

Maxims Analysis in The Novel “Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go” by Patrick Ness

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Abstract. Many floating maxim occur in novels that we read without realizing it, therefore the basis of this research is to analyze the Cooperative Principle in the Novel "Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go" by Patrick Ness. The cooperative principle theory used in this study was introduced by H.Paul.Grice's (1975). The purpose of this research is to analyze the floating maxims in the novel "Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go". This research is classified into qualitative descriptive research. The total number of violations in conversation in the novel Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go is 114. The percentage of each type of violation is as follows: (1) Maxim of Quantity is 9%, (2) Maxim of Quality is 10%, (3) Maxim of Relation is 62%, (4) Maxim of Manner is 19%. The most dominant floating maxim found in the novel "Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go is Maxim of Relation with 71 data or 62% of the total data. They sometimes violates the maxim of relation because they use informal language which not based on the grammer but they did understand the implicit meaning of the utterances. Floating maxim in the novel Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go has an impact on miss-communication between characters.

Keywords: Cooperative Principle, Maxim, Pragmatics, Linguistic.

Introduction

A language is a tool of human communication in everyday life. With the help of language, a person can communicate feelings, ideas, and thoughts to others orally or in written. Language also plays a role in the identity of a country, because each country has a different language. The world has diverse languages with various cultural backgrounds. Sometimes the barrier of communication and interaction between people is a different language. That is why there is a language of unity. Language is necessary to develop the culture of a country so that communication between individuals and groups is optimal. Because of language, many people understand the real intention of conversation, especially in the world of education. Education is well received because it uses an easy-to-understand language. Moreover, language still has linguistic rules called pragmatic.

Pragmatic is the study of the relationship between language and the context that underlies the understanding or explanation of language. Yule (1996) states that 'Pragmatics is the study of meanings communicated by speakers or writers as interpreted by the listener or reader'. Pragmatic is the study of language about the context in which it is used. When a context is known, the meaning of language can also be understood. Pragmatic boundaries are language rules about forms and meanings related to purpose, speakers, and the state of the context.

Communication requires people to cooperate. The facts of the conversation come out only when they accept themselves and in a certain context, cooperation itself is contained in the cooperative principle which consists of four maxims according to the American philosopher (Grice, 1975), namely; Maxim Quantity, Maxim Quality, Maxim Relation, and Maxim Manner. The maxim of quantity is the quantity of information. The quantity standard requires the speaker to contribute as much as the interlocutor requires, in the other words, the speaker must provide information according to the needs of the interlocutor, no less, no more. Quality maxim refers to the quality of information. The maxim of quality requires the speaker to say what corresponds to reality, sufficient evidence must be added to the speaker's statement. A relation maxim is a maxim that asks people to be relevant. The maxim of the relationship is that one must discuss according to the topic being discussed. Finally, maximize the method. This maxim expressing what you say should be as clear, concise, and precise as possible.

The American philosopher, (Grice, 1975) stated that when people speak, their goal is to be cooperative. In other words, they speak to contribute to the conversation as needed. Grice also says when we communicate, we subconsciously assume that we and the person we are talking to will be cooperative in the conversation. These collaborative conversations work even when we are socially

uncooperative. This maxim is at first glance like a rule, but it seems easier to break than phonology or grammar.

The first, a study conducted by Budiati (2012). This study discusses the sentential implicature which has the meaning of something that can or is implied to be proposed to avoid impoliteness in making harmonious conversations. In conducting this study, the writer also explains about the concept of politeness in which including the theory from Halliday (1978:33) in Hammond et al (1992: 2) who states that she distinguishes three general types of dimension; (1) field (the purpose and subject-matter of communication), (2) mode (the means by which communication takes place; by speech or writing) and (3) tenor (the relations between participants). The three dimensions are called register. Besides the concept of politeness, the writer also explain about politeness in terms of principle and maxims. Where in this case the writer explains more about the cooperative principle and maxim theory developed by Grice. Through this study, the writer found six postulated cooperative politeness and maxims; tact maxim, approbation maxim, generosity maxim, modesty maxim, agreement maxim and sympathy maxim. The measurement of politeness or impoliteness is also determined by the four factors; power, range, distance and familiarity. In this case, the writer write this study with looking the background of culture in Indonesia. Film is just a description of some parts of people's life. However, this film has successfully describing a few portrayals about life of people in Belitung. There are so many ways in showing politeness to others. Politeness Maxims are used to minimize unwanted effect of utterances and make the utterances smooth. It also gives benefit to others. Belitung people may use different ways from other places in showing politeness. Some of these reflect Indonesian culture how to respect the old ones with regarding power, range, distance and familiarity.

