

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Communication is a need for every human being because people can express what they want and what they mean through communication. Besides, human beings are social creatures. They can make a lot of friends and many relations through communication. Accordingly, communication is very important for people to convey their purpose or message in their interaction and socialize with others. Communication is very important for a speaker and also a listener. (Grice, 1975, pp. 42-43)

Communication is considered successful if the information is conveyed correctly by whatever means necessary. A speaker, however, often does not say what she or he actually wants to say. (Thomas, 1995, p. 1) It may occur at any time because of various reasons. For instance, when they are not in the mood of talking, when they are in a hurry, or when they are trying to hide something. It can also happen because the speaker wants to generate an implicature, which is an additional or different meaning in order to make the hearer have their own interpretation about the speaker's meaning. This may cause misinterpretation,

which often leads to humor, suspense, or conflict. (Yule, 1996, p. 146)

There are rules of speaking called maxims, which were suggested by Herbert Paul Grice. This theory explains “how to make a hearer get from what is said to what is meant, from the level of expressed meaning to the level of implied meaning” (Thomas, 1995, p. 56) in order to prevent misinterpretation.

Grice introduced five categories of non-observance of the conversational maxims: flouting, violating, infringing, opting out of and suspending a maxim. In addition to avoiding the non-observance of the maxim, the speaker should follow certain strategies in order for the communication to succeed. The strategies belong to the so-called Cooperative Principle. In Cooperative Principle, it is stated “Make your contribution such as required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged” (Grice, 1975, p. 45) This principle consists of four types of the maxims which have to be observed to make a good conversation: maxim of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. (Thomas, 1995, pp. 61-62)

In this thesis I would like to analyse some scenes of non-observance of the maxims in conversation that lead to conflicts in a television series *The Blacklist* Seasons 1. The television series that I use as the data source contains a lot of non-observance of maxims, which causes external conflicts among the characters.

External conflicts consist of disagreement between one person and another, which can lead to behavior that may harm themselves. Consequently, in order to avoid this harmful behavior, we have to understand and pay attention to the rules of speaking when we talk with others.

*The Blacklist* is an American crime drama television series which is created by Jon Bokenkamp and is produced by NBC which is one of the national television channels in America. The film is about Raymond Reddington "Red", a former US Naval Intelligence officer who has disappeared for twenty years and become one of the FBI's ten most wanted fugitives. One day, he surrenders himself to FBI Assistant Director Harold Cooper at the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington, D.C. Red intends to help the FBI to track down and arrest criminals and terrorists, but he will only communicate with Elizabeth Keen. Elizabeth Keen "Liz" is a rookie profiler newly assigned to Cooper. ("Finale Review: The Blacklist", 2013)

The stories are full of domestic struggles, deadly secrets, and counter intelligence issues. These lead to external conflicts among the characters. This film is popular and has been nominated and has won many awards, such as Primetime Creative Arts Emmy Awards, ASCAP Film and Television Music Awards. ("Finale Review: The Blacklist", 2013) Those records appeal to me and become one of the reasons why I decided to make this film the source of data in my study.

This study will be beneficial for students at the English Department because after reading this study, they will be able to understand how the non-observance of the Gricean maxims contributes a lot to the conflict in a film. It is also beneficial for people in other majors as they can understand conflicts which occur in daily conversation because of non-observance of maxims.

(720 words)

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this thesis, the problems are formulated in the following questions:

1. Which utterances in *The Blacklist* season 1 television series do not observe the Gricean maxim?
2. What types of non-observance of maxims are found in the utterances of *The Blacklist* season 1?
3. What implicatures are generated in the utterances?
4. How does the non-observance of maxims build conflicts?

## 1.3 Purpose of the Study

By doing this research, I intend:

1. To find out the utterances in *The Blacklist* season 1 television series that do not observe the Gricean maxims.
2. To show the types on non-observance of the Gricean maxims that the speakers do in *The Blacklist* season 1.
3. To find out the implicatures that are generated from the utterances.
4. To explain how the non-observance of the Gricean maxims builds conflicts.

## 1.4 Method of Research

Firstly, I searched for some television series in the Internet. After I watched some television series, I found *The Blacklist* season 1 as my data. I watched the television series to get the data. When I got the data, I tried to find out which utterances contain implicature and understand what they mean. I

analyzed every conflict occurring in that television series. I had some theories from the textbooks, and also the Internet. These theories are used to analyze the data. Finally, I wrote the research report.

### **1.5 Organization of the Thesis**

The thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One 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 is Theoretical Framework, which deals with the theory Gricean of maxims and conflict. Chapter Three contains the analysis of conversational maxims. Chapter Four is Conclusion, which includes my opinion and comments about the findings. After Chapter Four is Bibliography, which contains the sources of information that I use. After Bibliography, there is Appendix, which contains the data that I use.