

Chapter 1: Introduction

Background of study

Being cooperative in conversation is a must to reach a good quality of communication. If there is a cooperation process when a conversation takes place, it can be assumed that people are able to follow rules which means they may contribute to deliver contents without confusing others. Also, conversational contribution is needed in order to make conversation goes further. To create a cooperative communication, Grice (1975) proposed cooperative principle which is a theory of making your contribution in a conversation works well by following some kinds of maxim.

In cooperative principle, Grice provided four maxims that will shape peoples' contributions in a conversation itself. Those maxims are quantity, quality, relevance or also as known as relation, and manner. First, maxim of quantity is about giving information as it is required. During conversation takes place, speaker should give information as what it has been asked by someone, not more, neither less. Second, maxim of quality is about giving information which is true. If speaker is not sure about the information, it is better to not telling people about it. Next, maxim of relevance or relation is about giving information which is related to topic of conversation. For example, if a person asks about a car, the answer must be about car, not train or even bicycle. Lastly, maxim of manner is about giving information in

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order and avoiding ambiguous statements; speaker should be clear of what they really want to convey (Grice, 1975 p.45-46).

However, in some cases, people are not being cooperative by disobeying cooperative principle. As Thomas (2013) mentioned that there are five ways which people fail to obey maxims of cooperative principle, those are flouting, violating, opting out, infringing, and suspending. Flouting happened when speakers blatantly fail in obeying maxims of cooperative principle (Grice, 1975). Furthermore, flouting maxim appeared when speaker expects hearer to find hidden message in utterances. This hidden message of utterance is called conversational implicature. Conversational implicature is the implicit meaning of utterance in a conversation which is related to the cooperative principle because it appears in conversations after speaker flouted the maxim of cooperative principle itself.

Based on the explanations about flouting maxim of cooperative principle, the researcher has decided to analyze the types of flouting maxim in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie. One of the reasons of choosing a movie as the subject of this research is because movie represents real situation which also happens in daily life too. Also, by choosing movie, the researcher can collect the data by watching it visually which can be easier for the researcher to analyze the utterances and to get the sense of the conversation rather than analyzing a novel. Furthermore, *The Fault in Our Stars* movie is chosen because when the researcher watched the movie, there are a lot of

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utterances that flouted the maxim of cooperative principle, and those can be the data of this research itself.

Besides, the other reasons for choosing *The Fault in Our Stars* movie is because the movie is based on true story novel which was written by John Green and published in 2012. Also, *The Fault in Our Stars* movie's rating is great according to www.common sense media.org. Also, the movie has received 15 awards and became number one at the box office during its opening weekend. In order to convince that flouting maxim did appear, here is one example of flouting which found in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie:

Gus: "So, are you back in school?"

Hazel: "*I got my GED. So, I'm taking classes at MCC.*"

On the conversation above, it showed that the flouting maxim of quantity happened because of providing less information in Hazel statement. In obeying the maxim of quantity, speaker is expected to contribute such as is needed in conversation (Grice, 1975 p.45). It means that there is no less information or even providing more information. However, on the example above, Hazel provided less information which made her flouting maxim of quantity during the conversation took place. Gus' question must be answered by yes/no answer. Instead, she replied "*I got my GED. So, I'm taking classes at MCC*". Hazel's utterance was not a suitable answer for the question itself. As a result, Hazel has flouted the maxim of quantity

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by being uninformative during conversation. In this case, the flouting here “*I got my GED. So, I’m taking classes at MCC.*” in Hazel’ statement refers to flouting maxim of quantity of cooperative principle. By presenting one example of flouting maxim, the researcher has proved that there were flouting maxims appeared in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie.

Research question

Based on the background of study above, the formulated research question is what are types of flouting maxim appeared in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie?

Aim of study

According to the previous explanations on the background of study and the research question, the aim of this research is formulated as to find out the types of flouting maxim which uttered by the characters in the *Fault in Our Stars* movie.

Significances of study

In conducting this research, there are some significances which can be beneficial for readers. Theoretically, the first significance is to give readers insight about cooperative principle, flouting maxim, and also conversational implicature. Second one is to expand students knowledge in identifying, analyzing, and classifying cooperative principle and flouting maxims which exist in a movie. Next is to help

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especially last semester students who conduct cooperative principle and flouting maxim in exploring theories which used in this research.

Practically, this research is to give readers understanding how to be cooperative during conversation itself. It means that by comprehending cooperative principle, it will be easy for speakers to build a good conversation by following some maxims of cooperative principle. Furthermore, this research also can be a reference for the next researchers who are interesting in conducting the same topic as this research.

Scope of study

The main problem of this study is a lot of people do not communicate cooperatively and also they do not say what they really want to say because they feel bad to utter offensive statement. Because of that reason, the participants of a conversation tend to flout maxims of cooperative principle. Therefore, this research is limited in pragmatics term and focused on the types of flouting maxim of cooperative principle by Grice (1975) which exist in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie.

