

MAXIMS FLOUTING IN HOME ALONE 2 MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This research study is a present research study that aims to find the maxims that are flouted in the Home alone 2 movie. There are two purposes of this study, namely to find what types of maxim that is flouted by the character in the movie, and what are the reasons for the characters to flout the maxim. This study takes the four maxims theory that was proposed by Paul Grice (1975) with the aim of analyzing the data. This study uses the theory that consist of Transcribing data, Pre-coding data and Coding data, and Growing ideas, that was proposed by Zoltan Dörnyei (2007) in order to do the method of collecting data and the analyzing data. Concerning the theory, the data is transcribed from the oral form into textual form. In the pre-coding section, the data that has been transcribed is indicated to the types of flouting maxim. Then, in the coding section, the data is divided into groups of maxims. Lastly, there are explanations are made to describe how the maxims are flouted and the reasons for the characters to flout them. The findings and discussion shows that all four maxims, namely maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of manner and maxim of relation are flouted by the characters. The maxim of quality is mostly flouted, with 11 times flouted. The reasons to flout this maxim are lying, mocking, and refusing. The maxim of quantity is flouted nine times. The reasons to flout this maxim are informing, intimidating, forcing, worrying, satisfying, and forgetfulness. The maxim of manner is flouted seven times. The reasons behind flouting the maxim of manner are feeling guilty, leading the interlocutor to guess something, and rejecting other opinion. Lastly, the maxim of relation is flouted three time. The reasons consist of joking and expressing worries.

Keywords: Flouting maxim, Implied meaning, Utterance, Home Alone 2 movie

INTRODUCTION

According to Davis and Newstorm in Sharma (2017) , communication is the process of transferring information so that listeners can absorb and comprehend it (p. 259). Communication itself requires the speaker and the listener to become cooperative (Mey, 2001, p. 71). Grice (1975) explained that good communication takes place when a speaker and the listener can understand the message of the interlocutors' utterances. He proposed four cooperative principles that can consider good communication. They are called maxims, namely maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of manner, and maxim of relation.

However, 'the speaker sometimes blatantly fails to observe the maxims at the level of what is said' (Thomas, 1995, p. 65). He considered this situation as flouting maxims. Flouting maxims take place when the speaker does not observe what is required. It can be seen when a speaker indirectly states the meaning of his or her utterance (Cutting, 2002, p. 36). In the other words, the speaker intentionally encourages the listener to look for the implied meaning.

This research study aims to find the maxims of Grice that are flouted in the *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* movie. The reason for choosing this movie is because it is very popular in Indonesia even worldwide. It can be proven by its winning the People's Choice Award for favorite comedic movie in 1993. Besides that, it contains five genres, namely comedy, crime, kids, and family. This may result in more context for the situation and conflicts than a movie that contains one or two genres.

This study discusses the flouting maxims and the reasons why the characters flout them in the *Home Alone 2* movie so that the reader can understand the conversations of the characters in the movie. Therefore, the writer provides few previous research study that relates to flouting maxim in order to strengthen the originality of this research study

The first study is conducted by Lestari (2019) in "an Analysis of Flouting Maxims in Conversation Speaking of the Main Character in the Movie of *Home Alone 2* "Lost in New York" By John Hughes". She used Grice's Maxims Theory to observe the flouting maxim flouted by the main character in the *Home Alone 2* Movie. She found that all of the maxims were flouted and maxim of quantity was the average. The main character has some reason for flouting the maxim like being competitive and collaborative. Those reason are also caused by the conflicts and the context of situation that the main character faces in the movie. She only observes the utterance of the main character while in this study the writer aims to find out flouting maxims that are done by all of the characters in the movie. The second study is conducted by Jorfi and Dowlatabadi (2015), in "Violating and Flouting of the Four Gricean Cooperative Maxims in Friends the American TV Series 364–371". They used Grice's four maxims theory to observe the data. They found that all four maxims: quantity, quality, relation, and manner, are flouted by the characters. The maxim of quality is commonly flouted by the characters, which occurs seven times. The common reason for flouting the maxim is to mock or use sarcasm and hyperbole for comedy purposes. Meanwhile, what differentiates it from this study is the type of data source. They used certain episodes of series instead of a movie. Moreover, the series is made for comedy purpose which means it only contains a few specific genres. It may limit the conflicts and the context of situation.

This research study is made in order to provide some information for the readers regarding how the maxim flouting occurs in the character utterances and the reason that influences the character to flout the maxim. Therefore, the reader can understand academically the actual meaning that the characters imply in the conversation of the characters in the *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* movie.

