Investigating Conversational Implicature in Mohammad al-Maghout *Humpback Sparrow* Play

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Extended Abstract

1 Introduction

This study is an attempt to investigate the play *humpback sparrow* (العصفور الاحدب) by Muhammad al-Maghuot according to Grice's 'conversational implicatures' theory and other linguistics' opinions after Grice. Grice believes that people during their daily conversation follow a type of determined principles which it is called cooperative principles. He established these principles which include four main components namely maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of communication, and maxim of manner. Moreover, he mentions that if a person backtracks one or two maxims in his conversation, he or she uses the conversational implicature. Considering Grice's theory, researcher sought to find out substructure of a concept through surface structure (external meaning) of the play in order to convey the main message of this work to the audience. The obtained data of analyzing the play revealed that the concept of Grice's cooperative principles were breached through mentioning linguistics-rhetorical techniques such as metaphor, sarcasm, irony, redundancy, interrogation. Studying the implication of general and common conversations causes the reader reach the substructure of a concept and also some new implicature models are added to the context.

2 Theoretical Framework

According to Grice's principles, four main maxims (Quality, Quantity, Manner, Relevance), were analyzed in each act of this play in order to find out whether the speech act of the play is in the line with the principles or not. As this play has four main acts, the findings of each were studied in accordance with the mentioned principles. Also it should be mentioned that Mohammad Al-Maghout tried to use different types of speech act in order to maximize the importance deep structures for the audience. The gathered results through analyzing of each part revealed that the writer utilized redundancy which aimed to emphasize on repetition, and exaggeration in the first act. Considering the Grice's Principles, the maxim of quantity was reversed. Interpreting the gathered information of the third act showed that the relationship among the politicians in the palace. In this part, the maxim of quality was not considered. Also the results from the play indicated that the maxim of manner was reversed in that part in which the university student did not stated his objections orally and he shouted in the way all the audiences being informed; and it was stated at the beginning of the play. Moreover, the maxims of cooperative principles were reversed in this play completely, and also the speech act and formal and conversational implicature were not mentioned according to the Grice's Cooperative Principles.

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3 Method

This qualitative research aimed at investigating *humpback sparrow* play based upon through conducting language pragmatic methods in order to present the hidden concepts of the context This study addresses the following research questions:

1. What kind of features does the play (humpback sparrow) have in order to be considered as an appropriate basis for stating conversational implicature?
2. How is conversational implicature stated in the "humpback sparrow" play?
3. Which type of the conversational implicatures is stated more in "humpback sparrow"?

4 Results and Discussion

Based upon the objectives of the present study, the results of the analysis of the play are discussed in the two main parts in the following. In the first part, the four acts of the mentioned play by Mohammad Al-Maghout will be mentioned in details considering the characteristics and the summary of each part. Then, each act is analyzed according to the four main Maxims of Grice's Principles. Whether a play is written in order to be performed or read, contains dialogue elements which are the best source for studying pragmatics in general or conversational implicature in special.

5 Conclusion

Mohamad al-Maghout criticized the justice policy governed in Syria through utilizing conversational implicatures. Also, he tried to make challenges out of that structures in his work. In order to fulfill this objectives, the writer use some linguistic-rhetorical methods such as metaphor, sarcasm, irony, redundancy. In this way he denied Grice's strategies and principles. Moreover, he disclosed the real face of the religious representative of the society who was just a corrupt person through stating some new models. On one hand, it can be concluded that Mohammad al-Maghout utilized some common and general conversational implicatures in order to create a kind of paradoxical relationship in his play to attract the audience's attention toward the corrupt representative. On the other hand, mentioning some political and social taboo concepts in his play had some reactions; but, he wanted to make his work well-known world widely, using those kind of features.

Keywords: Pragmatism, Implicature, Gris, Al-Osfoorol Al-Ahdab, Mohammad Al Maghoot.

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