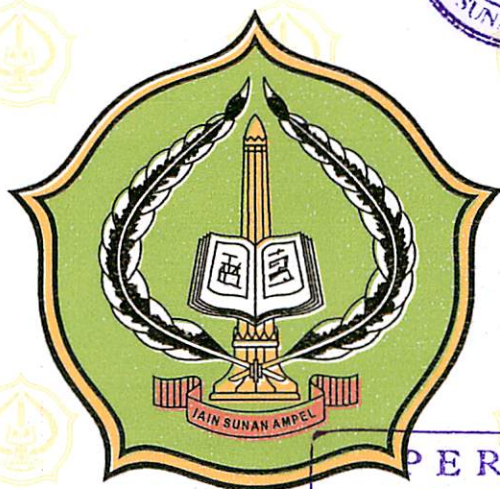


**THE FLOUTING OF CONVERSATIONAL MAXIMS
BY THE MAIN CHARACTERS
IN *TITANIC* MOVIE**

A THESIS



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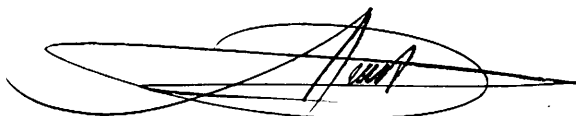
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ABSTRACT

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The Flouting of Conversational Maxims by The Main Characters in Titanic Movie

Theoretically, in communication, people should apply the cooperative principle that consists on four maxims of conversation. They are maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner. According to Grice (1975), people should obey those maxims in order to have an effective communication without any miscommunication. In fact, people sometimes flout the maxims. People mostly have reason behind flouting the maxims. Therefore, in this study, the writer is interested in analyzing the type of maxims in *Titanic* movie, the reason of the flouting maxims, and the consequences of the flouting maxims. The writer chooses *Titanic* movie because it has good effect and visuals, and it also provides excellent commentary on the issue of dramatic story as well as good appreciation by the audience.

INTRODUCTION

the consequence flouting of maxim can be seen on the occasion of misunderstanding of the listener through verbal or nonverbal communication. Whether written or spoken language. Nevertheless, nonverbal clues are more important than they are eyes expression, body language, touching, voice. For example, in a restaurant, and the waiter offers him/her either coffee or tea. Yet, he/she is waving his/her hand. This message means that A wants to drink neither. In this case, A does not speak, but he/she has already given a signal. Automatically, the waiter understands that his/her customer does not want either. Second example, Aiko is a Japanese. He is visiting Australia. He goes to a bookstore. Then, he goes to bookstore, and he buys some books. He asks for the total of the price. "how much are all of them?" Aiko asked.

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tanic, mixed between true story and romantic fic
... ..

In reality, the cooperative principles can be flouted in daily conversations. *Titanic* is a famous movie whose two leading characters have given deep impression to the viewers. Then misunderstanding may occur when a maxim is flouted and given non verbal clues. Therefore, the writer is interested in doing “the flouting of conversational maxims by the main characters in titanic movie”.

In conducting the study, the writer wants to find out whether floating of maxim can make the communication unsuccessful. To find out the problems, the writer will formulate three research questions.

- ### 1.3 Purpose of the Study

[illegible]

1.4 Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this study helps the readers understand about Grice's maxim. They may learn about the flouting of maxims through this study, and the consequences that may exist. Besides, readers know the probable reasons why the maxims are flouted. He hopes that this study can give them inspirations as their further study in this field.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study concerns with discourse analysis. The writer only analyses the main characters conversation. Since he only analyses the main characters' conversation which contains the flouted maxims. In analyzing, the writer uses Paul Grice's theory of conversational maxims as his basic theory to analyze the conversation. In addition, the writer wants to find out the reasons why the main characters flouted the maxims for answering the research question number two. He gets the answer based on the addressee's responds and facial expression when he is speaking to the addressor. Then, as to answer research question number three, to see the consequence, namely the occurrence of the misunderstanding, the writer analyzes both the verbal and non verbal clues of the addressee such as body language, face expression, voice and clothing.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

- Conversational Maxims : General principles to underline the efficient use of language and which together identify general cooperative principles (Crystal.D,1977)

REVIEW OF RELATED THEORIES

In this chapter, the writer reviews some theories which are related to his study. This review is very important because it is used as the basic of the analysis of the study.

