THE VIOLATION OF GRICE’S MAXIMS IN DAILY CONVERSATION:
A STUDY AT ENGLISH DEPARTMENT STUDENTS SEMESTER VIII
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“The Violation of Grice’s Maxims in Daily Conversation: A Study at English Department Students Semester VIII Academic Year 2017/2018”

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ABSTRACT

The aims of this thesis “The Violation of Grice’s Maxims in Daily Conversation: A Study at English Department Students Semester VIII Academic Year 2017/2018” are to examine the implementation of Grice’s Maxims in daily conversation of English Department students. There were seven classes of students in semester VIII, and each class consist of 20 to 25 students. The random sampling techniques have been used. Every class has been taught about Grices Maxims theory in Discourse Analysis class and of which a few students was taken randomly as a sample from each class. This research is conducted using descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. Data were collected by using three techniques; recording, note-taking, and interviewing. The result showed that the English department students violated Grice’s Maxims Cooperative principle. Most of the students consciously violated it. The reason for violating the maxims approved to be caused by cultural factor and humor factors. In conclusion, the students violated the maxims to avoid awkwardness and to obey another rule, in which in this case is cultural rule.

Key words: Grice Maxim, violation, daily conversation.
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Kata kunci: Grice Maxim, pelanggaran, percakapan sehari-hari.
1. Introduction

As human being, communication is a mode which helps us to express or transfer our messages. Communication plays a vital role in our everyday life with each one of us making use of different methods of communication for conveying our messages and for understanding the messages of others as well. We can also simply define communication as the act of exchanging expressions, information as well as thoughts. It not only helps to facilitate the process of sharing information, ideas, thoughts, feelings and knowledge, but also helps people to develop relationships with others. Moreover, good way of communication helps people to compose an effective conversation.

Using communication people built up a conversation. Conversation may bring people together to connect one another, especially face-to-face conversation. Face-to-face conversation is an informal discussion through spoken language and words on a particular issue among the people to exchange their views freely and fairly weighs each other. People need to have a conversations with others to maintain their live as social beings and to maintain their relationship among others as well. Therefore, conversations can be the optimal form of communication. Be the optimal form of communication means that conversation has to be effective and meaningful. In order to compose effective and meaningful conversation there are some rules that must be considered and followed.

Ideally, based on Grice’s maxims, the four principle (Be informative, be relevant, be truthful, be perspicuous) to compose an effective and meaningful conversation these principles should be followed in the real interaction of human being. However, the fact shows the opposite of the ideal rule. Speakers sometimes use flowery sentences, idioms, put some jokes. They use sentence that they did not mean to say, or they have another meaning in the sentence that they say. This means, people not always say something clearly to convey meaning. These attitudes of interlocutors in conversation called violation of Grice maxim. Take a
look at this conversation of English department students semester VIII academic years 2017/2018:

R: Yoh, udahdaritadidisini (kampus)?
   “Geez, how long have you been here (college)?”
Q: Iya, udah lama daritadipagisaya. Nyaridosentapindakada, nyari Pak Sri.
   “Yes, I have been here for so long, since this morning. I’m looking for Mr. Sri, but he is not around.”

The dialogue above happened in Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Mataram University in front of English lecturer room. In this conversation R and Q accidentally meet, then R asked Q for how long he has been in campus. Q responded R question by saying much more than the question requests. In this dialogue, Q is not as informative as is required. The R only asks one question and Q supposed to answer that one question without add any information. From this utterance, it shows that the maxim of quantity is violated.

The violation of maxims might be caused by some factors. Therefore, this research is expected to know deeper about the causes and reasons of why English Department students in Semester VIII violate the four cooperative principles.

2. Statement of Problems
   1. Do the English department students of semester VIII apply the Gricean Maxims in their daily conversation?
   2. What factors may cause the violation of the maxims?

3. Purpose of The Study

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To examine the English department students of semester VIII whether they apply Gricean maxims in their daily conversation or not.
2. To identify what factors may cause the violation.
To handle the issues of the two objectives above this research would follow Grice theory of maxims (Be informative, be relevant, be truthful, be perspicuous).

