

## Implicature Analysis on Women's Resistance in The Novel "The Years of the Voiceless" by Okky Madasari

Dien Afni Ariyati

Department of English Nursing Education, Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Kesehatan Makassar,  
Indonesia.

Address: Jl. Inspeksi Kanal Jembatan II Hertasning Baru-Aeropala Makassar

Corresponding Author: [afnidien@gmail.com](mailto:afnidien@gmail.com)\*

**Abstract.** *This study aims to describe: (1) the meaning of utterances containing conventional implicatures in the novel 'The Years of The Voiceless' by Okky Madasari, (2) define the function of utterances containing conventional implicatures in the novel 'The Years of The Voiceless' by Okky Madasari, and (3) describe the types of utterances containing conventional implicatures in the 'The Years of The Voiceless' by Okky Madasari based on Grice's theory about implicature. The research method was descriptive qualitative method. The data in this study are sentences in utterances containing implicature. The data in this study were obtained by reading, recording and note-taking techniques. The findings are as follows. There are 8 forms of conventional implicature found. Based on the results of the classification that has been done, there are four intentions, 1 utterance of the intention of commanding, 1 utterance of the intention of pride, 1 utterance of the intention of giving information. Types of utterances that contain conventional implicatures in the novel 'The Years of The Voiceless'. Each implicature has a function. The function of conventional implicatures in the novel can be categorized into three functions, namely 1. implicatures that function as persuasive or persuade, 1 implicature that functions as directive, namely giving advice, 1 implicature that functions as expressive, namely showing hatred. Based on the results of the classification that has been done, there are two classifications, 1 type of declarative speech (statement), 1 type of imperative speech (command).*

**Keywords:** *Conventional, Implicature, The Years of the Voiceless, Woman Resistance.*

### 1. BACKGROUND

As we know together Language is a tool for interacting with each other, with our language being able to convey ideas, ideas or aspirations to other people in order to convey a message to be able to connect and carry out a communication activity as we normally do in our daily life. According to Abdul Chaer, Language is a means of communication in social life, used to express arguments, requests, promises, and more. One common way to communicate is through conversation. (Chaer,2012:30).

As a means communication language to convey intentions or messages to interlocutors, language can appear in both spoken and written forms. Oral language is a language that is directly spoken by the speaker in the delivery of meaning using spoken mouth instruments, such as speeches or activities spoken directly by two or more. The written language is a language that is written in the form of written texts, such as novels, letters, speech papers, newspapers, magazines, and so on.

One of the oral forms outlined in the writings for example novels. Essays in the form of novels are one of the spoken languages that are transferred into the form of writing, the variations are different there are in the form of narratives, namely depictions of the background,

or character settings in the story and so on. The range of languages written in the novel also varies, there is a monologue that is the utterance delivered by a figure without the other person, while the speech prologue delivered by the interlocutor and said to one another.

According to (Margolies,2025:112), A novel is an extended fictional narrative, typically structured around a plot or theme, with an emphasis on character development. and sometimes written in prose, action and character made by the writer themselves so the action in the story can be a real story like ambition, happiness, sadness and etc.

In the novel, both in the form of a monologue or dialogue containing the message the reader wants to convey by the writer, that is a novel that places to describe everything that the writer feels with a particular purpose through sentences implied. In the language referred to as a sentence full of implicit meanings is called implicature. One novel that contains a lot of implicature utterances is novel by Okky Madasari.

Implicature is the implicit meaning that is not expressed by words as clearly as possible, so we must first analyze the purpose of the sentence utterance in the novel. (Wilson,2022:31) Grice uses the term implicature to describe what a speaker implies, suggests, or intends to convey, which is different from the literal meaning of their words." Implications are divided into two, namely conventional implicature and conversational implicature Conversational Implicature is an implicature that occurs in conversation or dialogue by looking at the overall context in which the sentence is spoken, while conventional is a common thing we know, sometimes not in the form of conversation and context specifically.