DATA SOURCE

The data source is a source that contains data and information to be analyzed by researchers. In this research study, the data were taken from *Home Alone 2: Lost in New York* movie. It was released in 1992. The movie is the sequel to *Home Alone*, which was released in 1990. It was directed by Chris Columbus. It was written and produced by John Huges. This movie is very popular in Indonesia because it is always shown on one of the most famous Indonesian television channels, RCTI, every Christmas day. Moreover, this movie won the People's Choice Award for favorite comedy movie in 1993. There are five genres that occur in this movie, namely comedy, kids, family,

crime, and adventure. Consequently, it causes more conflicts and the context of the situations involved in the movie. They influence the characters to flout the maxim for certain purposes. Therefore, it may result in a lot of maxim flouting and the reasons for them being flouted in the conversation of characters.

METHODS

In this study, the writer used the theory proposed by Dörnyei (2007) for the method of data analysis, namely transcribing data, pre-decoding and coding data, and growing ideas. Firstly, the data is transcribed from the oral into textual form. Secondly, in the pre-coding, the writer tries to match the data with the types of maxim flouting by highlighting them based on the theory of maxim flouting that was proposed by Grice (1975). After that, in the coding data, the data that has been highlighted is distinguished into grouping sections. Lastly, in the growing ideas section, the writer tends to give some explanations on how the maxims are flouted by the characters and why they flout the maxims.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

The cooperative principle required the participants involved in a conversation to participate as much as needed (Yule, 1996, pp. 35–37). In this case, the speaker should understand what it is required in the conversation. As Grice (1975, cited in Thomas, 1995, pp. 61–62) states that “it is obvious to Contribute as needed in a particular moment and where it takes place, in accordance with the established goal or direction of the exchange in which you are involved”. Therefore, the principle of cooperation can be considered as a guideline so that speakers and listeners remain in line with what their contribution should be. This must be considered by the participants in order to achieve the goal of the conversation. Grice (1975) divided the cooperative principle into four types of maxims: maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. Meanwhile, the speaker sometimes fails to become cooperative with the interlocutors by breaking the maxim. This phenomenon is called flouting the maxim. Maxim Flouting is the situation when the speaker does not observe the maxims. The speaker intentionally tries to say something indirectly to the listener by conveying a hidden message. On other words, the speaker tends to lead the listener to look for the implied meaning of the flouting maxim. As cutting (2002) explained that Flouting maxim refers to indirect speech acts because it occurs when a speaker intentionally or unintentionally fails to convey the true meaning of an expression by implying it for specific reasons (p. 37).

1. Flouting Maxim of Quantity

In the maxim of quantity, it is required for the speaker to avoid providing too much or too little information in a conversation. On the other hand, when a speaker tends to give more information than required, it means that he or she flouts the maxim of quantity. It also comes to a speaker who provides too little information as compared to what is required.

Example: Women are women (Grice, 1975, p. 52)

In the above example, the statement flouts the quantity maxim because it lacks evidence and definition to explain itself. It causes the hearer not able to understand the meaning of the statement. The “women” here is not explained as certain thing.

2. Flouting maxim of Quality

In the maxim of quality, it is obvious for the speaker to make sure that what is to be said is right. They should avoid lying and providing information that lacks of evidence. This maxim is flouted when the speaker says lies and unlogic information.

Example: x is a fine friend (Grice, 1975, p. 53)

The above example flouts the maxim of quality because what is sounded is not literally what is though. Meanwhile the statement is made to state the opposite. This is one example of irony. There are four example of flouting maxim of quality, namely irony, metaphor, meiosis, and hyperbole (Grice, 1975, p. 53).

3. Flouting Maxim of Relation

The speaker should provide the relevant answer to what is being discussed in a conversation. It is duty for the speaker for being relevant. On the other hand, he should become appropriate to what the interlocutor needs (Grice, 1975, p. 47)

Example:

A) Mr. X is an old bag

B) The weather has been quite delightful, hasn't it? (Grice, 1975, p. 54)

In the above conversation, B flouts the maxim of relation because B tends to went off the topic that A tries to discuss. That means that B becomes irrelevant with A.

4. Flouting Maxim of Manner

When people tend to not be brief in delivering information and the utterance sounds ambiguous, the speaker flouts the maxim of manner. The maxim of manner requires them to avoid ambiguity and obscurity (Grice, 1975, p. 46).

Example:

Miss X produced a series of sounds that corresponded closely with the score of 'Home sweet home'. (Grice, 1975, p. 55)

The above example shows an utterance that actually means that Miss X sang a song called 'Home sweet home'. The speaker tends to use “produced a series of sounds” to express the word “sang”. The way of expressing the message of the utterance is not brief. It means that the utterance flouts the maxim of manner. The speaker aims to imply that Miss X, who usually sings badly, sang 'Home sweet home.'"