Even though this study uses the Grice's Maxim theory, to analyse, there are differences to other studies; they are in the focus of the study, the object of the study, and how the theory is applied. The researcher is interested in analysing the novel because the novel has an exciting and unusual plot and it hasn't been analyzed yet in terms of the Cooperative Principle of utterances. The researcher use the written form as the object instead of spoken form because the researcher is more interested to the originality of the story in the novel, in some part of the novel did not come out in the movie which decrease the true story of the novel. The researcher watched the movie version of this novel, and the researcher found a lot of miss-communication and unrelated conversation between the question and the answer. Then the researcher read the book and found many more of it. The researcher interested and chose this topic and this object as the final project study. The reason the researcher prefer Grice's theory is because apart from Grice's theory fits with the researcher object as well because no one has done Grice's research using the novel *Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go*.

Method

The researcher used a qualitative research method. Qualitative research is multimethod in focussed, involving an interpretive, naturalist approach to its subject material (Denzin & Lincoln, 1995). The multimethod in focussed is described because the combination of multiple methods, empirical materials, perspectives and observers in a very single study is best understood, then as a method that adds rigor, breadth, and depth to any investigation.

It is stated that definition of qualitative research specializing in the methodological nature, the complexity of the trip product and its nature of the naturalistic inquiry (Creswell, 2014). Qualitative research is an inquiry process of understanding supported distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem. The research builds a fancy, holistic picture, analyzes words, reports detailed views of informants, and conducted the study in natural setting.

According to Sugiyono (2017) Qualitative research is “ A research method based on the philosophy of postpositivism, oftenly used to examine natural object conditions, (as opposed to experiments) where researchers are the key instrument of it, and the data collection techniques are triangulated (combined), data analysis is inductive / qualitative, and qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization.

The qualitative process that the researcher used in this research command the researcher to observe and analyze the cooperative principle in the novel “*Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go*” by Patrick Ness. Specifically, the researcher analyzed the flouting maxim of the conversation uttered by the character.

Findings and Discussion

This part presents the results of the analysis of the Cooperative Principle in the Novel *Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go*. When a speaker is unable to maintain cooperative principles while speaking with the other party, this is known as non-observed cooperation. One of the principles of cooperation that is not considered is the maxim of violation. Grice (1975:49) defines the maxim of violation as deliberately flouting it to convey a hidden message and enable the listener to assume the meaning of the offense shown. Grice divides it into four, namely the maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. The data are all conversations, both dialogues and monologues, with total numbers are 114 data.

Maxim of Quantity

Datum 72

"Did he . . . Did he hurt you? Back in the swamp?"

She shakes her head again and lets out a sigh. "He ranted and raved at me, and I guess it might have been preaching, but if I ran, he'd run after me and rant some more and I'd cry and ask him for help but he'd ignore me and preach some more and I'd see pictures of myself in his Noise when I didn't even know what Noise was. I've never been so scared in my life, not even when our ship was crashing."

This conversation includes a violation of maxim Quantity because too much information from the question is needed. The question is "Did he . . . Did he hurt you? Back in the swamp?" it should be answered by yes or no. "He ranted and raved at me, and I guess it might have been preaching, but if I ran, he'd run after me and rant some more and I'd cry and ask him for help but he'd ignore me and preach some more and I'd see pictures of myself in his Noise when I didn't even know what Noise was. I've never been so scared in my life, not even when our ship was crashing." She answered too much information that shouldn't be said.