2.1 Review of Related Theories

This study focuses on the flouting of the conversational maxims. The writer uses Grice's theory of cooperative principle (1975) as the basic of his analysis.

2.1.1 Grice's Theory of Cooperative Principles

Grice (1975) uses the term “implicature” to make the communication become an achievement. It will refer to what a speaker can imply, suggest, or mean, as distinct from what the speaker literally says (Brown and Yule, 1983: 31). People sometimes use the communication to show their purpose, and it will give an implication behind the utterance. The implication will be accepted by listener, and it will get many perceptions in the listener mind. The following example shows how the hearer has implicated something else.

A and B are talking about a mutual friend, C who is now working in a bank.

A : How is C getting in his job?

B : oh quite well, I think; he likes colleagues, and he hasn't been to prison yet.

(Example taken from Coulthard, 1977: p. 31)

Here, apart from a context that would make the meaning behind such a replay discernible, A may ask what B was implying, suggesting, or what was meant by his

Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged.

The Grice elaborates these general principles into four conversational maxims: quantity, quality, relation, and manner. Each of them has different use in giving contribution.

To make the conversation successful, the speakers should obey the four maxims. Here are the examples of how the speakers can fulfill the maxims based on Levinson's book (Levinson, 1983. p. 101-112).

The participants make contribution as informative as is required for the current purpose of the exchange. They should not make their contribution more or less informative, because the communication between the addressers and the addressees will be misunderstanding. For example, B will show the utterance that fulfill the maxim of quantity.

B : Oh he got a fine.

In the example, Harry got a life sentence too, then B would certainly be guilty of misleading A, for he has failed to provide all the information that might reasonably be required. Therefore, speaker B has already given the informative situation.

Maxim of quality gives contribution to what addressor believes to be true. Here, the addressors should not say what they believe to be false, and should not lack adequate evidence. It will be more clearly to look at below example.

B : I do not know that it does, and I want to know if it does.

Here, the sentence shows that it simply extends the scope of quality by reviewing truth as a special sub-case of sincerity applied to assertions. A answers B about the B's farm. Yet actually, B does not deny that B has farm, and B can prove it when B said that he/she would want to measure his/her farm. This case can be proved that B can give contribution to what addressor believes to be true.

Each person usually should give the relevant contribution to the topic. The communication messages should not be unmatched, yet it must relate to what has gone before. So, the conversation, which fulfills the maxim of relevance, must relate with that

when the addressee fails to make an inference from the addressor' (Grice & Mc Connel-Ginet, 1990: p. 191). Thus, it may be understood that the addressee shares the same background knowledge with the speaker. The knowledge includes not only the rules for interpretation of linguistic items, but also the knowledge of the world, which an addressor can imply or refer (Coulthard, 1977: 8). The inference of shared knowledge between the addressor and the addressee are shown in the following summary. When the addressor S intended X and say Y, S is aware of the cooperative principles (CP), and S realizes that the addressee H knows that S has deliberately violated CP in uttering Y. However, S keeps on saying Y, which shows the addressee H will recognize S's intention of deliberately violating CP. Finally, H uses shared / general / contextual knowledge to interpret X from Y.

Besides, Gazdar said that it is something natural or normal that people do not obey the cooperative principles (Mey. J. L, 1993, p. 74). If they flout their conversation, it does not mean that the communication will not be successful. In addition, the flouting of the conversational maxims can be many things, and there is no way of prescribing a particular violation as useful or detrimental. Then, the participant will understand the implication of the addressor whether the addressee know the situation or occasion. It means that the addressees have the same thinking to imply what the speaker said based on the situation.

Based on Grice maxims, there are several criteria of flouting the maxims as distinguishing guidelines (Levinson, 1983; Coulthard, 1987).

