter in my research, which will be the conclusion of the analysis. Finally this thesis ends with Bibliography and Appendix.

