

IMPLICATURE IN MOVIE SCRIPT MUFASA THE LION KING (2024)

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ABSTRACT

In "Mufasa: The Lion King" (2024), the screenplay skillfully utilizes implicature as a crucial element that enhances storytelling and adds depth to the emotional and thematic aspects of movie script. Implicature, a concept introduced by philosopher H. P. Grice, refers to the implied meanings that emerge in conversation, where speakers communicate ideas indirectly, relying on context and shared understanding between characters and the audience. This article delves into how the script of "Mufasa" employs both conversational and conventional implicatures to illuminate the intricacies of Mufasa's character, particularly his relationships with his brother Scar and his son Simba, as well as broader themes of leadership, responsibility, and legacy. Through subtle and indirect communication, Mufasa conveys vital lessons while navigating his own internal and external conflicts, thus enriching the film's exploration of leadership and personal growth. By examining key dialogues and character interactions, this study underscores the significance of implicature in shaping the audience's comprehension of character dynamics and the deeper meanings within the narrative. The use of implicature in "Mufasa" not only enhances character development but also engages viewers in an active process of interpretation, inviting them to read between the lines and discover the unspoken teachings woven throughout the dialogue.

Keywords: Indirect Communication, Movie Script, Conventional Implicatures, Conversational Implicatures

Article History

Received: Februari 2025

Reviewed: Februari 2025

Published: Februari 2025

Plagiarism Checker No 234

Prefix DOI : Prefix DOI :

10.8734/argopuro.v1i2.365

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Publish by : Argopuro



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ISSN 2988-6309



INTRODUCTION

Implicature is a core concept in the field of pragmatics, a subdiscipline of linguistics that studies how context affects the interpretation of meaning in communication. The concept refers to the fact that speakers often indirectly convey additional meanings beyond what is explicitly expressed in their words. These implicit meanings, called implicatures, can be inferred from context, speaker intent, and the social norms that govern communication. Understanding implicature is crucial to accurately interpreting conversations because it helps explain how people convey nuances, intentions, and assumptions that are not directly expressed.

In the upcoming film *Mufasa: The Lion King* (2024), the narrative focus shifts to the backstory of the noble Lion King Mufasa and his journey from orphan to leader of the Pride Lands. Similar to the original *Lion King* film, *Mufasa* (2024) uses hints to convey deeper, often unspoken meanings, particularly in Mufasa's interactions with those around him, including his brother Scar, his friends, and the kingdom he will eventually lead. Mufasa's script is filled with subtle, indirect communication, with characters often expressing themselves more through tone, body language, and contextual subtext than through explicit dialogue.

Through Mufasa's dialogue, the film deftly explores his complex character and motivations. His words may seem simple or direct on the surface, but they often contain subtle lessons about the burden of leadership, the importance of community, and the sacrifices required for the common good. For example, Mufasa gives advice to young Simba or shares his ideas with others, but it is often the unspoken meaning behind his words - the consequences of his actions - that truly defines his character.

This article delves into the script of *Mufasa* (2024) to reveal the profound impact of implicature on the development of key characters, especially Mufasa, as they grapple with complex emotions and ethical challenges. By closely analyzing pivotal scenes and dialogues, we will uncover how the film employs subtle linguistic techniques to enhance its storytelling, inviting viewers to explore deeper themes of identity, family, power, and destiny. Through an understanding of the implicit meanings woven into the dialogue, audiences are not only able to appreciate Mufasa's journey but are also prompted to reflect on broader concepts of leadership, legacy, and the challenges of embracing one's role in the world. So that through the exploration of implicature in this movie can make us better understand what implicature is and can clearly understand what the movie really wants to convey to the audience.

METHODS

In this article, we employ conversation analysis as our primary method, focusing on how verbal interactions among characters in "*Mufasa: The Lion King*" (2024) convey deeper meanings. This approach examines the natural flow of conversations and how implicit meanings emerge from them. By analyzing elements such as intonation, pauses, word choice, and non-verbal cues, conversation analysis enables us to uncover the ways in which characters influence one another, even through indirect dialogue filled with subtext.

This technique allows us to delve into the conversations between Mufasa, Scar, and Rafiki, and other characters, revealing not only their conflicts but also illuminating broader themes and values, such as leadership and legacy. The insights gained from this analysis highlight how their exchanges leave space for the audience to infer indirect meanings, thus enhancing our comprehension of the intricate dynamics at play within their relationships.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

After we explored the implicature contained in this movie script, we found two types of implicature, namely conversational implicature and conventional implicature. this type was described by H.P Grice, a linguist in his paper entitled "logic and conversation" in 1967.

