Nominal and Verbal Choice of Ibsen in Hedda Gabbler: A Pragmatic Study

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ABSTRACT

The play by Henrik Ibsen, Hedda Gabbler is a modern feminist play that invokes to get deep meaning packed within nominal and verbal expressions used by Ibsen. This study is an attempt to investigate the nominal and verbal choices of Ibsen, their structure and function under the theoretical framework of Implicature. Many studies have been conducted on Ibsen and Pragmatics but getting lexical choices of Ibsen has not been investigated. A qualitative methodology has been adopted to get the deeper meaning of Hedda Gabber and pattern of lexical choices used in the play. The study has taken randomly the dialogues of the character as a unit of analysis, analyze them according to Grice Theory and Co-operative Principle and predicts that Ibsen has used multiple patterns of lexical choices—nominal and verbal. They are complex, modern, and null. The function of these expressions in the text is to implicate the penetrate pragmatic meanings packed within formal structure.

INTRODUCTION

Language is cooperatively significant tool in human communication and society as it enables people to communicate, co-operate and interact with each other to get the deep meanings not only in social context but also deep feelings in literary text of any type such as poetry, novel, friction, prose, and drama.

Language is the interconnected system used by the people for dissemination of knowledge, information and deep-rooted meaning. However, common language users make interaction and communication unstructured but their speech must be comprehended by
others. There are many languages that people use as tool of communication in this world, such as: Indonesian, English, Mandarin, Arabic and much more. Language and people are indispensable for each other. It seems impossible that without language we can interact with others. Through language, people can express their feelings, emotions, ideas and show their needs (Chang, Raygor, & Berger, 2015). Language consists of many tokens such as nominal vs. verbal based on these meanings, ideas are generated, developed and imparted to the one person to other, one generation to other. Through language tokens, feelings, actions, and ideas are imparted (Bauer, 1979) (Deda, 2013).

The field of language, how it is used context is related to pragmatics. Pragmatics is an important aspect of linguistics which deals with meaning in “contextual perspective”. In simple words, pragmatics can be described as the study to construct the link between the linguistic form and its use by the user of that. Language is interconnected with the context, speaker and listener (Levinson, Levinson, & Levinson, 1983a) (G. N. Leech, 2016) (Taguchi, 2011). (Levinson et al., 1983a), has rightly expressed that study of pragmatics is related to language usage. It shows that how user uses language. Pragmatics is study about speaker’s meaning. (G. N. Leech, 2016), elucidated that a way in which language is used in conversation is called pragmatics. To study pragmatic is the most important because it is not merely related to comprehend the utterances of people but also makes easier to understand the meaning of the utterances in particular context. It is part of linguistics which deals with linguistics-based interpretation and explanation of meaning and context.

Language plays an important role as a tool of communication. People use language all the time to perform actions for instance: when we ask someone to give the glass of water; when we place an order for burger or even when we make an appointment, etc. Speech acts are used of asking for something, promising to act something, ordering something, threatening to do something and so on. Some special people can do extraordinary actions with words, like a Priest baptizing a baby, the President embarking war or a judge sentencing a convict, etc. In every possibility of interaction, people as social creatures need to contact with other people. The communication will succeed only when there is better understanding. The speaker should know that what he or she is doing with the language and the audience should focus to grasp the address’s information. When a speaker utters, “The jug is empty”, he may intend to express that the jug is not full, or he wishes someone to pour the water into the jug. Therefore, the hearer should know the addressee’s communicative purpose in delivering an utterance and sentence. It is the understanding of particular social communication that is closely related to speech act. Language strongly links with human activities in social life. It means we use it for whatever we do in our life. To deliver the message to others, people every time utilize the speech acts as the center of language. The meanings of the speech and utterance depend upon the meaning of the context and utterances themselves. The actions we do through utterances are called speech act. People utilize language in order to exchange information, knowledge and to show an idea such as promising, thanking, requesting, asserting and ordering. In this situation, by expressing an idea people don’t just speak and say something but also carry out the actions at the same time through their words. Those expression and action
are called speech acts. Speech act is a theory which analyzes an action that are performed by utterance. In speech act, communication depends on the meaning of the words in sentence or utterance and speaker’s intended meaning. It means knowledge about context is required to know the exact meaning of in specific conversation. Mostly people have ability to use different types of utterances and carry out many kinds of acts by those words in the process of communication. In the perspective of speech act, it is essential to depict a difference among the locution, illocution and perlocution. Speech act is divided into three categories such as locutionary, illocutionary and perlocutionary. In words of Yule (1996), there are actions done by an utterance when the speech is consisted upon three interconnected acts. Locutionary act includes utterance with literal meaning and what speaker speaks. Illocutionary act includes identification of meaning from the utterance and what action speaker perform through utterance. Perlocutionary is related to the effect of that utterance on listener. Speech acts and illocutionary acts play an important role in our everyday life and permit us to carry out a great variety of functions. In the view of illocutionary act, the speaker has intended meaning in the communication which based on the real condition and situation. Illocutionary acts assist us to know and understand the meaning of speaker’s utterance in a particular situation.

