

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background of the Study**

Communication is a tool that transfers information from a speaker to a listener. Considering that a human being is a social creature, every human being needs to communicate with each other. Through communication, people express what they want. Besides, through communication people can make a lot of friends. Therefore, communication is important for people both to convey their message in their interactions and socialize with others.

Seeing that people are not always cooperative in a conversation, I would like to discuss the non-observance of maxims in speech. The title of my thesis is Analysis of Non-Observance of Gricean Maxims in the TV Series “Monk” (seasons1-5) in Building Suspense. This title is derived from a general topic, conversational implicature, which is focused on a specific one: suspense that is created by non-observing the conversational maxim. This topic belongs to pragmatics, which is concerned with “the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener.” (Yule 3)

Owing to the fact that people are not always cooperative in speaking, a listener sometimes has to interpret the speaker's intended meaning. There are some reasons why people choose not to be cooperative. It happens because they choose to mislead or deceive the listener intentionally as to make suspense occur. Suspense is "a state of mental uncertainty, excitement or indecision which involves awaiting an outcome or decision, is derived from Latin words meaning 'hanging up' and therefore left undecided. Suspense refers to the anticipation of readers (or of an audience) concerning the outcome events in a novel, story or play. Suspense is a quality of tension in a plot which sustain interest and makes readers ask what happen next?" (Shaw 365-366)

When the speaker and listener are having a conversation, they have to cooperate with each other. The conversation will be successful when there is collaboration between the speaker and the listener. In everyday conversation, people sometimes mean more than what they say. In order to get the speaker's intended meaning, the listener has to consider that "the speaker intends to communicate more than is said." (Yule 35)

In conversation, a speaker's message is sometimes not found directly so that the hearer has to find out the message that the speaker wants to convey. This is known as Conversational Implicature. The theory of implicature was proposed by H. P. Grice in 1976. (Thomas 56, 57)

I choose non-observance of maxims as my topic because in everyday conversation people sometimes do not really understand what a speaker means in a particular context. So, the listener has to get the speaker's intended meaning.

When the listener does not get the speaker's meaning, misunderstanding occurs. The basic purpose for analyzing the conversational maxim is to make people aware that sometimes the speaker does not utter what he or she means directly.

The reason I choose Monk instead of other detective movies as the source of data is that in most episodes of this film the non-observance of conversational maxims creates suspense. The non-observance of maxims is mostly created when the main character, Monk, is interrogating the suspect. When the suspect is being interrogated by Monk or other police officers, he or she always tries to mislead or hide something. This is how the non-observance of maxims occurs.

My data consists of five seasons of Monk TV series. In each season there are sixteen episodes. Almost in each episode the non-observance of maxims occurs. The non-observance of maxims is mostly produced by the murderer or the suspect when they are interrogated by the main character or other police officers.

My thesis is significant to make people understand that they do not always say what they actually mean. This study will make them more aware that sometimes in conversation they have to get the speaker's intended meaning and they sometimes have to guess what the speaker means. This study can help them to notice that sometimes the speaker tries to mislead the listener or lie to the listener on purpose. Thus, hopefully both the speaker and the listener will be able to understand each other's real meaning in a particular context of the utterances.

Word Count: 701 words.

## **Statement of the Problem**

In this thesis, I will discuss:

1. Which type of non-observance of the maxim does the speaker do?
2. What kind of conversational maxim does the speaker fail to observe?
3. Why does the character fail to observe the conversational maxim?
4. How does failing to observe a maxim create suspense?

## **Purpose of the Study**

By doing this research, I intend:

1. To find out which type of non-observance of maxim that the character do.
2. To find out what kind of conversational maxims that the character fails to observe.
3. To know why they fail to observe the conversational maxim.
4. To know how failing to observe a conversational maxim creates suspense.

## **Method of the Research**

First, I search for the data. After I get the data, I try to find out which conversational maxims that the characters fail to observe. Then I find the reason why they fail to observe the conversational maxims. Then I find out how the flouting, infringing, opting out and violation of maxims create suspense. Finally, I write the research report.

## **Organization of the Thesis**

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