

## THE FLOUTING OF COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES IN *LITTLE WOMEN* BY LOUISA MAY ALCOTT

Fauziah Rachmita Suwandi<sup>1</sup>, Ahmad Idris Asmaradhani<sup>2</sup>, Linda Mayasari<sup>3</sup>  
Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya, [mitarahmita09@gmail.com](mailto:mitarahmita09@gmail.com)

### Abstract

This research aims to find out flouting of cooperative principles maxim which are employed by the characters and to find out the speaker's meaning in *Little Women* novel by Louisa May Alcott. There are two objectives of the research that must be answered; (1) to describe the flouting of cooperative principles in *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott; (2) to find of the possible reason for flouting the maxims in the *Little Women* novel by Louisa May Alcott. Descriptive qualitative is applied as the method of the research. Discourse Analysis proposed by H.P Grice is used as the main approach and Flouting Cooperative Principles Levinson is applied as the supporting theory. The results of the analysis it can be concluded that the fact of flouting of maxim is the important point in linguistics and pragmatics. English learner should improve themselves by understanding flouting of maxims. We can find the flouting maxim of relation in script movie or the other object like short story, script drama and novel.

**Key words:** Flouting Maxim, Cooperative Principles, Pragmatics.

As human, we all engage in communication with others right from our birth. When we interact with others we can communicate with them. The most common form of communication is conversation. Levinson (1983:284) defines conversation as the familiar kind of talk in which two or more participant freely alternate in speaking, which generally occurs outside specific institutional setting like religious services, law courts, classroom, and so on. From the definition, it is reckoned that at least two participant, the speaker and the addressee carry out the conversation and they interchange the roles. A conversation depends not only on the speaker, who is trying to deliver a message but also the hearer who draws a conclusion from the implication of the utterance depending on the context in which it occurs.

When in term of communication as purposed by David Crystal (1941:116) communication refers to the transmission and reception of information (a message) between a source and a receiver using a signalling system in linguistic contexts, source and receiver are interpreted in human terms, the system involved is a language, and the notion of response to (or acknowledgement of) the message becomes of crucial importance. And the inferences of this communication also the process of transfer of understanding in the form of ideas or information from one person to another to create a successful exchange of information.

The process of interaction or relationship to each other is desired by a person with intent to be accepted and understood among themselves. when we speak to one another is what we are trying to cooperate with one another to construct meaningful conversation Grice (1755:45). The hearer sometimes gives response to the speaker's question by using a sentence that implies something. In the conversation the speaker and the listener or the hearer must speak cooperatively and mutually accept one another to be understood in a particular way.

Based on Grice (1975:45) being co-operative means to "Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged". Grice explains that the cooperative principle contributes to the conversation in which we needed to stage where it occurs when we speak, with the purpose or direction of exchange acceptable conversation in which you engage conversation with the listener or the hearer. The cooperative principle describes how to make effective communication in conversation between two people to achieved in common social situation. It is important for the speaker to understand that the language use can determine the success of communication. The easiest way to do this is to utter a sentence which means literally like what they say. Supporting this principle are four maxims is called the "*Gricean maxims*".

### Formulation of the Problem

Based on the fact and background of the research, the researcher formulated two statements of the problem as follows:

1. How are the maxims in *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott flouted?
2. What are the possible reason for flouting the maxims in *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott?

### Method

The data obtained from the selection is in the form of sentences in *Little Women* novel. Then, read the novel carefully to get the data needed and identifies the utterance, and then determines the kind of maxim that flouted the cooperative principle of each utterances. After identifying, the researcher analyze the data based on the kinds of maxim of cooperative principle. After identified, the researcher analyzes the data based on the kinds of maxim of cooperative principle and there are 20 conversation from four conversational maxim. The conversation was conduct the characters which flout the maxim, and they were examined using Discourse Analysis (DA) theory by H.P Grice. The data, were, then analyzed by using descriptive qualitative method.

