

VIOLATIONS OF MAXIMS ANALYSIS OF COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE IN *MALEFICENT* MOVIE

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Abstract

The objectives of this research are (1) to describe patterns of maxims violation made by the characters, and (2) to find out reasons why the characters violate the maxims in “Maleficent” movie. This research belongs to a discourse study. The data for this study are 25 dialogues uttered by the characters and uses Grice’s theory of cooperative principle and its maxims to describe the utterances and patterns of the violation of the maxims. The researchers also use Goffman’s theory, Christoffersen’ theory and Khosravizadeh and Sadehvandi’s idea to analyze the reasons why the characters violate the maxims. The findings show that there are two patterns of maxims violations namely violation one maxim and more than one maxims. In addition, there are seven reasons used by the characters to violate the maxims. The most frequent reason is hiding the truth (20 times), followed by saving face (15), avoiding discussion (5 times), expressing feelings (4 times), pleasing the hearer (3 times), avoiding punishment (2), and the last is building someone’s belief (1 time).

Keywords: maxims, cooperative principle

Introduction

Language plays a great part in human beings, because it is one of the media that the human beings use to communicate with each others. By using language human beings can express their ideas, emotions, desires and transfer the information to establish the social relationship. It also brings them into the relationship with their environment through conversations. In a conversation a speaker and a hearer are supposed to respond to each other in their turn with the needed information that benefits both of them. By giving the required information, they can understand each other’s utterances. According to Grice (1975:45) cooperative principle which consists of four maxims (maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner) are the suggested principles for the speaker and the hearer to show their cooperation by giving appropriate contributions in their conversation.

By applying cooperative principles, the speaker allows the hearer to draw assumptions about the speaker’s intentions. Nevertheless, people cannot fulfill those maxims and they seem to disobey them. Grice (cited in Cutting, 2002, p. 40) says that when the speakers do not fulfill the maxims, the speaker is said to “violate” them. Violation is a condition where the speakers do not purposefully fulfill certain maxims for some purposes. Goffman (2008:17) states that in order to save face, speakers tend to employ circumlocutions and deceptions, facing his replies with careful ambiguity so that others’face is preserved. Chirstoffersen (2005) says that in real life situation, people violate the maxims for different reasons such as hiding the truth, saving face, cheering the hearer, and building someone’s belief. Khosarvizadeh and Sadehvandi (2011:122-123) say that the speakers violate Grice’s maxims in order to cause misunderstandings on their participants’ part to achieve some other purposes, for example to protract answer, to please counterpart, to avoid discussion, to avoid unpleasant condition, and to express feelings.

As a matter of fact, violation of Grice’s maxims takes place in all societies such as Sarjanawiyata Tamansiswa University, where students of Sarjanawiyata Tamansiswa University

violate the utterances. For example, after explaining the material, the lecturer always asks the students, "Do you understand this one?" and most of the students usually answer, "Yes, Miss" or "Yes, Sir". Although some of them still do not understand the material, their answer is yes. It means that they violate the maxim of quality in order to save their self-esteem. They do not want the lecturer and their friends get negative impressions or judge them as fool.

The researchers intended to do research on the Maleficent movie, directed by Robert Stromberg. The movie contains violation of Grice's maxims. The researchers found that the characters violated maxims in the utterances, but some characters sometimes violated two, three even all the violation of maxims for some reasons.

Literature Review

1. Cooperative Principle

In George Yule (2006:129) cooperative principle is stated in a following: "Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged". Supporting this principle, there are four maxims. They are maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. The function is as guidelines that one should follow for reaching a productive and meaningful communication because they regulate how message are conveyed and responded.

a. Maxim of quantity

Maxim of quantity deals with the amount of information presented. It comprises 2 sub-maxims 1) make your contribution as informative as required for the current purposes of the talk exchange in which you are engaged, 2) do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

b. Maxim of quality

Maxim of quality means that participants' contribution has to be truthful and sincere.

c. Maxim of relation

Maxim of relation means that the participants' contribution should be relevant.

d. Maxim of manner

Maxim of manner comprises 5 sub maxims. They are avoiding obscurity, ambiguity, unnecessary prolixity, being brief and orderly.

