

Analysis of Non-Cooperation in the Conversational Implicature of *Wuthering Heights*

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Abstract: *Wuthering Heights* is the only novel written by Emily Bronte, a famous British writer in the 19th century, which has established her position in the history of English literature and world literature. The dialogue in the novel is the key to the plot development. Therefore, from the perspective of pragmatics, this paper analyzes dialogues by applying Grice's Cooperative Principle, making a profound analysis to find out real meanings expressed by the characters. Through the analysis, it can be clearly concluded that characters sometimes have to violate the Cooperative Principle in the dialogue in order to save face and avoid embarrassment.

Keywords: *Wuthering Heights; Conversational Implicature; Cooperative Principle*

1. Introduction

Emily Bronte is a distinguished British writer and her novel *Wuthering Heights* is a world classic literary work, which shows us the oppression of personal and spiritual in the society of capitalism in the 19th century.^[1] *Wuthering Heights* is Emily's emotional desire, create, thought and ideal.^[2], which has established her position in the history of English literature and worldwide. *Wuthering Heights* is an excellent book, which reflects the Emily's aesthetic orientation.^[3] The characters in the novel have touched and moved the readers from various kinds of countries. To appreciate and learn about the classic novel, this paper analyzes personalities of characters by explaining the dialogues in the novel from the perspective of Cooperative Principle.

This paper makes a detailed and specific analysis of conversational implicature in a large number of selected typical dialogues in *Wuthering Heights* by using Cooperative Principle. Through the interpretation of conversational implicature in *Wuthering Heights* from the perspective of pragmatics, on the one hand, it reveals the roles' characters in the novel at a deeper level, so as to help readers better understand and appreciate the novel, on the other hand, it enriches the traditional study of Emily Bronte and broadens the application of pragmatics in the field of literature. Therefore, this paper chooses to study the violation of the cooperative principle from the perspective of analyzing the characters' personalities and dialogues in the literary work *Wuthering Heights*, and analyzes the psychological and social problems of the characters expressed in the analysis process, consequently enhance the social research value of the paper to some extent.

2. Theoretical Framework

2.1 Cooperative Principle

In the process of communication, both sides of the dialogue seem to follow a certain principle, intentionally or unintentionally, in order to effectively cooperate with each other to complete the task of communication. This general principle is called the Cooperative Principle, which is firstly proposed by American philosopher Herbert Paul Grice in 1967. In Grice's view, to converse with each other, the participants must first of all be willing to cooperate; otherwise, it would not be possible for them to carry on the talk.^[4] There are four maxims under this general principle. In 1980, Mr. Hu Zhuanglin first introduced the Cooperative Principle to China in his article "Pragmatics". During this period, the research on the Cooperative Principle and its quantitative, qualitative, mode and related four criteria was mainly based on theoretical understanding and analysis.^[5]

The maxim of quantity:

- (1) Make your contribution as informative as required
- (2) Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

The maxim of quality

- (1) Do not say what you believe to be false
- (2) Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence

The maxim of relation

- (1) Be relevant

The maxim of manner

- (1) Avoid obscurity of expression
- (2) Avoid ambiguity
- (3) Be brief
- (4) Be orderly^[6]

The first three of these rules have to do with what people say in conversation and the fourth has to do with how they say it. Quantity rules stipulate the amount of information we should provide when we talk to someone, that is, you should say as much as you know what the speaker asks or expects you to say, but you can not say what the speaker does not require or expect you to say; The quality criterion stipulates the truth of speech, that is to say, the speaker is required to tell the truth, do not say falsehood, do not say unfounded words. Relevance rules stipulate that you are supposed to speak to the point and not say anything irrelevant to the topic. The mode standard sets forth the requirements in the way of expression, requiring the speaker to be concise and to the point, not to use ambiguous words and avoid redundant words. By following all these principles, people will be able to communicate in the most direct manner and with the highest efficiency. People should fully abide by the Grice cooperative principle when communicating with each other. It is also important for us to make the conversation go smoothly, which has attracted considerable attention from many famous scholars in the field of linguistics.

2.2 Violation of Maxims of Cooperative Principle

There are four situations of violating the Cooperative Principle. JinLi, in his book *Cooperation and Conversation*, introduced and analyzed in detail the application examples of violations of the five principles^[7]. In this part, this paper will find real examples that violate maxims of the Cooperative Principle in *Wuthering Heights* and investigate the reason why characters choose to violate it and grasp the main ideas that characters want to express, which is easier for readers to appreciate the classic novel better.

2.2.1 Violation of maxim of quantity

It means that a speaker does not provide as much information as required or give much information than is required. As a matter of fact, the speaker is violating the maxim of quantity.

For example:

A: when is Alice's birthday party?

