



Reasons of Flouting Maxim in Conversation of “Hansel and Gretel the Witch Hunter” Movie: The Study of Gricean Maxim

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Abstract

People sometimes fail to observe maxims so that is called flouting maxim. Grice in Cutting (2002) proposed four types of flouting maxim; they are flouting maxim of quantity, flouting maxim of quality, flouting maxim of relation and flouting maxim of manner. In general, people sometimes do an error communication due to several reasons. Besides that, an error communication is also found in movie script. In this study, the conversation in the movie script became the source of data, and the script of Hansel and Gretel the witch hunter movie was chosen. Additionally, the aim of this study is to find out the reasons for flouting maxim. And then, Leech's theory is used to classify the reasons for flouting maxim. It is added by Khoravizadeh and Sadehvandi (2011), Goffman (2008) and Donerus (2005) who are conducted the theory of several reasons in flouting maxim. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The data revealed 38 utterances. As a result, the dominant reason of flouting maxim is occurred by avoiding the discussion. The total number is 9 times (23, 68%). Then, the occurrence of the lowest frequency is misleading counterparts. It occurs 1 time (2, 63%)

Key words: Cooperative Principle, Flouting Maxim, Hansel and Gretel the witch hunter movie.

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is the way people deliver information. It can be direct or indirect. In general, people usually do an error communication. So, In our daily life people cannot avoid of misunderstanding in communicating. However, to avoid misunderstanding people should established cooperative principle. Cooperative principle means if there is cooperate between the speakers that every speaker will understand the meaning attached. Grice (1989, p.26) stated “Make your contribution such is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the

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accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged” According to Jufrizal and Refnaldi (2008) cooperative principle led the speaker know how they ought to behave within the certain set of rules.

Grice provides several kinds of rule which make the speaker be cooperative. And then, that is called maxim. Maxim is such as kind of rule which is needed to follow. Pradika (2018) argues that rules of maxim make the conversation run smoothly, therefore the rules are related each other. Grice (1989) proposed four maxims; they are maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. Each of maxims has its own different context; such as the information does not fit with the context, less information, ambiguity, and too much information. Grice (as cited Jufrizal and Refnaldi, 2008) stated there are many occasions when people fail to obey the maxims. There are five ways of failing to obey the maxim and one of them is flouting maxim. Flouting maxim occurs when the speaker fails to observe maxim due to several reasons. Grice in Cutting (2002) proposed four types of flouting maxim; they are flouting maxim of quantity, flouting maxim of quality, flouting maxim of relation and flouting maxim of manner.

In general, flouting maxim happens due to several reasons. Leech (1983) conducted the theories within four types of category; they are competitive, convivial, collaborative and conflictive. And then, Goffman (2008) added that the speaker may be able to *have, be in, or to maintain* face when the speaker in a situation of presenting an image consistently. Dornerus (2005) (As cited Purnomo 2017) pointed out that the speaker tends not to fulfil the rules of maxim in order to communicate s/he self-interest. In other words, Khosravizadeh and Sadehvandi (2011) developed the theory into several categories; protracting answer, misleading the hearer, pleasing interlocutors, and avoiding the discussion.

As a result, flouting maxim can be found in any cases one of them is in a movie. Movie is kind of two-way communication which the dialogue has been created before. The dialogue of the movie has created by script writer in order to achieve the purpose of entertaining. According to Ulfah (2018) movie is one of literary works which has the function to entertain the audience. Nababan (2021) said by movie people also can see some part of life. Even though, not all of part of the movie is representation of people’s true life. *Hansel and Gretel the witch hunter* movie is one of fantasy movie about the witch besides Harry Potter. This movie is released in 2013. Additionally, this movie tells about two siblings who hunt the witch. This movie has genre fantasy, action, drama, noir, thriller, comedy, adventure and horror.

Some researchers have been done research on flouting and violating of maxim that found on talk show and movie. (Zebua, 2017; Marlisa, R., & Hidayat, D.N, 2020; Virgin, 2017). And, other theories were done by researcher on movie (Helmie (2019) ; Prihatin, 2019). Based of the research above, it is concluded that flouting maxim found in many cases. In the case of phenomenon of language, flouting maxim will be one of the common things in the study of language use. As a result, flouting maxim can be found in movie, talk show, and daily conversation. Those studies give the similarities and also the differences.

