AN ANALYSIS OF THE VIOLATION OF GRICE’S MAXIMS IN THE 300 MOVIE

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Abstract

In general conversation usually happen cooperative principle. In conversation people tend do the violation of cooperative principle. Violation in conversation it is not only found in daily life, but also found in conversation of the movie. Cooperative principle has relation with maxims. In this thesis the writer describe about violation of Grice’s Maxims in 300 movie. This study has two purposes: (1) To know what Maxims that violated in conversation of 300 movie. (2) To know what Maxims that most often violated in conversation of 300 movie. In analyzing conversation of 300 movie, the writer applies Grice’s Maxims theory. Contexts become the main influence of conversation in 300 movie (Physical Context by Crabtree 1991:233). The data are taken from internet. The writer use description technique to analysis the data. The data is script (conversation) of 300 movie. The data separated into two groups, maxims of quantity and maxims of relevant. In findings the writer makes table and classify into two of context that include to maxims of quantity and maxims of relevant. The analysis and findings shows what conversation in 300 movie that has violation maxims of quantity and violation maxims of relevant. The context that accord with conversation in 300 movie is physical context (where the Speaker and Hearer take place).

Keywords: conversation, grice’s maxims, implicature, cooperative principle, context.

Introduction

In general conversation usually happen cooperative principle. In conversation people tend do the violation of cooperative principle. Violation in conversation that make the writer interest to analyze this research. Cooperative principle has relation with maxims. Maxims is rule in conversation that must be do it in interact with other. The writer see the violation from point of view of maxims. Based on theory of Grice, maxims can be devide into four maxims, maxims of Quantity, maxims of Quality, maxims of Relevant, and maxims of Manner.

The maxim is a rule which must be obeyed by the communicator (speakers and listeners) in doing interaction textually or personally in order to have communication process to be done smoothly. In accordance with the cooperative principle, Grice has categorized the cooperative principle into four maxims; relevance, quality and clarity (manner). The names of
the four types are taken from the German philosopher Immanuel Kant (Grice 1991: 26). The cooperative principle and its component maxims ensure that in an exchange of conversation, the right amount of information is provided and that the interaction is conducted in a truthful, relevant and perspicuous manner.

In addition, it is essential to recognize these four maxims as unstated assumption have in conversation, normally assume that the speakers are telling the truth, being relevant and trying to be as clear as they can. These maxims are assumed in normal interaction, speakers rarely mention them. As a result, the speakers sometimes observe the maxims and violate them.

Violation in conversation it is not only found in daily life, but violation in conversation also found in script of conversation in the movie. To analyze conversation in movie people must see script and context of the movie. In this research the writer interest to analyze conversation in 300 movie, because in 300 movie is so many has violation of maxims.

300 movie is a 2007 America action movie based on the 1998 comic series of the same name by Frank Miller. The movie was directed by famous director, Zack Snyder, some of famous films that directed by Zack Snyder; Sucker Punch, Down of the Death, and Legend of the Guardians. The plot revolves around King Leonidas who leads 300 Spartans against Persian lead by King Xerxes and his army 300,000 soldiers. The movie was a box office success, grossing over $450 million, the movie’s opening being the 24th largest in box office history at the time, and it has since developed a cult following.

The writer analyze script of 300 movie into violation of Grice’s Maxims because, this movie is one of most famous movie in the world. After the writer reading script of 300 movie, the writer found mistake between the speaker and listener. In analyze the conversation, theory that accurate for it is formulated by H. P. Grice; Cooperative Principle, which he believed underlies language use, according to which enjoined to make sure that what we say in conversation furthers the purposes of these conversations (Crabtree and Powers 1991: 233).

Cooperative Principle that has formulated by H. P. Grice can be divided into four maxims, called Gricean Maxims, describing specific rational principles observed by people who obey the cooperative principle; these principles enable effective communication (Renkema 2004: 19). Maxims is a rule which must be obeyed by the communicator (speaker and listener) in doing interaction textually or personally in order that to have
communication process to be done smoothly.

In this thesis the writer focused Grice’s Maxims theory to analyze the conversation in 300 movie. The writer used Grice’s Maxims theory to analyze the data because Grice’s Maxims can classified what are conversations that containing violation of Grice’s Maxims. Grice’s Maxims theory has four types of Maxims; Maxim of Quantity, Maxim of Quality, Maxim of Relevance, and Maxim of Manner. The writer starts to collect and analyze data from important conversation in script of 300 movie.

