

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Research

Paul Grice who is a British philosopher of language comes up with the following theory called cooperative principle which consists of four maxims of conversation. The four maxims are the maxim of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. The maxim of quantity deals with the statement informative as required, while the maxim of quality is always about saying the truth. The maxim of relation forces the speaker to be relevant and only focused on what the speaker asked. The maxim of manner demands the speaker to be brief and avoid ambiguity and obscurity of expression. Each of these maxims requires its speaker or listener to follow the rules demanded by the maxim itself. For example, when someone cannot tell more about unimportant details in conveying the utterance because it violates the maxim of quality.

However, “there are significant areas of overlap among the maxims and submaxims as formulated by Grice. For example, the second submaxim of Quantity tells the speaker not to say any more than is necessary, while the maxim of relation tells the speaker to be relevant. As we have seen, these two frequently come out to be the same thing: to say more than is necessary is to say what is not truly relevant and to say what is not relevant is to say more than is necessary” (Birner, 2013:77).

The explanation above is a prove that some of the maxims work as same as the other and it could be confusing for some learners. "Horn presents a simplified system consisting of two principles, the Q-Principle, and the R-Principle, which subsume most of the maxims and submaxims of Grice's system." (Birner, 2013:78).

It means that Laurence R Horn who is an American linguist and a Professor in the

Department of Linguistics at Yale University made a Neo-Gricean pragmatics theory which combines some of the Grice's maxims into two principles, the Q and R principle. Based on Horn's principle, some conversation will have a low level of implied meaning, for example, *I love most Beatles songs* +> *I don't love all Beatles songs*. And in conversation, there will be also an utterance that has a more complex implied meaning based on the context, for example, *I need a drink*, if it is in a country like America, I need a drink could be implicated to *I need an alcoholic drink*.

Phenomena of neo-Gricean theory sometimes occur in a conversation from any sources which could be in real life or other sources like film or TV series. In this thesis, the researcher analyzes types of principle and analyze the general function of the utterances that can be found in TV series Sherlock season 3.

Sherlock is an action-crime TV program series that is an adaptation of a novel called "Sherlock Holmes" which was written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This TV series is basically about a detective that love crime-solving with his skill of deduction. The researcher chooses this TV series because Sherlock is one of the most popular action-crime solving TV series. For this reason, the researcher will analyze the TV series Sherlock season 3.

The theory of Neo-Gricean Principle by Laurence R Horn that occurred in a conversation that taken from Sherlock Season 3 can be seen as follows:

1. Season 3 Episode 1 (03:38 – 03:43)

*Lestrade: A bungee rope, a mask, Derren Brown! Two years and the theories keep getting more stupid.*

2. Season 3 Episode 1 (00:51 –00:55)

*John: Leave a note, when?*

*Sherlock: Goodbye, John.*

*John: No. Don't!*

The first dialog belongs to the Horn's Q principle, because the meaning is easy to understand. The first dialog means that there are a lot of theories in the past two years and it's getting more stupid. The conversation happens after the death of Sherlock which is a fake death. In the conversation, there is Lestrade the detective and Anderson. Anderson was trying to come up with some new theories about the fake death of Sherlock Holmes. The second dialog belongs to the Horn's R principle, because the utterance '*Goodbye, John*' could happen in another set of contexts, but in this conversation, Sherlock was going to kill himself to make his own fake death, and before he done it, Sherlock called John to leave a note. At first, John did not understand what the note means, and so, in the end, Sherlock saying goodbye, which means that he was going to attempt suicide.

Neo-Gricean pragmatics theory by Laurence R Horn, as a matter of fact, has never been researched by another researcher, as a replacement the researcher would like to use a previous research about another type of neo-Gricean theory by Levinson. The first research was conducted by Sarah E Blackwell. In this research, the researcher is using the neo-Gricean theory by Levinson as an approach to analyzing the use of zeros, pronouns, and full lexical NPs in Spanish utterances (Blackwell, 2001). The second research was conducted by Francis Cornish. In this research, the researcher is using neo- Gricean theory by Levinson as an approach to

analyzing three different texts and will attempt to describe and account for the distribution of various types of discourse anaphors and deictic within and across various discourse units within them (Cornish, 2008).

This research is different from the research above because the researcher is going to use the neo – Gricean theory by Laurence R Horn. In this research, the researcher will try to analyze the types of Horn's principle that used in Sherlock Season 3. This research will help further research that will be conducted by another researcher in analyzing Horn's principle toward a conversation that happens in the movie or other sources.

With the explanation above, the researcher is attracted to analyze using the Neo-Gricean pragmatics theory by Laurence R Horn, because it is a new theory and not a lot of people have used it to make a research.

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background above, the writer would like to identify the problems which related to the research. There are:

1. Types of Horn's principle based on neo-Gricean pragmatics theory in Sherlock Season 3
2. The function of every utterances that use Horn's principle in Sherlock Season 3
3. The meaning of every utterances that use Horn's principle in Sherlock Season 3
4. The purpose of Horn's principle that used in Sherlock Season 3

### **1.3. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification above, the writer would like to limit the problem.

The following limited problems are stated below:

1. Types of Horn's principle based on neo-Gricean Pragmatics theory in Sherlock Season 3
2. The function of every utterances that use Horn's principle in Sherlock Season 3

### **1.4. The Formulation of Problem**

After limit the identification above, the writer will only focus on answering the following question:

1. What are types of Horn's principle based on neo-Gricean pragmatics theory in Sherlock Season 3?
2. What is the function of every utterances that use Horn's principle in Sherlock Season 3?

### **1.5. Objective of the Research**

In relation to the formulation above, the purposes of this research are:

1. To describe types of Horn's principle based on neo-Gricean pragmatics theory in Sherlock Season 3
2. To describe the function of every utterances that use Horn's principle in Sherlock Season 3

## **1.6. Significance of the Research**

### **1. Theoretical Significance**

The theoretical significance of this research is to enhance the study of Horn's neo-Gricean pragmatic theory in analyzing a conversation or utterance not only in film but also in other sources.

### **2. Practical Significance**

The practical significance of this research is to increase the understanding of neo-Gricean pragmatic theory by Laurence R Horn, and it can be used as reference for other reader or another researcher especially the students at English Department of Putera Batam University who wants to analyze using the Neo-Gricean pragmatic theory by Laurence R Horn in their thesis writing.

## **1.7. Definition of Key Terms**

The key term exists in the research are:

Neo-Gricean Theory: Peter Grundy states that the focus of neo-Gricean pragmatics is on context independent, optimality oriented form/meaning pairings of this kind.

Function: The function of an utterance is what the utterance is uttered for, in a conversation.

Contextual meaning:	The bearing of situational, social, and interpersonal factors on the interpretation of a message or an action (Oxford)
Sherlock:	Sherlock is a crime drama television series based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes detective stories. (Wikipedia)