Research Objectives

This study aims to achieve the followings research objectives:

1. To explicate the nominal and verbal choice of Ibsen in Hedda Gabbler.

2. To explore the structure and function of nominal and verbal choice of Ibsen in Hedda Gabbler.

Research Questions

These are the core research questions to be put forth.

1. What are the nominal and verbal expressions used by Ibsen in Hedda Gabbler?

2. What is structural and functional patterns of nominal and verbal expression in Hedda Gabbler?

Significance of the study

The present study is significantly contributing in the conceptual, theoretical and practical use of language. This study can be used as a reference and guideline for English students and researchers who want to conduct the research on literary works, especially drama with reference to pragmatics. The researcher is looking forward for making clearer the understanding of the readers about speech acts. In wider perspective, this research is hoping to interpret the lingual features of drama as whole and pragmatic analysis in specific sense. Therefore, illocutionary speech acts with contextual meaning are investigated throughout the text. This study proposes to assist those readers and researchers who are interested in literature especially in the field of drama. The present study can be helpful for the better understanding of the
Searle’s classification of illocutionary acts and contextual knowledge of the utterances and dialogues in the play.

**LITERATURE REVIEW**

If we study pragmatics in a deep meaning, we come to known that pragma words is coined from greek its meanings are which means to perform action and deeds and action can be defined as an intended behavior. The term ‘pragmatics’ is used and interpreted in the practical sense of the word by the linguists and researchers of the language across the world. (Yule & Widdowson, 1996), stated that pragmatics is related to investigation of the words which is expressed and communicated by the speaker and interpreted by a hearer. It is the study of speaker’s meaning. (p.3). It means that more we do the analysis of the utterances of speakers what they impart by their utterances and what the words and phrases of those utterances might be comprehended by themselves, in that way the actual meaning is grasped by the hearer to accomplish meaningful conversations and communication with the addresser. Yule presented the definition of pragmatics into four different ways. (2003, p.3).

At the first point, Pragmatics is related to the study of contextual meaning. It comprises the analysis of what people say in specific context and in what way the context effects utterances during communication. This prospective includes the way in which speakers organize what they want to say in accordance with where, when and under what situations whom they are speaking to. (Rahardi, 2003), ―defined pragmatics is study of conditions of human language usage set by the context of society‖. (p.12).

At the second point, Pragmatics is a method to find out speaker’s meaning. Pragmatics is related to the study of meaning as expressed by the addresser and explained or interpreted by the hearer. Pragmatics has more concerned with the analysis of what people say by their utterances and what is the meaning of those utterances. (Trosborg, 1995), “pragmatic is the study of the meaning in a communication that what the speaker wants to convey and how it is interpreted by the hearer. (1995, p.5)”.  

