

THE FUNCTIONS OF FLOATING MAXIM THAT UTTERED BY CHARACTERS OF *THE HUNGER GAMES* MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

Based on Grice's theory (1989), cooperative principle makes communication become understandable so that the meaning of the utterances can be well received by the interlocutor. However, in daily lives, this principle is often floated by the speaker and interlocutor because sometimes the speakers want the interlocutor to get the meaning of the utterances that cannot be expressed explicitly. This violation is known as floating maxim. This study aims to explore the functions of floating maxims that occurs in conversations between characters in the movie entitled *The Hunger Games*. The function refers to the speech act theory, in which Searle (1979) states that there are five points of speech acts, namely functioning as representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative. The methods used in this research are observational and qualitative methods, by watching movies and reading the script of the movie's conversation while taking notes the conversations that contain floating maxim, classifying the functions of floating maxim occurred by Searle's (1979) theory and supported by theory of context situation by Halliday (1985). The results of this study indicate that there are 30 floating maxim obtained, 19 data (63%) have function as representatives, five data (17%) have function as directive statements, one data (3%) has function as commissive statements and 5 data (17%) have functions as expressive utterance.

Keywords: Floating maxim, function, movie

ABSTRAK

Dalam teori Grice (1989), prinsip kerjasama dalam sebuah komunikasi akan membantu komunikasi menjadi lancar dan dimengerti oleh penutur dan mitra tutur sehingga maksud dari ujaran dapat diterima baik. Namun dalam kesehariannya, prinsip ini sering dilanggar oleh mitra tutur karena penutur ingin mitra tutur menangkap maksud ujarannya yang tidak bisa diutarakan secara eksplisit. Pelanggaran ini dikenal dengan pelanggaran maksim. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mencari fungsi pelanggaran maksim yang terjadi dalam percakapan antar tokoh pada film berjudul The Hunger Games. Fungsi yang dimaksud mengacu pada teori tindak tutur, yang mana Searle (1979) menyebutkan ada lima poin tindak tutur yakni berfungsi sebagai representatif, direktif, komisif, ekspresif dan deklaratif. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode observasi dan kualitatif, dengan cara menonton film dan mencatat percakapan yang mengandung pelanggaran maksim, mengklasifikasikan fungsi pelanggaran maksim dengan teori Searle (1979) yang didukung dengan teori konteks oleh Halliday (1985). Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan dari 30 pelanggaran maksim yang diperoleh, terdapat 19 data (63%) berfungsi sebagai representatif, lima data (17%) berfungsi sebagai pernyataan direktif, satu data (3%) berfungsi sebagai pernyataan komisif dan 5 data (17%) berfungsi sebagai pernyataan ekspresif.

Kata kunci: Pelanggaran maksim, fungsi, film

I. INTRODUCTION

Language can be used to enhance a good communication between a speaker and a listener to create a common understanding. Both the speaker and the listener have to speak cooperatively and mutually accepted by one another to make a good communication. Sometimes the speaker delivers the implicit information which is not related to the context of communication. According to Mey (2001: 100), there are possible misunderstandings from the implicit information and sometimes it seems to be the rule rather than the exception. In this case, the listener has to know what the speaker means because there are possible misunderstandings in their conversation. In pragmatics, this implicit information is commonly called as implicature. Implicature can be defined as the component of the speaker meaning which is an aspect of what is meant in a speaker's utterance without being part of what is said or it can be said that implicature is the act of expressing messages indirectly through utterances.

Sometimes, people flout the maxims of conversation in their utterances because of some reasons and yet people are still assuming that they are in a cooperative conversation. This flouting act is called as flouting maxim. The flouting of conversational maxim is the sign of indirect meaning or in other words; the flouting maxim is a key to the notion of implicature. This is a particularly salient way of getting an addressee to draw an inference and hence recover an implicature (Grundy, 2000: 78). Furthermore, people who deliver the flouting maxim in their utterance do not just merely convey their intended meaning by literal utterance since

their utterance also has certain function. This research used movie as the data source to find out the phenomenon of floating maxim, specifically in finding out the function of floating maxim that uttered by characters in the movie entitled *The Hunger Games*. This movie adapted by the best trilogy novel by Suzanne Collins with the same title. There are four movies of Hunger Games: *The Hunger Games* (2012), *Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013), *Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1* (2014), and *Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 2* (2015). This research was only focused on the first *The Hunger Games* movie (2012). The researcher found that language in this movie is the tool key to amuse the audience.

II. RESEARCH METHODS

The data were collected by watching the movie thoroughly to see and understanding the context situation of the utterances that uttered by the characters of this movie when they communicate with the others. This technique was done supporting by reading the script of the movie which had downloaded before to make sure the conversations that analysed are right. After that the step was continued by taking note the data that contain flouting maxim from the script based on theory of cooperative principle by Grice (1975: 45) which explain about floating maxim of quantity, floating maxim of quality, floating maxim of relation and floating maxim of manner. Then the theory of speech act classification which is proposed by Searle (1979: 11-14) was used to describe the functions of flouting maxim and the theory of context situation by Michael Halliday (1985: 12) to support the analysis.

