



CONVERSATION ANALYSIS IN A MOVIE 'LIFE OF PI'

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ABSTRACT

This study is called "Conversation Analysis in a movie 'Life of Pi'". Data source of this study is taken from the movie script of 'Life of Pi' that rewrite by David Mage based on the same title novel by the writer Yann Martel. This is the selected movie because it is the incredible and success movie that give rise to critics and compliment from many sides. This film succeeds into some movie international award and at the same time won in a few categories. The scope of discussion is limited by both theory that is "Context of Situation" theory by Halliday and Hasan and "Gricean Maxim" theory by Grice. The next selected data will be analyzed with qualitative method. Some points of both related theories are Field, Tenor, Mode, Quantity Maxim, Quality Maxim, Relation Maxim, and Manner Maxim. Analysis of every point manage to express the meaning from the selected conversation before. The invention of this study is meaning starring by the utterances from conversations of the related movie.

Keywords: conversation analysis; context; movie; maxim

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berjudul "Analisis Percakapan dalam film 'Life of Pi'". Sumber data penelitian ini diambil dari naskah film 'Life of Pi' yang ditulis ulang oleh David Mage berdasarkan judul novel yang sama oleh penulis Yann Martel. Ini adalah film yang dipilih karena merupakan film yang luar biasa dan sukses yang menimbulkan kritik dan pujian dari banyak pihak. Film ini berhasil meraih beberapa penghargaan film internasional dan sekaligus memenangkan beberapa kategori. Ruang lingkup pembahasan dibatasi oleh kedua teori yaitu teori "Context of Situation" oleh Halliday dan Hasan dan teori "Gricean Maxim" oleh Grice. Data terpilih selanjutnya akan dianalisis dengan metode kualitatif. Beberapa poin dari kedua teori terkait tersebut adalah Field, Tenor, Mode, Quantity Maxim, Quality Maxim, Relation Maxim, dan Manner Maxim. Analisis setiap poin berhasil mengungkapkan makna dari percakapan yang dipilih sebelumnya. Penemuan penelitian ini adalah makna yang dibintangi oleh ujaran dari percakapan film terkait.

Kata kunci: analisis percakapan; konteks; film; maksim

INTRODUCTION

Point of view in some conversation is built upon on person as an individual who always interacting each other. Interact can be interpreted as act of two or more people and as a caused of conversation. The tools for information transferring in a conversation is a language. Language plays an important thing of the community. Every person will do something different because of their language. They do some act like interaction with their language in a way of writing or oral (Schiffrin, 1994).

Conversation is a form of communication deal in many ways because they allow people with the different point of view about any topic to teaching each other. According to what Levinson quoted, conversation is dominant talks that familiar where all the person freely takes turns in speaking. An analogy of conversation is like a dance with the conversation partner that synchronized their move smoothly (Tampubolon, 2019).

In a conversation that including mutually interesting connection between two people or something that two speakers know will make the conversation success. To make it happen, the conversation must have a topic or context which two people can relate in some sense. Two people who involved in a conversation tends to relate about what another speaker says to themselves naturally. They can input a few aspects of their state of mind into their replies to make themselves relate to other opinion or point in that conversation (Tampubolon. 2009).

Language is having magical things when we are talking or writing. We arranged what will we say to adapt in context or situation where we communicate. In a same way, how we talk or write creating a situation or context itself. Then we can adjust our language or context that help us to create our language. So, language is a tool to interact and communicate with another person. Moreover, the understanding, the agreement and individual perspective is needed to do some conversation meaning (Gee, 1999). Cooperative principal that is based assumption that we make when we are talking each other is that we try to work together for each other to build a meaningful conversation (Grice, 1975).

Interactional sociolinguistic is an approach of discourse analysis or called analysis conversation from search of qualitative analysis methods, can be replicated, and can explained our capability to interpret what to explained by participant in daily communicative practice. The discourse interactional analysis at the intersection of human analysis of understanding of the world in a situation which is creating some understanding and the character in construction of social order (Gumperz, 2001).

Responses is a spontaneous reaction to what has been said before in a most conversation. In an entertainment industry like in talk show, however the conversation has been scripted. Meanwhile interact with other people is not just a mechanic process of creating sound and word but is a semantic activity of processing of making some meaning. To analyze conversation there are appropriate theory that called Conversation Analysis (CA). It relates to conversation of two or more people. CA is interactional sociolinguistic in with the problem of social order and how language is both create and creating by social context (Tampubolon, 2019).