B: Sometime next month

In this dialogue, we can see it is known to both A and B that B knows exactly when Alice is going to give her birthday party. Therefore B is retaining some information of conversation and is thus flouting the maxim of quantity. The implicature that results is "I do not want to tell you when the birthday party is going to be held."

2.2.2 Violation of maxim of quality

If a speaker says something which you believe to be false or lack adequate evidence, we call this behaviour the violation of quality.

For example:

A: Would you like to join us for the concert on Sunday ?

B: I'm afraid I have got an exam on Sunday.

This is said when it is known to Both A and B that B is not having any exam that will prevent him from going for the picnic. Thus B is saying something that he himself knows to be false and he also knows that A also knows it is false, and he is flouting the maxim of quality. His implied message is "I do not want to join you for the concert on Sunday."

2.2.3 Violation of maxim of relation

It refers to that a speaker say something is irrelevant with present situation or it is an indirect way for speaker to answer the question. The speaker is violating the maxim of relevant.

For example:

A: How did the job go today, Bob?

B: I had an excellent breakfast with my mom and both we were very happy.

B's response tell us he did not tell how did the job today and his response is exactly irrelevant to A's question. So he is flouting the maxim of relation. The implicature is "I don't wish to talk about the job today."

2.2.4 Violation of maxim of manner

It means that a speaker say something in an obscurity or complexity way or give information which is ambiguous and disorder or not brief.

For example:

A: what would you want to cook for kids ?

B: C-H-I-C-K-E-N

Actually, it is clear for both A and B that B is able to pronounce the word "chicken". So B is violating the maxim of the manner. The only reasonable explanation for B is he don't want kids to know what he will cook for them .

3. Conversational Implicature in Wuthering Heights

There are a lot of conversations in Wuthering Heights. The two main characters in Wuthering Heights, the image of Heathcliff and Catherine have left a profound and unforgettable impression on readers in the world literature Their unyielding and faithful love is also a tenacious resistance to the old era controlled by evil forces. Although their resistance is passive and powerless, their love in the author's writing has finally overcome death and reached the level of sublimation. And this talented female writer Emily Bronte because of her only work, in the British nineteenth century literary world of brilliant stars forever shine unique, shining brilliant glory! Therefore, from main characters dialogues which violates cooperative principle, it is easy for readers to be able to understand each character's personality and have a deeper understanding of the text through analyzing conversational implicature.

3.1 Violation of maxim of quantity in Wuthering Heights

When a speaker not provide enough information as informative as required or give much information than is required. As matter of a fact, the speaker is violating the maxim of quantity. This part will talk about and analyse some cases that violate maxims of quantity in Wuthering Heights.

Therefore, there are two different situations that violate maxims of quantity. On the one hand, the speaker may overstate information which not true in the conversation. On the other hand, the speaker is able to understate the information he knows, for some reasons, he does not want listeners to know the real circumstance.

So, this paper will give many cases that present in Wuthering Heights, which violate the maxims of quantity, to help readers understand the article deeply and learn about the structure of the author write it.

Example 1:

"You see, sir, I have come, according to promises!" I excited, assuming the cheerful; and I fear I shall be weather bound for half an hour, if you can afford me shelter during that space.

"Half an hour?" he said, shaking the white flakes from his clothes; "I wonder why you should select the thick of a snowstorm to ramble about in. Do you know that you run a risk of being lost in the marches? People familiar with these moors often miss their road on such evenings; and I can tell you there is no chance of a change at present."

From this conversation, Heathcliff violates maxims of quantity during his talking with his new tenant Lockwood. He overstate his answer to Lockwood and he only just response he does not want Lockwood to shelter at his house. But he talks a lot. It turns out that Mr.Heathcliff is a man who is very strange and It shows that he is inherently good, but that the cruel reality has distorted his nature and forced him to become tyrannical and heartless.

Example 2:

"What about Cathy?" asked Ellen impatiently

"The Lintons let their dog outside," said Heathcliff quietly and it bit Cathy on the leg. She did not cry, but I did! I was throwing stones at the dog when a servant came and picked Cathy up. He carried her into the house and I followed them. The Lintons were very excited when they saw that it was Cathy Earnshaw! They worried about her, and said she could stay there until her leg was better. "But they would not let me stay --so here I am!"

Heathcliff said these words that can express his love to Cathy to much. He overstates Lintons different attitudes and he knew there is a big gap between himself and Cathy. Heathcliff hates Lintons family. So, even when he get married with Isabella, he treated her very badly and he also forbid Isabella to come back her family. At that time he was just a simple, kind man compared to the brutal man he was later.

Example 3:

Cathy cried "A wonderful dream !oh, how could you stay away from me for so many years ? Did you ever think of me?"

"I have thought of you all the time," he said. I learned you were married only a little while ago. I have had many hard adventures since I saw you last, but all my struggles have been only for you --Cathy .

