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Non-observance of the Gricean Maxims in Shakespeare's King Lear

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I am thankful for the people who helped me in the journey to achieve my degree. I am looking forward for more adventures in my life

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Abstract

The research paper discusses the Non-observance of the Gricean Maxims in Shakespeare's King Lear. It consists of four sections : the first section is a introduction about the subject and section two is a theoretical background which mentions the definitions of Non-observance of the Gricean Maxims, types, form and function of Maxims. Section three is an empirical study and finally section four is a conclusion that sum up the research paper

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Section One

1. Introduction

According to Grice, when people are having a conversation with one another, they are assuming that the other person is willing to cooperate with them in order to accomplish their shared interactional objectives. So in order to cooperate conversationally in this way, one should adhere to the fundamental rule of being in a conversation, as conceptualized by Grice maxims: maxim of manner, maxim of quantity, maxim of quality and maxim of relevance. The non-observance of maxims is a situation in which the conversational maxims of cooperative principle are not obeyed by a speaker.

1.1. The Problem

According to the main topic, the research showed that many individuals whether they are native English speakers or English as a second or foreign language according to cooperative principle. So, the following questions are raised:

1. What types of non-observance of the cooperative principle of are employed in humor discourse of Shakespeare's King Lear of Grice's maxims?
2. What are the rhetorical techniques in the Shakespeare's King Lear that are used to support non-observance of the cooperative principle?
- 3- What are types of Grice's maxims occurred in interaction in applying the in non-observance factors?
- 4- What is the used role of each factors occurred that contains Grice's maxims?

1.2. Aims

The following aims are the goals of the research:

1. Defining the maxims are using in their speech of Shakespeare's King Lear .
2. Demonstrate the rhetorical techniques in the Shakespeare's King Lear that are used to help non-observance of the cooperative principle.
3. Showing types of non-observance of the cooperative principle are employed in humor discourse of Shakespeare's King Lear.
4. Showing the used role of each factors occurred that contains Grice's maxims.

1.3. Hypotheses

The current research hypothesized that:

1. The maxims of speech are more effective in employing humor discourse.
2. The rhetorical techniques are used to support non-observance of the cooperative principle.
3. The types of non-observance of the cooperative principle are employed in humor discourse has a significance role to show the way of using humor discourse.
4. The used role the factors occurred that contains maxims are important to analyzing humor linguistically in terms of Grice's maxims.

1.4. Procedures

The Procedures of the research shown below:

- 1- Presenting a framework that describes Grice's maxims and the types of non-observance maxims, included the theoretical side.
- 2- Collecting some acts of Shakespeare's King Lear by showing each acts trends.
- 3- Analyzing the Selected acts of Shakespeare's King Lear in order to show the way of the used role in addition to employing non-observance of the cooperative principle.
- 4- Concluding the most important issues the research dealt with.

1.5. Limits

The study limited on pragmatic Analysis on the non-observance of Maxims performed by the characters in Shakespeare's King Lear for the acts such as act one, act two and act three.

1.6. Value of Study

This study is valuable to students and teachers of English and syllable designers. The goal at hand is to provide students with appropriate content as well as practical information. This can be used as a guide to determine whether a sentence is appropriate for use.

Section Two

Theoretical Background

2.1. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is frequently defined as the study of language usage rather than language structure. It encompasses a wide range of loosely connected study programs, from formal studies of deictic expressions to sociological studies of ethnic linguistic stereotypes. In a narrower definition, which we shall use here, pragmatics contrasts with semantics, the study of linguistic meaning, and is the study of how contextual elements interact with linguistic meaning in the interpretation of utterances. In this section, we will highlight a number of closely linked, somewhat central pragmatic difficulties and techniques that have piqued the interest of linguists and philosophers of language (Wilson & Sperber 1998).

2.2. The Cooperative Principle

Grice's Cooperative Principle is an assumed basic concept in pragmatics, yet its interpretation is often problematic. The use of the word 'cooperative' seems to lead to a confusion between Grice's technical notion and the general meaning associated with the lexeme cooperation, leading to what we term 'cooperation drift'. We argue that these misinterpretations stem, in part, from the relocation of the Cooperative Principle from philosophy to linguistics. In order to access a meaning that is more representative of Grice's view, it is necessary to see the writings on the Cooperative Principle and implicatures in the context of Grice's

work as a whole. Also, the Cooperative Principle maintains that people follow a pattern in conversation.