Implicature is part of pragmatic studies that discusses the hidden meaning behind utterances that are not directly stated (Cheng,2025:2) Conventional implicature refers to additional meanings that are automatically produced by the structure of language and can be understood without considering the specific context. This concept was first introduced by Paul Grice in the theory of the "Cooperative Principle" which divides implicatures into two types: conversational implicatures and conventional implicatures. In literary studies, conventional implicature analysis can reveal how the author conveys social criticism or resistance implicitly through dialogue or narrative. The novel *The Years of the Voiceless* by Okky Madasari is a literary work that portrays social injustice and women's resistance to patriarchal and authoritarian systems. Implicature analysis in this novel is important to understand how the author conveys messages of resistance indirectly to the reader.

Several previous studies have discussed implicatures in literary works with a focus on expressing social and political criticism. For example, research on implicatures in the novel *Lelaki Harimau* by Eka Kurniawan shows how implicatures are used to criticize violence and

gender injustice. In addition, a pragmatic study in the novel *Saman* by Ayu Utami highlights how implicatures are used to build a narrative of resistance against an oppressive social system. However, research that specifically discusses conventional implicatures in the novel *The Years of the Voiceless* is still limited. Existing research focuses more on the novel's major themes, such as women's resistance and social criticism, without examining in depth how implicatures are used to build hidden meanings in dialogue and narrative.

The originality of this study lies in the focus of conventional implicature analysis in revealing women's resistance in the novel *The Years of the Voiceless*. This study fills the gap in previous studies that have discussed themes more explicitly without exploring how implicit meanings are conveyed through speech. By examining conventional implicature, this study provides a new contribution in understanding the literary communication strategy used by Okky Madasari to voice women's resistance to social injustice. The urgency of this study lies in the need to understand how literature becomes an effective medium of resistance and social criticism. Amidst the increasingly prominent discourse on gender equality, this analysis provides an in-depth perspective on how language in literary works can form critical awareness of gender-based injustice.

In addition, this novel also reveals women's health issues related to patriarchal domination, such as control over women's bodies, limited access to health services, and the psychological impact of oppression. By analyzing conventional implicature, this study reveals how these issues are conveyed implicitly and shows the relationship between women's resistance and the right to health.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### Discourse

Discourse comes from Greek discourse which means "running here and there". So, Discourse can be interpreted communication of the mind through words, pouring ideas, and also essays, written works, lectures, sermons, lectures (Webster in Sudaryato, 2015:110). So, it can be concluded if direct communication like dialogue, speech, lecture and so on, including a discourse, namely discourse oral. In addition, written works such as essays, magazines, newspapers, novels, and etc including a discourse, namely written discourse. Then according to (Fedriani, 2025:7) The use of language either speaking or writing and even what we hear is the property of discourse,

Discourse is language units that larger when compared with other language, but discourse appears not as a set of language structure units that are contextualized, but as a set of

contextualized language units (Abdirakhimovich, 2025:1). So, what is examined in discourse is the use of language contextualized, not the language structure.

According (Jacobs,2025:4) said the thing that happens by using aspects that they know about language and based on their experience is a discourse that is more than just language as an abstract system. Such knowledge can be expressed as a rule about understanding words in general about what happens in sentences, such as what they hear, what they see, or pouring in writing with other things: exchanging information, expressing feelings of creating beauty, and entertaining our self, that is what language expresses as a structural relationship. That means when meaning or ideas in discourse can be realized through the structure of the language used, that means the form and structure are analyzed explicitly. because in general discourse analysis usually focuses on analytical processes in a relatively explicit way.

Based on the opinions of the experts above it can be concluded that discourse is a unit of language that is delivered both directly (verbally) and written in the most complete and highest, has a real beginning and end. The hallmark of discourse is the delivery of intent or message from the writer or speaker of every literary work both from oral discourse to the very well written discourse.

## **Pragmatics**

Pragmatics refers to the study of language use in context, focusing on how our understanding of the world interacts with semantic knowledge (Griffiths, 2006:1). It can be defined as the study of how situations influence the interpretation of meaning. Pragmatic meaning is not only shaped by linguistic knowledge but also by an understanding of the social and physical world. The interpretation of language depends on the relationship between the speaker or writer and the listener or reader, including both expressed and unexpressed concepts within a social and physical context. So pragmatic principle that relates with how speech can be interpreted differently by listeners (or readers) with depictions of bound contexts namely implicature.

