

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five sub-chapters. The sub-chapters in this study consist of the background of the study, the research question, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study. This chapter provides an overview of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In daily life, people need to do communication to interact with other people. The aim of communication is to connect people with a clear understanding in order to either get or receive information from each other. One of the most common forms of communication is conversation. In a conversation, there are two important roles that make communication become successful. They are speakers and listeners. Speakers are people who convey the message and listeners are people who receive the message from speakers. According to Levinson (1983), the conversation is a familiar pre-dominant kind of talk in which two or more participants can freely alternate in speaking, and this conversation must happen outside official institutions like religious services, law courts, or classrooms. In order to create good communication, where the participants can understand each other, the participants must be cooperative in speaking.

To be cooperative in a conversation, the participants should follow some principles called cooperative principles. The cooperative principle is a condition where the conversation between the speaker and the listener is expected to be true, relevant, informative, and clear. Yule (1996, p. 37) argues that cooperative principles order the participants to make a conversation as it is required, which means the information conveyed should not be too much or too little, at the stage in which it happens, and by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange. Actually, not only does the cooperative principle rely on the amount of information, accuracy, way, and relevance, but it also relies on the aspects of tolerance and cultural background of participants of the conversation. Zhou (2009,

p. 46) assumes that the cooperative principle has an important role in the generation of conversational implications and it shows how human communication is actually being controlled by some principles. Originally, the cooperative principle was a conversation rule created by Paul Grice that aims to make human conversation become more cooperative. In addition, Liu (2017) argues that in a conversation, the speaker must say the truth, stay relevant to the topic of conversation, and utter the message clearly. Grice (in Yule, 1996) proposes that people have a successful conversation when they fulfill cooperative principles which are elaborated into four principles or maxims. Those four principles are the maxim of quality, the maxim of quantity, the maxim of manner, and the maxim of relevance.

However, in either formal conversation or informal conversation, there is a chance that the speakers do not want to act cooperatively, which means they disobey cooperative principles. The condition where they disobey cooperative principles in conversation is called the non-observance maxim. Thomas (1995, p. 64) proposes five non-observance maxims to explain the disobedience of cooperative principles. They are violating the maxim, flouting the maxim, opting out, infringing, and maxim suspension. However, one of the non-observance maxims easily found in the conversation is flouting the maxim. Grice (in Laraswati et al, 2018) states that flouting the maxim occurs when the speakers clearly do not want to follow the rules of the maxim, but they put implicatures in their utterances. Here is an example of flouting the maxim.

A: "How was your day?"

B: "I got kicked out of the company."

Speaker B's utterance is considered an example of flouting maxims because his friend's answer has no relation to the question. However, it actually implies that speaker B is having a bad day because he gets sacked from the company. This means that his friend actually fulfills the cooperative principle even though it looks like he does not fulfill it. The speakers flout the maxim for certain reasons. All the words that the speakers utter usually have hidden meanings that the hearers need to convey. A literary work is a reflection of real life that has been known by human beings for a long time. Duhan (2015, p. 192) argues that literary works mirror the

bad side of a society which aims to make society realize its mistakes and learn from them. A literary work also shows the good side of a society that can be emulated by the readers. In addition, literature usually presents a picture of what people think in society. Murtiasih & Supriyanto (2019, p. 1) argue that literature can influence society. Even though the subject of literature is limitless, the literary artist usually reflects the situation based on the real world. The themes of literary work may come from some sources like a myth, history, contemporary society, or the literary artist's imagination. However, the main core of literature mostly still comes from what happens in the real life. This proves how close the relationship between literature and real life is.

There are lots of literary works that people can find. Dubey (2013, p. 84) says that literary works can be divided into different forms, such as poetry, prose, play, story, or fiction. In addition, one of the most well-known literary works is a novel. According to Albloly & Ahmed (2015), a novel is a narrative text informing of prose that includes some figures and fictional events. There are some intrinsic elements to creating a novel. A good novel must have a plot, setting, characterization, point of view, and theme. Because the events in the novel are almost similar to reality, this makes activities that the characters do in the novel will be similar to reality, including the conversations of characters.

Based on the explanation above, the writer wants to analyze the novel because of its similarity with the real world and novel is. This is in line with Amodu's (2012, p. 129) statement about what literary does is to mirror the society and creatively represent the image through the use of suspense, comic relieve, imageries, and other literary devices particular effort on creativity, emotionality, and form. Even though novel is just a written form, it can depict anything that happens in the society perfectly. This relates to what the writer wants to analyze because the world of novel mirrors what happens in real life, which means that conversation in the novel is similar to the conversation in real life. This means that analyzing flouting of the maxim in the novel is similar to analyzing flouting of the maxim in the real life.

In this study, the writer will analyze the novel “Dream Things True” by Marie Marquardt because the utterances in this novel use two languages, Spanish and English. This opens a chance for flouting the maxim to occur because not all characters in this novel can speak Spanish, so characters who can speak Spanish have to give additional explanations to only English-speaking people to avoid misunderstanding. Moreover, flouting the maxim can show the relationship between the speaker and the hearer (Fitri & Qodriani, 2016, p. 33). It can also show whether the speakers and the hearers are friends or parts of a family. People usually think that analyzing flouting maxims can only happen in speech because there is an immediate response from the hearer to the speaker. However, analyzing flouting the maxim can also be applied in the novel as long as the reader understands all the messages that the character conveys in the novel.

In terms of pragmatics, the hidden messages in the novel “Dream Things True” by Marie Marquardt can be implicatures and the way to convey the hidden messages is to flout the maxim. Moreover, as explained before, since novel is a literary work which reflects the reality, it means that all conversations between main characters and other characters can be the examples of flouting the maxim and the strategies of flouting the maxim.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, there are two research questions that the writer formulates in this study. The research problems are formulated as follows.

1. What are the types of maxims flouted by the main characters in the novel “Dream Things True” by Marie Marquardt?
2. What are the strategies of flouting maxims found in the main characters’ utterances in the novel “Dream Things True” by Marie Marquardt?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research studies formulated above, there are two objectives of the study the writer intends to.

1. To explain types of maxims flouted by the main characters in the novel “Dream Things True” by Marie Marquardt.
2. To explain strategies of flouting maxims used by the main characters’ utterances in the novel “Dream Things True” by Marie Marquardt.

1.4 Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this study will provide both theoretical and practical significance. In terms of theoretical significance, the writer hopes that this study can enrich information about maxims and strategies of flouting maxims for the readers, particularly for the students of English Departments.

Then, in terms of practical significance, it will be a reference for the readers and also the researchers who are interested in this similar study.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is Pragmatics because it discusses the speaker’s meaning in the conversation in the novel. This study is focused on flouting maxims using the theory by Grice (1975) and the strategies of maxims using the theory by Grundy (2008) in the utterances which are uttered by Alma and Evan, the main characters of the novel “Dream Things True”. This study is limited to the utterances of the main characters in their conversations with all other characters in the novel to ensure there are no researches analyzing and discussing the same data and participants.