

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher explains about the reason of constructing this study. This chapter covers the background of the study discussed in 1.1; the statements of the problem discussed in 1.2; the objectives of the study discussed in 1.3; the assumption discussed in 1.4; the scope and limitation of the study discussed in 1.5; the significance of the study discussed in 1.6; the theoretical frameworks discussed in 1.7; the definition of key terms discussed in 1.8; and the organisation of the proposal discussed in 1.9.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is universal. It means that every living thing on the earth uses language, either verbally or non-verbally. And people normally use language as means of communication. Communication is an essential need of human being in order to interact with each other. Everyone needs to communicate, thus language is used in order to construct the communication between one another. Later the use of language turns into conversation that happens every day in the daily life.

Conversation naturally should be done effectively in order to come up with agreement between the speaker and the receiver (the hearer). To be effective, there should be no misunderstanding between two (or more) participants during the interactions or communication. According to Dale in Croft (2004) communication is a process of sharing ideas in the sense of mutuality. Thus, the

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exchange between the speaker and the receiver in an interaction or communication should be mutual or accepted properly by both sides of participants; what the speaker utters must be received and appropriately responded by the hearer.

Conversation normally happens in the daily life or, in the case of this study, in a movie. In the beginning of the appearance of a movie, there was no voice that was produced in the movie. The interaction instead was done through gestures, which we call the non-verbal interaction because there was no word uttered during the interaction. As the time passed, movies with dialogues began to appear accompanied by various genres such as comedy, romance, thriller, and many more.

A movie is created basically to entertain the audience. However, some movies are made on the basis of influencing the audience, touching the feelings of the audience, and probably expecting some positive changes from the audience. The influence of a movie can be significant for audiences. Since a movie can be influential through its plot or the way the actors or actresses interact one another, this study is going to analyse on the violations by investigating the exchanges or dialogues of a movie. The importance of analysing the violations of the dialogues is that language users will be able to recognize the flaws happening during a particular conversation. They will likely to be aware on the urgency of constructing ideal conversation.

Since the purpose of communication is to be formed as effective as possible and to have agreement between the speaker and the receiver, Grice (1975) came up with a theory called cooperative principle, which was divided into four sub-

maxims. These maxims are the maxim of quality, quantity, relevance, and manner of which the explanation will be defined on the next chapter. The purpose of having the maxims is basically to guide the participants or speakers to form an effective and appropriate communication.

However, due to the fact that there are four maxims that clearly state how a communication should be done, there are still violations that happen during the communication. Different from flouting, violation is known as an occurrence of which the speaker is accidentally disobeying cooperative principle while flouting is known as the occurrence of which the speaker intentionally stops obeying the maxims because the speaker has hidden meaning (implicature) that needs to be 'seen' and understood by the hearer (Khosravizadeh&Sadehvandi, 2011:123). The violations may happen in the form of telling lies which is considered as violating the maxim of quality, or other forms of violations.

The violations that occur in daily conversations might be seen as common things. There can be various reasons that motivate people's tendency to perform the violation, but the main possibility is probably because Grice's maxims are overly strict towards utterances. In other words, when there is a small flaw within the response, although it is not exactly violating other maxims, it will be considered as violation. An example can be seen in the following dialogues. When a speaker asks a simple question such as "What is your name?" and the receiver responds with an answer such as "My name's Thomas Edison, but people usually call me Tommy, so I guess you can call me Tommy", this clearly violates the maxim of quantity in which he is giving too much unnecessary information

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because he is supposed to simply answer "My name's Thomas Edison" without explaining how the other person should call him. The receiver's utterance is indeed true, relevant, and clear. However, the quantity is not proper.

To recognize the form of violation, it is essential to take account of some contexts in discursal study within the data analysis. The importance of context is that it determines the different approaches to the analysis of the data (Tarpey & Delprete, 2010). Therefore, in order to support the study, contexts used were the ones developed by Song (2010, pp. 876-879) where he states that there are three contexts—linguistic, situational, and cultural—which play important roles in discourse analysis to eliminate ambiguity, indicate referents, and detect conversational implicature. Linguistic context refers to the connection between word, phrases, sentences, even paragraphs. Situational context refers to the time, environment (place) of the discourse as well as the relationship between the speakers. Cultural context refers to the cultural background of language communities that the speakers involved (Song, 2010, pp. 876-879).