Analyzing the hidden meanings in someone's speech, which may be interpreted differently by the listener, depends on the listener's implicit knowledge, the relationship between the speaker and listener, and, most importantly, the context in which the conversation takes place. Implicature theory is used to examine these implicit meanings from a pragmatic perspective. It is crucial to understand that linguists must be involved in interpreting pragmatic expressions of any language, as misinterpretations can arise if the situational and cultural contexts are not considered.

According to Cruse (2006:35), context is a crucial factor in interpreting utterances and expressions. He identifies three key aspects of context: (1) preceding and following utterances, (2) the immediate physical environment, and (3) the broader situation, which includes social and power relations as well as shared knowledge between the speaker and listener. Similarly, Mey (2001:41) states that context involves understanding the purpose of things, as it provides utterances with their true pragmatic meaning and determines their truthfulness.

Pragmatics refers to the study of how contextual factors interact with our understanding of the world and semantic knowledge in communication. (Griffiths, 2006:1). Based on the description above, it can be concluded that in pragmatic analysis, we have to pay attention to the relationship between which language is used and where the language context occurs.

### **Implicature**

According (Brown,2012:31) stated that the term "implicature" was introduced by Grice to deliver speech or message that is said literally, proposed or intended is very different from what is implied by a speaker. On the other hand, Grice, in his implicature theory, emphasizes the speaker's communicative intent, which is reflected through non-literal meanings. Speakers convey these non-literal meanings using utterances that create specific effects. These effects may arise when the utterance deviates from the speaker's intended communication and is not directly part of their explicit message. Therefore, to understand the intended meaning, the listener must interpret the underlying intention behind the speaker's words.

In communicating, sometimes there are things that need to be applied with specific goals, so that not infrequently people convey information with what they say but what they don't say. It does not mean a confusion in conveying a message even though it only explains more or less meaning, but the speaker purpose is the interlocutor are able to interpret what the speaker said. (Zhang Y,2025:3). In other words, dialogue containing implicature always requires indirect interpretation. In verbal communication, implicature is typically understood by the speaker, making it unnecessary to express it directly. It is often concealed to prevent the implied meaning from being too obvious. Implicature helps clarify the differences between what is explicitly stated and what is meant.

Based on the expert opinions above, it can be concluded that implicature refers to the implied meaning in both spoken and written communication. This implied meaning represents the speaker's intention, which is not explicitly stated. In essence, implicature is a strategy used by speakers to convey their intentions to the listener without elaborating in detail. It serves as a bridge connecting what is explicitly stated and what is implied.

## **Theory of Implicature**

Implicature is the process of implication by a speaker of communicative intention in pronouncing the sentence that will implied, Additionally, the interpretation of meaning depends on the situation and context. According to Thomas (2021:57), implicature is divided into two types: conventional and conversational.

### **a. Conventional Implicature**

According to Grice: 1978, conventional implicature is implicature which has a special meaning commonly found in the word used. So conventional implicatures are associated with specific words and produce other words that are commensurate with what is conveyed. According to (Nemeth,2025:4) conventional implicature does not depend on special contexts and sometimes in the sentence monologue does not mean that it must occur in conversation. Means that Conventional implication, that is, implicature obtained directly from the meaning of the word, and not from the principle of conversation. Therefore, conventional implicature is defined by the standard meaning of the words used. For example:

X: Sita is from Bandung.

Y: That's why, she has clear skin.

In the speech above the speaker did not say that the girl she meant was really a girl from the city of Bandung. But the speaker said the girl was "beautiful girl" because the girl was very elegant and has a clear skin. Listeners also have the same understanding that the city of Bandung is synonymous with its friendly and gentle population when they are spoken. The fact is that there are many beautiful Bandung girls. That beauty owned by a Bandung girl and coupled with her behavior makes them more beautiful.