In this movie, we found 12 implicatures, where there are 8 conversational implicature and 4 conventional implicature.

A. Conversational Implicature

According to H.P Grice, conversational implicature refers to the implied meaning that arises during a conversation based on the context, the specific conversation, and the cooperative principles that guide communication. It depends on the listener's interpretation of the speaker's intent, assuming that both parties are following the cooperative principles of communication.

in this movie script we found 6 conversational implicatures as follows

➤ In Dialog Timon And Pumba

1. Timon: "Security detail has arrived. One gentle reminder, we are not food."

Implicatures: Timon implies that they feel threatened being around a hungry lion but try to cover their fear with humor.

Type: Utilize the maxim of manner with indirect expression.

2. Timon: "Which is perfectly normal, I'm not terrified."

Implicature: Timon implies the opposite, namely that this situation is very abnormal and he is actually afraid.

Type: Sarcasm describing fear.

3. Pumba: "Are you saying that your security detail has been called on to do babysitting?"

Implicature: Pumba implies that babysitting duties are not commensurate with their role as "bodyguards".

Type: Implied meaning of reluctance.

➤ In Dialog Kiara And Rafiki

4. Kiara: "The storm's coming, and I'm scared. I want to go with you and Mom."

Implicature: Kiara implies insecurity and dependence on her parents as a source of comfort.

Type: Emotional context reinforces the implied message.

➤ Humor And Sarcasm

5. Timon: "He sang that song for six years straight."

Implicature: Timon implies that the song was sung so often that it became boring, although he says it in a humorous tone.

Type: Sarcasm based on historical context.

6. Pumba: "I'm clearly within earshot."

Implicature: Pumba implies that they should be more careful with their words because he can hear everything.

Type: Implied meaning that they are talking about something sensitive.

➤ Taka And Mufasa's Conflict

7. Taka: "You better start running, little Mufasa, for your life."

Implicature: Taka conveys an indirect threat that Mufasa is in danger, although he tries to disguise it with a racing challenge.

Type: Irony and hidden threat.

8. Mufasa: "If I run, you'll never catch me. I'm the fastest cub that ever lived."

Implicature: Mufasa implies his confidence to face the threat from Taka.

Type: Context of sibling rivalry.

B. Coventional Implicature

Conventional implicature is the type of meaning conveyed by a particular word or expression in a sentence, regardless of context. H. P. Grice (1975) Grice distinguishes between conventional implicature and conversational implicature. According to him, conventional implicature is an additional meaning attached to certain words or expressions, without depending on the context of the conversation. That is, this meaning is fixed and cannot be eliminated.

➤ In Dialog Kiara And Rafiki

1. Rafiki: "Be brave now, Kiara."

Implicature: Mufasa implies that bravery is a quality that Kiara should have to face difficult situations. He also conveys moral support indirectly.

Type: Meaning of courage as a universal wish.

2. Rafiki: "The roots of those trees are very strong, like your family."

Implicature: Rafiki implies that family is a source of strength, even though Kiara's parents are not physically present.

Type: Uses metaphors to convey a message.

➤ The Wisdom Of Rafiki

3. Rafiki: "To be lost is to learn the way."

Implicature: Rafiki implies that loss or hardship is part of the process of finding the purpose of life.

Type: Philosophy of life through symbolism.

4. Rafiki: "A single stick may smoke, but it will never burn."

Implicature: Rafiki implies the importance of unity to create true power.

Type: Symbolic meaning through metaphor.

CONCLUSION

In the Movie script of "Mufasa The Lion King (2024)" uses implicature as one of the important elements of the story to enrich the story, give depth to the characters, and indirectly convey moral messages. The use of conversational implicature is evident in this film in conversations that contain context-dependent meanings, such as in the conversation between Timon, and Pumbaa, often conveying humor, sarcasm, and hidden messages. On the other hand, conventional implicature appears in expressions with fixed meanings, such as Rafiki's wise advice on courage, family, and unity.

These two connotations help build relationships between characters and reinforce the movie's main themes of leadership, responsibility, and legacy. The main character, Mufasa, often uses indirect communication to convey life lessons, making his dialog more meaningful and thoughtful. This approach encourages the audience to not only enjoy the action in detail but also actively interpret the hidden meanings of the dialog. This increases emotional engagement and a deeper understanding of the message being conveyed. In this way, Mufasa's connotations not only enrich the characters and story, but also make the audience think deeply about the meaning behind the characters' words and actions, making the movie more than just entertainment, but a profound lesson on leadership. It also gives us space to think in considering the values of life.

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