The first study is conducted by Zebua (2017) and Marlisa, R. & Hidayat, D.N (2020). In addition, both researchers are conducted a research on TV program as Talkshow. Zebua (2017) is conducted a research on Ellen Degeneres Talk show. She on her research discussed the violation and flouting maxim of cooperative principles; however she discussed the way males and females participants violate and flout the four maxims. And also, it explained how the application of analysis results towards the English spoken teaching. The data was taken from six episodes in newest edition in 2016 from Ellen Degeneres talk show. The difference way of male and female flout and violate the maxim can be seen in the statement that use. Male mostly did flouting than violating. The male participants dominantly flouted maxim of quantity. Meanwhile, the female participants did violating maxim and the female participants dominantly violated maxim of relevance. This research is different from the data that used. The third study was introduced by Virgin, A.J (2017). The focus of this study was on the violation of maxim as one of the non-observance maxims.

And then, the research which has done by Helmie (2019) with the title An analysis of flouting maxim in conversation speaking of the main characters in the movie of Home Alone 2 “Lost in New York” By John Hughes. He introduced flouting maxims found in comedy movie genre. This is in order to know and understand the reason why people flout the maxims. Other result is the research has done by Prihatin (2019) who has a title The violation of conversational maxims of the main characters utterances to support the plot twist of the story on ‘Now you see me’ movie. She examined that flouting maxim could happen in plot twist. The aim of this research was to find out how the five main characters in the movie violate the maxims and also what the reasons are.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research collected from the transcript of movie video. And then, the source of data is the movie of *Hansel and Gretel the witch hunter*. The instrument of this research is first the researcher herself because she collected and analyzed the data by herself. In technique of data collection, the researcher did several things; such as reading script, selecting the conversation and classifying the conversation. In analyzing the data, the researcher classified and analyzed the data.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

There are 38 data which have been obtained by the researcher; all the characters of the movie are participated. Meanwhile, not all the characters are flouted maxim. The finding presents the data of the reasons for flouting maxim.

Table 1. The reasons of flouting maxim performed by Hansel and Gretel the witch hunter movie.

No	Reasons of Flouting Maxim	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Competitive	3	10,52%
2.	Convivial	0	0%
3.	Collaborative	6	15,78%
4.	Conflictive	6	15,78%
5.	Protracting Answer	3	7,89%
6.	Misleading Counterparts	1	2,63%
7.	Pleasing Interlocutor	2	5,26%
8.	Avoiding the Discussion	9	23,68%
9.	Communicating Self-interest	2	5,26%
10.	Saving Face	4	10,52%
11.	Being Polite	2	5,26%
12.	Total	38	100%

Based on table 4.2, it can be seen that there are several reasons provided by this movie. Below are the reasons; competitive, convivial, collaborative, conflictive, protracting answer, misleading the hearer, pleasing interlocutor, avoiding the discussion, communicating self-interest, saving face, and being polite. The reason for flouting maxims occurs 38 times.

However, the dominant reason for flouting maxim is happened by *Avoiding the discussion*. In addition, the characters flout the maxim: because they tend to avoid the topic. In this case, the characters usually are in an irrelevant situation. Generally, the characters of a movie that has genre fantasy action would shorten the conversation because of their interest. And then, they change the topic because they do not want to talk about the topic. As a result, the total number of this reason provides 9 times (23, 68%). On the other hand, the result of the lowest rank of the total number on the reason of flouting maxim is *misleading the hearer*. However, the total number is 1 time (2, 63%). On the other hand, there is no convivial happens. Convivial takes place when the speaker gives a positive manner in threatening the hearer. Specifically, it happens such as offering, thanking, greeting, inviting, and congratulating. Meanwhile, in the movie of *Hansel and Gretel the witch hunter* does not show the positive one is threatening the characters.

