

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

Following the rule of conversation in Desperate Housewives is important to make the characters communicate well. Otherwise, it gives rise to the conflict among them. The conflict has already been in this television series itself.

There are some potential things to create conflicts; not only from the plot, but also from the housewives' characteristics. For example: Bree, who is a perfectionist, makes her family fed up with her. The next character is Susan, who does the arson, and this makes her relationship with her neighbors ruined. Gabrielle, who feels lonely because of her husband's business, has an affair with her gardener. Lynette, who has a dilemma between her career and family, drives her crazy. These potential things to create conflicts are amplified by the non-observance of maxims when they interact with one another.

Having analyzed the rise of conflicts due to the non-observance of Gricean maxims in Desperate Housewives television series, I conclude that there are two types of the non-observance of maxims which the speakers fail to observe, and those are flouting and violating the maxims. In my analysis, infringing, opting out

of and suspending a maxim do not end up with conflicts in this television series.

This is because in Desperate Housewives television series, there is no taboo word to say; none of them is drunk or incapable of speaking English well, which may make the conflict occur; and none of them opts out of the maxim and gives rise to the conflict, either. In addition, the characteristics of the speakers as well as their problems drive them to flout and violate the maxims.

Bree is described as a perfectionist. She does not want people to criticize her. Therefore, Bree flouts and violates the maxims because she wants to hide her weaknesses and her problem in front of other people, especially her family. In order to avoid being criticized, she responds their utterances by speaking unclearly. It gives rise to conflicts with whom she makes conversation. From this, I conclude that someone who has weaknesses or problems but tries to hide them from other people tends to flout and violate certain maxims, especially the maxim of relation. The maxim is flouted or violated in order to change the topic about other people's weaknesses instead of hers.

Andrew and Rex flout certain maxims because of some reasons. They have been fed up with Bree's perfectionism and want to give hints at Bree that she becomes too perfectionist. Andrew wants to free himself from his mother's control. Furthermore, the different mindset between Rex and Bree makes the conversation not go smooth. That is why Rex flouts certain maxims. From this, I conclude that someone who has been fed up with other people or has different ways of thinking about something tends to flout the maxims when speaking with the people, especially the maxims of relation and quantity. Somebody changes the

topic of conversation or adds some statements which are not required in order to make the other person aware of how he/she should be.

Susan, a panicky and careless person, flouts some maxims because she has to cover up her mistake, which is the fact that she has burnt Edie's house accidentally. Susan violates some maxims so that Mrs. Huber does not accuse her of becoming the one responsible of Edie's house being burnt. She also wants to make Mrs. Huber upset. Therefore, I conclude that certain maxims, especially the maxims of quality and relation, can be flouted by a person who is panic in answering a question. It is violated by a person who wants to manipulate something and to upset someone. In this case, Susan manipulates Mrs. Huber into thinking that she is wrong. By flouting and violating the maxims of quality and relation, someone can hide her/his secret from others.

Mrs. Huber is a cunning woman. She violates the maxims especially the maxim of relation and manner because she needs to make Susan admit that she is the one who does the arson. She violates the maxims as a trick to make Susan believe her and become her friend again. She does that because she wants to blackmail Susan again later. The conclusion is that Mrs. Huber has some intention in making conversation with Susan. From that conclusion, I assume that a person who has a bad intention will try to drive the conversation into something that he/she wants. Someone violates the maxims of relation and manner in order to make other afraid and admit something.

Mike is a mysterious man who has a secret within himself. He flouts some maxims because he has to hide his secret about who Kendra is from Susan without making her jealous. He violates certain maxims because he wants to mislead

Susan so that she will not be curious about whom Kendra actually is. The maxims which are specifically flouted and violated are the maxim of quality and relation. I conclude that a person who does not want to tell her/his secret tends to change the topic of conversation and lie to others. One flouts and violates the maxims of quality and relation because by changing the topic of the conversation, one can make other forget about what the person asks before and by lying, one can hide the secret.

Gabrielle is a lonely housewife whose husband cannot satisfy her. As a result, she has an affair with her gardener. Gabrielle violates some maxims because she wants to cover up her affair from her husband. When her mother-in-law, Juanita, starts being suspicious of her, she investigates Gabrielle by following her wherever she goes. Gabrielle flouts some maxims because she wants Juanita to stop following and investigating her. In this case, I can conclude that a person, who does something wrong and tries to uncover it, usually flouts and violates certain maxims, especially the maxim of quality because he/she has to lie in order to cover up his/her sin.

Juanita violates certain maxims because she wants to trap Gabrielle so that she will get information about Gabrielle's affair. In this case, I think that a person, who has the intention to get information he/she needs, is potential to violate the maxims, particularly the maxim of quantity. As a result, this may lead to a conflict as this makes the other person furious.

Lynette, who has the desire to be a career woman, violates a maxim because of her dilemma between her desire and the reality that she is a housewife with four naughty children. This makes what she says inconsistent with what she

feels. Therefore, I conclude that one hiding his/her true desire will violate the maxim of quality because he/she will say something which does not come from the heart.

In my analysis, the maxim which is flouted and violated the most is the maxim of relation. The characters often change the topic of conversation. On the other hand, the maxim that is flouted or violated the least by the characters is the maxim of manner. It means that most people would prefer to change the conversation when they feel cornered even though some of them choose to lie or speak something which is not required.

In analyzing the rise of conflicts due to the non-observance of Gricean maxims in Desperate Housewives television series, I find the conclusion that non-observances of Gricean maxims have an important role to make the television series interesting.

It is truly expected that my analysis may be developed further, particularly in terms of numerous effects that arise out of the non-observances of Gricean maxims in Desperate Housewives because Desperate Housewives is a drama as well as comedy television series at the same time.