

## CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURE IN DEN OF DRAGONS' DRAMA SCRIPT

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### **Abstract**

This study strives to disclose the conversational implicature in a drama script. The objective of the study was to discover what conversational maxims flouted to yield conversational implicature in a drama script entitled "Den of Dragons". The research method used in this study is a descriptive qualitative method. In undertaking the analysis, this study employs Grice's theory about conversational implicature. The findings showed that from thirty nine excerpts, the number of non-observance of the maxims, especially flouting the maxims, was eighteen excerpts and the rest belonged to observing the maxims. The number of flouting the maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner respectively were nine, three, five, one. In conclusions, the conversational maxims flouted in this drama script are maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner. Furthermore, the most dominant flouting maxim is flouting the maxim of Quantity and the rarest occurrence belongs to flouting the maxim of Manner. In accordance with flouting the maxim of Quantity, the utterances said by the characters are less or more informative than what are required or expected.

**Keywords:** Conversational Implicature, Den of Dragons

### **INTRODUCTION**

This study endeavors to disclose the conversational implicature in a drama script entitled "Den of Dragons". It goes without saying than the utterances said by characters in a drama might be different from what they actually mean. Moreover, what they say might also be less or more than what other characters expect. Some evidences generating conversational implicature in this drama script will be the point of this study.

According to Grice, implicature can occur when what a speaker literally says is different from what he/she actually means (Liu, 2012). Moreover, Tsuda asserts that functions of conversational implicature is a framework of indirectness conversation (Martini, 2018). Furthermore, Grice proposes four conversational maxims. They are maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner (Thomas, 2013). Maxim is the rule or the principle in the conversation (Syafryadin et al., 2020). Related to maxim of Quantity, the utterance should not be less or more informative than is required. In other words, it should be as informative as required. In accordance with maxim of Relation, the utterance should be relevant. Dealing with maxim of quality, the utterance should give adequate evidence. At last, maxim of Manner demands the utterance to be clear, unambiguous, brief and in order. In addition, Grice states that in conversational implicature, a speaker blatantly fails to observe a maxim. Conversational implicature can happen when there is flouting a maxim. According to Cutting, flouting a maxim occurs when a speaker seems not follow the maxim and he/she hopes that the hearer can appreciate the implied meaning (Hamani & Puluhalawa, 2019). Moreover, the types of conversational implicature based on Grice's theory encompass generalized conversational implicature and particularized conversational implicature (Vikry, 2017).

There were several studies on conversational implicature that had ever been undertaken. One of them was a study about conversational implicature in beauty and the beast movie (Septiamaylofa, 2020). Employing descriptive qualitative research and using documentation technique and content analysis, this study investigated how utterances can go beyond the literal meaning by flouting maxims. Using the theory of P.H. Grice supported by Searle's theory, the findings showed that there were 13 data belonged to generalized conversational implicature, 3 data about particularized conversational implicature; there were 23 data included function of conversational implicature; and 15 data encompassed maxim violation.

Another study was a study on types of implicature in informal conversation used by the English education study program students (Rahayu & Safnil, 2018). The objective of this study was to analyze the types of implicature and how the implicature was undertaken in the informal conversation. Around 25 students of English study program became the participant. The results indicated that three types of implicature including conventional implicature, generalized conversational implicature and particularized conversational implicature occurred in these informal conversations. Moreover, the findings showed that students' utterances might have implied meaning.

An analysis of particularized conversational implicature in the "oprah winfrey" show was carried out by Zakiyah in 2020. The descriptive qualitative method was chosen as the research method in which it employed observations and non-participatory in collecting data and used informal methods in revealing the results (Zakiyah, 2020). A number of 30 data that contained utterances of particularized conversational implicature were analyzed. The results showed that there were fifteen data contained flouting maxim of quantity, three data contained flouting maxim of quality, eleven data contained flouting maxim of relevant, and a data contained flouting maxim of manner. Based on the findings, it could be inferred that the most dominant of the types of flouting maxims was flouting maxim of quantity in which it dealt with the too much information uttered by the participant in the show.

In 2009, the writer conducted a study about conversational implicature in a drama script related to a detective story (Iswahyuni, 2019). The study investigated the maxims flouted that formed conversational implicature. The findings revealed that the most dominant flouting maxim was flouting the maxim of quality. In other words, the characters frequently said untruthful utterances. Different from the previous studies, this study endeavors to discover what conversational maxims flouted to yield conversational implicature in a drama script entitled "Den of Dragons". The genre of this drama is spoof in which it's different with the previous drama script that has ever been analyzed.

## METHOD

The research method employed in this study is a descriptive qualitative method. Qualitative research encompasses interpretive techniques that endeavor to describe, decode, translate, and it doesn't deal with the frequency of certain phenomena, but the meaning (Merriam, 2009). In other words, descriptive qualitative method deals with interpretation and describing something.

