

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents background of the research, statement of research problems, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, definition of key terms, and organization of research paper.

A. Background of the Research

Language is a signal system which operates with symbolic vocal sound and which is used by a group of people for the purpose of communication. Social interactions either daily communication are constantly linked to others via the facilitation of language. Obviously, language plays an important role in human life. Finocchiaro as cited by Susanto (2007:2) stated that language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbol which permits all people in a given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture to communicate or to interact. In addition, Hornby as cited by Susanto (2007:3) mentioned that language is a system of sounds, words, patterns used by human to communicate thoughts and feelings.

Some linguists' statements above give an understanding that language is quite significant for people as a means of communication. There must be close relationship between language and people who use the language. People

need language when they are motivated to express their ideas, feeling and thought or when they interact one and another. Therefore, every country has different national language to show the identification of the country include English that belongs to England and Indonesian that belongs to Indonesia. As a language that is used more than half people in this world, English become an International language that is used in many areas.

People use language to survive or to be acceptable, safe, intelligible, comfortable, even be more intimate in their social interaction. It seems it is too hard to think that the existence of human is separated from the essential meaning and using of language. Human may lose their vehicle of expressing their ideas, feeling, or thought.

Grice (as cited by Thomas, 1995:62) suggested that in conversational interaction people work on the assumption that certain set of rules is in operation, unless they receive indications on the contrary. Grice (1975:45) formulated his assumption into a rough general principle which participants will be expected to observe namely, cooperative principle: "make your conversational contribution such as required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged." It represents that an ideal communication is expected to follow this principle in order the talk exchange can be understood well between the speaker and the hearer. Grice (1975:45) said that when the speaker communicates with other people s/he will conversationally cooperate without

realizing it. Regardless people in a conversation will cooperate with each other even when s/he is not being cooperative socially. For example, s/he can be arguing with one another angrily and yet s/he will still cooperate quite a lot conversationally to achieve the argument, at least cooperative efforts. This cooperative effort refers to the attempt to mutually contribute; and each participant recognizes in them, to some extent, a common purpose or set of purpose, or at least a mutually accepted direction.

Within the cooperative principle theory, Grice broke down such general principle into four categories called maxims to indicate whether the talk exchange occurs to the accepted purpose or not. Cutting (2002:34) also mentioned that an ideal communication will obey four maxims. It means that an understandable conversation will obey these four maxims. First, maxim of quantity in which the speaker is expected to be as informative as is required and avoid the contrast action. Second, maxim of quality in which the speakers are expected to say something they believe to be true by giving sufficient evidence. Third, maxim of relation explains that the speaker is expected to say something that is relevant to what has been said before by the addressee they speak to. Fourth, maxim of manner relates to the speaker that is expected to avoid obscurity and ambiguity expressions.

However, in daily communication this ideal communication does not always occur. Sometimes, the speakers choose to break the rule of being informative as is required. On the other hand, the speakers sometimes give

wrong information to other. In other occasion, the speakers maybe say something that is not relevant. Also, the speakers sometimes give ambiguity and obscurity expressions when communicating with other. When these phenomena happen during conversation and the speaker wants to deliver meaning which is totally different to what is said, it means that the speaker flouts the conversational maxims as Grice (1975) suggested that a participant in a talk exchange may fail to observe the maxim by exploiting the maxim.

Grundy (2000:76) mentioned that whenever a maxim is flouted there must be an implicature to save the utterance from simply appearing to be a faulty contribution to a conversation. Grundy (2000:73) pointed out that the term “implicature” is coined by Grice to cover any meaning that is implied or conveyed indirectly or through hints, and understood implicitly without ever being explicitly. Thomas (1995: 40) also mentioned that Grice’s theory is an attempt at explaining how an addressee gets from what is said to what is meant, from the level of expressed meaning to the level of implied meaning.

As we know that the speakers do not always state directly to their utterances what they actually want to say, but they imply in their utterances by saying the opposite meaning, using obscurity expressions or even giving totally wrong information. The speakers frequently mean much more than their words actually say.

Grundy (2000: 72) pointed out, in the case of implicature, context helps us to determine what is conveyed implicitly but not explicitly stated by the

speaker. Suppose that A is standing by an obviously immobilized car and is approached by B; the following exchanges takes place:

A: I am out of petrol.

B: There is a garage round the corner.

It seems that B's response is irrelevant to A's utterances at the level of semantic meaning. B would be infringing the maxim "be relevant" unless he thinks it is possible that the garage is open, and has petrol to sell; so he implicates that the garage is, or at least may be open.

The example above shows us how important context is in helping us to understand the implicatures. They are not tied to the particular words and phrases in an utterance but arise instead from contextual factors and the understanding that convention is observed in conversation. The duty of the addressee is to interpret what the speaker's actually imply in his/her utterances but it is not easy for the addressee to interpret the speaker's meaning. It is sufficient to notice that the context is very important in determining what someone means by what they say.

Thomas (1995:58) also strengthened that conversational implicature arises only in a particular context of utterance. In other words, it also means that any utterances can take on various meanings depending on who produced it and under what circumstances. By understanding conversational implicature might give deep insight into spoken discourse, which often

includes speakers' hidden intention and implication under the words and expressions uttered verbally.