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The data is being presented using quotation marks. The setting of time, place, and situation is also provided for this discussion. Each type of flouting maxim consists of one piece of data. There are 30 data that has been analyzed. The result shows that all four maxims: maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation, maxim of manner are flouted by the characters in the Home Alone 2 movie. Maxim of quality is flouted 11 times. Maxim of quantity is flouted 9 times. Maxim of manner is flouted 7 times. Maxim of manner is flouted 3 times.

Data of Flouting Maxim Quantity

Data 1

Father : Something wrong? Honey?

Mother: **I have that feeling**

Father : we forgot something?

Mother: No, I don't think we did, but I... I just have that feeling

Father : bad memories. That's all

(15 : 54 – 15 : 58)

Analysis:

The conversation takes place on the plane when the McCallisters head to Florida for christmas vacation. It involves Mr. Peter McCallister and Mrs. Kate McCallister, Kevin's parents. Suddenly, Mrs. Kate vaguely reminded of something. Her husband asked whether something wrong happened. However, she still does not know how to explain it. The utterance of her obviously flouts the maxim of quantity because she does not give as much information as needed by her husband. As Grice states, in order to observe the maxim of quantity, the speaker should not provide too much or too little information (1975, pp. 46–58). This flouting maxim happened because of forgetfulness and the inability of the character to realize that.

Data of Flouting Maxim of Quality

Data 2

Cedric : Mr. McCallister's room service bill, sir. Merry Christmas, sir.

Buzz : ahh

Cedric : **nice family. Really.**

(1 : 55 : 12 – 1 : 55 : 26)

Analysis:

The conversation takes place in front of McCallister's family room in the Plaza Hotel, New York City. Mr. Cedric, the hotel staff member, gives the bill that Kevin had spent to Buzz, who happened to open the door. Then, he asks for the extra money. Instead of giving him a few dollars, Buzz spits out the chewed gum from his mouth and gives it to him. Then, Mr. Cedric says, "nice family. Really". He uses irony in order to mock Buzz. Irony is an example of flouting the quality

maxim because what is said is not actually what is thought (Grice, 1975, p. 53). Therefore, the reason for him to flout the maxim of quality is to mock the interlocutors.

Data of Flouting Maxim of Relation

Data 3

Policeman : Has he ever been in a situation where he's been on his own?

Mother : As a matter of fact, this happened before. It's becoming sort of McCallister family travel tradition

Father : **Funnily enough, we never lose our luggage**

(21: 38 – 21: 57)

Analysis:

The conversation takes place in the airport security office in New York. Kevin's parents, Mr. Peter McCallister and Mrs. Kate McCallister have just recognized that Kevin is not on the same plane with them. They report the problem to the police. The policeman asks them whether Kevin ever experienced the same problem. Mrs. Kate says that he did. Then, Kevin's father, Mr Peter MacCallister says **funnily enough, we never lose our luggage**. This utterance is not relevant to what the policeman needs. The information has nothing to do with Kevin, as the cop asks. His words were actually intended as a joke. In the maxim of relation, the speaker should be providing relevant information to what the listener needs (Grice, 1975, p. 47). Therefore, the opposite, which is irrelevant, flouts the maxim.

Data of Flouting Maxim of Manner

Data 4

Mr. Cedric : Well

Kevin : I'm sorry, **And there's plenty more where that came from**

Mr. Cedric : Thank you.

(32 : 10 – 32 : 26)

Analysis:

The conversation happened in Kevin's room at the Plaza Hotel, New York City. Mr. Cedric, the concierge, helped Kevin bring the luggage to his room. Then, he asks for the extra dollar or it is called tip. Kevin takes out a pack of gum from his pocket. He gives him a piece of gum instead of a few dollars, which he asks for. His utterance actually implies that he can get more gum if he wants. The utterance flouts the maxim of manner because it does not orderly mean "to offer the gum". The reason for Kevin to flout the maxim is feeling guilty.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on discussion, there are two points that can be concluded for this research study. There are four maxims: quantity maxim, quality maxim, relation maxim, manner maxim. All four maxims of Grice are flouted by the characters in the movie Home Alone 2. The maxim of quality is the most frequently flouted, with 11 instances. The maxim of quantity reaches the second place, which is

flouted nine times. The maxim of manner is flouted seven times, and lastly, the maxim of relation is flouted three times. According to the data that has been presented, the characters tend to not observe the maxim because of their desire to joke, mock, and offer the interlocutors. Therefore, it can be concluded that there are reasons for the character to flout the maxims. They consist of lying, mocking, offering, joking, intimidating, forcing, feeling guilty, and forgetfulness.

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