

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

The aim of this study was to examine to what extent the tragic love relationship between the leading male protagonist, Nopporn, and the leading female protagonist, Kirati, in the novel *Behind the Painting* can be explained through flouting Gricean conversational maxims and the effects of perlocutionary acts as described in speech act theory. The outcome of the analyses based on the conversational principle of Grice and speech theory demonstrates that these two pragmatic theories, conversational implicature and speech act theory, can be applied to explain the communication patterns leading to the unsuccessful and tragic love relationship between the leading male protagonist Nopporn and the leading female protagonist Kirati in the novel *Behind the Painting*. The results of the analysis based on Gricean theory and speech act theory show that Kirati and Nopporn undergo different mistakes in pragmatic communication, thus bringing about a failed relationship.

#### 5.1 Flouting Maxims Leading to a Tragic Love Relationship

According to the conversational principles of Grice, Nopporn does not reveal the whole truth to Kirati since he aims to flirt with her while Kirati hides her real feelings and does not reveal that she loves him. If Nopporn adhered too Grice's maxim of quality or told Kirati that he already had a fiancée whom his father had selected for him, misunderstanding as well as a tragic love relationship would not have occurred since Kirati would not have developed intimacy and maintained a special feeling towards Nopporn deeply inside her. The development of Kirati's intimacy for Nopporn happens due to her wrong assumption about Nopporn's marital status. Data 4 in chapter 5, data 5 in chapter 9 demonstrate that twice Nopporn firmly tells Kirati that he is not interested in the matter of marriage at all. Nopporn's utterances misleads the listener, Kirati, to perceive that Nopporn has no

relationship with any woman and nourishes her intense feeling for him for five years. Nopporn falls in love with her even though Kirati has a husband because he finds out that Kirati does not have a feeling of love for her much older husband as a man and a wife would for each other. Thus Nopporn has a sense of confidence that he can be the right man for Kirati. Examples of Nopporn's violating the maxim of quality leading to a tragic love relationship are in appendix A. Moreover, Kirati violates the maxim of quantity, relation, and manner to avoid giving truthful answers which causes Nopporn to misunderstand her messages also contributing to the failed love relationship. Examples of Kirati's flouting the maxims of quantity, relation, and manner contributing to the tragic love relationship are presented in appendix B.

## **5.2 Forces and Effects of Speech Acts Leading to a Tragic Love Relationship**

Since Kirati does not reveal her love feelings to Nopporn straightforwardly, Nopporn assumes that his is a one-sided love. Speech act-based analysis reveals that Kirati's letter to Nopporn conveys perlocutionary acts without intention which causes Nopporn to decide to keep in touch with Kirati as with an older sister instead of as a lover. In the beginning, Nopporn does not seem to follow the advice that Kirati gives him in her letter. But when he reads Kirati's letter several times, he considers all that what Kirati writes as being rational. He finally follows her recommendations because he fails to adopt the illocutionary force of what she writes into his feeling that Kirati really has a strong wish for him to stop thinking of her as a lover. Therefore, Nopporn considers that it is time that he should take her suggestions seriously since Kirati's response in her letter convinces him that Kirati does not have any interest in maintaining a love relationship with Nopporn. As a result, Kirati's letter in response to Nopporn convinces Nopporn that he has to control his romantic feelings for Kirati. Kirati's words in her letter give Nopporn a sense of the directive and expressive illocutionary points which unintentionally create the perlocutionary effect of Nopporn deciding to try and stop loving her passionately. Examples of illocutionary acts in Kirati's letter contributing to the tragic love relationship are illustrated in the appendix C.

### 5.3 Recommendations for Further Research

This study examines the communication patterns leading to the failed and tragic love relationship between the leading male protagonist Nopporn and the leading female protagonist Kirati in the novel *Behind the Painting* using a method of analysis based on conversational implicature and speech act theory. For further research, data should be collected from real conversations in various situations, especially conversations between male and female interlocutors in order to investigate the use of flouting maxims in Thai conversations for the purpose of discovering which gender, male or female, more frequently violates conversational maxims, and also what the reasons for this are.