

AN ANALYSIS OF COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE MAXIMS IN THE MAIN CHARACTER'S DIALOGUES IN THE HEAT MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

According to Grice's cooperative principle (1975), speakers must obey cooperative principles maxims to provide the required information. However, speakers also flout maxims for several reasons, such as incapability of speaking briefly, honestly, clearly, and relevantly. This research aims to find out the kinds of cooperative principle maxims obeyed and flouted by the main character in The Heat movie. The researcher uses a descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research are Mullins' dialogue as the main character. The data source is The Heat movie. The results of this research show that 49 out of 89 data obey cooperative principle maxims, including the maxim of quality (32), the maxim of relation (9), the maxim of manner (4), and the maxim of quantity (4). Besides that, 40 out of 89 data flout cooperative principles maxims, including flouting the maxim of relation (16), the maxim of quantity (12), the maxim of manner (9), and the maxim of quality (3). The conclusion is that the main character in The Heat movie tends to obey the maxim of quantity and flout the maxim of relation.

Keywords: cooperative principle maxims, obeying maxims, flouting maxims

INTRODUCTION

In general, everyone uses language as a medium of communication in his or her everyday life. As humans are social beings, language is an important role in daily life as a medium of communication. Humans and language are very closely related, and inseparable. Speakers may also convey what they want to say through languages, such as conveying arguments, opinions, ideas, and feelings. Language is a means for communicating information to others. The information has a meaning or purpose that the interlocutor can comprehend.

The cooperative principle consists of rules that to be successful in communication, the speaker can lead the interlocutors to obtain clear communication and understand the meaning. Grice in Grundy (2000, p. 73) stated that to be cooperative in communication, a speaker must provide

information, as it is needed. In other words, the speaker is expected to speak truly, briefly, relevantly, and clearly to make cooperative communication.

The cooperative principle consists of four sub-principles, which are usually called conversational maxims. The maxims involve the maxim of quality, the maxim of quantity, the maxim of relation, and the maxim of manner. The maxims are important in cooperative communication.

Grice in Cruse (2000, p. 355) stated that in the maxim of quality, the speakers should provide true information to the interlocutor and is expected to be believed and sincere about what they say correspond to reality. The speakers must not give any information that might be false or wrong. Besides, in the maxim of quantity, the speakers should give information as it is needed, and give neither too much information nor too little information. In the maxim of

relation, the speaker is required to deliver relevant information. The last, in the maxim of manner, the speaker to provide information that is structured, not ambiguous, concise, and clear.

In communication, sometimes speakers break the rule of the cooperative principle. Speakers need to add information, which is not needed by the interlocutor. Moreover, sometimes the speakers do not provide the information requested by interlocutors for many reasons. This phenomenon is called flouting maxims. Flouting maxims happen when the speaker gives an unpredictable response, such as adding information, giving false information, or giving ambiguous information. Grice in Thomas (1995, p. 65) stated that flouting maxims might occur when the speaker cannot provide information to the interlocutor by obeying the maxims. The speaker can flout the maxim of quality, quantity, relation, and manner, either intentionally or not.

Grice in Thomas (1995, p. 67) stated that flouting the maxim of quality occurs when the speaker provides information that is not true or without adequate evidence. Besides, flouting the maxim of quantity occurs when the speaker provides too less or too much information to the interlocutor. In another case, flouting the maxim of relation occurs when the speaker provides information that is not relevant to previous utterances or interlocutor utterances. Another expert, Cutting (2002, p. 39), stated that flouting the maxim of manner occurs in ambiguous or unclear utterances.

In this research, the researcher analyzes utterances that obey and flout cooperative principle maxims. The researcher only focuses on identifying the kinds of cooperative principle maxims obeyed and flouted by the main character in *The Heat* movie. The researcher employs a descriptive

qualitative method. In general, this research shows that the main character in *The Heat* movie obeys and flouts all cooperative principle maxims in different situations. This research will enrich the findings of cooperative principle usage.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses a qualitative design. Creswell (2009, p. 4) stated that qualitative research is a method that can be used to study a phenomenon, people's life, or a social problem in depth. The phenomenon that is studied in this research is cooperative principle maxims usage.

The data of this research are the main character utterances, which are Mullins' dialogues, in *The Heat* movie. The data collection technique employed is a document observation. The data collection steps involve watching *The Heat* movie, downloading the script of the movie, searching for data on the main character's conversations with other characters, and typing the main character's dialogues into the table of data.

The data analysis techniques employed are organizing and interpreting the data. Thus, this research is categorized into descriptive qualitative research. The analysis involves describing the context of the dialogues, identifying dialogues that consist of cooperative principles, identifying dialogues that consist of flouting maxims, identifying the types of cooperative principles, identifying the types of flouting maxims, and drawing conclusions according to data analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

The result of this research shows that 49 data obeying cooperative principle maxims involve maxims of quality (32), the maxim of relation (9),

the maxim of manner (4), and the maxim of quantity (4). Besides that, the researcher found 40 data flouting cooperative principle maxims involving the maxim of relation (16), the maxim of quantity (12), the maxim of manner (9), and the maxim of quality (3).