Method of Research

In this chapter the writer explained about how to get the source of data, method to collecting data, technique analyzing data and how to representation data. To analyze the conversation in 300 movie, the writer must get the written data in order that easy to analyze the data.

Method of the research in this study deals with the data source, method and technique of collecting data, method and technique of analyzing and presenting the analysis.

The writer take the data from internet(www.script-o-rama .com/ movie _scripts/t/300-script-transcript-sparta.htm). Based on the link above, the writer found the script conversation of 300 movie. The writer also tries to find the kind of Grice’s Maxims in conversation of 300 movie. In collecting the data, the writer read and analyzed the script of 300 movie. Based on Gay (2000: 232) the writer use observation to describe what the writer has seen and classify note since this note will be the basis for the data analysis. The writer makes the some action to understand this thesis as follows:

1. Reading the script of 300 movie to find conversation that contain maxims.
2. Collecting the sentence of conversation that contain maxims.
3. Writing down sentence of conversation that contain maxims.
4. Analyzing conversation in 300 movie that contain violation of Grice’s Maxims.

Technique of the data analysis (maxims of quantity and maxims of relevant) purposeful of organize the data is to find the theme and concept in order that easier to analyze the data (Afifuddin, 2009: 145). In this research the writer collecting written data to be analyze.

Example 1:  A : What the hell are you laughing?
            B : Well, you had to say it!

In this conversation, A try to know what is B laughing, but B not directly answers the question. B gives information that makes
A confused to understand, and this conversation is not relevant. In this conversation B has violation maxims of relevant.

Example 2: A: Our ancestors built this wall using ancient stones from the bosom of Greece herself. And with a little Spartan help, your Persian scouts supplied the mortar.

In example above, the writer see A has violation maxims of quantity by giving so much information than is required.

Findings

The writer would like to describe about the data has been taken from script of 300 movie. From the data that has been collected, the writer found the maxims of quantity and maxims of relevant. In this research the writer also found the violations of maxims quantity and maxims of quality in the script of 300 movie.

Maxims of Quantity

An utterance must contain something new to be informative. We must to count as something new logically; the content of the utterance must not be implied by the preceding discourse anyway.

1. Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the change).

2. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

The first maxims is intended to insure that we make as strong a claim as is warranted in any given circumstance and the second is meant to insure that we not make a stronger claim than is warranted in that circumstance (Crabtree and Powers 1991: 234).

1. **King Leonidas**: What is your purpose come to my land?

**Xerxes**: There will be no glory in your sacrifice. I will erase even the memory of Sparta from the histories! Every piece of Greek parchment shall be burned. Every Greek historian and every scribe shall have their eyes pulled out, and their tongues cut from their mouths. Why, uttering the very name of Sparta, or Leonidas, will be punishable by death! The world will never know you existed at all!

In the example (1) we can see the conversation between King Leonidas and Xerxes is violated the maxims. Conversation between King Leonidas and Xerxes show the violation of maxims quantity that do it by Xerxes. King Leonidas asked what is purpose of Xerxes
come to his land, and Xerxes give information too much that not important to King Leonidas, automatically Xerxes do the violation of maxims quantity.

Implicature that happen in this conversation show the message Xerxes come to land of Spartan and to take King Leonidas land. Xerxes also show that he want destroy all of things in Sparta.

2. **King Leonidas**: You bring the crowns and heads of conquered kings to my city steps. You insult my queen. You threaten my people with slavery and death! Oh, I've chosen my words carefully, Persian. Perhaps you should have done the same!

**Messenger**: This is blasphemy!

This is madness!

In the example (2) we can see the conversation King Leonidas and Messenger comes to the King Leonidas and threatens his people. King Leonidas give informative statement than is required. King Leonidas do the violation of maxims quantity.

Implicature that happen in this conversation show message that King Leonidas want the Messenger be carefully to choose words while negotiation with Spartan. King Leonidas also want Messenger leave the land of Sparta, and do not try to take land of Sparta.

3. **Theron**: It is the law, my lord. The Spartan army must not go to war.

**King Leonidas**: Nor shall it. I've issued no such orders. I'm here, just taking a stroll, stretching my legs. These, uh, 300 men are my personal bodyguard.

