

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In order to have good conversations, and avoid ambiguity, misunderstanding, untruthfulness, prolixity, and unnecessary information in our conversational contribution, people have to conform to the Gricean Maxims. In actual conversations, however, people tend to fail in conforming to the Gricean Maxims whether or not they have knowledge of it. The causes of the failure might vary. It could be because of the intention to mislead, the intention to make the hearer get the implicature, or simply because the speaker cannot speak the particular language well.

The phenomenon happens not only in daily conversations but also in a court of law. The major cause of the failure to observe the maxims in the court of law is the speaker's intention to mislead or deceive. According to Grice, when the speaker fails to observe the maxim with an intention to deceive or mislead, he or she is violating the maxim. Ideally, all conversations in a courtroom are made to reveal truth and to uphold justice. Therefore, all conversations in a court of law should conform to the Gricean Maxims in order to prevent misunderstanding or untruthfulness or prolixity, and thus the

truth is revealed. However, this is not what happens in courtrooms. People in a court of law are apt to defend their own interest in many ways, including by violating the Gricean Maxims. This is influenced by each person's role as a judge, a lawyer, a defendant, a witness, or a prosecutor.

Seeing that people in a court of law often violate the Gricean Maxims, I find that the need to reveal how they violate the maxim and what their underlying intention behind it is so great. In order to fulfil this need to reveal the violation of the Gricean Maxims in a court of law, I write a thesis on **violation of the Gricean Maxims in Ally McBeal**. This thesis is written in order to contribute something different and useful to the society. Besides, I never find any other thesis with a similar topic.

The source of data of this research is Ally McBeal television series, which show the career and the personal life of a young lawyer named Ally McBeal. In every episode, we can see Ally McBeal's trials, cases, and also conversations. Ally McBeal series are not based on true story, but the trials are the prototypes of the real trials. This particular source of data is chosen because from this television series we can get a lot of examples of the violation of the Gricean Maxims in the trials. This is in accordance with Grice's theory which says that the violation of the maxims often occurs in trials, parliamentary speeches, and arguments. The data are taken only from the court session scenes because the main discussion of this thesis is the violations of the Gricean Maxims done by the people of different roles in court.

One's role in a court of law leads to his or her intention in violating the Gricean Maxims. Revealing one's intention of violating the Gricean Maxims in a court of law will open our eyes that actually the idea of seeking justice and truth in the court of law is just a matter of one's success in performing one's role in the courtroom. This is the significance of the topic of this thesis.

The area of Linguistics of this thesis is Pragmatics and the specific theory used in the analysis is the theory of the Gricean Maxims by Paul Grice. The theory of the Gricean Maxims is used in this thesis because the purpose of writing this thesis cannot be separated from this theory. In fact, the discussion is about one of the non-observances of the Gricean Maxims, which is the violation of the maxims, whereby the speaker fails to observe the maxims in order to deceive or mislead. Besides the theory of the Gricean Maxims, another theory used in this thesis is the theory of Cooperative Principle, as the basis of the theory of the Gricean Maxims. In the analysis, the theory of Conversational Implicature is also used, because the implicature generated by the hearer due to the violation of the Gricean Maxims is also discussed. This is important because it will show the reader that the speakers' meaning could be different from what they have said and they may be intentionally misleading or deceiving.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In this analysis, I state the following problems:

1. Which of the Gricean Maxims are violated in Ally McBeal?

2. What are the implicatures generated by the hearer due to the violations of the Gricean Maxims?
3. What is the speaker's intention of stating an utterance that violates the Gricean Maxims?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The following statements are the purpose of my analysis:

1. To find out which of the Gricean Maxims are violated in Ally McBeal.
2. To find out the implicatures generated by the hearer due to the violations of Gricean Maxims.
3. To find out the speaker's intention of stating an utterance that violates the Gricean Maxims.

1.4 Method of Research

First of all, I watch the Ally McBeal series, and then I collect all the violations of the Gricean Maxims I could find in those films. After that, I analyse the utterances found in those films which violate the Gricean Maxims. Finally, I conclude the analysis.

1.5 Organisation of the Thesis

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter is Introduction. This chapter consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organisation of the Thesis. The second chapter includes the theoretical framework used in the analysis.

The third chapter is the analysis of the data, and the fourth chapter is the conclusion of the analysis. At the end of this thesis, I attach the bibliography consisting of the references of the theories used in this thesis.