### **b. Conversational Implicature**

According to Vicente (2025:5), conversational implicatures refer to the assumptions that listeners must make about a speaker's beliefs to understand their statements. These implicatures go beyond the literal meaning of the speaker's words and are derived from general conversational principles applied to specific situations. Understanding conversational implicatures requires speakers and listeners to interpret language while considering the context, as well as each other's intentions and goals. For example:

Seya: I think you bought the milk and the banana

Tria: Ah, I bought the milk

Its explain, Tria only said that he bought the milk. Tria intends that Seya can interpret that what is not mentioned was not bought. In this case, Naura has conveyed more that he said. That is called a conversational implicature.

### **3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **Research Method**

This research employed a descriptive qualitative method to analyze data based on implicature theory in the novel *The Years of the Voiceless* and to determine the research findings. The descriptive qualitative method was chosen to describe the phenomena of Conventional Implicature and Conversational Implicature through the lens of implicature theory. The researcher drew conclusions from the collected and analyzed data. Additionally, the qualitative research method focused on analysis using a scientific approach.

This study utilized a descriptive qualitative research design with a content analysis approach, aiming to systematically explain actual facts. According to Neuman (2014:167), qualitative research relies on soft data classified as textual data, such as words, phrases, sentences, clauses, or symbols. Qualitative research will not make generalizations that are universal but only tries to collect data, organize, classify, and then interpret them to draw conclusions about the existing phenomena or events.

#### **Data Source**

The data source for this research is the novel *The Years of the Voiceless* by Okky Madasari. This novel was first published in April 2010 in Jakarta and marks Okky Madasari's debut in the world of literary creativity. This novel is based on time and place, in 1950-1999 around the Madiun area. This novel was published to commemorate Kartini's day 21 April 2010, along with several other novels. This novel portrays the lives of two women during challenging and tumultuous times. The data in this research are taken from narratives, monologues, and dialogues in the form of conversations between the characters found in the novel "The Years of the Voiceless" by Okky Madasari, the reason for choosing the novel is that there are many Conventional and Conversational that implied in the novel to be reviewed and researched again, but the more interesting are some typical big themes that are united and flow together fairly in this novel, such as women's themes, politics, profession, and beliefs and religions, and also describe social inequalities that often occur during the New Order.

## **Research Instrument**

The data source for this study is the novel *The Years of The Voiceless*. The data from the novel consists of quoted sentences that reflect intent, function, and types of conventional implicature. (Moleong, 2021: 168). The knowledge referred to in this study is an understanding of the forms of conventional implicature, the factors causing conventional implicature.

## **Method and Data Collection Techniques**

The method used to collect data in this study was through a literature study of the *Years of the voiceless* novel as a source by note-taking techniques. Note-taking is a learned ability that enhances a researcher's understanding and retention of information across different fields and topics (Friedman, 2014: 28). The researcher notes every conversation in *The Years of the Voiceless* Novel contain conventional and conversational implicature. After the data collection is complete, then the data is classified according to the categories of implicature and the explanation of the purpose or meaning behind implicature theory. The process of reading, recording, and data collection continues until the data analysis stage. This is intended to obtain truly accurate data.

## **Method and Data Analysis Techniques**

Pragmatic identity method and Referential identity method are used to describe the problem formulation in this study, namely determining the types of Implicature in the novel *The Years of the Voiceless* by Okky Madasari.

According to Sudaryanto (2015:13), the identity method is a language analysis technique where the determining factors are external, separate, and not part of the language (langue) itself. This research applies the referential identity method and the pragmatic identity method. The referential identity method is used to identify the types of violations of the cooperative principle, while the pragmatic identity method is employed to understand the intended meaning or implicature within the conversation.

In addition to the pragmatic identity method, the researcher also used referential identity methods to describe the Conventional and Conversational by the characters in the novel. Referential identity method is a method of data analysis that has a determinant, namely in the form of reality designated by language or language referent (Sudaryanto, 2015: 27). The technique used in this research is the Determining Element technique. According to (Sudaryanto, 2015: 22) reveals that referential power is a mental power of researchers that must be used.



#### 4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings and discussion of implicatures in Okky Madasari's novel *The Years of the Voiceless* cover both Conventional and Conversational implicatures. Implicature refers to the implied meaning in spoken or written communication. Implicature functions as a bridge between what is said and what is implied. Implicature relates to the intention of speakers adjusted to the context of the occurrence of speech or the context of the discourse.

