Chapter I

Introduction

In this chapter, I present the reasons that drive me to do the research. It highlights the context of the research, that is in what kind of situation the problem is identified, what problem is going to be focused on, the scope of study and the significance of study.

1.1 Background of Study

In communicating, not every utterance is interpreted based on their literal meaning. A hearer usually tries to interpret what a speaker says in conversation based on their knowledge and experience that sometimes makes the utterance is not interpreted literally. Meyer (2009) stated "when individuals communicate, they arrive at interpretations of utterances by doing more than simply analyzing their structure; their interpretations are also based on a variety of purely social considerations" (p.9). This statement describes that when people talk, they usually interpret an utterance or a speech more than its grammatical structure and the utterance depends on social context. This is leading us to one popular branch in linguistics called pragmatics. Yule (1996) defined pragmatics as a study of meaning that spoken by a speaker or a writer and interpreted by a hearer or reader. He also stated that the interpretation requires particular context of what the speakers mean by their utterances (Yule,1996, p.3,). The context consideration involves what the speakers would like to say, who they are talking to, the place and time where the conversation takes place and in what situation it occurs (Yule,1996, p.3,). One of branches in pragmatics study is *Implicature*.

Implicature usually contains implied meaning of something, like Yule (1996) argued "when the listener hears the expression, she first has to assume that the speaker is being cooperative and intends to communicate something. That something must be more than just words mean. It is an additional conveyed meaning, called an implicature"(p.35).

Here Yule clearly pointed up the term *Implicature* as an implied meaning of something which is communicated by a speaker to a hearer where the words need to be interpreted more than just the words' literal meaning itself. For example in Indonesia, when my friend did not see me for a long time, she will call me and say: "Kangen nih, kapan nih nongkrong bareng?" and sometimes I answer: "Waduh, lagi banyak kerjaan nih". Here my friend told me that she misses me and asked me when I can join her to hang out, and here my answer is not talking when I can join her, but saying that I am terribly busy with a lot of work. If my answer is interpreted word by word, it can be considered irrelevant and failed in answering the question "when" which grammatically needs to be answered by time. However since my friend has the knowledge of the utterance that "I am terribly busy with a lot of work", she understands that the answer implied a meaning "I'm sorry, I can't join you because I'm busy with my work.". On the contrary, this would be different if I respond to the question with: "besok deh" which is literally relevant to question where I answer it with time (in English: "tomorrow") so it does not need a special context since it literally answers what is asked ("kapan": "when"). As a result the interpretation of it becomes as literal as the answer since it does not have an implied meaning.

In some cases, an utterance of implicature could bring confusion or could be ambiguity for people who do not understand or lack of information. This explanation relates to a linguist's theory, in this case according to Horn (2006) implicature is an aspect that is meant through speaker's utterance and the utterance is out of part what is said, what the speaker means to say is more than what she expresses through the utterance directly. This theory supports the first statement of this paragraph that what a speaker means in an utterance is richer than the words' literal meaning and this is why in some cases, the utterance could make a hearer confused and misunderstand if he only interprets the utterances literally since he lacks of knowledge, experience and information of the

context.

Since implicature always appear in conversation that involves a speaker and a hearer, there is a term called *Conversational Implicature..* According to Riemer (2010) "conversational implicatures are those that arise in particular contexts of use, without forming part of the word's characteristic" (p.118). It means that conversational impicature usually relies on the context of the speaker's utterances which goes beyond the words that expressed in utterance. He also said that conversation implicature is (and should be) governed by the *Cooperative Principle*; a general condition on the way rational conversation is conducted. The general condition here is the common situation when a speaker says or asks something, there is a hearer responding or answering the speaker. It is called cooperative because there is a cooperation between the speaker and the hearer that results a conversation. This is the reason why conversational implicature is governed by cooperative principle as Riemer stated above.

According to Trask (2007) cooperative principle is responsible for the existence of conversational implicatures. As a result, it is clear that conversational implicatures has a strong relationship with cooperative principle. The main thing that should be remembered is, there will be a conversational implicatures if there is a cooperative principle. Grice is the most popular philosopher that proposed this principle in 1975 and made it more specific into four maxims to guide conversational implicature concept. The four maxims of Cooperative Principle are *Maxim of Quantity (Informative), Maxim of Quality (True), Maxim of Relation (Relevant), and Maxim of Manner (Brief and clear).*

For this research, I am interested to analyze conversational implicatures that proposed by Grice in 1975 using his four maxims: *Maxim of Quantity (Informative), Maxim of Quality (True), Maxim of Relation (Relevant), and Maxim of Manner (Brief and clear).* I choose these four maxims because it is very important to understand how

speakers deliver their ideas implicitly and how the hearers produce interpretations. The understanding on maxims will reflect how people understand communication more than just the words literal meaning, as Meyer (2009) said that when people talk each other, they do more than just analyzing the words structure and meaning but also interpreting the utterances based on many kinds of context.

