

تحليل تداولي للمعنى الضمني في الفيلم

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الملخص

تبين الدراسة الحالية أنواع المعنى الضمني المستخدم في الفيلم ، وانعكاس موضوع الهوية بناء على هذا المعنى الضمني. قام دانييل كوان ودانييل شاينرت بإخراج فيلم عام 2022. وتدور أحداثه حول عائلة صينية صغيرة مهاجرة إلى أمريكا. يسلط هذا الفيلم الضوء على الأكوان المتعددة وعدمية الحياة ومعاناة الهجرة والصراع بين الثقافات المختلفة. استخدمت هذه الدراسة أنواع التضمين التخاطبي كاستراتيجيات تداولية لاطهار المعنى الضمني بالفلم. وفقاً لتحليل البيانات، يستخدم صناع الأفلام المعنى الضمني الموقفي أكثر من المعنى الضمني المرجعي لتشجيع الجمهور على المشاركة بنشاط في القصة وتفسيرها وتصويرها لطبيعة الكون المتعدد المربكة والمتغيرة باستمرار بدون تلميحات أو تفسيرات صريحة، كما يجب على الجمهور استنتاج وتحليل القرائن والسيناريوهات السياقية لفهم الأكوان الموازية. يُظهر موضوع الهوية أن الفيلم الرائد يبحث بعمق وإبداع في الجوانب المعقدة للهوية الأمريكية الآسيوية بالإضافة إلى صراع الحفاظ على الهوية الأولى واختلاف الثقافات.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المعنى الضمني، المعنى الضمني الموقفي، المعنى الضمني المرجعي، ثيم الهوية

A Pragmatic Analysis of the Implicit Meaning in the Movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once"

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Abstract

The current study shows the types of implicit meaning used in the movie "Everything Everywhere All At Once" and the reflection of the identity theme based on this implicit meaning. Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert directed "Everything Everywhere All At Once" in 2022. It revolves around a small Chinese immigrant family to America. This movie sheds light on the multiple universes, the nihilism of life, the suffering of immigration, and the conflict between the different cultures. To show the types of implicit meaning in the selected data, the study uses the types of conversational implicature as pragmatic strategies. According to the data analysis, the filmmakers use situational implicit meaning more than referential implicit meaning to encourage the audience to actively participate in and interpret the story and portray the multiverse's confusing and ever-changing nature. Without explicit allusions or explanations, the audience must deduce and analyse the contextual clues and scenarios to make sense of the parallel universes. The identity theme shows the ground-breaking movie "Everything Everywhere All at Once" profoundly and creatively examines Asian-American identity's complex aspects. Additionally, there is a conflict of saving the first identity and the differences between cultures.

Keywords: Implicit meaning, situational implicit meaning, referential implicit meaning, identity theme.

1. Introduction

A cinematic language is a set of rules and conventions by which cinema communicates meaning to the viewer. It is a common, organic type of communication that is constantly changing. Cinema uses an imaginative mix of language and smaller units to create meaning, essential concepts, and themes that represent world and societal challenges. Nevertheless, the total is, or ought to be, much greater than the combination of its parts. "implicit meaning" describes how one interprets the movie's meaning. This is a deeper, more fundamental meaning implied rather than stated explicitly by any element. Another perspective on that deeper underlying meaning is as a theme, an idea that provides coherence that integrates all aspects of the work and communicates the project's purpose. "Everything Everywhere All at Once" is a top-ten movie of 2022. It is an American absurdist upcoming sci-fi comedy-drama movie that received 7 Oscars and two Golden Globes Awards. Appraising the movie, The Washington Post wrote, "It's not only that the multiverse acts as a metaphor for the immigrant Asian experience, or a convenient parable for the dislocations and personality splits suffered by hyphenated (that is, 'Asian-American') citizens, including LGBT culture. It also becomes a heady vehicle for confronting and negotiating Asian-pessimism. To present this theme to the audience, the movie makers are creative in implying it implicitly for deepness and suspense (Anlin, 2022). Linguistically speaking, pragmatics forms implicit meanings of language about context via Gricean maxims and conversational implicature (Yule, 1996). Yet, no previous studies have examined the implicit meaning and its types in this genre of science fiction movies from a pragmatic viewpoint. Thus, the current study seeks to analyze the discourse of "Every Thing Everywhere All At Once" to show the the Asian- American identity theme that implies the implicit meaning with its types and to determine pragmatic devices that form the implicitness. This study aims at:

