

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

It has been known already that human beings used language to communicate with one another. Therefore, language is said to be a means of communication. In line with this, Crystal as quoted by Waty (2003:18) notes that language is used to communicate ideas. One can use language to express the feeling of happiness, sadness, or anger. Furthermore Holmes (1992:2) claims that language is used to ask for and give people information, to express indignation and annoyance, as well as admiration and respect. In other words through language human beings are able to live effectively, to expand their knowledge and to know about the world.

Before the writer steps out a little further, it would be a good idea to see what is meant by communication. Effendi (1981:67) defines it as a process of transmitting messages between men. While Finnochiaro (1974:3) views communication as the passing of human thought, ideas, and experience of the world they live in. Riley (1985:1) also states that communication is a process whereby we create, negotiate and interpret personal meanings. It means that communication enables people to express what they feel and what they think of others.

There are two factors involved in communication; they are a source and a receiver (Whitney, 1991:3). A source can be a human being or a medium that

carries a message. Conversely, a receiver is a person who receives the message from other people.

In the society there are many forms of communication. One of them is conversation. According to Zimmerman (1992:306) conversation are a casual, informal talk between two or more people. In conversation there are some aspects, like who is talking to whom, about what and in what situation, what is the objective, what are the instruments and what is the genre (Nababan, 1991:5). Discourse takes two forms, written and spoken. Written discourse as found in newspapers and magazines is usually planned, organized and formal. On the other hand, spoken discourse such as conversation is less-planned, less-organized and may be less formal than a lecture. Conversation is also more open to intervention by the receiver. It means that conversation is not a fixed thing (Cook, 1989:50).

The one who is in line with Cook is Grice (1975). He stated that conversation proceeds according to a principle, known and applied by all human beings. Grice as quoted by Renkema (1993:9) states that a speaker can only get the meaning from what he has said if the listener cooperates. To capture this notion, Grice then formulated the Cooperative Principle as follows:

**“Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the speech exchange in which you are engaged”.**

According to this principle, Cook interprets language on the assumption that its sender is obeying four maxims :

1. be true (maxim of quality)
2. be brief (maxim of quantity)

3. be relevant (maxim of relevance)
4. be clear (maxim of manner).

(Cook, 1989:29)

Paul Grice (1975) defines the term cooperative principle as the agreement that speakers should follow related to the truth, the briefness, the relevance, and the clearness of what they say. He also says if a speaker breaks one maxim of the cooperative principle that does not necessarily mean that he fails to communicate with his hearer. Grice distinguishes four categories within this general principle as guidelines for the efficient and effective use of language (Levinson, 1983:101).

In the boarding house where the writer stays, most of her friends are from different places in East Java. In the spare time, the writer and her friends always have conversation about everything such as talking about boyfriends, films or music. During the conversation the writer and her friends seldom experience misunderstanding although they are from different places and background. Besides, not all of the writer's friends in the boarding house study at the English Department. Some of them study at the Chemical Engineering Department. Even though as a student of the English Department the writer herself knows Grice's maxims and its use, she responds a conversation automatically and spontaneously, without thinking about the four maxims first. The writer also realizes that the conversation among her friends goes smoothly and everyone can follow it. The fact above inspired the writer to analyze the conversations among her friends in the boarding house using Grice's maxim point of view.

The purpose of this study, therefore, is to find out the effectiveness of the Widya Mandala female student's conversations using Grice's maxims (maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner) as the parameter. The writer also wants to find out the maxim which is mostly violated in the conversations.

### **1.2 Statements of the Problems:**

In line with the background of the study, the problems investigated here are formulated as follow:

1. Are the conversations among Widya Mandala female students in the boarding house at Jalan Kalijudan Barat 2/28 effective according to Grice's maxim?
2. What maxim is mostly violated in the conversations?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problems above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out whether the conversations among Widya Mandala female students staying in the boarding house at Jalan Kalijudan Barat 2/28 effective according to Grice's Maxim.
2. To find out the maxim which is mostly violated in the conversations.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes that the result of this study could help the English Department students to use Grice's Maxims to find out the effectiveness of conversation in the real communication situation.

#### **1.5 Theoretical Framework**

This study applies Cooperative Principle, which is limited to Grice's maxims. Paul Grice (1975) defines the term cooperative principle as the agreement that speakers should follow related to the truth, the briefness, the relevance, and the clearness of what they say. He also says if a speaker breaks one maxim of the cooperative principle that does not necessarily mean that he fails to communicate with his hearer. Grice distinguishes four categories within this general principle as guidelines for the efficient and effective use of language (Levinson, 1983:101). While Grice's Maxims is formulated by Paul Grice (1975) which contains four maxims: maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance and maxim of manner.

#### **1.6 Scope and limitation of the Study**

Related to the statement of the problem and the objectives of the study, the focus of this study is limited on the real conversations made by the writer's friends staying in the same boarding house at Jalan Kalijudan Barat 2/28. The writer takes five conversations among her friends because they has represented the other conversations. She chooses the conversations which are

the clearest among all the conversations she recorded. The writer uses Grice's four maxims: maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner as a tool to analyze the conversations

### 1.7 Definitions of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity, the writer would like to give the definitions of some key terms that are used in this study, they are:

- a. **Conversation** is a dialogue between two or more people whether it is formal or informal situation.
- b. **Maxim** is general principles which are thought to underlie the efficient use of language and which together identify a general cooperative principle (Crystal, 1985:190).
- c. **Grice's Maxims** are the four maxims- maxims of quantity, maxims of quality, maxims of relevance, and maxims of manner-formulated by Grice (in Renkema, 1993:10)
- d. **Effectiveness** means the quality of being effective. As such, a conversation is said to have effectiveness if it is in line with at least two of Grice's Maxims.
- e. **Exchange** is what is said by one person before or after another person speaks.

## **1.8 Organization of the Paper**

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction. It covers the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical framework, definition of key terms, and also organization of the study. Chapter II is the review of related literature and previous related studies. Chapter III is about the research methods which consists of research design, subjects, instruments, the data source, procedure of collecting data, and data analysis procedure. Chapter IV presents the data analysis and interpretation on findings. The last chapter, Chapter V presents the summary and conclusion of the study, and some suggestions