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# A PRAGMATIC STUDY OF COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES AND GRICE'S MAXIMS IN NOVEL "THE SECRET GARDEN" BY FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT

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## Informasi Artikel

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#### Abstract

This research analyzes a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett entitled "The Secret Garden" using a theory of cooperative principle from Paul Grice. The study aims to find out the violation of maxims that emerged in the novel. This research used a descriptive qualitative method, in which the researcher takes a note and pins some conversation in the novel that contains a maxim violation. The results of this research show that it is found violations of maxims; maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and the last one is maxim of manner. The most flouted maxim which fails to observe is maxim of quantity from all data found. The data show as the following; maxim of quantity is 32%, maxim of quality is 11%, maxim of relevance is 20% and maxim of manner is 27% in average percentage 100% in total 102 data. From this research, it can be concluded that the existence of a violation of the maxims in this novel is the aim of the writer to make humor that refers to something funny for the readers while reading the novel.

#### INTRODUCTION

As human beings, we need a language to live. Through language we will be able to convey intentions and goals to others. We cannot to live without language, whether we use oral language or sign language, or even something else. According to the KBBI, what is meant by language is the symbol system of sound that is arbitrary, which is used by members of a community to work together, interact, and identify themselves. Language as the most important part of the process of effective communication has become a magnet for researchers from various disciplines to study the language further. Various theories were developed as a way to understand language and its application in communication. Language theory in communication generally focuses on the way humans speak, language and its relation to thought processes, words and meanings, language characteristics, discourse, and others. In language, certainly there will still be rules in linguistics that be called pragmatics.

Pragmatics is the study of practical aspects of human actions and thought. Yule (1996) states that "Pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) interpreted by a listener (or reader)". Pragmatics is a study of a language that associated with the context of its use. If the context is known, the meaning of the language can be understood. Pragmatics also related to the study about meaning that be communicated by a speaker (or writer) and be interpreted by a listener (or reader). Also, the interpretation cannot be separated from the context of the communication and how the context influences what is said. This requires a consideration of how speakers organize what they want to say depending on whom they are talking to, where, and under what circumstances. On the other hand, this

approach also needs to explore how the listeners interpret the meaning that the speaker wants. This kind of study deals with what is not spoken that is recognized as part of what is communicated. (Yule, 1996).

Communication requires people to cooperate. The fact of conversation comes alive only in accepting each other and a pragmatic context is determined. Cooperation itself has been appointed to the cooperative principle that consist of four maxims such as; maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation, and the last is maxim of manner, it is according to American philosopher H. Paul Grice (1975, 1989) (Mey, 2004). In short, to make conversation run well some rules must be obeyed by the speaker (Kushartani, 2009).

Maxim of quantity is about the quantity of information. Here, people are required to speak informatively, make their contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange), and do not make your contribution more informative than is required. Maxim of quality is about the quality of information. Different from the maxim of quantity, this maxim people are required to tell the truth, do not say what you believe to be false. Maxim of relation is a maxim that asks people to be relevant. It means that when you join a conversation you cannot just begin to talk about whatever you like. You must connect what you want to say or make it relevant to what is already being talked about. Then, maxim of manner. This maxim puts what you say in the clearest, briefest, and most orderly manner.

The cooperative principle above will be applied in order to analyze a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett entitled *The Secret Garden*. *The Secret Garden* tells a girl named Mary that moves from India to England and lived with her uncle. Meet new friends either it is from people or animals and helps her to re-alive the garden that has been lock for 10 years until arises a happiness to everyone. This research is conducted with aims to analyze the types of maxims that appear and show the un-synchronization in the novel and to describe the way the maxims can affect the reader and what impact for the reader while reading the novel.

#### Linguistics

Linguistics is the study of language. Many branches of linguistics in each branch also have different learning. Linguistics is also often referred to as general linguistics, where the thing being studied is about language in general. What is spoken is not limited to just one or two languages, but occupies any language in this world as general study material. As it is known that there are many languages in the world. Each language will be different from each other in different countries. Language has certain characteristics and patterns. Although it will be different, it will still find an equation and that which is universal. The universal characteristic of that language will be the subject of study in linguistics.