2.2.1. Grice's Maxims

It means that the speaker is cooperative in a conversation if they obey or use the four maxims. However, if the speakers do not observe the maxims, they can be considered uncooperative in their communication. Grice's four maxims are:

1. Maxim of quantity: being as informative as is necessary and provide as much information as required, and no more or less than is required.
2. Maxim of quality: being honest and does not provide news that is false or unsupported by facts.
3. Maxim of relation or relevance: to be relevant and say something that relates to the conversation.
4. Maxim of manner: being clear, brief and as orderly as one can in what is said and avoid vagueness and ambiguity.

Although Grice's theory is based on the assumption that people are cooperative in communication and that the maxims serve as the linguistic rules of behaviour governing the production of language and interpretation, Lakoff (1973) observes that in normal informal conversation, the CP's maxims are almost never followed (Tomasello 2010). In fact, Grice's cooperation principles and the politeness principles of Leech have a tendency to overlap and to violate between each theory's maxims (Winarsih 2009, Johari & Zahid 2016).

2.2.2. Non-Observance of Maxims

Non-observance of maxims is a condition in which a speaker cannot fulfill the maxims of cooperative principle when making an utterance. When a speaker cannot fulfill the maxims. Grice in his essay of Logic and Conversation states that

there are four ways of a participant in talk exchange to fail to fulfill a maxim. When failing to observe a maxim, a participant may; quietly and unostentatiously violate a maxim, a condition in which the participant is liable to mislead. Opt out from the operation of the maxim and of the cooperative principle, the participant may indicate that he is unwilling to cooperate. The refusal can also be plain. be faced by a clash since he is unable to fulfill the first maxim without violating the second maxim. Flout a maxim, that is the participant blatantly fail to fulfill the maxim generating implicature, those ways or forms of nonobservance of maxim are named maxim violation, maxim opt out, maxim infringement, and maxim flouting. Flouting a maxim is failure of maxim that said by the speaker blatantly. Flouting of a maxim happen because, there is a clash of maxims and developed to maxim.³⁹ Development flouting a maxim may happen in 4 maxims, such as; maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance and maxim of manner. Those non-observance maxims appear when the speaker saying utterance that do not require of the 4 maxims (super maxim). The reason why the speakers do that because of their implying meaning in their utterance belong to any purposes as mentioned above regarded to the non-observance maxims. In this research will be analyze with those device, to identifying and describing the meanings that could be possibly the fact, regarded to the contexts described.

2.2.2.1. Maxim Violation

Violation is a case when a speaker appears to observe a maxim on the level of what is said while by doing so he/she is liable to mislead. The speaker may appear to say the truth (observing the maxim of quality) but this truth is not the truth that is being sought for by the interlocutor.

2.2.2.2. Maxim Infringement

Maxim infringement is the case when a speaker fails to observe the maxims at the level of what is said with no intention to generate an implicature and with no intention of deceiving. It is purely due to the speaker's lack of ability in using the language. This case usually happens in a conversation involving learners of a second or foreign language. This form of non-observance of maxim generally happens because of imperfect linguistic performance

2.2.2.3. Maxim Opt-Out

Maxim opting out means that speaker refuses to cooperate with the maxim.²⁴ It indicates an unwillingness of the speaker to cooperate with the maxim. However, on the other hand, the speaker does not want to appear uncooperative.

2.2.2.4. Maxim Flouting

Grice points out that maxim flouting happens when a speaker blatantly fails to fulfill a maxim. On the assumption that the speaker is able to fulfill the maxim and not to do so without violating another maxim, is not opting out, and is not, in view of the blatancy of his performance, trying to mislead, the hearer is faced with a minor problem. This situation is one that characteristically gives rise to a conversational implicature. Thomas in his definition explains that maxim flouting means intentionally failing to follow the maxims of Cooperative Principle without any intention to deceive or make a misunderstanding. The only reason is that the speaker wishes the listener to understand the meaning of the speaker, either the

literal expressed meaning or the hidden meaning. Here, a speaker may convey different meanings from the literal meaning of the utterance. Then, the speaker assumes that the listener will be able to infer the implicit meanings of the speaker. For some reasons, Yule includes the implicit meaning of maxim flouting drawn by the listener in a conversation in the particularized conversational implicature.

