

A STUDY ON FLOUTING MAXIMS USED BY THE CHARACTERS IN *DIVERGENT* NOVEL

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Abstract

In this research the researchers focuses on flouting maxim in *Divergent* novel. The aim of this research is to find the types and the function of flouting maxim. The researchers uses a descriptive qualitative research because the researchers strives to analyze and discusses the sentences of utterances which performs flouting maxim in *Divergent* novel. The researchers uses Grice's theory in analyzing the novel. Based on the data analysis the researchers concludes: the functions for flouting maxim of quantity are to explain more about topic, to stress something and unwillingness to cooperate; the functions for flouting maxim of quality are to show panic, to convince the addressee and to hide something; the functions for flouting maxim of relevance are to change the topic of conversation and to avoid talking about something.

Key words: Flouting, Cooperative Principle, Pragmatics.

INTRODUCTION

Human is social being who cannot live alone but human needs to interact to live (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020). One of human activities in process of interaction is a communication (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019), (Sari, n.d.), (Ayu, 2019), (Apriyanti & Ayu, 2020). Good communication is needed in order to make the interaction runs smoothly and effectively (Rido et al., 2015), (Sari, 2015), (Rido et al., 2020), (Sari, 2019), (Rido & Sari, 2018). Listeners and speakers must speak cooperatively and mutually accept one another to be understood in a particular way. The cooperative principle describes how people interact with one another. People who obey the cooperative principle in their language use will make sure that what they say in a conversation furthers the purpose of that conversation (Wahyudin, 2015), (Qodriani, n.d.), (Aminatun & Oktaviani, 2019).

The Grice's Maxims are a way to explain the link between utterances and what is understood from them. The principle describes how effective communication (Febriantini et al., 2021), (Lubis et al., 2019), (Tiono & Sylvia, 2004) in conversation is achieved in common social situations and is further broken down into the four maxims of quality, quantity, relevance and manner. Maxim of quality means that our contribution has to be truthful and based on sufficient fact, maxim of quantity means that we have to make our

conversational contribution such as required, maxim of relevance means that our utterance has to be relevant to the context of speech and maxim of manner means that we have to present the meaning clearly and avoid ambiguity.

In fact, sometimes in communication, people do some strategy to make their conversation goes safe that is flouting maxims (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020), (Simamora & Oktaviani, 2020), (Ayu et al., 2017), (Pratiwi & Ayu, 2020), (Aminatun et al., 2019). Flouting the maxims means that speakers violate the conversational maxims, flouting is often done through figurative language (Rido, 2011), (Kuswoyo, n.d.), (Ayu & Pratiwi, 2021), (Mulyah et al., 2020), (Lestari & Wahyudin, 2020). This strategy found in almost of our daily conversation, but occasionally we do not realize it because people tend to speak what is in their mind, they never think about the rules, especially rules of cooperative principle. When someone flouts maxims, they do some rhetorical strategies. Usually, we can find some flouting in the form of tautology, metaphor, overstatement, understatement, rhetorical question, and irony. It can be happen in many ways. Quality flout, when communication degenerates into lying, or simply breaks down altogether. Quantity flout, when we say more than we need to mark a sense of occasion or respect; and when we say less than we need, perhaps to be rude or blunt. Relation flout, when communication turns into signal embarrassment or a desire to change the subject. Manner flout, when the information shared makes ambiguity, or it is violated either for humor.

In this research, the researchers enthusiastically focuses on the study on flouting maxims since it is important to make communication go safe and more effective both in spoken and written communication and to make sentences more acceptable to the hearer. There are some reasons for maxim flouting to occur in a conversation. They are the amount of the information the speaker has, the truth of the information, and the relation of the utterance with the preceding utterance, and the obscurity and ambiguity of the utterance. The research is conducted to investigate flouting maxims on the major characters of *Divergent* novel. The researchers are interested using *Divergent* novel as the object of analysis because the uniqueness of the utterances of this novel that contains figurative language, because flouting maxims is often done through by figurative language. Flouting maxims of cooperative principles in this novel show the strong bond between the characters in their conversation. Moreover, the phenomena of flouting maxims in their conversation are signaling how their relationship as friends and also as a family. People usually pay more

attention to the sentence structure in speech or spoken language because it will give the direct response from the hearers. In written language (Sari, 2020), (Gulö, 2014), (Mandasari & Agusty, n.d.), (Pustika, n.d.). However, the readers will respond the message if they understand the main idea of the written text.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Text and Context

Text and context cannot be separated each other in the study of pragmatics (Hutauruk & Puspita, 2020). Text as the linguistic content of utterance: the stable semantic meaning of words (Pranoto & Afrilita, 2019), expression, and sentences but not the inferences available to hearers depending upon the contexts in which word, expression, and sentences are used. Text provides for the ‘what is said’ part of utterances; context combines with what is said’ to create an utterance. Four kinds of context in communication or in the language use that is physical context, epistemic context, linguistic context and social context. Physical context is the place where the conversation happens, the object presented in communication and the action of language users in communication. The epistemic context refers to the background of knowledge shared by both of the speaker and the hearer. Linguistic context consists of utterance under consideration in communication. The last is social context, which means the social relationship and setting of speaker and hearer. Understanding the context of situation will make the reader or hearer easy in catching the implied message.

