THE FLOUTING OF MAXIM IN THE SE7EN MOVIE SCRIPT

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ABSTRACT
This research focused on analyzing flouting of maxims that were flouted by the characters in the Se7en movie script and the motivation of the characters flouted the maxims. This research used qualitative research method. The data of the research were in the form of utterances that contained flouting of maxim. The data were collected by downloading the movie and the script, watching the movie, and collecting the data from the script. The data analysis was conducted by organizing the data into narration, analyzing the data, and drawing the conclusion. The results of the research showed what types of maxim were flouted in the movie and what motivation that led the characters to flout the maxims. There are four flouting of maxims in the Se7en movie script; they are maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner. Then, there are three motivations that influenced the characters flouted the maxims; they are competitive, collaborative, and conflictive.

Keywords: flouting of maxim, Se7en movie

ABSTRAK

Kata kunci: pelanggaran maksim, film Se7en

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is a system that is used by human to say something through communication. It is used to communicate, to express about their ideas and to inform about something when they have a conversation. Conversation must have both the speaker and the hearer who need to cooperate and have contribution that can be understood so the
communication will be successful. The cooperative principle can help people to be cooperative in conversation. According to Grice, the cooperative principle makes your conversational contribution such as is required (cited in Yule, 1996). It means that do not give any information less or more to the listeners.

Cooperative principle has four maxims that can help the conversation become more effective. They are maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner. However, people sometimes break the maxims by giving more or less information, being irrelevant, saying something false, and being obscure which called as flouting of maxim. According to Levinson, flouting of maxim occurs when the speaker deliberately ceases to apply the maxims to persuade their listeners to infer the hidden meaning behind the utterances; that is, the speakers employ implicature (1983).

The flouting of maxim not only can be seen in real life but also in the movies. So, the researcher decided to analyze the flouting of maxim from a movie because it represents the reality which people flout the maxim almost every day. The researcher chose Se7en movie by analyzing the flouting of maxim through the conversation among the characters of the movie and the motivation of the characters flouted the maxim. Se7en is a movie about two detectives, a rookie played by Brad Pitt and a veteran played by Morgan Freeman who hunt a serial killer played by Kevin Spacey who uses the seven deadly sins.

To conclude, this research aimed to reveal the flouting of maxim done by the characters in Se7en movie. This research hopefully gives some useful information to people about their problems and difficulties related to understanding of the flouting of maxim in their utterances. Also, it is hoped that people will become more aware to cooperate in conversation.

B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. Context

The definition of context is various. According to Yule, pragmatics is the study of contextual meaning which means this study connects to the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences what it said (1996). The speakers need to considerate about who they are talking to, where, when and under what circumstances. In addition, Hymes explained in features of context, there are addressor as the speaker or writer who produces the utterances and addressee as the hearer or reader who is the recipient of the utterance (cited in Bader & Abdel-karim, 2010).

2. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is one of many subfields of linguistics. Yule defined pragmatics as a concern with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker or writer and interpreted by a listener or reader (1996). This type of study necessarily involves the interpretation of what people mean in a particular context and how the context influences what is said. This approach also necessarily explores how listeners can make inferences about is said in order to arrive at an interpretation of the speaker's intended meaning.

Moreover, Kreidler asserted that the main focus of pragmatics is a person’s ability to get meanings from specific situations, to recognize what a speaker is referring to, to relate new information to what has gone before, to interpret what is being said from background knowledge about the speaker and the topic, and to infer information that the speaker takes for granted and does not bother to say (1998).
3. Cooperative Principles

In order to make the conversation success sometimes depends on the speakers’ approaches to the interaction. The concept of being an expected amount of information provided in conversation is just one aspect of more general idea that people involved in a conversation will cooperate with each other. The assumption of cooperation is so pervasive that it can be stated as a cooperative principle (cited in Yule, 1996). According to Grice, cooperative principle is to make sure your conversational contribution such as required, at that stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged (cited in Yule, 1996). There are four types of maxims; maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner.

