# Conversational Implicature Analysis of Text Message Between Native Speaker and Foreign Language Speaker of English

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#### **ABSTRACT**

In this global era, it is possible to do communication with native speaker of English. Thus, the need to master communicative competence of English communication is needed. Beside face to face communication, people are also need to be able to communicate in different way, such as chat via mobile phone. It is used to call as Short Message Service or SMS. This study is aimed to know the kinds of conversation that happened in their short text message for a month. The classification of conversation is according to the Grice (1975) the formulation of Cooperative Principle in which it is classified into Generalized Conversation Implicature and Particularized Conversational Implicature. The method used in this study is Descriptive Qualitative. It is used to interpret the data according to the conversational classification. The result of this study shows that 81. 25 % the conversations are classified into Generalized Conversational Implicature, and 18. 75% conversations are classified into Particularized Conversational Implicature.

**Key words:** conversational implicature, short text message, English native speaker and foreign language user communication

## INTRODUCTION

Communication is way of exchanging information, this means of thinking, understanding, and expressing thought and feeling in community, thus why communication is very important in our life. As what has been stated by Clark (1977) language stands at the centre of human affairs, from the most prosaic to the most profound. That is why communication is very important. We are not only talking with people who use the same language, globalization era forces us to be able to communicate with other people from other country who speak different language. English is best example to illustrate the need to master other language for the sake of communication. English for Indonesian people is foreign language. Indonesian people only speak English in the classroom as the subject, or we only speak English in special occasion in which there are people who speak English. Those conditions reflect the two main kinds of

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motivations in foreign language learning: instrumental and integrative. When anyone learns a

foreign language instrumentally, he needs it for operational purposes. When anyone learns a

foreign language for integrative purpose, he is trying to identify much more closely with a

speech community which uses that language variety; he tries to understand the attitudes and the

world view of that community (Broughton, at al 2003).

As the effect of globalization era, people from other country are freely to come and do

activity in our country and vice versa. Since English is international language, so those people

communicate with other in English. In Indonesia, people from other country come and

communicate with people in Indonesia. As the example, Peace Corp is one of organization from

America which sends volunteers to teach English in some very remote areas in Indonesia,

Indramayu is included there. The volunteers are people who care to education development

especialy for the widespread of mastering English.

The volunteer is involved in daily life of people in Indramayu, talk and engage in many

kinds of activities. They share about their experiences and try to communicate with people in

Indramayu who are basically still low in mastering English. The barrier in communication is

still high, because people do not speak English in their daily communication. English is taught

at school, and only some people who have basic knowledge of English who are able to

communicate with them.

The study of how to gets communicated that is said is pragmatic, Yule (1996). He also

stated that pragmatic is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or

writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). Pragmatics lets people to know what other

people's intended meaning, their assumptions, their purposes or goals and the kinds of actions.

It's about how people make sense of each other linguistically, it requires us to make sense of

people and what they have in mind. It can be said that there is more being communicated than

being said.

Thus the conversation that is analyzed here is through chatting in Short text message.

The Chatting of short text message is taken from phone short message service between one of

Indonesian woman and the volunteer from Peace Corp. Text message appears easiest way to

communicate without thinking about the performance of speaking directly to the native.

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Communication through Short text message seems prefer to be chosen by people than verbal communication (Ling 2004) restated by Barhkuus (2010).

According to Pridham (2001) Conversation is any interactive spoken exchange between two or more people and can be: face to face exchanges, this can be private conversations, such as talk at home between the family, or more public and ritualized conversations; non-face-to-face exchanges, such as telephone conversation; broadcast materials such as a live radio phone-in or a television chat show. So that the conversation that is analyzed here can be categorized in to conversation since it is a talk or chat via mobile phone. This study aims to know what kinds conversational implicature that have been done by the native and Indonesian people through chatting in short text message.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### **Conversational implicature**

Conversational implicature is a message that is not found in the plain sense of the sentence, Pakpahan (2013). The hearer should be able to infer the message in the utterance by appealing to the rules governing successful conversation interaction. In a conversation, Yule (1996) stated that there must be something more than just what the words mean, the additional conveyed meaning called an implicature.

In doing conversation, people need to understand what the speaker means from the utterance, in this case, the listener has to cooperate with the speaker. The utterance that responds to the speaker should meet what the speaker means. Grice stated that actually the speakers intend to be cooperative when they talked and one way of being cooperative is for a speaker to give as much information as is expected (Grundy 2000). The cooperation in conversation has to follow the maxim of the conversation which is formulated by Grice, so-called Cooperative Principle. Yule (1996) elaborates Cooperative principles as the way in making the conversation contribution such as required, at the stage at which it occurs by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged.

