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HOW IMPLICATURES CREATE FUNNINES IN COMIC STRIPS?

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ABSTRACT

KEYWORDS

Flouting Maxim, Comic Strips, Implicature

This research is aimed to analyze types of flouting maxim. To find cooperative principle of the implicature through the utterances expressed from the characters in comic strips. The method that will be used in this research is qualitative research design. The researchers use 12 chapters of the tiger comic strips from comics kingdom website as data source from December 01, 2023 to January 24, 2024. Then analyze the conversation that the character had. Likewise, this study attempts to discover the reason for using implicature in the comic strips. The researchers draw a conclusion where the flouting maxim of quantity (32.5%), the flouting maxim of quality (20%), the flouting maxim of manners (25%), and the flouting maxim of relevant (22.5%). The characters of "Tiger" digital comic strips mostly flouted the maxim of quantity since they avoid making others upset about lack of the answer, so they provide a comprehensive explanation.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, there has been a growing interest in the analysis of pragmatics, which can be described as the examination of implied meanings and the investigation of language and communication patterns in different contexts (Yule, 1996). Pragmatics, particularly the study of maxim flouting and subsequent implicature, is pertinent to various forms of communication with disparate communicative aims. The maxim of quantity, as defined by Yule (1996), primarily deals with measuring the information conveyed in a convera perfect medium for humor and emotional expression, present conditions or ideassation.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary's definition of comedy (Mitchell, 2014), implicit humor is one of the many communicative aims achievable through comic expression. Comic strips, utilizing integrated images and text (McCloud & Martin, 1993). These strips typically consist of a series of illustrations arranged in one or multiple panels, often accompanied by speech balloons or captions (Cohn, 2013). In essence, readers expect these pages to be humorously engaging. Particularly notable are digital comic strips, which have gained popularity due to their ease of reading and diverse content. An exemplary digital comic strip with a compelling storyline is the "Tigers" comic strip, featuring seven characters with distinct personalities.

This study is focused on comic strips as its object of analysis, aiming to understand their contents by scrutinizing the four types of maxims present within them. Specifically, the study aims to explore instances of flouting maxims that appear in the conversations of the characters.

Several previous studies are relevant to this research, such as the analysis of flouting maxims in the "Pepekomik" comic strip by Dery et al. While this study shares the common aspect of identifying flouting maxims in comic strips and categorizing them by type, it distinguishes itself by placing emphasis on explicating implicatures in the comic, a fact not thoroughly explored in the prior research research question: What is the implicature deriving from the flouting of maxim in the punchlines of comic strips?

Literature Review

Conversational Implicature

Ariyanti et al. (2020) stated a conversation is the result of cooperative principle. Being cooperative means people create the conversation by using implicature in their communication style. According to Yule (1996), implicature is important to note the speaker who conveyed meaning. Implicature is not only provided by word means, but also the implicit meaning of the words. This statement strengthened by Grice (1975), an implicature arises when a speaker intends one thing while saying something different. Further, Jaufillaili (2013) explained the implicature is enclosed to the semantics content of is stated, rather than linguistics form, and therefore, implicatures cannot be separated from an expression by merely substituting the words of utterance with synonyms.

This article focuses on conversational implicature in digital comic strips. Conversational implicature is a concept in linguistics and pragmatics, which is the study of language use in context. Grice (1975) explained that conversational implicature is the general difference between what the speaker says and what the hidden meaning is in the conversation. Grice's theory of conversational implicature is based on the idea that speakers in a conversation cooperate with each other to achieve mutual understanding. Andrea & Carmen (2021) argued by understanding conversational implicatures, it means that you have succeeded to infer the pragmatic meaning.

Grice in Jaufillaili & Mahmud (2019) stated conversational implicature is divided into two, generalized conversational implicature and particularized conversational implicature. In generalized conversational implicature, the utterance by the speaker does not have a specific context for the hearer to infer the meaning of the utterance. Whereas, particularized conversational implicature the utterance by the speaker has inference and these inferences are needed by the hearer to interpret the implied meaning of what the speaker wants to convey.