a. Maxim of Quantity

In maxim of quantity, the speakers must make their contribution as informative as required and they are not allowed to make the contribution more informative than is required which means that the speakers also neither give too much nor too little information. Yule explained that maxim of quantity can be seen through these phrases such as “as you probably know”, “to cut a long story”, “I won’t bore you with all the details” which the speakers are trying to be cooperative in the conversation by saying “As you probably know, I’m terrified of bugs” (cited in Yule, 1996).

b. Maxim of Quality

According to Grundy, maxim quality can be defined as truthful as required (2000). It means that the speakers must give the information that it is true or they think to be false. Maxim of quality can be seen through these initial phrases such as “as far as I know”, “I may be mistaken, but…”, “I’m not sure if this is right, but…” and “I guess” (cited in Yule, 1996).

c. Maxim of Relevance

In the maxim of relevance, the speakers are required to be relevant in saying something. Cutting contended that, to fulfill this maxim, the speakers are expected to say something relevant to what is said before (2002). This type of maxim can be found in conversation when the speakers try to say something like “Oh, by the way”, “anyway”, or “well, anyway” (cited in Yule, 1996).

d. Maxim of Manner

Grice asserted that the speaker tends to be perspicuous, be brief, be orderly, to avoid ambiguity and obscurity of expression (cited in Yule, 1996). It means that the speaker must say something clear and should not be vague in a conversation.

4. Speech Acts

Action performed via utterance is called as speech acts (cited in Yule, 1996). The action performed by producing utterance will consist of three related acts. The first is locutionary act, the speakers shall be performing such an act as asking or answering question, giving some information or an assurance or a warning, announcing a verdict or an intention, pronouncing sentence, making an appointment or an appeal or a criticism, etc. (cited in Austin, 1962). The second one is illocutionary act; it is an utterance with some kind of function in mind. The speakers may say something to make a statement, an offer,
an explanation, or some other communicative purpose. The third one is perlocutionary act as the hearer’s reaction toward the speaker’s utterance.

5. **Implicature**

Implicature occurs when the hearer assumes that the speaker is being cooperative and intends to communicate something and that something must be more than just what the words mean (cited in Yule, 1996). Grice divided implicature in two types; they are conversational implicature and conventional implicature. Conversational implicatures represents the additional conveyed meaning and the meaning of the utterance is indirectly stated. Conventional implicature is associated with specific words result in additional conveyed meanings when those words are used.

6. **Politeness**

Yule explained politeness as a situation which shows awareness of another person’s self-image (1996). There are two strategies in politeness; they are positive and negative politeness. Positive politeness leads the both speakers to a common goal and even friendship but negative politeness is used for a social distant relationship.

7. **The Flouting of Maxim**

Maxim is a rule which can lead people to have a good conversation but sometimes the speakers do not always follow the rules and they flout the maxims. Grundy explained that the flouting of maxim is a particularly silent way of getting an addressee to draw inference and hence recover an implicature (2000). The speakers flout the maxim considered to the following criteria.

a. **The Flouting of Maxim of Quantity**

A speaker flouts the maxim of quantity when their contribution is not as informative as is required or more informative than is required. The speaker perhaps gives less or more information to the listener. For example:

- A: How are we getting here?
- B: Well we’re getting there in Dave’s car.
  
  (cited in Thomas, 1995)

In this case, B stresses the word we in a way that signals to A that she is not included, which through its implicature tells A that B’s friend Dave has a ride arranged for them, and that A is not going to travel with them to designated destination. It is obvious that the information that was given above is not clear to understand. B does not even give enough information to the listener.

b. **The Flouting of Maxim of Quality**

A speaker flouts the maxim of quality when their contribution is not true and they say something which lacks adequate evidence. The speaker may use hyperbole, metaphor, irony and banter to flout this type of maxim. For example:
A: Teheran’s in Turkey isn’t it, teacher?
B: And London’s in Armenia I suppose.
(cited in Levinson, 1983)

In this example, B shows that what A said before is incorrect but without saying “no”, but B says something else to indicate that Teheran is not in Turkey by saying London is in Armenia. As we know that London is in England so the statement of A is incorrect. That is the reason why B flouted the maxim of quality.

