

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Pragmatics is a crucial field within linguistics that examines how meaning is conveyed beyond the literal words used by speakers. As defined by Yule (1996), pragmatics is the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker and interpreted by a listener in a particular context. This field emphasizes that meaning is not only derived from linguistic forms but also from the context in which the utterance occurs. Speakers often rely on shared background knowledge and inference to convey ideas that are not explicitly stated. These characteristics of meaning-making are most clearly observable in everyday interactions, particularly in conversations, where speakers and listeners actively negotiate meaning through context and interpretation.

Conversation is a basic form of human communication that involves interaction between speakers and listeners to exchange ideas, information, and feelings. According to Taguchi (2020), in everyday conversation, meaning is not always conveyed directly because participants often rely on situational context, shared knowledge, and implicit cues to understand each other's intentions. Through conversation, speakers can convey certain attitudes, emotions, or judgments without having to express them explicitly. This shows that understanding meaning in conversation does not only depend on the form of language, but also on the listener's interpretation process. Therefore, conversation is an important area in

pragmatic studies because it shows how meaning is constructed through context and inference.

One important concept in pragmatics is implicature, which explains how speakers can communicate more than what is directly said. Grice (1975) introduced the notion of implicature to show how people frequently intend additional meanings, expecting listeners to infer them from context. For example, when someone says, "It's getting late," the speaker may actually be suggesting that it is time to leave, rather than merely stating the time. Thus, implicature illustrates how indirect communication becomes effective in everyday interactions.

In the study of pragmatic implicature, conversational implicature plays an important role in explaining how implied meaning arises specifically in dialogic interactions. Grice (1975) defines conversational implicature as meaning implied by the speaker and recognizable by the listener even though it is not literally stated in the utterance. Understanding conversational implicature is highly dependent on shared assumptions, background knowledge, and context shared by the participants. Furthermore, through conversational implicatures, speakers can express disapproval, humour, criticism, and emotional nuances indirectly, making interactions sound more polite, natural, and communicative.

To further understand conversational implicature, scholars categorize it into two types: generalized and particularized. Generalized conversational implicature, according to Grice (1975), can usually be understood without needing special context. For instance, when someone says, "Some of the students passed the test,"

it often implies that not all students passed. In contrast, particularized conversational implicature requires a specific context to interpret the intended meaning. As Yule (1996) illustrates, replying “Well, the popcorn was good” to the question “Did you enjoy the movie?” strongly suggests a negative opinion about the film, and this inference is only clear within that specific conversational situation.

To further understand conversational implicature, films can be used as a rich source of data because they display natural language use and complex character interactions. Dialogue in films often contains implied meanings that serve to reveal emotions, attitudes, and relationships between characters beyond the literal meaning of the utterance. In line with this, Putriayu and Imperiani (2022) explain that implicatures in films can create subtext, describe the psychological conditions of characters, and enrich the storyline through interactions that feel authentic. Implicatures serve as an effective means of conveying subtle emotional nuances, sarcasm, and politeness strategies in fictional conversations. Therefore, film dialogue analysis is a relevant and effective approach to examining how conversational implicatures function in indirect communication.

The movie *Before We Go* (2014), directed by Chris Evans, offers an ideal case for studying conversational implicature because its plot relies heavily on dialogue. The story follows two strangers, Nick and Brooke, who unexpectedly meet and spend a night walking and talking through New York City. Many of their conversations involve indirect responses, hints, and emotional subtext that reveal their deeper feelings and personal struggles. Analyzing such dialogue can help identify how conversational implicatures work to build emotional depth and

develop the story without relying on direct statements.

Some of previous study examined conversational implicatures in film dialogues to understand how characters construct meaning and express emotions indirectly. Musdalifa et al. (2022), in their study of the film *Lady Bird*, found that conversational implicatures are often used to convey sarcasm, politeness, and emotional cues that are not explicitly stated. Similar results were also shown by Rhamadani et al. (2022), emphasizes that the interpretation of conversational implicatures in film depends on the situational context and the specific circumstances surrounding the interaction. In particular, understanding particularized implicatures requires knowledge of the local context shared by the speaker and hearer, as well as the physical context in which the utterance occurs. These findings show that conversational implicatures play an important role in building depth of meaning and character development in film dialogue. However, to date, research specifically analyzing conversational implicatures in the film *Before We Go* remains limited, opening up opportunities for this study to fill that gap.