Discussion

Obeying Cooperative Principle Maxims

The maxim of Quality

32 data of this research obey the maxim of quality. One of those data is as follows:

Data number 3

Mullins: No. Hi. How you doing?

Are you trying to get a... a deal on my girl Here?

John: "Are you her pimp?"

Mullins: "**No**, we're just friends"

In that dialogue, Mullins came to John who was talking with a prostitute. Then, she asked John what he was doing there. John asked Mullins if she was the pimp. Mullins replied that she was not a pimp but she was a friend of the girl. Based on the utterances, Mullins obeys the maxim of quality since she was telling the truth that she was not a pimp. Another data that obey the maxim of quality is as follows:

Data number 36

Ashburn: "Who is, who is that?"

Mullins: "**My mom.**"

In that dialogue, after talking to Robin, Ashburn and Mullins continued on their way while someone in the car recognized them. Ashburn asked Mullins who is the one. Mullins replied that the woman is her mom. Mullins obeys the maxim of quality as she was telling the truth that the one was her mother.

The maxim of Relation

9 data of this research obey the maxim of relation. One of those data is as follows:

Data number 51

Ashburn: "Where is he?"

Mullins: "**Probably at my parents**"

In that dialogue, Ashburn asked to Mullins, and Mullins answered the question that her brother was at her parents' house. Mullins obeys the maxim of relation since the answer is relevant with the Ashburn's question. Another data obeying the maxim of relation is as follows:

Data number 55

Ashburn: "Why?"

Mullins: "**I'm the one that put him in jail.**"

In that dialogue, Ashburn asked why couldn't she come to her parents' house. Mullins gave the reason that she was a detective and she put Jason in jail when Jason used drugs. Mullins obeys the maxim of relation since the answer is relevant with the Ashburn's questions.

The Maxim of Manner

4 data of this research obey the maxim of manner. One of those data is as follows:

Data number 17

Captain Wood: "What do you want me to do?!"

Mullins: "Uh, **I'd like you to have my back and stop being so goddamn disappointing like everybody else.**"

In that dialogue, after arguing in the interrogation room, Captain Wood came to separate Mullins and Ashburn. Then, he took her to Captain Wood's room. Captain Wood asked Mullins what she wanted. She replied with annoyance that she wanted Captain Wood to support her and not to disappoint her like everyone else. Mullins obeys the maxim of manner since she is very straight to the point. The answer is clear that she wants Captain Wood to support her. Another data obeying the maxim of manner is as follows:

Data number 48

Ashburn: "What are you doing!?"

Mullins: **"I'll show you how I stop a tail."**

In that dialogue, after successfully tapping the drug owner's phone, Ashburn and Mullins came out of the bar but they were followed by another car. Ashburn tried to avoid the car but failed. Mullins hit the brakes to come out to meet those who followed them. Mullins obeys the maxim of manner since she is saying very clear and straight to the point what she is doing.

The maxim of Quantity

There are 4 data obeying the maxim of quantity. One of those data is as follows:

Data number 14

Ashburn: "Mr. Rojas will be continuing on with me at this point."

Mullins: **"No."**

In that dialogue, Ashburn informs Mullins that Mr. Rojas's investigation will be forwarded to Ashburn. However Mullins refuses. Mullins obeys the maxim of quantity since she is giving information that Ashburn needs. She refused the investigation of Rojas which was continued by Ashburn. Another data obeying the maxim of quantity is as follows:

Data number 33

Ashburn: "Okay, so LeSoire co-owns Club Ekko. Let's get over there and start surveilling it and figure out how to get a bug in his phone. Tell me everything you know about it."

Mullins: **"It's just a shitty club downtown. I've never been inside of it, but there's always a line of awful people around the corner, and they've called PD a couple of times to break up fights"**

In that dialogue, after getting more information about the drug case, Ashburn and Mullins immediately headed to the Ekko Club where one of the owners was there. Since Ashburn was a newcomer, she asked Mullins to tell her about the club based on what she knows. Mullins tells Ashburn what she knew. Based on the utterances, Mullins obeys the maxim of quantity since Mullins is being informative in telling Ashburn about Club Ekko and gives information that Ashburn needs.

Flouting Maxims

Flouting The Maxim of Relation

16 data of this research flout the maxim of relation. One of those data is as follows:

Data number 40

Ashburn: "Is that good, is that good? Can we go? Can we please go?"