At the third point, the study of pragmatics is how more information is received than that is said. Pragmatic is the study of how more receives information than is said. Pragmatics study also interprets that how the listener can make inferences in order to understand the meaning of speaker utterances. It also discovers the understanding of hearer to fulfill the proposed meaning of utterance which is said by the addresser. Similarly, this study also emphasizes to examine and explore the hidden or inside meaning of the speech. (Finch, 2000), stated that pragmatics is the study which deals with the intended meaning of utterances and emphasizes on what is not clearly presented and how people explain the utterances in a particular situational context. At the fourth point, the study of pragmatics is related to the expression of relative distance. This perspective gives an importance to closeness and distant of the speaker and hearer and how distant and close the speaker and hearer is. It also includes that speaker decides how much information is required to be shared. It is related to selection between mention and untold.
Roughly speaking on the core concept of nominalization, it is a type of word formation in which a verb or an adjective is uni-formally used as a noun. The verb form is nominalized. It is also called nouting but particularly speaking in the context of transformational grammar, nominalization refers to the derivation of a noun phrase from an underlying clause. In this sense, an "example of nominalization is the destruction of the city, where the noun destruction corresponds to the main verb of a clause and the city to its object"(Bauer, 1979; Chomsky, Jacobs, & Rosenbaum, 1970; G. Leech, 2006).

In the field of language or linguistics, Pragmatics is a main part of linguistics which is related to the contextual meanings and how the language is used in a particular context. (Yule & Widdowson, 1996), stated in simple words the pragmatics deals with the study of the connection between the linguistics form and the user of that form. (p.4). (Levinson, Levinson, & Levinson, 1983b), said pragmatics deals with the study of language usage. It is related to the connection between language and context which is fundamental to understand the meanings of the language in a particular context. (Wilson, 2003), stated that pragmatics as a branch of linguistics deals with the meaning in usage and the study of semantics is basically the study of meaning but sometimes proper meaning cannot be grasped by semantics specifically meaning in context and use because semantics cope with the meaning of sentences without any reference to the language user and communicative factors of the language. (p.104). (Sheikh, 2022), tried to apply the implicature theory on the visual discourse typically bol Pakistani movie to find out the critical meanings of the movie. For this, she has adopted the Grice model of conversational implicature. Her results predict that there are two types of implicature used by the characters: (a) generalized implicature (b) particularized implicature to get the desired impact of the implicit conversation. (al Saidi, Mousa Salman, et al., 2022) worked on impoliteness with reference to pragmatics and her text is Hemlet by William Shakespeare predicting the results of impoliteness that how do all the characters talk each other and violate the impoliteness with respect to pragmatic analysis. In dialogue if someone doesn't not follow impoliteness it’s mean that he is violating the Grice maxims. The results of this study reveal that most of the time in play, characters mockingly violate impoliteness and some characters give positive response repeatedly.

There are two kinds of implicature; (a) generalized implicature (b) particularized implicature by using this method in conversational implicature Dwi (2019) investigates that how many times in drama characters try to implied meaning to each other. In this study mostly characters violate the Maxim in observance and non-observance way. Researcher also interrogates four maxims such as quality, quantity, manner and relation with the help of dialogues of the characters. This research shows that from 35 excerpts, 11 excerpts relate with observing the Maxim while on the other side 24 excerpt belonging to non-observance of the Maxim. The numbers of the flouting the Maxim of quality, quantity, Relation and Manner respectively are 6, (El-Dakhs, Ambreen, Zaheer, & Gusarova, 2019) worked on teacher-talk in Arabic context and her research belonged to a pragmatic analysis of teacher-student talk. It examined the direct and in direct implied meaning of the teacher and their students talking with each other. It followed the model of criticism but by using pragmatic 20, 3, 3. It
shows that most of the characters implied meaning in nonrealistic utterance. (El-Dakhs, Ambreen, Zaheer, & Gusarova, 2019) worked on teacher-talk in Arabic context and her research belonged to a pragmatic analysis of teacher-student talk. It examined the direct and in direct implied meaning of the teacher and their students talking with each other. It followed the model of criticism but by using pragmatic approach to find out the results of implied communication between teachers and students.

Alduais (2022) investigated the cooperative principle in using Grice maxims in Modern standard Arabic political speeches. The focus of the research is to find out the exact universality important of Grician four maxims such as quality, quantity, Relation and Manner. By applying on the modern standard Arabic on political speeches. This record is also saved on broadcast interview Egyptian TV channel with ex-president of Arab state lasting for 82 minutes. It described the flouting results of the Grice four maxims.

