

# AN ANALYSIS OF FLOUTING MAXIMS IN TONI MORRISON'S "BELOVED" (1987)

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## Abstract

*This thesis studies about flouting maxims in Toni Morrison's "Beloved". This study concerns on finding the flouting maxims in the novel and try to find the implicatures that caused by flouting the maxims. By using the descriptive qualitative method, the researcher tried to observe by using critical analyzing way for each conversation that occurred in the novel. Each conversation in the novel is observing by considering if it is one kind of conversation that flouting the maxim of quality, quantity, relation or manner which are according to Grice theory about maxims. The setting of conversation in the novel is also take a part as the evidence if it is flouting maxims. Implicatures that caused by the speaker is also become one important element in order to check the effect of flouting maxim. It indicates that in Toni Morrison's "Beloved", occurred flouting maxims, all of four maxims had been found in the conversation between the characters.*

**Keywords** : conversation, maxim, flouting maxims, characteristics

## Introduction

One of the most important in getting social link is communication. Communication is the main point in order to get anything that someone want to say. Communication is an exchange of information or repeated speech between speaker and listener. It is not easy to begin a conversation with someone new for someone, even when someone has to begin a conversation with person who has already he/she known but separated for a long time. The distinction in speaking between the people with the same level with the speaker or different level also one point of creating a good conversation. Same like when speaker is talking with friend, what speaker do is just believe about anything about the speech. According to Audi, typically not inferential. Certainly when trusted friends speak to us on matters we have no reason to think are beyond their competence, we normally "just believe" what they tell us. (p. 132) In order to create a good conversation or communication someone has to know about what kind of conversation that he/she want to create.

Conversation is not only happen in the real life, there are also conversations in the written world, for example, short story, legend, and novel. In novel also uses many dialogues. In the novel, this flouting sometimes happen. However the conversation in the novel based on the real conversation in the real world. Maxim usually affected by the condition of the speaker and sometimes the listener doesn't know about the speaker's feeling. Based on the phenomenon about the violence in maxims, the writer conducts a research about the maxim violence in "Beloved" , a novel which authored by Toni Morrison and uses many dialogues in that novel. "Beloved" was published on September 1987 and won Pulitzer Prize for fiction. This research researches about : what are the flouting of maxims in the "Beloved"

novel authored by Toni Morrison and what are the implicatures caused by flouting maxims in the “Beloved” novel authored by Toni Morrison.

### **Conceptual Theory**

Human is created perfectly. Even human has a disability in part of the body, the ability to fill the capacity of the language which human get since human was born is still active and can be used. Linguistics is a study about language and it is a wide range study because it is not just a study about grammatical but also the cause and the effect that occurs when people use language as the tool of communication. According to Grice statement, he divided this principle into four maxims. These are :

#### **Maxims of Quantity:**

1. “Make your contribution as informative as required”.
2. “Don’t make your contribution more informative than is required.”

Based on the parts of the maxim of quantity, it’s about of content, do not give the information more or less than the needed. Maxim of Quantity is related to your contribution of information in the conversation. The information should be given is not more or less than needed. Too much information will cost too much time and is not efficient in some condition and uncooperated.

#### **Maxims of Quality: Be truthful.**

1. “Don’t say what you believe to be false.”
2. “Don’t say what you lack adequate evidence for.”

Based on the parts of the maxim of quality, answer the speaker question with the answer that you believe and believe it true. Maxim of Quality need the information in the conversation to be justified or verified. The Speaker want to make the listener feel the same way about what the speaker said or asked.

#### **Maxim of Relation: “Be relevant.”**

Relevant mean not out of content, same like when someone asks how much one plus one, and you have to answer it with two, not 3 or 4. Maxim of Relation is an explanation for a certain kind of regularity in conversational behavior with respect to the relevance of information provided at each turn of a conversation.

