

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter is the first chapter in this research and it deals with the basic ideas in compiling the research. There are six sub-chapters here, the first one is background of the research and the rest are questions of the research, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation (of the research) and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Research

Language is a device in human communication. Human language is different from other creatures'. It contains both of communication signal and informative signal which may be unintentionally. Based on that explanation by Yule (2006:8), this research tends to be a linguistic research that concerns in linguistics as the scope of the study. It will study about any communication as human interaction, where there is an activity of transfer 'message' occurs.

Cruse defines communication is the transfer of information between human beings (2000:5). From his statement, have already known that in daily life human produces some utterances to transfer their 'message' or their 'intention' to the other. The communication is said to be successful that the interlocutors understand of what the speakers mean. In terms of communication meaning is beyond any utterance

which is addressed, for a further discussion linguistics has one branch of study called pragmatics. Pragmatics is the study about the “speaker meaning”. Yule (2006:112) realizes that it is very important to know the notion of the speakers because the communication is clearly depends on not only recognizing the meaning of word in an utterance, but recognizing what the speaker mean by their utterances.

In Bara’s perspective, each communicative interaction is an activity where the initiative alternates between the participants involved, and where the responsibility for the interaction is constantly shared between those participants (2010:61). Some people might have their own interpretation of ‘messages’ that is uttered, but in particular condition people might need some technical or specific ways in order to determining the notion when it has no clear meaning. Many factors that are considered to be the main causes of why people tend to imply their meaning rather than giving a clear statement to their interlocutors. Thus, with the pragmatic study, the researcher tries to reveals how the disambiguation is achieved and how the implicit meaning is interpreted in each communication.

When someone utters something with an additional conveyed meaning (Yule, 2006:131), the speaker is considered delivering an implicature to his interlocutors. Some researchers have already declared the reasons of why people imply their notion, but beyond all those reasons the main aim of communication must be achieved. The usage of implicature by some speakers may lead to the results of the conversation. Grice believes that the usage of implicature might causes some extreme cases of success and failure. Bara’s perception according to Grice statement (2010:66) is the conversational implicature said to be successful occurs when the interlocutors understand the speaker’s wish and accommodate it,

in contrast, the conversational implicature said to be failed occurs when the interlocutors do not understand the speaker's wish or when he has no intention of accommodating the latter's desires and thus interrupts the conversation.

Out of Bara's view, commonly people do not care too much about the success and failure of their utterance in daily communication. Still, people use an implicature in their communicative interaction in order to reach some reasons. The important note from Yule to make clear the explanation of implicature which occurs in communication is, it is speakers who communicate meaning via implicature and it is listeners who recognize those communicated meaning via inference (1996:40). The study of implicature, however, is not a form of inference that can be predicted solely from a knowledge of the system of sense relation between sentences (Hurford, 2007:316), but it is also determined by social relationship.

The researcher realizes that a linguistic interaction depends on the relation of social interaction. Implicatures are uttered as a specific action in order to keep the social relation and closeness. Yule (1996:59) explains that there are some external factors and internal factors which influence the addressee to pay attention toward what they are going to say and how they are interpreted. A wide range of interaction where the social distance determined by external factors is dominant, however, the internal factors might be the degree of friendliness, which are often negotiated during an interaction. The implicatures which arise from these factors cause an impact normally carried out in terms of politeness. Crystal defines the politeness phenomena in pragmatics as a term of linguistic features mediating norms of social behavior (2008:373). The researcher notices that both of implicature and the degree of politeness have a close relation in communication.

Moreover, politeness has a great deal in the way conversation is managed and structured by its participants.

The conversational implicatures are also used by the screenwriters in making a harmonious conversations among the characters. One of the films that contains very good arrangement of conversations is written by M. Night Shyamalan. He is known as one of the best writers in the world who becomes the screenwriter, film director and producer as well. Further, he is known for writing, filming and setting his works around and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania where he was grown up. Most of his films that are written and directed by him are notably his affinity for surprise endings. Born in Puducherry, India, Shyamalan earned the Merit Scholarship at New York University in 1988. Graduating in 1992 from Tisch School of the Arts, he continued his passion to write and make a screenplay of the films. Beginning with *The Sixth Sense* in 1999 and filmed in the same year, this film nominated for six academy awards including best picture, best director and best original screenplay. Starting with this point, he increases his ability in writing a screenplay and directing some movies in the next following years. It is proved in his wiring and directing *Unbreakable* in 2000 which has the positive reviews, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* in 2001 and so forth.

