Daranee Jaiyen 2008: Analysis of Character Dialogue in Sam Gok Literature by Chaoprayapraklang (Hon) Pragmatics Approach. Master of Arts (Thai), Major Field: Thai Language, Department of Thai Language. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Siriwan Nantachantoon, M.Ed. 369 pages.

This study aims to analyses the dialogues of key characters in Sam Kok Literature by Chaoprayapraklang, (Hon) Pragmatics Approach. In total, 167 dialogues are studied. This comprises of 18 dialogues made by 'GuiGae', 28 dialogues made by 'Jew Yee' and 121 dialogues made by 'Khong Beng'. The study is based on literature reviews and findings of relevant former studies.

The study reveals that the dialogues made by these characters reflect the four conversational maxims that arise from the pragmatics of natural language, as proposed by the philosopher, Paul Grice. These maxims are: the Maxim of Quality; the Maxim of Quantity; the Maxim of Relation; and the Maxim of Manner. The dialogues also reflect Grice's theory in conversational implications. Some dialogues may appear to follow the four Gracean's maxims although in fact they may have totally different implications by violating a maxim or flouting a maxim.

Gui Gae's conversations mainly reflect the Maxim of Relation. This is followed by the Maxim of Manner, the Maxim of Quantity and the Maxim of Quality respectively. From the selected dialogues, no implications were found in Gui Gae's conversations. All of his conversations were proven successful.

Jew Yee's conversations mostly reflect the Maxim of Quantity and the Maxim of Quality, followed by the Maxim of Manner, the Maxim of Relation and conversational implications. Out of the selected 28 conversations, only one failed.

Khong Beng's conversations mainly reflect the Maxim of Quantity, followed by the Maxim of Manner, the Maxim of Relation, the Maxim of Quality, violating a maxim and flouting a maxim respectively. Out of the 121 conversations studied, ten conversations failed.

The study also shows five basic patterns of how maxims were used in each characters' conversations, which include one maxim, two maxims, three maxims, four maxims and four maxims together with an implication.

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