CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

This chapter provides a summary of the findings of the non-observance of maxims in *Desperate Housewives* season 8, which lead to a conflict between the characters in the film. Besides, it is followed by some suggestions for any researchers who intend to analyze the same topic.

This study has pointed out the use of the non-observance of maxims in *Desperate Housewives* season 8, which lead to a conflict between the characters in the film and the reason behind their utterances. It is revealed that the characters use various types of non-observance of maxims. Some of the types of non-observance of maxims occur more often than the others. I will explain in details from the most common to the least types of non-observance of maxims which lead to a conflict that occurs in the film.

The first major type of non-observance of maxims which leads to a conflict is **violating a maxim**. From the data that have been analyzed, it is shown that there are at least eight times when the characters of the film are violating a

maxim. I conclude that all in all, violation of a maxim is used for conflicts related to truth concealment. Violation of a maxim is done in *Desperate Housewives* when a speaker is inclined to mislead the hearer for the sake of the truth about a thing which is hidden behind their utterance, so the hearer will not know about the whole fact. Sometimes, when a speaker deliberately lies, his/her utterances sound somewhat ridiculous that makes the hearer know that it is untrue. This kind of phenomenon is likely to generate a conflict because the hearer does not like being deceived.

The second major type of non-observance of maxims is **flouting the maxim of quantity**. It is found that flouting the maxim of quantity occurs six times. I conclude that flouting the maxim of quantity is related to the lack of information in an utterance because the real message that the speaker wants to deliver through his/her utterance is not entirely delivered or given too much. By doing so, the speaker unintentionally evokes the hearer's suspicion that something is hidden behind what the speaker is actually has said, which raises the hearer's emotion and initiates a conflict between the speaker and the hearer.

Besides flouting the maxim of quantity, **flouting the maxim of manner** also happens to be the second major type of non-observance of maxim which leads to a conflict. The data show that flouting the maxim of manner occurs six times, the same amount as flouting the maxim of quantity. I conclude that flouting the maxim of manner occurs because a speaker's utterance is too wordy. When an utterance is produced very long without bluntly stating the actual message, it actually makes the real point become vague. This phenomenon may create a conflict between the speaker and the hearer.

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The third major type of non-observance of maxims in the film is **flouting the maxim of quality**. There are at least four times when the characters of the film are flouting the maxim of quality. I conclude that flouting the maxim of quality may initiate a conflict because the utterance that the speaker is saying is actually untrue, or the speaker uses figurative word, but it is not meant to mislead the hearer. It can occur when the speakers hint at something indirectly or uses figurative word which contains a negative meaning to the hearer, such as an insult. When the speaker lies through flouting the maxim of quality, it causes the hearer to be annoyed and so initiates a conflict.

The fourth major type of non-observance of maxims is **opting out of a maxim**. The data show two occurrences of opting out of a maxim that lead to a conflict. It can be inferred that opting out a maxim happens when a character/speaker gives a response which indicates that he/she refuses to cooperate with the situation. In fact, he/she does not want to give false implicature or appear uncooperative. Opting out a maxim may generate conflicts when it is used by a speaker in a situation when a truthful response is demanded.

Suspending a maxim happen to be the least types of non-observance of maxims which lead to a conflict. It is found that there are only one occurrence of suspending a maxim which lead to a conflict. I conclude that when a speaker suspends a maxim, the code or term that she/he uses in a conversation may generate a conflict in terms that both the speaker and the hearer know the code. It happens when the suspended word contains a negative meaning to the hearer, such as an insult.

There is no **infringing a maxim**-type of non-observance of maxims in the data since all of the characters are American native speakers and all of them have perfect linguistic performances.

The data shows at least two different causes of conflict. The first is a conflict which occurs because of dishonesty of the characters. In my opinion, **opting out a maxim** is effective to create this kind of conflict. It is because by opting out the maxim, the speaker hides the actual truth by deliberately showing unwillingness to cooperate through the utterances with the hearer. Then, it will be easy for the hearer to recognize that there is something hidden from him/her so a conflict is inevitable.

The second is a conflict which occurs because of disagreement between characters. In my opinion, **flouting a maxim** by means of any kinds of flouting the maxim is effective to create this kind of conflict. It is because when the speaker does so, he/she is in fact, wants the hearer to comprehend what is actually mean by the utterance without having any expectation to mislead the hearer. When an utterance in an argument is added, reduced, or irrelevant to the topic in hand, the hearer will feel annoyed and a conflict may occur afterwards.

This study has revealed the conflicts caused by the non-observance of maxims in *Desperate Housewives* season 8. I am in the opinion that this study is worth-developing in the future. Besides conflict, another result that I find in the film when the characters fail to observe the maxim is humor. It is recommended to be taken in consideration for a plausible topic for future researchers since there are plenty of examples.

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