

## Conversational Implicature in the Play Script "Find Yourself a Nice Girl"

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**Abstract:** This study aims to analyze the pragmatics-linguistics of Implicature Conversational and to identify the types as well as the characteristics of Implicature Conversational produced by the characters mentioned in the play script "Find Yourself a Nice Girl." The data used is specifically focuses on the speech of the characters in the children's book "The Kindness of the Frog." The method used in this research is descriptive-qualitative, with the text that covered the dialogues of the characters mentioned in the play script serving as the subject of analysis. The research adopts Grice's (1975) theory of conversational implicature, which is classified into generalized conversational implicature and particularized conversational implicature, as the framework for this study in analyzing the data. Based on the research findings, it was discovered that the two types of conversational implicatures appeared in the text of the children's book. Moreover, this findings indicate that the character's most dominant type of implicature refers to the generalized conversational implicature.

**Keywords:** *conversational implicature, generalized, particularized, pragmatics, script play*

### RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Language plays an important role in human life, particularly in the social aspect, since it is defined as a human communication tool used in daily life (Felicia, 2001:1). It allows a person to convey ideas, thoughts, and even feelings to others, both verbally and non-verbally (Walija, 1996:4). It implies that language is primarily a means of communication, and communication almost always takes place within some sort of social context (Amberg and Vause, 2010:2). In this regard, Mey (2001:24) stated that pragmatics is related to the context of the society in using their language in communication. In other words, pragmatics is a linguistic discipline that studies the relation between language and the context that underpins an understanding of a language's meaning (Levinson, 1983: 9). It actually emphasizes the fact that understanding the meaning of a language requires knowledge beyond the meaning of words and their grammatical relations, in which context is also involved. Moreover, Yule (2006:112) defines pragmatics as the study of what speakers mean or speaker meaning. It clarifies that this branch of linguistics is essentially the study of contextual meaning, which involves analyzing interpretations of what people mean in a particular context and how context affects what is said.

Regarding with this issue, misunderstandings are very likely to occur because defining an utterance is essentially about how we make a guess (Jacob and Leech, 1983). In fact, we frequently prefer to say something indirectly rather than directly conveying a message

(Yoshida, 2012). However, Hang (2013) contends that each utterance can be viewed as communicating a variety of propositions, some explicitly and others implicitly. Grice (1967) uses the term “implicature” to refer to the intended implication of speech. Implicature refers to the meaning that the speaker intends to convey but does not express (Horn and Ward, 2004). Moreover, implicature is a part of pragmatics that investigates the meaning in a speaker’s utterance, in which the actual meaning differs from what is said, and this concept is frequently associated with the sense or level of politeness or impoliteness of speakers in communication (Haugh, 2014).

In implicature, If someone says something but then adds something when communicating it, it is referred to as conversational implicature (Hang, 2013). Butt et al., (1983:31) also reveal that the concept of conversational implicature is derived from the general principle of conversation plus a number of maxims that are typically followed by speakers, in which this principle is referred to as the “cooperative principle.” Actually, conversational implicatures make explicit assumptions about the possibility of meaning more than what is said (Levinson: 1983). It indicates that non-linguistic characteristics can be linked to general principles of communication and cooperation because what is said goes beyond its literal meaning (Grice, 1975). According to Risdianto (2011), in the context of conversational implicatures, the hearer will play a role in determining whether the speaker violates one of the maxims of conversation, relevance, informativeness, and discussion, or not. Yule (1996) defines conversational implicatures as the basic assumptions in conversations that participants must adhere to cooperative principles and maxims. Grice (1975) categorizes the Principle of Cooperation into four maxims: (1) Maxim of Quantity, in which people are required to contribute as informatively as needed and not more informatively than required; (2) Maxim of Quality, in which people are required to make right contributions, not to say what they believe is wrong, and not to say that for which they lack evidence; (3) Maxim of Relevant, people are expected to make relevant contributions; (4) Maxim of Manner, people are required to avoid ambiguity of expression, avoid ambiguity, be brief, and orderly.