## a. The maxim of quantity

1. Make your contribution as informative as is required (for current purposes of the exchange)

- 2. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required
- b. The maxim of quality

Try to make your contribution one that is true

- 1. Do not say what you believe to be false
- 2. Do not say what for which you lack adequate evidence
- c. The maxim of relation

Be relevant

d. The maxim of manner

Be perspicuous

- 1. Avoid obscurity of expression
- 2. Avoid ambiguity
- 3. Be brief (avoid unnecessary proxility)
- 4. Be orderly

The theories of cooperative principle are formulated to get and predict the interpretation of conversational implicature. According to Brown and Levinson (1987) and Yule (1996), conversational implicature is derived from general principle of conversation plus a member of maxims which speaker normally obeys. In Levinson (1983), Grice divides conversational implicature into two kinds. Generalized conversational implicature and particularized conversational implicature.

Grundy (2000) explains generalized conversational implicature as an implicature that arise irrespective of the context in which they occur. Levinson (1983) stated that generalized conversational implicature occur without reference to any particular feature of the context. It means that there is no need to have special background knowledge or inferences in calculating the additional conveyed meaning. Nanda (2012) discussed this generalized conversational Implicature according to Levinson (2000) that GCI (General Conversational Implicature) is divided into Q-Implicature, I-Implicature, and M-Implicature. Q-Implicature is based on Grice's First sub maxim of quantity (make your contribution as informative as required for the purpose of communication); I-Implicature is based on second sub maxim (do not make your contribution more informative than what is required); and M-Impllicature is based on the third sub maxims of manner (avoid obscurity of expression and avoid proxility).

Grundy (2000) stated that particularized implicature is context-bound. Particularized implicatures are inferences that we need to draw if we are to understand how an utterance is relevant in some context. Thus particularized implicatures that arise in the utterance are derived, not from the utterance alone, but from the utterance in the context. Nanda (2012) stated that particularized conversational implicature is strongly tied to the particular features of the context. In this specific context, locally recognized inferences are assumed (Yule 1996).

#### **Chatting Text Message**

Chatting via text messaging is new way of face to face communication. People will be able to send messages, but with no more than 160 characters at a time (Crystal 2008). Nowadays text messaging is expanding in its character, it can be written in more than 160 characters. The setting of the screen also not again as used to be Short Message Service as general but it is set in chatting. People are freely to do conversation not limited with the character.

Zurhellen (2011) stated that text messaging is powerfully context-driven and the form of language innovation it engenders occurs spontaneously and organically through its users. She also stated as what has been elaborated by Thurlow (2003) outlines six non-standard orthographic and/or typographic forms of language development that occur in text messaging (1) shortenings (i.e. missing and letters), contractions (i.e. missing middle letters), and G-clippings and other clipping (i.e. dropping final letter), (2) acronyms and initialisms, (3) letter/number homophones, (4) 'misspellings' and typos (5) non-conventional spellings ad (6) accent stylizations.

The communication happens via chatting in text messaging involves people who are closely related, and the language appears as daily conversation language. Zurhellen (2011) also stated that the audience for text message is often one person known quite well to the person sending the message. Moreover, the message, although asynchronous, is often received immediately and a reply can come almost as quickly as it could be spoken. In fact, it would not be incorrect to understand a text message, at least metaphorically, as a kind of call to which the receiver must respond or risk disturbing the discourse expectations. Laursen (2005) as restated by Zurhellen said that such a reading of texting as engaging a call and response function is termed the "replying norm" where it is taken as an aspect of oral conversation that has

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transferred to the new medium. Thus chatting can be regarded as a conversation which is continued via another medium. It is still private area, not face to face but these two people are connected directly via mobile phone by doing mobile chatting.

#### Communication between native speaker and foreign language speaker

Communication is reached in order to get, share and understand the information given in term of utterance. Everyone starts to learn how to communicate effectively and how to respond to other people's communications. Some people are better at communicating than others but every normal human being learns to communicate through language (Broughton et al. 2003). The communication sometimes comes up with barrier, not only for those who speak the same language, more over for those who have to speak the language which is not their mother tongue.

To do the communication the first thing for sure is, people have to master the language, know how to convey something, to ask, and responding the communication. In the process of communication, every speaker adjusts the way he speaks (or writes) according to the situation he is in, the purpose which motivates him, and the relationships between himself and the person he is addressing. Certain ways of talking are appropriate for communicating with intimates, other ways for communicating with non-intimates; certain ways of putting things will be understood to convey politeness, others to convey impatience or rudeness or anger (Broughton et al. 2003)

Indonesian people should have English communicative competence in order to be able to communicate with native speaker. The condition happens in a real situation, many Indonesian people need to do hard effort to understand the utterance first then they have to understand what actually the utterances means is. This condition will lead to misunderstanding about the information which is actually means. Broughton et al. (2003) also stated that for foreign learner (speaker), it might sometimes be more important to achieve this kind of communicative competence than to achieve a formal linguistics correctness.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