(Jafari, 2013) found out the results of implicature from the text of Oscar Wilde’s play’ The importance of being Ernest’. The focus of the research was to define how many times characters of the text violate the four maxims of Grecian theory. It explicated the co-operative principle to conduct the research for the sake of whether speakers follow or not follow Maxim. According to (Grice, 1975), any speaker while communicating the idea in the context must follow some traditional maxims/principles that make his/her speech effective and rational. They are called Co-operative Principle. They are stated as follows:

Co-operative Principle

It converges your conversational utterance/contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged. This principle, being an umbrella term, operates based on some components that guide how we communicate, interact, and utter any speech within the context. These nine components are grouped together into four categories, called the Maxims of Conversation.

Maxim of quality (truthfulness)

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

Maxim of quantity (informativeness)

1. Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the current purposes of the exchange).
2. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

Maxim of relation (relevance)

1. Be relevant

Maxim of manner (perspicuity)

1. Avoid obscurity of expression
2. Avoid ambiguity
3. Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity)
4. Be orderly Co-operative principle and its core maxims that are adopted to communicate any information, ensure that the information must be truthful, relevant, perspicuous uniform and according to this theory, has been explicated in the following lines:

The Maxims of conversation.

There are certain possibilities on this theory:

1. “The speaker may observe the maxims—this is the default assumption”.
2. “The speaker may opt out of a maxim by using a phrase that eliminates or mitigates the effect of the maxims and signals this to the addressee—this phrase is called a hedge”.
3. “The speaker may flout a maxim, to the full knowledge of the addressee”
4. “The speaker may violate a maxim, e.g., lie”.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research study is descriptive and qualitative in nature as it is dealing with the literary text Hedda Gabbler (Ibsen & Duncan, 2022) written by Henrik Ibsen, a modern playwright. For dealing this study, the researcher has adopted a systematic procedure i.e. research framework, empirical data for concrete evidence, selection of the sample through random sampling technique. in this research procedure, we have two sources of data one is primary data second is secondary data.

The primary data of this study consists of a modern drama i.e., Hedda Gabbler (Ibsen & Duncan, 2022) and the study is only focusing on ACT-1 and related interaction between the characters. This research is dealing with the literary text and for this, modern literary text has been searched out and related articles about the framework as the secondary source of the study. For the section of unit, the study is dealing with only ACT-1 and the unit of analysis is dialogues particularly spoken by TESMAN, MISS TESMAN AND HEDDA GABBLER.

This study adopts Grice Theory (Grice, 1975) as a theoretical framework for this study and according to (Grice, 1975), any speaker while communicating the idea in the context must follow some traditional maxims/principles that make his/her speech effective and rational. They are called Co-operative Principle. This principle states that conversation is mediated on the mutual compatibility. It converges your conversational utterance/contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged. This principle, being an umbrella term, operates based on some components that guide how we communicate, interact, and utter any speech within the context.

Data Representation

Data representation will consist of two grammatical items (a) nominal and (b) verbal. Total number of interactions are ten randomly selected from the text-Hedda Gabbler and total number
of dialogues are twenty within ten interactions. Ten interactions are representing nominal expressions and other ten are demonstrating verbal expressions.

**Parameters for Data Alignment**

In this analysis, the researcher is pre-defining the data demonstration and representation parameters. Firstly, dialogues will be represented, and the bold items are showing the specified tokens such as nominal and verbal.

**DISCUSSION**

**Nominalization and Verbalization**

Roughly speaking on the core concept of nominalization, it is a type of word formation in which a verb or an adjective is uniformly used as a noun. The verb form is nominalized. It is also called nOUNING but particularly speaking in the context of transformational grammar, nominalization has been conceived as a string and sentence that are only representing a fully convergent derivation of a noun phrase from an underlying clause. In this sense, an example of nominalization is the destruction of the city, where the noun destruction corresponds to the main verb of a clause and the city to its object. (Bauer, 1979; Chomsky et al., 1970; G. Leech, 2006).

