

AN ANALYSIS OF THE VIOLATION OF MAXIMS IN THE LOCKER ROOM SHORT MOVIE

ANALISIS PELANGGARAN MAKSIM DALAM FILM PENDEK LOCKER ROOM

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Abstract: *The aim of this study is to investigate the violation of Gricean maxims in the utterances produced throughout Locker Room short movie by Greta Nash and count the frequency of the occurrence as well. By the times speakers commit communication, the non-observance to the four Grice's principles might occurs for some purposes. By observing the types and context of violations of maxims, it can be helpful for discourse interpretation which is beyond the literal level. This study has conducted using a descriptive qualitative approach. The author transcribed the conversation and identified the utterances that violated the maxim considering the movie's whole context. The results showed 5 data, and only three types of maxims were violated- the maxim of quantity, quality, and relation. Moreover, the data show the dominance occurrence owned by the opting-out maxim.*

Keywords: *Grice's maxim, violation, short movie*

Abstrak: Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menyelidiki pelanggaran Gricean Maxim dalam percakapan pada film pendek Locker Room oleh Greta Nash, serta menghitung frekuensi kejadiannya. Pada saat pembicara berkomunikasi, pelanggaran terhadap empat maksim Grice dapat terjadi disebabkan beberapa tujuan. Dengan mengamati jenis dan konteks pelanggaran maksim, penelitian ini bermanfaat untuk membantu menginterpretasi wacana melebihi makna literal. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Penulis menyalin percakapan dan mengidentifikasi ujaran yang melanggar maksim termasuk dengan mempertimbangkan seluruh konteks film. Hasil analisis menunjukkan 5 data; hanya tiga jenis maksim yang dilanggar- maksim kuantitas, kualitas, dan relevansi. Selain itu, data menunjukkan terjadinya dominasi yang dimiliki oleh implikatur penolakan.

Kata Kunci: Maksim Grice, pelanggaran, film pendek

1. INTRODUCTION

Being the primary communication tool, language activities are motivated by many objectives. Each speech aims can be in the form of negotiation or even simply in a form of signal to instruct. As far as the goals of communication are concerned, the discussion is nearly impossible not to be linked with the theories proposed by Herbert P. Grice. Grice's theory of verbal implicatures is perceived as one of the fundamental and most intriguing concepts along the pragmatics history (Muhammed & Al-Hamadi, 2009). (Yule, 1996) claims, "Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning." Consenting these ideas, (Sandra, Otsman, & Verschueren, 2009) say, "Pragmatics provides the specific meaning, given a reference in time, place, and other contexts." The above claims emphasize how speakers organize their utterances following whom they are talking to, where, when, and under what circumstances. In this sense, the language meaning is determined within the situation or context of the conversational speech.

In line with (Cutting, 2002) stated verbal exchange, whether interviews, conversations, or service encounters, tend to run more smoothly and successfully when the participants follow certain social conventions. For this reason, the Linguist Herbert Paul Grice developed a mode of interaction for successful communication called the Cooperative Principle (CP)-- Provides your conversational contribution such as appropriate, by the accepted intent or course of the verbal interaction in which you are engaged. Then the principle generated four maxims as criteria of successful and meaningful conversation.

Grice (1975) formulates four major norms to be fulfilled when people communicate with one another. Grice presented four conversational maxims that arise from rational considerations. Grice assumes that people are intrinsically cooperative and aim to be as informative as possible in communication. Those four maxims are (1) Maxim of quantity/information (the participants try to contribute as concise as is needed for the actual purposes of the interaction, and do not make your contribution is more informative than is required); (2) Maxim of quality/truthfulness (the participants try to be truthful, do not give information that is believed to be false and not to utter that for which the absence verifiable evidence); (3) Maxim of relevance/relation (the participants try to be relevant to the topic of the discussion); (4) Maxim of manner/clarity (the participants try to be as clear, as a brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity)), as orderly as one says, and avoid obscurity and ambiguity of expression).

By the times speakers commit communication, they confront a situation where she or he has to choose between two or more meanings to arrive at a clear interpretation of the message conveyed. In such a case, the hearer assumes that the speaker is cooperating and intends the hearer to infer. The speaker's motives can be driven by the four types of violations of the four maxims; the utterance can be untruthful, ambiguous, irrelevant, and provide more or less detail than required. The violation occurs when the speaker is "purposely" and "quietly" infringing the maxims, as is the case in speaking untruth utterance (violation of maxim of quality).

One form of non-compliance with the cooperative principle can be identified in the conversations in Sherlock Holmes movie below.

Therapist: How's your blog going?

Watson: Yeah good. Very good.

(Suraya, 2013)

The given answer by Watson emphasized the positive progress of his blogs, while the truth is, he hasn't written anything yet; therefore, he chose to lie. By purposely not cooperate in the communication involved, Watson has failed to observe the maxim of quality.