1. What are the types of implicit meanings used to reflect the theme concerned in the selected movie?
2. What pragmatic strategies are used to realise the implicit meaning in the selected movie?

2. Literature Review

2.1 Pragmatics

Traditionally, traditional linguists neglected the meaning of sentences and focused on sentence structure and elements. Meanwhile, modern linguists prefer to focus on the meaning, messages, and language users, which is pragmatics. Katz (1977,p. 19) describes pragmatics based

on Chomsky's 1965 terms "competence and performance." Competence is the speaker's knowledge of the language (rules and structures), while performance is the actual use of the language in real situations. Van Dijk (1977) states that knowledge of grammar and vocabulary can not guarantee successful communication because words may convey more than literary meaning or less depending on the context of the situation.

Levinson (1983, p.5) defines pragmatics as "the study of language use," which means how people deal with language and language users. Furthermore, Leech (1983, p. 5) states that meaning is "derived not from the formal properties of words and constructions, but from how utterances are used and how they relate to the context in which they are uttered.

All scholars agree on a significant relationship between context and pragmatics. Fasold (1990, p.119) highlights this relationship as "the study of the use of context to make inferences about meaning." Furthermore, pragmatics emphasizes actual language use, necessitating codifying language functions in social contexts, as Demirezen (1991) noted. According to Yule (1996:3), pragmatics is "the study of contextual meaning." This means that pragmatics is a context-dependent discipline, meaning that its meaning changes when there is a change in the surrounding situation.

Based on the introductory definitions and discussions concerned with pragmatics, the current study adopts Yule's (1996) definition, viewing pragmatics as the field of studying implicit contextualized meaning. The present study primarily analyzes an American movie with multiple themes and contexts that generate meanings implicitly to create suspense and interest. To approach this study, the researcher employs the micro-pragmatic approach to investigating implicit meaning, including speech acts, presupposition, and implicature, to determine the types of implicit meanings employed. Additionally, the researcher uses the appraisal system, specifically, the implicit meanings and functions showing the attitudes and beliefs representing the movie themes in discourse.

2.2 Implicit Meaning

Meaning refers to the concepts and ideas conveyed from the speaker's mind to the listener's mind as they are in the form of language or another (Lyons,1981). According to Hurford (1983), the meaning is the speaker's attention expressed in a different term or phrase. So, the meaning of any idea comes from the speaker's mind and is understood by the listener; this understanding is closely related to the environment in which that idea is produced.

Speakers are free to express their intentions explicitly or implicitly. Explicit meaning can be understood directly without any ambiguity or suggestions. On the other hand, implicit meaning refers to the meaning that is hidden or not expressed explicitly through words. Larson (1984) was the first to introduce implicit meaning as a part of a discussion or the speaker's intended message. Then, Larson (1984) adds that implicit meaning requires foresight to be understood. Additionally, Aminuddin (1985) illustrates that the following factors can help to identify implicit meaning:

1. The language nature
2. The culture of society
3. The range of speech-related information that is provided.

Aminuddin (1985) adds that implicit meaning is unclear because it is already implied, and the speaker uses implied meaning for a specific purpose. Implicit meaning is a pragmatic concept found in a conversation between a speaker and a listener, where the speaker can imply any information.

