

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. The Background of the study

The major aim of communication is exchanging information in the condition of being informative. Communication involves speaker/s and hearer/s regarding exchanging information. When a speaker exchanges information, he/she should consider the amount of information, the truth, the relevancy and the manner. As the purpose of exchanging the information can be benefit both of them, the participants of a conversation are supposed to utter that can be understood so that their conversation becomes smooth.

Pragmatics as a mean in explaining language, it can explain the process in a particular context where a conversation happens. As a discipline within language science, Pragmatics as linguistics disciple roots lie in the work of Grice that falls out into Cooperative Principle or the four maxims that take roles to determine whether a conversation is successful or not.

There are rules or patterns in a conversation that should be followed by participants which are based on Grice falls out into Cooperative Principle where speaker/s and hearer/s are supposed to respond to each other in their turn and exchange with the needed information that benefits both of them. By giving the required information, they can understand each other's utterances and their conversations become smooth.

Cooperative Principle is the basis of successful conversation where participants are cooperative each other by giving information not too much or too little, by saying truth and avoiding the act of lying, by being relevant to topic of conversation and also by talking in good manner; brief, clear, and orderly. Listeners and speakers must speak cooperatively and mutually accept one another to be understood in a particular way. The cooperative principle describes how effective communication in conversation is achieved in common social situations.

Cooperation in Cooperative Principle can be understood as an essential factor when speaker/s and hearer/s are interacting. It is an expectation that the listener has toward the speaker. The speaker is supposed to convey true statements and say nothing more than required. When people talk each other, they try to converse smoothly and successfully.

However, the rules can be obeyed and violated. The violation term comes from the situation that speaker/s do not fulfill the Cooperative Principle and they are considered as they give information too much or too little, give false information, talk far from the topic, and talk in bad manner; not clear, not brief and not orderly. When the speakers do maxim violation, the conversation between the speakers and the hearers can be unsuccessful since they will misunderstand each other. Speakers who violate a maxim cause the hearer not to know the truth and only understand the surface meaning of the speaker's words.

A classroom discussion is a set of conversation which consists of some people from different social background and taking place in academic activity as a

purposeful process. In here, people exchange the ideas, thoughts and feelings through oral communication.

A classroom discussion consists of two to five or more groups of people which try to discuss a topic and give solution to the problem. One group may consist of people from different background as the set of social aspects such as ethnicity, religion, status, gender, academic success, popularity and age. In a group discussion, each member of the group will try to make the discussion be successful so that they build a close relationship among the member along with the discussion.

Classroom discussion occurs in academic activity, State University of Medan is as an institution which can hold this. State University of Medan is originally established in 1956. State University of Medan provides programs ranging from undergraduate diplomas to postgraduate. Applied Linguistics (English language) as one of three programs offered beside Education Technology and Education Administration. Post-graduate program is intended to educate people who have finished their first or bachelor's degree. Most of the students come from professionals who have had job before entering the program. Students come from various ethnicity, ages and academic background where they take their first or bachelor's degree.

Violation seems to be a tradition in fact and this happens also in classroom discussion that is supposed to follow the Cooperative Principle. Violation in classroom discussion happens when speaker/s do not give information adequately;

not too much or too little, do not give true statement, talk far from topic and talk in bad manner; not brief, not clear and not orderly.

Here is an example of violation to Cooperative Principle which occurs in a classroom discussion of Postgraduate students majorly English in State University of Medan yearly 2014:

- 1 A: "Thank you for the chance, I would like to question about the research methodology. In your research, what is the methodology is used and why do you choose that one as your research methodology? If it is qualitative, why, and if it quantitative, why? Because you just mention about the definition of qualitative design but you do not mention the reason why you use it, thank you."
- 5 B: "Ok thank you. Yeah, this research is trying to see utterances, just like sentences, or words or phrases, we use also accounting in the last step to find out the percentage, but is, but it is not quantitative but use qualitative."
- 10 A: "So, you have already explained about it but I can still not accept your reason why do you use qualitative."  
 B: "Oh I see, yeah. Hmm..because we want to describe the problem, the problem into explain on how it is, I mean how something happens in social."  
 A: "I still confuse because I think quantitative is also describe, what do you think?"

(Conversation recording is taken from A2 Class English Applied Linguistics Program yearly 2014 of Postgraduate program in State University of Medan: June 22, 2015. 03.00 PM.)

From the example above, it can be explained that there are violation occurrences, namely violation to maxim of quantity and manner. The violation of maxim quantity happens since the speaker breaks the rules to be informative by being to the point. The sentences from line 5 to 7 are as the evidence of being not to the point. The use of certain words when people are going to deliver information is also a violation to maxim quantity since the rules of maxim quantity is people should deliver their information by speaking not too much and

not too short. In asserting ideas, speaker is supposed to speak not too much or too little by considering about logic ideas. Logic ideas is the way of speaking as simple as possible and also put main idea or topic in the first of utterances, since if speaker put main idea or topic of speaking in the end of utterances, the hearer tends to lose with the main information and causes confrontation also from the hearer. This is in line with Yule (1996) theories that speakers do obedience to maxims for the reason of avoiding confrontation, getting other's trust and avoiding a deep evaluation.

The violation of maxim manner arises from the conversation can be explained from the markers that are proposed by Natalie in 2008. Grice (1975) mentions two rules of maxim of manner; they are being briefly and being orderly". In this case, the speaker in answering question is briefly enough but she doesn't speak orderly since speak in orderly means that when we speak which contains more than one ideas, it is better to mention the focus or the most important idea in the beginning of our utterances and followed by explanations. The way of speaker in the example is explaining about qualitative design followed by quantitative and goes back in explaining about qualitative. The violation to maxim of manner will really occur when hearer cannot get their purpose or intention as they wish.

Therefore, based on the phenomena mention above, this study tries to find out the occurrences of conversational maxims whether the discussion participants obey or violate them during the classroom discussion.

## **1.2. The Problems of the Study**

Based on the explanation given in the background, the problems of the study are formulated in the following questions:

1. What types of conversational maxim occur in English Post-graduate students' classroom discussions of State University of Medan?
2. How the conversational maxims occur in English Post-graduate students' classroom discussions of State University of Medan?
3. Why do the conversational maxims occur in English Post-graduate students' classroom discussions of State University of Medan the way they are?

## **1.3. The Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of study can be described as follows:

1. To find out the types of conversational maxims which occur in English Post-Graduate students' classroom discussion of State University of Medan
2. To find out the way of conversational maxims occur in English Post-graduate students' classroom discussion of State University of Medan
3. To find out the reason of obedience and violations of conversational maxims by students in English Post-Graduate students' classroom discussion of State University of Medan.

#### **1.4. The Scope of the Study**

As stated in the previous explanation that conversational maxims can occur also in classroom discussion. This study attempts to investigate the conversational maxims in English Post-Graduate students' classroom discussion in State University of Medan. The aspects to be observed are the occurrences of obedience and violence in conversational maxims.

#### **1.5. The Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study have two general significances, theoretical and practical significances.

Theoretically, the results of this study are useful for :

1. The enrichment of linguistics knowledge in the field of pragmatics especially in conversational maxims.
2. Development studies on cooperative principle about logic conversational implicature which is known as conversational maxims.

Practically, the results of this study are useful for :

1. As a reference for the university students who are interested in studying pragmatics and interested in conducting any further studies in conversational maxims.
2. For speakers and listeners in daily conversation. By obeying conversational maxims, they have an effective cooperation in communication. Then, they can create good understanding in daily communication.