Datum 93

"How old is that?" I ask Viola, still looking down the hallway. "I don't even know how old that is."

"He's four," she says. "He's told me about 800 times. Which seems kind of young to be milking goats."

When asked the question "How old is it?" then it only needs to be answered "He is four years old," without there having to be "He told me about 800 times. Which seems too young to milk a goat." because it is information that is not needed, therefore this conversation violates maxim of quantity.

Datum 94

I get a horrible thought. "Did the women all die here, too?"

"Oh, there's women," she says, fiddling with a butter knife. "They clean and they cook and they make babies and they all live in a big dormitory outside of town where they can't interfere in men's business."

As we can read, there is the question "Did all the women die here too?" instead the reply was "Oh, there are the women, they clean and cook and make babies and they all live in big hostels outside of town where they can't meddle in the men's business." this is too much unnecessary information.

Datum 95

I remember Jane's warnings. "Naked people and glass houses?" I ask.

Viola looks at me strange. "No," she says, curling her lip. "Just poverty. Just horrible, horrible poverty. Some of those places looked like they would have eaten us so I just kept on and on and you got sicker and sicker and then on the second morning I saw Doctor Snow and Jacob out fishing and I could see in his Noise he was a doctor and as weird as this place is about women, it's at least clean."

When Todd asked "Naked people and greenhouses?" only need answers that are needed like yes or no, no need to explain for things that are not needed, Viola violates maxim quantity because Viola gives too much information that is not needed.

Datum 104

Viola's arms are still crossed. "Why didn't someone come and get you? Why didn't the rest of New World come after you?"

"And do what?" Ben says, sounding tired. "Fight another war but this time with heavily armed men? Lock us up in a giant prison? They laid down the law that if any man from Prentisstown crossed the swamp, he'd be executed. And then they left us to it."

Ben violated maxim quantity for giving redundant answers or information. Ben just needs to answer Todd's question without having to give out too much information.

For the first maxim is quantity maxim. Based on the data above the speaker violates this maxim of quantity because the speaker wants to build a good social relationship with each other. The speaker does not want to keep the answer short to maintain the conversation for quite long time. The speaker adds more detail, which is not necessary to make the answer longer to respect the other.

Maxim of Quality

Datum 65

"Which one will they think we took?"

"We need to decide," I say. "Quickly now."

With the question "Which do they think we will take?" Todd shouldn't have answered "We've got to decide, Hurry up now." Because Todd answered what he thought was correct, Todd violated Maxim Quality.

Datum 78

I pick it up and stand over him. "Is he dead?" I ask without looking at Viola.

"Shouldn't be," she says. "It was just the voltage from a—".

When Todd asked Viola "Is she dead?" Viola shouldn't give answers based on her own opinion without clear evidence, because that's why Viola violates maxim of quality.

Datum 80

"STOP IT!" Viola screams. "Can't you see how scared he is?"

"And well he should be!" I yell back.

From the question "Can't you see how scared he is?" Todd should have said yes or no, not "And that's the way it should be!" because Todd's answer included his opinion, so Todd violated Maxim Quality.

Datum 109

"Yer not?" I say, shaking her a little. "Yer sure?"

"I just fell," she says. "I swear I felt the bullet fly right by my eyes and I fell.

I'm not hurt." And I'm breathing heavy and heavy and heavy.

Todd asked "You didn't? Are you sure?" he should have said yes of course or no i am not sure. instead of answering "I just fell," he said. "I swear I felt a bullet fly right in front of my eyes and I fell. I'm not hurt." And I'm panting heavy and heavy and heavy. he violated maxim quality for answering based on his opinion.

Datum 114

"But are you a messenger, Todd?" he asks, cocking his head, pulling his impossible smile wider. "Or are you a deceiver?"

"Read me," I say. "Read me if you don't believe I can do it."

