

The conversational implicatures: A case study of the violations of cooperative principles in a novel “Negeri 5 Menara” by Ahmad Fuadi

Bela Fransiska^{1*}, Farida Ariyani², Ali Mustofa³, Eka Sofia Agustina⁴

¹⁻⁴Department of Language and Arts Education, Universitas Lampung, Bandar Lampung, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: bellafransiskaa16@gmail.com

Abstract

According to a variety of academic works, implicature is a tool used by pragmatics to address the issue of linguistic meaning. Grice 1975 holds the following opinion. There have been numerous studies on implicature, primarily looking at conventional and conversational implicatures. However, the results of the conversational implicature research in novels, which is characterized by a breach of the cooperative principle, are still ambiguous. As a result, this study aimed to describe the conversational implicatures in Ahmad Fuadi's novel “Negeri 5 Menara” that are marked by violations of the cooperative principles. A qualitative methodology was used to carry out this study. The novel "Negeri 5 Menara" by Ahmad Fuadi served as the study's primary source of data. Conversations between characters that involve violations of the maxims in the cooperation principle serve as the study's source of data. Data were collected by careful reading, looking at sentences with implicatures, selecting, classifying data based on the breach of the violations of the cooperative principles. The collected data were then analyzed descriptively. The study's findings demonstrate that a total of 84 occurrences that violate the cooperative principles were found. The violation of maxims on the principle of cooperation consists of four maxims, namely the maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. The findings have several implications for language education, particularly in the Indonesian context. Limitations and recommendations for further research are also discussed.

Keywords: communication, communicative, literary works, education, Indonesia

Introduction

Numerous academic works stress the significance of implicature in communication. One aspect of pragmatics that is utilised to address linguistic issues is Grice's theory of conversation or implicature (Wilson & Sperber, 1981). Implicature is when a speaker means something else other than what they actually say by something that is inferred, hinted, or intended (Haugh, 2002).

Conventional implicature and conversational implicature are the two categories into which implicature is separated. Conventional implicatures include connotations that are derived only from the word's definition rather than from the conversational rule. Conversely, the conversational implicatures are pragmatic implications that are implied in a dialogue (Wilson & Sperber, 1981). Thus, cooperation between a speaker and a speaking partner will ensure the success of a conversation. Therefore, a conversation must be guided by the principle of cooperation in order to fulfil informational objectives and ensure effective communication. However, implications are not usually present in spoken interactions, but they can be found in written ones, like as a novel.

Numerous academics have been investigating implicatures in novels. The implicatures can serve as satire, information, request, request fulfilment, requirements, respect, denial, expression of incredulity, orders, warnings, and self-defense (Amalia et al., 2020). Presupposition implicatures, which can be realised in four ways—sentence statements, commands, enquiry sentences, and exclamation sentences—were also claimed to exist in addition to conventional and non-conventional implicatures (Azis et al., 2020). In addition, Additionally, it has been claimed that novels contain both general and specific conversational implicature. Information sharing, self-defense, power and politeness, and amusement are among the functions of conversational implicature. The generic implicatures appear regularly in conversations with the novel's main characters (Putri & Simatupang, 2022; Qordawi, 2021).

Despite the fact that other research of a similar nature have examined implicatures in novels, the most of them focused on conventional and conversational interpretations. Research on conversational implicatures that take place when the cooperative principle is violated is still inconclusive. Therefore, this study aimed to investigate the conversational implications and the violation of the cooperative principles in Ahmad Fuadi's novel "Negeri 5 Menara."

Literature Review

Implicature

Implicature was initially used to address the meaning problem in language. In communication, implicatures are used to obliquely communicate speech. The word implicature is derived from the verb "to suggest," which means to state something subtly. According to etymology, to suggest is to conceal something from someone (Ahmed, n.d.; Wylie et al., 2022). Implicatures can be used to physically say things that are distinct from what is said (Herman, 2022). Conventional implicatures do not require discourse or specialised contexts in order to be understood. In contrast, the meanings and definitions of

conversational implicatures are more diverse. The context of the discourse is vital for comprehending the "meaning of speech" (Gibbs Jr, 2002; Sbisà, 1999).

Conversational implicatures are pragmatic linguistic implications. In this instance, implicatures arise due to a violation of the principle of discourse. Moreover, there are two objectives that speakers strive for in implicature-using dialogues. First, to obtain something from the interlocutor (personal aims); and second, to maintain a positive relationship between the speaker and his interlocutor so that conversation flows smoothly and misunderstandings are avoided (social goals) (Alsallloom, 2022; Çiftlikli & Demirel, 2022).

