# CHAPTER ONE

# INTRODUCTION

**Background of the Study**

People express their feelings and thoughts through conversation by means of language. "Language is only one of the systems of signs used by human beings to communicate with each other." (Jeffries 196) Sometimes, people do not say what they actually mean within their communication. Thus, there is often a difference between what the speaker says and what the speaker actually means. In other words, there is an additional or different meaning observed within an utterance, which is understood as implicature. "It seems clear that there is much that is communicated by language which is not covered by any of them; and 'idea' in particular is inherently imprecise." (Lyons 3)

My topic falls under the study of pragmatics. In pragmatics, we learn about language in depth in which there is an implied meaning within a speaker's utterance. Pragmatics is the study of the contextual meaning which is concerned with the speaker's meaning and the interpretation of the utterance. (Horn and Ward xi) "Pragmatics is the study of those context-dependent aspects of meaning

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which are systematically abstracted away from in the construction of content or logical form." (Horn and Ward xi) "Pragmatics concentrates on the aspects of meaning that cannot be predicted by linguistic knowledge alone and takes into account knowledge about the physical and social world." (Peccei 3) The focus of a pragmatic analysis thus is on the meaning of speaker's utterance rather than the meaning of words and sentences. In pragmatics, an utterance need not consist of complete sentences. Each utterance is a unique physical event created at a particular point in time for a particular communicative purpose. (Peccei 5)

For example, in a situation when A and B are in a room that is very hot, A utters *"It's hot in here."* The utterance *"It's hot in here."* can be interpreted as having three different meanings. First, it is possible that A is just giving a comment that the room is hot. This is the literal meaning of the utterance. Secondly, it can mean that A wants B to open the window or to switch on the air conditioner or fan. Third, if we see it from another angle, A may suggest going out of the room. Sometimes what people say have a meaning quite different from what their words say, or even the meaning is the opposite of what they say. (Thomas 1)

In Pragmatics, there is Gricean theory which discusses conversational maxims. Grice introduces four conversational maxims. There are the maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation and Manner. (Thomas 63) They are the rules to observe the maxims. It is possible that when people fail to observe the maxims, there are five ways of failing to observe a maxim: flouting, violating, infringing, opting out of, and suspending a maxim. (Thomas 64)

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When people fail to observe the maxims, there may be a misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer. If the speaker does not answer what the hearer asks or when he says something which is unclear, the hearer may likely misunderstand the utterance or feel offended or even angry due to the utterance. The misunderstanding may create suspense which the audience feels. "Suspense is a major criterion for both an audience's selection and evaluation of entertaining media offerings." (Vorderer, Wulff, and Friedrichsen vii) The audience will wonder what will happen to the next and other questions.

In my thesis, I would like to discuss the failure of observing the conversational maxims in the television series *Nikita* Season One and *Nikita* Season Two which leads to suspense for the audience. *Nikita* Season One and *Nikita* Season Two revolve around the story of a secret organization known as Division. Division is a secret U.S. agency which claims to be carrying out their duty for the country, while in fact, they are spies and assassins. They recruit young people with troubled backgrounds. Division erases all evidence of their past and turns them into spies and assassins. In particular, the television series is about Nikita, who is the first recruit to escape and intends to bring down her former employers. ("Nikita Synopsis") There are certain situations which force the speaker or the hearer to break the rules. I decide to take *Nikita* Season One and *Nikita* Season Two television series as the source of my data because this television series is a favorite movie, full of action and suspense. Besides, *Nikita* Season One and *Nikita* Season Two television series obviously show the failure of observing the maxims is the conversation between the characters which causes suspense to the audience.

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After reading my thesis, it is expected that people will be aware that people are connected with the rules of Gricean maxims in a conversation. Moreover, they will be more concerned about what happens in a conversation and knows when to break the rules of conversation.

841words

## Statement of the Problem

In this analysis, there are five problems to be analysed:

1. What is the type of non-observance of the Gricean conversational maxim which the speakers do?
2. Why do the speakers fail to observe the maxims?
3. How does the failure of observing the maxims in the scene help to create suspense?

## Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this analysis are:

1. To show the type of non-observance of the Gricean conversational maxim which the speakers do.
2. To know the reason why the speakers fail to observe the maxims.
3. To show the failure of observing the maxims in the scene which create the occurrence of suspense.

## Method of Research

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When I analysed this data, the first step I did was watching *Nikita Season One* television series. While watching the series, I noted down the dialogues which contain the failure of observing the maxims. In the next step, I analysed those dialogues and categorize the specification of the non-observance of conversational maxims. In the last step, I analysed the suspense felt by the audience which was caused by the failure of observing the maxims.

**Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis contains four chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research, and Organization of the Thesis. The second chapter is the theory which I use to do my analysis. The third chapter is the analysis of the data. The last chapter is the conclusion of the analysis. This thesis ends with the Bibliography.