

**THE TRANSLATION QUALITY OF CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURES  
IN *FIVE ON A TREASURE ISLAND***

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**Abstract**

One of the aspects in the pragmatics study is conversational implicature. In a communication, there must be a conversation. The conversation happened between the speaker and the hearer may convey certain meaning which is different from language structure. In this case, the use of the language often has hidden meanings beyond the use of the language structurally. The study of conversational implicatures donates great influence in discussing the use of the language.

**Keywords:** communication, the speaker and the hearer, conversational implicatures, hidden meaning

**A. Background of The Research**

Language is a mean for human being to communicate. Human totally depends on a language because human is a social creature; means that human cannot live without other people. In this case, there is a social interaction (communication) to gain different purposes. Language that human use is not a static language, but it always develops according to human needs. Some phenomenons which usually arise in a practical life will greatly influence the language. Often the norms of the language which have been approved will face a stagnation when the phenomenons come.

Sometimes, the study for language based only on a structural level cannot reach a maximal study. The practical condition of the language use is often ‘out’ of structural norms. However, the process of communication which is out of structural norms does not meet any constraints, on the contrary, it makes more effective and efficient communication. This condition causes a study of the language is not merely from the view point of structural aspects, but it must be linked to some aspects out of the structural language (Nugroho:2008).

One of the language study which can accomodate these aspects is pragmatics. In pragmatics, the study of the language involves the meaning of communication. Yule (1996:127) states that pragmatics is the study of ‘invisible’ meaning, or how we recognize what is meant even when it is not actually said (or writtten). According to him, in order for that to happen, speakers (and writers) must be able to depend on a lot of shared assumptions and expectations. The study of pragmatics consists of many aspects, one of them is conversational implicature.

In a communication, there must be a conversation. Basically, conversation is an activity using spoken language between two or more participants happened in a certain situation. Conversation between the participants often contains certain meaning which differs from the language structure used in it. The hidden meaning beyond the use of the language is studied in conversational implicatures. This paper will discuss conversational implicatures in a novel **The Famous Five**. **The Famous Five** is the name of a series of children's novels written by British author Enid Blyton. The first

book, **Five on a Treasure Island**, was published in 1942. It has been translated into Indonesian language : *Lima Sekawan Di Pulau Harta*.

The novel features the adventures of a group of young children: Julian, Dick, Anne and Georgina (George), and their dog Timothy. Three of the children, Julian, Dick and Anne Bannard, are brothers and sister. Their father is Quentin Bannard's brother. Quentin Bannard is married to Fanny Bannard (maiden name Fanny Kirrin), whose daughter is Georgina Bannard, a tomboy who insists on being called George. During their holidays, Julian, Dick and Anne are regularly sent to the seaside village of Kirrin to stay with their Aunt Fanny, Uncle Quentin, and cousin George. George owns a large mongrel dog, Timothy, who is very much part of the group and a character in his own right. Timmy accompanies the four children on every adventure. The story of the first book, **Five on a Treasure Island**, takes place in the children's school holidays when they have returned from their respective boarding schools. The scene is set close to George's family home at Kirrin Cottage in Cornwall: "Kirrin Island", a picturesque island owned by George and her family in Kirrin Bay, and when they meet, they get caught up in an adventure there.

The analysis of conversation in the novel of **Five on a Treasure Island** is to understand what the speaker means, because the speaker can mean just what he says, or he can mean something more or something else entirely. It will relate not only to working out implicatures but to analyzing strategies and qualities in its Indonesian translated version.

## B. Problem Statements

From the research background stated above, the research attempts to answer the following questions:

1. What conversational implicatures are found in a novel **Five on a Treasure Island**?
2. What exactly the speaker means in his/her conversation?
3. How is the translation quality of conversational implicatures in a novel *Lima Sekawan Di Pulau Harta* ?

## C. Theoretical Review

### C.1. Implicature

Thomas (1995:58) discusses the difference between implicature and inference. To imply is to hint, suggest or convey some meaning indirectly by means of language. So, an implicature is generated intentionally by the speaker and may (or may not) be understood by the hearer. To infer is to deduce something from evidence (this evidence may be linguistic, paralinguistic or non-linguistic). So, an inference is produced by the hearer. Furthermore, Thomas (1995:80) says that implicatures are the property of utterances, not of sentences and therefore the same words carry different implicatures on different occasions.