### Theoretical Overview

Gillian Brown and George Yule (1985:1-2) says that Discourse analysis is an analysis of the language used. Discourse analysis starting point in terms of the function of language, in which discourse analysis to examine what language was used. In the second analysis the experts focused on two main functions: Transactional functions is a functions which language to reveal the contents of the message to be understood clearly and accurately rather than as a form of social interaction with each other. And Interactional functions is a functions which are involved in the disclosure language to describe and understand social relations and personal attitudes.

Nunan (1993:20) Discourse analysis is concerned with patterns and regularities in language but also with the people using language (what they mean and the purpose which language is put) and the context in which it is used. He said that discourse analysis is the study of the use of language that has the objective to demonstrate and interpret the relationship between the structure or patterns with the goals expressed by the linguistic units. Discourse analysis also their ultimate aim is to show how the linguistic element (found in language) enable language users to communicate in context. It can be concluded discourse analysis requires knowledge of the function of each utterance that is to understand a discourse.

To understand the meaning behind the discourse, people should link it with the context. Hymes (1962) describes, "A context can support a range of meanings" (Yule, 1983:37). He formulates nine features of context (Ibid:38). They are the roles of addressor and addressee, topic, setting, channel, code, message form, event, key, and purpose.

Levinson (1983:9) says that Pragmatics is the study of those relation between language and context that are grammaticalized, or encoded in the structure of a language. In another way, it can be said that pragmatics is the study of those aspects or the relationship between language and context that are relevant to the writing of grammar. Besides that, pragmatics is important because in communication speaker and hearer attempt to solve problem. Speaker's problem is how to achieve his goal in communicating something. The definitions also stated by David Crystal (1993:380), he said that "Pragmatics is focuses on problems of interaction that arise in contexts where successful communication is critical, such as medical interviews, judicial settings, counselling and foreign-language teaching. From here can be concluded the study of pragmatics is the ability of users to associate language support sentences with appropriate contexts for sentences that." In linguistics, language and context has an important connection to make the communication easy to understand and how the people use good language, follows the rules of language, understand the utterances, and be responsible for what they say.

Yule (1996:3) pragmatics is the study of what people mean in a specific context and how the context affect what is said. It considers of how speakers arrange what they want to say in accordance with the participant, where, when, and under what circumstances. Based on Yule explanation is communicated what is said explicitly. And the listener should be able to interpret the speakers intended

meaning and finally they can have a good communication each other. But sometimes the speakers does not to say completely what he or she wants to say, and the listener has to understand what the speaker mean.

### Analysis and Discussion

**The following datum is taken from maxim of quantity which is the conversation between Amy and Jo which is taken from chapter 5 “Jo and Her Temper” (1868:49).**

Amy : Girls, where are you going?  
Jo : Never mind. Little girls shouldn't ask question.

From this conversation happened when Meg and Jo go with Laurie. Amy appears from the stairs, she sees them walking beside the stairs briskly. She wants to know where they go, so she asks question to Jo. Jo answers her sister's question by giving contributions more than needed. Amy give's question that she wants to know where Jo and Meg in the form of interrogative sentence by asking “Where are you going?” Based on the previous dialogue, Jo answers Amy's question by saying “Never mind” which lexically means there is no problem about the matter. Then, Jo also adds her answer by saying “little girls shouldn't ask questions”. Jo uses “little girls as the subject than indicates her sister, Amy. Then Jo uses modality, “should” that means an advice that she delivers to Amy. Actually, when Jo says “Never Mind”, it is enough regarding to Amy's question. But Jo gives the additional utterance “little girls shouldn't ask question”, this information is not required by the hearer. Maxim of quantity can be flouted if the speaker gives more information than required. “Little girls shouldn't ask question” is, when seen based on Grice's maxim a contribution that is more informative than is required.

The possible reason for flouting the maxim is that this situation takes place in the living room and Amy asked them that she wants go with them. Jo flouts this maxim to make her sister not to join them to watch theater with Laurie and Amy's question make her little madder. And from the previous dialogue, it can be seen in 2 (two) flouting maxims in one dialogue. It is looks a maxim of quantity (too much information than is required), but it could also be argued that it is a maxim of relevance (since the extra information Jo volunteers is largely irrelevant to the question Amy asked). Other cooperative principle are analyzed to reveal her aim in responds to get across some meaning, and we can figure out that meanings.

