

# Conversational Implicature in Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle's Interview on *thesun.co.uk* (A Pragmatic Study)

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## Abstract

This study aims to describe the form of conversational implicature in the Interview between Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle. This research is a qualitative descriptive study. The subject of this research is Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle. The object of the research is the utterances contained in the Interview between Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle. The data was collected through searching, downloading, reading script, note taking, classifying, and coding the data to achieve a complete conclusion in the form of conversational implicature in the interview between Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle. The results of the study shows three forms, namely satire (6 data), protest (3 data), and statement (14 data). Meghan uses this form because she doesn't want to be silent about the problems she has with the royals who played an active role in perpetuating lies about her and Prince Harry.

**Keywords:** *communication, conversation, implicature, interview*

## INTRODUCTION

When reading the news in the newspaper, listening to radio broadcasts, or watching television programs, there are often questions and answers for interviews. An interview is a conversation between two or more people that takes place between the source and the interviewer. Questions and answers between the interviewer and the resource person aim to obtain information, opinions, and data. According to Moleong, an interview is a conversation with a specific purpose. In this method, researchers and respondents face each other to obtain information orally with the aim of obtaining data that can explain research problems. This question-and-answer activity occurs with back-and-forth communication between the interviewer and the interviewee to explore certain topics discussed. Interviews are often conducted by journalists, reporters, or news seekers with people who are involved in an event. These can be public figures, officials, experts, or

eyewitnesses. According to Denzin and Lincoln (1994), an interview is a conversation, involving the art of questioning and listening. This is not a neutral tool; the interviewer creates a real question and answer situation. In this situation, the answers are given. Thus, the interview produces an understanding that is shaped by the situation and based on specific interactional events. The method is influenced by the interviewer's individual characteristics, including race, class, ethnicity, and gender. Thus, it can be concluded that the interview survey is a question-and-answer activity face-to-face between the interviewer and the interviewee, with the aim of obtaining data or information about perceptions, opinions, or attitudes of interviewees related to the problem under study.

The rapid development of technology today is very significant for the development of community communication. People can now communicate across long distances using the telephone, television, radio, and the internet. One of them, from YouTube media, allows us to get news from various places without having to move from our seats. YouTube content is now increasingly diverse, ranging from news events, entertainment, knowledge, and even technology. One of the most popular pieces of content is talk shows. Talk shows are a form of interactional discourse. Talk shows are a form of communication that is different from discussions or debates. The talk show will be attended by presenters and resource people related to the event. The talk show hosted by Oprah Winfrey on March 7, 2021, has caused controversy. In the interview, Meghan said she had contemplated suicide. In addition, she and Harry said a member of the royal family expressed concern about how dark baby Archie's skin tone was. Later, the two said the palace separated them from royal protection despite death threats. The talk show triggered a mass media war between American netizens and British netizens.

In order to find out why this happened, or what happened during the interview that sparked a mass media war between American and British netizens, it takes pragmatic knowledge to understand the meaning of the star on the talk show. The benefits of learning language through pragmatism are being able to speak about the meanings of other people, their assumptions, intentions or goals, and the types

of actions they show they are doing (Yule, 2014:5). Implicature is one of the studies of pragmatics. Pragmatics is able to bridge the gap between what is actually said and what is actually meant. Implicature can be said to convey more information than something that is conveyed. The concept of implicature was pioneered by H.P. Grice (1975). Grice divides implicature into two types, namely conventional implicature and non-conventional implicature, or conversational implicature. The function of conversational implicatures is to express opinions, report, propose, boast, complain, plead, promise, vow, criticize, criticize, and define.

So far, several similar studies have been conducted, including research from Radianti titled "An Analysis of Implicature in "Lady Midnight" Novel by Cassandra Clare," research from Sutrisno titled "The Use of Implicatures and Speech Acts in Najwa Talk Show on Metro TV," research from Putri titled "An Analysis of Conversational Implicature in "Orphan" Movie," and research from Septiamaylofa titled "The research has similarities to the research that the author did. The similarity is that it is the same as using implicatures to dissect the subject. The thing that distinguishes this research is that it is a subject that is dissected. The author uses the research subject in the form of conversation or speech in the interview script between Oprah Winfrey, Meghan Markle, and Prince Harry. From the author's observations, there has been no research on the implicature of talk show scripts, especially those hosted by Oprah Winfrey. Thus, this research is new research. Therefore, it is important to conduct this research in order to respond intelligently and critically to the utterances, and to understand the meaning of the utterances based on the context of the utterances.

