

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Research Topic

Communication is a very significant part of life. Without communication we would not be able to function. During every single day of life, we meet so many people and do so many activities. We interact with others to share information and beliefs, exchange ideas and feelings, make plans, and solve problems. Usually all of those things are done interpersonally, usually in a small group, and usually in a public forum. However communication occurs, it is essential in helping us initiate, develop, control, and sustain our contacts with others.

Communication is “the process of sending, receiving, and interpreting messages through which we relate to each other and to our larger world as well.” (Smith, 2001;20). Communication is usually described along three major dimensions: content, form, and destination. The examples of communication content include acts that declare knowledge and experiences, give advice and commands, and ask questions. These acts may take many forms, including gestures (nonverbal communication, sign language and body language), writing, or verbal speaking. The form depends on the symbol systems used. Together, communication content and form make messages that are sent towards a destination. The target can be oneself (self-talk) or via diaries (intrapersonal communication), another person (interpersonal communication), or another entity (such as a corporation or group).

Conversation is a part of interpersonal communication. It is a social activity, which requires at least two or more people. Talking to one self is not conversation, whatever else it is. We can use conversation to exchange opinions, ideas, and even to express feelings but the primary goal is the pleasurable exchange of talk, no matter what the topic. Once the talk has begun, aware or not, we have the obligation to keep it going. If we want to discontinue it, we must do it gracefully. If for some reasons we are forced to end a conversation, we are required to offer an apology. How well we master these activities may have a major impact on our lives.

Since it is a cooperative behavior, we cannot monopolize a conversation. We must offer others the opportunity to say something for everyone has the right to speak. Interrupting others constantly is a partial denial of this right. One interesting fact about the principles that operate in conversation in general is that they tend to ensure the rights of people to speak and be silent as they choose rather to deny those rights.

Conversation can also be disturbed in two ways. First, it happens if one party violates the principles of good behavior that the other will feel that what should be a pleasant cooperative work has become unproductive. Likewise, if all the work of keeping a conversation going is given to someone, he or she will feel that it is too much burden to carry, for it is too tiring to carry on a conversation with someone who give little feedback or support. Thus, if we do not find any support we need to continue the conversation, there is a failure of cooperation. Moving on to something else would be the wisest course.

Conversation is very often spontaneous, natural, and informal. However, even at its most casual, conversation is governed by rules and principles of language and behavior. During conversation we probably follow the principle of cooperation, implicitly agreeing with the other person to cooperate in trying to understand what each is saying (Grice, 1975; Lindblom, 2001). According to the philosopher H. P. Grice, a speaker is assumed to say something which is true and to the point, and is assumed not to withhold any relevant information. Specifically, he claimed that speakers are expected to observe the following rules or maxims. In the maxim of quantity, speakers should be as informative as necessary to communicate the intended meaning. In the maxim of quality, speakers are required to say what is true. The maxim of relation talks about what is relevant to the conversation. In the maxim of manner, speakers should be clear and avoid ambiguities. By following these rules, a pleasant conversation may be acquired.

In any relationships, including family relationship, communication is the major ingredient. In a family, the conversation between parents and their children should be open and honest. What children do not know may hurt their feelings. It often happens that parents too worried about their children that they may think

that children would not be better without parents' influences. These attitudes finally sow conflicts. Children refused to eat, refused to go to sleep, refused to clean their stuff, and so on. These cases happen because, mostly, parents used to think that they know what is best; this thought makes them trying to insist, or to dominate their children.

Although theoretically it is better to have an open and honest communication between parents and children in a family, parents still lie in some ways and do not observe the conversational maxims. Thus, here some violations of the cooperative principle may happen. Parents do sort of things such as lying, exaggerating, and so on in order to make their children obey them. Besides, children have their own willingness that makes them give inadequate information to their parents. They also lie about something when they get scared of being scolded.

Based on this information, the writer intends to conduct the research on conversational analysis in order to know what violation of maxims occur in the conversation between parents and their six-year-old children in their family conversation using the Indosiar TV drama series "Desperate Housewives", which is produced by Buena Vista Home Entertainment as the source of data. The writer took the conversation of Scavo family which consists of Tom Scavo and Lynette Scavo as the parents and their six-year-old triples, Preston Scavo, Porter Scavo, and Parker Scavo.

1.2. Statement of Problem

For this research, the research problem is to describe what violation of maxims that occur in the conversation between parents and their six-year-old children in their family conversation?

To help the writer do this research, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What violation of maxims which occur in the conversation between parents and their six-year-old children?
2. What types of violation of maxims occur in the conversation between parents and their six-year-old children?

3. What type of violation of maxims is mostly used by parents in the conversation with their six-year-old children?
4. What type of violation of maxims is mostly used by six-year-old children in the conversation with his parents?

1.3. Definition of Key Term

- **Conversational Maxims:** “A set of norms which language users adhere to, in order to uphold the effectiveness and efficiency of communication” (Hatim and Manson, 1990;242).

The maxims are:

1. Maxims of Quantity: be informative
2. Maxims of Quality: be truthful
3. Maxim of Relation: be relevant
4. Maxims of Manner: be clear and not ambiguous

- **Violation of Maxims:** The breaking of maxims, either purposefully or unintentionally (*cf.* Grice, 1975)

(source: <http://www.answers.com/topic/gricean-maxims>)

1.4. Scope and Limitation

The writer is having Conversation Analysis and Discourse Analysis as the scope of the study.

From Desperate Housewives drama series as the source of data, the writer only uses the story of Scavo family which contains Tom Scavo as the father, Lynette Scavo as the mother, and Preston, Porter, and Parker Scavo (triples) as their 6-year-old children. The writer takes all of the utterances which contain violations between parents and their 6-year-old triples, either purposefully or unintentionally, which occur in all contexts. Other exceptions such as politeness principle, positive and negative face, and also informative principle are excluded.

1.5. Purpose of Study

The study has a purpose to reveal the way conversational maxims are violated in the conversation between parents and their six-year-old children in the drama series “Desperate Housewives”.

1.6. Significance

This research can be an addition to eastern parental community’s knowledge; how parents and their children apply Grice’s maxims in conversation to each other. By this research, parents can know how to communicate with their children in a better way and in a better understanding. Furthermore, eastern children can learn from west that they can tell their opinion and express themselves openly.

This research can also be a contribution to a better communication that Grice’s maxims can help people get easier in understanding the message which is delivered by their partners in conversation. Thus, by this research the writer hopes that eastern culture can be developed better in parental community and also people in general can have a better communication to each other.

1.7. Organization

This research consists of five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction of the research. It describes the background of the study, the statement of problem, the definition of key term, the scope and limitation decided by the writer, the purpose of study, the significance, and also the research’s organization.

The second chapter talks about the foundation theory used in the research and also the previous studies that could help as the references.

In chapter three, the writer explains the method and the approach used in the study, the instrument she used, how the data is collected, and the analysis of the data. All are in the chapter of Methodology.

The fourth chapter discusses the real and complete analysis of the data and the application of chapter two and three.

Finally, the results or findings in order to answer the research questions appear and is concluded in the final chapter, Conclusion.