**The following datum is taken from conversation between Meg and Mrs. March in chapter 2 “A Merry Christmas” (1868:20). Mrs. March said that Mr. Laurence, their neighbor had sent all the goodies.**

Meg : *The Laurence boy's grandfather! Why, we don't even know him,*  
Mrs. March : *Well, he heard about your breakfast party and send over a few trifles in honor of the day.*

The topic that can be inferred from Mrs. March her expression when respond to Meg utterance. This can be drawn from the analysis of several linguistic terms in her statement. The setting of this conversation happens in March sister's house when they celebrate Christmas together. When Mrs. March tells about Mr. Laurence as their neighbor, Meg is shocked and asks about Laurence boy's grandfather to her mother, but Mrs. March replies Meg's question by saying “Well, he heard about your breakfast party and send over a few trifles in honor of the day.” This utterance is identified as flouting the maxim of quality because she tells a lie to his interlocutor's question about Laurence boy's grandfather. While Mrs. March state to do that she's not giving the truth replies in form of declarative sentence. This way she attempts to give emphasis to part of this clause which normal word order does not emphasize by moving the grammatical object *the honorto* to the position of subject.

The possible reason why Mrs. March flouts maxim of quality based on Grice's maxim (1983:32), because she does not give true information to her daughter Meg. Meg asks her mother about Laurence boy's grandfather or his grandson, namely Theodore, which he is Laurie's grandfather. Laurie and his grandfather lives next door but the March girls hardly know about the boy. That is the reason why Meg extremely want to know and to be introduced with Laurie. Mrs. Thus, that is the reason why Mrs. March flouts the maxim of quality, she wants to show that Laurie is a good boy.

**The following datum is taken from conversation between Jo and Hannah in chapter 10 "Dark Days" (1868: 96).**

Jo : *What's the matter?*  
Hannah : *Oh Jo, Mrs. Hummel's baby died on my lap while I was holding it. Scarlet Fever!*

The previous conversation tells about Jo curiosity about Beth's condition by asking Hannah who is the servant in March sister's house. This story conversation happens when the March sister is working to help their mother. As long as their mother has gone, Beth does her own duties. One day Beth looks very pale and ill. Jo asks Hannah by saying "what's the matter?" which lexically means, she wants to know whether Beth has a problems with her condition or not. Then, Hannah responses by adding more information which flouts the maxim of quantity by saying "Oh Jo, Mrs. Hummel's baby died on my lap while I was holding it. Scarlet Fever!" Hannah says that Mrs. Hummel's baby had died on her lap, the word "died" may be used to invite Jo's anxiety due to the following explanation Hannah will explain about "scarlet fever" Actually, Hannah says the information should be just "Scarlet Fever", it is enough regarding to Jo's utterance, but she utters "Oh Jo, Mrs. Hummel's baby died on my lap while I was holding it" and this information is not required, when measured by Grice's maxim by the hearer.

As the preceding analysis, it is clear that Hannah flouts maxim of quantity and maxim of manner because when Hannah flouts in maxim of quantity she give more contribution than is required and in maxim of manner Hannah also avoid obscurity of expression which she given unclear expression about the Hummel baby sick which her neighbor . The possible reason why Hannah flouts maxim of quantity is to make Jo not to be panic, and Hannah's utterance is not necessary or expected by Jo's question, she answers "Oh Jo, Mrs. Hummel's baby died on my lap while I was holding it". It means that Hannah gives more information, explain more about the death of Mrs. Hummel's baby. Hannah should obey the cooperative principles. And the word "while" here, that Hannah uses two sense when she replies Jo's question, while as a conjunction, while means during at the time that, Hannah give information that Mrs. Hummel's baby is died and she also replies that Beth is sick.