##### **Implicature conventional in novel *The Years of the Voiceless* by Okky Madasari**

Conventional implication, that is, implicature obtained directly from the meaning of the word, and not from the principle of conversation. Conventional implicature is defined by the standard meaning of the words employed.

##### **The meaning of Conventional Implicature in the book *The Years of the Voiceless* by Okky Madasari.**

The meaning of conventional implicature in the book *The Years of the Voiceless* can be classified based on several intentions. These intentions can be explained as follows:

##### **a) Giving information**

*"A bra would have been a luxury for us." (The Years of the Voiceless: 15)*

The phrase "a bra" has been a luxury for us because Marni and Simbok come from an underprivileged background. Her mother is a widow abandoned by an irresponsible husband. Because of this, Simbok goes to the market every day to support herself and her daughter, Marni, by peeling cassava or helping with whatever work she can find. Therefore, let alone buying a bra, which is considered expensive—just being able to eat is already something they are very grateful for.

##### **b) Feeling pride**

*"The workers sat around me while pouring tea from the kettle into the glass. I stood in the midst of all of them men. And I will now reward them. Simbok, look at your child now. We used to work to sweat all day, to be paid for telo, not money, just because we are women. Look now, your daughter who is standing, standing here hired men." (The Years of the Voiceless: 102).*

The monologue above is Marni's statement which reveals her success as a female worker who pursues a career from a cassava peeler. The quote also revealed the sadness of a Marni because of the success she had achieved was not witnessed by Simbok.

##### **c) Giving Orders**

*"The soldiers came. One of them shouted at the loudspeaker funnel. There is still ten minutes to leave this village immediately. Nobody leaves. Everyone stood still and brandished*

*the words "Don't Take Our Land". Ten minutes is up. Soldiers move to all houses. Beat everyone who stands in front of his house. They persevere, then attack. Beat, punch, scream, also shot. Little children cry while running around. I saw the black stick hit the Wagimun head who was standing next to me. I still see blood coming out of his forehead, as well as his neck. I remember her screaming in pain. But I don't know what happened after that. " (The Years of the Voiceless: 254).*

The command phrase 'There is still ten minutes to leave this village' in the sentence above implies that the government showed its power through soldiers shouting at the villagers to immediately move. However, village people persevered. This is indicated by writing on the banners they made. But the actions of the villagers still did not melt the hearts of the soldiers. The power of the political community towards civil society in the data above is shown through beatings, beatings and shootings

### **The Utterance Function that contains Conventional Implicatures in the Novel 'The Years of The Voiceless' by Okky Madasari**

Implicature is the implied meaning behind the utterances. This implicature can be said to be the utterances. Therefore, implicature has a certain function. The function of implicature can be seen from the meaning expressed by the speaker to the listener.

The implicature functions in Okky Madasari's novel *The Years of the Voiceless* are as follows:

#### **a. Persuasive**

##### **Persuade**

According to (Walter,2025:2) Persuade is an attempt to convince someone to do something. Persuasion can be done by advising, urging, or using sweet words.

*"I was also taught to point my index finger and middle finger, meaning my party number two. The two fingers said he also symbolized peace. The opposite is three fingers, thumbs, index finger, and little finger. He said it was a metal sign, people who like to make trouble, party number three. I've been warned never to point three fingers anywhere. " (The Years of the Voiceless: 86).*

The monologue above is conventional implicature from Rahayu's statement which explains that there was persuasion towards him to cast the number two or yellow party in the election, and ignore other political parties. This is indicated by the existence of different political parties, these quotes are also material elements in the form of practical and incarnated activities in daily life, which are indicated by the habit of brandishing two fingers wherever they are.

## 2. Directive

### Giving advice

According to (Welch,2025:21). Giving advice or suggestions to others to do something. Suggestions usually arise when there is a problem or situation that requires input.

*"Just to be able to eat each day was already a blessing." (The Years of the Voiceless: 15).*

The above statement serves to provide advice to Marni from her mother so that she does not need to dream of buying luxury goods such as bras because being able to eat every day is something that should be grateful for.

