

ABSTRACT

In this investigation into the conversations of Malaysian women friends, H.P. Grice's conversational maxims are analyzed in terms of fulfillment and non-fulfillment. Included are the theoretical aspects and findings of both foreign and local researchers who have done studies pertaining to all female conversations (Coates, 1996; Hafizah Ahamad, 2004) and Grice's maxims (Rundquist, 1992; Kulasingam, 2004; Brumark, 2006). Data is drawn from audio-tape recordings of different groups of women friends, transcribed and instances of fulfillment and non-fulfillment were singled out in the analysis process. To strengthen the validity of the findings, the recordings were triangulated with onsite observations, field notes, 'gap-filling' and perceptions of the participants. The framework emulated is Grice's Cooperative Principle (CP) and conversational maxims of quantity, quality, relevance and manner. Findings exhibit evidence that maxim fulfillment and non-fulfillment occur side by side in these conversations. When fulfilling the maxims, findings suggests that the women friends employed several discourse features such as minimal responses, hedging and repetitions. In cases of non-fulfillment the link between indirectness and implicature is clearly seen and pragmatic effects such as humor (teasing etc), sarcasm and echoic use are evident. Also, the CP appears to be unbroken when non-fulfillment occurs and further foster the notion of cooperativeness in women talk. This study, having done on Malaysian women has also highlighted the influence of the Malaysian culture and languages in the conversations. These are visible in the forms of code-switching, question tags and the use of 'lah'.

Keywords: Women talk; Friendship; Gricean maxims, Fulfillment, Non-fulfillment

ABSTRAK

Dalam penyelidikan ke dalam perbualan-perbualan rakan-rakan wanita Malaysia ini, teori perbualan maksim H.P. Grice dikaji dari segi pemenuhan maksim dan sebaliknya. Disertakan adalah teori dan analisis penyelidik-penyelidik dari luar dan dalam negeri yang telah membuat kajian mengenai perbualan-perbualan wanita (Coates, 1996; Hafizah Ahamad, 2004) dan teori maksim Grice (Rundquist, 1992; Kulasingam, 2004; Brumark, 2006). Data diperolehi daripada rakaman perbualan-perbualan kumpulan rakan-rakan wanita yang berbeza. Data ditranskripsikan dan kes-kes pemenuhan dan pelanggaran maksim di kaji dan dibincangkan. Selain rakaman, data juga diperolehi dari segi pemerhatian, nota serta persepsi rakan-rakan wanita yang terlibat dalam kajian tersebut. Rangka kajian yang digunakan adalah berdasarkan Prinsip Kooperatif Grice serta maksim perbualannya iaitu kuantitas, kualitas, relevan dan cara. Analisis kajian memaparkan kewujudan pemenuhan dan pelanggaran maksim dalam perbualan. Bila maksim dipenuhi, kajian menunjukkan bahawa rakan-rakan wanita menggunakan cara-cara wacana seperti tindakbalas minima, 'hedging' dan pengulangan. Dalam kes pelanggaran maksim, pertalian tidak langsung (indirectness) dan implikatur jelas dilihat dan efek pragmatik juga didapati. Walaupun terdapat pelanggaran maksim, Prinsip Kooperatif Grice masih kekal di dalam perbualan rakan-rakan wanita ini. Disebabkan kajian adalah berdasarkan perbualan informal rakan-rakan wanita Malaysia, pengaruh bahasa-bahasa lain (bahasa ibunda dll.) serta budaya dapat dilihat dalam perbualan mereka seperti penukaran kod (code-switch), teknik persoalan dan penggunaan 'lah'.

Katakunci: Perbualan rakan wanita, Grice, Pemenuhan maksim, Pelanggaran maksim