

## STYLISTIC FEATURES: CONVERSATIONAL IMPLICATURE OF THE POEM “JABBERWOCKY” BY LEWIS CARROLL

### FITUR STILISTIK: IMPLIKATUR KONVERSASIONAL DARI PUISI ‘JABBERWOCKY’ OLEH LEWIS CARROLL

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#### **Abstract**

*The present study aimed to analyze the stylistic features especially conversational implicature of the poem “Jabberwocky” written by Lewis Carroll. Implicature theory was the cooperative principle by Paul Grice to use to analyze. Two reasons support to uses of this theory. The method was used Documentation method with note-taking and highlighting technique. First, The poem was taken from the novel entitled Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There. Second, the implied conversation between the characters was found in this poem. This study analyses the violating maxims only. The results were all maxims are violated. Then, Maxim of Quality was mostly violated in this poem.*

**Keywords:** *conversational implicature, literary pragmatics, pragmatics, stylistic*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Poetry is short work compared to other literary works; drama and prose (novel) because it is built with creative and imaginative words and phrases. The study is commonly used to investigate the poetry itself is a study of stylistic features. Stylistics is the science of using language and style in literature. Stylistics is very important for a literary work, including poetry because poetry is never separated from the use of beautiful language styles. The usage of stylistics in a literary work is referred to as literary stylistics or poetic stylistics. They are phonology, semantic, pragmatic, graphological, lexical, syntactic (Simpson. P, 2004). Phonology and semantics are discussed more often because both of them are easy to find in a literary work; poetry. However, the pragmatic aspect tends to be slightly examined in recent studies. They are implicature and speech acts.

The literary work by Lewis Carroll entitled Jabberwocky raises implied conversation in it. This poem is taken from a novel as well entitled Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There (1871) uses a ballad poetry style; sad poetry with a cultural core, which tells about human life, through thoughts and feelings (Manis, 2018). Judging from the type of style of this poetry, it is important to have the meaning of poetry according to the context. This research investigates aspects of meaning involved in the interaction between the context of the expression of the poem and the interpretation itself.

According to Grice. P (1967), when implying an utterance, one must be able to go beyond what is said therefore the non-linguistic features play a role, namely social and cultural. In addition, the implicature provides some explicit explanation of how it might mean more than what is said. Then, this implicature theory can be analyzed using the cooperative principle by Paul Grice; the norm that governs all cooperative interactions between humans and consists of four conversational maxims. This paper aims at identifying

Grice's maxims in this poem and analyzing violated maxims that emerge in the poem entitled 'Jabberwocky'.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The method that was used in collecting the data was the Documentation method. The key to collecting data in qualitative research is the way to observe the data source's information and review it into manuscript and proposal production (Creswell (2009, p. 137). Meanwhile, the note-taking and highlighting technique are used as it obtains explanations and comparisons that are convenient to the source of information. Concerning the technique, Creswell (2009, p.272) defines the documentation method as a means to observe public documents or private documents as written evidence of the research. There are several steps in collecting the data as follows: 1) Download the poems from google. 2) Read the poems repeatedly. 3) Highlight the special meaning and conversational implicature that represents violate maxim issues. 4) Observe the types of Grice's maxim related to poetical expression in the poetry along with analyzing the socio-cultural and historical perspective related to the meaning of its lines. 5) Compare the meaning of and other information related to the data such as articles and books.

In analyzing data, this study used interpretative form of qualitative research. It means that this study in which gather the data and analyse it with interpretation. Therefore, the descriptive-analysis technique defined as an elaboration of such informational text and images used to analyze the data. There were four steps in analyzing the data as followed: 1) Classify four maxims and its meaning related to the types maxims in the poems used. 2) Eliminate the line of the poetry that has the same interpretation. 3) Interpret the meaning of each maxims used in the poetry. In presenting the data was use informal technique. Informal technique means it was written into descriptions and various potential evidence presented in the form of words.

Pragmatics is one of the scopes contained at the linguistic level. This theory studies how the meaning of speech is semantically related to its context. External factors to be able to understand this context are the place, who is being spoken to, and most importantly the prevailing norms which are considered in this paper. According to Levinson (1983), language and context are the basis of language understanding.

### Literary Pragmatics

Above has been discussed about pragmatics as the grand theory of this paper. Then move on to how to relate pragmatics to literary work. When we see the underlying pragmatics are used in real life through conversations of both parties (speaker and listener). Pragmatics in literary work, there will be no visible conversation between the speaker and the listener because it is in the form of the text so that what is seen in literary work is only the language user, namely the author and reader. The pragmatic aspect concerns two parties in conversation in a literary work. Although the message in literary work cannot be conveyed directly from the author to the reader because there is no response from the reader, the appropriate term to use is to transfer the message from the implied author to an implied reader (Leech & Short, 2007). Implied readers can share presupposition and inference on literary works of a language, while implicit writers communicate messages regardless of situational context directly to non-speaking recipients (Leech & Short, 2007, p. 209).