Section Three

Empirical Work

3.1. Data Description

This section of the article covers Shakespeare's King Lear by reviewing the non-observance of Grice's Maxims and the implicated conversations from King Lear by King Lear by William Shakespeare, by selecting and classifying the discourses with the consideration which has been mentioned in the scope and limitation above and analyze the conversation for the act one, act two and act three.

Shakespeare's King Lear includes characters as:

King Lear: King Lear is an elderly king of Britain who passes power to his two daughters, Goneril and Regan. He makes a fatal mistake, choosing flatter of the older children over the truthfulness of Cordelia. Lear realizes his flaws, but his realization does not save him from insanity and death (Hamilton, 2017).

Cordelia: Shakespeare portrays Cordelia as an example of virtue and tenderness, refusing to flatter her father during the ceremony of transferring power. Through the words of his character, Shakespeare suggests that children should respect their parents while adhering to reasonable sense.

Goneril and Regan: Goneril and Regan do not share qualities of integrity and mildness. Lear's older daughter, Goneril, uses flattery to trick her father into handing power to her during the ceremony (Hamilton, 2017). Hypocritically, she says, "Sir, I love you more than words can wield the matter; Dearer than eyesight, space, and liberty" (Shakespeare, 1999, p. 9). His generous gesture does not stop her, however, from insulting the king and expelling him afterward (Hamilton, 2017). Regan, the middle daughter, utilizes the same approach as Goneril to gain authority in the kingdom.

Also, for the themes of Shakespeare's King Lear as follows :

Jealousy, Greed, Infidelity: Betrayal is a central part of the story, as Goneril and Regan's infidelity and Edmund's dishonesty allow the trio to gain control over the country. The group's betrayal is fueled by jealousy and greed, which contribute to

the collective decision to seize the authority. Shakespearean interpretation suggests that the negative force, impregnated by evil, egocentric motifs, will be overcome by kindness, love, and respect.

Authority and Order: Shakespeare's play *King Lear* explores the theme of authority, with King Lear representing the national ruler and the man representing the head of the family. He describes authority based on natural and divine order, with protagonists being morally weaker than villains. This example conveys the idea that power is not always held in the hands of those who deserve it.

Sanity and Madness: *King Lear* emphasizes the distinction between sanity and madness, as Lear maintains a reasonable sense despite being fooled by his daughters. As the plot progresses, he loses sanity and is overcome by grief and disappointment in his family, highlighting the imperfection of human nature.

3.2. Data Analysis and Discussion

This subsection, outlines the findings of the analysis the Non-observance of the Gricean Maxims in Shakespeare's *King Lear*

So, by dealing with the acts of Shakespeare's *King Lear*, I'm showing and discussing the Non-observance of the Gricean Maxims by mentioning the scene of the act and discussing it according to Gricean Maxims as the quality, manner, quantity and relation.

In this extract, we find non-observance of the quality maxim in which King Lear tells a lie represented in the scenes of the acts as

Ext. 1 Cordelia “Unhappy that I am, I cannot heave
 My heart into my mouth.”

(Act 1, Scene 1)

Gloucester's willingness to believe the lies that Edmund tells him about Edgar seems to reflect a preexisting fear: that his children secretly want to destroy him and take his power. Ironically, this is what Edmund, of course, wants to do to

Gloucester, but Gloucester is blind to Edmund's treachery. Gloucester's inability to see the truth echoes the discussion between Goneril and Regan

Regan and Goneril lie because of their greed for power. They lie with the wrong intentions. Despite this, King Lear falls for their flattery and divides his kingdom among them.

