

THE ANALYSIS OF MAXIMS FOUND IN THE NOVEL “NEVER GO BACK”

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Abstract

The novel *Never Go Back* is a best selling novel written by Lee Child. He is one of the world's leading thriller writers. The novel is sold somewhere in the world every twenty seconds. The second Jack Reacher film starring Tom Cruise, based on this novel, is out in October 2016. It consistently achieves the number-one slot in hardback and paperback on bestseller lists on both sides of the Atlantic, and is published in over one hundred territories. He is the recipient of many prizes, most recently the CWA's Diamond Dagger for writer of an outstanding body of crime fiction. He was born in Coventry, brought up in Birmingham, and now lives in New York. The uses of maxims are found in a number of utterances of the novel. The aim of the research is to analyze the uses of those ones in the novel's utterances. They are maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. The research method used in the research is qualitative method. According to Grice in Leech (1983: 7-8), there is a general assumption underpinning all utterances interpretations. The interpretation is guided by a cooperative principle, in which a speaker and a hearer are engaged in some shared goals. Then, the elements of those cooperative principles are called maxims. There are four kinds of maxims. Firstly, maxim of quality, it is meant that do not say what you believe to be false. You are not expected to say lack adequate evidence. Secondly, maxim of quantity, it requires your contribution as informative as is required. Thirdly, maxim of relation, it requires your contribution to be relevant. Fourthly, maxim of manner, it is meant that your contribution must be perspicuous and brief. It also avoids obscurity of expression and ambiguity. The aim of the study is: (i) to find out maxims in the novel, (ii) to classify the maxims, (iii) to analyze the kinds of each maxim.

Keywords: assumption, cooperative principle, maxims, utterances

1. Introduction

In making a communication or a dialogue, an utterance usually emerges an assumption. Then, the assumption will emerge an interpretation. The interpretation of the utterance sometimes does not have a shared goal between a speaker and a hearer because there is no guidance for interpreting an utterance. The guidance in interpreting an utterance is really needed in communication. It is needed because of there must be a cooperation between a speaker and a hearer in making a shared goal. To overcome the problem in

interpreting the utterance so that a shared goal can be made, it needs a cooperative principle.

According to Grice (1989), cooperative principle is a general condition on the way rational conversation is conducted. It is the essential principle that the participants in a conversation work together in order to manage their speech exchange in the most efficient way. Then, to manage it to be efficient, Grice proposed maxims. Gricean maxims are divided into four kinds including the maxim of quality, the maxim of quantity, the maxim of relevance and the maxim of manner. First, the maxim of quality refers to the true contribution. It means do not say what you believe to be false and lack of adequate evidence. Second, the maxim of quantity states that the contribution must be as informative as is required for the current purposes of the exchange and it must be more informative than is required. Third, the maxim of relevance concerns with the relevant contribution. Fourth, the maxim of manner points out perspicuous contribution and it avoids obscurity and ambiguity and it also must be brief and orderly.

According to Yule (1996), cooperative principle is the pervasive cooperation assumption and it happens in most circumstances. Cooperative principle is the opinion that speakers do not only heed the co-operative principle in conversation, but also a further principle relating to the interactional nature of conversation (Leech, 1983). According to Mouton (2011), cooperative principle is a universal explanation of why, with the cooperation of one's interlocutor and with mutual inferential calculations, it is possible to communicate with the most eccentric linguistic and non-linguistic means. Cooperative principle is the norm governing the particular type of inference (Bara, 2010).

Maxim is the principle obeyed by the speakers in the interaction to make sure that the conversation runs smoothly (Hassani, 2019). Maxim is used to maintain the conversation so that it runs smoothly and harmoniously (Aristyanti, Sutopo & Yuliasri, 2020). Maxim is the rule to know whether the speaker can be cooperative or not while he/she contributes the information in the conversation (Hamani & Puluhulawa, 2019). Maxim is a guideline during the communication (Fitriyani, Mujiyanto & Suwandi, 2020). Maxim is the principle making effective communication (Pradika & Rohmanti, 2018). According to Harared (2015), maxim is used to fulfil the cooperative principle. Maxim is the Grice's viewpoint making cooperative conversation (Hidayanti, Lukman & Asmi, 2018). According to Fadhli (2012), maxim is the guidance of contribution to talk about.