Although previous studies have shown that conversational implicatures play an important role in revealing implied meaning, emotions, and psychological aspects of characters in film dialogue, these studies generally focus on films with complex storylines, many characters, or dominant conflicts. Studies such as those conducted by Musdalifa et al. (2022) and Rhamadani et al. (2022) have not specifically highlighted films that rely entirely on spontaneous conversation as the main driver of the narrative. The film *Before We Go* has different characteristics because the

development of the story and the relationships between the characters are built almost entirely through intimate dialogue between the two main characters. Therefore, there is still a gap in research on understanding how conversational implicatures function in dialogue-driven films with minimal action. This gap underlies the importance of this study to examine the types and communicative functions of conversational implicatures in the film *Before We Go*.

Based on these research gaps, this study aims to identify the types of conversational implicatures found in the dialogue of the film *Before We Go* and analyze the communicative functions of these implicatures. By focusing on dialogue-driven films, this study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of how implied meanings are used to build emotions, interpersonal relationships, and narrative development. Overall, this study emphasizes the urgency of researching conversational implicatures as an important element in indirect communication, especially in the context of film dialogue. Thus, this study is expected to contribute theoretically and practically to pragmatic studies and serve as a basis for further research in relevant fields.

B. Research Focus

This study is limited to analyzing conversational implicatures found in the movie “*Before We Go*.” The analysis focuses on the dialogues between the two main characters throughout the film. It specifically examines the use of generalized and particularized implicatures as they are produced and interpreted within the conversational exchanges of the two characters, highlighting how each type

emerges in different contextual situations. Furthermore, the study explores the communicative functions of those implicatures based on Grice's (1975) theory and supported by Yule's (1996) insights. The study excludes the analysis of non-verbal elements such as gestures or facial expressions and only concentrates on verbal dialogue.

C. Problems of the study

1. What types of conversational implicatures are found in the dialogue of the movie "*Before We Go*"?
2. How do the communicative functions of implicatures used in the movie dialogue?

D. Purpose of the Study

1. To identify the types of conversational implicatures found in the movie "*Before We Go*".
2. To analyze the communicative functions of those implicatures in the movie dialogue.

E. Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to enrich pragmatic studies, particularly in the discussion of conversational implicatures as introduced by Grice (1975) and further explained by Yule (1996). Through the analysis of general and specific conversational implicatures in the film "*Before We Go*", this study shows how implicit meaning is constructed and understood in dialogues that resemble real

communication. Thus, this study provides empirical evidence that supports the relevance of implicature theory in everyday language use.

Practically, this study is useful for researchers as an academic reference in developing further research in the field of pragmatics, particularly related to film dialogue analysis. For English teachers, the results of this study can be used as teaching material to help students understand the use of implied meaning in conversation. Understanding conversational implicature is expected to improve students' pragmatic competence in both oral and written communication.

For students of the English Language Program, this research is expected to help deepen their understanding of the application of pragmatic theory in authentic contexts. Film dialogue analysis provides real examples of how implicatures are used in everyday interactions, making it easier for students to relate theory to practice. In addition, this research can also train students' ability to analyze language critically and contextually.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on how meaning is created and interpreted in real-life communication, beyond the literal meanings of words. It considers the influence of context, the relationship between speakers, and shared knowledge in understanding what is actually meant in an utterance.

2. Implicature

Implicature refers to an additional meaning intended by a speaker that is not directly expressed in words but is understood by the listener through inference. It often relies on the listener's awareness of context and their ability to "read between the lines" to grasp what the speaker truly means.

3. Conversational Implicature

Conversational implicature is a specific type of implicature that emerges during everyday conversation. It arises when a speaker implies something indirectly, expecting the listener to understand the hidden meaning based on the shared context, conversational background, and general conversational principles.

4. Communicative Functions

Communicative functions refer to the purpose or role of speech in conveying meaning in conversation. These functions explain how speakers use language not only to convey information, but also to perform actions such as expressing emotions, showing politeness, giving advice, expressing disagreement, or building interpersonal relationships. In the context of conversational implicature, communicative function helps identify how implied meaning operates to achieve specific communicative goals without being explicitly stated.

5. *Before We Go* Movie

Before We Go is a romantic drama film released in 2014, directed by Chris Evans. The film centers on two strangers who spend one night together in New York City, sharing conversations that gradually reveal their personal stories and feelings. In this study, the film serves as the main source of data to analyze how conversational implicatures appear in dialogue and help express character emotions and intentions.