Maxim

Maxim is a rule that must be followed in order to establish a cooperative principle between the speaker and heare Yuli in Dery et al. (2023). To expand the understanding regarding the role of speaker in cooperative principle, Grice (1975) clarified that the speakers rely on certain maxims or principles of conversation to communicate effectively. These maxims include the maxim of quantity, the maxim of quality, maxim of manner, and the maxim of relevant. According to Grice in Jaufillaili (2013) maxim quantity is to make the contribution to the conversation as informative as necessary, and not make your contribution excessive. It shows that when someone asks about something, those hearers must respond enough and not answer too much. Further, Grice in Mahroof (2021) explains maxim quality is saying or answering something that has the reas yuuu on and believing it's true. This rule prohibits the speaker from saying something that has insufficient evidence. In maxim of manner, it advised to speak in a clear, understandable manner while using language that is both appropriate and unambiguous, as well as a suitable pace and intonation (Dery et al., 2023). Maxim of relevant is required to say something relevant to what is said before (Cutting, 2002).

People usually talk about something which they want to convey unclearly, something which is beyond what is actually said (Muhartoyo & Sistofa, 2013). This caused failure in capturing the meaning. Andrea & Carmen (2022) explained the incorrect capturing meaning in a conversation might lead to misunderstandings. To gain a better understanding of it, Othman (2022) stated a particular conversational implicature is created by the flouting maxim. Bahaaeddin (2023) provides a further explanation regarding flouting maxim, flouting maxim refers to the blatantly or intentionally not observing a particular maxim for the purpose of generating a conversational implicature.

With regards to the occurrences of flouting of maxims in language, Melinda & Sharifah (2018) found that a flouting maxim of quantity happens when the speaker gives too little or too much information while the speaker is expected to provide sufficient redundant information. In flouting the maxim of quality, Cutting (2002) claims it occurs when the speaker says something untrue. Further, irony was also categorized as a flouting maxim of quality (Grice in Bahaa-eddin, 2023). The maxim of manners is flouted when a speaker deliberately fails to observe the maxim by not being brief, using obscure language, not being orderly or using ambiguity (Niclas, 2013). An example of flouting the maxim of manner is when the speaker looks for an additional set of meaning in their conversation.

Comic Strips

According to Jared Gardner in his 2012 work "From Comic Strips to Graphic Novels," comic strips are illustrated in single panels filled with cartoons on the pages. Gardner emphasizes that comic strips, characterized by their succinct nature, represent a versatile medium capable of serving various purposes. These purposes encompass entertainment, satire, social commentary, and educational content. Moreover, comic strips boast a rich historical background, having been prominently featured in newspapers, magazines, online platforms, and comic anthologies. The art and impact of comic strips persist as a testament to the timeless allure of storytelling through images and words.

Theory of Humor

According to Ben Johnson the term of humor could be defined as passing mood. Martin (2007) defines humor as an emotional response to perceived incongruity in a social environment, manifested through smiles and laughs. Jonson's primary original contribution to dramatic theory was the concept of humor, as outlined in the introduction to "Every Man out of his humor." This theory is considered his first notable and genuinely personal work. William O. Beeman, in the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology (1999), argues that humor involves performative pragmatics, encompassing language, gestures, representation of visual imagery, and situational management.

The goal of humor is to create a tangible sense of enjoyment for the audience, often expressed physically through displays of pleasure like smiles and laughter. Meanwhile (Gardner, 2008; Ayu, 2018) stated that humor is described as something that makes people laugh or feel amused, or the ability to recognize what is funny about a situation or person. It can be written or spoken. Humor is also commonly used in speeches, comics, movies, and other media. The key distinction lies in the applied theories.

The current study utilizes the General Theory of Verbal Humor (GTVH) developed by Attardo in 2017. This theory, evolving from semantic scripts to a pragmatic model, emphasizes the crucial interaction between pictorial and textual elements. Humor may manifest in either or both modes, occurring at various levels and contexts within language and image interaction, such as the middle (jab line) or end (punch line) of the text, or sequences of images (Tsakona, 2009). Punch line and jab line are fundamental tools for analyzing the humor. Punch line and jab line defined as short expression that consist a script opposition but different in their function and position. Punch line always appears at the end of the hilarious text and causes reinterpretation of the text, but the jab line can be found at any section in hilarious text and does not causes reinterpretation, but is completely integrated into the hilarious text without breaking its flow (Tsanoka, Villy 2003). (RJ Fearman, 2014) stated that if the punchline is predictable, then there is no chance for the joke to be funny. If the ending of the joke is predicted and

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

To analyze conversational implicature, the researchers used qualitative research as a design of choice. Qualitative research design can be used to intend the types of flouting maxim and implicature (Amma, 2020). According to Creswell in Jaufillaili et al. (2017) theory, one characteristic of qualitative research is exploring the process, meaning, and understanding of words and pictures. Therefore, each researcher explores both words and meaning of the digital comic strip. The researchers conducted literature retrievals regarding conversational implicature and Grace's maxim theory in the references of this paper.