2. Violations of Maxims

Grice notices that the violation of his maxims takes place when speakers intentionally refrain from applying maxims in their conversation.

Grice (2004: 49) underlines that when the speakers refrain from applying his maxims, the speakers are "liable to mislead" their counterparts in conversation. Goffman (2008: 17) says that the speaker do not abide by Grice's maxims in order to save face. Chirstoffersen (2005) says that in real life situation, people violate the maxims for different reasons. Khosarvizadeh and Sadehvandi (2011:122-123) say that the speakers violate Grice's maxims in order to cause misunderstandings on their participants' part to achieve some other purposes, for example to protract answer, please counterpart, avoid discussion, avoid unpleasant condition, and express feelings.

Method

This research belongs to discourse analysis because it analyzes how language used in society. The researchers used Grice's theory of cooperative principle and its maxims to analyze

utterances and patterns of maxim violations and she also used Gofman's theory, Christofersen's theory and Khosravizadeh and Sadehvandi's idea to analyze the reasons why the characters violate the maxims. The data for this research were the utterances produced by the characters from the movie and the transcription itself. She used computer, website, dictionary, paper and pen as the instruments to support the research and she also took three steps to analyze the data, she watched the movie and read the script to identify the utterances produced by the characters in their conversation, then classified the data. She chose the utterances consisting the maxims violation in the script then she classified the utterances based on the categories of maxims. After that she analyzed the character's reasons for violating the maxims.

Discussion

1. Patterns of maxims violations

The researchers found that there were two patterns of maxims violations used by the characters violations of one maxim and more than one maxim. The occurrence of the violations of one maxim in the Maleficent movie occurred in one type of maxims, it was maxim of quality. Whereas the occurrence of the violations more than one maxims occurred in four maxims. There were 50 violations of maxims. The maxim of quality was the highest maxim violated by the characters which occurred 21 times, the second was maxim of quantity which occurred 14 times, the third was maxim of manner which occurred 12 times, and the lowest was maxim of relation which occurred 3 times.

2. Reasons of the Violation

The researchers found that the characters have different reasons in violating the maxims such as to hide the truth 20 times, to save face 15 times, to avoid discussion 5 times, to express feelings 4 times, to please the hearer 3 times, to avoid punishment 2 times, and the last was to build someone's belief 1 time.

Excerpt 1

Utterance	Qty	Qty	Rln	Mnr
Maleficent: What do i call you? Diaval: Diaval. And in return for saving my life, i'm your servant. Whatever you need.	-	+	+	-

The dialogue happens one day after Maleficent lost her wings in the border of morrs and human kingdom. In that day Maleficent was walking around the border and still remember what Stefan had done to her. At the same time she saw a raven with a net in a field. Maleficent saved the raven by changing him into a human. In her question, Maleficent wanted to know the name of the raven. The response that the man gives maxim violation of quantity and maxim of manner. When he saying: "Diaval. And in return for saving my life, I'am your servant whatever you need". He violates maxim of quantity. In the first gloss he saying: "Diaval", it is informative enough for Maleficent. However, in second gloss he said: " And in return for saving my life,

I'am your servant whatever you need''. This gloss is outside the required information. His contribution should be like: ''Diaval'' as in the first gloss or ''You can call me Diaval''. When he saying: '' And in return for saving my life, I'am your servant whatever you need''. His contribution is not brief. This response traps him into violating the maxim of manner by adding his prolix contribution. Diaval purposefully violates maxim of quantity and maxim of manner in order to express his thanking expression to Maleficent for saving his life.

Excerpt 2

Utterance	Qty	Qly	Rlm	Mmr
Flittle: Why is she crying? Thistlewit: I think she might be hungry.	+	-	+	+

The dialogue happened in a small house in a middle of the woods. The fairies recently arrived in that place and brought the baby too. They got an order from Stefan to take care and protect the princess from the curse whereas they never taking care of a baby previously. Thistlewit one of the three fairies had a job to take care the princess for one hour while others cleanning the house. In her question, Flittle wanted to know the reason why the baby was crying. However, Thistlewit gave an incorrect answer by saying: '' I think she might be hungry''. As a matter of fact, she tried to feed the princess but, the princess did not want to eat because she gave the baby a carrot, and it is not baby's food. Thistlewit was impatient and finally she pinched the baby and she was crying. Therefore, she violates maxim of quality by providing incorrect answer. Thistlewit violates maxim of quality in order to avoid punishment from the fairies' leader.

