

The Flouting of Grice's Cooperative Principle by Native and Non-Native Speakers of English

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Abstract

The application of cooperative principle and repair strategies in talk show demonstrates their essential function in language use. This research was intended to explain the flouting maxim of Grice's Cooperative principle by native and non native speakers of English (guests) in *Insight with Desi Anwar* talk show, the differences between them in flouting the maxims, how the host of the talk show used repair strategies to overcome the guests who flout the maxims, reasons of using the strategies, and the contribution of the findings to the teaching English as a foreign language. This research used descriptive qualitative method. The findings showed that native and non-native speakers in the talk show flouted all the maxims. There were no significant differences between the performances of the native and non-native speakers in flouting the maxims. The differences only in terms of the frequency of flouting the maxims and the way they flouted the quality maxim. There were three types of repair strategies used by the host. The findings of this study can be considered as the contribution of the study to the teaching English as a foreign language since the awareness of cooperative principle is important and repair strategies should be reinforced for classroom interaction.

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INTRODUCTION

Conversation is the primary form of human interaction, it pervades all the levels of communication, and it plays a major role in the activities performed in human activities. Conversation is a turn taking activity in which every speaker will hopefully take the chance to speak; it will be very complicated to interpret the meaning conveyed if more than one speaker speak at turn (Rukmini, 2010). In a conversation, a speaker and a hearer are supposed to each other in their turns and exchanges with the needed information that benefits both of them by giving the required information. People communicate for the purpose of conveying their meanings and intentions, but communication is not always smooth as there are various differences among speakers. Misunderstandings occur due to various reasons.

Most of people are seldom aware of what causes such misunderstandings and if so, the Cooperative Principle (Grice, 1975) can be observed in order to maintain the conversation harmoniously and smoothly and to reduce misunderstanding when people are in the process of communication. The principle consists of four maxims: quality, quantity, relevance, and manner. Each maxim represents how people are anticipated in performing their conversation. The speaker and the hearer are said to have fulfilled the Cooperative Principle when they manage to achieve a successful conversation. In communication, participants are required to say the truth, be relevant and try to be as clear as possible (Yule, 1996).

Grice says that speakers intend to be cooperative when they talk. However, people do not always observe these maxims in their social communication. Grice (1975) in Thomas (1995:74) stated that a participant in a talk exchange may fail to fulfill a maxim in various ways, which include the following: flouting the maxim, violating the maxim, infringing the maxim, opting out the maxim, and suspending the maxim. One major reason for flouting or violating the maxims is to make conversation

easier. The other reasons are the speaker wants to mislead the hearer, that is, to lie, or the speaker does not provide the adequate amount of information, or the speaker does not want go on with the conversation.

The application of cooperative principle in talk shows demonstrates their essential function in language use. Among the various talk show programs in Indonesia, Insight with Desi Anwar is one of few talkshows that uses English language and create a new international-standard English program in Indonesia. This talk show presents how the English language is used by the Indonesian-speaking host especially when interviewing guests in English. Foreign language proficiency (English) is very required for a master of ceremony or a presenter, at least the proficiency of the terminology that is used in his or her program, since it is important to support his or her performance (Faridi, 2009: 45). In this manner, it appears that English, as a global language, is fast becoming the living tool of communication for programme in Indonesia. Such shows can attract more viewers because there are also foreigners in Indonesia, and learners in Indonesia are also beginning to become exposed to the language. These shows provide the viewers an additional usage to learn how English is used as a tool of communication.

English is a global language that is universally used as a tool for communication both in spoken and written forms by most people in the world. It is learnt by most of people because English has been an International language. The number of speakers of English is steadily increasing all over the world. Therefore, it is rather obvious that a large part of interaction in English takes place among non-native speakers and even without the presence of a native speaker of English. A native speaker, if he or she was born in an English-speaking country and non-native, if the person was from a non-English-speaking country. Cook (1999: 187) argues that native speakers are speakers who have acquired the language in their childhood. According to him, one can be native only in languages learned as a child, and all adult

foreign language learners are automatically non-native speakers. In Indonesia, English is learned as foreign language that is taught from elementary school, junior and senior high school, and university.