Conversation Analysis is having a purpose to describing, analyzing, and understanding the conversation as a based and constitutive feature of social life of human being. As an approach of study, conversation analysis growing up from ethnomethodology that learn about common sense source, practice, and procedure where the member of society makes and recognize mutually object, event, and course of action. Conversation analysis has its own principles and procedure and focuses well on any act that manifested in talk. The basic principle of conversation analysis that stated by Seedhouse (2005) are as follows (Sert & Seedhouse, 2011):

1. There is order at all point in conversation. Talk in interaction systematically regulated.
2. Contribution to interaction is renewing of context and shaping of context. Contribution to the interaction cannot be understood well enough. To be understood, it must be refer to the sequential environment in which it happen and where the participant designs it to happen. They are also a component of sequential environment in which the upcoming contribution will happen.
3. No specifics order can be dismissed as accidental, disorderly, or irrelevant. Conservation analysis has detailed transcription system as well as empirical orientation.
4. Analysis is bottom up and data driven. Data cannot be approach with the previous theoretical assumption such as power, gender, or race unless there exists of the evidence in detailed interaction that interactant itself orientated to it.

Conversation analysis research is the assumption as a typical linguistic discipline like pragmatic, discourse analysis or sociolinguistic. Framework of conversation analysis that is used to focused on talks regularly has been merged to other talk research like medical and clinical interaction, lesson, or news interview. Therefore, why the more general characterization talk in recent interaction is of preferred over conversation. (Tampubolon, 2019)

This study classified the data indications to context through Halliday and Hassan's theory. Full meaning found in a text and text found in context. In language as the source of all meaning, there is a cultural context as well as a situational context. Context of situation contain text with a social purpose within a certain scope. There are three main facets in context of situation that is filed, tenor and mode. Field is about what happen, include meaning of the topic or text. Field also potential choice system, about choice that expected happen in that social context. The choices can be understood from vocabulary or grammar of the text. Tenor is related to the characteristic in a particular social context of language users. In a text, tenor is asked by relation between reader and writer while mode is related to communication channel, which is what language to use for a particular social context (Adenan, 2000).

Context becomes point of view in text or discourse analyzing which was derived from a conversation in a movie. Movie is used as a data source because movie can be huge reference both in entertainment and education. Movie is typical of visual communication that using sound and moving image to tell a story and helps people to learns. Indirectly, movie has a culture, language, and information in it. Film also can be a place for typical and efficient expression, act, and characteristic that communicated well with exposing skill in a movie that produce a particular meaning as a context. So that movie has its way and ability to shape a reality and turn it back with in unique way for society. Relation between movie and culture create new perception that movie is always record a reality that growing and thrive in society and then projecting on to the scene. Therefore, movie as a mass media is became a big strength in modern culture (Husaina, Haes, Pratiwi, & Juwita, 2018).

In this research, writer choose a movie called 'Life of Pi' that is appointed from a true story of young men who survives at disaster at sea and unexpectedly connected with another survivor, a fearsome Bengal tiger. This movie elaborated with a religious feel of views and culture and framed in a touch of beautiful digital image and funny scene. In line with the background used here, writer formulated two problem that is the situation context specification of the based-on Halliday and Hassan's theory which implemented in delivering a conversation message in a movie 'Life of Pi' and variety of Gricean maxim's theory were implemented in a conversation of movie 'Life of Pi.'

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Research method related to the methods used in analyzing some data including data source, the methods used, data collection technique and technique of analyzing data.

Research data source is taken from watching the film and reading the entire script. The primary data is obtained from 'Life of Pi' film script. The secondary data is required from related books, film reviews and dictionaries for some theories and explanations.

Based on explanation before, there is some reason primer data is using the film script from a direct conversation. First, this film is having an incredible true story which is adopted from best seller novel in a worldwide especially winning so many Oscars award and another award. Furthermore, this movie has enough data for conversation analysis. Second, the most vital thing is this film has point of view and different analysis with another student research.

