



## **An Analysis of Conversational Maxim Violation Found in “The Monster House” Movie Script**

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### **Abstract**

Conversational maxim is a set of rule or guideline in conversation which was originally proposed by HP Grice in 1975. He categorizes the maxim into four types which are maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. These rules are indeed useful for the speakers and interlocutors to make conversation run well. In this paper, the conversation or dialogue in the movie script became the source of data, and the script of the Monster House movie was chosen. Furthermore, the aim of this paper was to find out the type of maxim which is mostly violated in the script. The data were analyzed based on theory proposed by Grice. The results of the analysis revealed that almost all the main characters in the script violated the conversational maxim. Moreover, from all the utterances uttered by the characters, it was found that there were 54 utterances which violated the conversational maxim. From the 54 violated utterances, it was found that the percentages for each type of violation were 23.1% for maxim of quantity, 44, 4% for maxim of relation, 9.3% for maxim of quality, 16, 7% for maxim of manner, and 7,4% for combination of maxim quantity and relation. From these results, it can be concluded that the type of maxim that was mostly violated in the script of The Monster House movie was maxim of relation.

**Keywords:** Conversational maxim, Maxim violation, The Monster House movie script

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Conversation is communication between speaker and listener. In daily life, communication cannot be separated from the activities of human being. Communication occurs when people interact with others. Every time people interact, they will try to understand about the topic and context in order to avoid misunderstanding and make the communication work well. People need a language as a tool of communication to deliver the message or information to interact with each other. It means that language is important point while doing the

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conversations. The conversation between speakers and listeners involve a term of cooperative principle.

Cooperative principle is pragmatic inference which is a basic principle in conversation. The cooperative principle can now be a standard tool of discourse analysis among linguists. In general, the speaker and listener follow the cooperative principle. HP Grice (1975) states that when you interact with others, you have to make your contribution as it is required with the accepted purpose or direction of the talk in which you are engaged. In order to get the meaningful communication, the participant should pay attention to cooperative principle. Therefore they can reduce misunderstanding in some aspects such as in sharing the ideas, giving opinion and answering the question based on the context. Besides every participant will try to make the conversation work well interact. There are some maxims or norms involved in the cooperative principle which are called conversational maxim.

Aristotle's (1998:150) explains that maxim is a general propositions, or assertion, relative to moral action and human conduct. Atwell (1986:35) gives another definition. He says that "maxim is the subjective principle of acting." Based on the definition of two experts, it can be said that maxim is a declarative statement. In universal form concerning the quality of persons or/and things, maxim is subjective principle of action or basic truth about life. It is concerned with human action as a thought that can motivate individuals.

Furthermore, Flasher (2012:314) mentions that "A conversational maxim is a general rule of conduct during conversation". There are four rules which were proposed by Grice (1975). These rules involve some norms or maxims. Generally, speakers and the interlocutors try to build good conversation. In order to do so, they will try to avoid the misunderstanding. Thus, by obeying these four rules, they can create a meaningful interaction.

Guerts (2010:10) explains that "in conversation, the speaker should be cooperative to make the good sentence sufficiently informative and the truth and conversation will be cooperative by obeying maxim rules". In cooperative principle, the speaker should be cooperative with the listener to build good conversations and avoid misunderstanding between them. Yule (1996:37) states that people normally provide an appropriate amount of information by telling the truth, and conversation becomes clear and relevant. The cooperative principle makes the conversational contribution efficient.

Leech (1983:82) also explains that "the cooperative principle has function of regulating what we say so it contributes to some assumed illocutionary act or discourse goal in cooperative principle enables one participant is being cooperative each other". In conversation, every participant should be cooperated. According to Yule (2010:142), "discourse is language beyond the sentence that concerns with the study of language in text and conversation, and the most noticeable features is being cooperative." Discourse study concerns about language in text and conversation that makes it worth to be used in analyzing the movie script.