III. DISCUSSION

Locutionary act consists of two basic types, such as utterance acts and propositional acts. According to Searle (1969: 23-24) "A propositional act is a speech act that a speaker performs when referring or predicating in an utterance". An utterance act is a speech act that consists of the verbal employment of units of expression such as words and sentences. Searle (1979: 11-14) identified five illocutionary/ perlocutionary points: representative, directive, commissive, expressive, and declarative. The classification by Searle is helpful to determine the aim or the function of the floating maxims that are uttered by the characters in the movie since the utterances always have a purpose behind it. The function of the utterances of floating maxim can be understood well if we know the context of those utterances. The theory from Halliday (1985) which explain about

Data 1

Caesar: "So you're a fighter?"

The field of that conversation is in the Caesar's show about the tributes of The Hunger Games. In this show, Caesar interviewed all the tributes about their personality in The Hunger Games. In the dialogue, Caesar asked Cato, who is the tribute from District 2 and the head of busy career, about his personality.

In this case, Cato answered Caesar's question by flouting the maxim of communication. He flouted the maxim

Data 2

Katniss: "So what happened when I was out?"

The setting was the woods of The Hunger Games in the morning. In this scene, Rue took care of Katniss when she fainted for several days because of the tracker jackers, the poisonous bee.

field as the condition, tenor that describe the participants and the mode that describe more about the language and function of the utterance were used as the supporting theory in investigating the functions of the floating maxim.

From 30 data of floating maxim that found in this research, found 4 points of function that mentioned by Searle (1979) which are as representative, directive, commissive and expressive functions. The representative data are explained below:

3.1 Representative

Representative, or commonly called as assertive, is the speech act which commits a speaker to the truth or the fact of the expressed proposition, e.g. asserting, claiming, concluding, describing, and reporting. (Searle 1969: 16). The representative functions were showed in these data

Cato: "I'm prepared, vicious, and I'm ready to go." (00:53:07)

of quantity when he delivered too much information than what is required. The characteristic of Cato is an arrogant person. Therefore, it is reasonable for him to deliver overstatement about his self confidence to be the victor of The Hunger Games.

The function of Cato's utterance is representative since he asserts himself confidence in The Hunger Games to answer Caesar's question.

Rue: "The girl from 1 and the boy from 10." (eating). (01:31:00)

In the dialogue, Katniss asked Rue about the condition of the games when Katniss fainted and Rue responded her question by flouting the maxim of quantity. Rue's answer is too little information since she did

not give enough information as what is required for Katniss. Nonetheless, Rue's utterance implied that the girl from 1 and the boy from 10 were dead when Katniss fainted.

Data 3

Gale: "They can come too."

The conversation happened when Gale and Katniss argued about Gale's escape plan to the woods. Katniss disagreed with Gale's plan because she thought that it is a dangerous plan for their family. Katniss flouted maxim of quality by using irony when Gale persuaded her to join his plan.

In this case, she used Prim as the object of irony since Prim is a coward girl. Her

3.2 Directive

Directive is the speech act when the speaker expected the listener to do something as a response. Therefore, this

Data 4

Kisskeeper: "That's a... Mocking Jay."

Katniss: "How much?"

The conversation above happened when Katniss sold her result of hunting in the woods to the Kisskeeper. In this scene, Katniss is interested in the Mockingjay pin and asked the Kisskeeper about its price. However, the Kisskeeper wanted to give that pin to Katniss freely. Therefore, she ignored Katniss' question about the price of the Mocking Jay pin. In this case Kisskeeper used flouting the maxim of relation in her utterance. She

Data 5

Katniss: "How do you find shelter?"

Haymitch: "**Give me a chance to wake up sweetheart. This mentoring is very**

The conversation above happened when Katniss, Peeta, Haymitch, and Effie had a breakfast in the kitchen of District 12's

The function of Rue's utterance is representative since she gives information for Katniss about the situation of The Hunger Games when Katniss fainted.

Katniss: "**Prim in the woods?**"

Gale: "Maybe not." (00:07:04)

utterance simply conveys about the fact that Prim never can live in the woods. Therefore, it is impossible for her to join Gale's escape plan since she will never leave Prim.

The function of Katniss utterance is representative because she informs Gale by giving the rhetorical question about the impossibility of Prim to live in the woods.

type of speech act expresses what the speaker wants, e.g. requesting, commanding, suggesting, ordering, and begging. (Searle 1969: 17)

Kisskeeper: "**You keep it. It's yours.**" (Smiling).