As shown in the table above, it is concluded that the flouting maxim happens for any reason. Such as competitive, convivial, collaborative, conflictive, protracting answers, misleading the hearer, pleasing interlocutor, avoiding the discussion, communicating self-interest, saving face, and being polite. The highest rank of the table occurs in *avoiding the discussion*; and it happens 8 times (21, 05%). It depends on the situation of the conversation and also the characters. The characters tend to be in an unpleasant situation. And, they change the topic. On the other hand, the lowest rank provides in *misleading the hearer*. However, the frequency is 1 time (2, 63%).

2. Discussion

As the theory of Leech (1983), Goffman (2008), Dornerus (2005), Khosravizadeh and Sadehvandi (2011) discussed the reasons for flouting maxim. Below are the examples.

1) Competitive

Competitive takes place when the speakers achieve the goals in a good way. So, the speakers usually reduce or maintain the negative way to the hearer. There is also sub part of competitive. However, there are ordering, demanding, asking and begging. One of them will be explained by this example below.

Datum 29

Hansel: Mina? What did you do? Mina? You're a witch?

Mina: **There are good witches in the world, not many but some.**

This conversation happens between Hansel and Mina. Hansel is so shocked that Mina is a witch. In this conversation, because of his sore, Mina is trying to help Hansel and doing some potions to recovery him. In this case, Mina shows her magic to Hansel.

Based on the exchange above, Mina flouts the maxim of quantity; in this case, she gives little information which does not answer all of the questions by Hansel. So that, she flouts maxim to cover all of the questions. Therefore, she solely gives little information. Based on the speaker's meaning, Hansel expects that Mina would explain her reality by giving many questions. This is happening for reason; there is also competition between illocutionary goals and social goals. However, Hansel asks many questions which compete with social goals. The social goals here mean how the hearer interprets the illocutionary goals.

2) Collaborative

The characters flout maxim and obtain the reason that is collaborative. Collaborative here means when the speaker delivers the messages indirectly but it is still understandable. There are several types of collaborative. They are asserting, reporting, announcing, and instructing. And then, there is example of one of them. Here is the example.

Datum 17

Muriel: is she there? The Gretel bitch

Lady witch1: **yeah, under the moon over the sheriff in the town**

This conversation happens between Muriel and her clan. They are talking about the famous witch hunter; they are Hansel and Gretel. Muriel wants to make

sure that Gretel is in the town. Gretel is the main object for the witches to be killed and pick her heart for Sabbath.

Based on the context of the situation, the situation of this conversation is in the camp of witches, and around that, there are Muriel and his clans. In this exchange, Lady Witch 1 flouts the maxim of manner. And also, her statement is obscure. The way the scriptwriter delivers the conversation in which makes the speaker has a way to show intended meaning, such as in lady witch 1's statement "*under the moon over the sheriff in the town*". It is ambiguous and not straightforward. Yet, Muriel could understand what she means. That statement means that Gretel is in the Sheriff's office now. Lady witch 1 flouts maxim because she wants to *report* that Gretel has come to the town. There is *collaborative* between illocutionary goals and social goals. The illocutionary goal is when she is reporting that Gretel is in the town, and then the social goal is when she gives intended meaning. This is how the illocutionary function gets intended meaning as the way the speaker understands the meaning that is attached.

3) Conflictive

There is conflict between illocutionary goals and social goals that is how conflictive happens. There are several types of conflictive. They are, threatening, accusing, cursing, reprimanding. Below is the example.

Datum 2

Sheriff: Behold... the eyes of the demon.

Mina: **Go to hell.**

In the town of Augsburg, many people are against the witch. The sheriff has brought the lady as a suspect and would be burned. This conversation revealed that Mina flouted maxim of manner. She gives an ambiguous statement or obscure. As a result, she flouted maxim of manner for a reason. Based on the context of the conversation, there is a conflict between the illocutionary goals and social goals of Mina. The illocutionary goal is *cursing* Sheriff which contrasts to social goals, however social goals of Mina respond to the Sheriff in an impoliteness way. This reason avoids politeness and reveals disadvantages to society.

4) Protracting Answer

Protracting answers makes the speaker out of the conversation and reveal boredom. Here is the example.