According to Guerts (2010:10), "discourse is a joint project between interlocutors to suppose the utterance that normally interpreted in the light of

current discourse goals; people talk with each other to exchange information, to negotiate a deal, to settle disputes and so on". The utterance of participant sometimes have the meaning or direct statement, that had the purpose of every topic which the participant built before. Levinson (2000:20) states that the maxims of quantity are utilized rather than maxim of quality but the basic intellectual moves still seem well motivated. The participant will use the different maxims that become dominant in every conversation based on the context or related the topic about what they are talking about.

Conversational maxim is one of rules in cooperative principle which is proposed by Herbert Paul Grice (1975). Grice categorizes conversational maxims into four categories: the maxims of quantity, the maxims of quality, the maxims of relation, and the maxims of manner. Besides, Traxler (2012) explains that a conversational maxim is rule or guideline that is applied when people interact with others. Since there are four types of maxim, every maxim has the different purpose and function (sub-maxims). Each type generally aims to make the listener understand easily the meaning of what the speaker said by stating the clear utterances. It will prevent miscommunication about the topic. "The assumption of cooperation is so pervasive that it can be stated as a cooperative principle of conversation and it is called maxim for the elaboration of four sub-principles (Yule, 1996:37)." These types of maxim are expressed by the speaker to make the contribution in conversation. Pridham (2001:4) describes that the interaction between people is not only the matter of cooperation, but it is also about the context of interaction.

Grice (1975:45) states that the cooperative principle makes our conversational contribution such as required, at the stage at which it occurs, of the talk exchange in which we are engaged before. Based on Traxler (2012), Grice started with the idea that participants in a conversation try to cooperate with one another in order to expand the pool of shared knowledge engaging in this cooperative activity involves following other rules (maxims) as well. Grice elaborates theses general principle into four conversational maxims; each of them has different use in giving the contribution that is maxim quantity, quality, relation and manner.

Based on Wayne (1998:12), "some implicatures depend on flouting or violate the maxims Grice proposed and cooperative speaker says so clearly fails to obey the maxims, it makes the hearer must accept the speaker means something different". Meanwhile speaker violates the maxim, sometimes in the speaker utterances has the implied message or the hidden meaning. The speaker makes the listener understand based on the context.

This cooperative principle and the maxims offered about what implies, suggest, and means of the speaker, it is contrasted with the uttering a sentence by the speaker itself. Archer (2012:52) states Grice's identification of flouting in particular, whereby speaker deliberately fails to observe a maxim (or maxims) as a means of promoting others to look for a meaning which is different from. Grice's maxims of cooperative principle, it does not seem like the laws, the speaker should not break one of the rules to create a good conversation but if speaker breaks one, it will violates maxim. In addition, Archer (2012:54) says that Leech also suggests that some flouts of the Grecian maxims are undertaken because of

politeness reason. The violation of the maxims can be concluding to the politeness ways in conversation between speaker and listener.

Compared to the previous research, the focus is same which is analyzing the conversational maxims in the discourse field. However, the object analyzed is different. This paper analyzed the violation of conversational maxims based on H.P Grice theory in The Monster House movie script.

## B. RESEARCH METHOD

The aim of this research was to describe and analyze conversational maxim violation in the Monster House movie script. This research used descriptive method as a research design. The data of this research were the transcript of the movie. The participants who act as if it is reasonable and the interaction between them is still running. When reading the conversation between the Characters in movie script, the reader will not realize that animated character has violated a maxim because they still interact with one another. Therefore, the data of the research were 54 utterances in all conversation that violate.

There were some instruments that needed in this research. First, first instrument the researcher collected the data by using table of violation maxims. Second instrument was reading equipments such as pen and notebook to write the conversation which belong to violation of conversational maxim were used. In order to collect the data, the researcher did some steps. First, download the transcript, after that analyze that script after getting the transcript of the movie.