c. The Flouting of Maxim of Relevance

A speaker flouts the maxim of relevance when they become irrelevant but they have reasons behind it and usually it is because they have something to hide or they say something indirectly. For example:

Bert : Do vegetarians eat hamburgers?
Ernie : Do chickens have lips?
(cited in Yule, 1996)

In this conversation, Ernie is being irrelevant to the listener using rhetorical question. When the speakers use it, they do not expect the listener to get an answer (cited in Gvozdanović, 1997). Here, Ernie uses it as a statement and Bert expects that she would provide a yes or no answer. However, instead of saying “no”, she is being irrelevant by saying something else even though she indirectly tells Bert that vegetarian do not eat hamburgers as part of the implicature. Based on that reason, Ernie flouts the maxim of relevance.

d. The Flouting of Maxim of Manner

A speaker flouts maxim of manner when their utterances became ambiguous or obscure. They may say something not briefly or orderly. For example:

A: Where are you off to?
B: I was thinking of going out to get some of that funny white stuff for somebody.
A: OK, but don’t be long—dinner’s nearly ready.
(cited in Cutting, 2002)

In this conversation, B becomes ambiguous by saying “funny white stuff” which apparently means ice cream and “somebody” means his daughter. B flouts maxim of manner because B does not say something clear. The reason why B flouts this type of maxim because B does not want his daughter understand the meaning which causes his daughter does want to eat her dinner before eating the ice cream.

8. The Motivation of the Characters Flouted the Maxim

The speaker intentionally flouts the maxims to expect the hearer find the hidden meaning of the utterance and it leads the hearer assuming more than one implicature. The flouting of maxim occurs for some certain motivation depends on the situation. Leech explained four types of illocutionary function of politeness, according to how they relate to the social goal of establishing and maintaining comity (1983) which related to the motivation of the flouting of maxim.
a. Competitive

Competitive occurs when the illocutionary goal competes with the social goal such as ordering, asking, demanding, and begging. The illocutionary goal is a self-centered goal, it focuses on their own goal and not the others and social goal is a goal that gives advantages to others. For example, is when you’re getting someone to lend you money (cited in Leech, 1983). This motivation corresponds to Searle’s directive functions such as ordering, commanding, requesting, advising, and recommending (cited in Trosborg, 1995).

b. Convivial

Convivial occurs when the illocutionary goal coincides with the social goal such as offering, inviting, greeting, thanking and congratulating. This motivation relates to Searle’s expressive such as thanking, congratulating, pardoning, praising, and condoling (cited in Trosborg, 1995). For example:

Bob : What were you and Anna talking about? You were looking at me all the time!
Marry : Oh, well… why don’t we go get something to drink?

In this conversation, the social goal is Marry answers the question without hurting Bob’s feeling and illocutionary act is Marry avoids giving the real answer by offering him to get something to drink. There is no competition here, only a perfect goal so no one gets disadvantages. Here, Marry flouts the maxim of relevance because Marry answers the question by offering something else.

c. Collaborative

Collaborative occurs when the illocutionary goal that is indifferent to the social goal. It includes asserting, reporting, announcing, and instructing. Here, both speaker and hearer do not get disadvantages from the utterance although the speaker gives less or more information because the purpose of this reason is giving an understanding. Moreover, this motivation relates to Searle’s assertive such as stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining, claiming and reporting (cited in Leech, 1983). For example:

Charlene : I hope you brought the bread and the cheese.
Dexter : Ah, I brought the bread.
(cited in Yule, 1996)

In this conversation, Dexter shows that what he does not mention is something that he does not bring by saying that he only brings “the bread”. Dexter only gives a less information but expects Charlene understands to what he responds and this is the reason why Dexter flouts the maxim of quantity because he does not give enough information as what is required, but his illocutionary goal is to report what he has done and about Dexter’s response, Charlene still understands the hidden meaning of the utterance.