#### **Pragmatics**

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studying about the context of language and the purpose of utterance. Leech (1983) defines that "pragmatics as a set of strategies and principles for achieving success in communication by the case of grammar". The interest in learning pragmatics is when we translate the meaning of speech but also pay attention to the context. Pragmatics is learning about understanding the meaning of speech or communication more than what is said. This is more to what is meant by people's utterance, what is the real meaning, not only from their semantic meaning.

Yule (1996) emphasizes that what people said to have a meaning that is more than what they said. To understand the real meaning of that sentence or utterance, we have to be in the same context and understand the context. So that is why, when we learn about pragmatics, we also be able to pay attention to the context. Like the state from Leech "pragmatics is the study of meaning which is related to the speech situations". Learning about pragmatics, we not only translate with what other people said or write but we essential to interpret what actually that people said or write. Through the context that exists, we are required to understand the real

meaning of people's utterances.

## *Implicature*

The concept of implicature is a theoretical construct first introduced by Grice in the William James Lectures more than thirty years ago (Grice 1967, 1989). In pragmatics, the conversational implicature is the intention contained in an utterance, but it is less or not stated directly. Rustono 1999 (in Bowo, 2009) states in his thesis that implicature has become one of the principle subjects of pragmatics that is usually related to conversational implicature. Conversational implicature itself arises because speakers are expected to be cooperative, to make contributions appropriate to the purpose of the conversation in which they are engaged.

According to Yule (2005) conversational implicature is divided into two categories, those are conventional implicature and conversational implicature. However, the researcher will only focus on the conversational implicature in conducting this research, which talks about the implied meaning which out of the context of the utterance. Grice argued that conversational implicatures arise because speakers are expected to be cooperative, to make contributions appropriate to the purpose of the conversation in which they are engaged. More specifically, they are expected to follow four *conversational maxims*, which can be summarized as: (1) give an appropriate *amount* of information (the maxim of quantity); (2) give *correct* information (the maxim of quality); (3) give *relevant* information (the maxim of relation); and (4) give information *clearly* (the maxim of manner).

A conversational implicature occurs when there is an utterance that flouts one or more of the maxim number or flouts if the implicature is absent. In this case, the conclusion that can be drawn is that the speaker said cooperative only by interpreting their words as something else, which could be the implied meaning. Conversational implicature is an unconventional implicature based on the assumption that when a speaker communicates, they must follow the proverb of the conversation or at least follow the cooperative principle (Tri Arie Bowo, 2009).

Conversational Implicature itself divided into two, there are generalized conversational implicature and particularized conversational implicature. Generalized conversational implicature is a conversational implicature that occurs without referring to any context. That means the generalized conversational implicature does not depend on the context that occurs in a conversation. Then, a particular conversational implicature occurs when a conversation takes place in a very specific context in which locally recognized inferences are assumed. A particularized conversational implicature is one that depends on the context that emerges. Therefore, kind of conversational implicature that include in the researcher's study is particularized conversational implicature which is depends on the context.

## **Ambiguity**

According to Lubis (1993), ambiguity is doubling the meaning of the sentence spoken by the speaker. So it is doubtful or not understood at all by the listener. There are several reasons this ambiguity can occur. Meaning can be caused by utterances that are not intonation correct, paused, or also due to the use of words that are polysemic or caused by the structure of the sentence. Djajasudarma (1993) argues that ambiguity can arise in various variations of writing or speech. Verbal language often causes fatigue because what we hear may not necessarily be exactly what the speaker or writer intended.

In addition, Subroto (2011) mentions that inaccuracy or ambiguity is a semantic problem, namely the problem of interpreting the meaning of an utterance or expression can be interpreted variously to trigger misunderstanding. Ambiguity arises in a variety of utterances or written languages. When we listen to someone's utterances or read an article, sometimes we have difficulty understanding what is being said or what we are reading. Doubt, confusion in making decisions about meaning, and the diversity of interpretations of meaning like this, that is called ambiguity.