Implicit meaning is defined by Yule (1996, p. 131) as "an inference is any additional information used by the listener to connect what is said to what must be meant." The linguistic elements that cause the hearer to consider interpretations other than the literal meaning are the source of the pragmatic inferences in spoken language. Levinson (1983, p. 167) states that presuppositions and implicatures are pragmatic inferences. Presuppositions are "the existing knowledge common to speaker and hearer that the speaker does not need to assert". Grundy (2000, pp. 117-119) illustrates that as the background assumptions. Implicatures refer to the conclusions "after hearing an utterance about the meaning the speaker intends to convey."

2.3 Types of Implicit Meaning

One must understand the hidden meaning to fully appreciate a cinematic work's depth and complexity. Learning about these three categories of implicit meaning allows for a deeper understanding of its themes, social critique, and creative expression, more than just a storyline recounting.

According to Larson (1984, pp. 34-37), implicit meaning is divided into three kinds:

1. Referential Implicit Meaning
2. Organisational Implicit Meaning
3. Situational Implicit Meaning

2.3.1 Referential Implicit Meaning

The first type of implicit meaning is referential implicit meaning, which is used to describe underlying or suggested meanings inferred by the reader or listener from the context and the presented material. This kind of meaning is associated with the connection between a word and the real-world object, occasion, or attribute it symbolizes. It concerns references—whether explicit or implicit—to specific things, occasions, or characteristics mentioned in the text. It should be noted that the referents' existence is crucial in interpreting the meaning. If the referent is unknown, it will be challenging to interpret the meaning. "Overview meanings generated by linguistic elements in the form of words, sentences, and other elements concerning the outside elements of language, whether it be reality or experience, are called references (Aminuddin, 1985,p. 88)."

Kridalaksana (1993, p. 186) illustrates that "The reference is the outside elements of language designated by the language elements." The word or phrase is one example of how language elements are understood. Kridalaksana (1993, p. 199) adds that the meaning of linguistic features is closely connected to anything outside of language (an object or an idea), and the component analysis can explain that.

Halliday and Hasan (1976, p. 37) illustrate the relationship between the reference and its referent; the relationship is considered "exophoric" and does not contribute to textual coherence when their interpretation falls outside the text and inside the context of the given scenario. The relationships, referred to as "endophoric" relations when their interpretation is found within a text, create cohesive links. Endophoric relations fall into two categories: those interpreting the text by looking backwards are called "anaphoric" relations, and those interpreting the text by looking forward are called "cataphoric" relations (Halliday & Hasan,1976, p.37). Halliday and Hasan (1976) classify the reference into three kinds:

2.3.2 Organisational Implicit Meaning

Aminuddin (1985, p.88) defines organisational meaning as "The meaning that arises from grammatical events, both between affixes with the basic words and between words with a word or phrase by phrase called organisational." In other words, the meaning of the sentence is formed from the relationship between the components of that sentence, and that meaning is the organisational meaning. People are sometimes left with an implicit understanding of the organisational meaning, so they are implicitly aware of the organisational environment.

According to Larson (1984, pp. 40-41), the implicit organisational meanings are translated into three sentence forms: "Ellipsis sentences", "Passive sentences" and the "Use of the Substitution word in the sentence."

2.3.3 Situational Implicit Meaning

The interpretation of situational meaning is focused on the context of the communication. It considers things like the relationship between the speaker and the addressee, the setting and timing of the conversation, preconceptions, and the cultural backgrounds of both sides. Situational meaning is not always conveyed directly; it is frequently implied and can be deduced from the circumstances. Implicit situational meaning is defined as the meaning that develops from the interaction between speech and the circumstances surrounding the speech's delivery (Larson, 1984). Kridalakaksana (1993) describes the meaning of a speech situation as aspects of the language connected with speech or discourse up until the point at which the speech or discourse became meaningful.

Larson (1984) adds that the meaning can be affected by several aspects such as the relationship between the speakers and the listeners, cultural background, the time of the speaking, gender and age, social situation of speakers and listeners, presumptions that appear in the communication situation and gestures that used during the communication process, etc. So, several elements outside the language are crucial in drawing the implicit situational meaning.