This research study is focused on the uses of Grice's four maxims found in the conversations of the novel *Never Go Back*. Maxim theory is used to help us learning how to make a cooperative principle between a speaker and a hearer in a conversation so that it will be true based on adequate evidence, informative, relevant, clear, brief and be orderly. By using maxim theory in analyzing the conversations in this novel, it is expected that we will be able to apply the cooperative principle in every conversation so that the conversations will be cooperative, effective, informative, smooth and harmonious. It is in line with the concept Grice's Cooperative Principle.

This research study is done to analyze the uses of maxims found in the conversations of the novel *Never Go Back*. They are maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. Therefore, there are two research questions proposed (1) What kinds of maxims found in the conversations of the novel *Never Go Back*? (2) Why are those conversations classified into those maxims?

2. Method

The method used in the research is qualitative method. The data from the novel "*Never Go Back*" especially the conversations containing the uses of maxims are analyzed qualitatively. Library research is used in this research since it is needed books, pens and computers to analyze the maxims in each conversation found in the novel "*Never Go Back*".

Note-taking method is used for gathering the selected data. The method of collecting the data is initiated by reading the whole data source to observe and classify them into the maxims. Firstly, the data source is read to find out the conversations containing the use of maxims. Secondly, the conversations are classified based on the kinds of maxims. Finally, the conversations are analyzed by kinds of maxims.

According to Bogdan and Biklen (1982), qualitative research is done descriptively. It means that the data collected is in the form of words. Therefore, by applying the research method, the data is analyzed by two steps. First, the selected data is listed based on maxims. Second, the data listed is described based on each maxim.

Maxim is the cooperative principle helping people in communication activities to convey effective, communicative, and understandable information. There are four kinds of maxim, such as: maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. The brief explanations of those maxims will be explained as follows:

a. Maxim of Quality

Make your contribution one that is true. Do not say what you believe to be false. Avoid stating information that you believe might be wrong, unless there is some compelling reason to do so. If you do choose to include it, then provide a disclaimer that points your doubts regarding this information. Do not say that for which you lack evidence. Avoid including information that you can't back up with supporting evidence. If you do choose to include such information for some reason, provide a disclaimer that points out your doubts. For example:

A: 'What is the capital of Indonesia?'

B: 'The capital of Indonesia is Jakarta'.

b. Maxim of Quantity

Make your contribution as informative as is required. Provide all the information which are necessary for the purpose of the current exchange. Don't leave out anything important. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required. Leave out any unnecessary details that aren't important to the current exchange. For example:

A: 'What did you have for dinner last night?'

B: 'I had beefsteak and fried chicken'.

c. Maxim of Relation

Be relevant. Make sure that all the information you provide is relevant to the current exchange. Omit irrelevant information. For example:

A: 'Where is my wallet?'

B: 'Your mother was in your bedroom this morning'.

d. Maxim of Manner

Be perspicuous or clear. Avoid obscurity of expression. Avoid language which is difficult to understand, such as because it contains words that the listener doesn't know. Avoid ambiguity. Avoid ambiguous language which can be interpreted in multiple ways, and which therefore makes it difficult for your recipient to understand what exactly you're trying to say. Be brief. Provide information in a brief manner, that allows your recipient to focus on the key details. Be orderly. Provide information in an order that makes sense, and makes it easy for your recipient to process it. For example:

A: 'What are you doing?'

B: 'I'm writing an essay on metonymy. It's a type of figure of speech!'

3. Research and Discussion

Dialogue 1

Reacher : 'And who are you?'

Guy : 'We're your legal advisers' (page13)

Dialogue 1 belongs to the maxim of quantity. The contribution 'we're your legal advisers' is informative and it is like what is required. It provides all the information which are necessary for the purpose of the current exchange. The contribution does not leave out anything important. It is not more informative than is required. The contribution leaves out any unnecessary details that aren't important to the current exchange.