Considering this phenomenon, investigating whether a person is reluctant to cooperate, followed by the purposes, leads the writer's concerns to analyze the violation of Gricean maxim in implicatures produced throughout Locker room short movie. By observing the forms of violations of the maxims along with the background for their occurrence, it can be helpful for clarifying both of the significance beyond the literal level and the overall discourse interpretation. This research examines various non-observance of communication principles, and is supposed to contribute in developing pragmatics literature. Since the short movie portrays high school students' issues, the movie entirely built of daily conversations which is a potential and relevant subject to observe from the perspective of pragmatics. Besides, the comparison of each violation of the maxim's amount is worth investigating as well.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

2.1 Research Design

This study has been conducted using a descriptive and qualitative method. According to (Moleong, 2017), Qualitative approach is a research technique that generates descriptive data analysis in the form of written or spoken about the individual's property, including to observe the symptoms and behavior of a demographic. Based on Bodgan & Biklen in (Sugiyono, 2013), there are five characteristics of the qualitative method. (1) The natural state is the direct data source, and the researcher is the key instrument in the field. (2) The data of qualitative research are obtained in the form of pictures or words rather than figures. (3) Qualitative analysts are connected with both procedures and outcomes. (4) Qualitative studies appear to inductively interpret their result. (5) How individuals perceive out of their circumstance is a major concern to qualitative studies.

2.2 Data Collection

The subject of this research was conversations in Locker Room, and the object of this research was Grice's maxim violation in daily conversation. This study's instrument was a Greta Nash's short movie, Locker Room, which is available on a YouTube channel named Omeleto. The conversation was transcribed, and the researcher has underlined the violated implicatures hypothetically.

2.3 Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher used the theoretical framework of Gricean maxims to answer which one of Gricean maxims are often being violated while finding out what factor may cause the violation.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned earlier, the researcher analyzes *Locker Room* short movie to observe what Grice's Maxim are violated and to examine the purposes the addresses violate the maxims. The aim is to answer research problems, namely what Grice's maxim is violated and what purposes of the violations found in the movie by looking at the conversations between the characters.

Excerpt 1 (1:37) Locker room

Carla: What's so funny?

Mack: Uh, nothin'. How was training?

Carla: Pretty Standard.

Carla went to the boy's locker room and met her guy friends having chats and laugh. Noticing that, Carla, who has the intention to join the fun, asked them for why they were laughing. One of the guys, Mack, did not answer the question and just changed the subject.

As the shown conversation, Carla was trying to get along with them. To her attempt, Mack opted out the maxim by deciding not to cooperate and prevented from answering. Although Carla feels the closeness among them, Mack did not think it was necessary to share their jokes with her but still developed the small talk by asking her in exchange.

In conclusion, the addressee opted out the maxim by refusing to answer such a given question because he didn't convince about the proximity among them, or the addressee doubted if Carla would find the humor the same way afterward.

Excerpt 2 (2:15) Locker Room

Mack: Who has to get it though?

Carla: Me!

Mack: I actually heard Fridget from camp said she applied last week.

Carla: I cant imagine anything worse than Fridget as a school captain!

Mack: Now I hope I do get in.

Finn: She could get biased though.

Finn and Mack were chatting about the school captain election as they arrived at Finn's house. Carla, who paid heed on their conversation, straight off claimed to attain the position (it refers to school basketball team). Mack then responded to her by giving information about a girl named Fridget, who had applied last week. Carla replied it right away by stating that she cannot imagine anything worse than Fridget as a school captain. Mack then uttered his desire to obtain the position, and Finn ended the talk by straightening the fact that Carla has a bias for Fridget.

In this dialogue, Carla's positive affirmation drew Mack's skeptical reaction, making him mentioned another competitive candidate. Fridget considered a strong opponent for Carla and might have higher chances to be elected. In return, Carla threw another statement that opposed the other assumption and violated the maxim of quality. She tacitly stated that Fridget's lack of competence would not lead the school team to a more incredible position. Not to mention this assertion proofed by Finn's closing as a self-bias and entirely opinion, but also neither reliable fact nor evidence were presented to support the comment.

In sum, the absence of evidence failed to uphold the claim; hence the conversation indicates a violation of maxim of quality.

Excerpt 3 (4:26) Locker Room

Mack: That was quick

Carla: Yeah. What's up?

Connie: Nothing.

Mack: Nah.

Carla walked into the room to saw the boys slamming the laptop as she got in. They were quiet for a moment before Mack expressed her unexpected arrival. Realizing the odd atmosphere surrounding her, Carla asked for what was going on, but they just averted her.