### C.2. Grice's Theory of Conversational Implicatures

The theory of conversational implicatures is attributed to Paul Herbert Grice, who observed that in conversations *what is meant* often goes beyond *what is said* and that this additional meaning is inferred and predictable. Grice's theory of conversational implicatures (Blackwell 2003:29) represents an attempt to handle patterns of inference in natural language that cannot be completely explained by the formal devices of logic. According to Grice, the divergences in meaning from the standpoint of philosophical

logic and meaning in natural language, or ‘speaker meaning’, can be better understood by understanding the conditions governing conversation. For instance, he observes that there can be a difference between what a speaker ‘says’ and what a speaker implies, suggests, means, or, as Grice puts it, ‘implicates’.

Grice proposed that participants in a communicative exchange are guided by a principle that determines the way in which language is used with maximum efficiency and effect to achieve rational communication. He called it the *Cooperative Principle*, as defined in Baker (1991: 225) as follow:

*Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged.*

The four Conversational Maxims will help us establish what the implicatures might be. In ‘Logic and Conversation’ Grice proposed four maxims, the maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner, which are formulated as follow (Thomas, 1995:63):

Quantity: Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purpose of the exchange). Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

Quality : Do not say what you believe to be false. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

Relation : Be relevant.

Manner : Avoid obscurity of expression. Avoid ambiguity. Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity). Be orderly.

### **C.3. Translation Quality**

As far as Newmark is concerned, the standarts for quality in translation are relative, however much one tries to base them on criteria rather than norms:

*A good translation fulfils its intention; in an informative text, it conveys the facts accetably; in a vocative text, its success is measurable, at least in theory, and therefore the effectiveness of an advertising agency translator can be shown by results; in an authoritative or an expressive text, form is almost as important as content.*(Newmark, 1988:192)

Nababan (2010) gives three criteria for translation quality; they are:

1. Accurate: message of the Source Language can be delivered well into the Target Language.
2. Acceptable: the language is appropriate with norms and culture of the Target Language.
3. Readable: the translation is easy to understand by the readers of the Target Language.

### **D. Analysis**

There are five data that will be analyzed in this paper. The data are taken from the novel **Five on A Treasure Island** as a Source Text (ST) and its translated version **Lima Sekawan di Pulau Harta** as a Target Text (TT). The data are analyzed from the view point of conversational implicatures. The analysis is to try to reveal the exact meaning of the utterance, and after that to find out the strategies used in Indonesian translation, and finally try to judge the quality of its Indonesian translated version.

**Data 1**

Conversation between Anne and Mother:

ST Anne : "Oh Mother, is it true? Can't you really come with us on our holidays? You always do"

Mother: "Well, this time Daddy wants me to go to Scotland with him. All by ourselves."

TT Anne : "Betul itu, Bu? Ibu tidak bisa ikut berlibur dengan kami? Selama ini Ibu selalu bisa."

Ibu : "Kali ini Ayah mengajak ke Skotlandia. Cuma kami berdua saja."

In above ST conversation, Mother has conversationally implicated that she wishes to decline Anne's invitation. Mother says that Daddy wants her to go to Scotland with him. It means that Mother could not join on Anne's holiday. Another implicature is also shown by Mother's utterance. She says "All by ourselves". It implies that she will just go with Daddy. It means that Mother does not want her holiday being disturbed by her children. It supposes that Mother wants to have fun only with Daddy. The implicatures are arising because of the maxim of quantity. Mother makes her contribution more informative than is required. Mother could simply answer "Yes, it's true. I cannot come with you on your holidays."

From the TT conversation, in order to keep the meaning from the ST conversation, the utterances are translated literally. The implicatures can also be seen in the TT. So, it may be concluded that this dialogue has a good translation. The message of the ST can be delivered well into the TT.

**Data 2**

Conversation between Daddy and Mother:

ST Daddy : "What about Quentin's?"

Mother: "Quentin? Whatever made you think of him? I shouldn't think he'd want the children messing about in his little house."

TT Ayah : "Bagaimana kalau mereka ke Paman Quentin?"