For there to be a conversational implicature, there must be a pattern of cooperation that governs the rights and responsibilities of the speaker and the speech partner, so that good collaboration happens for the expected continuance of communication. Communication conducted by speakers and speech partners cannot be separated from the impediments that prevent the communication from occurring as planned (Wilson & Sperber, 1981). Success in communication is characterised by the speaker providing clear and unambiguous information to the speaking (Jung & Crossley, 2022). Therefore, there must be a principle of cooperation in communication so that communication goals can be attained and communication flows easily.

Cooperative principles

If the speaker and speech partner are able to collaborate, communication can be deemed successful. Participants in a speech are expected to adhere to the principles of cooperation in order for communication to proceed successfully. However, violations of the norm of cooperation in conversations, such as irrelevant ramblings, are possible (Kanasya & Bram, 2022; Lubis, 2022; May, 2022). Misunderstandings can arise when the principle of collaboration is violated, resulting in improper information transmission (Xu, 2022). Speakers are consequently expected to adhere to the cooperative principles in conversations.

The principle of cooperation necessitates the use of communicative and effective language, as evidenced by the concept of four maxims (Wilson & Sperber, 1981). Consequently, the existence of the concept of cooperation in conversation will make it simpler for speakers and speech partners to explain the relationship between intent and the speech they express (Muhammed, 2022).

The notion of cooperation is expressed through four maxims: quantity, quality, relation, and manner, as follows: (1) maxim of quantity requires the speaker to supply as much or as little information as the interlocutor requires; (2) maxim of quality requires speech participants to communicate information whose veracity can be determined; (3) maxim of relation compels speech

participants to give pertinent or connected discourse to the topic at hand; and (4) maxim of manner requires participants to deliver communication that is clear, not confusing, not excessive, succinct, and ordered (Davies, 2000; Fraser, 1987; Penman, 1987; Thomas, 1997).

Language and novel

Language is an essential component of communication. In addition to having a vital part in social connection, language also plays a significant role in literary communication (Korte, 1997). In written form, for example, writers employ language as a means of communication to transmit their ideas in the form of literary works, stimulating the reader's imagination. Novel is one of the most popular literary works among readers.

In general, novels depict social life that cannot exist without conflict. The writers' language is intended to enhance the attractiveness of the literary works they generate (Dunne & Raby, 2013). The writers communicate the plot in the novel so that the dialogue between the characters, which cannot be isolated from the background, brings it to life. Therefore, it is probable that the novel contains language with suggested meanings or implicatures. Thus, the novel's language can be explored using pragmatics, namely implicature. Therefore, the language used in the novel's characters' conversations must be clear and easy to understand. This is done so that communication can proceed smoothly and the speech partner can receive the information offered by the speech partner without difficulty.

The violation of the cooperative principles may not necessarily occur in spoken conversations, but it can occur in written dialogues such as novels. Based on our initial observation in the novel “Negeri 5 Menara” by Ahmad Fuadi, there are numerous statements that are irrelevant to the context, making it difficult for speech partners to grasp the message imparted. Thus, the violation of the cooperative principles in the novel would be analysed so that the meaning of each studied conversation would be derived from the conversation's speech in the novel.

Methods

The data for this study are in the forms of conversations between characters in Ahmad Fuadi's novel “Negeri 5 Menara” that contain implicatures that violate the maxims of the cooperative principles. It is a 423-page novel. The novel was published by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama in Jakarta in July of 2009. We selected the novel as a source of research data because of the narrative's broad use of language, including Indonesian, Javanese, Minang, Sundanese, Arabic, English, and French (Fuadi, 2009). In addition, the conversation in this work uses extensive use of contextual implications.

We adopted a documentation technique to collect data for this investigation. Reading the data attentively, collecting sentences having implicatures, selecting and classifying data based on the violations of the maxim of cooperation, were the processes used to collect the data. Following the data collection, the data were analysed utilising qualitative analysis procedures. Reading each data multiple times, identifying sentences containing the principle of cooperation in tabular form, selecting and re-examining the data according to the violations of the cooperative principle, classifying the data based on the violation maxims of the cooperative principles, classifying the violations, and concluding the research (Bowen, 2009) were the steps that we took.