Datum 6

Sheriff: The last one they took was a boy. Less than two days ago, so the scent is still fresh. 100 shilling for every child you return alive. You better be fast before our mayor's witch hunters rob this town blind. You leave tonight.

Hunter: **In witch country at night? You must be out of your mind.**

The situation in the town is being chaos. Many children are kidnapped by a witch. Consequently, it makes people in Augsburg worry. The sheriff instructed

witch hunters to hunt the witch and brought back the children who are being kidnapped. And then, the situational context is obviously in the sheriff's office and also witch hunters and sheriff are trying to make a deal about the bill of hunting witch.

In this exchange, the hunter flouts the maxim of quantity where he gives the statement which is not necessary. He should answer with a simple thing rather than ask the question. In addition, as the speaker Sheriff could understand what hunter meant, so hunter flouted maxim of quantity to make sure that he doubts to hunt at night. Therefore, he protracts information, by giving unnecessary information like "*in Witch country at night? You must be out of your mind*". As a result, both Sheriff and hunter have known that hunting witch at night is dangerous.

5) Misleading Counterparts

Misleading counterparts here means once the speaker tries to deceive or mislead the hearer by giving untrue statement.

Datum 24

Hansel: Gretel? Who did this to you? Who did this to you?

Gretel: **I'm okay.**

Gretel finds a house that reminds him about something, he finds an old house of him and his family. He comes into the house. Suddenly, Hansel was surprised by attacking him behind.

In the exchange above, Gretel flouts the maxim of quality; she flouts maxim to cover an accident that happened to her. According to the context of the conversation, Gretel fails to provide better conversation. By saying "*I'm okay*" means that nothing happen to her. Yet, Hansel knows that she seems not okay. Hansel sees there is a scratch on Gretel's forehead. So that, Gretel does not represent what she thinks. In this case, she lies. Gretel tries to mislead Hansel to make him believe in her.

6) Pleasing Interlocutor

The characters tend to give more interest to the speaker and mostly ambiguous. Here is the example.

Datum 21

Gretel: where did you get all this stuff?

Ben: **from everywhere. I actually plan to be witch hunter too, when I get older. Like, you guys.**

There is much stuff related to a witch hunter. That kind of stuff is especially connected to Hansel and Gretel. Like the picture of Gretel, news about witches. Ben wants to bewitch hunters and collects all this stuff.

In this exchange, Ben flouts the maxim of quantity; he flouts maxim because he indirectly gives too much information which is not necessary. He

speaks as much is not required. He should answer as much is necessary rather than add information that is not asked. Like, he should solely answer “*from everywhere*” rather than adding the information “*I actually plan to bewitch hunter too, when I get older. Like you guys*”. Ben has been more informative which made Gretel ignore her opinion about the stuff. Ben drags out the conversation and makes boringness.

7) Avoiding the Discussion

Avoiding the Discussion, here means once the speaker tries to avoid the topic which is being said. Below is the example.

Datum 4

Sheriff: Telling me what to do

Gretel: (She hits the sheriff by her head, and breaks sheriff's nose)

Based on the context of the situation, the conversation between the sheriff and Gretel happened in a crowded situation, some so many people were against witch hunters in Augsburg. The situational context of this conversation happens when Gretel expresses her physical co-presence, like body language.

The researcher sees that Gretel is not saying any words to express her interest in answering Sheriff's question. Gretel flouts the maxim of manner where she does not give a clear answer. However, giving a gesture means that she has answered the question. Gretel speaks ambiguously (*She hits the sheriff by her head, and breaks the sheriff's nose*). Yet, the sheriff could understand how Gretel treats him. Gretel flouts the maxim of manner due to a reason. The reason for this flouting maxim is *Avoiding the discussion*. It means that Gretel tries to avoid the discussion or does not want to talk about it. The speaker and the hearer tend to avoid the discussion because they are in an unpleasant situation or topic.

8) Communicating Self-Interest

The characters in the movie tend to talk about their interest. And then, they usually ignore the social environment. Here is the example.

Datum 5

Hansel: So, it seems like a good thing that you brought us here, doesn't it, Mayor?