## C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Research Finding

After analyzing the violation of conversational maxims, it is clear enough to finding of this paper because the 54 utterances in 52 datum that are used as the data of analysis has represented the violation of H.P Grice theory and the types of violation in each sub maxims from the entire data. The finding is shown through a table which percentage the dominant violation that appeared in conversation found in The Monster House movie script.

**Table of Data Description:**

NO	Conversational Maxims	Datum
1	Maxim of Quantity	2, 8, 9, 12, 19, 23, 28, 37, 45, 47, 49, 51
2	Maxim of Quality	15, 17, 24, 36, 41
3	Maxim of Relation	1, 6, 10, 14, 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 40, 42, 43, 46, 48, 50, 52
4	Maxim of Manner	3, 4, 7, 11, 13, 18, 22, 31, 39
5	Combination Maxim Relation & Quantity	5, 44

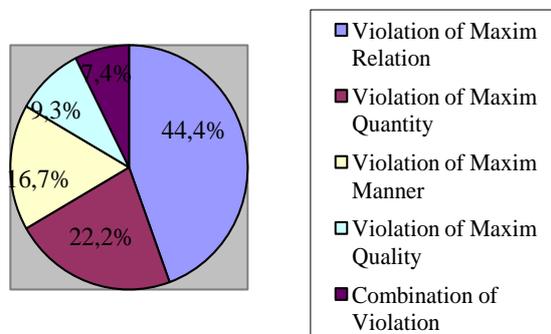
The finding is shown through a table which percentage the dominant violation that appeared in conversation found in The Monster House movie script. Now, let see the total percentage of violations of maxim in the animation movie “The Monster House” can be seen from the table below:

**Figure 1**  
**Table of Violation Conversational Maxims in “The Monster House” Movie Script**

No	Kinds of Maxim Violation	Total of Violation	Percentage
1	Quantity	12	22,2%
2	Quality	5	9,3%
3	Relation	24	44,4%
4	Manner	9	16,7%
5	Combination of violation (Quantity & Relation)	4	7,4%
		<b>54</b>	<b>100%</b>

From table figure 1 above, the form of total violation in the first quality are  $\frac{12}{54} \times 100 = 22,2\%$ . So the result from the maxim of quantity is 22, 2%. Next, the form of violation in the second quality is  $\frac{5}{54} \times 100 = 9, 3 \%$ . The result from the violation in the second quality is 9, 3%. And then, the form of total violation maxim relation is  $\frac{24}{54} \times 100 = 44, 4\%$ . So the result of violation maxim relation is 44, 4%. Next, the form of violation maxim manner is  $\frac{9}{54} \times 100 = 16, 7\%$ . So the result of violation maxim is 16, 7%. The last, the form of violation maxim Combination of violation (Quantity & Relation) is  $\frac{4}{54} \times 100 = 7, 4\%$ . So, the result of the violation maxim Combination of violation (Quantity & Relation) is 7, 4%.

**Figure 2**  
**The Percentage in Conversational Maxims Found in The Monster House Movie Script**



From the first column of the table above, it can be seen kinds of maxim violation which is four maxims based on H.P Grice theory, they are: maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. Thus based on the 54 utterances in 52 datum on the table above, it is clearly stated the violation of maxim Relation is mostly violated in The Monster House script for about 24 utterances (44, 4%) in datum 1, 6, 10, 14, 16, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 38, 40, 42, 43, 46, 48, 50, 52. After that, there is a violation of quantity has 12 utterances (22,2%) in datum 2, 8, 9, 12, 19, 23, 28, 37, 45, 47, 49, and 51. 16,7% violation of maxim manner with 9 utterances found in datum 3, 4, 7, 11, 13, 18, 22, 31, and 39. The least violation is violating maxim of quality by 5 utterances in datum 15, 17, 24, 36, 41 or 9, 3% of the total percentage. The combination of maxim quantity and relation do violation maxims with the percentage 7, 4% in datum 5, 44. So the most dominant category of violation of maxim is maxim of relation (44, 4%). It can be concluded that the violation of maxim relation is the most dominant than another maxims in The Monster House movie script. The maxim of Quality is the last position which violate by the character on The Monster House movie script.