2.1.1.2.1 The Flouting of Maxim of Quantity

Firstly, the addressor flouts this maxim because he/she does circumlocution. It means that addressor does not explain to the point. Secondly, this violation usually gives uninformative contribution. Here, addressor gives less information or too much information. Finally, addressor usually violates this maxim because he/she use insufficient words talks. It means that he/she gives incomplete words when he/she is speaking. The examples will explain about the flouting of maxim of quantity.

- I. A : I've lost a diamond ring.
B : Well Julie was wearing one this morning.

(Leech, 1983)

The conversation does not fulfill the maxim of quantity. By using indefinite article, B refuses to commit himself to whether the ring he sees is the same one that A loses. B is not being informative in this case.

- II. A : We'll all miss Bill and Agatha, won't we?
- B : Well, we'll all miss Bill.

(Leech, 1983)

Surely, this example is categorized as the flouting of maxim of quantity. A tells B that both of them will miss Bill and Agatha. Yet, B flouts that he/she will miss Bill only. B gives uninformative contribution.

2.1.1.2.2 The Flouting of Maxim of Quality

Firstly, this flouting will be done by the addressor because the addressor lies or says and denies something that is believed to be false in order not to get some punishment from someone. Secondly, addressor uses irony statement when he/she flouts. Finally, speaker distorts information. It means that he/she misrepresents his/her information in order to make addressee understand. The examples below will explain this violation.

- I. A : Teheran's in Turkey isn't it, teacher?
B : And London's in Armenia I Suppose.

(Levinson, 1983, p. 110)

Here, the example explain that addressor has flouted maxim of quality. Addressor B answers the statement about London that is in Armenia. Actually, this answer the statement about London that is in Armenia. Actually, this answer is false because London is in England. Therefore, the addressor gives false statement.

- ## II. Queen Victoria was made of iron

(Cook, 1992, p. 31)

The example above, is flouting the maxim of quality. It gives a metaphor statement. It is impossible that Queen Victoria was made of iron. Actually, queen Victoria is human, and she is not iron. That is why this statement is a kind of irony statement.

2.1.1.2.3 The Flouting of Maxim of Relevance

First off all, the participants flout this maxim because they make the conversation unmatched. Usually, the participants do the wrong causality. Beside, they do not want to speak the same topic; they will change the topic or avoid talking about something. This violation is usually used to hide something. It means that the participants keep secrete or something in order that no body knows about it. Two examples below do not fulfill the maxim of relevance.

- I. A : I do think Mrs. Jenkins is an old windbag, don't you?
B : Huh, lovely weather for March, isn't it?

(Levinson, 1983, p. 111)

The conversation between A and B have already made the conversation unmatched. Addressor B might implicate in the appropriate circumstances. Therefore, B gives a respond to speaker A uninformative; therefore B has flouted the maxim of relevance.

- II. A : Where's my box of chocolates?
B : I've got a train to catch.

(Leech, 1983)

The above conversation B has flouted in maxim of relevance, which is not causality. When A asks B about ‘where’, actually B should answer the question about the place. However, B, here, has changed the topic of

conversation. A asks B about A's box of chocolates, but B answer A's question about his/her wanting to get a train. Therefore, B's utterance is unmatched.

2.1.1.2.4 The Flouting of Maxim of Manner

The last flouting is maxim of manner. A addressor flouts the maxim of manner when he/she uses ambiguous language. He/she uses another language such as foreign language which makes the addressee does not understand. Sometimes, this flouting is used by the addressor to exaggerate things. It means that addressor represent as greater things. Moreover, addressor uses slang in front of people who do not understand. Lastly, if the addressor's voice is not loud enough, he/she will violate this maxim.

- I. A : Let's get the kids something.
B : Ok, but I veto I-C-E-R-E-A-M-S.

(Levinson, 1983, p. 104)

Addressor B obviously breaks the maxim of manner (be perspicuous) by spelling out the word ice cream, and tells A that B does not say the word ice cream in front of the children before they ask their parents to buy some.

- II. Before you speak about someone, you must Gnothi Seuthon.