Katniss: "Thank you. (Smiling)." (08:27)

answered Katniss' question by changing the topic of the conversation about the price of the Mockingjay pin. In other words, she states 'You keep it. It's yours.' to convince Katniss that she wanted Katniss to keep the pin without paying it.

The function of the Kisskeeper's utterance is directive since she expects Katniss to keep the Mockingjay pin without paying it.

tax and stuff. Can you pass the marmalade?" (26:24)

train. In the dialogue, Katniss wanted to know about how Haymitch found the shelter in the The Hunger Games movie'

arena when he became the victor in the previous game. However, Haymitch answered Katniss' question reluctantly since he wanted to eat without disturbance. He responded Katniss' question by ordering Katniss to give him time to wake up.

In this case, Haymitch failed to fulfill the maxim of communication by

Data 6

Katniss: "What's a good way to get killed?"

The conversation happened when Katniss came to the kitchen and tried to join the conversation between Haymitch and Peeta about how to survived in The Hunger Games movie arena. Haymitch tried to welcome Katniss without answering Katniss' question. He welcomed Katniss by requesting her to join their conversation.

In this case, Haymitch's utterance flouted the maxim of relation since he ignored Katniss' question and changed the topic of conversation to welcome Katniss for joining the conversation.

Data 7

Katniss: "I got to go."

Prim: "Where?"

In the The Hunger Games movie, the conversation above happened when Katniss asked Prim's permission for going to somewhere. In fact, Katniss wanted to hunt the animals in the woods, but she never wanted people to know the truth of this habit, except her best friend namely Gale.

In this case, Katniss answers Prim's question by flouting the maxim of quantity since her answer does not give the clear and informative contribution as what is required. 'I just got to go' its gives too little information, that is an

flouting the maxim of relation when he answered Katniss' question irrelevantly. He changed the topic of the conversation which means he is not interested in Katniss' question.

The function of Haymitch's utterance is directive since he wants Katniss not disturb his breakfast time.

Haymitch: "Oh! Joy. (Smiling). **Why don't you join us?**" (00: 26:11)

The function of Haymitch's utterance is a directive function since he expects Katniss to join the conversation

1.1 Commissive

Commissive is the speech act when the speakers committed themselves to some future action, e.g. promising, threatening, refusing, pledging, and guaranteeing. The commissive function operates a change in the world by creating an obligation as in the case of directive by the speaker. It can be performed by the speaker alone or by the speaker as a member of a group. (Searle 1969: 17).

Katniss: "**I just got to go, but I'll be back. I love you.**" (2:37)

answer that refers 'That's a secret, you don't have to know' that Katniss implied to Prim. Her utterance obviously didn't give enough information for Prim about her destination, but she convinced Prim that she would be back soon. In the statement that is given by Katniss showed she not give enough information as required as what Prim needed.

The function of flouting maxim that uttered by Katniss is commissive since she makes a promise for Prim to believe that she will be back soon.

3.3 Expressive

Expressive is the speech act that expresses the speaker's attitudes and emotions towards the proposition, e.g. congratulating, cursing, excusing, complaining, complimenting,

Data 8

Peeta: "Okay, I think that's enough. (Trying to take the glass from Haymitch's hand)."

The conversation above occurs when Peeta asked Haymitch about the mentoring session. Peeta tried to persuade Haymitch, as District 12's mentor, for explained the The Hunger Games movie since Haymitch won that game once. However, Haymitch is not interested in the mentoring session. It made Peeta lose his patience and tried to stop Haymitch who cannot stop drinking the beers. Meanwhile, it made Haymitch angry.

Therefore, Haymitch ignored Peeta's utterance by delivering the maxim of relation flouting in his utterance. In this case, Haymitch's utterance is irrelevant to Peeta's previous utterance while he gave complaint about Peeta's behavior for trying to stop him.

The function of Haymitch's utterance is an expressive function since he complains Peeta for spilling water on his new pants.

IV. CONCLUSION

This research found there are 30 data that belong to floating maxim. From

apologizing, and thanking. In this case, the speaker expresses his psychological state about some affairs. It can be statements of pleasure, pain, joy, sorrow, like, and dislike.

Haymitch (Suddenly kick Peeta's body by foot). **"You made me spill my drink over my new pants."** (24:21)

those data, found 19 data or 63% as function as representative, five data or 17% as function as directives, one data or 3% found as commissive function, and five data or 17% data as expressive function. The flouting maxim found in this movie have four functions: representative, directive, commissive, and expressive. However, one function which is the declarative function cannot be found in this movie. It is due to the fact that this function only occurs when the speaker had to have a special institutional role to change the state of affairs in reality while the characters in this movie do not have this characterization since there are no scenes about the declaration of something in this movie. On the other hand, the most dominant function of flouting maxim in this movie is the representative function. This function happens when the speaker gave the truth or fact of the expressed proposition. In this movie, the characters commonly flout the maxim of conversation by asserting and reporting the listener about the information in their conversation.

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