d. Conflictive

Conflictive occurs when the illocutionary goal conflicts with the social goal to cause offence. It concludes threatening, accusing, cursing, and reprimanding. Leech mentioned that this motivation also relates to Searle’s expressive which contains the expression of the
speaker’s negative feelings, reactions, etc., towards the hearer, such as giving reproaches, accusations, acts of blame, and so on (cited in Trosborg, 1995). For example, when someone says “This is a lovely wonderful egg you’ve given me here as usual. Yum!” (cited in Cutting, 2002). It is included as the flouting of maxim of quality because the speaker makes sarcasm and also reprimands the hearer that egg is not “lovely” as what the speaker meant. That is why the word “lovely” becomes the conflictive. The social goal should be giving an advice for the lack but the speaker states what she feels without thinking about the others.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

This research used qualitative research based on Hancock’s explanation that qualitative research is a research which is concerned with developing explanation of social phenomena (1998). It means to help people understand the social world we live and why things are the way they are. In addition, this research used content analysis approach. Fraenkel & Wallen described that content analysis is a technique that enables researcher to study human behavior in an indirect way, through the analysis of their communication (2009). It depicted as an analysis of written contents of a communication. So, the researcher decided to use content analysis approach because the researcher analyzed the data in the form of utterances in the Se7en movie script but also used descriptive study to describe the data.

2. Data and Sources of Data

The data of this research were in the form of utterances that contained flouting of maxim in the Se7en movie script. Nevertheless, the main data of this research was the utterances of the whole characters and the context of the data was also the utterances that contained flouting of maxim in the Se7en movie script. The researcher collected the data from the Se7en movie’s transcription as the data source.

3. Research Instrument

The research instrument was the researcher herself. In this case, the researcher planned the research, collected the data, analyzed the data and gave a conclusion of the research since the data used a qualitative research.

4. Data Collection Technique

In collecting the data, there were a few steps that the researcher did. Firstly, the researcher downloaded the Se7en movie. Secondly, the researcher searched the transcript from the internet. Thirdly, the researcher watched the Se7en movie to match the script from the internet with the utterances from the movie. Fourthly, the researcher collected the data from the script which contained flouting of maxim. Fifthly, the researcher analyzed those data that had been collected from the Se7en movie script.

5. Data Analysis

According to Miles and Huberman, there are three main components in data analysis; data reduction, data display and drawing conclusion in data analysis (1994). In this
case, the analysis process is described below: in data reduction, the objective is to reduce the data without significant loss of information. The researcher selected the data that contained flouting of maxim then eliminated the data that did not contain the criteria of flouting of maxim. In data display, it concerns to organize, compress and assemble information. Therefore, the researcher organized the data for the analysis in the form of narration for the types of maxim that has been flouted and the motivation of the characters flouted the certain maxim. In drawing conclusion, the researcher would give a conclusion based on the data display and after analyzed the data in discussion.

6. Triangulation

Triangulation is a process of verification that increases validity by incorporating several viewpoints and methods. In this research, the researcher used theoretical triangulation. To interpret the data, the researcher used Grice’s cooperative principle theory as the basic theory that was supported by Cutting, Grundy, Levinson, and Leech’s maxim theories to answer the first research question. Moreover, the researcher used Leech and Searle’s theories to answer the second question about the motivation of the flouting of maxim. The researcher also used data triangulation because the data which were relevant with the topic of this research found in research journals, book, and so on used to enrich the interpretation of the data.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Types of Flouting of Maxim in the Se7en Movie Script

This part showed the data of maxim that were flouted in the movie script. They are maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance and maxim of manner. Here, the data were given with detail explanation.

a. The Flouting of Maxim of Quantity

In the following conversation, Mills and Somerset were talking in the police office after investigating the second crime scene. Mills asked about Somerset’s thoughts about what actually they were doing.

MILLS : Why don't you tell me what the hell it is you think we're doing then?
SOMERSET : Picking up the pieces. We're collecting all the evidence, taking all the pictures and samples. Writing everything down. Noting the time things happened.
MILLS : That's all?
SOMERSET : That's all. Putting everything into neat little piles and filing it away. On the off chance it will ever be needed in the courtroom. Picking up diamonds on a deserted island. Saving them in case we get rescued.