Results and Discussion

The results reveal that there are implicatures in Ahmad Fuadi's novel "Negeri 5 Menara." These implicatures are marked by the violations of the maxim of the cooperative principles. A total of 84 data were found. Following are some passages from the conversations in the novel that violate the cooperative principles.

Violation of maxim of quantity

There are 39 violations of the quantity maxim in Ahmad Fuerdi's novel Negeri 5 Menara. A violation of the maxim of quantity happens when the speaker provides more information than is necessary. Here is an illustration of the maxim of quantity violation data:

Data 96/251-PKS/Knt

The context is as follows. Alif went to Ustaz Khalid's home and requested him to participate in an interview on his time studying in the Middle East.

Alif : "Ustad, saya Alif, dari majalah kampus Syams. Mohon kesediaan antum untuk diwawancarai untuk edisi bulan depan yang bertema Menuntut Ilmu ke Timur Tengah." ["Ustad, I'm Alif from the Shams Campus magazine. We ask if you would be willing to be interviewed for the following month's issue, which will focus on "Seeking Knowledge in the Middle East."]

Ustaz Khalid : "Tapi kenapa saya? Banyak sekali yang telah lulus dari Timur Tengah, dan mungkin jauh lebih hebat dari saya. Mungkin lain kali saja ya," Katanya dengan suara tegas dan berwibawa. ["Why then me? Numerous people have graduated from universities in the Middle East, and they are likely vastly superior

than me. Maybe next time, okay?" He said in a strong and authoritative tone.]

The language is in the form of interrogative sentences that imply rejection. It is called implicature because there is a concealed message in the speech. The implication of Ustaz Khalid's speech was that he did not wish to be employed as an informant, although he did not express this directly. The discourse of Ustaz Khalid violates the principle of quantity.

Alif wanted Ustaz Khalid to be the informant, but Ustaz Khalid instead questioned Alif about why he was chosen. Interrogative sentences are those that request something or someone (Yessenbayeva et al., 2020). The statement above includes the word "why" and a question mark (?) to indicate that it is an interrogative sentence. However, the speaker does not intend to enquire and hence denies the request of the hearer. Implicatures are utterances or statements that imply something other than what is spoken. Ustaz Khalid's information beyond what was necessary. This is also consistent with the view previous findings that a discourse does not become more informational than desired (Mufiddah, 2019). The maxim of quantity is providing as much or as little information as the conversation partner requires (Rusminto, 2015). Thus, it can be determined that Ustaz Khalid's speech violated the maxim of quantity.

Violation of the maxim of quality

A total of 12 violations of the quality maxim were found. The violations have occurred because the speaker's information cannot be verified. The following is an illustration of data that violates the quality maxim:

Data 92/241-PKS/Klt

The context is as follows. Alif and Dulmajid are on night patrol near Sungai Bambu. According to the legend, the river is notorious for its terrifying appearance because the victims of the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI) were dumped in it many years ago.

Alif : "Dul, kenapa bunyi bambunya seperti itu?" ["Dul, why does the bamboo make that sound?"]

Dulmajid : "Oke kawan, aku siap melawan dedemit Sungai Bambu sekarang." ["Okay, I'm now prepared to battle the demons of the Sungai Bambu."]

Alif's speech, "Dul, why does the bamboo make that sound?" in the form of interrogative sentences contains fear implicatures. Alif's sentence does not intend to question Dulmajid. Alif fears the sound of bamboo rubbing together because he believes it to be the groaning voices of victims of the PKI from decades ago. Alif's statement violates the principle of quality because its veracity cannot be determined. The maxim of quality provides information including the

truth, which may be determined (Rusminto, 2015). Thus, it can be determined that Alif's speech violates the maxim of quality.

Violation of the maxim of relation

There are seven violations of the maxim of relation in Ahmad Fuadi's novel "Negeri 5 Menara." The violations occur when the speaker gives information that is not pertinent to the subject being discussed. Following is an illustration of data that violates this maxim:

Data 80/226-PKS/Rls

The context is as follows. Said was pleased that his three buddies visited him at his home. Then Said encouraged them to explore Surabaya's tourist sites.

Said : "Kalian masih ingatkan waktu kita ke Ponorogo sampai basah kuyup dan poster film Arnold Schwarzenegger?" ["Do you recall the time we visited Ponorogo while it was raining and the Arnold Schwarzenegger movie poster?"]