In this study, the writer uses interrelated utterances (dialogs) in the drama script entitled "Den of Dragons" written by Sid River. First of all, the script is divided into several excerpts. After that, the excerpts are analyzed. In undertaking the analysis, this study employs Grice's theory about conversational implicature. Each excerpt is analyzed whether there are maxims flouted

there or not. If there is a maxim flouted, the writer carries out further analysis related to the kinds of maxims which are flouted. At last, the writer describes the findings and draws the conclusion.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Results

The drama script entitled “Den of Dragons” by Sid River was a spoof of an outstanding TV show in which entrepreneurs pitched their ideas to miserly businessmen and women in order to get funding for their projects. In this script, the ones who pitched their ideas were some children who asked for money for new toys to ‘the dragons’. There were eight characters here. They were the presenter, Ebenezer Scrimp (one of the dragons), Hilda Brassmangler (one of the dragons), Carlton Nibblet (one of the dragons), Magenta Chrysanthemum-Sweeney (one of the dragons), Marcie Gumboot, Todd Sweeney, and Stage hand.

The analysis of the conversational implicature of this drama script was carried out using Grice’s theory in which the script was divided into several excerpts first. The result of the analysis could be portrayed through Table 1.

Table 1

The Number of Observing the Maxims and Non-observance of the Maxims					
Observing the maxims	Non- observance of the maxims	the Number of Flouting the maxims (Non-observance of the Maxims)			
		Quantity	Quality	Relation	Manner
21 excerpts	18 excerpts	9 flouts	3 flouts	5 flouts	1 flout

Furthermore, the further details of the analysis were explained below.

#### *Excerpt 1*

In the first excerpt, a maxim of manner was flouted. Mr Scrimp gave convoluted answers to the presenter. He is not straightforward in responding to the question which was about the investment he looked for. He told about what he had done for his school so far instead.

#### *Excerpt 2*

A maxim of quantity was flouted in this second excerpt. It was depicted by Mr Scrimp’s answer towards the presenter’s question. The presenter asked about the terrible smell and the flies, but Mr Scrimp gave more explanation than the presenter needed. Mr Scrimp not only told about how to mask the smell of armpits and feet, but he also revealed that they could manage to save £49.27. Moreover, in the beginning of his answer, he asserted that Year six classrooms had always been unpleasant places to work, in which this statement was not too important.

#### *Excerpt 3*

No maxim was flouted in this third excerpt. The presenter asked what a ‘super-laundrette’ was and Hilda answered it well (relevant to the question and giving adequate information).

*Excerpt 4*

There was no maxim flouted in this fourth excerpt. The presenter's question is about the kind of investment Hilda was looking for and she responded with relevant and clear answer.

*Excerpt 5*

In this fifth excerpt, a maxim of relation was flouted. Mr Nibblet's answer is irrelevant with presenter's question. The presenter asked about the investment Mr Nibblet was looking for, but Mr Nibblet's answer was like a punishment not an investment.

*Excerpt 6*

There was a maxim of quantity flouted in this sixth excerpt. The presenter asked Mr Nibblet about his previous statement, but Mr Nibblet's explanation was more than what the presenter expected.

*Excerpt 7*

No maxim flouted was found in this seventh excerpt. Magenta's utterances were quite clear, and relevant to the presenter's question.

*Excerpt 8*

It was not found any maxim flouted in this eighth excerpt. Magenta gave relevant and truthful response towards presenter's utterances.

*Excerpt 9*

In this ninth excerpt, there was not any maxim flouted. Marcie gave a relevant and unambiguous answer towards presenter's question which was about the fund she asked for.

*Excerpt 10*

In this excerpt, a maxim of relation was flouted. The presenter asked about Marcie's business strategy, but Marcie gave an irrelevant answer. She just said 'yeeess'.

*Excerpt 11*

A maxim of relation was flouted in this eleventh excerpt. Marcie's answer is irrelevant to the presenter's question. The presenter asked about her tactics, but Marcie said 'I like Tictacs!'.

*Excerpt 12*

There was a maxim of quantity flouted in this twelfth excerpt. Marcie's answer is less than what Mr Scrimp expected. When she responded, she only said her name without greeting first.

*Excerpt 13*

In this thirteenth excerpt, a maxim of quantity was flouted. Marcie's answer is less informative. She was asked to pitch them her idea, but Marcie just said 'I want a new Barbie'. Actually, she was given a chance to speak more.

*Excerpt 14*

In this excerpt, a maxim of quantity was flouted. Marcie gave less responses. She didn't give adequate answer of the question asked.

*Excerpt 15*

No maxim was flouted in this fifth excerpt. Mr Scrimp asked about the lack of Marcie's old Barbie. Although Marcie's response was quite short, it was still related to Mr Scrimp's question.

*Excerpt 16*

In this excerpt, Mr Scrimp gave some suggestions to Marcie, but it seemed that she declined the suggestions. Here, the responses were relevant one another and thus no maxim was flouted.

*Excerpt 17*

In this seventeenth excerpt, a maxim of quantity was flouted. There were several questions from Hilda, but Marcie just responded to one of them.

*Excerpt 18*

A maxim of quality was flouted here. Magenta's first utterance contained an implied meaning. She decided to finance Marcie's project.