In this study, the writer collecting the data source by observing the film script, watch the film, and listen the film clearly. Generally, step on collecting data there are three namely reading the whole film script to knowing the sentences that is assumption as a key word,

watching the film to have a clear picture about situation context and choosing the conversation which related to the theory.

The collected data is analyzed based on qualitative research's theories with inductive analysis. Specially, to determine the main message of the story and its relationship to sociolinguistic study. There are several steps to analyzing data. First, each of conversation is grouped and analyzed with Halliday and Hassan's theory to explain field, tenor, and mode of the discourses. Second step is analyzing discourse from a conversation that is chooses with a theory of famous figure, Grice, which in consist of quantity maxims, quality maxims, manner maxims and relevance maxims. Finally, this result of this research is characterized as interpretative in accordance with qualitative research's characteristic mentioned by Cresswell (Cresswell, 2007).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

'Life of Pi' is a movie which directed by Ang Lee, adopted story based on novel by Yann Martel and based on script by David Magee. The story itself is amazing and has been visualized by amazing movie that might be the best digital imaging in a few years. This movie is released in United State as an opening in 50th Festival Film New York on 21 November 2012. In 85th Academy Awards, this movie is winning four awards from eleven nomination and nominated for three Golden Globe Awards including Best Director, Best Picture Drama, and Best Original Score.

This chapter is showing analysis from eighteen chosen conversation from the related film. These eighteen conversations are analyzed using the theory's framework. The first theory used in this study is situation of context. It includes Filed, Tenor and Mode. This theory is implemented to collecting the information as much as possible that will be used to delivering a message from a chosen conversation, especially the chosen conversation generally representative the entire story. Grace's theory is the next theory. There is Maxim of Conversation which known as Gricean Maxim. Grice stated four main maxims; quantity maxim, quality maxim, relation maxim and manner maxim. The advanced analysis from these maxims is done for knowing how this maxim is implicated and which type of maxim that has key role to make the conversation more meaningful.

Following the chosen of conversation, the analysis of these two theories will be attached. The related theory identifies the selected utterances. The context of situation reference is shown by italic text. An underlined text is shown Gricean Maxim reference and if two theories implied in a same utterance is shown by the dash-underlined text.

Specification of Situation Context and Type of Gricean Maxim in Chosen Conversation

The following analysis is the example of chosen conversation taken as these research data. The example is taken by the conversation below between Pi and writer which is not mentioned in a story. Indeed the novelist intends to show man's point of view on the world as a reason to not mentioning the writer. The conversation is the important scene which is according to introduction or causes the whole story.

Data 1

The Writer: *Uhm, Mamaji tells me you are a legend among sailor, too. Out there, all alone* (<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Data 2

Pi : Ooh, I don't even know how to sail, and I was not alone out there. Richard Parker was with me

The Writer: *Richard Parker? Mamaji did not tell me everything. He just said I should look you up when I got back to Montreal.*

(<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Data 3

Pi : *So, what were you doing in Pondicherry?*

The Writer: Writing a novel (<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Data 4

Pi : *By the way, I enjoyed your first book. So, this new one is it set in India?*

The Writer: No, Portugal actually. But it is cheaper living in India (<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Data 5

Pi : *Well, I look forward to reading it*

The Writer: You can't. I threw it out. Two years trying to bring this thing to life and then one day it sputtered, coughed, and died (<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Data 6

Pi : *I am sorry*

The Writer: I was sitting in this coffee house in Pondicherry one afternoon, mourning my loss when this old man at the table next to me struck up a conversation (<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Data 7

Pi : *Yeah, Mamaji he does that*

The Writer: *When I told him about my abandoned book he said (imitating Mamaji) "So, a Canadian who's come to French India in search of a story. Well, my friend I know an Indian in French Canada with the most incredible story to tell. It must be fate that the two of you should meet."* (<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Data 8

Pi : *Well, I have not spoken about Richard Parker in so many years. So, what has Mamaji already told you?*

The Writer: He said you had a story that would make me believe in God (<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Data 9

Pi : **Pi laughs* He would say that about a nice meal. As for God, I can only tell you, my story. You will decide for yourself what you believe.*

The Writer: Fair enough (<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Data 10

Pi : *Let's see then. Where to begin?* (<https://www.scriptslug.com/script/life-of-pi-2012>. Retrieved from January 5th 2022)

Note:

Italic text : situation of context

Underlined text : Gricean Maxim

Dash-underlined text : both of theory

Analysis of Context of Situation

a. Field

The first conversation depicts the plot's introduction. It explains the causes of the incident and story character. Based on the script of the movie, this conversation is happened in Montreal, where this is the Pi's and writer place in French Canada city nowadays. This is in line with what writer said in data 2 that is "*Richard Parker? Mamaji did not tell me everything. He just said I should look you up when I got back to Montreal.*" The conversation happens in Pi's dining room and having warm situation that exposing a good relationship between two characters.