In our daily routine life, whenever we interact with people at different context and situation with different time frame, we communicate with others because interaction is necessary to develop interaction more effective and smooth flow in the society. By using language as a basic tool of communication, we connect with people and way of interaction fulfills our Tran-communication needs. While talking with people, we want to say something in an indirect way. Our indirect sentences have different hidden meaning that can be assumed (implicated) by the speakers as well as the addressee because we want to convey our message in smart way to save our fellows from our harsh words (impolite). For this an example taken from natural social speech between two friends has been cited below: Ali and Ahmed communicate with each other on the topic of politics.

- Ali says: Which party do you support?
- Ahmed says: I have another interest except politics.

Here Ahmed doesn’t want to tell his liking about politics so, he uses another method to explain his view. These scenarios occur when most of us do not like to follow maxims of communication posited by (Grice, 1975) in his famous theory cooperative principal. When people communicate with each other, their words often direct to the position of abandon, opting out, inferring, flouting and violating of all four maxims of quantity, quality, relation and manner. Therefore the main purpose of this research is to find out nominal and verbal implicature used by the characters in Henrik Ibsen’s play Hedda Gabler. It is based on whether these maxims are observed or unobserved in our play within the characters’ interaction. If we study grammar rules, we come to know difference between nominal and verbal rules in grammar by using linguist’s approach. A nominal is a sentence in which writer tries to make the subject as a topic and verbal is a subject is the subject of verb in particular sentence of the dialogues. If we analysis the examples of nominal and verbal types sentences, we come to know the exact understanding of the idea presented in the words see the example (1) given below:
1) The color of this wall is white.

In this example, the subject is the color of the wall and by grammar rules it is not the subject of any verb. So, it is the sentence of nominal rules. While on the other side.

2) My school friends like Arabian Dates.

Look that in this sentence the word I and that it is the subject of the verb like. So this sentence is verbal. The same method of nominal and verbal rules of grammar we apply on our selected text Hedda Gabler by Henrk Ibsen. We try to know that what is the actual choice of Ibsen about nominal and verbal condition. Whether he follows are not. Focal interest of this study to know the Grice implicature and its maxims rules quality, quantity, relation and manner with this nominal and verbal choice of Ibsen in Hedda Gabler.

Data Analysis

This section will show you the data analysis and data analysis has been divided into two parts one is the nominal choice of Ibsen and other is Verbal choice of Ibsen.

Nominal Choice of Ibsen

Interaction 1: “TESMAN. [Picks up the slippers from the floor.] What are you looking at, Hedda? HEDDA. [Once calmer and mistress of herself.] I am only looking at the leaves. They are so yellow—so withered.”

Interpretation:

In this mutual interaction between Hedda with TESSMAN, TESSMAN comes to Hedda and ready to become the part of cooperative discussion following cooperative principle with Hedda. In response to TESMAN, Hedda Gabler replies and exactly she implicates that she herself is thin and dry and becomes yellow after the marriage changing. In this interaction, the implicature is due to the null nominal expression and only playwright is using adjectival token such as yellow.... and withered......

Interaction 2:

“MISS TESMAN. [Who has been gazing at her with folded hands.] Hedda is lovely—lovely—lovely. [Goes up to her, takes her head between both hands, draws it downwards, and kisses her hair.] God bless and preserve Hedda Tesman—for George‘s sake.”

“HEDDA. [Gently freeing herself.] Oh—! Let me go.”

Interpretation:

In this interaction, two characters are participating i.e. MISS TESMAN and HEDDA but MISS TESMAN is violating the maxim of quantity following the cooperative principle by freeing herself from MISS TESMAN. Hedda implicates exhausted. MISS TESMAN is using null nominal token only taking overtly an adjectival token in such repetition of lovely.... lovely.... lovely....

Interection:3 “TESMAN. Is it really? Sheriff Elvsted‘s wife? Miss Rising that was.”
“HEDDA. Exactly. The girl with the irritating hair, that she was always showing off. An old flame of yours I’ve been told.”

