

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Language can be defined as a system of communication with other people by using sounds, symbols and words to express a meaning or a thought. Language can be used in many forms, primarily through oral and written communication and also through body language (What Is Language para 1).

In daily conversation, people use language to express meaning or a thought. In some situations, sometimes the hearer does not understand what the speaker means. As a result, a misunderstanding often occurs between the speaker and the hearer. The speaker sometimes means more than what he/she utters.

For example, in the utterance *Cold in here, isn't it ?*, this utterance has the implicature that the speaker wants the hearer to switch the heater on to make the room warmer. Yet, this is not the only interpretation; there are other possibilities. It could be about the temperature, to make small talk, or to make friendly social relations.

The hearers can make their own interpretation in interpreting the utterance (Leech 39).

Pragmatics is the study of how we discover the speaker meaning in a particular context. Pragmatics is concerned with the speaker meaning, which has three connections: speaker-utterance-hearer. This means that the utterance is communicated by a speaker or user of the language and interpreted by a hearer (Leech 6).

There is a distinction between what a speaker says and what the speaker means. Grice's theory explains how a hearer gets a meaning from the level of the expressed meaning to the level of the implied meaning. In his theory, Grice introduced four conversational maxims which are concerned with the listener. These are the assumptions about what the speaker means.

I choose conversational maxims as my topic because misunderstanding of perception or meaning often occurs between the speaker and the hearer in daily conversation. Sometimes people do not really understand what the speaker means. The reason is the speaker does not always convey clearly what he/she means; therefore, Gricean Maxims offer ways to understand that the speaker does not always convey clearly what he/she means. They have to discover the hidden meaning behind the speaker's utterance.

My topic is *the occurrence of conflicts due to the non-observance of Gricean conversational maxims in the TV series 24 seasons 1 and 2*. In 24 I find that conflicts are created by non-observance of the conversational maxims. Before I took this topic, I discovered that 24 had been analysed by another student but with a different topic: *the occurrence of tense atmosphere due to the*

miscalculation of FTA in 24. Therefore, I conclude that my analysis on 24 through conversational maxims will be acceptable.

The significance of my topic is to make readers know and understand that sometimes people do not always say what they actually mean. This analysis will make them more aware that sometimes the speaker has an intended meaning when they utter an utterance, and sometimes the speaker even deliberately tries to mislead or lie to the listener. This analysis will also help readers understand that people often fail to observe Grice's conversational maxims in conversation. For the other researchers, this analysis will help them to look at the other effects of failing to observe the Gricean conversational maxims. They will understand that the non-observance of Gricean maxims can lead to the occurrence of conflict, comedy, suspense, and tense atmosphere.

The reason I choose a movie as the data source is that a movie can provide detailed information, through dialogue, context, intonation, situation, events, setting, plot and also characters. Movie is "a powerful source of education and entertainment" (The Definition of Movie para 1).

Based on the above reason, I decide to choose the TV series 24 as the data source of my thesis. The TV series 24 is a drama-action about a special agent named Jack who works in a military organization. He is ordered by the head of a military organization to solve a case in 24 hours. There are non-observances of maxims and conflicts which occur in the TV series 24 caused by failure to observe conversational maxims. Jack has a number of conflicts in his social life and environment. In 24, there are many scenes when the characters in 24 investigate or interrogate someone. They could be a colleague, a suspect or even an enemy.

So, the data are not only obtained from the main characters in 24 but from other characters as well.

During the interrogation scene, there is something, or certain information, that cannot be revealed. The characters try to hide any proof or evidence while they are interrogated. Therefore, they often commit the non-observance of maxims, as they do not want to be a suspect. In other situations, they also often commit non-observance of maxims, in order to get the proof, explanation or even the answer of their question. By performing non-observance of maxims, conflict occurs between the characters.

The opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction is called *conflict*. Dramatic conflict is the struggle which grows out of the interplay of opposing forces (ideas, interests, wills). Conflict may also occur between a character and society or environment and there may also be internal conflict (Shaw 47).

865 Words

Statement of the Problem

1. What type of non-observance of the Gricean conversational maxim occurs in the speech event ?
2. How does the non-observance of the Gricean conversational maxim contribute to the conflict ?

Purpose of the Study

1. To present the type of non-observance of Gricean conversational maxim that occurs in the speech event.

2. To show how the non-observance of the Gricean conversational maxim contributes to the conflict.

Method of Research

In this thesis, the method of research is library research. To analyse the data, I use the following procedure:

First, I watch the TV series 24 seasons 1 and 2 several times to understand the story and the language. I use the subtitles of the film that deviate from the theory of conversational maxims and I classify the selected deviated utterances in relation to Grice's theory. Then I try to analyse the utterances according to the deviation, and I analyse the reason that the character fails to observe the conversational maxim that creates a conflict. Finally, I draw some conclusions based on the discussion of the data.

Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two provides the theoretical framework, which is concerned with the linguistic theory and the approach used in writing the thesis. Chapter Three contains the discussion of conversational maxims, which consists of the presentation of the findings and analysis of the data. Chapter Four is the conclusion, containing my comments on my findings and analysis about conversational maxims in the TV series 24. Finally, this thesis ends with the Bibliography and Appendices.