## Cooperative Principle

Communication is a thing as the function of language, and it requires people to be cooperative. The cooperative principle is a principle of conversation that was proposed by Grice 1975, stating that participants expect that each will make a "conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange". The cooperative principle describes how people achieve effective conversational communication in common social situations, which is, how listeners and speakers act cooperatively and mutually accept one another to be understood in a particular way.

Paul H. Grice divided the cooperative principle into four maxims, such as; maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, maxim of manner. Every maxim has its own category that is discussed, and the violating of the maxims are different from each other.

(1) Maxim of Quality. In this maxim people are required to be truthful while doing a conversation based on Grice's theory. Do not say what you believe to be false. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence. That means people have to be honest and their words can be proven. People should not say things that they cannot prove and they do not know the truth. (2) Maxim of Quantity. As the same of maxim of quality that it is based on Grice's theory, this maxim people are required to be informative. Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange). Then, do not make your contribution more informative than is required. From those statements, it means that someone when talking must be informative may not be more and may not be less. (3) Maxim of Relation. In this maxim people are required to be relevant. With respect to this maxim, Grice writes, "Though the maxim itself is terse, its formulation conceals a number of problems that exercise me a good deal: questions about what different kinds and focuses of relevance there may be, how these shift in the course of a talk exchange, how to allow for the fact that subjects of conversations are legitimately changed, and so on. I find the treatment of such questions exceedingly difficult, and I hope to revert to them in later work." (Grice 1989:27). The last (4) Maxim of Manner. In this maxim people are required to be clear while doing a conversation. People should avoid obscurity of expression, avoid ambiguity, be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity), and be orderly. From those statements above, the utterance that is conveyed must be clear. Clear here means that the utterance people speak does not cause ambiguity and it can be clearly accepted by the hearer.

#### **METHOD**

#### Research Design

This study was descriptive qualitative research, and the data were presented with a content analysis method. Data were collected by library research by searching in the books, journals, articles, and other relevant sources. By using this method, the researcher observed the utterances that have violates the maxims that were found in the novels.

## **Object of the Study**

The object of this study was taken from a novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett entitled *The Secret Garden. The Secret Garden* tells the story of Mary Lennox, a girl that was born and lived in India. Mary is a girl who is sickly and has a bad attitude so there are no people who want to be her friend. Until one day, she has to move from India to England, to her uncle's house, because her parents died because of the cholera virus that emerges in India. In which, her move to England can change her personality and characteristic to be loved by other people and finds her happiness there.

The data obtained came from the novel. The researcher will analyze the data with the cooperative principle theory from Paul Grice, with the focus is in the conversation that takes

place in the novel between the characters.

#### **Data Collection**

In conducting this research, the researcher made a list or collected the data. The list was taken from the novel, and the list would be marked by putting some sticky notes on every page in the novel that contains a violation in order to identify it.

The researcher read the entire contents of the novel and understood the story. After that, the researcher made a list of conversations that violate the maxim and made a sign to facilitate the researcher in analyzing the data. After the conversation data were collected, the researcher made a proof of the conversation and straight to be directly analyzed.

### **Data Analysis**

There are four kinds of the procedure of analysis is used by researcher. Since the researcher take the object is from a novel, firstly is doing an observation and marked the sentences, clauses, or words which contain the violation of maxim. Then, the researcher collected the utterance that violates the maxim found in the novel. The sentences or conversations will be listed and collected into one then later will be analyzed. After the data collection, the researcher identified the data found according to the case study. The last is the researcher analyzed the data to find out the utterances that violate the maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. Later, the results of the analysis will be descriptive in the form of paragraphs.

#### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

## **Analysis of Flouting Maxim**

This analysis contains the example of conversation from the characters in the novel. It is showed the deviation that the characters in the novel did while doing communication. Maxim itself consists of four kinds; maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner, in which when people flout those kinds of maxim they do a deviation.

This first data of conversation stated below contains the maxim violation of quantity and relevance at once.

(1)

**Basil**: "You are going to be sent home," **Basil said to her**, "at the end of the week. And we're glad of it."

Mary: "I am glad of it, too," answered Mary. "Where is home?"