This study uses descriptive qualitative method. This study analyzes the conversation which has happened between native speaker and foreign language user in this case Indonesian women. The data were taken from the conversation from their chatting using mobile phone, using short text message service. The data is about one month conversation on Mei 2014. The participants here is Amanda 25 years old, English native speaker from America and Yeni Nuraeni 28 years old, Foreign language user but she is basically from English Education Department. The chatting is transcribed and numbered into Microsoft Word program in order to make it easy to be analyzed. The transcription will be analyzed according to the Cooperative Principle proposed by Grice (1975). It is limited into the analyze the kinds of conversational implicature, Generalized conversational implicature and particularized conversational implicature. To facilitate the analysis, every word or phrase in which the implicature lies is underlined and examined.

#### FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The total conversation transcribed is one month of chatting via text messaging. There are 16 implicatures, and those implicatures are categorized into two kinds of conversational implicature; generalized conversational implicature and particularized implicature. Those categorizations are classified according to the function and inferences which are indicated by the words directed to the implicature. From the total 16 implicature here is the table of categorization;

CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURE	
GENERALIZED CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURE	PARTICULARIZED CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURE
(GCI)	(PCI)
Function-based classification	Inference based classification
<ul><li>Not all</li><li>Previous event</li></ul>	- Specific knowledge inference

- The actual condition	
- Equality or similarity	
- The next action	
- Contradiction with the actual	
condition	
13	3
81.25 %	18.75 %

From the table above, can be seen that the implicature occur mostly in the conversation via chatting in short text message is 81.25 %, with indication that in this implicature there is no reference to any particular features of specific context. The meaning can be simply interpreted without any special background of referring. While the rest of the implicatures indicate special knowledge background to interpret the meaning, the rest of implicature is about 18.75 % included into particularized conversational implicature.

## 1. Mei 2, 2014

A : Hello IGlow/Ibrew friends, mau <u>ucapkan terima kasih pada kehadiran kemarin</u>

<u>pertemuan informasi.</u> Dari Yeni ada 3 recruit lagi, ada hasil recruit dari teman-teman? Dan

juga memilih hari yang bebas di dalam <u>minggu depan</u> buat pertemuan depan. Boleh ajak teman

:) dan bilang iption juka preferensi untuk tempat bertemu. Nanti ketika ada wifi saya akan bikin

fb group dan bisa berkomunikasi melalui itu

A : dengan hormat, Amada

A : alamat fb group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/igbindramayu/

In the expression mau <u>ucapkan terima kasih pada kehadiran kemarin pertemuan informasi.</u> (I would like to say thanks for your coming to the last information meeting). This phrase indicate that there were meeting before the speaker say thanks, and the knowledge of the meeting are

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known by the other. The phrase *minggu depan* indicate the next event that is going to be held by

them. In this case the message refers to the reader in which the member of the event.

(previous event which is continued to the next event \_ GCI)

Y : miss students of Akamigas have midtest this two weeks, so I cant ask them to join in

meeting next week

In expression "so I cant ask them to join in meeting next week", cant ask them indicate that the

speaker has intend to ask them to join the meeting, but because there was midtest so the speaker

can not ask the students to come to the meeting.

(the actual condition \_ GCI)

A : mungkin di sekolah atau di rumah. That's ok they don't need to come to the meeting

next week, but they can join the fb group so they are aware yea

In this expression "they can join the fb group so they are aware yea" the word aware indicate the

opposite meaning that because of the students are not able to come the meeting so they will not

aware about the next event. Knowing that condition the speaker do something in FB group to

make the students aware.

(the next action \_ GCI)

Y

: miss I need a video of IGlow in Bondowoso

A

: Ill post it to the Fb group tom

In this expresson "I need a video of IGLow in Bondowoso" the phrase of video of IGLow in

Bondowoso indicate that the speaker has no knowledge about the IGLow event, and she need to

know that by asking the video of the previous event which has been done in different place

before. In this case the speaker need to know something new which has been known before.

(specific knowledge \_PCI)

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2. Mei 5, 2014

Y : miss nama training yang personality itu apa?

A : MBTI Training (Myers Briggs Type Indicator)

Y: thank you

Y: I've downloaded the video. Thank you

In the expression of *nama* <u>training</u> <u>yang</u> <u>personality</u> <u>itu</u> <u>apa</u> (what is the name of personality training) the phrase personality training, indicate that the speaker has no knowledge about the personality training, and she wants to get information about the personality training.

(specific knowledge \_ PCI)

3. Mei 7, 2014

Y : miss kita jadi rapat sabtu?kalau jadi, saya ga akan bikin agenda lain.