This conversation between Heathcliff and Cathy. When Heathcliff came back and Cathy scolded him why he did not contact her and whether Heathcliff think of her and she was so miss him. For Cathy question, Heathcliff just answer he thought of her all the time. As a matter of fact, Heathcliff overstate so much, and expressed his love was so deep. And what he did all for Cathy. Therefore, Heathcliff violate the maxim of quantity.

Example 4:

"What ails you, Cathy?" He was saying when I entered: "you look as dismal as a drowned whelp. Why are you so damp and pale, child."

"I have been wet." she answered reluctantly, "and I am cold, that is all."

This conversation happened between Cathy and his brother Hindley, in his questioning. The chief message then contained in his words was -- What's the matter? Catherine and her brother Hindley. In this example, Catherine is wet all over - the situation is obvious and easy. "Yes," and Hindley had discovered, avoided answering, simply repeating the obvious. It follows that Catherine violated the quantitative guidelines by not including the information needed for the conversation. What kind of conversational meaning does this violation of the cooperative principle express? Catherine, the heroine of the novel, does not want her brother to know what happened between her and Heathcliff, nor does she want to mention Heathcliff's disappearance, hoping to cover it up. Therefore, when answering her brother's question here, she violates the quantitative rules.

Example 5:

"If you have anything for my wife, Ellen, then give it to her now." said Heathcliff,

"I have nothing for her," Ellen said. "My master sends his love, Miss Isabella but he thinks it is better if you do not meet."

This conversation occurred between Ellen and Heathcliff. When Isabella found her was in bad heathy and wrote letter to his brother. But Linton did not want to see her and sent Ellen to instead of him. When heathcliff asked if you have anything for my wife, actually Ellen just only said yes or no. But Ellen told Isabella his brother Linton does not want to contact her and hate Heathcliff and hope the two families are supposed to keep away from each other. So Ellen violate the quantity maxims and reflect Heathcliff cruelty and Linton loathing of Heathcliff from the side.

3.2 Violation of maxim of quality in *Wuthering Heights*

A speaker say something that is false or lacks adequate evidence, he is violating the maxim of quality. In this part, this paper will analyze specific cases in *Wuthering Heights*, which helps readers understand characters real purposes and enjoy the wonderful novel.

Example 1:

"One day, Isabella suddenly began to cry. When Cathy asked her what was wrong," Isabella said, that she had fallen in love with Heathcliff. Cathy was surprised.

"Oh, Isabella, you know nothing about him. I do, and so does Ellen here." He's a strange man. I know he couldn't love a Linton, but he would marry you for your money in a second. I am his friend, and I have known him for years. Stay away from him!"

Isabella looked at Cathy angrily. "His friend?" she cried. "Oh, I like that !" You're worse than twenty enemies! Heathcliff is a fine, wonderful man ---and I know you Catherine Linton! You're not telling the truth about this !"

This conversation between Isabella and Cathy when Isabella tells Cathy that she fells in love with Heathcliff. However, Cathy feel surprised and make up a lie that Heathcliff is a man who is very bad and brutal. Actually, Cathy loves Heathcliff and she don't want other people to appreciate Heathcliff. So she have to let Isabella down on Heathcliff and her words about what kind of heathcliff is are unrealistic. She violates the maxim of quality in order to satisfy her's purpose. Her behavior makes readers learn about that she is a girl who is very selfish.

Example 2:

"Mrs. Linton, a man from Gimmerton wishes to speak to you," Ellen said nervously.

"What does he want ?" asked Cathy .

"I don't know, madam."

"Well, close the curtains, Ellen," said Cathy. "And please bring in the tea. I'll be back again in a moment."

This conversation between Ellen and Cathy when Heathcliff comes back from outside and wants to see Cathy. When Cathy asks "what does he want"and Ellen respond her according to the principle of quantity, However, Ellen violates the maxim of quality when she tells Cathy that she don't know. As matter of fact, Ellen knows that Heathcliff want to see Cathy, but Ellen avoid the embarrassing moment. This moment shows how puzzle Ellen is and what a mix of emotions at that time. Ellen is very worried about the coming of Heathcliff and the relationship between Heathcliff and Cathy.

Example 3:

The moon was shining brightly, and the snow covered the ground. Finally Ellen saw Cathy leading her horse into the stable and walking into the house.

When Cathy entered her room she took off her coat and boots. Suddenly Ellen stood up and spoke. "My dear Miss Cathy, may I ask where you have been so late at night!"

Cathy jumped up, surprised. "Ellen! What ---what are you doing here? I have only riding around the property!" Cathy said slowly .

"And you haven't been anywhere else?" asked Ellen .

"No," said Cathy , but she did not look at Ellen.