**Basil**: "She doesn't know where home is!" **said Basil, with seven-year-old scorn**. "It's England, of course. Our grandmama lives there and our sister Mabel was sent to her last year. You are not going to your grandmama. You have none. You are going to your uncle. His name is Mr. Archibald Craven."

This conversation is still between Mary and Basil. In answering Basil's statement, Mary does not violate any maxim. Then, she asks Basil "Where is home?" because she does not know the place where she will be sent. Because of Basil's mock attitude, he violates maxim of relevance instead. What he says to Mary is not relevant to Mary's question. Then, after mocking Mary, Basil continued his speech and answers the question. But, unfortunately, Basil gives too much information that is unnecessary. Actually, it is okay if Basil just answers by saying "It's England, of course." Here, Mary will straight understand. What she wants to know has been answered. However, Basil tells Mary something that Mary does not ask him by speaking "Our grandmama lives there and our sister Mabel was sent to her last year. You are not going to your grandmama. You have none. You are going to your uncle. His name is Mr.

*Archibald Craven.*" Therefore that is why, Basil also violates maxim of quantity. Then, look at this kind of conversation.

(2)

Mary: "What is a moor?"

Mrs. Medlock: "Look out of the window in about ten minutes and you'll see," the woman answered. "We've got to drive five miles across Missel Moor before we get to the Manor. You won't see much because it's a dark night, but you can see something."

This conversation occurs while on the way Mary and Mrs. Medlock will pass through a very wide moor field. Because in India, Mary never saw a field, so she asks, "What is a moor?" to Mrs. Medlock. Instead of answering straight away with an answer that was easy to understand, the woman answers unclearly and too wordy. Do not immediately answer the points asked and instead like doing a riddle. Mrs. Medlock gives her answer with the sentence; "Look out of the window in about ten minutes and you'll see," this shameless sentence makes her have to violate the maxim of manner.

Besides that too, Mrs. Medlock still says something she does not need to say. "We've got to drive five miles across Missel Moor before we get to the Manor. You won't see much because it's a dark night, but you can see something." Mary did not ask the sentence, but Mrs. Medlock continued. From that sentence, Mrs. Medlock must also violate the maxim of quantity. Therefore, in total, her words break two maxims at once.

The above findings are kind of conversation that contains two violations of maxim at once. Back to the statement that stated that it will be impolite if people just saying something in a short way, so that is why people often break the rule of maxim of quantity.

Under conversation is another example which is containing the maxim violation of relevance.

(3)

*Mary*: "Who is going to dress me?"

Martha: "Canna' tha' dress thysen!" (Cannot you dress yourself?)

Due to her habit in India, Mary was always treated like a child of royalty, so she could not do things like put on her own clothes, put on her own shoes and socks. All her needs will be done by 'Ayah' a servant who has taken care of her since childhood because her parents do not want to take care of her. That's why Mary asks Martha "Who is going to dress me?". Martha, who grew up to be an independent woman, was shocked to hear this remark. Because she is too shocked, Martha says "Canna 'tha' dress thysen!" (Cannot you dress yourself?) Without realizing it, Martha here is actually breaking the maxim of relevance because what she answers does not match Mary's question.

(4)

Martha: "If you go round that way you'll come to the gardens," she said, pointing to a gate in a wall of shrubbery. "There's lots of flowers in summer-time, but there's nothing blooming now." She seemed to hesitate a second before she added, "One of the gardens is locked up. No one has been in it for ten years."

Mary: "Why?"

Martha: "Mr. Craven had it shut when his wife died so sudden. He won't let no one go inside. It was her garden. He locked the door and dug a hole and buried the key. There's Mrs. Medlock's bell ringing—I must run."

Slightly different from the previous datum, in this conversation, there is a violation of the maxim of manner by Martha. In the first conversation, Martha explained the direction to the garden to Mary. But something made Mary asks "Why?" when Martha said "One of the gardens is locked up. No one has been in it for ten years." There, Martha answers with a sentence that contained ambiguity. It's unclear and seems like a riddle. "Mr. Craven had it shut when his wife died so suddenly. He won't let no one go inside. It was her garden. He locked the door and dug a hole and buried the key. There's Mrs. Medlock's bell ringing—I must run." Also, Martha just cut her words leaving Mary confused without knowing what it really meant. Hence, Martha violates the maxim of manner

(5)

Mary: "Where did the rest of the brood fly to?"