This research has a novelty compared to previous research, namely on the subject and object under study. The subjects in this study were conversations or utterances in the talk show script hosted by Oprah Winfrey, which was attended by Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, while the object was the implicature theory of H.P. Grice, which will be applied to conversations or utterances in the talk show script hosted by Oprah Winfrey, which was attended by Meghan Markle and Prince Harry. As far as the researcher's knowledge, there is no detailed use of the subject

or object of research that the researcher uses so that its authenticity can be accounted for.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In conducting this study, the writer applied a descriptive qualitative method. The data collected in this method are in the form of words, and not numbers.” Qualitative research methods involve all aspects of diverse human life phenomena or cases that occur in human experience. Moreover, the understanding of phenomena discovered by using the qualitative method. Data in qualitative research can be expressed in words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and pictures. This research applies a descriptive qualitative research method since the data presented is in a qualitative form and described in text that includes conversational implicature in Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle’s interview. This method is used in this research to find out the answer from the research question which is to find how the implicature forms in the interview between Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle. It requires inductive data exploration to define recurrent themes, patterns, or ideas, and then to describe and interpret those categories.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### The Form of Implicatures

The form of implicature is a form of language conveyed by speakers and speech partners with different meanings or implicitly containing certain intentions in the form of satire, protest, statement, criticism, humor, support, and orders.

#### Data 1

- Oprah* : *So, is this a part of your new life? What are you most excited about?*  
*Meghan* : *Whoop! You're ok.*  
*Oprah* : *What are you most excited about in your new life? What are you most excited about? Here, chick, chick, chick, chick.*  
*Meghan* : *I think just being able to live authentically.*

Context: Conversation occurs when Oprah asks about Meghan's new life after leaving the kingdom.

The conversation contains implicatures, which means satire, because Meghan's answer can be said to be insinuating that royal life is not free, full of rules, or life is bound.

### Data 2

- Oprah : *Oh, wow! So, do you think there was a standard for Kate in general and a separate one for you? And if so, why?*
- Meghan : *I don't know why. I can see now what layers were at play and, again, they really seemed to want a narrative of a hero and a villain.*

Context: Conversation occurs when Oprah Winfrey asks where Meghan Markle and Kate Middleton were.

The conversation implies that Meghan Markle intends to insinuate the royal party who deliberately creates a narrative so that bad news emerges about her.

### Data 3

- Meghan : *I've always worked. I've always valued independence. I've always been outspoken, especially about women's rights. I mean, that's the sad irony of the last four years is I've advocated for so long for women to use their voice, and then I was silent?*
- Oprah : *Were you silent? Or were you silenced?*
- Meghan : The latter.

Context: Conversation occurs when Meghan explains what she has been working on for the past four years.

In the conversation above, there is an implicature sentence, which means satire. This is marked by "and then I was silent." From this utterance, there is a statement that means satire. Maybe Meghan was silenced by the royal party or for other reasons.

### Data 4

- Oprah : *You know, we had heard — the world, those of us out here reading the things or hearing the things — that it was you and Harry who didn't want Archie to have a prince title. So, you're telling me that is not true?*
- Meghan : *No, and it's not our decision to make, right? even though I have a lot of clarity on what comes with the titles, good and bad — and from my experience, a lot of pain.*
- Oprah : *Mm-hmm.*
- Meghan : *I, again, wouldn't wish pain on my child, but that is their birthright to then make a choice about.*

Context: Conversation occurs when Oprah Winfrey asks the truth: Prince Harry and Meghan Markle don't want Archie to be crowned prince.

In Meghan's words "*I, again, wouldn't wish pain on my child,*" It contains implications in the form of protest. In this statement, Meghan Markle seemed to emphasize that she did not want her child to be hurt, then continued with "*but that*

*is their birthright to then make a choice about.*” which could imply a form of protest that Archie deserves the title of prince because he is the eldest child of Prince Harry.

#### **Data 5**

*Oprah : Everybody who gets married knows you're really marrying the family. But you weren't just marrying a family, you were marrying a 1,200-year-old institution, you're marrying the monarchy. What did you think it was going to be like?*

*Meghan : I would say I went into it naively because I didn't grow up knowing much about the Royal Family. It wasn't part of something that was part of conversation at home. It wasn't something that we followed. My mum even said to me a couple of months ago, 'Did Diana ever do an interview?' Now I can say. 'Yes, a very famous one', but my mum doesn't know that.*

Context: Oprah Winfrey asks how Meghan Markle felt when she married Prince Harry.