This conversation between Ellen and little Cathy. Ellen finds out a fact that Cathy goes to *Wuthering Heights* to see Linton and asks Cathy that "you haven't been anywhere else?". However, Little Cathy tells a lie and she doesn't go to there. So Cathy violates the maxim of quality. Because she is afraid of

telling Ellen where she did go and she have to deceive her .

Example 4:

"No!" cried Ellen, angrily. But you're worse than a savage, treating your son in that way! The boy hates you ---and that 's the truth!look at what's happened to you!"

Hindley laughed;"I don't care! Take the boy away! And Heathcliff --stay out of my way. You've done something good for once in your life, so I wouldn't want to kill you tonight!" Ellen and Heathcliff watched him walk into the sitting room. He took a bottle of liquor from the dresser, and then kicked the door shut.

This conversation between Ellen and Hindley when Ellen is worried about that Hindley who is drunk would hurt his son --little Linton.Hindley loses his wife and becomes very cruel and brutal. He afflicts himself everyday by drinking alcohol. He is very regret and misses his wife. Therefore, Hindley loses the happiness of life and he lives a life with sad and doesn't like his son. Ellen is very fed up with Hindley. So she tells Hindley that His son hates him, Actually she is violating the maxim of quality to express her anger towards Hindley's behavior.

3.3 Violation of maxim of relation in Wuthering Heights

It means that when a speaker say something is irrelevant with present situation or it is an indirect way for speaker to answer the question. The speaker is violating the maxim of relevant. The principle of relation requires that you speak with relevance.

Example 1:

"Sit still, Mrs.Dean, I cried,"do sit still, another half-hour! You've done just right to tell the story leisurely. That is the method I like;and you must finish it in the same style. I am interested in every character you have mentioned, more or less."

"The clock is on the stroke of eleven, sir"

This conversation between Ellen and Mr.Lockwood. Mr.Lockwood shows interest in what happened about Wuthering Heights and he also wants Ellen to go on talking about the story of Heathcliff. Actually, Ellen is able to answer either continue or refuse. However, she does not directly choose any of the above answers. Instead, answer with a sentence that means a specific time. It seems that their conversation is incoherent, disconnected, and contrary to the principle of the maxim of relation, but in fact Ellen uses the time to inform Lockwood of the lateness of the hour, which indicates that she does not wish to go on. The reason why Ellen has to violate the maxim of relation is that in order to avoid appearing impolite in refusing Mr.Lockwood's request directly.

3.4 Violation of maxim of manner in Wuthering Heights

If a speaker say something which is obscure,ambiguous, disorderly and unclear, he or she is violating the maxim of manner. Here,this paper will give specific example to analyze how writer violate the maxim of manner in Wuthering Heights.

Example 1:

Isabella turned pale and ran out of the room. After she had gone, Heathcliff turned to Cathy and said, "Cathy, why did you do that ? Where you telling me the truth?"

"I was," said Cathy. "She wants to marry you!"

"Hah! Why would I want to marry a little mouse like her" Heathcliff asked. He was looking at Cathy with deep feeling in his eyes. She stared back at him, and turned red.

This conversation between Heathcliff and Cathy. Cathy knows that Isabella loves Heathcliff and introduces Isabella to Heathcliff. However, Heathcliff only loves Cathy, in his words, he compares Isabella to mouse, which violates the maxim of manner, expressing his dislikes to Isabella and doesn't want to marry Isabella. His words hurt a girl who is love him.

Example 2:

"Isabella, calm down!" said Ellen. "So you have finally realized the truth about Heathcliff! You've run away from him. What will you do now?"

"I'll go anywhere," Isabella said, "as long as it's far away from him! No, he's not a man --he's a monster."^[8]

This conversation between Ellen and Isabella. Finally, Isabella knows how a man of Heathcliff is and want to leave him. She compares Heathcliff to monster, which express Heathcliff's cruel and brutal. Isabella violates the maxim of manner. She hates Heathcliff and tries her best to run away from him.^[9]

4. Conclusion

Wuthering Heights is a world-wide well-known novel of Emily· Bronte, which has been researched by celebrated and distinguished scholars at home and abroad. The examples in this paper which carefully choose from Wuthering Heights and divided into different classes of Cooperative Principle. From careful analysis, on the one hand, it could be much easier to learn about the reason why characters in the Wuthering Heights violate the maxim of cooperative principle and the characters usually express their real intention implicitly, which avoid embarrassment or considerate of others' feelings. On the other hand, some characters use it in order to save face or avoid embarrassment. Through analysis of conversational implicature, it is helpful for readers to know the characteristics of main protagonists and the development of novel plot. The image of Heathcliff created by Emily is hailed as the most peculiar avenger in the world.^[10]

In summary, this paper may have limitations but provides a new perspective angle for readers read the novel. Wuthering Heights is a classic novel, which deserve more people to research it.

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