Data

The data for this study was taken from December 1, 2023 until January 24, 2024. "Tiger" by Bud Blake digital comic strip in The Denver Post was chosen for this research. Out of all the chapters published during that period, there are 40 chapters that are met the criteria.

Procedure

Three steps of analysis were carried out in order to analyze the conversational implicature and flouting maxim in digital comic strips. Gathering digital comic strips is the first step to discover potential data according to the criteria provided. Considering several digital comic strips that would be analyzed, the researchers determined one digital comic strip that would be used as the research data. The research data comes from the utterance of the whole character in the comic strips. Second, classify the maxims and investigate the implicature which is in the utterance of the whole character in "Tiger" digital comic strip. Classified the data into five columns, such as flouting maxim of quality, flouting maxim of quantity, flouting maxim of manner, flouting maxim of relevant, and the implicature of the utterance. Last, the researchers discussed selecting research data that will be included in this paper. There are three examples of each flouting maximos with the implication of the utterance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Structure of the Children Songs

As previously stated, this study aims to understand the conversational implicature of the comic strip by analyzing the flouting of four maxims from punch lines in the end of the strips. 40 chapters of "Tiger" digital comic strip were analyzed using the Grice theory of flouting the maxim and conversational implicature. In the chosen digital comic strip, the characters involved are Tiger, Punkinhead, Hugo, Bonnie, Suzy, Julian, and Stripe. Table 1 presents the frequency and percentage of the flouting maxim in the "Tiger" digital comic strip from December 1, 2023 until January 24, 2024.

Table 1. The Frequency	and Percentage of	Flouting Maxim
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Types of Flouting Maxim	Frequency	Percentage
Quantity	13	32.5%
Quality	8	20%
Manner	10	25%
Relevant	9	22.5%

Total	40	100%

Based on the table 1 above, the researchers found that the flouting maxim of quantity is the most frequently occurring flouting maxim and the least occurring flouting maxim is the flouting maxim of quality. Flouting maxim in "Tiger" digital comic strip arises because the characters sometimes say something unclearly, blurry, not direct to the core, which will insult in implied meaning. Hence, the researchers are interested in finding out the implicature and analyzing the flouting maxim in this comic strip.

About Tiger Comic Strips

Tiger first launched in 1965, it is an American comic strip. Tiger was from the point of view of the boy called Tiger about the childhood moment. It was first popular in newspapers. Tiger tells the daily life about their childhood, it has 7 characters. There are Tiger, Punkinhead, Stripes, Hugo, Bonnie, Julian, and Suzy. Tiger contains a format of humor that is designed to appeal to both children and adults. The outline jokes in this comic strip are significantly different from the other comics at that time. For interesting purposes, the phrases of humor are placed at the end of the panels or the conversation. By providing adorable characters, funny, and interesting moments Blake is successful to design the character then become more popular. Tiger also won the award of "The best Humor Strip" from The National Cartoonist in 1970,1978 and 2000.

Flouting Maxim of Quantity

Flouting the maxim of quantity happens when a speaker deliberately gives too much or less information. In several cases in "Tiger" digital comic strip, the character flouts the maxim of quantity because they speak excessively. The three digital comic strips below show the kind of flouting maxim of quantity.





Figure 1. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Quantity Tiger, The Denver Post. January 24, 2024.

In figure 1, we can see there are Stripe, Punkinhead, Tiger, and Hugo. Hugo had finished repairing things and he was relaxing beneath a tree when Stripe, Punkinhead, and Tiger approached him. Tiger offered Hugo help to repair things but Hugo refused it with his straight face. Hugo assumed that if Tiger helped him, there would be a disaster because Tiger would break things instead of repairing it. Hugo flouts the maxim of quantity, his utterance "You could break something" did not give an answer directly about what he wanted. He should

answer Tiger's question "Need any help, Hugo?" by saying "Yes" or "No" to state clearly what he wants.