**Ben Weatherstaff**: "There's no knowing. The old ones turn them out of their nest and make them fly and they're scattered before you know it. This one was a knowing one and he knew he was lonely."

Judging from the question that Mary asked, Ben Weatherstaff answers her with the least amount of confusion. In "There's no knowing. The old ones turn them out of their nest and make them fly and they're scattered before you know it. This one was a knowing one and he knew he was lonely," contains a violation of the maxim of quality. This answer seemed hesitant, but on the other hand he also wants to answer Mary's question. When Mary asks where the broods flew, Ben replies that they split up because they were driven away by the bigger birds, but Ben does not explain where they were scattered. That is, information that you feel does not know whether or not it is true. From there, Ben broke the maxim of quality.

Another conversation that breaks maxim violation of quality will be stated below.

(6)

Mary: "Colin," she began mysteriously, "Do you know how many rooms there arein this house?"

Colin: "About a thousand, I suppose,"

Mary and Colin have just returned from the secret garden, then as usual they will share a talk in Colin's room. Mary, who is still curious about this house which has many rooms, asks, "Colin," she began mysteriously, "Do you know how many rooms there are in this house?" Colin answers doubtfully, "About a thousand, I suppose," which turns out to make him violates the maxim of quality. The answer cannot be ascertained yet because Colin uses the word "about".

Those are some examples of conversations that the researcher took from Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel *The Secret Garden* in which the conversation contains a maxim violation in accordance with Paul Grice's theory. In communicating, it cannot be separated from the so-called maxim violation whether it is intentional or unintentional, because it usually just happens without us knowing it. With the analysis that the researcher has done above, which is outlined in several data, it is hoped that it will be understood by the reader that in communicating there are still rules that must be followed. One of them looks at the cooperative principle theory from Paul Grice.

From the data that took by the researcher, it can be concluded that from totally 71 data of conversation contains 102 violations of maxim. From 102 data it is divided into four categories maxim violation with different amount; for maxim of quality there are 11 data with percentage 11%, maxim of quantity 33 data with percentage 32%, maxim of relevance 30 data with percentage 29%, and maxim of manner 28 data with percentage 27%.

Table 1. data analysis of violation maxim

Kind of Maxim	Amount	Percentage (%)
Maxim of quality	11	11%
<b>Maxim of Quantity</b>	33	32%
Maxim of Relevance	30	29%
<b>Maxim of Manner</b>	28	27%
TOTAL	102	100%

## Impact on the Readers

## Causing a humor

In this case, people commit the maxim violation on purpose because they want to create humor in their conversation. Usually, people who have close relationships, for example, friends, family, girlfriends or boyfriends, and others will communicate casually and can even deviate from the context that has been built. They try to build a conversation that is lively and not monotonous. Conversations with a broad discussion even though it violates the maxim they will try to make. It is because they are trying to create conversational humor.

Attardo (1993) (in Yuliasri, 2014) states that in humor research which is humorous text violates one or more maxim has been consensus. This statement also be responded by Monney (2004) that humor is not included in a successful violation of maxim because it will not be detectable if the violation is successful. Humor is anticipated to give appreciation for the hearer, so that is why violation cannot be unostentatious. There are also kinds of humor that we can look at based on the author's culture. Benton (1968) states that written humor is divided into two; (1) humor of situation, (2) humor of words. Besides it, there are forms of humor such as; wit, sarcasm, satire, repartee, etc.

Here, the researcher shows evidence that violation of maxim can arise humor by giving data in conversation form.

(data 1.)

**Basil:** "You are going to be sent home," **Basil said to her**, "at the end of the week. And we're glad of it."

Mary: "I am glad of it, too," answered Mary. "Where is home?"

Basil: "She doesn't know where home is!" said Basil, with seven-year-old scorn. "It's England, of course. Our grandmama lives there and our sister Mabel was sent to her last year. You are not going to your grandmama. You have none. You are going to your uncle. His name is Mr. Archibald Craven."