Ext. 2 Regan “Sir, I am made of that self mettle as my sister,
 And prize me at her worth. In my true heart,
 70I find she names my very deed of love—
 Only she comes too short, that I profess”

(Act 1, Scene 1)

Here, she showing the expression of loves to King Lear, from her utterance above, she is considered to underestimate love as too small compared to hers. So, by saying those utterances she hopes she can win her father's love.

Ext. 3 King Lear “Thy half o’ th’ kingdom hast thou not forgot,
 Wherein I thee endowed”

(Act 2, Scene 4)

The king's effort to remind Regan about what he has done to her. Here. actually King Lear adheres to the quality maxim

Ext. 4 King Lear “O, reason not the need! Our basest beggars
 Are in the poorest thing superfluous.
 Allow not nature more than nature needs,
 Man’s life’s as cheap as beast’s”

(Act 2, Scene 4)

Based on this maxim, the participant is required to be relevant when speaking in order to adhere to the Maxim of Relation. According to Grice's (1975) Cooperative

Principle, the maxim clearly means that the participant should only provide information that is relevant to the communication topic. contribution observed the Maxim of Relation because his or her response was relevant.

Ext. 5 King Lear “You heavens, give me that patience, patience I need!

...

If it be you that stir these daughters’ hearts
Against their father, fool me not so much
To bear it tamely; touch me with noble anger,
And let not women’s weapons, water-drops”

(Act 2, Scene 4)

This maxim requires the speaker to describe things in the order in which it occurs, and ambiguity should be avoided. In the Maxim of Manner, a participant who adheres to the Maxim of Manner will be brief, orderly, and clear in his or her contribution to the conversational exchange.

The information was clear and brief without redundancy or unnecessary details. Therefore, the Maxim of Manner was adhered to.

Ext. 6 King Lear “To thee and thine hereditary ever

Remain this ample third of our fair kingdom;
No less in space, validity, and pleasure,
Than that conferr'd on Goneril. Now, our joy,
Although the last, not least; to whose young love
The vines of France and milk of Burgundy
Strive to be interest'd; what can you say to draw
A third more opulent than your sisters? Speak.”

(Act 1, Scene 1)

By using the address form "our Joy", King Lear has reason to force Cordelia to make a more opulent than her sisters'. This can be interpreted as King Lear has another speech effort in seeking a better expression of love from his dearest daughter. So these address forms referring to Cordelia, adhere to the manner maxim, in the way King Lear clearly shows his strongest feelings of love.

Ext. 7 King Lear "We make thee lady. To thine and Albany's issue

Be this perpetual.—What says our second daughter"

(Act 1, Scene 1)

King Lear's blessing obeys to the way he maximizes benefit to Goneril by giving her a part of his kingdom. But here, King Lear flouts the relevance maxim of cooperative principle, for he actually implied something from his utterance. The implied meaning from this utterance, firstly, is to announce that Goneril is now a woman with authority in his kingdom.

Ext. 8 King Lear "Off, off, you lendings!"

(Act 3, Scene 4)

As for the relationships in King Lear" when Lear asks of an attendant, "Pray you, undo this button. Making the same basic request, but in a much calmer register, the king signals a shift in his character. This shift is even more significant if we take Lear to be making the request for Cordelia, rather than himself. In most productions, the king tugs at his own constricting collar when he speaks these lines, but he could be fumbling with Cordelia's. He is, after all, trying to resuscitate her, and undoing a button at her neckline would be commensurate with this. If staged like this, the scene would show a subtle yet striking reversal. The man who once tried to "unbutton" to escape his answerability now unbuttons to administer aid to another.

Section Four

Conclusions

This section presents the following conclusions which are arrived at in this study:

1. Almost all cases of non-observance of Grice conversational maxims were utilized in generating speech; however, opting out was hardly found to create full discourse.
2. Flouting the quantity maxim is employed by most characters. It leads us to believe that the characters provided unnecessary information and created humorous situations
3. Violating maxims is more dominant than flouting maxims.
4. Maxims of manner and relation were correspondingly violated in the characters' responses. Also, floating and violating maxim are utilized to tell the truth by giving more explanation and utterances to the workers.
5. Non-observance of the maxims brings misunderstanding and misinterpretation of others' messages which may generate rumors.

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