

CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURE IN INCEPTION MOVIE DIALOGUE

***Handrian Nofry Emardos Sigalingging**

****Lidiman Sahat Martua Sinaga**

ABSTRACT

This study dealt with Conversational Implicature in *Inception* Movie Dialogue. The objectives of this study were to find out the most dominant types of Conversational Implicature and the meaning of each implicature. This research on this thesis was conducted by using qualitative descriptive design. The data were taken from Inception movie script that was released in 2010. The data were analyzed and classified into two types of conversational implicature in the procedures namely Generalized Conversational Implicature and Particularized Conversational Implicature. There were 36 conversational implicatures occurred in the characters dialogue from Inception movie. The findings indicated that there were Generalized Conversational Implicature 21 (58,33%) and Particularized Conversational Implicature 15 (41,67%). Generalized Conversational Implicature as the most dominant type of conversational implicature was used in Inception movie, it means that most of the dialogue could be drawn from linguistic feature and general fact without considering the context.

Keywords: *Conversational implicature, Generalized conversational implicature, Particularized conversational implicature*

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INTRODUCTION

Background of the study

Language puts us together in various of understanding about the meaning of what we feel, what we see, what we think, what we inform, and any other things that can be pulled out with language. Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener. Grice (1975: 165-175) remarks this idea that something is more than just what the words mean, called an implicature. In other words, implicature could be additional information that can be deduced from certain information.

The advantage of using implicature is to make listener implicitly accept the assumptions, even though the assumption can be more debated. Hamid M. Al-Hamadi (2009:3) in his current study concludes that meaning is inferred from the use of some utterance in context. Grice's theory of implicature is concerned with the ways in which meaning can be communicated not only by what is said, but also by how it is said. Grice wants to show the inferential paths that lead interlocutors from what is said to what is meant.

For example (Grice 1989:32), A says to B, 'I am out of petrol' and B responds, 'There is a garage around the corner.' While B does not say that A can get gas there, B would be infringing on the maxim 'be relevant' unless B thinks that A can get gas there. A has implicated that B can get petrol at the garage around the corner. Grice's conditions for a conversational implicature, that utterances can conversationally implicate without speaker intention. In remaining close to Grice's formulation of

conversational implicature, the aim is to avoid the criticism of not being faithful. This response gives a brief example that avoids such pedantry.

People exchange meanings and intention. Thus, people need communication to interpret what people's mean and intend in their utterances in order to socialize with the society well. Speakers frequently mean something quite different or even just the opposite from what their words actually say. This particular opinion has been modified by Thomas (1996:1) in different ways of speaking. He claimed that people do not always or even usually say what they mean. This is true because lots of people may show inconvenient in their utterance with nice words and hope that the listener will catch up what they mean without any hurt feeling.

Moreover, according to Grice, there are 4 conversational rules (maxims of conversation) cooperation underlying the efficient use of the language as a whole is called the basis of cooperation (cooperative principle). He categorizes them into maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. In daily life we do not always obey these four principles or we often call it as maxims violation.

Research Question

In line with the background of the study, the problem is formulated as follows: “*What is the most dominant conversational implicature and the meaning of each implication used in Inception movie dialogue?*”

Pragmatics

According to Yule (1996:3) Pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning. It means pragmatics is concern with the implicit meaning which is unsaid. It might be considered as the investigation of invisible meaning.

Conversational Implicature

Implicature as a special case of situations in which the perceived meaning extends beyond the literal meaning is one of the most important ideas in pragmatics. An implicature identified as something meant, implied, or suggested distinct from what is said. Grice (1989: 22-40), who coined the term “implicature,” and classified the phenomenon, developed an influential theory to explain and predict conversational implicature, and describe how they are understood. Grice’s notion of conversational implicature requires that speaker meaning be calculable on the basis of sentence meaning, and presumptions about the speaker’s adherence to cooperative principles of conversation and the ability of the hearer to work out the speaker’s meaning.

Grice’s work on implicature has provided a useful framework for thinking about this important contribution to meaning by emphasizing the distinction between conventional and understood meanings, and sketching out a set of communicative principles through which understood meanings might be derived on the basis of conventional meanings. Conversational implicature implied in conversation, that is, something which is left implicit in actual language use.