(Rakhmat .J., 2005, p. 17)

This statement is ambiguous, it gives a foreign language word in the sentence. Here Gnothi Seuthon is the motto of Delphi. It means that you must know yourself.

communication which called verbal and non verbal communication (Adler, R. B. & Rodman .G., 1991).

2.1.2.1 Verbal Clues

Verbal communication is a communication done by giving spoken words or written words (Adler, R. B. & Rodman .G., 1991). This kind of communication is usually more successful than the non verbal one. First of all, people will understand if they use spoken word because it is clear and rarely ambiguous since it gives explanation through words, sentence, or paragraph. Therefore, verbal communication can give a detailed explanation and clear information to the listener.

2.1.2.2 Nonverbal Clues

Nonverbal communication is communication without giving spoken or written word (Adler, R. B. & Rodman .G., 1991). The basic nonverbal signaling system are the communication codes that were used by ancestors and are still being used today. Nonverbal communication needs some interaction from human body such as hand, face and eyes, body, mouth and voice. Therefore, there are nine nonverbal communications that are usually used for human life, those are posture and gesture, face and eyes, voice, touch, clothing, distance, time, territoriality, environment as proposed by (Adler, R. B. & Rodman .G., 1991).

2.1.2.2.1 Posture and Gesture

Posture is a rich channel for conveying nonverbal information. From time to time postural messages are obvious. If you can see a person drag through the door

2.1.2.2.3 Voice

2.1.2.2.4 Touch

[illegible]

meeting with a foreign investor. The investor would like to cooperate with Budi. After the investor reads the proposal, the investor is interested in his proposal. The investor accepts his cooperation with Budi. In this case, Budi is very happy. Budi is shaking hand with the investor to show thank you for the investment.

Clothing

Clothing is a means of nonverbal communication. It will show the condition of a person. For example, a person wearing some clothes. There are ten types of messages in this clothing. The first is economic level, educational level, trustworthiness, social position, level of education, economic background, social background, educational background, and so on.

nonverbal communication. In

economic background, social background, educational b

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conversation, and the personal goals. According to Edward T. Hall has defined four distance that people usually use in daily life (Adler, R. B. & Rodman .G., 1991, p. 138).

a. Intimate Distance

It begins with skin contact and ranges out to about eighteen inches. The most obvious context for intimate distance involves interaction with people to whom they are emotionally attached and then mostly in private situation-making love, roughhousing playful, comforting, and protecting. This kind of nonverbal is usually done by the listener and the speaker, who have special relationship, such as husband, wife, boy/girl friend, and doctor or dentist. For example, when we are dating with our boy/girl friend, we usually hold our parent's hand. It shows that they have special distance in this case.

b. Personal Distance

It ranges from eighteen inches at its closet point to four feet at its farthest. Its closer phase is the distance at which most couples stand in public. Yet, if someone of the opposite sex stands this near one partner at a party, the other partner is likely to feel uncomfortable.

c. Social Distance

work more effectively than they sit near with their boss. The employees feel guilty when they do some jobs. However, if employees sit near their boss, they are of course, feel uncomfortable to do their work because they are nervous about their work is not good for their boss. This conversation usually happens between sales people and customer, who work together, for instance. The customer is uncomfortable when a salesclerk comes as close as three feet or less. This nonverbally signals. Automatically, the customer does not feel comfortable to do the work with him/her.

Distance

This communication is usually used to many people or public. For example, a teacher, teacher stands far distance in front of the class in order that students can hear the teacher.

Communication is usually used to many people
 who stands far distance in front of the class in order

her stands far distance in front of the class in order

Time can express both intentional and unintentional messages. According to Robert Levine, time can communicate. For example, in a culture like ours that values

procedure and method of data analysis.

Finally, the writer used descriptive qualitative approach because he analyzed the data and then described the question.

He collected the data from the TITANIC's transcript on Internet. The data were all the utterances by the main characters, namely Jack and Rose.