**The following datum is taken from conversation between Amy and Laurie in chapter 20 "Lazy Laurence" (1868: 200).**

Laurie: I only bother him. So, I thought I'd stay here and bother you a little longer," he said lounging near her.  
Amy : *What would Jo say if she saw you now?*  
Laurie: *As usual, "go away, Teddy, I'm busy".*

In the dialogue can be inferred, Laurie's utterance flouts the maxim of manner. Viewing terms of maxims as proposed by Grice (1983:32), maxim of manner is where speaker should avoid obscurity of expression and ambiguity and the speaker should be perspicuous, brief, and orderly in our contribution to the interaction. He replies Amy's question with unclear answer. When she says "As usual, go away, Teddy, I'm busy", his utterances is not clear to Amy. Actually, Laurie gives more explanation about Amy to makes her reason complete. Based on the dialogue, Amy asks Laurie the question because Laurie about Jo if she met him now. Laurie's statement shows that he is giving unclear response in the form of imperative sentence, "As usual, go away, I'm busy". From his respond according (Levinson, 1983:9) does not relation with Amy question, which in pragmatic the researcher does not find the relationship between Amy and Laurie conversation. Laurie holiday in Nice for a month and

hanging out with Amy. Amy and Laurie get to know each other better as adults, they start judging each other, Amy wanted to know why Laurie became lazy and selfishness. In other form analyzed, there are another maxim. It looks maxim of relevance which is since the extra information Laurie volunteers is largely irrelevant. It can be seen from the possible reason why he replies with obscurity answer and does not explain about Jo, because he knows the sign if Jo does not care with him and it makes Laurie disappointed and became lazy. From the maxim of relevance Laurie hate the person they are talking to. Laurie tells about his condition which he tells to Amy that he cannot make Jo love him anymore, because every Jo sees him, Jo always shoo him. And can be seen from the conversation it has two maxim in one dialogue, maxim of manner and also maxim of relevant, which Laurie does not relevant in a good replies. And in maxim of relevance also Laurie should contribution to relate clearly to the purpose of the exchange.

**The following datum conversation is between Laurie and Jo which is taken from chapter 13 “The First Wedding” (1868: 130). Jo and Laurie walked home arm in arm.**

- Jo : I want to talk seriously to you about tomorrow. You must promise to behave well.  
No pranks.
- Laurie : *Well, at least we won't have any more weddings for a while. I think its dreadful breaking up families. Mark my word, you'll go next, Jo.*
- Jo : *No, I'm not the agreeable sort. Nobody will.*

This conversation happens at the first wedding of Meg and Mr. Brooke. When Jo talks to Laurie, they walk together home arm in arm, so Jo begins talk seriously tomorrow. And in the next day, Jo says to him that she and her family does not has any more wedding for a while. From the following conversation, Jo flouts the maxim of relevant by giving the irrelevant response to Laurie statement. Maxim of relevance is a speaker contribution must be relevant to be purpose to the interaction. In Grice theory (1983: 32). She changes by saying “*No, I,m not the agreeable sort. Nobody will*”. This utterance is irrelevant with Laurie statement because Laurie talks that he wants Jo go a married after Meg. But Jo replies a different answer.

Here, the researcher interprets that Jo knows that she has make a fault to Laurie but she did not give the. Jo flouts the maxim of relevant because in this situation she feels uncomfortable with Laurie about marriage statement. Based on the context, Jo is a tomboy, reacts with impatience to the many limitations placed on women and girls. She hates romance in her real life, and wants nothing more than to hold her family together. Furthermore, she makes the situation makes more serious by stating irrelevant statement to Laurie.

## Conclusion

Based on the foregoing analysis, it can be concluded that there are some benefits, there are 2 points that concluded as concluding below based on the statement of the problems in the previous chapter. From the first statement of problem, maxim of quantity flouted with give more contribution than is required. Maxim of quality flouted with give response too long, too much or too little what they evidence for. Maxim of relevance flouted with irrelevant replies. And maxim of manner flouted with not giving replies in good order. Therefore, by applying Flouting Cooperative Principles, Grice developed a model called Cooperative Principle, which human beings follow to ensure successful communication. Grice mentioned that they are four maxims of Cooperative Principles, such as: maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. It is included that the flouting of the maxims are purposeful and therefore researcher also suggests other studies make similar research using similar theory of speech act.

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