In this study, *Insight with Desi Anwar Talk Show* at CNN Indonesia channel serves as the context for data collection. It is a daily talkshow programme, featuring in-depth interviews with public figures, newsmakers, celebrities and decision makers from Indonesia and over the world. Different culture in intercultural communication is inherent problematic because as individual speaker from different culture communities bring different values, assumptions, expectation, verbal and non-verbal habit in communication (Sofwan, 2011). This talk show is hosted by a senior anchor and journalist, Desi Anwar.

This study examines the flouting of Grice's cooperative principle by Native and Non-Native Speakers of English in *Insight with Desi Anwar Talk Show*. This study explains what are difference between native and non native speakers of English in flouting the maxims of Grice's Cooperative Principle in the talk show. The four maxims are observed in order to see if they flout the maxim of quantity, the maxim of quality, the maxim of relevance and the maxim of manner during their conversations. If so, how does the interviewer (host of the talk show) deal with the problem. Due to this, the interviewer needs to use certain repair strategies (Cho and Larke, 2010) to make the conversations more effective and valid, as well as to build a good relationship with each other. Simultaneously, this study enables the language learners who are non native English to learn how to use the English language appropriately in their communication skills.

METHODS

This study is a descriptive qualitative study which is aimed at explaining the flouting of Grice's Cooperative Principle by native and non-native speakers of English in *Insight with Desi Anwar Talk Show* and the differences

between the native and non-native in flouting the maxims. Additionally, this study is aimed at explaining the use of repair strategies to overcome the interlocutors who flout the maxims and the reasons for using the strategies, and the contribution of the findings to the teaching English as a foreign language. The researcher made an interpretation and description of the data. The approach applied was considered as a part of pragmatics. The subjects of the study were host of *Insight with Desi Anwar talk show* and six guest stars of the talk show, comprising three native English speakers and three non-native English speakers.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Flouting of Grice's Cooperative Principle by Native and Non-native Speakers of English

Thomas (2013, p. 65) stated that flouting the maxims is situation in which 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 expected meaning. The only reason was that the speaker wished the listener to understand the meaning of the speaker, either the literal expressed meaning or the hidden meaning. Here, the speaker may convey different meanings from the literal meaning of the utterance. Then, the speaker assumed that the listener would be able to infer the implicit meanings of the speaker.

Flouting Maxim of Quantity

The flouting maxim of quantity means that the speakers of a conversation fail to fulfill the maxim of quantity in the Cooperative Principle. Thomas (2013) stated that flouting quantity maxim occurs when a speaker a speaker blatantly give more or less information than the situation requires. From the research that has been done, the guests in *Insight with Desi Anwar Talk Show* became less informative or more informative when they flouted maxim of quantity.

The conversation between Desi Anwar (DA) and Karen Thaibsyah (KT) could be an example of this kind of maxim flouting:

DA: *What are you doing? Who are these guys?*

KT : *Oh, these is.. aaa are securities in a cooperate company that we areteaching martial arts.*

In the conversation, KT was flouting the maxim of quantity by giving less information that was required. Here, DA was expected to know what the activity that she did and who are the people beside her. But, KT gave less information to respond to DA's question so she has flouted maxim of quantity because she did not give the required information.

To flout maxim of quantity, a speaker may also be more informative. An example of being more informative in quantity maxim flouting is in the following conversation between Desi Anwar (DA) and Stephen Shore (SS).

DA: *And... I heard your first time inJakarta?*

SS: *Yes, it is. It is the 41st country I have presented anautism.*

In this conversation, DA asked a question, then should say yes or no, but here SS told about something that was not required. He intentionally gave more information to respond to DA's utterance. He made his contribution more informative that was required. By giving more information, he intended to inform that there were many countries he has visited before Indonesia.

The flouting quantity maxim was the biggest occurrence in *Insight with Desi Anwar* Talk Show. The native speakers of English flouted quantity maxim 19 times, while the non native speakers of English flouted the quantity maxim 14 times, so that the frequency of flouting quantity maxim was 33. From the data which consist of flouting maxim of quantity, they were tend to flout the quantity maxim by giving more or less information than the situation required. They assumed that the hearers can understand without providing the information required.