A : ya rapatnya jadi, <u>nanti saya di ingatkan \*ingatkan</u> di FB group

Y : okay

The expression *kalau jadi saya ga akan bikin agenda lain* (if it is okey, then I will not make another agenda) will not make another agenda means that it is possible for her to have another agenda, but she will not make it since there will be meeting of IGLow

(previous event GCI)

4. Mei 12, 2014

Y: <u>miss mana yang benar</u>? Spread the lights or spreading the lights?

A : what's the context literally light or figurative light?

The expression *mana yang benar* (which one is correct?) it means that actually she is not sure with what she knows about the phrase "spread the lights or spreading the light" since she knows that the partner of her chatting is native speaker she thinks that her partner will know the correct one.

(specific knowledge \_ PCI)

Y : literally lights

A : <u>you can use either</u>. Spreading the lights if you are explaining an action that is currently happening or spread the lights as a directions for doing something

In the expression "you can use either" means that she know very well what is correct form the question given. This knowledge is mastered by her since she is the native speaker and knows very well about English language.

(Specific knowledge \_ PCI)

5. Mei 16, 2014

A : yeni, I have been so busy with perpisahan I don't have time to make the summary

A : and no I would really just like to keep those problems in the past

Y : ok miss never mind, maybe next week before the seminar.

A : yea im so sorry!

Y : no problem

Y : so sorry for asking that question. Ok I'll never ask again. Have fun miss!

The expression of "so sorry for asking that question, I'll never ask again" never ask again, it indicates that she has been ever asked that question before, she begging for apologize because she is afraid that her partner disturbed with the question.

(previous event \_ GCI)

6. Mei 17, 2014

Y: miss kirim fotonya yak e fb. I want to see your dress code today. Hehe. Sorry I have to attend the meeting with lecturer in Akamigas so I'm not able to come. Love u Amanda!

A : oh no problem! Ill upload photos soon\

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In the expression of "sorry I have to attend the meeting with lecturer in Akamigas" I have to

attend, it indicates that if there is not a must then she will come to the meeting, but because it is

a must then she is not able to come to the meeting.

(the actual condition \_ GCI)

7. Mei 18, 2014

Y : miss Amanda what are you doing? Have you eat \*eaten your dinner? I've add \* added

my friends to IGlow group. They're able to come to meeting on May 25. Semangat!

A : awesome, Im coming home from a school picnic in bogor

In this expression "I've added my friends to IGLow group" I have added related to the previous

event in adding her friend to the group. This indicates that the previous event relates to the event

they talk about.

A

(previous event \_ GCI)

Y : Good. So where is the location exactly? Kebun raya bogor?

: we were at kebun raya, now we are in bandung

Y : ok. Have a great trip miss!

This expression "where is the location exactly?" it indicates that the speaker has no knowledge

about the location, so she aksed the location to the partner. She needs information about the

location of her partner's trip.

(Specific knowledge of inference PCI)

8. Mei 21, 2014

Y : miss how are you?

A : im good yeni, I have a question can I invite other indo friends to the seminar?

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Y: please do! \*sure you can. The participant is not only from Akamigas but also from other college or institution

The expression "the participant is not only form Akamigas but also from other college or institution" not only indicates that not all the participants are from Akamigas but it can be from other institution.

(Not all \_GCI)

A : great! Can you give me info like time, place, or send me the flyer or invite? So I can pass it on to them?

Y : should I sent you a flyer? I will sent it by email

Y : about meeting on Sunday, I will make an invitation to the IGlow team, but I don't know about time. 9 or 10 am? What do you think?

Y: 10 am okay. Can't wait to meet you

The expression "give me info like time, place or send me.." the word give or send it indicate similar activity that she wishes her partner can do for her.

(other similar kinds of activity \_ GCI)

A : OK!

Y : just one question miss, what is your clothes size?

A : depends on the clothes. If its regular tshirts I am medium

A : Batik the <u>batik I wear now is small</u> but maybe most safe with medium

The expression "if its regular tshirt I am medium, ... the batik I wear now is small" it indicates that there is contradiction between the actual size and the prediction. But she gives clear condition by stating if its regular then it should be medium.

(Contradiction with the actual condition \_ GCI)

## **CONCLUSION**

From the discussion above, can be concluded that in term of function and inferences, those conversation are classified into generalized and particularized conversational implicature. In the conversation between English native speaker and foreign language user, the interpretation meaning of the utterance is easily interpreted according to the function and inferences. There is no serious obstacles and barrier except the way some word is written (typo) and a little grammar eror, but it is tolerable since it is given via chatting text message. Overall the communication via chatting text message clearly help both of them communicate very well. A broader study following up this study is recommended in order to confirm these findings and to widen the theories related to the case.

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