3.1 Research Design

3.2 Source of Data

3.3 Instruments of The Study

3.4 Data Collection Technique

First of all, the writer searched for the transcription in the internet. Then, he watched Titanic from VCD for several times to match the utterances in the transcription and in VCD. The reason for watching both the transcription and the VCD was to match the utterances. If there were some corrections on the transcription, the writer would adjust. Then, he found some differences conversation among Jack and Rose, for example, the grammar and the word, he revised it.

3.5 Data Analysis Technique

After the writer had transcribed the conversation, he analyzed the utterances of each scene to see what maxim had been flouted. A table was made to help his analyze the data. Then, he categorized those utterance containing flouted maxims into their categories: maxim of quantity, quality, relevance of manner. Thirdly, he gave the explanation to justify the flouting and the reason why the main characters flouted the maxims. This was done to answer his research question number two. To follow, to answer the last research question, he analyzed whether or not misunderstanding took place due to the flouted maxims. This analysis was done by the writer by referring to both the transcript and the film so as to see the nonverbal clues for the occurrence of misunderstanding. This procedure, checking the transcription and watching the film, was done for several time in order to provide accurate analyses by matching the type of flouting maxims, the reasons of flouting the maxims and the consequences from the flouted maxims.

CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS

After analyzing the data, the writer found that there were many maxims which were flouted by Jack and Rose in Titanic. The findings showed that the flouting of maxim relevance is mostly occurred in Jack's and Rose's utterances. The writer also found that there were many reasons which caused the main character flouted the maxims. Furthermore, finding also revealed that the communication could still run smoothly even though the main characters flouted the maxims. Further discussions and sample of the analysis on findings are presented in the discussion below.

4.1 The Flouting of The Maxims

4.1.1 The Flouting of Maxim of Relevance

SCENE V OCEAN – Midnight (The ship has already sunk on the Atlantic Ocean)

Setting : Jack and Rose drift under the blazing stars on the ocean. The water is with only the faintest undulating swell. Rose can actually see the reflecting on the black mirror of the sea. Jack squeezes the water out of her long coat, tucking it in tightly around her legs. He rubs her arms. His face is chalk with in the darkness. A low moaning in the darkness around them.

Situation: Jack and Rose are having conversation when people have been quiet. They are freezing on the darkness night. They are talking about survival.

Rose : *It's getting quiet.* (106)

Jack : It's just gonna take them a couple of minutes to get the boats organized ... (Rose is unmoving just staring into space. She knows the truth. There won't be any boats. Behind Jack sees that Officer Wilde has stopped

Jack : (He takes her hand) Don't you do that. No ... don't say your good bye not yet. Do you understand me? (109) (His face looks freezing and he almost loses his breath)

4.1.2. The Flouting of Maxim of Quantity

Situation : Jack and Rose pass people reading and talking in steamer chairs, some of whom glance curiously at the mismatched couple.

Jack : Do you love him? (35)

on the chair in the poop deck. Suddenly, Rose is
 kicked back on one of the benches gazing at t
 thinking artist thought and smoking a cigarette.
 no is running across the deserted fantail. Her bre
 job, which she suppresses. Then start to climb ove
 her long dress way up, and climbing is clumsy. Sh
 r heel on the white painted gunwale, her back to th
 blackness. She is very depressing woman, and she

SCENE I POOP DECK – NIGHT AND COLD (Rose’s depression)

Situation : Jack is kicked back on one of the benches gazing at the stars blazing overhead thinking artist thought and smoking a cigarette. He is hearing someone who is running across the deserted fantail. Her breath hitches in an occasional sob, which she suppresses. Then start to climb over the railing, she has to hitch her long dress way up, and climbing is clumsy. She turns her body and gets her heel on the white painted gunwale, her back to the railing, facing out toward blackness. She is very depressing woman, and she also never stop crying.