Flouting Maxim of Quality

When a speaker flouts a maxim of quality, the speaker simply says something that does not represent what he or she actually thinks. According to Cruse (2000), when flouting the quality maxim, people do not want their utterances to be taken literally, at the same time they do not want to mislead the hearers. An example of quality maxim flouting in *Insight with Desi Anwar* Talk Show is in the following conversation.

DA: *Therefore we have seen it was unsaid in the Leave... the "Leave"campaign was painting in UK as...*

MM: *Sure.. But the Brexit vote's clearly aneconomic shocked.*

Here, Desi Anwar (DA) and MoazzamMalik(MM) talked about UK's economic after the Brexit vote. By saying *clearly an economic shocked*, MM has been flouting maxim of quality. It is because he did not want his utterances to be taken literally. The literal meaning of his utterance is a bad impact to the economic development of his country after the Brexit vote.

The frequency of flouting maxim of quality was 4, this was the smallest occurrence in *Insight with Desi Anwar* Talk Show. It can be seen from the findings that they flout the quality maxim because they do not want their utterances to be taken literally, at the same time they do not want to mislead the hearers. And it was found that there was flouting the quality maxim by using something like figurative speech.

Flouting Maxim of Relation

Thomas (2013) stated that speakers flout the maxim of relation by making a response or obervation which is very obviously irrelevant to the topic in hand. This means that the speakers of a conversation fail tobe relevant in communicating. Speakersare usually being irrelevant in flouting maxim of relevance.However, being irrelevant does not purely mean that the speakers do not want to be relevant. Sometimes, speakers are being irrelevantbecause they want to hide something

or to say something to others indirectly. An example of relation maxim flouting in *Insight with Desi Anwar* Talk Show is in the following conversation.

DA: (laughing) Okay. And then...and then. What happened? What was it about Pencak Silat that really.. and after you started training and learning? What was about it that really appeal to you?

KT: Hmmm.. I like the fact..aaa how we try to help people. Pencak Silat is Indonesian culture, and I like the Indonesian culture. In England, not many people know about Indonesia. *Ya, we know about Bali, because people like Bali for honeymoon.*

In this conversation between Desi Anwar (DA) and Karen Thaibsyah (KT), KT was being irrelevant. Here, KT was expected to answer about what happened to her after learning PencakSilat and the appeal of PencakSilat to her. But, she stated an answer with a different topic like English people and Bali. Here, by being irrelevant, KT flouted maxim of relation.

From the data which consist of flouting maxim of relation, it was found that flouting maxim of relation was 17 frequency. The result of this study showed that the tendency of flouting maxim of relation was to develop the meaning and avoid saying meaning directly. It contributed semantically irrelevant conversation or gave information that has no relationship with the topic discussion.

Flouting Maxim of Manner

Flouting maxim of manner occurs when someone responses another person's question or statement in extremely long winded and convoluted statement while she could simply reply directly (Thomas, 2013: 71). An example of mannermaxim flouting is presented in the following conversation between Desi Anwar (DA) and Moazzam Malik (MM).

DA: Tell me what do you.. what do you feel about him? And especially he is asyour new...

MM: (*smiling*) *He is my new boss..*

In this conversation, MM answered DA's question ambiguously. Instead of saying his feeling directly, he smiled and said "he is my new boss". Here, MM has flouted maxim of manner since he tried to keep a secret from his interlocutor. This unstated meaning took him flout maxim of manner.

For flouting maxim of manner by native and non native English in *Insight with Desi Anwar* Talk Show, the frequency was 30. This was the second biggest occurrence after flouting maxim of quantity. Flouting maxim of manner happened because the speech has very complicated meaning. The focus of manner maxim is the waste to say something, no matter the content of the utterance.