Implicature

Implicature is used to account for what a speaker can imply, suggest, or mean, as a distinct from what a speaker literary says (Suprayogi & Novanti, 2021), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021), (Kuswoyo, n.d.). So, the speaker does not directly utter what the speaker intends to. The speaker tends to make certain utterance, that contain implied meaning and listener can understand it. In addition, implicature is a primary example of more being communicated than is said, but in order for them to be interpreted, some basic cooperative principle must be assumed first to be in operation. Implicature is inductive inference which the hearer draws, and may therefore be cancelled. Furthermore, that an implicature is a result of an addressee drawing an inductive inference as to the likeliest meaning give in the context. It

is caused when someone is trying to tell us something, it will give rise to quite different implicature from that inferred. For example:

Do you have any T-shirt on you?

(Grundy, 2000: 81)

It means *I do not have any T-shirt; can I borrow any T-shirt from you?*

Cooperative Principle

The success of a conversation depends upon the various speakers' approach to the interaction. The way in which people try to make conversations work is called cooperative principle. The cooperative principle is enunciated as the following way: make your conversational contribution such as is required, as the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged. Concerning with his cooperative principle, Grice divides cooperative principle into four basic conversational maxims: maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance and maxim of manner.

Flouting Maxims

Flouting maxim is a particularly silent way of getting an addressee to draw inference and hence recover an implicature. Moreover, when the speaker seems not to hold on the maxims but expect the hearers to get the meaning implied, it is called flouting the maxims. On some occasion speakers flout the cooperative principle and intend their hearer to understand this; that is, they purposely do not observe the maxim, and intend their hearer to be aware of this.

METHOD

Research Design

This research used descriptive qualitative approach since it emphasizes on the use of language phenomena in the context by interpreting the data. Qualitative method is research procedure to gather objectively with emphasis on personal experience in described situations to improve how things work in order to build individual knowledge through analyzing, accumulating, and concluding the result. This research is categorized as the descriptive qualitative research because the research basically aims at describing the data in the form of utterances in novel. In addition, the data are described descriptively based on

the research problems, what kind of maxims and the functions of maxims are flouted by the major characters in the “Divergent” novel. Concerning with the topic of analysis, the data source of this research is “Divergent” novel by Veronica Roth, published by HarperCollins Children’s Books in 2011. It consists of 39 chapters and 487 pages but the researchers will analyze 10 chapters that consist of 117 pages to limit the discussion. The data of this research are in the form of words, sentences, utterances and narration which involves flouting and hedging maxims in novel “Divergent” novel.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Flouting Maxim of Quantity

Tris : Why the hawk?

Tori : *Never met a curious Abnegation before. In some parts of the ancient world, the hawk symbolized the sun. Back when I got this, I figured if I always had the sun on me, I wouldn’t be afraid of the dark. (Divergent,2: 12)*

The utterance is stated when the test begin after lunch. Tris sit at the long tables in the cafeteria, and the test administration call ten names at a time, one for each testing room. Tris walks into room 6 where Tori who is a Dauntless woman waits for Tris. Tris get confused looking at Tori because Tori busies herself with the machine on Tris right and asks “why the hawk?” and Tori response is “Never met a curious Abnegation before”. The researchers classifies Tori’s response as flouting maxim of quantity since Tori gives too much information by delivering her opinion that “I figured if I always had the sun on me, I wouldn’t be afraid of the dark.” Because it remains Tori of the fear Tori have overcome. Tori gives too much information is because Tori is trying to explain more about something that Tris ask. Usually someone tries to explain about something by giving much information and expecting that the hearer will understand more about the topic. Tori wants to make Tris understands more about the meaning of the hawk. Tori uses overstatement in response’s Tris’ question by explaining something in a way that makes it seem more important or more serious than it really is.

Flouting Maxim of Quality

Tris : What?

Christina : I’m developing a theory.

Tris : And it is?

Christina : *That you have a death wish. (Divergent, 7: 69)*

This conversation takes place in Dauntless room between Christina and Tris after Tris talk to Four and Four reminds Tris that Tris should be careful. When Christina states “that you have a death wish” she overtly flouts the maxim of quality by using overstatement. She says what he believes to be false. She flouts the maxim of quality because her contribution is not true and she says something for which lacks adequate evidence.

Flouting Maxim of Relevance

The utterance is stated when Tris and her mother are talking in front of mirror.

Tris’s mother : So today is the day,

Tris : Yes,

Tris’s mother : Are you nervous?

Tris : *Today is the day of the aptitude test that will show me which of the five factions I belong in. And tomorrow, at the Choosing Ceremony, I will decide on a faction; I will decide the rest of my life; I will decide to stay with my family or abandon them. (Divergent, 1: 2)*

Her mother asks Tris whether she is nervous or not because today is the day of the aptitude test. But, Tris’s answer is “Today is the day of the aptitude test that will show me which of the five factions I belong in. And tomorrow, at the Choosing Ceremony, I will decide on a faction; I will decide the rest of my life; I will decide to stay with my family or abandon them.” Tris’s response is not relevant at all to her mother’s question. Then, the researchers classifies Tris’s statement as flouting maxim of relevance. People are said to flout the maxim of relevant when he or she gives irrelevant answer to the topic being talked. One of the reasons for flouting maxim of relevant is to give unnecessary additional information. We see that Tris’s statement is not necessary because it does not answer her mother’s question. Tris flouts the maxim of relevance by using understatement because she gives less informative statement.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis above the researchers concludes that the characters flouts the maxim of quantity by giving much information because they want to explain more about the topic and to stress something so that the hearer has clear understanding. Vice versa, the characters flout the maxim of quantity by giving less informative contribution because they do not want to corporate. The characters flout the maxim of quality by using theoretical question to show panic and to convince the addressees, in the other hand the characters flout the maxim of quality by saying something they believe to be false because they want to hide something. The characters chose to flout the maxim of relevance by giving irrelevant contribution because they want to change the topic of the conversation and they want to avoid taking about something.

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