2.4 Pragmatic strategies

2.4 Conversational Implicature

Pragmatics has many strategies to convey implicit meaning, including conversational implicature. People must contact others to communicate their intentions and meaning through speech in social life. People give meaning in two ways: explicitly or implicitly. The expression of explicit meaning means the actual conversation. In contrast, the expression of the implicit meaning refers to the hidden meaning of conversation. The communication that occurs indirectly is known as 'conversational implicature.' The philosopher Paul Grice introduced the concept of conversational implicature during a lecture at Harvard University in 1967. In the article "Logic and Conversation," Grice solves the language meaning problems that general linguistics theories cannot illustrate. The verb "to imply" is the root of the term "implicature," from which its cognate "implication" is derived. Conversational implicature (henceforth CI) is a type of implicature that can only be comprehended and interpreted by the participants in a given interaction, being able to conclude the speaker's intent from the surrounding context of their words, according to Grice (1975, p. 45). Therefore, Grice (1975, p. 45) states that "conversational implicature is what has to be supposed to preserve the supposition that the Cooperative Principle is being observed." In other words, CI is

among the most fundamental topics in pragmatics, which studies how language is employed in a suitable context. Hence, CI is proposed in conversation, i.e., something that stays implicit in actual language usage (Mey, 2001). Black (2006) agrees with the same idea since he defines CI as a combination of situational language and context. Brown and Yule (1983) also define implicature as the "pragmatic aspects of meaning," and understanding them is a part of pragmatics (Levinson, 1983). Typically, they possess distinctive qualities as the following:

- The capacity to generate the utterance meaning from the literal meaning of words,
- Words that are produced within a particular context,
- A shared context between the speaker and the listeners,
- The ability to recognize CP and the maxims by the speaker and listener.

Additionally, Grice's theory explains "how a hearer gets from what is said to what is meant, from the level of expressed meaning to the level of implied meaning" (Thomas, 1998). Furthermore, Thomas (1998) describes the concept of implicature as the following:

a. You say something and mean it, as the following example:

(1) "The following incident, which occurred at a seaside resort in Kent, was reported in several national newspapers in July 1994. Kent Coastguard reports that a girl, drifting out to sea on an inflatable set of false teeth, was rescued by a man on a giant inflatable lobster." In this example, the reporter means precisely what he has written: no more, no less.

b. You say something and mean something else, as the following example:

(2) " 'We must remember your telephone bill', she said, hinting that Louise had talked long enough. 'Goodbye,' said Louisa, ringing off. It takes the rich to remind one of bills, she thought." In this example, the speaker means more than the literal meaning of words; in saying the words: We must remember your telephone bill, she wants to end the telephone conversation.

c. You say something but mean the opposite, for example:

(3) "Late on Christmas Eve 1993, an ambulance is sent to pick up a man who has collapsed in Newcastle city centre. The man is drunk and vomits all over the ambulanceman who goes to help

him. The ambulanceman says: 'Great, that's really great! That's made my Christmas!' In this example, the ambulanceman ultimately means the opposite of his words.

The description of CI is an implication conveyed through clues or indirect means, which is comprehended without formal expression. Black (2006, p. 24) demands that CI is a result of "a combination of language and situation," that is to say, the same utterance in different situations may or may not show an implicature; at the same time, it may offer a different one. Non-truth conditional is the meaning that is demonstrated by this type of implicature. As a result, the dependence is on context, which means the meaning will be changed when the situation is changed automatically (Crystal, 2008 & Birner, 2013). Conversationally implies that something occurs if and when a conversation participant follows the cooperative principle or its maxims, which indicates that the cooperative principle and conversational maxims are the sources of conversational implicature. The following example illustrates the conversational implicature:

(4) Carla: "Are you going to Andy's party?"

Fred: "I have to work."

Fred's reply implies that he cannot attend the party due to work obligations. By the way, Fred did not refuse to participate in the party explicitly, and his words did not show that either, but Carla could understand that. So, the listener must conclude the explicit speech's other or hidden meaning; this is the conversational implicature.