They talking about Mamaji too. She is the person who can make they met. Mamaji is Pi's friend and unexpectedly meet in Pondicherry, India, with the previous writer. It is Pi's hometown. The writer is failing for previous novel and has come to meet Pi in his home for incredible story. The incredible story that he has from his childhood. Thus, this meet depicts a perfect collision. It is more than just telling a story but also healing process of two human being.

b. Tenor

People who include in the previous conversation is Pi and writer. The writer is a character who is never mentioned in a story, but plays an important role in it. Indirectly, he's persuaded Pi to telling him an incredible story. He also remains in real people who do not believe in God. On the other hand, a novelist can express his sense of doubt as either a strong feeling that inspires individuals to believe in the story. In this conversation these two people talking about Mamaji, a character who appears to be important to the overall plot. First is because he is a reference of Pi's father, who gave Pi the name Piscine Molitor Patel. Next thing is he is a Pi's friend who teach Pi to swim whereas the other family member of Pi cannot swim. Then, he is a writer's reference who can finally meet Pi in Montreal.

Based on the speech above, in this conversation is using informal language and showing informal situation or close relationship between these people. In fact, almost in the conversation is conducted in an informal style. The example is like when Pi said in data 8 "*Well I have not spoken about Richard Parker in so many years. So, what has Mamaji already told you?*" and in data 10 "*Let's see then. Where to begin?*" They are showing the uncomplete sentence especially the word is "Well," "Haven't," "So" and "Let's" referred to contract form of informal language.

c. Mode

Conversation is chosen by reading the script and listening to the conversation while watching the movie. The character communication like face to face or oral conversation is the way of language used in this speech reaction. That conversation is having expository mode with its explanation of who is Pi related with what Mamaji's said about Pi. The other example also explained about expository mode in conversation that then showing like what writer said in data 7 that is "*When I told him about my abandoned book he said (imitating Mamaji) 'So, a Canadian who has come to French India in search of a story. Well, my friend I know an Indian in French*

Canada with the most incredible story to tell. It must be fate that the two of you should meet.” The dialogue is showing the rhetorical mode in the conversation. This describing what happen before two people might can meet, especially supporting with the quote of Mamaji’ utterance in the utterances that happen.

Analysis of Gricean Maxim

a. Quantity Maxim

Seems like Gricean maxim is involved in the conversation. It is shown by a couple part of conversation. Quantity maxim is clearly shown like in data 3 what Pi has ask “*So what were you doing in Pondicherry?*” and the writer say, “Writing a novel.” But this is the informative answer as required. In this instance, misunderstanding between politeness and precision of language usage is often to found. Precision of answer is not a habit in some languages. The arrogant and bluff characteristics are sometimes used interchangeably. However, in terms of the effectiveness and efficiency of the conversation, precision of response is no nicer than rambling speech.

The second example in data 9 is talked by Pi “He would say that about a nice meal. As for God, I can only tell you, my story. You will decide for yourself what you believe.” And writer say, “Fair enough.” What writer say is good example of implication from quantity. Informatively his speech explaining that he agrees with what Pi say before. Furthermore, this shown a natural expression of Pi to not be persuasive for the next story.

b. Quality Maxim

The writer demonstrates the importance of quality maxim in this conversation when he says in data 1 “*Uhm, Mamaji tells me you are a legend among sailor, too. Out there, all alone.*” Then Pi’s ignore that in data 2 with saying “Ooh, I don’t even know how to sail, and I was not alone out there. Richard Parker was with me.” In here, Pi appears to be correcting a previous statement and he provides the answer based on his true story experience. In this case also show that Richard Parker allows this informative utterance for the writer. What Pi said acknowledges the writer by providing accurate story information or even allows the conversation more genuine and honest.