From the question "But are you a messenger, Todd? Or are you an impostor?" Todd shouldn't have answered with "Read me if you don't believe I can do it." because Todd's answer includes his opinion, Todd believes that he is capable, and that violates the maxim of Quality.

In the second data is quality maxim. Based on the data that is presented in the previous chapter the interlocutor violates the qualitative maxim to cover up her mistake, rather than that the speaker wants to convey their opinion towards something. The speaker wants to spoke out their opinion and something they believe to cover up their mistake.

Maxim of Relation

Datum 1

"Is it a croc?" I say.

"Quiet, Todd," Manchee growls.

"But what is it?"

"Is quiet, Todd."

When Todd asked "is it a croc?" Manchee growls "Quiet, Todd" without answering Todd's question, even though Todd understood what Manchee meant by asking Todd to be quiet, Manchee still violated maxim relation. Researchers think that this is a pragmatic sentence where the meaning of the sentence is not literally written meaning.

Datum 6

"Where's Ben?" I say.

His face hardens a little more. "Lambing starts in a week, Todd."

All I do to this is say again, "Where's Ben?"

"You get the sheep fed and into their paddocks and then I want you to fix the gate to the east field once and for all, Todd Hewitt. I have asked you at least twice before now."

When Todd asked "where's ben?" Manchee answer "Lambing starts in a week, Todd" without answering Todd's question, even though Todd understood what Manchee meant by asking Todd, Manchee still violated maxim relation.

Datum 30

"Was that yer ma and pa?" I ask, after a bit.

But she just looks up into the sky, blue and spare, with clouds that look like bones. "And when the sun came up," she says, "that man came."

When Todd asked what yer ma and pa was viola gave an answer that didn't answer todd's question, so this is a violation of maxim relation. Viola said "And when the sun came up," referring to the moment she woke up after a plane crash that kills both of her parents. "that man came." Referring to her rescuer, the man who rescued her after the crash. Viola does not explicitly answer Todd's question, but implicitly said that the plane crash kills both of her parents.

Datum 63

"How can it be the whole town?" She looks for a second or two more then hands the binos to me.

"What kind of sense does that make?"

"You got me." The night setting on the binos turns the valley and all that's in it a bright green. I see horses galloping down the hill into the main part of town, shooting their rifles on the way, I see the people of Farbranch shooting back but mostly running, mostly falling, mostly dying. The Prentisstown army don't seem interested in taking prisoners.

Given the question "How could the whole city?" should be able to explain how the incident happened, but instead was answered only with "You got me." without any clear answer or explanation needed. therefore this conversation violates maxim relation.

Datum 70

"Play along with what?"

"If we can get to the other side of the herd, then it's between us and the army, isn't it?"

I hadn't thought about that. "But what are you doing? What do Ben and Hildy gotta do with it?"

"He has a gun," she whispers, checking on Wilf again. "And you said yourself how people might react about you being from a certain place. So, it just sort of popped out."

"But you were talking in his voice."

"Not very well."

The question asked did not get an appropriate answer, even though the other person understood what was meant, the answer still had to be in accordance with the question. therefore this conversation violates maxim relation. The question "But what are you doing? What do Ben and Hildy gotta do with it?" is not being answered explicitly. Viola answer is "He has a gun," means that Aaron has a gun who kills them both.

The third maxim that violated is relation/relevance. This maxim is violated because the speaker wants to change the subject. The speakers are well known and already through some journey together. They know what the other means of each sentence without explicitly said what it really means. The speakers also use informal language to communicate, so it does not follow the grammar.

Maxim of Manner

Datum 9

“Is it spacks?” I say. “Is it the Spackle? Are they back?”

“Ben?”

“Are we in danger?” I ask Ben. “Will there be another war?” But all Ben says is, “Oh, my God,” real quiet like, and then he says it again, “Oh, my God,” and then, without even moving or looking away, he says, “We have to get you outta here. We have to get you outta here right now.”