4. Review of Related Literature

Communication refers to the way of exchanging message or information between two or more people. Communication is the natural aspect of human's life. Communication is as old as human, human being himself starts communicating from birth. When a baby cries it is communicating its need for attention or milk, when it gurgles (happy) it is expressing its sense of satisfaction. Communication is transfer of information from one person to another, whether or not it elicits confidence. But the information transferred must be understandable to the receiver (Brown & Yule, 1983). Communication is the relational process of creating and interpreting messages that elicit a response (Griffin, 2009, p. 6). It means that communication is a way of connecting two people or more in order to exchange what they understand. In the most clear from, communication means interaction between two parties or more.

Therefore, (Grice, 1975) proposes the theory and offered to use theory of Cooperative Principle to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation between the speaker and the hearer. In order to make a conversation go on successfully and smoothly, the speakers both and hearer should hold a cooperative attitude. As Grice (1975), states that make your conversational contribution such as is requires, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged.

The purpose of the principle is to guide interlocutors in conversation. The four basic maxims, according to Grice in Levinson (1983, p. 101) are as follows:
1. Maxim of Quantity: Be informative
   a. Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purpose of the exchanged).
   b. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.
2. Maxim of Quality: Be truthful
   a. Do not say what you believe to be false.
   b. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.
3. Maxim of Relation: Be relevant
   a. Make your contribution relevant to the topic that the speakers express.
4. Maxim of Manner: Be perspicuous
   a. Avoid obscurity of expression.
   b. Avoid ambiguity.
   c. Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity)
   d. Be orderly.

The cooperative principle is based on the assumption that language users tacitly agree to cooperate by making their contributions to the talk as is required by the current stage of the talk or the direction into which it develops. Grice (1975) defines “The Cooperative Principle and the maxims of cooperation” as the principles that people abide by for successful communication. He defines how people communicate in his article “Logic and Conversation”.

According to Leech(1983), thinks the CPs neither practical nor applicable for “real language use”, nobody always talks the same as what the CP describes. In a word, the CP cannot be applied in all kinds of conditions in which sentence types, language species, conversational types and other social and psychological factors exert effects. People are not always truthful, informative and cooperative in a conversation.
5. Previous Study

1. Arthanti (2013) on the study of ‘Violation of Grice’s Maxims in The Garfield “Hangs Out” Comic: Comparison between Source Text (ST) And Target Text (TT)’. She analyzes the violation of Grice’s maxims in the source text and in the target text using the Grice’s four kinds of maxim by focusing on the utterances of Jim Davis’s Garfield Hangs out Comic. She is also using literary work (comic) as her subject in order to analyze the violation of Grice’s maxims.

2. Wijaksana (2016) on the study of ‘The Violation Maxim Used in Television Program “ESPN FC: EL CLASSICO AND EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE QUARTER FINALS”’. The researcher analyzes the violation of maxims that used in “ESPN FC” television program. He used the television program as his subject research.

3. Linawati (2013) on the study of ‘A Gricean Maxim Analysis of an English Teacher’s Talks in SMPN 1 Kalasan(a case study)’. The researcher analyzes the classroom interaction between the students and the teacher in English teaching and learning context. In order to examine the violation of Grice Maxims in that context. In this research, she is using a case study of the students in SMPN 1 Kalasan.

Furthermore, the difference between this study and the previous studies above can be seen on the subject of the study. The first study is focused on the utterances of Jim Davis’s Garfield Hangs out Comic which is literary work whereas this study is a comparison study. The second study is focused on the television program which based on script as literary work. The last study is focused on how to solve a case in SMPN 1 Kalasan based on the analysis of English teacher’s talks. And the present researcher uses the daily conversation of English department students, which means face-to-face conversation in natural setting.
The first study was about Code Switching in SMS used by The Students of FKIP Mataram University by EriApriadi (2010), a student from Mataram University.