In the example (3) we can see the conversation that Theron is tried to suggest King Leonidas to not go to war, because Persian army is very powerful. King Leonidas give explanation to the Theron too much and give some of another reason that too informative. King Leonidas clearly do the violation maxims of quantity.

Implicature that happen in this conversation that Theron have reason for Spartan go to war, because Theron has get money from Xerxes in other that Theron can fail Spartan mission to war with Persian. King Leonidas give much statement to Theron because King Leonidas lie to Theron that he is only stretching his legs with the 300 soldier, in other that Theron do not know purpose of King Leonidas is go to war against Persian.
4.

**Daxos**: There can be no victory here. Why do you smile?

**Stelios**: Arcadian, I've fought countless times, yet I've never met an adversary who could offer me what we Spartans call "A Beautiful Death." I can only hope, with all the world's warriors gathered against us, there might be one down there who's up to the task.

In the example (4) we can see conversation in the middle of war, where the Spartan is surrounded by Persian and almost lose. Daxos ask the question to Stelios why he is smile at the middle of war that can be no victory. Stelios should answer Daxos’s question as informative as is required, not give the explanation that can make Daxos confuse. Stelios’s statement include to violation maxims of quantity.

Implicature in this conversation that Stelios show more messages to Daxos in other that Daxos can feel what that Stelios feel. Stelios try to imagine how beautiful death in the middle of war. Way of Stelios try to make Daxos feel about beautiful death is wrong, because Stelios talk to much to Daxos, and that is violated cooperative principle in conversation.

5.

**King Leonidas**: Spartans! Prepare for glory!

**Daxos**: Glory? Have you gone mad? There is no glory to be had now! Only retreat, or surrender or death!

**King Leonidas**: Well, that's an easy choice for us, Arcadian! Spartans never retreat! Spartans never surrender! Go spread the word. Let every Greek assembled know the truth of this. Let each among them search his own soul. And while you're at it, search your own.

In the example (5) we can see situation where the no glory for the Spartans agains the Persians. Daxos say the King Leonidas is crazy because he is still fight although the Spartans almost down. King Leonidas give explanation too much to Daxos, and describe how the Spartans never retreat, and surrender. King Leonidas has violation maxims of quantity.

Implicature In this conversation that message from King Leonidas to Daxos is too much. King Leonidas message is that Spartan not fear about anything and Spartan never surrender. King Leonidas has violation maxims of quantity because he is want Daxos get the spirit from King
Leonidas’s words, and keep to fight against Persian.

Maxims of Relevant

We must be relevant. Make your information be relevant and do not give information that can make people confuse to understand what that you say (Crabtree and Powers 1991: 234).

6.

Stelios: What the hell are you laughing at?
Astinos: Well, you had to say it!
Stelios: What?
Astinos: "Fight in the shade"!
[both laugh]

In the example (6) is takes place in the war field, where the Persian fires the arrow directly into Spartan. Stelios asking why Astinos laughing, but Astinos not give the answer to Stelios, and Astinos give statement that Stelios has been said “fight in the shade”. Implicature from Astinos “Well, you had to say it!” is meaning that Astinos want Stelios understand what is statement that say by Stelios before. In this conversation clearly Astinos has violation maxims of relevant, because he is not give answer that make Stelios understand.

7.

Statesman: [after the army starts marching in the fields, talking nervously] What shall we do?
Theron: What can we do?
King Leonidas: [sneers] What can you do? Sparta will need sons.

In the example (7) we can see conversation between Statesman, Theron, and King Leonidas show the Persian army starts marching in the field and Spartan feel nervously. Statesman ask to King Leonidas “what shall they do?” and Theron also ask to King Leonidas “what can we do?”, Theron clearly do the violation of maxims relevant, because Theron directly ask to King Leonidas before King Leonidas response Statesman’s question. Implicature by Theron showing fear expression, in other that King Leonidas answer Statesman fastly.

8.

King Leonidas: [points to another soldier] And you, Arcadian, what is your profession?
Free Greek-Sculptor: Sculptor, sir.