The researcher is interested in Shyamalan's first work, *The Sixth Sense*, as the object of the research. It has a complicated problems especially in psychological view which is combined with contemporary supernatural plots. In the linguistic viewpoints, the conversations in this script are considered containing a lot of implicatures. The conversations that considered contain a major implicatures is the conversations between the two main characters, Dr. Malcolm Crowe as a child

psychologist and Cole Sear as a nine-year-old child who is troubled by the spirits that try to communicate with him. This research is proposed to reveal what the major motives are and why the speakers tend to hide their notions. Out of those matters, the steps of the conversations between them can make Cole as the social isolated child becomes so close to Dr. Crowe where in the beginning of the story he is just a stranger for Cole. This reason also proves that the conversation which is structured so well is able to emerge the closeness between the people. Finally, as far as the research knowledge, a study of conversational implicatures in this kind of film script is still difficult to find. Moreover the genre of the film is thrilling which is combined with a strong psychological problems. Indeed, this kind of the research will offer the contribution in studying about linguistics in general and about pragmatics as well as implicature in particular.

1.2 Questions of the Research

There are so many ways in analyzing the linguistics problems in various approaches. And based on the approaches that the researcher has already explained in the background of the study, the following questions are addressed:

1. What do the speakers (Dr. Malcolm Crowe and Cole Sear) possibly imply in some of their utterances?
2. Why do the speakers (Dr. Malcolm Crowe and Cole Sear) imply their intentions?

Those two main questions will be the basic purposes of this thesis. In addition, those research problems are considered to be an important thing in studying linguistics in terms of pragmatics and implicature, whether the subject of

the study is written or spoken. The researcher presumes that other linguistic learners reluctantly study in the deeper way, thus this questions of the research hopefully will make them thinking about linguistics in detail.

1.3 Objectives of the Research

Generally, pragmatics is the study of ‘invisible’ meaning, or how we recognize what is meant even when it is not actually said or written (Yule, 2006: 112). People sometimes fail to interpret the meaning because they lack of sensitivity or even they do not care too much about the ‘invisible’ meaning which is addressed for them. The researcher is about to manage their point of view towards the study of language in pragmatics, as the researcher studies the conversational implicature in the script of *The Sixth Sense*. The identification of conversational implicatures which are written in M. Night Shyamalan’s film script is done in order to do the followings:

1. To reveal the possible hidden meanings of the speakers (Dr. Malcolm Crowe and Cole Sear).
2. To analyze the causes of why the speakers (Dr. Malcolm Crowe and Cole Sear) prefer implying their intention.

1.4 Significance of the Research

Ambiguity is not only a common in human language, but also a complicated problem. In daily life, ambiguity exists everywhere. For many years, it goes deeper in many of linguistic focuses. Some linguistics branches might focus on the

utterances that having more than one meanings. The significance of ambiguity brings the improvement of people's understanding in interpreting the meanings of the speakers. Meanwhile, the deeper understanding makes people more capable in dealing with ambiguity.

Brown and Levinson (1987:55) give the close significance of the work that discovering the principles of language usage may be largely coincident with discovering the principles out of which social relationships, in their interactional aspect, are constructed dimensions by which individuals manage to relate to others in particular ways. This research is proposed to strengthen that there are many other aspect of pragmatics which deal with verbal communication. Still, the researcher focuses on what has been identified by Brown and Levinson, this experts believe that in case of linguistic pragmatics a great deal of the mismatch between what is 'said' and what is 'implicated' can be attributed to politeness. Indeed, the language should be supplemented with attention to the 'social functions' of language, which seem to motivate much linguistic detail (1987:2-3).

By the end of the research, hopefully, the linguistics learners will be aware of the implicit intention addressed by the speaker. Moreover, this study will open our mind to see more and deeper of what the speakers are meant, not of what the speakers are said. This research might become the reference towards some reasonably interpretation in understanding more than the speakers is said, otherwise in understanding what the speakers is meant. As Mey has already explained, pragmatics focuses on language-using humans, it prefers to talk about 'messages' and 'language users' (2001:20). Clearly see that the important significance will be depend on how deep people understand of the 'message' in communication. It

might be perfecting and mastering the linguistic learners in carrying and addressing their 'message' to make the communication flows perfectly without out any misunderstanding.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Linguistics is considered as the scope of this research. The researcher applies the linguistic scope to find a pragmatic tendency in the conversations between Dr. Malcolm Crowe and Cole Sear in the script of *The Sixth Sense* by M. Night Shyamalan. There are so many conversations between these two characters that take place in this script, though, the researcher focuses on the part of conversations that indicate the conversational implicature. The research, however, is limited by the idea of implicature, which links logic and conversation. The idea, originally, was developed by the philosopher Paul Grice (Hurford, 2007:324). Other limitations within this research are the principles of textual pragmatics added by the principles of politeness which make the scope of the research is valid to be analyzed.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