6. Methods

This research is conducted using descriptive qualitative method. This method is used to describe the violation of Grice's maxims in daily conversation of English Department Students Semester VIII. The result of this thesis described the deeper reasons and causes of violation of Grice maxims based on the data that has been collected in natural setting. Thus, natural setting in this research is a daily conversation that happens naturally and the social problem or human problem that needs to understand in this research is the violation of the Maxims. Therefore this study uses field research method in which includes data collection and data analysis. Since the data for this research has been collected while the English department students are having a daily conversation, therefore, the researcher has to record it during the conversation wherever it takes place in campus (FKIP).

7. Discussion

The finding was about the violation that occur in daily conversation of students in semester VIII. The violation that happened in daily conversation mostly occurs consciously. There are four maxims (Be informative, be relevant, be truthful, be perspicuous) that being violated and all of the maxims are proven violated by English Department students.

Maxim of Quantity

The following data shows some utterances that violate the maxim of quantity. Violating maxim of quantity means that the contributions of the speakers are not informative as it’s required.

DN : Udahkamuujian proposal?
    “Have you done your thesis proposal exam?”

Maxim of Quality
The following data shows some utterances that violate the maxim of quality. Violating maxim of quality means that the speakers are saying something which he/she believes it is false and lack of adequate evidence.

DN : Kamumaumakanapa? “What would you like to eat?”
ID : Mie goreng, tapisayakenyang. Gimana dong? Hahahaha (ketawa). “I would like to eat fried noodle, but I am full. How then” (Laugh)

Maxim of Relation
The following data shows some utterances that violate the maxim of relation. Violating maxim of relation means that the speaker gives information that not relevant with the topic that being discussed.

SK : BaikAlhamdillah. Kamugimana, sudahujian? “Have you done your exam?”
AY : Baruhabisnunnggudosen. “I'm just waiting for my lecturer to come”

Maxim of Manner
The following data shows some utterances that violate the maxim of manner. Violating maxim of manner means that the speaker is saying something that not clear and evoke ambiguity.

RM : Lahemang di karaoke bisamakan? “Can we eat at karaoke place?”
8. Conclusion

After explaining all chapters in this research which about the violation of grice’s maxim in daily conversation of English Department students of semester VIII. There are four maxims that being violated (Be informative, be relevant, be truthful, be perspicuous). Each maxims found violated in different conversation. Most of the students violated the Grice principle while conversing in daily conversation.

Second, it was found that there were two reasons the maxims violated. First reason is humor factor. People put some jokes in their conversation simply to make the conversation more interesting, to give it a life. Based on Grice’s four maxims it is impossible to tell a joke, considering that cooperative principle suggest to avoid unnecessary proximity, be informative, be truthful, and be relevance. Jokes boldly disobey the maxims. In fact, people consciously put some jokes in their talk to improve social distance between the interlocutors. Telling jokes consider as an interesting thing, to cope an awkward conversation. Without a joke conversation will run dry and boring. This kind of conversation that people are avoids happening, because it can affect their internal relationship with the interlocutors. Because of those some purposes that people need to achieve when they telling a joke, they unconsciously violate the maxims.

Therefore, rule of conversing is not well-accepted when human being tend to focused on some purposes that they put into a joke in order to establish their social relation.

The second factor is cultural factor, Cultural heritage and traditions serve to link us with our ancestors, which is valuable and should not be lost. Those are why Indonesian people take culture as a fundamental thing
that valuable. Indonesian people tend to use culture as a rule to live their life. Therefore, it is believed that culture is one of the reasons why people violate the maxims.

From the interview in previous session, one of the samples simply put her thought that Grice maxims cannot be followed because of Indonesian Culture. Grice did not consider another aspect such as culture in his theory. Grice himself is from Europe which has different culture from Indonesian culture. Europe culture tends to be straight forward while conversing and speak directly to the main point. In Indonesian culture, speaks directly to the main point means rude and impolite. Indonesian culture prefers some opening speech and goes around the bush, yet Indonesian people assume those are more polite, even though it is classify as wordy. European people assume that talking beat around the bush only wasting time and consider as unrespectful attitude. It shows the distinction from western culture. While western prefer the direct speech, in which people talk straight to the main point.
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