Previous studies

The researcher chose four research papers which related to cooperative principle and flouting maxim to develop this research. The research papers are as follow:

The first research paper is from Kai, Kurniawan (2017) in English Education Study Program, Letters and Cultures Faculty, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo. He conducted a research which entitled “The Flouting of Cooperative Principle in Movie *Beastly* by Daniel Barnz”. Based on his research, it was similar to this research. In term of research question, his research focus was types of flouting maxim of cooperative principle using Grice theory in 1975 and this research was also focused on the types of flouting which appeared in movie. In addition, his research and this research applied the same methodology which was qualitative method. Although his research and this research have several similarities, the difference was the subject material of each research. His research chose *Beastly* by Daniel Barnz as the subject whereas this research used *The Fault in Our Stars* movie as the subject material. Thus, because of choosing different movie as the subject, the result would also be different. He found 20 utterances flouted the maxim of cooperative principle which 4 utterances has classified into flouting maxim of quantity, 5 utterances as flouting maxim of quality, 7 utterances as flouting maxim of relation, and 4 utterances as flouting maxim of manner.

The second previous study was conducted by Pamili, Gamar (2019) in English Education Study Program, Letters and Cultures Faculty, Universitas Negeri Gorontalo. Her research is entitled “A Study on Flouting Maxim of Cooperative Principle in *The Pursuit of Happiness* Movie”. Based on her research, there are some similarities and also differences from this research. The similarities come from one of

her research question and the theories that she used in her research. Her first research question is similar to this research which is about types of flouting maxim occurred in a movie and Grice theories of cooperative principle and flouting maxim were also used in her research. Besides, her research applied qualitative methodology in presenting the result as also applied in this research. Even though there are similarities in terms of theory, research question, and methodology, there are also several differences which make this research dissimilar. First, she chose to analyze two things which were types of flouting and also reasons of flouting the maxim itself while in this research there was one research question about types of flouting. Second, the subject is different. She chose *The Pursuit of Happiness* movie as her subject while this research analyzed flouting in *The Fault in Our Stars* movie. Because the subject is different, the result is also different since the data were taken from different movie. In her research, she found out that four types of flouting maxim did appear in the movie. Also, the reasons of flouting were competitive, convivial, collaborative, and conflictive.

The third research is from Huda, Miftahul (2013) in Study Program of English Department of Language and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. He conducted a research which entitled “Conversational Implicature Found in Dialogue of *Euro Trip* Movie”. According to his research, it showed that his research was totally different from this research. In term of research question, his research focused on the types of conversational implicature, the conversational

implicature itself, and the function of the implicature that appeared in the *Euro Trip* movie while this research dealt with types of flouting maxim of cooperative principle. Furthermore, his research used *Euro Trip* movie as the research subject whereas this research chose *The Fault in Our Stars* movie as the subject material. In his research paper, he used Grice's theory about cooperative principle and conversational implicature which was proposed in 1975. Also, he applied Searle's theory in 1975 which is about speech act in order to determine the function of the conversational implicature. However, the similarities between his research and this research were the theory about cooperative principle by Grice 1975 and the qualitative method itself. As a result, he found that there were 28 utterances that flouted the maxim, which 8 of them are categorized in generalized conversational implicature and the rest 20 utterances are categorized in particularized conversational implicature. There are 11 implicatures which have representative/assertive function, 4 implicatures have directive function, then 12 implicatures have expressive function.

The next research paper is from Vikry, Muhamad (2014) in English Letters Department, Letters and Humanities Faculty, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. He conducted a research which entitled "An Analysis of Conversational Implicature in *Iron Man 3*". His research and this research were totally different since it contained some differences. In term of research question, his research focused on the non-observance maxim and the conversational implicature that appeared in *Iron Man 3* movie whereas this research concerned in the types of

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flouting maxim of cooperative principle. Moreover, the aim of his study was identifying the non-observance maxim, explaining how the non-observance maxim appear, identifying the types of conversational implicature, and describing the meaning of the conversational implicature while the aim of this research was classifying and explaining types of flouting maxim. Also, his research subject was different from this research. In his research, he used *Iron Man 3* movie as the subject and this research chose *The Fault in Our Stars* movie. Vikry applied a theory which was proposed by H. Paul Grice in 1975 about cooperative principle, non-observance maxim and, conversational implicature. Yet, there were two similarities between his research and this research. First, one of the similarities was using the same theory of cooperative principle by Grice 1975. The second similarity was applying the same method which was qualitative. In his research, he found 13 utterances that were classified in particularized conversational maxim and 2 utterances classified in general conversational maxim.

Definition of key term

Cooperative Principle is a principle of communication that will “make your conversational contribution such is required, as the stage at which it occurs by the accepted purpose or the direction of the talk exchange which you are engaged”.

(Grice, 1975 p.45)

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Flouting Maxim is “a salient way to get an addressee to draw an inference and hence recover an Implicature”. (Grundy, 2000 p.78 cited in Huda (2013 p.15))

Conversational Implicature is an implied meaning in a conversation which is left implicitly in actual language use. (Mey, 1993 p.99)

The Fault in Our Stars is an American romantic drama movie which directed by Josh Boone in 2014. This movie was made based on a true story novel which is written by John Green in 2012 with the same title as the movie itself. It tells about a teen who has cancer named Hazel with her cancer journey. Somehow, she met her first love Augustus who also suffered from cancer.