According to Grice (1975), one can intentionally violate maxims in order to build implicature conversations. He also identifies two types of conversational implicatures: generalized conversational implicatures and particularized conversational implicatures. If generalized conversational implicatures can be concluded without referring to a specific context, since this type of implicature does not necessitate specific knowledge to find additional meaning. Then, particularized conversational implicatures can be concluded by requiring special features found in the context, and participants require specific knowledge to understand utterances that violate the maxims of manner and quantity.

During the research process, the researcher discovered several papers related to the analysis of Conversational Implicatures, such as Annisa Martini (2017) conducting research on Conversational Implicature Of Indonesian Students In Daily Conversation. The research subjects in this study are Indonesian students from Kuningan University’s Department of English Education. The reason for selecting this topic is based on the problem of people frequently producing uninformative utterances or providing less or too much information as needed in daily conversation. Then there is Rahmat Fuad Siregar (2018), who wrote An Analysis Of Conversational Implicature In V For Vendetta Movie. Using a qualitative descriptive research design and Grice’s theory as a framework, this study aims to interpret the implied meaning and discover how speakers fail to fulfill the maxims in each of the selected utterances containing conversational implicatures in “V for Vendetta” movie. Meanwhile, Saiful Akmal and Desy Ulfa Yana (2019) conducted a study titled Conversational Implicature Analysis in William Monahan’s “Kingdom of Heaven” Movie Script. This study employs Grice’s theory as a framework and a qualitative design to

discover the types of conversational implicatures that result from the principles of non-observance maxim, as well as to identify the meanings of the implicatures expressed by the characters in the film Kingdom of Heaven. Vivian Cristina (2020), on the other hand, conducted a study titled Conversational Implicature Analysis In Tv Show “F.R.I.E.N.D.S”:  
Pragmatic Approach. This study employs a quantitative research method based on Grice’s (1975) theory to identify and analyze the types of conversational implicatures, as well as Leech’s (1969) theory of figurative language to analyze the forms of conversational implicatures.

According to the data, conversational implicature analysis primarily focuses on movies. However, in this study, the researcher attempted to analyze D.M. Larson’s script play “Find Yourself a Nice Girl.” This play script contains dialogue and direction about Grant, a young man who admires stage singer Billie Holiday. The script used as the subject of this study was collected from a blog on the internet. Using Grice’s (1975) conversational implicature theory, this study analyzes the types of implicatures that appear in the play script “Find Yourself a Nice Girl.” It is expected that this research will serve as a foundation for teaching and learning about Pragmatic-Linguistics, particularly Conversational Implicatures, and serve as a reference for future research.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The descriptive-qualitative method is used to collect and analyze data in this study. The text that contains the dialogues produced by the characters listed in the Play Script titled “Find Yourself a Nice Girl” is the subject of this research. The source of this research data was obtained by purposefully accessing the Play Script “Find Yourself a Nice Girl” on a blogspot. Following data collection, the researcher analyzed and observed the types of conversational implicatures produced by the characters listed in the Play Script titled “Find Yourself a Nice Girl.” Furthermore, the most commonly used ones are described in this study. The researcher used Grice’s (1975) framework to classify the types of conversational implicatures when analyzing the data.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This study focuses on analyzing the types of conversational implicatures in the play script entitled “Find Yourself a Nice Girl”. The researcher used Grice’s (1975) theory as the framework for this study, and the findings are as follows:

**Table 1.** Types of Conversational Implicature Identified

No.	Types of Conversational Implicature	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1.	Generalized Conversational Implicature	7	16,7%
2.	Particularized Conversational Implicature	2	4,8%
3.	Neither generalized nor particularized conversational implicature	33	78,6%
Total		42	100%

The researcher discovered that both generalized conversational implicatures and conversational implicatures were used in a play script titled "Find Yourself a Nice Girl" based on the study's findings. The type of generalized implicature is the most common conversational implicature, with 7 occurrences, according to the table above. In the

meantime, specificized conversational implicature appears twice. The following is a detailed description of the findings.

