CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, statement of research problem, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Research

In everyday life humans need to communicate with each other, and they do so through conversation. Conversation occurs when individuals interact and exchange information.[1] It is assumed that there are at least two participants, a speaker and a listener, who alternate roles during a conversation. In conversation, people often use indirect communication to get their point across. That is, they do not always express their thoughts directly, but rather imply them through context and subtle cues. The listener must interpret these cues to understand the overall message. This dynamic interaction makes conversation a complex and rich form of communication. In conclusion, conversation is an important aspect of human interaction, allowing individuals to share information, express emotions, and build relationships through the direct or indirect exchange of spoken language.

---

[1] Michael Yeomans et al., "A Practical Guide to Conversation Research: How to Study What People Say to Each Other," *Advances in Methods and Practices in Psychological Science* 6, no. 4 (October 1, 2023).

Understanding how vital conversation is in everyday interactions, this is also reflected in the world of cinema where dialogue acts as a story driver and brings characters to life. Through well-structured dialogue, the audience can feel the depth of the characters and connect emotionally with the storyline. Studying language especially English, the use of films in teaching has become a popular method to make language learning more interesting and contextualised.[2] Films provide authentic contexts where language is used in real life, so students can see how language functions in various social situations. Using films in English language teaching has several challenges that teachers need to overcome. One of the main difficulties is choosing a film that is appropriate for the students' language level and relevant to the material being taught. Films that are too complex or use difficult language can make it difficult for students to understand the content and reduce learning effectiveness.

Teachers should facilitate pedagogical activities that align with learning objectives, ensuring that students not only find the content engaging but also derive educational value from the linguistic elements presented in films. Educators must meticulously design instructional activities such as thematic discussions, character analysis, and language exercises derived from specific film scenes. This necessitates thorough preparation and innovative strategies to

---

[2] Brahim Mrissa and Khadija Anasse, "Teaching English with Movies," *Social Science and Humanities Journal* 8, no. 02 (December 23, 2023): 34503–34515.

render the learning process both stimulating and beneficial. In cinematic dialogue, characters frequently employ indirect language to convey their messages, utilizing devices such as sarcasm, humor, and satire. It is imperative for students to develop the ability to recognize and interpret contextual and cultural cues to accurately comprehend the underlying meanings. By leveraging films as educational tools, students can enhance their sensitivity to linguistic subtleties and better understand implied meanings in everyday discourse. To achieve this, educators must provide comprehensive guidance and clear explanations, thereby facilitating effective learning through film-based activities.

In the film industry, conversations are not only about explicit communication but also about conveying hidden meanings. Movie dialogue often uses conversational implications, which is a concept of pragmatics. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies how context affects the interpretation of meaning in communication. Conversational implications refer to the meaning implied in the conversation but not explicitly stated. This allows characters to convey their feelings, motivations, and thoughts indirectly, adding depth to their interactions.[3] For example, when a character says, "It's late," they may imply that it's time to leave without saying it directly. This adds realism to

---

[3] Winda Safitri and Mu'man, "Implicature In The Madagascar 2 Movie Script," *Professional Journal Of English Education* 5, no. 5 (September 2022): 939–946.

the film's dialogue, as it reflects how people often communicate in real life. By understanding the implications of the conversation, the audience can better understand the underlying messages and emotions conveyed by the characters. This makes the viewing experience more engaging and helps viewers connect with the characters on a deeper level.

The implications of the conversation make the movie more interesting. In the film, conversational implicature serves as an "implicit image" that helps the audience understand the deeper meaning behind the words. As such, the dialogue in a movie is an artistic tool that enhances the viewing experience and allows the audience to connect emotionally with the characters. It entertains and encourages the audience to be more involved in the storyline, try to understand hidden messages, and guess the characters' motivations. Conversations in movies are not just an exchange of words, but an artistic tool to convey messages, and affect the emotions of the audience.[4] Knowing the importance of conversational implications, we can better appreciate the way movies portray the complexity of human interaction. This understanding can also enhance the overall viewing experience, making each dialogue an opportunity to dig deeper into meaning and connect with the characters emotionally.