Mills wondered and asked Somerset’s thought about what they were doing actually. At first, Somerset answered Mills’ question by giving enough information. However, after Mills asked the second question, Somerset’s answer flouted maxim of quantity. He said “that’s all” means that he was done talking but he kept giving more information that was not required.
Grundy asserted that maxim of quantity as one of the cooperative principle is concerned in giving the information as it is required and is not giving the information more than it is required (2000). Thus, Somerset flouted the maxim of quantity.

b. The Flouting of Maxim of Quality

In the following conversation, Somerset were in a crime scene to investigate then Mills came and they both met for the first time and started to have a conversation.

SOMERSET : Yes. I want you to look and I want you to listen, okay?
MILLS : Now, I wasn't standing around guarding the Taco Bell. I've worked Homicide five years.

Mills’ contribution was not true by using metaphor. Mills was being excessive to Somerset by responding “Now, I wasn't standing around guarding the Taco Bell”. Levinson asserted that in metaphor, metaphorical expression can change the literal expression (1983).

Mills did not really stand guarding the Taco Bell, he indirectly told Somerset that he was standing there the whole time. He continued to say that he have worked homicide for years to indicate that he was really experienced. He used the flouting of maxim to offend Somerset since he was uninterested because Somerset led the case. So, Mills flouted maxim of quality because he said something that was not true.

c. The Flouting of Maxim of Relevance

In the following conversation, Somerset was in the office and the captain came to his room because he wanted to talk about Somerset who wanted to retire. He tried to convince Somerset that he could not leave the job.

CAPTAIN : I don’t think you’re leaving. Hell, you can't leave all this.
SOMERSET : Guy's out walking his dog. Gets attacked. His watch is taken, his wallet. While he's lying there on the sidewalk, helpless...his attacker stabs him in both eyes. This happened just last night about four blocks from here.
CAPTAIN : Yeah, I read about it.

In the dialogue above, the captain seemed could not believe that Somerset would retire. He kept convince him not to go. However, Somerset flouted maxim of relevance by changing the topic, he did not response anything related to the previous saying. He suddenly talked about a crime that happened in the previous night without using any conjunctions or phrases such as “anyway, by the way, etc.” when he wanted to change a topic (cited in Yule, 1996) to avoid flouting of maxim of relevance.

In flouting of maxim of relevance, the speaker may flout the maxim because they want to say something indirectly. Here, Somerset indirectly told the captain about a crime news to show that he was not happy about city because of many crimes happened. That is why Somerset flouted the maxim of relevance.
d. The Flouting of Maxim of Manner

In the following conversation, Somerset got into the taxi to go to the library to find some books related to the case he was facing.

TAXI DRIVER : Where you headed?
SOMERSET : Far away from here.

Somerset’s response flouted the maxim of manner for being ambiguous. He did not give clear information because there is no place named “far away from here”. He should have told the driver specifically where he wanted to go. Related to Grice’s explanation of maxim of manner, the speaker should be perspicuous, be brief, be orderly, to avoid ambiguity and obscurity of expression (in Yule, 1996). Thus, Somerset flouted maxim of manner because his ambiguity.

2. The Motivation of the Characters Flouted the Maxims

a. Competitive

In the following conversation, Mills and Somerset were in the third victim’s place. While they were discussing about the victim, a photographer came and suddenly took a picture of Mills. He was upset and got angry to the photographer. However, Somerset tried to remind him to stay focus on facing the case.

SOMERSET : No matter how hard it is, we have to remain focused.
MILLS : Hey, man, I feed off my emotions. How’s that?
SOMERSET : Are you listening to me?
MILLS : Yes, I can hear you

Somerset’s utterance flouted maxim of relevance because he was being irrelevant to what Mills said before. His motivation was competitive because the Somerset’s response contained one of Searle’s directive functions which was commanding. Here, both speaker and hearer became competitive with their own arguments. Somerset’s illocutionary goal was to tell Mills to calm down and stay focus. He wanted Mills to listen to what he said because Mills were very emotional. However, his social goal should have no competitive between Mills and Somerset.

b. Collaborative

In this conversation, Santiago, Somerset and Mills discussed about the first victim in the hospital. Santiago did the autopsy about the cause of the death and explained about what happened.

