

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

5.0 Introduction

This Chapter will provide an overview of the research and the summary of findings. It also describes the implications of this study as well as provide recommendations for further researches to be conducted in the same area of linguistics.

5.1 An overview

This study of internet chat room discourse focused on conversational implicatures with a particular reference to internet chat room conversation. The theoretical basis for this study was derived from the work of Grice (1975), which was built on an assumption that speakers adhere to Grice's cooperative principle.

The aim of this study was to identify conversational implicatures in the five internet chat room conversations that were logged from internet chat room. The data collected was first examined to identify the adherence and the flouting of the four conversational maxims.

5.2 Summary

This study examined the language used by the Internet Chat room users particularly in the Alamak Chat Room, the Mamak Chat Room, IM Chat (instant Message), YM Chat (Yahoo Chat), and My Space Chat. The researcher examines the conversations of Internet Chat room users by logging into the existing data. The data that was compiled for analysis. The focus is on Grice's Cooperative Principle and the four conversational maxims. The main aim was to identify and analyse conversations among Internet Chat room users and the adherence of the four conversational maxims. The secondary aim was to find if conversationalists flouted these maxims.

The researcher also attempted to identify the rhetorical frameworks that were adapted in the adherence and violation of maxims. In this study, the Gricean framework was adapted and analysed. Next, the researcher attempted to classify the maxims adherences and to investigate how and why the maxims were adhered and violated. Thus, the researcher paid particular attention to the responses of the Internet Chat Room conversation to establish the interpretation of the implied meaning.

5.3 The main findings

Based on the data collected, the researcher established that there is considerable evidence to suggest that the Internet Chat Room participants generally conform to the Cooperative Principle.

The finding indicates that Grice's Cooperative Principle and its four conversational maxims are real constructs. This is because participants can interpret meanings of the words conveyed. The researcher thinks so because the users attempted to preserve the cooperative effort between them thus, making conversations successful even when the users overtly violated the four conversational maxims. Background knowledge also plays an important role in helping conversationalists infer the implied meaning. In the internet chat room conversations, the uses of implicatures are common among the interactors.

The findings in the data show that when conversations were made, the maxims of quantity, quality, relation and manner were adhered to by the internet chat room conversationalists. The findings also show that the rhetorical strategies of cooperation and conformity were present among users of the Internet Chat Room conversation. The high incidence of conformity to these maxims suggests that in order to maintain conversations one needs to be cooperative.

Undeniably, the findings also indicate that the Internet Chat Room users violated the four conversational maxims suggested by Grice but the incidence is low. The finding is demonstrative of how people communicate in real life. For example, there are many occasions when people do not observe the maxims in order to evoke humour. It was obvious that the users' of Internet Chat Room flouted the maxims as these were present in the violation of the four conversational maxims by Grice.

In many instances the Internet Chat room users used of more words than was necessary, to convey the conversational messages. Nevertheless, the findings indicate that the Internet Chat

Room users adhere to the maxims as suggested by Grice. However, the findings also indicate there are instances the internet chat room interactor flouted the maxims.

The violation of these maxims appears to be useful strategies for avoiding embarrassing and unpleasant issues. They are also important as face saving strategies and help users to carry on with the conversation without feeling uncomfortable with the issues that are sensitive. Messages that are sensitive are insinuated with jokes, smile or humorous expressions. In such instances, the users had the tendency to be cynical or skeptical in order not to hurt the listeners or to avoid misunderstanding. It was interesting to see the interactors utilizing the colloquial Malaysian English variety such as, the use of Malay words to re-enact a conversation in the internet chat room conversations, thus attaching identity to the speakers through the use of this variety of English.

In general, the study shows that despite the non-standard use of the language, the participants were able to recognize and understand the language used by the participants and as such were able to interact with one another. The conversational topic exchanges among chat users are in line with the on going conversation in the chat room. Chat users were found to generally conform to the Cooperative Principle. The results obtained in this study are similar to that of Sacks et.al. (1974) where the current user self selects the next speaker thus suggesting effective rhetorical strategies of cooperation and conformity among users.

5.4 Conclusion and Recommendations

The scope of this study is not extensive enough to make the findings representative of all Internet Chat Room conversations. The main data for the researcher study is taken from a small corpus of Internet Chat Room interaction. Conversational implicatures are a common occurrence in internet chat room conversations as discussed in this study. The use of implicatures increases the force of the message of the internet chat room conversations.

In this study, it is logical to assume that human interaction particularly Internet Chat Room conversation is governed by Grice's Cooperative Principle. The researcher has demonstrated that adhered to the maxims plays a significant role in successful communication. Meanings are conveyed implicitly rather than explicitly on many instances. These implicit meanings not only adhered to Grice's Cooperative Principle but also to the conversational maxims. The Internet Chat Room users tended to convey their meanings implicitly when it was not appropriate or advisable for them to be direct.

This study has provided evidence the conversational maxims are prevalent in Internet Chat Room conversation. Conversational maxims cannot be ignored in any language because they are present in any communication. This study also shows that utterances can mean more than what is literally said.

This study has focused on Internet Chat Room conversation. The analysis and findings provide a basis for further research on Internet Chat Room conversations using data from Internet Chat room or other sources if future researchers may want to examine on Internet Chat Room conversation to see if the patterns of conversations indicated in this study appear in other

conversations. This study has limited its study to the Internet Chat Room conversation, perhaps studies can also be done from other sources.

My findings suggest that Internet Chat Room conversation, while employed as a tool for communications are useful aspects of a language. This is because Internet language has the potential to provide worldwide communications for user to discuss on various topics and it has the potential to alter significantly the structure of socialization by shaping the way people think and act. Thus, more and more individual use to generate important topic via Internet Chat Room. Hence, Internet language can and should be considered as a useful and a powerful communication “tool” which can be utilized among Internet Chat Room conversations.

Lastly, this study also indicates that it is not enough for the language learners to focus on the surface meaning of utterances. They need to be aware of how underlying meaning may be conveyed and interpreted in specific contexts or making appropriate inferences. It is hoped that more research would be conducted on the Internet Chat Room conversations. The study on Internet Chat Room is an important aspect because these words carry various meanings and functions that may meet the intentions of the users.

The researcher feels that whenever people interact, they are taking actions but their actions are not autonomous because they need to coordinate with each other in order to reach mutual belief. Speakers and addressees cannot do without each other. Speaker’s meaning makes no sense without addressees’ understanding.

The unique characteristic of Internet Chat room conversation makes it attractive and most popular as a communicative medium as it encourages links to other sources making connections between ideas among the users. Internet chat room conversation is effective in enhancing communication among the Internet users as they can perform their interaction in the manner their intentions, desired and emotions were demonstrated via the use of emoticons.

Hence, the distinctive features of the Internet do bear significant meanings which can be aptly utilized by the Internet chat room users. For example: the words used carry meaningful meaning and functions which may meet the intentions of the speakers. Understanding what the speakers mean is actually a process of interpreting. As a communicative medium, Internet chat room conversation will doubtless grow tremendously in many parts of the world.