Data 2



Figure 2. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Quantity Tiger, The Denver Post. December 07, 2023.

There are Julian, Tiger, and Stipe. Julian is playing a violin while Tiger is just laying on the sofa. Stripe is trying to hide himself behind the sofa because Julian makes his ear hurt. Julian offered Tiger to hear a nocturne and Tiger rejected it. Tiger's answer "No.. The violin is bad enough" flouted the maxim of quantity because it proved to be an ineffective response. Tiger speaks too much to answer Julian's question. From this figure we know that Julian can not play violin but he acts like a superstar who is an expert at playing violin.

Data 3



figure 3. Sample Flouting Maxim of Quantity Tiger, The Denver Post. January 12, 2024

According to the panel of the comic strips in figure 3. The characters that are shown Tiger, Stripe, and Hugo. They are admiring the snow and talking about the snowflakes. Stripe said a statement about snowflakes, that he mentioned before the "snowflake supposed to have different patterns". Hugo asks the possibility of "how if they were not the same". We can conclude that as flouted the maxim of quantity because too much explanatory and response.

Flouting Maxim of Quality

Flouting the maxim of quality occurs when a speaker says something untrue, false information, and cannot be supported by strong evidence. The three digital comic strips below can be included in the kind of flouting maxim of quality.

Data 4



Figure 4. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Quality Tiger, The Denver Post. December 30, 2024

The figure above shows Hugo and Tiger pulling a sled with a snowman on it while Punkinhead and Stripe accidentally meet them. Punkinhead was amazed and curious about how Hugo and Tiger built a snowman on the sled then asked them. Tiger's answer "... spend half the time ..." is not true, he exaggerates his answer to impress Punkinhead. Hugo and Tiger might take a longer time to build a snowman on a sled but not as long as Tiger's said, he is hyperbole about it. Tiger's statement flouted the maxim of quality in which his answer is not true and he does not have any adequate evidence about it. The implicature shown in the comic is Tiger does not want to tell Punkinhead how to build a snowman on a sled.

Data 5



Figure 5. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Quality Tiger, The Denver Post. January 05, 2024

In the fifth picture Punkinhead and Tiger are standing in the snowfall. Then Punkinhead told Tiger that he thought it would snow, Tiger emphasize to Punkinhead that it was indeed snowing now, but Punkinhead avoided it and said "I meant to say that earlier but I forgot." Punkinhead's last statement "I meant to say that earlier but I forgot" flouted the maxim of quality. The maxim of quality requires the speaker to speak honestly and not hide true information. In this case, Punkinhead is hiding the honest information that he actually knew it was snowing, but he forgot to mention it beforehand. Therefore, his last statement does not fulfill the principle of honesty. The implicature in this conversation is Punkinhead knows that it's snowing but he lies.



Figure 6. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Quality Tiger, The Denver Post. December 30, 2023

From the panel of comic strips above. 3 characters that follow the chart of the panel. Two of them pull the sled that has a snowman on it. Hugo asked them "how come you built it on A sled?" He was curious. Stripe answered "So it can spend half the time in Hugo's yard". Stripe hyperball the answer so he was not asking about it anymore.

Flouting Maxim of Manner

This kind of flouting maxim takes place when a speaker says something ambiguous, obscurity, and not being brief. As a result, There is an implicature created, leading the participants to look for an additional set of meaning. The three digital comic strips below show the kind of flouting maxim of manner.



Figure 7. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Manner Tiger, The Denver Post. December 09, 2023.

In figure 7, we can see Tiger is busy writing something on a white paper. Then, Punkinhead comes and asks a question to Tiger. While Punkinhead started to ask, Tiger was still continuing his activity. Punkinhead forgot about what Tiger wanted him to stop doing. Tiger answered Punkinhead's question, "asking me questions!". After getting the answer from Tiger, Punkinhead was stunned. The answer of Tiger was flouting the maxim of manners. Tiger's answer has two different meanings and it makes the conversation unclearly. First, Tiger wanted Punkinhead to stop asking him questions, this meaning is in accordance with Punkinhead's question. Second, Tiger did not hear what Punkinhead said because he was focused with his white paper so that Tiger wanted him to ask him questions. The implicature derived from the conversation is Tiger is boring to hear Punkinhead's questions.



Figure 8. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Manner Tiger, The Denver Post. December 12, 2023.