Jack : No you won't (5)

*Jack : Well, you would have done it already. Now come on. Take my hand
(7) (He offers his hands to Rose, and he tries to close her step by step)
(Rose is confused now. She can't see him very well through the tears, so
she wipes them with one hand almost losing her balance)*

[illegible]

4.2.1 The Reason of Flouting The Maxim of Relevance

Setting : Jack and Rose drift under the blazing stars on the ocean. The water is glassy with only the faintest undulating swell. Rose can actually see the stars reflecting on the black mirror of the sea. Jack squeezes the water out of her long coat, tucking it in tightly around her legs. He rubs her arms. His face is chalk with in the darkness. A low MOANING in the darkness around them.

Situation : Jack and Rose are having conversation when people have been quite. They are freezing on the darkness night. They are talking about survival.

Rose : It's getting quite. (106)

Jack : It's just gonna take them a couple of minute to get the boats organized ... (Rose is unmoving just staring into space. She knows the truth. There won't be any boats. Behind Jack sees that Officer Wilde has stopped moving. He is slumped in his life jacket, looking almost asleep. He has died of exposure already) I don't know about you, but I intend to write a strongly worded latter to the White Star Line about all this. (107)

(She laughs weakly, but it sounds like a gasp of fear. Rose finds his eyes in the dim light)

Rose : I love you Jack (108) (She looks cold and afraid. Then, she always holds to Jack's hand)

Jack : (He takes her hand) Don't you do that. No ... don't say your good bye not yet. Do you understand me? (109) (His face looks freezing and he almost loses his breath)

[illegible]

did not want to be left behind by Rose. He therefore understood why Rose said I love you, namely to say good bye to Jack.

4.2.2 The Reason of Flouting The Maxim Quantity

SCENE II BOAT DECK – IN THE MORNING DAY (Rose is looking for Jack)

Setting : Jack and Rose walk side by in the boat deck

Situation : Jack and Rose pass people reading and talking in steamer chairs, some of whom glance curiously at the mismatched couple.

Rose : Well, I ... it was everything. It was my whole world and all the people it. The inertia of my life ... plunging ahead, and me powerless to stop it (32). (She shows him her engagement ring. A sizable diamond)

Jack : God. Look at that thing you would have gone straight to the bottom
(33). (Rose looks so confused, and her eye brows are frowning).

Rose : Five hundred invitations have gone out. All of Philadelphia society will be there and all the while I feel. I'm standing in a crowded room screaming at the top of my lungs, and no one even looks up ... (34)

Jack : Do you love him? (35)

In this case, Rose wanted to stress her feeling that she was complaining about her condition. When she was talking about her condition, her facial expression seemed panic. Then, the way of her speech trembling. It showed as if nobody could help her problem to marry the man whom she did not love. Therefore, she was depressed, and she needed someone to listen to her.

4.2.3 The Reason of Flouting The Maxim of Quality

SCENE III. GYMNASIUM – DAY (Jack looks for to make clear their problem)

Setting : The Gym instructor is chatting up the woman who was riding the bike. Jack and Rose are alone in the room.

Rose : No! Stay where you are. I mean it. I'll let go. (4)
 Jack : No you won't (5)
 Rose : What do you mean no I won't? don't presume to tell me what I will and will not do. You don't know me. (6)
 Jack : Well, you would have done it already. Now come on. Take my hand (7) (He offers his hands to Rose, and he tries to close her step by step)
 (Rose is confused now. She can't see him very well through the tears, so she wipes them with one hand almost losing her balance)

[illegible]

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Finding of this study reveal that maxim of relevance was mostly flouted by the main character in Titanic. In term of the reasons of flouting the maxims, the writer has come up with various kinds of reasons why the main characters flouted the maxim. The most frequent reason used for flouting the maxim of relevance, the most reason employed by the addressee for flouting the maxim of quantity. Next to be sarcastic was the most common reason why the addressor flouted the maxim of quality. Finally, the addressor flouted the maxim of manner over flow the main characters feeling.

The fact is that grice believes that a communication can be a failure when maxims are flouted. However, result of this study prove that it is never a guarantee that when a maxim is flouted, the communication will breakdown.

To conclude, with regard to the fact that a conversation will not always breakdown even though maxims are flouted, it should then lead to better understanding when an application of cooperative principle is the concern. Further research can also be done in this field in order to generalize these findings.

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