The conversation above between Oprah and Meghan is a question that means a statement because Oprah asks what Meghan thought when she married Prince Harry. Then Meghan explained that she doesn't know much about the royal family because what is done in the royal family is not the same as her daily life. In this case, the implicature of the statement in the question intends to express the incompatibility of his life in his kingdom and his daily life.

#### **Data 6**

*Oprah : This was a really big story at the time, that you made Kate cry. Now you're saying you didn't make Kate cry, Kate made you cry. So, we all want to know, what would make you cry? What. . . What were you going through? You were going through all of the anxiety that brides go through putting their wedding together and going through all of the issues with your father: Was he coming? Was he not coming? And there was a confrontation over the. . . the dresses?*

*Meghan : It wasn't a confrontation, and I actually don't think it's fair to her to get into the details of that, because she apologized.*

*Oprah : Ok.*

*Meghan : And I've forgiven her.*

*Oprah : Mm-hmm.*

*Meghan : What was hard to get over was being blamed for something that not only I didn't do but that happened to me. And the people who were part of our wedding went to our comms team and said, 'I know this didn't happen.' I don't have to tell them what actually happened.*

At that time, there was news from the British tabloid which said Meghan made Kate cry before her wedding to Prince Harry. But in her interview with Oprah, Meghan said otherwise.

From the conversation, it implies that Meghan Markle stated she did not hurt Kate at all, which was marked by *“What was hard to get over was being blamed for something that not only I didn’t do but that happened to me. And the people who were part of our wedding went to our comms team and said, ‘I know this didn’t happen.’ I don’t have to tell them what actually happened.”* This statement shows that Meghan has been feeling blamed for something she didn't do.

**Data 7**

*Meghan : Yet no one from my family ever said anything over those three years. And that . . . that hurts. But I also am acutely aware of where my family stands and how scared they are of the tabloids turning on them.*

*Oprah : Turning on them for what? They’re the Royal Family.*

*Meghan : **Yes, but it’s . . . there is this invisible. . . what’s termed or referred to as the ‘invisible contract’ behind closed doors between the institution and the tabloids, the UK tabloids.***

Context: Oprah Winfrey, Meghan Markle, and Prince Harry have a conversation about British tabloids.

Prince Harry's utterances contain implicatures in the form of statements. Prince Harry explained that there is an invisible contract between the institution and the British tabloids. Prince Harry seems to be stating the fact that there is something behind the news circulating about his wife, Meghan Markle.

**Data 8**

*Oprah : Wait. Hold . . . hold up. Wait a minute. Your family cut you off?*

*Harry : **Yeah, in the first half, the first quarter of 2020. But I’ve got what my mum left me, and, without that, we would not have been able to do this.***

Context : Conversation occurs when Prince Harry admits that his family has cut his finances.

Prince Harry explained that in early 2020, his finances were cut. However, he still has the legacy of his mother. That's the only thing he has. Then he also felt relieved to be on the talk show because he and his wife couldn't imagine having to do it alone. From Prince Harry's explanation, there are implicatures that mean to state that he is not on good terms with the royal family.

### Data 9

- Oprah : So, your story with the prince does have a happy ending?  
Meghan : It does.  
Harry : Yeah.  
Meghan : Yeah. (Laughs.) It really did.  
Oprah : It has a happy ending because you made it so.  
Meghan : **Yeah, greater than any fairytale you've ever read.**

Context: Conversation occurs when Oprah Winfrey asks a question marked "So, your story with the prince does have a happy ending?"

Oprah Winfrey asked Meghan Markle if her story had a happy ending with the prince, to which Meghan replied that it had a happy ending with the prince. This signifies implicature in the form of a statement that as long as Meghan Markle and Prince Harry are in the kingdom, they are not happy. So, his decision to leave the kingdom was the right thing.

### CONCLUSIONS

The form of conversational implicature in the interview between Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle, there are 3 forms: implicature in the form of satire, protest, and statement. There are 23 records. There are 6 data in the form of satire, 3 data in the form of protest, and 3 data in the form of statements that most commonly occur in interviews between Oprah Winfrey and Meghan Markle, namely 14 data.

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