When Todd asked Ben if they were in any danger, Ben simply replied "Oh my God," with no answer that answered Todd's question, followed by "we have to get you out of here. we have to get you out of here now." make conversation in a maxim manner.

Datum 14

“There ain’t no path that way, Ben,” I say, “and there’s crocs everywhere. You trying to get me killed?”

He looks back at me, his eyes all level, but he keeps on hurrying. “There’s no other way, Todd.”

“Crocs! Swamp! Quiet! Pool!”

When Todd said there were alligators everywhere. You trying to get me killed? Ben simply replied "There's no other way, Todd." without explaining anything, even though Todd understood what Ben meant but Ben still violated maxim of manner.

Datum 35

“As pups go,” she says, looking back at me, “ye are as easy to read as a newborn, m’boy.”

She turns her face to Viola. “But ye, wee girl, yer story’s not a usual one, is it?”

“I’d be happy to tell you all about it if you’d stop pointing a gun at us,”

When Ben was asked "But you, little girl, your story is not as usual, right?" viola deliberately replies "I'd be happy to tell you everything if you stop pointing guns at us," to tease or make an offer and not orderly said what she really mean straight forwardly, this is a violation of maxim of manner.

Datum 40

“Do you have a cure?” I say, my voice almost breaking. “Is there a cure?”

“Now if there were a cure,” Tam says, still pretty much shouting, “d’ye honestly think I’d be subjecting ye to all this here rubbish a-floating outta my brain?”

This conversation violates maxim of manner because the answers to Todd's questions are answered with sarcasm. Tam says “d’ye honestly think I’d be subjecting ye to all this here rubbish a-floating outta my brain?” means that there is no cure exist, if there any cure exist, he would be the one to be cured first rather than Todd.

Datum 81

“How many times have you found out that what you’ve been told isn’t true?” she says, backing away from me even further, her face twisting. “How many times?”

“Viola—”

This conversation violates maxim manner because the answers to Todd's questions are answered with sarcasm.

The last is manner maxim. This maxim is violated by the speaker, because the speaker provided unclear information. The speaker sometimes give sarcasm to answer the question spoken. The speaker sometimes provide unclear information and the other speaker answer it incorrectly.

Dominant Maxim Found

The researcher found four types of floating maxim in the novel "Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go". Which the total number of floating maxims in conversation there is 114. The percentage of each type is (1) Maxim of quantity is 9%. (2) Maxim of quality is 10%. Maxim of relation is 62%. Maxim of manner is 19%.

The most dominant floating maxim that found by the researcher in the novel "Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go" that chosen is maxim of relation with 71 data or 62% of the total data. They sometimes violate the maxim of relation because they use informal language which not based on the grammar but they did understand the implicit meaning of the utterances.

Based on my research there are several findings that I found different from previous studies. In previous studies, the average finding for violations of the dominant maxim was maxim quantity because the researcher concluded that the author deliberately put some conversations that contained the elements of maxim violations to spice up the story he wanted to build and create humour for the readers. While in my research the violation of the most dominant floating maxim found in the novel "Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go is Maxim of Relation with 71 data or 62% of the total data. They sometimes violates the maxim of relation because they use informal language which not based on the grammar but they did understand the implicit meaning of the utterances. This shows that this study provides an updated perspective on research that examines floating maxims.

Conclusion

After analysing the data related to the Cooperative Principle in the novel Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go, there are several conclusions that can be put forward.

Based on the data analysis above, it can be concluded that there are 4 types of cooperative principles, namely Maxim of Quantity, Maxim of Quality, Maxim of Relation and Maxim of Manner. The total number of maxim floating in conversation is 114. The percentage of each type is (1) Maxim of Quantity is 9%, (2) Maxim of Quality is 10%, (3) Maxim of Relation is 62%, and (4) Maxim of Manner is 19%.

The most dominant floating maxim found in the novel "Chaos Walking: The Knife of Never Letting Go is Maxim of Relation with 71 data or 62% of the total data. They sometimes violates the maxim of relation because they use informal language which not based on the grammar but they did understand the implicit meaning of the utterances.

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