One important part in organizing a good analysis is the terms that are often used by the researcher, they should be clear so that everyone agrees what exactly are under discussion. The misleading definitions can cause some confusing interpretations because the definitions are ambiguous. The special terms related to this research are considered as follows:

1.6.1 Cole Sear

One of the characters in *The Sixth Sense*. Cole is a son of Lynn Sear who lives in south Philadelphia only with his mother. Cole Sear is a troubled, isolated boy who is able to see and talk to the dead. This nine year old boy believes that the spirits who talk to him want to tell him some messages or ask a help. His ability is not known by her mother as well as his psychologist. But by the end of the story, Cole tells his mother and his psychologist too that he sees dead people, who walk around like the living unaware they are dead.

1.6.2 Dr. Malcolm Crowe

Dr. Malcolm Crowe is a child psychologist who lives in Philadelphia with his wife Anna Crowe. In the script of *The Sixth sense*, he tries to help a boy named Cole Sear who has a psychological trouble. Without realizing that he has already dead, he still becomes Cole's psychologist until he finally realizes that he has been shot by his previous patient, Vincent Gray.

1.6.3 Implicature

It is very important in determining what someone means by what they say. Therefore, Implicature is one of the studies which has a concern in it. In Hurford's view implicature is a notion of utterance meaning, contrast with entailment, a notion of sentence meaning

(2007:324). Meanwhile, Yule (2006:131) defines that implicature is an additional conveyed meaning in utterance. From those two viewpoints, the researcher concludes that implicature is meaning beyond what is uttered. Several types of implicature have been discussed, in the context of the relationship between language and logical expression, and of the conditions which affect the appropriateness of utterances. Related to this research, one type of implicature is conversational implicature.

1.6.4 (Conversational) Implicature

Yule (1996) defines that conversational implicature is contrast with conventional implicature. It is based on the co-operative principles or the maxims. The conversational implicature has to occur in conversation, it depend on special context for its interpretation. Other explanation according to Crystal, conversational implicature is based on a certain co-operative principles which govern the efficiency and normal acceptability of conversation (2008:238). From these close definitions, they can be concluded that conversational implicatures need a context and co-operative principles so that the hidden ‘message’ of the addressee can be revealed.

1.6.4.1 Generalized Conversational Implicature

This first type of conversational implicatures is generalized conversational implicature. In Yule’s pragmatics, it defined as an

implicature without special background knowledge of the context of utterance which is required in order to make the important inferences (1996:40). Further explanation, however, generalized conversational implicature has little or nothing to do with the most relevant understanding of an utterance (Grundy, 2008:82). Thus, generalized conversational implicatures are irrespective of the context in which they occur.

1.6.4.2 Particularized Conversational Implicature

Little different from generalized conversational implicature, this implicatures are context-bound. Thus, Yule explains that this type of conversational implicature has been calculated with special knowledge of any particular context (1996:42). In addition, Grundy (2008:82) has a deeper explanation. In his view, particularized conversational implicatures are conclusions that the interlocutors need to draw to understand how an utterance is relevant in the some context. Without any misleading, the former not being restricted to a particular context, and the latter requiring a particular context.

1.6.5 *The Sixth Sense*

The Sixth Sense is a 1999 American supernatural thriller film. The script is written by M. Night Shyamalan as the director of the film as well.

1.6.6 Utterance

Utterances are produced by the speakers in order to do a communicational interaction. An utterance may be acceptable in one context but unacceptable in another, it depends on the social background, age, personal preferences and so forth (Crystal, 2008:4). Further, he defines an utterance, at least in terms of communicative dynamism, as a process of gradually unfolding meaning. Each part of the utterance contributing ‘dynamically’ to the total communicative effect. To simplify this latter explanation, Cruse (2008:152) describes utterances as a sequence of segments and their meaning is thus relative to the situation within which an utterance takes place.