---

[4] Paul Bowman, "Fighting Talk: Martial Arts Discourse in Mainstream Films," *JOMEC Journal* 0, no. 13 (February 4, 2019): 30.

There are several studies that have been conducted and relevant with this present study. The first study was conducted by Cahyati entitled "An Analysis of Conversational Implicature in Antigone Drama Manuscript." This study aims to categorise the types of conversational implicature and the reasons for its use in the play "Antigone" using qualitative methods. The result of this study found 60 data containing conversational implicature. Generalised Conversational Implicature is more dominant (96%) than Particularized Conversational Implicature (4%). The most common maxim violation is quality (43%), followed by quantity (26%), relevance (20%), and manner (7%).[5] The second previous study was conducted by Hidayati & Mahmud entitled "Conversational Implicature in The Green Book Movie." This study aims to identify types of conversational implicature in the "Green Book" movie and discover their functions in the main characters' dialogue. This study was conducted using qualitative method. The study found two types of implicature, generalised and particularized. Out of 19 cases, 12 were generalised conversational implicatures, and 7 were particularized. These implicatures serve four language functions: metalinguistic, conative, emotive, and referential.[6]

---

[5] Dani Puji Cahyati, *An Analysis of Conversational Implicature In Antigone Drama Manuscript* (Surakarta, April 2017).

[6] Fitrah Hidayati and Murni Mahmud, "Conversational Implicature In The Green Book Movie," *Journal of English Literature and Linguistic Studies* 1, no. 1 (2022): 2022.

The third previous study conducted by Ulfa with the title "An Analysis of Conversational Implicature of The Main Characters in *Into the Woods Movie*" The research on the movie Into the Woods uses descriptive qualitative methods to explore conversational implicature, based on William James Lecture. The study analyzes 23 pieces of data, focusing on types of conversational implicature and maxim violations. The findings include 9 types of conversational implicatures, with 4 generalized and 5 particularized implicatures. Additionally, the research identifies maxim violations, including 6 quality violations, 1 quantity violation, 3 relation violations, and 4 manner violations. The study concludes that the film aids in learning not only English but also implied meanings in communication.[7] The next previous study was conducted by Atoillah with the title "Conversational Implicature in Thomas Tuchel's First Press Conference as Chelsea Manager." This study is intended to determine the types of conversational implicatures and the functions of conversational implicatures that occur in Thomas Tuchel's press conference. This study was conducted using descriptive qualitative method. The results of this study provide that the researcher found 32 data containing conversational implicature. The researcher found two types of conversational implicature, namely general conversational implicature and specific conversational

---

[7] Futria Ulfa, "An Analysis Of Conversational Implicature Of The Main Characters In Into The Woods Movie" (State Islamic University Of Raden Intan Lampung, 2022).

implicature. General conversational implicature is most often used by Thomas Tuchel with 20 out of 32 data.[8]

Based on these previous studies, several studies have been conducted related to the use of conversational implicature in various contexts, such as drama scripts, films, and press conferences. All of these studies employed qualitative methods to identify the types of conversational implicature and the maxim violations that occur. The positive impact of these studies is that they provide a deeper understanding of how conversational implicature is used in various communication contexts. This understanding can help in language learning, enrich literary analysis, and improve communication skills. Furthermore, an understanding of conversational implicature can help individuals to be more sensitive to the implied meanings in everyday conversations, which in turn can improve their social and interaction skills. By recognizing these subtle cues, people can engage more effectively in conversations, fostering better relationships and clearer communication. Ultimately, these insights can lead to more nuanced and meaningful interactions in both personal and professional settings.

Although the analysis of conversational implicature in film has been widely discussed, the researcher identified a gap in the research literature.

---

[8] Noormann Atoillah, "Conversational Implicature In Thomas Tuchel's First Press Conference As Chelsea Manager" (State Islamic University Of Sunan Ampel , 2023).