Interpretation:

In this interaction, TESMAN surely implicates that he already knows Elvested from school time. Hedda violates the maxim of manner and the maxim of quantity. With this disliking of her hair implicates Hedda’s hates for famines tact’s. Other thing is that she implicates the love of TESMAN for Elvested at the school time. The nominal pattern in these dialogues is modern Nominal phrase and a complex phrase with Prepositional phrase a complement.

Verbal Choice of Ibsen

Interaction:1

“MISS TESMAN. [Stops close to the door, listens, and says softly:] Upon my word, I don’t believe they are stirring yet!”

“BERTA. [Also, softly.] I told you so, Miss. Remember how late the steam-boat got in last night. And then, when they got home! —good Lord, what a lot the young mistress had to unpack before she could get to bed.”

Interpretation:

If we critically examine this uttered by MISS TESMAM, we come to know by relating Grecian maxims. According to maxim of quality which states— Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence! Now, MISS TESMAN says that she does not believe that they are stirring yet which means that she does not has exact and adequate information about that so this is the point of violation of Grecian maxim of quality because the verbal token has been used to implied the meanings. In this dialogue by Bertha, if it relates our theory, on this dialogue we come to know that Grice Maxims quantity and Relation) explains that —Do not make your contribution more informative than is required and —Be relevant! So in this dialogue, Bertha is violating both maxims her information is more than required and her information is not relevant with the MISS TESMAN’s

Interaction:2 “BERTA. Ah but, Miss Julia, I can’t help thinking of Miss Rina lying helpless at home there, poor thing. And with only that new girl too! She’ll never learn to take proper care of an invalid.”

“MISS TESMAN. Oh, I shall manage to train her. And of course, you know, I shall take most of it upon myself. You need not be uneasy about my poor sister, my dear Berta.”

Interpretation:

In this Interaction, BERTA is sad about the health of Miss RINA. Her thinking about that is Generalized Implicature but with this she has not proper information regarding new girl which she has to look after Miss Rina. Here is a violation of Maxim of Quality because Berta has no adequate information about the progress of new girl just, she is trying to herself guessing. Here is an example of Generalised Implicature. Because MISS TESMAN says generally about newly appointed. With this it is also the violation of the Maxims
of the Quantity because MISS TES_MAN says more than required. Here also the verbal expressions-help thinking and manage to train, are used in this interaction.

**Interaction: 3**

“TESMAN. [Following.] Yes, but have you noticed what splendid condition she is in? How she has filled out on the journey? “

“HEDDA. [Crossing the room.] Oh, do be quiet—!”

**Interpretation:**

In this interaction, TESMAN by using filled out verbal expression implicates the pregnancy of her wife in front of MISS TESSMAN. Hedda is not ready to become a cooperate in this discussion so that she is violating maxim of manner and cooperative principle. MISS TESMAN wants to know her expectations so again she implicates filled out as a verbal token.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The study concludes that the theory of Grice (Grice, 1975) can give a desirable results in a literary text-HEDDA GABBLER. This study investigated the nominal and verbal choices used by Ibsen, their structure is tri-layers complex, modern and null and the function of nominal and verbal choices are to implicate the pragmatic underlying meanings. The study furthermore suggests that Ibsen has used various layers of phrases either in nominal phrase or verbal phrase in the dialogues of the characters. In nominal choice Ibsen has used the null nominal phrase and only complement exists and that complement works as the whole nominal phrase. sometimes, complex layers of phrases-nominal and verbal have been used by Ibsen. As Ibsen is a modern play- wright, we found a modern trends and modern phrase structure in the text produced by Ibsen. For getting layers of meanings among the interactions, Grice theory (Grice, 1975) has been applied in the text of Ibsen’s HEDDA GABBLER and the results predict that all the principles are not fully followed but sometime for the flexibility of the situation and contextual interaction, they violate.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The study recommends that the result of this study invokes the scholars to work on other aspects of the literary text and natural speech in our community. For example, the future researcher[s] can find out the pattern and structure of only nominal or verbal in any natural speech of a particular society. This study has been adopted as a framework to handle any researcher to work in your own choice.

**REFERENCES:**