#### **Maxims of Manner: “Be perspicuous.”**

1. “Avoid obscurity of expression.”
2. “Avoid ambiguity.”
3. “Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity).”
4. “Be orderly.”

This maxim is focus on the way how the speaker deliver the information, the rule of structure is very important to avoid those four things. In order to make your conversation become maximal, efficient, rational and co-operative way people should use these maxims. Grice proposes this maxim as an explanation for a certain kind of regularity in conversational behavior with respect to the way information is provided at each turn of a conversation.

## **Methodology**

This research will be conducted by using a descriptive qualitative method and critical analyzing and collecting data. Critical analyzing is an analyzing that forced people to be more focus with the main purpose of research stated by Macmillan (p 1). The object of this research is "Beloved" novel authored by Toni Morrison. The procedures of research will be conducted by :

1. Read the novel,
2. When finding maxim violation on the dialogue, put it in the table,
3. Separated each flouting based on categories,
4. Read more for next finding,
5. Make a conclusion and solution against the violence,

## **Finding and Analysis**

There are twenty three flouting maxims in Toni Morrison's "Beloved" (1987). They are divided into : seven flouting maxims of quantity, seven flouting maxims of quality, three flouting maxims of relation and six flouting maxims of manner.

Based on the finding, most of flouting is occurred in flouting maxim of quantity and maxim of quality. In the flouting maxim of quantity, by adding the additional information more than needed will cause an effect can be positive and can be negative for example like :

When Paul D refuse the Sethe's offer, he added more speech about baby feet and trampling, as if he totally refused to accept Sethe's offer and as a conviction that he really don't want to receive it and have to go out of house, because of his refusing. Paul D feel afraid to make Sethe sad and try not to leave immediately from house and asked about Baby Suggs. However what Paul D did make Sethe angry to him and dislike Paul because Paul D looks like missed Baby Suggs than her. Paul D did that to reduce the feel of sadness in Sethe, but everything that he did was same, avoided one mistake but caused another mistake.

Based on the conversation and implicatures above, the characteristic of the character can be changed because of the flouting, when Paul D did a flouting maxim of quantity and using the incorrect additional information and caused him in a big deal of feeling.:

Flouting maxim of quantity is happened when in one speech, someone give an additional speech and it is important by adding it. The other is flouting maxim of quality. Some characters in the novel comes with an answer by flouting maxim of quality, for example :

In a conversation between Denver and Paul D, Paul D asked about the ghost in the house, but because Denver could give a satisfaction answer, Paul D asked Sether's opinion. Based on the conversation maxim of quality related to a conviction, about how to convince someone, like when Denver was unable to convince Paul through her answer, caused him not to believe with Denver statement and asked Sether for more detail. In fact listener sometimes doesn't need any unnecessary information except if the listener really need that additional information (Maurers 2004)

In a conversation, Maxim of quality related to how to convince someone through an answer. Flouting maxim of quality can change the character's mood or even feeling and a distrust. The next part after that conversation is :

It show that Paul asked Sethe and much reliable to Sethe even Sethe is also could not able to give a satisfaction answer to Paul. From those two flouting maxims, it show that the characterization of the character in the Novel can be changed or affected the listener, it can cause many kind of feeling like distrust, dislike and a feeling that contrary as before the flouting is happened.

Based on the Grice's Theory about maxim, maxim of quantity is "Make your contribution as informative as require", based on that, just answer or give a speech without unimportant point, because by adding more information than required, it will cause the flouting maxim of quantity, based on the findings above, some flouting maxim of quantity can affect the characteristic of the listener. The speaker thought by adding more speech can evade something. But when the expectation out of mind, the result is same as before. Another finding is a conviction in a speech. Give more speech in a required answer with a purpose is to convince someone. Same like when Paul D try to convince Denver, but regardless Paul gave a conviction Denver will believe him because she didn't able figured out about her father.

It shown that adding more speech is not really important and flouting the maxim of quality, because of that the implicatures from it floated and cause a random perception in the speaker.