The above descriptions figure out that there will be some possibly implicatures or hidden meanings produced by the speakers when they are conducting talk exchange to the addressee through the language they use that need to be interpreted by the addressee to catch the intended meaning behind the utterances by considering the context.

Conducting research on the language phenomena is something interesting and important because we can not be separated from the language when we conduct talk exchange. Moreover, in everyday life we use the language to communicate with others and we also often flout the conversational maxims without realizing it to hint what we actually save in our utterances.

Movie or film is also form of spoken discourse where we can also possibly find some implicature. Bordwell & Thompson (1997:3) stated that films are like buildings, books, and symphonies, artifacts made by humans for human purposes. Allen and Gomery (1985:158) explain that movies are social representation. They derive their images and sounds, theme, and stories ultimately from their environment. Movie is a kind of entertainment that is made based on social phenomena, social interest, and cultural value. Moreover, the language used in the movie also the representation of the real life language.

A film maker can also communicate their wishes, ideas, and thoughts and feeling by inserting them inside the film he or she make. It also can be used as a source for entertaining and enriching oneself with a social life. Moreover, a film can be a media for giving information and knowledge. People like watching a film for some reasons. We may watch movie to investigate the language they use as representation of the real life which appears.

Captain Phillips movie is the true story of *Captain Richard Phillips* and the 2009 hijacking by Somali pirates of the US-flagged MV Maersk Alabama, the first American cargo ship to be hijacked in two hundred years in Hindia ocean. It was released firstly in New York movie festival 2013 and it was released formally on October 11, 2013 (Wikipedia. 2013. Captain Phillips Movie. retrieved from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/review-maersk-alabama-captain-phillips>, accessed on January 22, 2014).

In response to the issues above, I was interested in analyzing the conversational maxims proposed by Grice presented in a movie. Thus, I conducted a study entitled **“The Flouting of Conversational Maxims in *Captain Phillips* Movie”**.

B. Statement of Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulates the research problems below:

1. Which conversational maxims are flouted in *Captain Phillips* Movie?
2. What are the hidden meanings behind the flouted maxims in *Captain Phillips* Movie?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the research problems above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the conversational maxims that are flouted in *Captain Phillips* Movie.
2. To find out the hidden meanings behind the flouted maxims in *Captain Phillips* Movie.

D. Significance of the Research

This study is expected to give both practical and theoretical contributions in relation to the study of cooperative principle.

1. Theoretically

The result of this study will contribute to the Cooperative Principle and Conversational Implicature theory formulated by Grice. It will strengthen Grice's theory by performing how the assumption of conversational maxims goes on in the conversation and how the maxims are flouted by the speakers' to imply what they intentionally mean.

This also gives more explanation about the flouting of conversational maxims in *Captain Phillips* movie and the implicatures generated from the conversations. It helps the description of language aspect that can be discussed through linguistic study, which focuses on the speaker's intended meaning constructed from their utterances to gain better understanding of communication in daily life.

2. Practically

This study is expected will be useful for the English learners, especially English students to broaden their understanding about Grice's theory concerning conversational maxims and flouting maxims that generates implicatures or hidden meanings. They will get new insight what conversational maxims are flouted in the conversation of *Captain Phillips* movie and the implicatures conveyed behind the characters' utterances.

The English learners will also learn how to generate implicature effectively in their communication without irritating the addressee to convey what they really mean in their utterances.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

In this research, the researcher studied the flouting of conversational maxims in *Captain Phillips* movie. Therefore the subject of this study is the whole characters' utterances of the movie.

The researcher only focused on the flouting of conversational maxims in *Captain Phillips* movie that generates implicature.

F. Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms is important to be given in order to avoid misunderstanding. Here, the researcher provided restricted definition corresponding to the terms used.

1. The Flouting

Flouting is disobeying the maxims of cooperative principle done by the speaker intentionally by giving false or opposite information during conversation that will produce implicature or hidden meaning behind the utterances uttered.

2. Cooperative Principle

A basic underlying assumption we make when we speak to one another is that we are trying to cooperate with one another to construct meaningful conversation. This assumption is known as the cooperative principle. It states “make your conversational contribution such as it is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged.”

3. The Conversational Maxims

Maxims are a way to explain the link between utterances and what is understood from them.

a. Maxim of Quantity

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

b. Maxim of Quality

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

c. Maxim of Relation

- Be relevant (on topic)

d. Maxim of Manner

- Be perspicuous

4. Implicature

When there is difference between what the words in an utterance mean according to the rules of semantics and grammar, and what the intended meaning, the speaker implies an extra meaning namely implicature.

G. Organization of the Research

The organization of this research paper will be given as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction

It includes background of the research, statement of research problems, the objectives of the research, the significance of the research, scope and

limitation of the research, definition of key terms, and organization of the research.

Chapter II: Review of Related Literature

It consists of the theories related to the topic of the research and some relevant studies previously concerning Grices' theory.

Chapter III: Research Methods

It deals with research design, data and data sources, data collection method, technique of data verification and data analysis.

Chapter IV: Research Findings and Discussion

It presents the data presentation and the research findings which are derived from data analysis. It also presents the discussion in interpreting research findings among pattern, categories, and dimensions found in the flouted maxims performed by the characters in the movie.

Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestion

It presents the conclusion of the study concerning the research problems briefly and suggestions for further study to make the better study.