## 2. Discussion

The maxim of conversational maxim which tends to be violated in the monster house movie script is maxim of relation. The maxim tend to violate is maxim of relation. There are 24 utterances (44, 4%) indicate violation of maxim relation. There are 12 utterances (22, 2%) which belong to the violation of quantity. The violation of maxim manner can be seen in 9 utterances (16, 7%). And last, In the Monster House movie script, also found the combination of violation of Maxim quantity and relation with (7, 4%) or 4 utterances.

In this part, the researcher discuss conversational maxim by some previous studies done by others as different as the researcher is more concerned on the finding of analysis and result of the previous studies. The research conducted by Adriani (2013). She researched about the comparison of the maxim violation found in action and drama movies. The aim of her study is to identify the more dominant violation between the two genres movie that are action and drama. Based on her research, she found from the both of genre had violation of maxims but the more dominant violation of maxims are “Charlie Angels” script found 35,85% violate maxim quality from 53 utterances and 37,5% violate maxim quantity found in “The Pacifier” script from 48 utterances. Based on Adriani research, she found the different result of the mostly violate between two object that used. In this analysis, the writer also used the same theory related to conversational maxims. The pacifier movie in her research and The Monster House of this analysis had different resultlt of maxim mostly violated is maxim relation.

The second result research is conducted by Andersen (2013). He has done a research about flouting the Maxims on Comedy Series Community. The aim of his study is to find the most floating of the conversational maxims on Comedy Series Community. He research the analysis of the main character’s in conversations that contains the floated maxim by using H.P Grice theory of conversational maxims. He find out the maxim of quantity was mostly flouted by

some characters used more flouts than others with the reasons of floating maxims is that come up with the different personality reasons why some characters flouts in order to create comedy. In his research, he found the same different violation of relation that mostly violated by using the same theory of H.P Grice. Based on this analysis, the writer found the dominant violation in the Monster House movie script is maxim of relation, because from the conversation the character gives unrelated statements each other so it's make interesting to the reader watch.

#### **D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS**

The conversational maxim is not only used in daily conversation but also in the movie. In this research there were (44, 4%) in maxim of relation. After that, there is a violation of quantity has (22, 2%), violation of maxim manner with (16, 7%). The least violation is violating maxim of quality (9, 3%) of the total percentage. The combination of maxim quantity and relation do violation maxims with the percentage (7, 4%). So the most dominant category of violation of maxim is maxim of relation (44, 4%). The violation of maxim quantity occurs if the speaker does not say directly to the point or uninformative. Maxim of quality was violated when the speaker said to the listener something which was untrue or tends to tell a lie. Maxim of relevance was violated if the speaker made the conversational unmatched with the topic or changed to another topic. The last is violating maxim of manner occurs if the speaker makes an ambiguous statements to the listeners which make the hearer become misunderstanding with the topic of conversation. The maxim should be follow of every participant in conversation for efficient communication and it is common knowledge.

This research only analyzed the cooperative principle in conversational maxim based on H.P Grice theory (1975). Exactly, there are so many aspect about the rules of making a conversation working well that can be done as a research of conversational aspects and, there are so many objects to be a research related to this topic such as research of conversational aspect and, there are so many objects to be research related to this topic such as, song lyrics, novel, magazine, advertisement, etc. The research suggests other researchers that might be interested in analyzing about conversational analysis in maxim could continue this analysis from other aspects related to this topic. Since this research concerning on the violation of conversational maxim in the script of The Monster House (2006). It is suggested to other researcher to conduct a research on the type of conversational maxims in the movie as well as in the movie script. Furthermore, the other researchers are also suggested to compare the analysis of conversational maxim in The Monster House with other related movies.

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