In picture 8 Punkinhead, Stripe, and Tiger are in a room and Punkinhead is playing the piano messily, then he asks "Does this sound like thunder?" Then Tiger answered "Not to me" but Punkinhead replied "It does to Stripe." The question of Punkinhead flouts the maxim of manners because the question is ambiguous and it is not clearly asked to whom the question is being asked, whether Tiger or Stripe. There are two implications that may come from the question: first is Punkinhead asked to Stripe or He asked to Tiger.

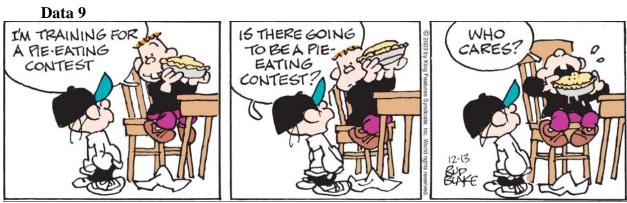


Figure 9. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Manner Tiger, The Denver Post. January 13, 2024.

Stripe and Hugo are having a conversation in the dining room. Hugo told Stripe that he has training for a pie-eating contest while he is holding a pie. Then Stripe is asking Hugo, "is there going to be a pie-eating contest?". After that, Hugo Shouted "Who cares?". As we can see there is ambiguity surrounding this plot. The differences of the statement offer fighting between Hugo and Stripe.

Flouting Maxim of Relevant

This kind of flouting maxim happens when a speaker intentionally gives a response which is obviously irrelevant to the topic. The implicature arises when the speaker deviates from what the topic being asked. This flouting maxim can be seen in the three digital comic strips below.



Figure 10. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Relevant Tiger, The Denver Post. December 26, 2023.

Figure 10 shows Boonie was walking to approach Hugo. Before Bonnie approached Hugo, he was busy repairing something. While Bonnie talked regarding his perfume, Hugo stopped his activity and started to pay attention to Bonnie. While Bonnie asks Hugo how her perfume is, he tries to smell Bonnie's perfume for a while. Then, Hugo answered Bonnie's question while continuing his activity. In this data, the response of Hugo is flouting the maxim of relevant. Bonnie talked about her French perfume while Hugo answered the word "French" is more suitable for toast and fries, French toast and French fries. There are two implications that may be derived from the utterance: Hugo did not like perfume or He's too shy to compliment Bonnie's French perfume.



Figure 11. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Relevant Tiger, The Denver Post. December 05, 2023.

In picture 11 Punkinhead approaches Tiger with dirty shoes. Then Tiger asked "How did you get all that dirty on your shoes?" Then Punkinhead gave the answer "My pocket must have a hole in it." Tiger asked because he wanted to know the reason for the dirt on Punkinhead's shoes. Punkinhead's answer seems irrelevant to the question asked by Tiger. Therefore Punkinhead's answer is flouting the maxim of relevance

. The implicatures that can be identified from the utterance Punkinhead's shoes are broken because it had a hole in it. Because of that, Punkinhead's shoes are dirty.



Figure 12. Sample of Flouting Maxim of Relevant Tiger, The Denver Post. January 11, 2023

In picture 12 Hugo tells Stripe the thoughts of his ambition when grow up. Then Stripe asked him "have you decided?" hugo straight answer yes. Stripe asked him again "what are you gonna be?" Hugo's, unexpected Hugo answer was to be happy. It is an obviously irrelevant topic in the conversation between Hugo and Stripe. Stripe thought that Hugo was going to answer his dream occupation, but turns out he was expressing his emotion.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data from the research. The conversation between the characters in the comic strips could be both directly or explicit. In this case, researchers applied steps to imply the meaning in the conversation which turned out the result in conversation implicature.

In conclusion, this research attempts to analyze the four types of flouting maxim and the implicature in the "Tiger" digital comic strip by Bud Blake. The characters in Tiger digital comic strip flout all the maxim: quantity, quality, relation, and manner. From December 01 2023 to January 24 2024 the researchers found the flouting maxim of quantity thirteen (32.5%), the flouting maxim of quality eight (20%), the flouting maxim of manner ten (25%), and the flouting maxim of relevant nine (22.5%).

furthermore, as result concluded that the character has different ways to deliver the message which is influenced by the disposition. The writers of the "Tiger" comic Strips intentionally break the maxim rules, to convey more interesting conversation and build the humour that is amusing for the readers.

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