On the other hand, Paltridge (2012) says that the conversational implicature is the inference that the listener makes to understand the intention of the speaker based on the semantic meanings of words, the cooperative principle, and its maxims. Grice describes CI as "inferences drawn based on what is said, but which are not entailed by what is said" (cited by Börjesson, 2014, p.196). It is sensible to consider the conversational implicature as a phenomenon associated with a hidden meaning of speech, not the level of what is said; what is said is the basis for CI (Börjesson, 2014). In this vein, CI is communicated, understood, or conveyed meaning without uttering. Therefore, CI contrasts what is said and goes beyond it (Haung, 2017).

2.4.1 Types of Conversational Implicature

Generalized or particularised are two different implicatures that result from how the listener, the speaker, and the context of the speech interact. Understanding how meaning is communicated

outside of the literal interpretation of words requires an awareness of kinds of implicature. Generalized CIs are defined as CIs that do not require specific knowledge of context to convey the implicature (Yule, 1996, p. 41). Geurts (2010, p. 17) adds that they emerge in a wider variety of contexts, suggesting that they are less dependent on the situation's specifics and expressions of numbers. For example, "X is meeting a woman this evening" is a common statement in practically any situation. Regardless of the situation, people are usually curious about the woman's identity because they assume she is not X's mother or wife (Geurts, 2010, p. 17). Some generalized confidence intervals (CIs) use expressions of quantity and value scales in their communication. Scalar implicatures are the name given to these kinds of implicatures. For example:

(5) "Some of the boys went to the party".

The speaker conveys that "not all of the boys went to the party" implicitly (Levinson, 1983, p. 133.)

Particularised CI requires special context features to understand and interpret the utterance (Grice, 1975, p. 56). That is to say, because context primarily influences the precise construction of conversational implicatures, particularized implicatures can only be generated in particular settings. For example,

(6) A: "What has happened to the roast beef?"

B: "The dog is looking very happy".

B's response flouts the relational maxim, implicating a particular CI. B answers A's question regarding the roast beef in a way that, despite its seeming irrelevant ness, turns out to be pertinent enough to imply that the dog ate it (Levinson, 1983, p. 126).

3. Methodology

The current study conducts a qualitative analysis of two extracts from the movie " Everything Everywhere All AtOnce" as samples to show the types of implicit meaning that reflect the identity theme. The model used to investigate the implicit meaning in the movie is the conversational implicature and its types, as explained in (section 2.4).

Extract (1)

-She keeps targeting the Chinese in the community.

(00:07:30)

Table (1)

Contextual Factors of Extract (1)

Contextual Factors	Description
Setting and Scene	The extract is presented in the sitting room in Evelyn's house. The time is a day.
Participants	Evelyn and her daughter "Joy" are the participants in this extract.
Ends	Joy asks permission to invite Becky, Joy's friend, to the party.
Act Sequence	Evelyn does not invite Becky to the party because of her appearance and outside look, so Joy tries to get permission for her to invite her.
Key	Evelyn's tone is annoyed and nervous.

Evelyn discovers that she has negative feelings for Becky and the auditor in this extract. Additionally, it shows the racism that Evelyn, as a Chinese woman, lives in because of some American people in America.

1. Theme: The underlined speech of Evelyn as a Chinese woman mirrors the identity theme implicitly, where she describes "the auditor is a racist." The gap between the woman's identity and the auditor is highlighted by her description of the agency as "*a terrible person*" and its targeting of the Chinese community. The perceived persecution of the Chinese population by the American institution is highlighted by this contrast, which is essential to comprehending the identity topic. Additionally, Evelyn's speech reflects the issue of identity by highlighting the experiences and difficulties faced by the Chinese minority within the framework of the American institution.