King Leonidas: Sculptor. [turns to a third soldier]

In the example (8) we can see King Leonidas searching and selection new army to against Persian. King Leonidas start to ask what profession of the candidate. King Leonidas ask to the one of
candidate “and you, Arcadian, what is your profession?”, and Free Greek-Scluptor answer the question “Scluptor, sir”. Free Greek-Scluptor has maxims of relevant, because he is give relevant answer and not makes King Leonidas confuse, but in this conversation King Leonidas has violation maxims of relevant, because King Leonidas repeated Free Greek-Scluptor question. Implicature by King Leonidas showing that King Leonidas think nothing of Free Greek-Scluptor’s profession.

9.

King Leonidas : [turns back shouting] Spartans! What is your profession?

Spartans: WAR! WAR! WAR!

In the example (9) we can see King Leonidas searching and selection new army to against Persian. After King Leonidas ask to candidate who want to join with Spartan in the war. King Leonidas also ask to his army “Spartan!” , What is your profession?”, and Spartan answer the question “WAR! WAR! WAR!” . Spartan has violation maxims of relevant, because the Spartan give answer that make people confuse. Spartan should answer they are army. Implicature by Spartan is showing that Spartan are people that only have profession, that is only for WAR, and meaning of WAR in this context are people that brave and loyal to their King and Land.

10.

King Leonidas : [turning to Daxos] You see, old friend? I brought more soldiers than you did.

Dilios: Xerxes dispatches his monsters from half the world away. They're clumsy beasts, and the piled Persian dead are slippery.

In the example (10) we can see King Leonidas brought more soldier than Dilios imagine. King Leonidas say “you see, old friend? I brought more soldier than you did”, and Dilios give statement that explain about Xerxes that dispatched his monster from half the world away. Implicature by Dilios means that Xerxes brought more soldier than King Leonidas, its means soldier of King Leonidas cannot win against Xerxes’s soldier. Dilios has violation maxims of relevant because he is describe about what have Xerxes done and not response question of King Leonidas.

11.

Dilios: Sire, any message?

King Leonidas: For the queen?

[Dilios nods. Leonidas removes the wolf's fang pendant from
around his neck, and presses it into Dilios's hand].

In the example (11) we can see King Leonidas give a command to Dilios for go back to the Sparta and to regroup new army for backup in the war against Persian. Dilios ask to King Leonidas “Sir any message?”. King Leonidas answer “For the queen?” and give wolf’s fang pendant to Dilios. King Leonidas has violation maxims of relevant, because he is not give relevant answer and make Dilios confuse. King Leonidas should answer Dilios’s question is “No, please give this pendant for the queen”. Implicature by King Leonidas showing he is know that he is will death in the war, and King Leonidas want Dilios give the pendant to the Queen as a souvenir for her.

Result

In this research the writer has analyze violation of Grice’s Maxims in conversation of 300 movie. The result of this research the writer found some of conversation that contain violation of Grice’s Maxims (maxims of quantity, maxims of quality, maxims of relevant, maxims of manner) in conversation of 300 movie. In 300 movie has so many conversation that contain violation maxims of quantity and maxims of relevant.

In observasing the maxims, the writer concludes that the speaker is consider implementing the maxims when he gives an appropriate contribution in interacting with other. According to the analysis of this research, by means of contribution is when the speaker has fulfilled the indicators in applying those maxims such as a relevant response, being truthful, being adequately informative, and being brief and orderly.

Character in 300 movie do not talk in orderly way because they are eager to explain something or accuse someone of what he did before. In addition, the writer concludes that the deviation in the maxims happens when the speaker is trying to hide some information or the speaker refuse to share the information and purposely gives the false information.

The writer realizes that the result of this research the violation of Grice’s Maxims as found in the 300 movie. Therefore, the writer hopes there will be further research and discussion about the Grice’s Maxims and because there are so many aspects of linguistics that can be studied beside the violation of Grice’s Maxims. The writer would like to give some suggestion for the Linguistics research and for all of English Letters students as well, especially the students who focus their study on Pragmatics scope.
1. For the Linguistics research, in analyzing the language phenomena, there are various things which have values to be investigated, for studying language would mean we are studying the human’s culture and their problem. Such as in Pragmatics, though one language might consider one’s expression doesn’t defy the maxims, however, in another language, it might be considered deviation.

2. For the students, you don’t have worry to about what kind of research you are going to do with linguistics studies, for linguistics studies every scope of language. You can even make a research about language taken from your daily conversation such as pragmatics.

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