AN ANALYSIS OF INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

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Yang benar,

Nama Calon : SHARNTI KULASINGAM
Tarikh : September 2003
Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to my late mother, Madam P. Kulasingam. Just a week before her demise she expressed her wish to see me convocate with my masters degree. May Her Soul Rest In Peace
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Most of all without divine help this study would not be possible.

Thank You GOD.

Sharnti Kulasingam
ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the analysis of the informal conversations of teachers in a Malaysian secondary school. The study examines to what extent the spoken discourse in the data conforms to Grice’s Co-operative Principles and the four conversational maxims. Violations of the four Co-operative Principles in general and the maxims in particular and the strategies employed in these violations are also discussed. Apart from the audio-recordings as the principal data, questionnaire, field notes and observations complemented this research. The data is examined using the Gricean framework that is the Co-operative Principle and the four conversational maxims. Generally the findings did reveal an adherence to the Co-operative Principle. Though there were violations of the maxims, this did not cause a major setback in the conversations. Strategies that were employed when the violations occurred were also discussed.
ABSTRAK

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