Mayor: **Half your money now. The rest when the children are brought back alive.**

This conversation occurred when Hansel and Gretel are talking about witch activity in Augsburg. Like more sightings, animal slaughter, and Sabbath. Both Hansel and Gretel are also talked about witches' plans, such as blood moon, and children are being kidnapped. According to situational context, Mayor sees Hansel with his injection of his ill. So, the mayor gives half of their bill for the job.

This conversation happens for reason; the reason is about *Communicative self-interest*. It happens in Gretel where he as a speaker prefers to talk about his interest rather than the topic which is being talked about. Based on the conversation, it makes Mayor flouts the maxim of relation. Generally, flouting the maxim of relation occurs when people talk about something else or exchange the topic. In this exchange, it occurs of the Mayor where his answer does not fit with the context or he talks about something else, like his statement "***Half your money now. The rest when the children are brought back alive***" the researcher sees that the conversation is in irrelevant situation.

9) Saving Face

Face can be explained as the way the speaker keeps her/his face in facing somebody. And also, the way the speaker treats somebody in order to get positive claim by someone. Here is the example.

Datum 7

Hunter 1: I am telling you, we should put the fire out.

Hunter 2: ***we're hunting witches, not bears. And, we have to eat.***

This conversation occurs when the witch hunters are in the wood for hunting the witch. However, they are in a worrying situation and trying to keep the situation calm and safe. Hunter 2 answered the questions indirectly; he honestly did not want to put the fire out because of his fear. He flouted maxim of relation. He flouted maxim of relation to create humor like his statement "***we're hunting witches, not bears. And, we have to eat.***" He said it with a laugh. Flouting maxim of relation occurs when the speaker and the hearer are in an irrelevant situation and mostly change the topic under the discussion. However, this statement comes out due to a reason; hunter 2 flouts the maxim of relation because he wants to save his face. By his statement, he created humor because he did not want to show his fear to the community.

10) Being Polite

The characters of the movie try to be polite once they want to reduce impoliteness way to somebody. Here is the example.

Datum 35

Hansel: you ever shoot a gun?

Ben: ***well, I did win county fair three times.***

Hansel, Mina, and Benjamin are preparing the strategies to fight the witches; they have weapons, pure water. Both Mina and Hansel are going to Sabbath. Yet, Benjamin is not. Hansel thinks that Ben could not shoot a gun.

Flouting maxim of manner occurs in this conversation. In addition, it is flouted by Ben. Ben flouts maxim to convey that he can gun. The statement that he uttered is ambiguous. “*Well, I did win county fair three times*” by this statement, Ben speaks indirectly; he actually can shoot a gun. This conversation appears for a reason. According to the context of the situation, the social distance between Hansel and Ben is not close to each other. So that, Ben prefers to be indirect to reduce impoliteness way in threatening Hansel. In this case, Ben tries to be polite to get his purpose to join with Hansel.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

1. Conclusion

Generally, the genre of the movie has affected to the way the script writer delivers the message in the conversation. In the movie of *Hansel and Gretel the witch hunter* is performed by several of reasons of flouting maxim. Additionally, the reasons are competitive, convivial, collaborative, conflictive, protracting answer, misleading counterparts, pleasing interlocutor, avoiding the discussion, communicating self-interest, saving face, and being polite. The dominant reason of flouting maxim is avoiding the discussion. This is the highest total number in the table. The characters in the movie mostly flouted maxim once they are in irrelevant situation which means the characters try to avoid the discussion. On the other hand, the lowest rank is happened by misleading the hearer reason. In the movie, the script writer mostly delivers the message indirectly. In case, the characters are still in the case of understandable.

2. Suggestion

In this study, the researcher shows the different types of reason of flouting maxim. As virtual world, this study shows how the script writer delivers the message in conversation. The researcher hopes that this study will be interpreted in daily conversation. The researcher shows that this study will give benefit for people in knowing and understanding the intended meaning through people’s action and also thought. For the next researcher, the researcher hopes that this study will be the reference. The movie genre can be affected to the way the researchers do research in the same topic. So, the researcher suggests other researchers to do this study in other topics. It means that other researchers will apply in different method to analyze the types of flouting maxim and its reason.

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