### **Generalized Conversational Implicature**

Grice (1975) defines generalized implicature as a conversational implicature that can be inferred without the use of a specific context. (There is no need for specific knowledge to deduce the additional meaning). It means that a generalized conversational implicature is one that is not dependent on specific features of the context, but is instead typically associated with the proposition expressed.

#### **Excerpt. 1**

Grant : I'm not a kid. I'm nearly 16... in a year or two.

The utterance falls under the category of generalized conversational implicature because we can infer from it that Grant does not want to be called "kid" by Billie, even though he eventually admits that he is not yet 16 years old.

#### **Excerpt. 2**

Billie: "I know I've got at least one fan. Where'd you get the money to buy all those presents you sent me? You a bit crooked too? Did you steal some of it?"

Billie's statement is a generalized conversational implicature because it actually implies "You're still young, but how come you can send me gifts? Unless you ask your parents for money." Billie actually intended to tease Grant, who admired her so much that he gave her various gifts, which Billie assumed were not his money because Grant isn't old enough to work.

#### **Excerpt. 3**

Billie: "So out with it. What's with all the gifts? Did you beg, borrow or steal?"

This utterance belongs to the category of generalized conversational implicature since we can understand the context of Billie's conversation, which was meant to tease Grant with the question. Billie makes fun of Grant because he is young and unemployed, but he has been able to lavish Billie with gifts simply because Grant admires Billie.

#### **Excerpt. 4**

Grant: "I'm from a wealthy family. I used my allowance."

Grant's statement falls into the generalized conversational implicature category because we know from his response that he doesn't want Billie to know where he got his money, so he prefers to admit that he is wealthy.

#### **Excerpt. 5**

Billie: "Oh my goodness gracious! I have myself a genuine stalker!"

Billie's expression belongs to the type of generalized conversational implicature because we

can deduce from it that Billie only meant to tease Grant, who knew everything about Billie's preferences from others person that he shouldn't know unless he was really close to Billie; in fact, Billie had just met Grant for the first time.

### Excerpt. 6

Billie : "You come to all my shows, you sneak around to all the places I go and find out what I buy...who knows where else you've followed me. You're a stalker."

Billie's utterance is a generalized conversational implicature because the context of the conversation shows that Billie only meant to tease Grant, who knew which places he frequently visited.

### Excerpt.7

Billie: "That's all you're getting. Now get out of here before I call security you little stalker."

The utterance is a generalized conversational implicature, and we know from the context that it was just a joke by Billie to gently drive Grant away.

### Particularized Conversational Implicature

According to Grice (1975), a particularized conversational implicature occurs when a conversation takes place in a very specific context in which locally recognized inferences are assumed.

### Excerpt. 8

(She laughs when she sees Grant, who is a young teenager - He was trying to look very grown up so he is embarrassed by her laughter)

Billie : "You're just a kid!"

This conversation refers to a particularized conversational impicture since only Billie knows why she unexpectedly addressed Grant in that manner during their first meeting. Billie's utterance actually implies, "Owh...you're still young, why are you acting like an adult?" This implication can be seen in the script's narrative (She laughs when she sees Grant, who is a young teenager - He was trying to look very grown up so he is embarrassed by her laughter). We don't know the context of Billie's conversation if there is no narration.

### Excerpt. 9

Grant: "Yes, ma'am."

Billie: "Watch it."

Grant: "Ok Billie."

The conversation falls under the category of particularized conversational implicature because we won't know what Billie meant when she said "watch it" out of the blue. It was implied in the conversation that Billie only wanted to remind Grant to address him by name, but in the context of that conversation, Grant had slipped up and addressed Billie as "ma'am,"

that's why Billie said that to remind Grant.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the study's findings, the researcher discovered that both types of conversational implicatures appeared in the play script "Find Yourself a Nice Girl." The researcher also discovered that the most dominant implicature used by the characters was the generalized conversational implicatures with 7 occurrences (78%). Generalized conversational implicature refers to information that can be inferred without referring to a specific context. While particularized conversational implicatures appear only 2 times (22%). Particularized conversational implicature, also known as ad hoc implicature, occurs when the success of this inference is related to knowledge of very specific contextual information.

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