By the time Connie and Mack did not answer informatively to Carla, The maxim is opted out for their choice to remain silent. As though the way they ended the 'joy' couldn't be more suspicious, Connie and Mack let the situation become ambiguous by unwillingly revealing the truth on what was on the laptop and why they would hide it from Carla.

All in all, the act of cover up the truth by refusing to fulfill Carla's curiosity pretty much shows the opting out on maxim.

Excerpt 4 (5:57) Locker Room

Carla: I was-

Finn: Just left my phone.

Carla: That- that video, wow.

Finn: Yeah. It, it's not like we're gonna spread it around or anything.

Carla: Just with the rest of the team?

Finn: It's just Mack being a dick. You know what he's like. I don't know.. I didn't think you'd..

Carla: No. No, you're right. I'm sorry I shouldn't have looked at- I'm sorry.

Finn: It's fine. Right?

Still in a state of her shock, Finn found Carla was watching the sexual harassment video from the boys' chatroom. Finn, who only planned to take his cellphone- instead, got caught red-handed, panicked, and promised not to share the footage outside his inner circle after Carla commented about the video. Carla tried to ensure what she heard only to hear Finn spit out normalization to their misbehavior. He didn't sound sure and made it evident that he was

frightened, and that's when Carla felt sorry for tracing into his laptop. Finn finally felt relieved as he convinced her if he thought it was fine, so should she.

By looking at how Finn responded to Carla's question, the part when he normalized Mack's misdeed, counts as the violation of maxim of relation. By the shown chat, Carla was intended to know to what extent was the cycle going. However, Finn avoided the question by bringing up about Mack. Finn's response was irrelevant to Carla's inquiry, but it might be the fact that he was trying to evade the interrogation posed by Carla.

Excerpt 5 (11:33) Locker Room

Finn: No, wait. Carla, I don't understand. You told me it was fine, right? You told me it was-

Carla: Yeah, and then, I guess... I just felt kind of grossed about it afterward...

Mack: Fucking hell, Carla. What is you problem?

Carla: What is your problem?!

Finn and the boys confronted Carla for her report to a teacher about their group chat. They were upset as they believed that Carla had tolerated what had happened and moved on (she kept it as a secret). She did convince it was not a serious issue, even being miserable after intruded into their private affairs. After moments, however, the chatroom's recollection disturbed her, and eventually, the notion of improper behavior prompted her to confess. Did not accept this, Mack later showed his pique by asking why she bothered to meddle. Carla then got heated by shouting the same utterance.

Mack appeared to offend Carla by arguing her interfere and got yelled back for not recognizing his misbehavior. Both of them were expressing an abundance of anger and not earnestly requesting information. Although not an actual answer was inquired, Carla still provided him insufficient and unrelated information. In such a way, Carla has violated the maxim of quantity.

The obtained result of data analysis in *Locker Room* short movie are served below. Five violation of the maxims can be read in the following table (Hidayati & Indarti, 2013).

Table 1. Violation of Gricean Maxim Occurrence

No.	Violation of the maxim	Occurrence	Percentages
1.	Quantity	1	20%
2.	Quality	1	20%
3.	Relation	1	20%
4.	Manner	-	0%
5.	Opting-out	2	40%
	Total	5	100%

Among all the violation data, the Opting-out maxim counted as the most frequently occurred in the *Locker Room* short movie. The opting-out maxim takes place on two separate occasions where the rest of the violation doesn't occur in a fair amount.

4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Believing that every speech has to be intrinsically cooperative and aim to be as informative as possible in communication, Grice proposed four conversational maxims that arise from rational considerations—the maxim of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. This framework than being used to investigate people's intentions in conversational implicatures, and not a few of them decide to violate them in purpose.

In the study of analyzing the non-observance of Grice's maxim in *Locker Room* short movie, the speaker decided to violate the maxim of relevance while expressing the burdened

feeling shortly and as to escape the conversation to avoid the negative consequences. The maxim of quality has been violated for total biased assertion with the absence of sufficient evidence. On the other hand, the speakers tend to deliver inappropriate details, yet lacks information to accumulate their anger; this act has considered as a violation of the maxim of quantity. After all, the addressers tend to opt-out of the maxim for their unwillingness to provide any information. Out of the four maxims, only three of them got violated; they are maxim of relation, maxim of quantity, and maxim of quality; whereas the rest are opting-out maxim. The opting-out maxim occurred in the most frequent number, compared to the maxim of quality, quantity and relation.

Since this research only concerns the maxims' violation, further study with the same topic is suggested to support the underlying findings. Considering various types of non-observance occurrence to the Gricean maxims are yet to explore, the significance result only applies to the Locker Room short movie. However, the finding analysis can be extended to a different subject study. Therefore, further research is expected to affirm or refute the results of this study.

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