2. Type of IM: According to the model of the current study (see 2.3), SIM is noted in the extract where IM" the auditor's racism" is not mentioned directly, rather than depending on the words' basic meaning, the message is expressed through the particular context of the auditor's activities toward the Chinese community. Additionally, SIM assumes that all SAs and messages are produced within a specific context of communication. In this instance, communication may occur implicitly rather

than overtly. The Chinese woman's speech reflects the identity theme through SIM, showing the racism of the auditor, emphasizing the tension between her Chinese identity and the American auditor institution, highlighting the differences between the two, and highlighting the struggles and experiences of the Chinese community in American society.

3. The pragmatic strategies of IM

Type of CI: One kind of implicature that is relevant to the speaker's intended meaning, "the auditor is a racist," and arises from a particular situation is called PCI. Evelyn's speech reflects this kind of CI because she talks about a specific person and presents some characteristics related to him. The identity theme is reflected when she implies the distinction between the Chinese people and American people in American society, the racism, oppression, and marginalization that she faces as a Chinese woman in American society.

Extract (2)

Evelyn: You need to grow your hair.

(02.10.53)

Table (2)

Contextual Factors of Extract (2)

Contextual Factors	Description
Setting and Scene	The place is on the street, and the time is a day.
Participants	Evelyn, Joy, and Becky are the participants in this scene.
Ends	Evelyn orders Becky to grow her hair.
Act Sequence	Evelyn's family goes to the meeting with the IRS in the Tax Department.
Key	Evelyn's tone is kind.

Despite Evelyn's decision to accept her daughter and her friend "Becky, who is lesbian," the Chinese roots and values that Evelyn follows make her try to change them into ordinary girls. For that, she starts with Becky's short hair.

1. Theme: The Chinese woman's implicit message to Becky "the American lesbian girl," in the speech "*You need to grow your hair*," is "Chinese tradition is better for you" which reflects traditional Chinese gender norms and cultural identity. It implies that there are specific standards that Chinese women have for how women should look and represent their gender, particularly that ladies should have longer hair. Evelyn is imposing traditional Chinese beauty standards and gender conventions on Becky "the lesbian American girl" by making this comment. The underlying message highlights the conflict between the traditional Chinese cultural identity, which places a strong emphasis on gender norm compliance, and the growing acceptance of individual self-expression, particularly for lesbian people whose identities violate long-standing social standards.

2. Type of IM: The type of IM, "Chinese tradition is better for you," which is made by Evelyn, "the Chinese woman" to a lesbian American girl, appears to have purely SIM. According to Larson (see 2.3), this type of IM can be understood by the situation elements, the characters' interaction, and the language used. SIM, in this extract, refers to the implicit cultural views, assumptions, and viewpoints of the Chinese woman about gender standards and feminine beauty ideals when she advises the lesbian girl to grow her hair, which all reflect the Chinese culture and identity theme.

3. The pragmatic strategies of IM

Type of CI: The generated CI "You should adapt morals and traditions" is GCI. This kind of CI is considered context-independent, which means that the same extract can form the CI regardless of the context. The extract provides valuable insights into the complexity of Chinese identity and communication norms by implying that it is based on cultural beliefs and expectations around gender expression and appearance. The Chinese woman's remark suggests that, regardless of the situation, having long hair is a desirable feminine characteristic. The expectation that women should show themselves following these idealized conceptions of appearance and gender expression, as well as traditional gender norms and standards of feminine beauty, are deeply ingrained parts of Chinese cultural identity.

Conclusion

1. The importance of showing the identity theme in the movie is to illustrate the conflict and the struggle the immigrants live in because of the differences between their cultures, languages, traditions, and beliefs.
2. "Everything Everywhere All At Once" emphasises its examination of the multiverse, the fractured identity, the emotional resonance, and the interconnectedness of existence by favouring SIM over RIM.
3. The filmmakers can construct a complex communication environment that mirrors the characters' perspectives and connections by employing particular and generalized implicature. Relationships, a common understanding, and the distinct viewpoints of every character are established through the interaction of these two forms of implicature inside the complex storyline of the movie.

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