Mullins: **"I don't know how it's happening. I think it's getting worse."**

In that dialogue, Mullins would change her appearance as Ashburn's disguise by cutting off some of her clothes. Ashburn impatiently asked if he could go but Mullins didn't answer Ashburn's question. Mullins flouted the maxim of relation as she didn't answer Ashburn's question. Moreover, her answer didn't relate to Ashburn's previous question. Another data flouting the maxim of relation is as follows:

Data number 41

Ashburn: "Okay, do you have to use that language, do you?"

Mullins: **"I'm trying to make a point. I'm saying your face and whatever is underneath this shitty outfit is maybe not terrible"**

In that dialogue, Mullins always used harsh words, and Ashburn didn't like the Mullins style. However, Mullins didn't answer Ashburn's

question. Based on the utterance, Mullins flouts the maxim of relation since her answer does not relate to previous conversation.

Flouting The maxim of Quantity

There are 12 data flouting the maxim of quantity. One of those data is as follows:

Data number 13

Ashburn: "Were you, were you about to be, uh, questioned by a detective?"

Mullins: "I am a detective **and that's my perp.**"

In that dialogue, Ashburn asked Mullins who she was. Mullins said she was a detective, and Mullins told Ashburn that Rojas was her prisoner. Mullins flouted the maxim of quantity since she was giving more information to Ashburn. Another data flouting the maxim of quantity is as follows:

Data number 32

Ashburn: "You have all this in your house?"

Mullins: "Yeah. **You didn't even mention my baby.**"

In that dialogue, Ashburn did not believe that Mullins had many firearms. Mullins agreed and she told to Ashburn about her favorite weapon. Mullins flouted the maxim of quantity since she gave too much information to Ashburn.

Flouting The maxim of Manner

There are 9 data flouting the maxim of manner. One of those data is as follows:

Data number 1

Woman (over radio): "Hey, Mullins. Captain wants to know when you're coming in"

Mullins: "Hey, you know what? Tell him I'll be there sharply at, **uh, go-fuck-yourself o'clock.** Okay? If there's no traffic. Thank you"

In that dialogue, the utterance was taken when Mullins was in her car, keeping track of someone in front of her. Women in radio asked when Mullins would return to her office. Mullins only answered that she would come whenever she arrived. Mullins did not answer specifically when she would come to the office. Based on the utterance, Mullins flouts the maxim of manner since the word "**go-fuck-yourself o'clock**" is ambiguous and obscure. Another data flouting the maxim of manner is as follows:

Data number 29

Mullins: "Yeah, I've got the glass, I just don't have the, you know, the window blankets."

Ashburn: "The curtains? You mean, you mean the curtains?"

Mullins: "**Whatever.**"

In that dialogue, Mullins said that she didn't have the window blankets. Ashburn corrected the conversation about the window blanket. Mullins flouts the maxim of manner since the word "**whatever**" is ambiguous.

Flouting The maxim of Quality

There are 3 data flouting the maxim of quality. One of those is as follows:

Data number 65

Ashburn: "And you will be patient?"

Mullins: "**I will.**"

In that dialogue, after catching someone who was also involved with drugs, Mullins desperately wanted to interrogate Julian. However, Ashburn did not allow Mullins to enter the interrogation room, as she knew that Mullins was a temper and told Mullins to be patient. Mullins said that she would be patient, after she said that she went straight into the interrogation room. Mullins flouts maxims of quality since she lies. Another data flouting the maxim of quality is as follows:

Data number 76

Ashburn: "Are you sure you want to bring everyone?"

Mullins: "No, but it'd be like Schindler's List."

In that dialogue, Ashburn finds an email containing a photo of the Mullins' family. Ashburn and Mullins feel that something is wrong and Mullins must move her family first. Ashburn assures Mullins to bring all of her family. Mullins flouts the maxim of quality as she lies. She said that she will not bring everyone. However, she is bringing all families to move.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

There are 89 data of the main character's utterances in The Heat movie consisting of utterances obeying and flouting cooperative principle maxims. Out of 89 data, 49 data obey cooperative principle maxims involving the maxim of quality (32), the maxim of relation (9), the maxim of manner (4), and the maxim of quantity (4). Meanwhile, the rest 40 data flout cooperative principles maxims involving flouting the maxim of relation (16), the maxim of quantity (12), flouting the maxim of manner (9), and flouting the maxim of quality (3). The main character in The Heat movie tends to obey the maxim of quantity and tends to flout the maxim of relation. It means that the main character tends to produce particular utterances, which are clear, informative, and truthful. Besides that, the main character often changes the topic and gives a response to a question that has no relation to the previous conversation.

Suggestion

This research only analyzes cooperative principle maxims obeyed and flouted from the dialogue of Mullins as the main character in The Heat movie. Therefore, the researcher

suggests other researchers, who study the same topic to examine the maxims flouted or obeyed by other characters. Other researchers can also use different data sources such as using different movies, talk shows, interviews, novels, TV series, or even use different theories. Thus, research on this topic can be more varied and can reveal new findings.

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