## 3. Expressive

### Showing hatred

According to (Dawson,2025:7). Hate is a strong negative emotion toward a person, thing, or idea. Hate can be accompanied by disappointment, hostility, or malice.

*"I despise Mother. He is a sinner."*

*"I despise Mother. People say he keeps a tuyul."*

*"I despise Mother because she worships ancestors. You embarrass me, Mother."*

*" I never prayed under the tamarind tree at midnight. I also always refused to eat grilled and cone made for salvation. Mother never woke me up again at midnight. I know you are angry, but we never talk about it. "(The Years of the Voiceless: 58).*

Based on the monologue above, Rahayu's statement expressed hatred towards his mother because of Marni's habits that were often not in line with Rahayu. In addition, Rahayu's hatred towards Marni grew even more when Pak Waji, Rahayu's religious teacher, discussed all of his mother's habits in front of the class when Rahayu and his friends were attending a religious lesson.

## Types of Utterances Containing Conventional Implicatures in the Novel 'The Years of the Voiceless' by Okky Madasari

The type of conventional implicature in this study is a type of conventional implicature that is based on the type of sentence that forms it. Types of conventional implicature in the novel 'The Years of the Voiceless' by Okky Madasari can be described as follows:

### Declarative (statement)

According (Agum&Ishima, 2025:16). The characteristics of a declarative sentence are sentences that tell something; in writing they usually end with a period (.) and in pronunciation they are done with a descending intonation.

*" Unfortunately, there are no female workers here. However, I want to pay them the same amount as male workers. Their wages should not be lower simply because they are women, especially if they are only paid with telo. However, no women are involved in cutting sugar cane, as it is exclusively assigned to male workers. Women's tasks are limited to nderep or mbethot kacang. "(The Years of the Voiceless: 103).*

The monologue above reveals Marni's thoughts about her ambition to provide equal wages between male workers and female workers. This was due to the bitter experience when Marni was still working as a cassava peeler with Simbok, which works only in return for sweet potatoes.

### **Imperative (command)**

According to (Arvay,2025:8). Imperative sentences are sentences that are commanding or giving commands, have the right to give commands, and are mandatory.

*"The days feel easy and so regular for Mother. Since he followed the wishes of the Commander and Head of the Village, there were no more gloomy people who arrived at dawn and called him moneylenders directly in front of his nose. People only dare to speak behind their backs, and be sweet before their faces. "(The Years of the Voiceless: 87).*

The description of the situation above shows that Marni or the mother figure is increasingly smooth in carrying out her business since she followed all the wishes of the commander and the Head of the Village as high-ranking officials and as a public institution where social practices take place. These quotes constitute conventional implicature incarnated in daily life as a senior or as a public institution that often threatens its citizens, as well as Marni as a citizen who always follows the wishes of high-ranking officials, so that he does not get into trouble and also as a citizen who follows traditions. or public institutions.

## **5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

The results and discussion of the implicature in Okky Madasari's novel The Years of the Voiceless reveal the presence of conventional implicatures. This study concludes that there are eight forms of conventional implicature identified. Based on the classification, four communicative intentions were found: one utterance with the intention to command, one expressing pride, and one providing information. The types of utterances containing conventional implicatures in the novel fall into two categories: declarative (statement) and imperative (command). Each implicature serves a specific function, which can be classified into three categories: (1) persuasive, aimed at convincing or persuading, (2) directive, which involves giving advice, and (3) expressive, which conveys feelings of hatred. This

classification highlights the variety of forms, intentions, and functions of conventional implicatures found in the novel. The data that the author found explains the analysis of implicatures based on Women's resistance due to Gender in justice to obtain the right to a decent life that has an impact on welfare and health. Okky Madasari's novel *Entrok* is a novel set in the Madiun area in 1950-1999. The prominent story in the novel revolves around the New Order regime dominated by the military which lasted from 1966-1998. The authoritarian New Order government through political society or the state in this case acted as dominant people who always controlled civil society which was classified as subaltern. The study of conventional implicature in Okky Madasari's novel *The Years of The Voiceless* can serve as a reference for understanding research in the field of pragmatics. Moreover, the novel presents intriguing issues that can be explored from various perspectives, including discourse analysis.

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