CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction discusses the problems which have to do with the topic of this research namely violation of maxims of conversation. The discussion in this chapter covers background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study and source of data.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the main characteristic that distinguishes human beings from other creatures. It means that human beings use language in their daily life automatically. Therefore, nobody can communicate without language. Based on the statement above, language becomes an interesting object of the study. As a means of verbal interaction, language can be studied externally and internally. Falk stated that language is always there, and we make use of it automatically, often without any conscious effort (1985: 3). It shows that language cannot be separated from human life.

At the same time, language will work if there are at least two people who use it to communicate to each other. Some people communicate to others in order to transfer the idea, to get information about someone, a place, a job, to know the direction of place, to express something such as love, sadness, sympathy, hatred and many things else. Afterwards, it will be accomplished, if the participants do the communication well.

Linguistics is a scientific study of human language. Generally, linguistics has many branches such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics and pragmatics. Semantics and pragmatics are study of meaning. Semantics studies meaning internally, while pragmatics studies meaning externally. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics concerned with the use of language in social contexts and the ways in which people produce and comprehend meanings through the language. Pragmatics studies not only the formal structure, but also the functional structure concerning the way how the formal structure functions in the communication.

On the other hand, communication or conversation among people does not always run well. Sometimes there is some confusion or even misunderstanding among the participants. In this case, implicature plays an important role. Implicature is anything that is inferred from an utterance but that is not a condition for the truth of utterance (Gazdar, 1979: 49). It clarifies that implicature is a concept of utterance meaning as opposed to the real sentence meaning. Furthermore, implicature conveys meaning which is implied in every utterance.

There is a rule that must be acquired by the speakers and listeners in order to make communication running well namely maxims of conversation. It is necessary to fulfil the needed requirements in communicating to other people. If those requirements cannot be fulfilled, it means that the speakers or listeners violate the maxims of conversation. Violation of maxims of conversation adheres to implicature. Both are closely related each other since there is an implied meaning in violation of maxims of conversation. Look at the following example to make sure about the previous explanation.

(38/MR)   Calvin : I thought I read that the sun was really big.

Father : You can't believe everything what you read. I'm afraid

Calvin : So, how does the sun rise in the east if it lands in Arizona each night?

Father : ***Well, time for bed.***

Calvin : I hope someday I'm as smart as dad is.

Mother: Why? What did he tell you now?

This is one of the examples of violation of maxim of conversation especially maxim of relevance. It happens when Calvin and his father are discussing about the sun. The violation occurs when his father answers Calvin's question. The topic of the answer and the question are not relevant. Calvin asks about the sun but his father asks Calvin to go to bed. This violation reveals an implied meaning that his father actually does not know how to answer his son's question so he tries to shift Calvin's attention by changing the topic of the discussion.

Violation of maxims of conversation can be found in printed media such as poster, advertisement, book or comic. All of them become a means in delivering satire, criticism, opinion, humor, and etcetera to the readers. Comic is one of the printed media containing so many conversations among the characters.

Sometimes, an author tries to input a violation of maxims of conversation in certain conversation to make the comic interesting.

Based on the fact above, the research entitled *Violation of Maxims of Conversation in Bill Watterson's **Calvin and Hobbes*** tries to discuss the kinds of violation of maxims of conversation which are uttered by the characters in certain conversations in this comic and also the characters' motives in performing violation of maxims of conversation.

1.2   Statements of the Problem

Due to the topic of the discussion in the research, two main problems are formulated as follows:

1.   What are the kinds of violation of maxims of conversation found in conversations done by the characters in Bill Watterson's *Calvin and Hobbes*?

2.   What is the purpose of violating of maxims of conversation?

1.3   Objectives of the Study

In order to answer the problems as stated previously, the researcher determines two essential purposes. They are as the following:

1.   To search the kinds of violation of maxims of conversation found in conversations done by the characters in Bill Watterson's *Calvin and Hobbes*

2.   To reveal the purpose of violating of maxims of conversation.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is within the field of linguistics. The strip comic entitled *Calvin and Hobbes* is used as the object of the study. The result of the study may add the knowledge about the aspects of pragmatics. It is specifically expected to be the valuable information to increase the readers' knowledge about violation of maxims of conversation. By learning the scientific work, people are able to know about the use of maxims of conversation and their function in daily conversation. Furthermore, this study could be used to figure out and understand the implied messages which occur in the real use of conversation and its purposes.

1.5 Source of Data

The data of this research are collected from one of the famous strip comic in 18th century entitled *Calvin and Hobbes* written by Bill Watterson. They were taken from the editions of July 1st, 2014 until July 31st, 2015. The researcher decides to use the data from this comic as it contains many examples of violation of maxims of conversation that may reveal implied meanings in the conversations done by the characters. Therefore, the comics which are taken from *http://www.gocomics.com/calvinandhobbes/* are considered as the valid source of data in this research.