Peccei (1999: 27) states that Grice broke the maxim down into four basic maxims; they are maxim of quantity (make your contribution as informative as is required; do not make it more informative than is required), maxim of quality (make your contribution one that is true; do not say what you believe to be false; and do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence), maxim of relation (someone who violated relevance says the first thing that comes into their head or deliberately changing the topic), and maxim of manner (give the information as brief as possible but

true and avoid ambiguity). These maxims are the fundamental basic of categorizing whether a sentence becomes conversational implicature or not.

Types of Conversational Implicature

Bottyan(2005:1), classified conversational implcature into two, there are Generalized Conversational Implicature and Particularized Conversational Implicature.

Generalized conversational implicature commonly applies more important issue particularly to what according to logic conversation or the logical constant conversation. Yule (1996:41) assumes that a number of other generalized conversational implicature are commonly communicated on the basis of a scale of values and are consequently known as scalar implicature. This particularly is obvious in term for expressing generalized conversational implicature, as shown in the scale of values where can be recognized as all, most, many, some, few, always, often, and sometimes.

In the other hand, particularized conversational implicature is always calculated the expression with special knowledge of any particularly context, however most of the time, the conversation take place in very specific context in which locally recognized inferences is assumed. Therefore, Peccei (1999:38) addresses that particularized implicature requires not only general knowledge which is particular or 'local' to the speaker and the hearer, and often to the physical context of the utterance as well.

Methodology

This study was conducted by applying descriptive qualitative method. Creswell (1998:15) defines that qualitative study is multi-method in focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter. qualitative study also involves analysis of data such as words, examples from interviews, transcripts, pictures, video,

recordings, notes, documents, the products and records of material culture, audio-visual materials and personal experience materials (such as artifacts, journal and diary information and narratives). This study was intended to find out the conversational implicature in the movie script *Inception*.

In this research, the source data of this study is from a movie by Christopher Nolan entitled *Inception*. The transcription of the movie and non-linguistics clues such as physical movement is used to help the writer analyze the data. To get the result of the study, the data was chosen deals with the problem that was related to the conversational implicature among the characters. The techniques for analyzing data of this research were analyzed through some steps as follows:

1) Identifying the types of conversational implicature in each utterance of all the characters, 2) Discuss and share opinions about the implication of each type of conversational implicature with the three sources, 3) Reveal and describing all the implicature, 4) Counting the occurrences of each type of conversational implicature, 5) Converting the occurrences into percentages, 6) Determining the most dominant type of conversational implicature.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After analyzing the data and determining the types of conversational implicature that found in *Inception* movie dialogue, the result is presented as follows:

Table 4.1 The Percentages of the Types of Conversational Implicature

No.	Types of Conversational Implicature	Frequency (F)	Percentages (X)
1.	Generalized Conversational Implicature	21	58,3%
2	Particularized Conversational Implicature	15	41,7%
	Total (N)	36	100%

The table shows that the two types of conversational implicature are occurred in *Inception* movie dialogue. They are Generalized Conversational Implicature (21) and Particularized Conversational Implicature (15). The total numbers of conversational implicatures are 36. The most dominant types of conversational implicature is Generalized Conversational Implicature (58,3%).

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

From the findings, the writer has found the total 36 occurrences of conversational implicatures. Two types of conversational implicature were occurred in the *Inception* movie dialogue. They were Generalized Conversational Implicature (21) and Particularized Conversational Implicature (15). The most dominant type of conversational implicature was Generalized Conversational Implicature.

Those findings prove that implicature is used as an effective tool of communication. In majority, verbal communications with conversational implicatures are successful when the meaning conveyed by the speaker is recovered as a result of the hearer's inference. The communication was successful even though conversational implicatures were produced. This means that the hearers always manage interaction so that meanings are successfully exchanged with others.

Suggestion

In relation to the conclusions above, some suggestions are offered as follows: This study is done within the scope of pragmatics. The writer uses Grice's theory of conversational implicature as the basis of the analysis of the study. The writer hopes that this study will contribute some useful information to Indonesian users of English in understanding implicatures. For a suggestion, further research can also be done in order to generalize these findings so that some contributions, both the practical and theoretical ones, can be proposed.

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Declaration

Except where appropriately acknowledged, this thesis is my own work, has been expressed in my own words and has not previously been submitted for assessment.

I understand that this thesis may be screened electronically or otherwise for plagiarism.

Author Biography

Sigalingging's research used catagorize and decriptivetechnique.He hold a S.S from State University of Medan. This Journal is partial fulfillment of the requirement for degree of Sarjana Sastra.