Atang : "Yang membuat kami hampir dihukum itu kan?" ["We almost got punished for it, right?"]

Baso : "Hampir aku botak dan malu seumur hidup" ["I was nearly bald and ashamed throughout my entire life."]

In the aforementioned data, there is an utterance including implicatures; it is Baso's speech: "I was nearly bald and ashamed throughout my entire life" in a declarative sentence. Declarative sentences are those used by speakers or writers to make claims whose contents are novel for listeners or readers (Ifantidou, 2005). Baso's words include an implication of worry. It is considered implicative because Baso recalled the event when he visited Ponorogo. At one point, they waited to allow Said to view the billboard for the Arnold Schwarzenegger flick, thus they were five minutes late and nearly fined.

The statement made by Baso violates the principle of relation. Baso's response to Said's question about if they still recalled the poster they saw in Ponorogo contradicted their prior conversation, in which Said inquired if they still remembered the poster. Baso's response to Said's question was not what he expected. Thus, it can be determined that Baso's speech broke the rule of maxim of relation.

Violation of maxim of manner

The violation of the maxim of manner in "Negeri 5 Menara" by Ahmad Fuadi yielded 26 occurrences. The speaker violates the manners principle by

providing information that is confusing, excessive, and irregular. The following information violates the principle of manner:

Data 141/351-MCC/Cr

The context is as follows. There would be a Class Six Show event at that time. Then Said, Atang, and Alif requested permission from Ustaz Torik to travel to Ponorogo to purchase dry ice for the occasion, but they were denied permission. Then they chose to travel to Surabaya without permission.

Ustaz Torik : "Siapa yang otorisasi kalian ke sana?" ["Who gave you permission to go there?"]

Said : "Kami minta izin ke Ponorogo, tapi barangnya hanya ada di Surabaya. Untuk kelancaran acara, waktu sudah tidak mungkin kembali ke PM. Jadi kami terus ke Surabaya..." ["We requested permission to travel to Ponorogo, but the merchandise was only available in Surabaya. It was no longer feasible to return to PM for the sake of the event's smooth operation. Therefore we continued to Surabaya..."]

Ustaz Torik : "Jawab pertanyaan saya: siapa yang otorisasi?" ["Respond to my question: who gave you permission?"]

The aforementioned speech is in the form of a declarative phrase. The statement implies guiltiness. Said's speech is an example of a discourse containing implicatures.

"We requested permission to travel to Ponorogo, but the merchandise was only available in Surabaya. It was no longer feasible to return to PM for the sake of the event's smooth operation. Therefore we continued to Surabaya..."

It is referred to as implicature because Said, who is still in the security department, believes that he would be permitted to travel to Surabaya without asking permission anymore since he has to purchase merchandises for the class six performance. This statement violates the maxim of manner. Ustaz Torik asked Said, Atang, and Alif who allowed them to travel to Surabaya, but Said's response was confusing and inconsistent, so Ustaz Torik repeated the question. Thus, it can be determined that Said's statement violated the maxim of manner (Rusminto, 2015).

Conclusion

The findings of the current study reveal that there are implicatures in Ahmad Fuadi's novel "Negeri 5 Menara." This study's implicature is marked by violations of maxims of cooperative principles. A total of 84 data were found as

a result of the violation of cooperation-related maxims. The violations of maxims on the cooperative principles consists of four maxims: quantity, quality, relation, and manner. A total of 39 data falls into the maxim for quantity, 12 data belong to the maxim of quality, 7 data belong to the maxim of relation, and 26 data to the maxim of manner. Thus, the maxim of quantity is the most frequently violated maxim, with the maxim of relation being the least.

From the educational perspective, the findings of the current study are expected to provide teachers and students with further knowledge, particularly about conversational implicatures in novels. Teachers can also use the cooperative principles to remind students of the significance of speaking in a communicative language. Teachers can incorporate the findings of this study into Indonesian language classrooms. In so doing, students will be able to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of literary works in relation to this topic. They are expected to utilise language that is effective, clear, concise, and contains the truth while delivering a speech. Finally, the following recommendations might be considered. We expect that future research will be more in-depth, allowing other academics to develop bigger issues, such as moral principles, language etiquette, and language style. In addition, future researchers can examine additional topics, such as those found in schools, markets, films, talk shows, short stories, etc. In so doing, we would be able to obtain more valid findings.

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