Excerpt 3

Utterance	Qty	Qly	Rlm	Mmr
King Henry: What is this? Stefan: I have avenged you sire..the winged elf is dead. Now..you're the king of Morr.	-	-	+	-

The dialogue happened when the king was sick in the bed in the palace while waiting for the good news from his soldiers concerning the death of Maleficent. At the same time in moors, Maleficent woke up and felt the pain on her back and started wailing when she realized her wings were stolen. Stefan then took the wings to king Henry. In his question, king Henry wanted to know what excatly the thing that Stefan brings to him. Stefan's response violates maxim of quantity, maxim of quality and maxim of manner. Actually, when the king asks '' What is it ?'', stefan showed the wings without saying anything and the king smiled at him. It

means that the king got the answer. However, Stefan provided another information by saying: "I have avenged you sire..the winged elf is dead. Now..you're the king of Moors". The gloss is too informative for the king. Without saying that gloss, the king and others in the bedroom know that Stefan avanged the king and automatically if Maleficent's wings are here, she is dead because, fairies will be dead slowly if they lost their wings. His response should be like: "Wings Majesty". It is informative enough for the king. Stefan also tried to avoid discussion about maleficent by saying" The winged elf is dead". By uttering the statement, Stefan hoped that the king and others in the bedroom do not ask about Maleficent anymore. When he saying: " The winged elf is dead". Stefan violates maxim of quality. As a matter of fact, Maleficent is still alive. She was the strongest elf. Even though she lost her wings, she was still strong and powerful. His response was also not brief and verbose when he saying: "The winged elf is dead..now you are the king of moors". Everybody in the king's bedroom could conclude it by herself or himself that if the elf was dead, king Henry become the king of moors. Stefan purposefully violates maxim of quantity, maxim of quality and maxim of manner in order to please the king.

Excerpt 4

Utterance	Qty	Qty	Rln	Mnr
Maleficent: Well? Diaval: Well, i saw nothing..	+	-	+	+

The dialogue happened when Maleficent was healing one of the branches while waiting for the news about Stefan from Diaval. Since Maleficent lost her wings, she had a strong grudge to Stefan and everyday her servant Diaval has a job to spy on Stefan in his palace. Suddenly, Diaval flew closer to Maleficent and stopped beside her. By her question, Maleficent wanted to know the new news about Stefan from Diaval. However, Diaval gave incorrect answer by saying: " Well..i saw nothing". The truth is, when Diaval was in the palace, he heard the servants telling about the king and queen's baby the princess and to prove it, Diaval flew to the baby's room. He saw a little beautiful baby inside the room. Diaval sees something but he does not tell it to Maleficent. Therefore, by providing untrue answer Diaval purposefully violates maxim of quality in order to hide the truth. He was afraid, if he told the truth, Maleficent would be angry and did something bad to the baby.

Conclusion

Based on the research findings, the researchers found that the characters in one situation violated one maxim in one utterance. However, in other situation, the characters simultaneously violated two, three even four maxims in one utterance. The occurrence of the violations of one maxim in Maleficent movie occurred in one type of maxims, namely maxim of quality, whereas the violations more than one maxims occurred in all maxims. There were 50 violations of maxims in which the characters violate. Maxim of quality was the highest maxim violated by the characters which occurred 21 times, the second was maxim of quantity which occurred 14 times, the third was maxim of manner which occurred 12 times, and the lowest was maxim of relation

which occurred 3 times. The characters intentionally violated the maxims in order to achieve certain purposes. By employing certain ways, they violated the maxims in order to save face, hide the truth, please the hearer, build someone's belief, avoid punishment, express feeling, and avoid discussion. The main reason used by the characters to violate the maxims in Maleficent movie was to hide the truth.

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