Dialogue 2

Reacher : 'How many CO's do you have?'

Guy : 'Just one, Sir' (page 22)

Dialogue 2 belongs to the maxim of quantity. The contribution 'Just one, Sir' is informative and it is like what is required. It provides all the information which are necessary for the purpose of the current exchange. The contribution does not leave out anything important. It is not more informative than is required. The contribution leaves out any unnecessary details that aren't important to the current exchange.

Dialogue 3

Guy : 'What name I shall give?'
Reacher : 'Reacher' (page 22)

Dialogue 3 belongs to the maxim of quality. The contribution 'Reacher' is true. The information stated believed is true. It is not lack of evidence. The information given is backed up with supporting evidence.

Dialogue 4

Reacher : 'Where is Major Turner?'
Morgan : 'Not here' (page 28)

Dialogue 4 belongs to the maxim of quantity. The contribution 'Not here' is informative and it is like what is required. It provides all the information which are necessary for the purpose of the current exchange. The contribution does not leave out anything important. It is not more informative than is required. The contribution leaves out any unnecessary details that aren't important to the current exchange.

Dialogue 5

Reacher : 'Where then?'
Morgan : 'We might get to that. But first I need to understand your interest' (page 28)

Dialogue 5 belongs to the maxim of relation. The contribution is relevant. Make sure that all the information you provide is relevant to the current exchange. Omit irrelevant information. The contribution 'We might get to that. But first I need to understand your interest' gives the information that the location to get to is based on Reacher's interest.

Dialogue 6

Morgan : 'What exactly?'
Reacher : 'It was a private conversation, Colonel and I don't know you are' (28)

Dialogue 6 belongs to the maxim of quantity. The contribution 'It was a private conversation, Colonel and I don't know you are' is informative and it is like what is required. It provides all the information which are necessary for the purpose of the current exchange. The contribution does not leave out anything important. It is not more informative than is required. The contribution leaves out any unnecessary details that aren't important to the current exchange.

Dialogue 7

Reacher : 'Where is Major Turner?'

Morgan : 'This interview is not about Major Turner' (page 29-30)

Dialogue 7 belongs to the maxim of relation. The contribution is relevant. Make sure that all the information you provide is relevant to the current exchange. Omit irrelevant information. The contribution 'This interview is not about Major Turner' gives the information that the Morgan does not know where Major Turner is.

Dialogue 8

Juliet : 'Where are they putting him?'

Romeo : 'Their usual motel, I expect' (page 37)

Dialogue 8 belongs to the maxim of manner. The contribution 'Their usual motel, I expect' is perspicuous or clear. It avoids obscurity of expression. It avoids language which is difficult to understand, such as because it contains words that the listener doesn't know. It avoids ambiguity. It avoids ambiguous language which can be interpreted in multiple ways, and which therefore makes it difficult for the recipient to understand what exactly he/she trying to say. It is brief. It provides information in a brief manner, that allows the recipient to focus on the key details. It is orderly. It provides information in an order that makes sense, and makes it easy for the recipient to process it.

4. Conclusion

The uses of four maxims are analyzed in the research. There are four maxims used in the dialogues of the novel *Never Go Back*. They are used to manage the essential principle that the participants in a conversation work together so that their speech exchange will run in the most efficient way. The theory applied in the research uses the theory of Grice's maxims (1989). Qualitative method is used in the research. The data of the dialogues containing the uses of maxims. There are four kinds of maxims found in the dialogues of the novel such as: maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner.

The method used in the research is qualitative method. The data from the novel "*Never Go Back*" especially the conversations containing the uses of maxims are analyzed qualitatively. Library research is used in this research since it is needed books, pens and computers to analyze the maxims in each conversation found in the novel "*Never Go Back*". Note-taking method is used for gathering the selected data. The method of collecting the data is initiated by reading the whole data source to observe and classify them into the maxims. Firstly, the data source is read to find out the conversations containing the use of maxims. Secondly, the conversations are classified

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