The utterances above show maxim violation of quantity and also humor. This data contains the form of humor that is repartee and satire. The word "I am glad of it, too," chosen by Mary is part of a kind of humor. Repartee is a form of humor that has a definition of wit of quick answer and capping comment. Here, Mary seems like she is too lazy to perceive Basil's utterance. Then, "She doesn't know where home is!" includes in form of humor, namely satire. His intonation is mocking and the words that he says after that are full of mockery.

(data 2.)

Mrs. Medlock: "Well," said Mrs. Medlock. "What do you think of it?"
Mary: "Nothing," she answered. "I know nothing about such places."

Mrs. Medlock: "Eh!" she said, "but you are like an old woman. Don't you care?"

The word "but you are like an old woman. Don't you care?" saying by Mrs. Medlock is to respond to Mary's utterance. The context of it is Mary being lazy or not interesting to what Mrs. Medlock talk about, but here Mrs. Medlock put the sentences that contain humor of words because those sentences are actually create humor.

(data 3.)

Mary: "Who is going to dress me?" demanded Mary.

Martha: Martha sat up on her heels again and stared. She spoke in broad Yorkshire in her amazement. "Canna' tha' dress thysen!" she said.

In the dialogue above, Martha is like being surprised when Mary said she cannot dress. The words (*Martha sat up on her heels again and stared. She spoke in broad Yorkshire in her amazement*) show that there is humor. This is included in the humor of situation because the reader can understand the situation of the story way and make it funny about the reaction Martha gave.

(data 4.)

Mary: "Do you think he remembers me?"

Ben Weatherstaff: "Remembers thee!" said Weatherstaff indignantly. "He knows every cabbage stump in th' gardens, let alone th' people. He's never seen a little wench here before, an' he's bent on findin' out all about thee. Tha's no need to try to hide anything from him."

In "Remembers thee!" above, Ben Weatherstaff intends to mock Mary. 'He' there refers to robbin and they all know that the bird is clever enough. Moreover, Ben continues his word with a sentence unpleasantly mocking Mary. It is actually would be a funny scene for the reader because Ben is so annoying and so hilarious while saying that. Therefore, there is humor and that form of humor is sarcasm.

(data 5.)

Mary: Mary giggled inordinately. "The nurse would come running and Mrs. Medlock would come running and they would be sure you had gone crazy and they'd send for the doctor," she said.

Colin: Colin giggled himself. He could see how they would all look—how horrified by his outbreak and how amazed to see him standing upright.

The sentence "The nurse would come running and Mrs. Medlock would come running and they would be sure you had gone crazy and they'd send for the doctor," contains humor. Mary talks and imagines that people are going crazy when they see Colin already can stand and walk and her way is like she is taunting but she also cures the foolishness and make people laugh with her words. There is a form of humor in satire.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the analysis in the third chapter and fourth chapter above, the researcher found out

seventy-one data from novel *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett which contain maxim violation. The violation of the maxims is all of kinds maxim that was stated by Paul Grice related to the theory used by the researcher in conducting this study. Those maxims are maxim of quality with 11 data or 11%, maxim of quantity with 33 data or 32%, maxim of relevance with 30 data or 29%, and the last one maxim of manner with 28 data or 27%, in which if all the data are summed have 102 data and percentage 100%.

The essence of studying pragmatics is that we can understand that the meaning of the utterance is not necessarily from what people say. We can see from the context in advance to find out the true meaning of what someone says. The meaning of pragmatics is very broad. We cannot only see from one side and the other we do not see, but we must see from all sides and reveal the true meaning.

The results of the analysis that have been written by the researcher also show that there are conversational implicatures that are generated. Most of these implicatures are classified as particular conversational implicatures because what each character talks about depends on the existing context. In addition, the some maxim distortions that occurs in the conversations in Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel blinds readers to ambiguity in understanding the meaning of speech. Apart from ambiguity, some of them also create humor for the readers, depending on how they look.

From the findings above, the researcher concluded that the author of the novel *The Secret Garden* deliberately put some conversations that contained the elements of maxim violations to spice up the story he wanted to build and create humor for the readers.

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