The Differences between the Native and Non-native English in Flouting the Maxims

This research found out that there were no significant differences between the performances of the native speakers of English and non native speakers of English in flouting the maxims of Grice's Cooperative Principle in *Insight with Desi Anwar* Talk Show. The differences only in terms of the frequency of flouting the maxims and the way they flouted the quality maxim. In terms of the frequency, maxim which most flouted by native speakers was quantity maxim, while the maxim which most flouted by non native speakers was manner maxim. Whereas, in terms of the way they flouted the quality maxim, the native speaker flouted the maxim of quality because he did not want his utterances to be taken literally, for example "*But the Brexit vote's clearly an economic shocked*", while the non native speaker was flouting the maxim of quality by using personification, for example, "*that big large eyes that aaa was flowing with humanity*".

The Use of Repair Strategies by Interviewer (Host of the Talk Show) to Overcome the Interlocutors (Guests) Who Flout the Maxims

There were three types of repair strategies (Cho and Larke, 2010) used by her to overcome the interlocutors (guests) who flout the maxims. The types were partial repeat, understanding check and request for explanation. In partial

repeat, some of the trouble source turn is used again in the repair strategy by the interviewer, for example, *'in 2 days?'*. In understanding check, the interviewer provides an alternation for understanding the trouble source, for example, *"Did it surprise you?"* to check the meaning of prior turn. In request for explanation, the interviewer used *'Such as what'* in order to find out more information.

Reasons for Using the Repair Strategies

Based on the result of this study, it can be clearly understood that the interviewer used repair strategies (Cho and Larke, 2010) as a communication strategy in order to maintain the conversations and passed comprehensible messages to her interlocutors. She gained the appropriate understanding to keep communication smooth and accurate.

Additionally, she used repair strategies in order to request for further information to make her better understand to what was being said earlier by the interlocutors. They were seen as typical behaviors implemented by speakers in order to review the communication before it broke down at some point of the process. In conclusion, these strategies were used for resolving miscommunication problems involving speaking, hearing and understanding.

The Analysis Result of the Contribution of the Findings to the Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Based on the findings, it worth presenting the pedagogical implication that can be considered as the contribution of the study to the teaching English as a foreign language. The characteristics of speech produced by native speakers of English should be considered when teachers teach speaking. The different speech styles needed to be observed when non native speakers of English communicate with foreigners or native speakers of English. Next, the observance of Grice's cooperative principle can minimize misunderstanding and miscommunication, the awareness of cooperative principle in order to maintain the good communication as one of the goals of

language teaching. Then, repair strategies should be reinforced for student-student or student-teacher classroom interaction because the realization of these strategies are natural in everyday conversation.

CONCLUSION

After having done the analysis of the talk show "Insight with Desi Anwar", it can be concluded that the native and non native speakers of English (guests of the talk show) tend to flout all the maxims of Cooperative Principle, namely Quantity maxim, Quality Maxim, Relation Maxim and Manner Maxim. When flouting a maxim, the speaker does not intend to mislead the hearers but wants the hearers to look for the conversational implicature, it is the task of the hearers to interpret. The hearers must infer that speakers are exploiting a maxim for communicative purposes.

It was found that both the native and non native speakers flouted the four maxims. The researcher concludes that there are no significant differences between the performances of the native speakers of English and non native speakers of English in flouting the maxims of Grice's Cooperative Principle in Insight with Desi Anwar Talk Show. The differences only in terms of the frequency of flouting the maxims and the way they flouted the quality maxim.

The analysis of repair strategies is intended to explain how the interviewer (host) of Insight with Desi Anwar Talk Show uses these strategies to overcome the interlocutors (guests) who flout the four maxims of Grice's Cooperative Principle. There are three types of repair strategies found in this research, partial repeat, understanding check and request for explanation. The reasons why the interviewer uses the repair strategies are to maintain the conversations with the interlocutors, pass comprehensible messages to her interlocutors, and request for further information to make her better understand to what was being said earlier by the interlocutors. Overall, she uses repair

strategies to avoid a breakdown in the interactive communication.

The findings of this study can be considered as the contribution of the study to the teaching English as a foreign language. The characteristics of speech produced by native speakers of English should be considered when teachers teach speaking. For the Grice's cooperative principle, it can minimize misunderstanding and miscommunication, the awareness of cooperative principle in order to maintain the good communication as one of the goals of language teaching. And repair strategies should be reinforced for student-student or student-teacher classroom interaction because the realization of these strategies are natural in everyday conversation.

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