c. Relation Maxim

Relevance is another term for relation maxim. It appears that the most important things in the conversation is how relevant it is to its theme or topic. By this conversation maxim, the relation is shown by what writer say in data 6 that is “I was sitting in this coffee house in Pondicherry one afternoon, mourning my loss when this old man at the table next to me struck up a conversation” and Pi say in data 7 “*Yeah Mamaji he does that.*” What Pi say is seem have the relevance with what writer said. Moreover, Pi does not know what happen between Mamaji and writer, but he just knows that Mamaji is writer’s friend. Mamaji will do the same thing to other people because his characteristic has been observed by this character in this conversation.

Then, second example of this maxim is shown by what Pi say in data 8 that is “*Well I have not spoken about Richard Parker in so many years. So, what has Mamaji already told you?*” Then writer said, “He said you had a story that would make me believe in God.” The writer’s answer id relevance with previous utterance. The relevance that was revealed is shown by the subject which still referred to Mamaji. The predicate “told” in the first utterance is the prevalence with “said” in the second. In that conversation, however, is that the writer came to Pi’s house and was talking about Mamaji because he wanted to hear Pi’s story about how God made him believe.

d. Manner Maxim

In this conversation, manner maxim is not applied well as writer utterance in data 6 which said, “I was sitting in this coffee house in Pondicherry one afternoon, mourning my loss when this old man at the table next to me struck up a conversation.” It shows that there is ambiguity and irregularity sentence to form all the conversation. Simply it must be “at one afternoon at the coffee shop in Pondicherry, I am mourning for my loss and just in time an old man next to my table starting the conversation.”

Manner maxim is the hardest things to improved well on prepared speech or spontaneous conversation. So, in order to deliver any shape of mind firmly from the speaker to the listener, the important thing is to obey the manner maxim. However, the script written by David Magee is considered to convey a point, and the violation of maxim on its own necessitates the use of natural utterances and in this movie because utterances, more or less, show the writer’s implied expression with or without. Therefore, two stand out predicate “mourning” and “struck” sequentially show that he upset then shocked. Predicate “sit” does not have to be point out the implied meaning in the whole utterance.

According to the study of Astutiningsih and Wulandari (2014), from cultural side, in this movie also show that Yann Martel view that there is no fixed identity. He tells a story about Pi, the main character of this movie. Pi is a person who lived ‘in between.’ He does not choose if he is East, West, Canada, or India. Martel giving example of this condition to the reader like life in castaway. Pi’s condition on the sea is like a world where alternative model of nation-state strength is a weak individual. Pi is a portrait of transitional people who always searching for location in imaginer community (Astutiningsih & Wulandari, 2014).

The cultural background of Canada with many cultures, race and social background giving him experience that make him to must leaving the static view of identity and checking the dynamic process of identification. This attitude also destructive to his politic subjectivity for putting someone’s identity in one place. Therefore, he never writes East is lose toward West, even he writes that West tends to be a ‘not promising country.’ Martel’s experience when he lives in Canada as a diasporic country giving him so many effects to his paradigm to see an identity (Astutiningsih & Wulandari, 2014).

CONCLUSION

Conversation Analysis is approach and right tool for data analysis and there are some aspects that cannot be explained with any theory. Conversation analysis is applied in many ways in applied linguistic. Conversation Analysis can help people to understanding what other people want to make a particular language choice and what do people mean with some discourse theories.

This study proving that Halliday and Hassan’s theory are applied on the conversation of movie called ‘Life of Pi.’ Context of situation is containing a text with social purpose in a certain scope that is Field, Tenor, and Mode which every scope has been analyzed in related movie. Gricean Maxim’s theory are applied on the conversation of movie called ‘Life of Pi.’ There are four types of Gricean Maxim that is quantity maxim, quality maxim, relation maxim and manner maxim. Gricean maxim’s theory of conversation make the context become point of view in analysis the text which came from the selected conversation in related movie. In this movie also no permanent identity found. Pi’s who live ‘in between’ is the making him to does not choose if he is East, West, Canada, or India. Background of Canada culture with many cultures making him to leaving his static thoughts of identity and examine the dynamic process of identification.

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