In my previous study (Skripsi) in 2012, I also chose linguistics, in this case the violation of maxim of relation by Grice (1975) as the topic of my research. Furthermore, as the object of my research I took The King's Speech movie. For this master degree program's research, I would like to continue the study by enriching the analysis of conversational implicature covering all of Grice's maxims: *Maxim of Quantity, Maxim of Quality, Maxim of Relation, and Maxim of Manner* in the same movie. The analysis is conducted on two substances, they are: maxim realizations and their literal meaning, and maxim violations and their implied meaning in the movie.

"The King's Speech" movie was directed by Tom Hooper (2010). This movie is a historical and biographical movie that takes the setting in 1925 in United Kingdom and the British Dominion and tells people about how the struggle of Duke of York in becoming a successor of his father (King George V). At the 2011 BAFTA Awards, The King's Speech won five awards, including Best Film, Best Actor and Best Screenplay. At the 2011 Academy Awards, The King's Speech won four awards; Best Screenplay, Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role, Best Motion Picture of the Year and, for Tom Hooper, Best Achievement in Directing. This film is considered as best British film ever. (Adapted from The King's Speech Official Site). This movie tells about the King George VI of England, the second son of the King George V that luckily becomes a king after his father passed away. At the beginning, it is impossible for him to be a king because of the trouble with his speech organ, while to be a king has to speak in front of public and to give

a war speech. He could not speak fluently as a normal man and everything he and his wife do are useless to treat the sickness. Then, finally his wife meets Lionel, someone who can help treating her husband. Lionel is an Australian who lives in England with his wife and three young sons. He is a man who always keeps many things simple. Lionel is like a good doctor and therapist for the king even though he is not a certificated doctor. It needs so much time to treat the sickness through some strange exercises. In addition, it brings a good result for the King because the strange exercises that Lionel does is successful. Finally everything brings Lionel and the king to a true friendship.

The reason of choosing movie as the object of this research is because movie (or known as film in British) provides visual context that supports my perspective to understand and interpret the context of language and conversation, where it includes expression and gestures. In addition, it also provides authentic and varied language, so it will support the non-native people to experience 'real' English conversation through the movie (Donaghy, 2014, Bristish Council). Not only that, movie also can give us narrative information better than books or short story, because it employs more ordinary acknowledgement capacity that help us to understand the facts directly because we probably experience them in daily life (Fiorelly, 2016, p.127).

"The King's Speech" movie is chosen as the object of this research, because this movie provides the language phenomena on its conversation like implicature, so it is very potential to analyze the phenomenon with pragmatics. Not only the language phenomena, it also provides visual context that supports the phenomena of implicature. In addition, this movie is based on true history that makes the conversation in it becomes more interesting to analyze. As Dailyhistory.org (September, 2021) exposed that this movie is historically accurate, even showing the real sense of anxiety in Britain (1930s). To clarify the research background, here is an example of conversational implicature in "The King's Speech"

movie.

Context of Conversation: Elizabeth (Mrs. Johnson) met Dr. Logue (Lionel) in his apartment. Elizabeth's husband (Mr. Johnson) would be the doctor's patient. Dr. Logue only saw Elizabeth came alone, so he asked Elizabeth where her husband was.

00:09:41 --> 00:10:08

Dr. Logue   : Where's Mr. Johnson?

Elizabeth   : **Ah... He doesn't know I'm here.**

      In this conversation, Dr. Logue asked Elizabeth where Mr. Johnson was because he did not see him. He thought that if Mr. Johnson seriously wanted to be treated, then he should have come. Then Elizabeth did not answer where her husband was, she just said **'ah... He doesn't know I'm here'.** Elizabeth was considered cooperative, because she gave a response for the question. In spite of this, her answer violated the maxim of relation ("be relevant, stay on topic, don't digress"). The reason was clearly because the answer was irrelevant to the question. If it was relevant, it could be like "he is not here" or "he is in …" because the question was 'where is?' based on the context, the question appeared because Dr. Logue did not see Mr. Johnson with Elizabeth in his apartment. The utterance was generated by looking the context and inferring how Mr. Johnson could be there, if he was not told by his wife. So, the interpreted meaning of this utterance is that Mr. Johnson was not there (in Dr. Logue's apartment) because Elizabeth did not tell him that she went to Dr. Logue's apartment. That is one example of conversational implicature that caused by maxim of relation violation and its interpretation in The King's Speech movie.

      Comparing to the previous phenomenon of conversational implicature in The King's Speech movie, this following one could be on the contrary of conversational implicature, that is the utterance that follows the rule of maxim of relation in The King's Speech movie.

Context of conversation: Elizabeth and Albert visits Lionel's house and enter a cozy room with simple interior design with set of table and chairs and a pot of tea on the table. Lionel pleases them to have a seat.

