CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, research questions, focuses of the study, the scope of the study, significance of the study, the previous of the study, and paper organization.

A. Background of the Study

Humans are social beings who depend on other people. People should have interaction with other people to support and help their life. The interaction should be built with some communications. Language can be a tool of communication. According to Sirbu, Language is essentially a means of communication among member in society.\(^1\) It means that language is important in communications. By language, people can build a conversation which delivering their purpose or giving information with other people. So, it will make a good communication.

However, sometimes the conversation does not go well. The hearer unable to understand what have speaker said. It makes they get misunderstanding in their conversation. To avoid it, the hearer should know and

understand the speaker’s purpose and meaning. There is a study to learn speaker’s meaning called pragmatics.

According to Paltridge, pragmatics is the study of meaning in relation to the context in which a person speaking or writing.² Karthik in *Pragmatics and Language Communication* defined pragmatics as the study of what the speaker means by saying something and what the hearer understands when something is said or how does a speaker use language in a particular context and how it is interpreted in the use of same context.³ When the speaker give a clear information, the the hearer will be understanding the meaning, the good communication will be constructed.

In pragmatics, there are guidelines to make communication goes safe. According to Grice theory, there are four principles to make communication goes safe with others that relate to be truthful, give a required information, be relevant and avoid unnecessary ambiguity, called “Cooperative Principle”. Grice stated that those four principles can be obeyed by the participant in conversation so that they can give contribution to the conversation and the conversation itself go on softly.⁴ When the speaker and the hearer contribute

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well and being cooperate in their interaction, it makes the good communication between them.

In fact, people made mistakes in communication. They usually speak what is in their mind and do not obeyed the cooperative principle. It made they break the guidelines of cooperative principle which is called flouting maxim. Thomas stated that the flouting maxim occurs when a speaker blatantly fails to observe a maxim, not with any intention of deceiving or misleading, but because the speaker wishes to prompt the hearer to look for a meaning which is different from, or in addition to, the expressed meaning. The flouting maxim occurred in conversation between speaker and the hearer. It could be spoken and written. Cutting gived an example of the flouting maxim as in this sort of exchange between husband and wife:

The Wife : Where are you off to?

The Husband : I was thinking of going out to get some of that funny white stuff for somebody.

The Wife : OK, but don’t be long – dinner’s nearly ready.

From the example above, the husband speaks in an ambiguous way, he says *that funny white stuff* and *somebody*, because he avoids to say *ice cream* and *Michelle*, so that his little daughter does not become excited and ask for

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the ice cream before her meal. It makes the flouting maxim of manner occurred by the ambiguity in the conversation.

Brown and Yule defined the analysis of discourse is the analysis of language in use.⁷ Van Dijk in his book *Discourse as Structure and Process*, stated that discourse studies to formulate theories that explain such relationships between language use, beliefs and interaction.⁸ Cutting stated that pragmatics and discourse analysis focus on the meaning of words in interaction and how interactors communicate more information than the words that they use.⁹ From those statements above, it clearly explained that the cooperative principle theory can be analysed by discourse analysis approach and also pragmatics as a supported approach. The cooperative principle can be found in written text which consisted of some communication and conversation inside.

The researcher interested to understanding more about the cooperative principle in conversation, so the researcher decided to take this as a field to her study. This study aimed at studying the flouting maxims of cooperative principle in the novel Entitled *Everything I Never Told You* written by Celeste Ng. This novel told about a sensitive family portrait, the cultural differences, and the rifts within a family. It also told about the relationship between mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle to

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understand one another and the most important thing is a meaning of a home to each other. The researcher wondered how the characters in the novel obeyed the cooperative principle and how the maxims are flouted in their conversations.

This study focused on the flouting maxims in the characters’ utterances within conversation which occurred because the truth or not information that speaker said, the less or the more informative information that speaker said, the relation between utterances, and the obscurity and ambiguity of the utterances. Hence, this study is written to enrich the studies of the flouting maxim of cooperative principle.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study that presented above, the research questions are:

1. What types of maxim are flouted in the novel *Everything I Never Told You*?

2. Which type of maxim is mostly flouted in conversations of the novel *Everything I Never Told You*?

C. Focuses of the Study

The focuses of the study is to respond the problems outlined in the research questions. Based on that, the focuses of the study are:
1. To identify the types of maxim that flout in the novel *Everything I Never Told You*.

2. To know the type of maxim is mostly flouted in conversations of the novel *Everything I Never Told You*.

D. **The Scope of the Study**

The scope in this study is the flouting maxims that occurred in the novel entitled *Everything I Never Told You* written by Celeste Ng based on the theory of Cooperative Principle by Paul Grice. This study only investigated the flouting of four maxims; **maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner**. The discussions are limited by characters’ utterances which contained the flouting of maxims in the conversations.

E. **Significance of the Study**

This study is expected to provide additional knowledge about the function of language in conversations. It will be useful both academically and practically.

1. Academically, this study can enrich the linguistic study sources especially in pragmatics which is Grice’s theory about Cooperative Principle and Flouting Maxims in novel.

2. Practically, this study can make people understand about how to make communication more effective and to make the sentences that the speaker said is more acceptable to the hearer. Furthermore, it can help the language teachers to make innovation and interaction in the classroom. It
could help foreign language students to more understand in studying Cooperative Principle.

F. The Previous of the Study

There are two prior studies related to this study’s topic of the flouting maxim of cooperative principle. The first previous study is *Violating and Flouting of The Four Gricean Cooperative Maxims in Friends the American TV Series* by Leyly Jorfi and Hamidreza Dowlatabadi. This study focused on the instances of violation and flouting of Grice’s maxims in the American TV series “friends” (Series 1, scene 1; the one where Monica gets a new roommate). This study investigated the violation and flouting and they both came to the conclusion that such violations and floutings contribute to humor creation.

The second previous study is *Conversation Implicatures In Harry Potter And The Deathly Hallows Part I And II Movie Transcription : A Discourse Analysis With Pragmatics As An Approach* by M. Syaiful Bahri from English Letters Department, Adab and Humanity Faculty, State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta 2015. This study focused on the types of implicature that used in the dialogues of the film *Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows part II*, analysing the implicature in the dialogue how the characters use implicature in their conversations and knowing the meaning from the implicature in their conversations.
The gap between this study with the prior types of study explained above is this study used content analysis as a method and the prior study used case study as a method. This study also used novel as data source and only analysed about flouting maxims of cooperative principle that occurred in the characters’ utterances within conversation from the novel *Everything I Never Told You* written by Celeste Ng.

G. Paper Organization

This study consisted of five chapters which divided into some divisions. Chapter one presented the introduction which consisted of background of the study, research questions, focuses of the study, the scope of the study, significance of the study, the previous of the study, and paper organization. Chapter two presented the theoretical review which explained about the theories that are used in this study. Chapter three presented the methodology of the study which explained about the method that is used in this study. Chapter four presented the research findings, data analysis, and discussion about flouting maxims in the novel entitled *Everything I Never Told You* written by Celeste Ng which answered research questions in this study. Chapter five is closing provided conclusion of the study and suggestions for further approach.