### Conversational Implicature

There is an influential theory for understanding the implied meaning of a sentence, namely the theory by Paul Grice (1967). Conversational implicatures provide some explicit

explanation of how the meaning of a word can mean more than what is said. Then, Grice continued his theory of implicature called the cooperative principle; norms that govern all interactions between humans and consist of four conversational maxims. However, in this paper, we will focus on maxims that are violated in the poem entitled 'Jabberwocky' by Lewis Carroll. The following meaning of maxims is violated: **(1) Violating the maxim of Quality:** This maxim can be flouted for different purposes; irony, metaphor, understatement (meiosis), overstatement (hyperbole) or rhetorical questions. **(2) Violating the maxim of Quantity:** it means that the conversation can be either less or more informative. **(3) Violating the Relation maxim:** This maxim can be flouted to change a subject and the conversation cannot be continued. **(4) Violating the Manner maxim:** the communicators try to exploit the maxim by being not brief, orderly, ambiguity.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The poem of Jabberwocky is considered to be the most popular nonsense poem in the English language. The author uses many nonsense words that do not exist in human life. However, that nonsense words can be understood by looking at the context since this poem was taken from the novel. It consists of seven stanzas with each consisting of four lines. Stanza one, line 1-2 :

**'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;**

In these two lines, the author uses a strange and nonsensical word. He described the scene as 'brillig' that means four o'clock in the afternoon added with phrases 'the slithy toves'. 'Slithy' is taken from blending words *slime and lithe* means slippery as an adjective. The 'toves' can be kind of fiction plant or a creature like a lizard, badger, crowscrew that is defined in *Trough the Looking Glass*. The words 'toves' has a similar sound to 'grove' such as a grove of trees might be. Then, the next line does gyre and gimble means do motion and play. 'in the wabe' it derived from the verb to 'swab' or 'soak') "the side of a hill" (from its being soaked by the rain) or the grass-plot round a sun-dial. Therefore, those lines violate the maxim of manner since arises ambiguity of the phrase of 'the slithy toves' and 'in the wabe'.

**All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outrabe.**

The phrases 'all mimsy' and 'the borogoves' are not clearly defined. 'mimsy' is derived from *flimsy and miserable* and 'borogoves' it can be meant as a kind of plant or a creature. Then, 'the mome' has two meanings. The first meaning can be stupid creature because 'raths' is like a turtle, however, it can be the *home* of raths. Look at this, lines 3-4 are violating maxim of manner because arises many ambiguities as well.

**"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!  
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!**

For the second stanza, it appears to violate the maxim of relation. It can be seen from the last line in the first stanza that the author still describe the scene of the poem, however, in the fifth line, the author jump into the conversation of the father to his son that there is no reason is told before so as make the father said to beware of the Jabberwock to his son.

**Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun**

**The frumious Bandersnatch!"**

For the second, the phrases 'beware the Jubjub bird' and 'Bandersnatch. The author does not clearly define these creatures. It is less information on whether this kind of bird is Jabberwock who has a lot of names and the author does repetition here because in the second stanza there is an urgent message from the father to his son warning about the dangerous creature 'Jabberwocky' or it tells that another creature exists. This phrase is violating the maxim of quantity.

**And, as in uffish thought he stood,  
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame, (14)**

Line 14 is violating the maxim of quality because arises from figurative language; hyperbole. 'with eyes of flame,' it can be seen that the author creates overstatement to describe the Jabberwocky because there are no strong eyes in any creature that can survive with the fire in it. Perhaps, 'flame' indicates the nature of the creature and its inherent danger. The symbol of fire makes the Jabberwock seem evil and as something that should be fought back against. Therefore, the author tells overstatement of description about evil.

**One, two! One, two! And through and through  
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack! (18)**

Line 18 is violating the maxim of quality as well since arises a metaphor from the word c. Here, 'went' means fast-forward to kill the Jabberwock. It can be seen from the phrase 'snicker-snack' that is a sound of cutting something from the sharp sword which about the Jabberwock's body.

**'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.**

The seventh stanza is a reiteration of the first. However, it is violating the maxim of quality. Since the last stanza is an understatement (not too important) to put in this poem entitled 'Jabberwocky. The reason is that a son already killed the Jabberwock. The head of Jabberwock that brought by a son to home which indicates that he win to attack the Jabberwock. Therefore, the poem is a happy ending. Thus, it does not need again to reiterate the first stanza.

**CONCLUSION**

The analysis of the poem showed implicature in every array of the lines. Even though this poem is in the form of written text or it does not have conversation visibly, but actually, the message of this nonsensical poem which is delivered to the readers is consists of an implied conversation. Therefore, it is interesting to be discussed using conversational implicature in which sometimes a poem cannot be analysed by using this theory. The cooperative principle by Paul Grice (1967) is all violated. Here, the violation that occurs in the poem:

(1) maxim of Quality shown arises in the second stanza, lines 14, 18, and the seventh stanza, all lines of the poem, (2) maxim of Quantity showed arises in the second stanza, lines 3-4, (3) Then, the maxim of Relation arises in the second stanza, lines 1-2, (4) And the last is the maxim of Manner that can be seen in the first stanza, all lines.

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