01:17:31,794 --> 01:17:34,888

Lionel: Would you like some tea, Ma'am?

Elizabeth: **Yes. I'll help myself**.

To be compared with the previous sample of utterance that contains conversational implicature, this conversation does not have any implied meaning in it, because here Elizabeth relevantly answers Lionel's question right to the point. The answer literally confirms that Elizabeth would like to have some tea that is put on the table and is going to put the tea into the cup by herself. Elizabeth's utterance is considered to follow maxim of relation since her answer is relevant to Lionel's question. This phenomenon shows that the utterance that follows the rule of maxim brings the literal meaning in the conversation. This literal meaning is resulted from the maxim realization where maxims' rules are obeyed.

To summarize the reason of choosing this research, I would like to restate that I choose to put the focus of this research on identifying the realizations and violations of four maxims of Grice, because in my perspective, those maxim realizations and violations mostly occur in people's conversations that they do it both consciously and unconsciously, so it is expected that through this research people may have more reference on how the interpretation is generated differently based on the context and to understand the utterances more than what is said. In addition, "The King's Speech" movie as the object of this research, provides many utterances that include conversational implicatures and it is supported with visual context which can help the data analysis process. In addition, I choose Grice's theory, because Grice is well known as the first philosopher who introduced the four maxims of cooperative principle in conversational implicature.

From the description above, I am interested to conduct further analysis of Grice's maxim realizations and their literal meaning, and conversational implicatures that resulted from Grice's maxim violations and their interpreted meaning that exist in the movie.

1.2 Research Questions

Here are the research questions:

1. What are the maxim realizations in "The King's Speech" movie and their literal meaning?

2. What are the maxim violations in "The King's Speech" movie and their implied meaning?

1.3 Research Objectives

Here are the research objectives:

1. To identify maxim realizations in "The King's Speech" movie and their literal meaning.

2. To identify maxim violations in "The King's Speech" movie and their implied meaning.

1.4 Scope and The Limitation of Study

The scope of this research is in the field linguistics and limited in the branch of *pragmatics*, especially *the conversational implicature*. This research conducted maxim realizations analysis and their literal meaning, and maxim violations analysis and their implied meaning. Maxim realization refers to the utterances that require the rules of Grice's maxims, while maxim violation refers to the utterances that violate, or in this case, do not require the rules of Grice's maxims. It is conducted to show the difference of conversational implicature from maxim violations and literal meaning from maxim realizations. Limitation of this study is in the use of Grice's theory of cooperative principle. In this case the use of four maxims. It is because, these maxims are the oldest

theories related to conversational implicature. As a first theory that introduced by Grice, certainly, these maxims still have some weaknesses and those weaknesses found, criticized, completed, and even renewed by other linguists after Grice. However, even though Grice's theory about maxims still has weaknesses, I believe that, as the first philosopher who introduced conversational implicature and cooperative principle (maxims), Grice deserves to be appreciated. The reason is because he has inspired the other linguists to open up more ideas related to maxims improvement. Furthermore, maxims theory of Grice still deserves to be used as the guidance of conversational implicature, because the maxim indicators can help the researchers to differ one maxim type to another.

1.5 The Significance of Study

1. Theoretically, it is expected that this research can enlarge the view of linguistic study in term of pragmatics and to broaden the knowledge of conversational analysis study in a different way in order to enlighten the hidden values of utterances that indicates implicature. The result of the research is expected to open up more ideas to other students who are interested to do research related to conversational implicature, in this case using Grice's maxims theory.

2. Practically, this research is conducted to fulfill the requirements of the master degree in English Education Postgraduate Program in Universitas Negeri Gorontalo. It is expected that this research will give contribution in term of reference to the future students of English postgraduate program who are interested to do research on the field of Pragmatics.

1.6 Operational Definition

1. Pragmatics is a study of meaning that communicated by a speaker or a writer and

interpreted by a hearer or a reader where the interpretation requires particular context of what the speakers mean by their utterances (Yule, 1996, p.3)

2. Implicature is an implied meaning of something which is communicated by a speaker to a hearer where the utterance need to be interpreted more than just the words' literal meaning itself (Yule, 1996, p.35).

3. Conversational Implicature is an impicature that usually relies on the context of the speaker's utterances which goes beyond the words that expressed in utterance (Riemer, 2010, p.118).

4. Cooperative principle is a condition how a common conversation happens between a speaker and a hearer where both of them cooperatively communicate each other. Cooperative principle was first presented by Grice in 1975. This principle is responsible for the existence of conversational implicatures (Trask, 2007, p.57).

5. Movie or motion picture (or known as film in British) is a media that provides visual context which support the verbal message to be understood and interpreted. It also provides authentic and varied language that help non native people to experience the language (Donaghy, 2014, Bristish Council).