Ibu : "Quentin? Kenapa tiba-tiba teringat padanya? Kurasa dia takkan senang jika ada anak-anak yang ribut bermain dalam rumahnya."

The implicature that is generated by this utterance is that Mother does not agree if children have to stay with Uncle Quentin. Mother implies her utterance by giving reason that Uncle Quentin would not want the children messing about in his house. Mother could simply have replied: "No". Her actual response is extremely long and not clear. She has failed to observed the maxims of manner. From mother's utterance, it can also be implied about Uncle Quentin's character: he does not like children; he possesses a quick temper and has little tolerance for the children on school holidays.

In order to convey similar implicatures in Indonesian translated version, the utterances are translated literally. The translation is easy to understand by the readers of the TT.

**Data 3**

Conversation between Dick and George:

ST Dick : "Say, George, what about a bathe?"

George: "I must go and get Timothy first."

TT Dick : "He George, bagaimana kalau kita berenang sekarang?"

George: “Aku harus menjemput Tim dulu.”

In above ST conversation, Dick asks George whether they could take a bath. George’s reply is not literally relevant to the question. Dick assumes George is cooperating and being relevant. George’s response is obviously irrelevant to the topic, that is about having a bath. The implicature is thus that they would take a bath after George gets Timothy. The implicature is arising because of the maxim of relation.

In above TT, adjustment is made to George’s response. The strategy of transposition is used here. There is a shift from the two sentences in ST (“I must go and get Timothy first”) become one sentence in TT (“*Aku harus menjemput Tim dulu*”). However, the reader still can get the implicature from this response, and the meaning is clear that George cannot swim right away. In other word, the sentences are well translated.

#### **Data 4**

Conversation between Anne and George:

ST Anne : “Shall we go now?”

George: “Whatever do you suppose mother would say if we went just after tea?”

TT Anne : “Sekarang saja kita tidur?”

George : “Apa kata ibu nanti, jika kita langsung tidur sehabis minum teh?”

In above conversation, Anne asks a question whether they will go now and George’s literal reply is complicated. At the literal level, George does not appear to be observing the maxim of manner—a simple reply “No” would have sufficed. George could have just said *no* but she didn’t. Instead, George says that if they went just after tea, Mother might get angry. The implicature is thus that they will not go now.

In TT above, the implicature of disagreement is shown by George’s reply “*Apa kata ibu nanti, jika kita langsung tidur sehabis minum teh?*”. This utterance is literally translated from the ST. The message of the Source Language can be delivered well into the Target Language. The reader can catch the hidden meaning from this utterance. It is assumed they will not go to bed right away.

#### **Data 5**

Conversation between Julian and Uncle Quentin:

ST Julian : “When are you selling the island, Uncle?”

Uncle : “The deeds will be signed in about a week’s time.”

TT Julian : “Kapan pulau itu akan dijual, Paman?”

Uncle : “Surat jual belinya akan ditandatangani minggu depan.”

It can be assumed that Uncle Quentin is observing the maxim of quantity. Uncle Quentin could simply have replied “Next week” –this would give the maximum amount of information possible in the situation. Instead, Uncle Quentin gives a much weaker and less informative response. The implicature is thus that the island will be sold in about a week later. The implicature is arising because of the maxim of quantity.

No adjustment is made in the TT. The utterance is translated literally, and it contains the hidden meaning beyond this utterance. Uncle Quentin responds indirectly to Julian’s question. By saying “*Surat jual belinya akan*

*ditandatangani minggu depan*”, we can assume that the island will not be sold right away. The TT above still contains implicature like in the ST. Thus, this conversation is well translated.

### E. Conclusion

The conversational implicature is a message that is not found in the plain sense of the sentence. The speaker implies it. The hearer is able to infer this message in the utterance by appealing to the rules governing successful conversational interaction. In ordinary conversation, speakers and hearers share a cooperative principle. Speakers shape their utterances to be understood by hearers. The principle can be explained by four underlying rules or maxims. They are the maxims of quality, quantity, relevance and manner.

In order to get good quality of conversational implicature, some techniques and strategies of translation are applied. The quality of translation can be measured by its accuracy, its acceptability, and its readability.

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