*Excerpt 19*

A maxim of relation was flouted here. Marcie's utterance ". . . And the My little pony Hollywood superstar gymkhana play set with fillable horse swimming pool and barbeque features! And the . . ." was irrelevant to Magenta's previous utterance. Here, Marcie interrupted Magenta. And at last, Magenta also interrupted Marice's utterance.

*Excerpt 20*

There was no maxim flouted in this twentieth excerpt. The presenter and Todd's utterances were relevant one another.

*Excerpt 21*

No maxim was flouted in this twenty first excerpt. The utterances were relevant one another. When Hilda asked Todd to tell his project, he did it well and then Mr Nibblet responded to Todd's explanation.

*Excerpt 22*

There was no maxim which was flouted in this twenty second excerpt. Hilda asked about the fund and Todd mentioned it clearly. The question and the answer were also relevant one another.

*Excerpt 23*

A maxim of quantity was flouted here. Mr Nibblet's utterance was incomplete (related to the fund). Therefore, Todd gave the addition to complete it.

*Excerpt 24*

A maxim of quality was flouted in this excerpt. Todd's answer had an implied meaning. Todd's utterance "It's a small price to pay for neighbourhood security and peace of mind!" could be meant as "yes" and it seemed that he wanted to convince Hilda that the fund he asked for was not too much.

*Excerpt 25*

In this excerpt, no maxim was flouted. Todd's response was still relevant to Hilda's statements. He didn't agree with Hilda and tried to assert that his idea was good enough.

*Excerpt 26*

No maxim was flouted here. Todd's response was unambiguous and still relevant to Mr Scrimp's utterances.

*Excerpt 27*

In this excerpt, a maxim of quantity was flouted. Mr Nibblet's answer was more than what was required.

*Excerpt 28*

In this twenty eight excerpt, no maxim was flouted. The utterances from Hilda, Magenta, and Todd were relevant one another.

*Excerpt 29*

In this excerpt, a maxim of relation was flouted. Todd's response was irrelevant with what Magenta said. He didn't explain related to the toy, but other topic.

*Excerpt 30*

A maxim of quality was flouted here. Magenta didn't say the truth. She didn't admit that Todd was her son.

*Excerpt 31*

In this excerpt, no maxim was flouted. Magenta's explanation was clear and still relevant to Todd's question.

*Excerpt 32*

No maxim was flouted here. Both Todd and Magenta tried to give their own opinions and they were still relevant one another. Moreover, they didn't give less or more informative responses.

*Excerpt 33*

In this excerpt, no maxim was flouted here. The stage hand's response and answer were relevant to the presenter question. The stage hand informed the presenter that Martin was not there.

*Excerpt 34*

No maxim was flouted in this thirty fourth excerpt. Stage hand gave information why Martin run away.

*Excerpt 35*

In this excerpt, no maxim was flouted. The presenter asked the stage hand whether other participants were still there or not and the stage hand gave the relevant and clear answer.

*Excerpt 36*

No maxim was flouted here. The stage hand's response was still relevant to the presenter's request.

*Excerpt 37*

In this excerpt, no maxim was flouted. The stage hand's response was still relevant to the presenter's request.

*Excerpt 38*

No maxim was flouted here. The stage hand answered Mr Scrimp's question properly.

*Excerpt 39*



In this excerpt, a maxim of quantity was flouted. The stage hand's response was less than what were expected by Hilda, Mr Nibblet, and Magenta. He didn't gave adequate explanation for each of them.

## Discussion

The findings indicated that the drama script entitled "Den of Dragons" contained conversational implicature. It was due to the occurrence of flouting the maxims. As what Grice said, conversational implicature could happen when a speaker blatantly failed to obey a maxim (Thomas, 2013). Furthermore, the kinds of flouting the maxims were flouting the maxim of Quantity, flouting the maxim of Quality, flouting the maxim of Relation, and flouting the maxim of Manner. Moreover, the highest number was flouting the maxim of Quantity, that was around 50%. Here, some characters liked to say utterances which were less or more than what were expected or required by the other characters. It could be exemplified in an excerpt in which one of the drama caharacters only answered or responded to one question from several questions asked by the other character. Meanwhile, flouting the maxim of manner obtained the lowest percentage, which was 5,6 %. It meant that most of the utterances said by the characters were clear an unambiguous and only few of them said convoluted utterances. Furthermore, in accordance with flouting the maxims of relation (27,8%) and quality (16,7%), some utterances said by the characters were irrelevant and had implied meanings.

## CONCLUSION

The problem arises in this study is what conversational maxims flouted to yield conversational implicature in Den of Dragons's drama script. From the findings, it can be inferred that the conversational maxims which are flouted include maxims of Quantity, Relation, Quality, and Manner. Furthermore, the most dominant flouting maxim is flouting the maxim of Quantity and the rarest occurrence belongs to flouting the maxim of Manner. In accordance with flouting the maxim of Quantity, the utterances said by the characters are less or more informative than what are required or expected.

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