In order to support the study, the movie that has been chosen is one of the inspirational movies entitled "*Freedom Writers*". The movie was quite famous in the 2007 era. Directed by Richard LaGravenese, "*Freedom Writers*" was telling us about how a teacher, Erin Gruwell, struggled to regenerate her students' motivation to learn. Taken place in New Port Beach, the story told that Erin was a well-educated woman who decided to come to one particular school in order to teach the English language. Her noble mission apparently met some obstacles where she realised that her students were involved in a racial gang-war. She had

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to deal with the fact that they constantly rejected to sit among others who had different racial backgrounds. However, through a lot of efforts where she had sacrificed her time, money, and even marriage-life she had accomplished her 'mission' where she was able to knock the sense of her students. They began to realise that whatever war that they were facing that time was not the end of the world, and that they had a future waited ahead of them. At the end of the story, it was true that Erin's efforts were paid off. She was able to witness how her students changed into the better of them. She even encouraged them to collect their life-story in one book known as "The Freedom Writers".

This movie is based on true events by the Erin Gruwell herself as she was pictured in the movie. The reason behind the selection of this movie is that the researcher sees the movie as a good example of the teacher-students interaction because the movie is basically taken place in educational field. This might enlighten the readers to take closer look and get deeper understanding about the classroom talks.

The researcher has decided to analyse the movie using the basis theory of Grice's maxims because of the fact that violating a maxim may create such hindrance that the purpose of communication is not fulfilled. Thus, the researcher intends to find out how the characters of the movie encounter such violation. In order to identify the violations that happen during the conversation in the movie, the researcher will also analyse the responses of the receiver.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

This study analyses the conversation in the "*Freedom Writers*" movie. By analysing the contexts of the movie and its plot, the researcher can investigate the dialogues and exchanges in the movie using Grice's theory of cooperative principles. The research also analyses the responses between the speakers towards the violations that have been uttered in the conversation.

Thus the statements of problem are as follows:

1. What maxims are violated in the conversation in the "*Freedom Writers*" movie?
2. According to what context does the violation happen?
3. How does the receiver respond to the violation?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In accordance to the statements of problem, therefore the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out what maxims are violated in the conversation in the "*Freedom Writers*" movie.
2. To find out in what contexts the violations happen.
3. To find out the receiver's responses towards the violation in the conversation.

1.4 The Assumptions

The researcher assumes that there are violations that indeed happened in the conversation in "*Freedom Writers*" movie. Even though the movie is scripted, the fact that it is based on true events has supported the assumption that conversation might have been original or true in terms of condition.

One can also assume that the violation occurrence can be analysed using the three contexts as the approaches in the discussion.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation of the Study

There are some limitations that have been set by the researcher for this study, so that the study is not diverged from the researcher's purposes and expectations. Thus the limitations are as follows:

Related to the conversation analysis, the dialogues are taken only from the "*Freedom Writers*" movie.

The dialogues taken are sorted into the dialogues which only include the main character—Erin Gruwell. In other words, the researcher does not analyse the whole conversation in the movie.

Related to the study, the researcher only focuses on the form of violation. Thus, the researcher should be aware in distinguishing violation from flouting. As it has been elaborated before, violation is different from flouting. Violation occurs when a speaker accidentally disobeys a maxim, while flouting appears as a speaker intentionally stops obeying a maxim because there is a hidden meaning that needs to be acknowledged by the hearer (Khosravizadeh & Sadehvandi,

2011:123). In other words, violation is done accidentally without any attempt to deliver hidden meaning behind the utterance, while flouting is done intentionally with an expectation that the hearer can comprehend the meaning behind particular utterances.

Focusing only on the verbal communication is also being the researcher's concern. Thus, any non-verbal form of communication such as gestures, sign language, etcetera are not included in the data of the study because it does not correspond the researcher's main intention of analysing the conversation.

Related to the theory, the study only refers to Grice's cooperative principle as the basic underlying theory.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

This study can be beneficial for those who are interested in Discourse Analysis specializing in the dialogue analysis using Cooperative Principles. Moreover, ones are able not only to analyse deeper understanding of the principles by the existence of contexts as an approach, but also to distinguish violation from flouting. Besides, this study may also be beneficial for lecturers who teach Discourse Analysis and students who are learning linguistics:

1.6.1 For the lecturers of Discourse Analysis

This study can be a good media for teaching Discourse Analysis especially in the basis of dialogue analysis by using Grice's cooperative principles. Instead of merely using oral explanation towards the students, a lecturer can use a movie as an example of analysing violations of the maxims.