SANTIAGO : He didn't really burst. Not all the way. He was hemorrhaging internally. And there was a hematoma in the rectus and transverse abdominis muscles.
MILLS : So he did die by eating.
SANTIAGO : Yes and no.

Santiago explained the condition of the victim’s body then Mills concluded by saying “So he did die by eating.” However, Santiago flouted maxim of quantity by giving more
information to Mills. Leech described collaborative occurs when the illocutionary goal is indifferent to the social goal which includes asserting, reporting, announcing, and instructing (1983). His motivation was collaborative because the utterance contained asserting. Santiago’s illocutionary goal was only to assert yes and no about the victim died because of eating. On the other hand, his social goal should have given the exact answer about it.

However, his motivation was collaborative so both speaker and hearer do not get disadvantages from the utterance although the speaker gives less or more information because the purpose of this reason is giving an understanding.

c. Conflictive

In the following conversation, Mills and Somerset were in the third victim’s place after finding Victor who was actually one of the victims. While Mills and Somerset were having serious talk outside, a photographer came to take Mills’ picture and he got mad.

MILLS : Hey, man, I'm sorry, I... Those, ugh... You know, they piss me off.
SOMERSET : It's okay. It's impressive to see a man feeding off his emotions.

Mills apologized for getting emotional when the photographer took his picture, but Somerset flouted maxim of manner to respond Mills’ utterance because he was not clear by saying a “man” that actually referred to Mills. The motivation was conflictive because he was being sarcastic to Mills. Leech asserted that in conflictive, the illocutionary goal conflicts to the social goal to cause offence (1983).

Here, Somerset’s illocutionary goal was to make sarcasm or offence to Mills because Mills was hard to control his emotion while they had to finish the case. On the other hand, the social goal should have told Mills to be calm since he was very upset. Thus, Somerset’s motivation to flout maxim of manner was conflictive.

3. Discussion

The flouting of maxim in the Se7en movie script were found; they are maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner. The speakers flouted maxim of quantity by giving more information as an understanding and they gave less information to show that the speakers was upset or seemed uninterested to the hearers. The speakers flouted maxim of quality because their utterance mostly lacked adequate evidence and they used metaphor and irony to flout maxim of quality because the speakers tended to offence the hearer. The speakers flouted maxim of relevance by using other statement as a distraction by changing the topic that was irrelevant to persuade the hearer to find the implied meaning of the speakers’ utterance. The speakers flouted maxim of manner by saying something ambiguous or became obscure to flout the maxim so the hearer would understand the implied meaning.

In term of motivation of the characters flouted the maxim, the speakers’ utterance contained three out of four motivations; they are competitive, collaborative, and conflictive. The speakers used competitive less than the two motivations because they tried to solve a case so they reduced being discourteous. The speakers used collaborative more often because they wanted to solve a case and found the suspect of the murders so the speakers here tended to give understanding in order to finish the case. The speakers used conflictive to offend and show their negative expression towards the hearers.
E. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the researcher concluded that in Se7en movie, the characters flouted all the types of maxim and maxim of relevance is the most flouted. The characters tend to flout the maxim as a distraction and also because they wanted to persuade the listeners to find the hidden meaning of what the speakers say. For the motivation, there are four motivations but in this research, only three motivations that lead the characters to flout the maxims; they are competitive, collaborative and conflictive. Collaborative became the most dominant motivation for the flouting of maxim in the Se7en movie script followed by conflictive then competitive. The characters mostly stated and asserted what they wanted to say because the purpose was to give understanding in order to finish the case.

The researcher recommends for the next researchers to use Grice’s theory as the basic theory to conduct the research and also other relevance theories to analyze different topic but still about maxim. Also, for further researchers, hopefully this research can be used as a reference to conduct another research about the flouting of maxim and the motivations of the characters flouted the maxim but using different movie script, or using the same movie script but in different aspects such as discussing maxim violation or else.

WORKS CITED