Another flouting is flouting maxim of quality, where some characters in the novel give an answer without believing the answer. There are two reasons based on the novel why the characters flouting the maxim of quality, first is the character couldn't get the point of the question and the second is the listener couldn't give the clear information just because the character wasn't sure with the answer. It related with Grice's, about maxim of quality, "do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence" and it shown that some characters in the novel answer the question without lack of adequate evidence and it will cause the information that the listener get is not completely correct or untrusted. It's not totally fault of the listener, the speaker is also can be pointed guilty because of the question is out of mind. The flouting maxim of quality same like doing a lying from listener to the speaker, the answer without it's own believe is lying. Comparing the judgements between a case of literal falsehood in which the utter know his utterance is false (paragraph 2 – a "Prototypical Lie" cf. Sweetser 1987). Maxim of quality is related to the perception and topic that the listener want to answer, and of course topic of conversation is also hold an important role and a good evidence from the speaker (Maurers 2004).

Next is flouting maxim of relation, according to Grice's, "Be relevant". Some characters in the novel answer the question without being relevant. Answer the question out from the point of the question cause flouting maxim of relation. It was caused by the ego of the listener or the mood when the question was given. It shown that when someone isn't pay enough attention it will cause the misunderstanding in listening or get the main point of the question. In this maxim, flouting the maxim of relation can cause a confusion between the speaker or the listener, in the speaker side speaker will think as if the speaker couldn't able to give the question clearly, and on the listener side because of the listener not pay enough attention, the listener is not able to give a good answer or out from the question. The implicatures float randomly appoint between the speaker or listener. In a conversation it would be better if choosing randomly topic or making

incoherence conversation that lacking continuity can cause a floating maxim of relation (Maurers 2004)

The last is maxim of manner, according to Grice's, it related with how to deliver the information, based on the finding, the character in the novel like to cause an ambiguity and couldn't able to give a brief point from the speech, it cause the listener or the reader confuse with the meaning of the speech or text. When the character couldn't able to give a clearance information or wrong in the way to deliver the information it already flouted the maxim of manner. The implicatures came randomly because of that, and it's appointed the speaker as the subject of the deliver information. One thing that should be underlined is using a word or words that the listener isn't understand also can cause the floating maxim of manner (Maurers 2004). To make a clearance about the purpose or choosing the right word in order to avoid the ambiguity is related to "behavioral commitments" (Malle and Knobe 1997).

### **Conclusion**

Based on the research above there are about twenty three flouting maxims in the Toni Morrison's "Beloved". There are divided into : seven flouting maxims of quantity, seven maxims of quality, 3 flouting maxims of relation and 6 flouting maxims of manner.

It indicates that based on the maxims of quantity, there are some conversation that giving more additional information than the speaker asked and it was wasted, but based on the semantics theory, it wasn't wrong, because the additional information that was added in the conversation has a implicit meaning like to convince or to attract the listener. Giving more information than the need is flouting the maxim of quantity.

In daily conversation, some conversation sometimes walks only in one side because of the listener is not understand about the speaker said. About the conversation above, there are seven flouting maxims of quality and it shown that the listener mostly doesn't give an answer that can make the speaker believe with the answer.

There are only three flouting maxims of relation, it indicates mostly the conversation in the novel is cooperative. The last there are six flouting maxim of manner, and because of that, some conversation can cause the ambiguity for the listener in the novel..

After the research, the researcher took a conclusion that even in the famous novel, the flouting maxims are can't be avoided. The result of the research is even the flouting maxims are occurred, the story is still move on. Same like in daily conversation, even if there are many flouting maxims, the conversation is still alive and continue, however the Grice theory about flouting maxims can be judged wrong or correct, because the language always grows, so back to the main purpose of the language, as the tool of communication, even if speaker can't say it correctly but as long as the listener undestand that will be fine.

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