Using a movie will be an effective way for analysing the violations because ones can clearly see the form of violation.

1.6.2 For the students

In accordance to the benefit of this study towards the lecturers of Discourse Analysis, this study can also be beneficial for the students in understanding more about the form of mutual communication and violations of Grice's maxims. Through this study students are expected to conduct cooperative interactions in their daily life.

1.7 The Theoretical Framework

Basically, this study is conducted using the main theory of cooperative principle by Grice. However, there are some theories that also support the study. The theories can be briefly explained as follows:

Grice in Cole (2004) stated that conversation generally does not consist of disconnected remarks; each participant of the interactions should mutually recognise the ideas that are being delivered. The speakers, during interaction or communication, should have the same ideas on what they are talking about; what a participant says should be received in the exact meaning by the other participant(s).

Supporting the above theory, Dale in Croft (2004) also defines communication as the process of sharing ideas in the sense of mutuality. Any process that includes the mutual understanding between participants during the interaction can be considered as a communication. The participants are not only

human, but also animated things such as plants which have their own way of communicating their condition. As an example, a flower that is in need of water or any nutrients to support its life communicates the need by either changing the colour or shrivelling.

Thus, Grice in Cole et al (2004) came up with the theory of cooperative principles which conducts participants of conversation to communicate effectively by obeying them. The principle consists of four maxims:

Maxim of quality refers to the principle of making a contribution as informative as it is required. Maxim of quantity refers to the principle of making a contribution as true as possible. In other words, ones are not expected to tell something that is believed as a lie. Maxim of relevance refers to the principle of making a relevant contribution. Meanwhile, maxim of manner refers to the principle of making a perspicuous contribution by avoiding ambiguity and obscurity.

1.8 The Definition of Key Terms

To avoid some misunderstandings, the key terms of the study are as follows:

1. The closest definition of a movie is given by Arnheim (1957) stated that movie, like dancing, painting, music, and literature is the medium used to produce artistic results which based on the reality. However, in this study movie is defined as a recording of moving image that tells a story and that people watch on the television or screen. Movie can be divided into

various genres as horror, romance, thriller, scientific-fiction, action, massacre, and many more.

2. *Cooperative Principles* are the principles or rules developed by Paul H. Grice which have the purpose of forming effective communications. The cooperative principles are divided by Grice into four maxims: maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner.
3. *Violation of the maxims*: stated by Khosravizadeh & Sadehvandi (2011) occurs when a speaker is not aware of the form of the violated utterances. In other words, it can be defined as an occurrence of which a speaker accidentally disobeys a maxim without any attempt to deliver any hidden meaning to the receiver.
4. *Flouting*: occurs when a speaker intentionally stops obeying a maxim because the speaker expects the hearer to comprehend the meaning behind the utterances (implicature).
5. *Context*: condition that determines terms of ideas of an event so that it can be fully comprehended.
6. *Linguistic Context*: the circumstance that is defined by the knowledge of particular words, phrases, sentences, or expressions.
7. *Cultural Context*: the circumstance that is defined by the approach related to the cultures, traditions, habits, regulations, norms, or values within the environment where the participants are involved.
8. *Situational Context*: the circumstance that is defined by the knowledge of the relationship between the participants.

1.9 The Organization of the Study

Chapter one of this study discusses about the background that triggers the researcher to analyse on the problems. Having the basic theory of Grice, the researcher intends to analyse further the violation occurred in the dialogues of involved the main character, Erin Gruwell.

Chapter two gives the theories that serve the related information to the study. The theories consist of theory of language in interaction, communicative principles, violating maxims, movie and its influence, and the theory of Grice's cooperative principles which are divided into four maxims of quality, quantity, relevance, and manner. This chapter also provides the comparison between the researcher's current study with the previous studies which have similar basic theory.

Chapter three provides the method on how the study will be done, specifically on the research instrument and procedures of data collection.

Chapter four provides the findings of the violated utterances, as well as the discussion of each result.

Finally, chapter five provides the summary and conclusion of the whole study, as well as suggestions from the writer for future study.