Previous studies have not sufficiently explored the use of conversational implicature to portray hierarchy in film. This gap highlights the need for a deeper exploration of how conversational implicature is used to convey the intricacies of authority and social stratification among characters, enriching narrative complexity and audience engagement. This exploration could reveal how screenwriters and directors use implicit language to portray power relations without the need to explicitly state them. In addition, this research can analyse how hierarchies affect interactions between characters and the overall storyline we can better understand the communicative strategies used to shape the audience's perception of characters and situations. It also allows the audience to be more involved in the story and understand the nuances underlying the interactions between characters. Therefore, this research is expected to make a significant contribution to the study of linguistics and film narrative.

Based on those explanations, it is evident that further investigation into conversational implicature can provide valuable insights. The findings could help enhance scriptwriting techniques, making films more engaging and reflective of complex social structures. This research aims to identify the types of conversational implicatures in film dialogues and explore how they utilized in films to depict social hierarchy among characters. Through this analysis, the researcher hopes to provide new insights into the communication strategies

used by the characters and how these strategies can be applied in language teaching to help students understand the more complex nuances of language. By analysing conversational implicature, the researcher hopes to provide deeper insights into how implicit meaning is used in film communication. Therefore, the researcher will conduct this study with the title *"Conversational Implicature Found in the Film Oppenheimer (2023) by Christopher Nolan "*.

B. Statement of Research Problem

Based on the background of study above, the problem of the research is as follows:

1. What types of conversational implicatures are most frequently observed in the film's dialogues?

2. How is conversational implicature used to show social hierarchy between characters in the film?

C. Objective of the Research

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

1. To identify and categorize the dominant types of conversational implicature used in the film's dialogues.

2. To analyze how conversational implicature is utilized in films to show social hierarchy among characters.

D. Significance of the Research

The writer hopes that this study will provide significant insights to all readers, including:

1. English Learners

This research will be a valuable resource for English learners studying pragmatics, linguistics, communication, and film studies. It will help them understand the practical applications of theoretical concepts such as implicature and conversational implicature, and how

these concepts can be observed and analyzed in real-world contexts, specifically in cinematic dialogues.

2. Further Researcher

This study will serve as a foundation for future research on conversational implicature in films, offering a detailed analysis that can be referenced and expanded upon. It will also highlight the importance of implicature in understanding complex narrative structures and character interactions, encouraging further exploration in both pragmatics and film studies.

E. Scope and Limitations of the Research

The scope of this study focuses on analyzing how conversational implicature is used in the film Oppenheimer (2023) by Christopher Nolan to reflect social hierarchy among characters, drawing on Davis and Moore's theory of social stratification. The analysis is based on Grice's pragmatic framework, focusing specifically on Particular Conversational Implicature and General Conversational Implicature. However, this study is limited to examining these two types of conversational implicature as used by the characters, without analyzing other pragmatic functions beyond their role in portraying social hierarchy. The goal is to provide a detailed analysis of how conversational implicature serves to represent social hierarchy in the film.

F. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstandings of the concepts used in this research, the writer must provide some definitions of the terms used. Those are:

1. **Pragmatics**

   Pragmatics is the study of how context influences the interpretation of meaning in communication. pragmatics focuses on how language users understand and produce language in different contexts. This includes how speakers' intentions, social relationships, cultural norms, and the situational context influence the interpretation of meaning.

2. **Implicature**

   Implicature is when a speaker implies something indirectly through their words, relying on context and shared knowledge to convey the intended meaning. It allows for more nuanced and subtle communication beyond the literal interpretation of the words spoken.

3. **Particular Conversational Implicature**

   The type of conversational implicature depends heavily on the specific context of the conversation and the shared knowledge between the speaker and the listener. These implicatures are not universally understood and require an understanding of the particular circumstances in which the conversation takes place. These implicatures are based on

the assumption that speakers follow certain conversational maxims, such as being truthful, informative, relevant, and clear.

4. **General Conversational Implicature**

Refers to the type of conversational implicature that arises from general principles of communication and is typically understood by most people without needing specific contextual information. These implicatures are based on the assumption that speakers follow certain conversational maxims, such as being truthful, informative, relevant, and clear.

5. **Social Hierarchy**

Social hierarchy is a stratified arrangement in society that governs who has higher or lower status based on power, roles, and access to resources. It is reflected in the way people speak, behave and are treated, often without the need to state it directly.