**GRICEAN ANALYSIS OF PETER’S OBSERVANCE AND NON-OBSERVANCE OF COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES IN MOVIE *THE SON***

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**Abstract**

Communication is a crucial aspect of human interaction, serving as a means of exchanging information, emotions, and ideas. Effective communication helps maintain relationships and solve problems. This research focuses on analyzing the observance and non-observance of Grice’s Cooperative Principles by Peter, the main character in the movie *The Son.* Highlighting the difficulties of communication in tense interpersonal relationships. It illustrates how communication can be challenging in emotionally charged and complex family dynamics. The principles include four maxims: quantity, quality, relation, and manner, which guide effective communication by ensuring information is sufficient, truthful, relevant, and clear. The theory used in this research is Grice’s Cooperative Principles (1975) to analyze Peter’s observance and non-observance of these principles throughout the movie. The researcher used a qualitative method to analyze the data. The researcher also applied Miles and Huberman (1994) method as a data analysis technique with three steps: data reduction, data display, and conclusion. The results of this research show that Peter, as the main character, observance four maxims: maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. However, Peter also violates four maxim: violation of maxim of quality, violation of maxim of quantity, violation of maxim of relation, and violation of maxim of manner.

*Keywords: Cooperative Principles, Maxim, Violation of Maxim*

**Introduction**

Communication is an important aspect of human interaction and serves as a versatile means of exchanging information, feelings, ideas or the whole lot of their minds (Sari & Afriana, 2020). Karim also said that communication plays an important role in this modern society (Karim, 2017) The meaning of these two statements reflects the importance of communication as a social creature. As members of the global society, we each have different classes, statuses, and ages that we want others to acknowledge in both our social interactions and language. People use language as a tool to communicate with one another. From the explanation about communication above, cooperative principles concepts are related to language-based communication in daily life. Making ensuring anything is generally factual, relevant, accurately stated, and comprehensible is important when speaking or hearing something.

The foundation of effective communication is a common understanding, which is founded on ideas that support people in understanding and expressing themselves clearly to one another. Cooperation is necessary for efficient communication, according to Grice (1975). Cooperative principles order participants to make a conversational contribution such as is required, at the state at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged (Grice, 1975). He emphasizes how we frequently speak in this way to one another. It's common to assume that anything we say or hear is accurate, has all the information needed, is relevant, and can be explained in a way that most others can understand. Thus, in light of the foregoing argument, Grice proposes the cooperative concept known as maxim in order to ensure effective speaker-listener communication.

However, occasionally individuals do not adhere to this adage. Misunderstandings may arise when a speaker fails to implement a particular principle throughout a discourse. . It occurs due to several factors according to Grice’s statement such as, he may quietly and unostentatiously violate a maxim, he may opt out from the operation both of the maxim and of the cooperative principle, he may be faced by a clash, he may flout a maxim (Grice, 1975:49).

From the factors which have been explained previously, real-world communication frequently serves as the primary foundation for comprehending the dynamics of interpersonal interactions. As communication has developed, technology has come to support many facets of our existence, even in literary works like movie. Movie explores the problems that arise in daily life and paints a captivating image of human reality through its well chose representation. As a result, scholars talk about how people follow or even defy the law in both real life and in literary works that are adapted for the big screen. Movie is the representative of human life that is being shown through the media (Sari & Afriana, 2020). Movie is a popular kind of mass media among the general population. In this sense, movies frequently serve as a mirror of the society, culture, and values that are in place. Character interactions and portrayals in character are also significantly influenced by the movie. One of the reasons movies were selected as the analysis objective for this study is that a large number of people enjoy watching movies, and they also contain a lot of talks and pertinent dialogues that may be examined based on the scene and circumstance.

There were several previous studies. The first research was done by Machfudi et al’s research. (2022) entitled: An Analysis of Cooperative Principles in Mark Twain’s The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. It described about types of cooperative principles, implied meanings and examined the most frequent type of Grice’s cooperative principles performed by the main characters. This research used novel as a source of data collection. The second, Yusro et al’s research (2020) entitled The Application of Cooperative Principles in EFL Classroom Interaction: The Case of SMAN 4 Pekalongan. The researcher also use Grice’s theory and the objective of the studies are: to analyze EFL classroom interaction in order to explain the way cooperative principles are applied, to analyze EFL classroom interaction in order to explain the way participants violate the maxim, to analyze the most frequent violation in non-observance of the maxim. The third Izar et al’s reserach (2021) entitled: The Analysis of cooperation principles use on Podcast of Deddy Corbuzier and Nadiem Makarim “Having College is not Important” This research only focused to describe about the types of cooperative principles and used podcast as a source of data collection. The fourth Napitupulu and Ambalegin's research, (2022)entitled: The Cooperative Principle in Zootopia (2016) Movie. This research also focused to describe the types of Cooperative Principles and used movie as a source of data collection. The last, Ningsih and Ambalegin's research, (2022)entitled: Maxim Violations on “The Lion in Winter” Movie. This research focused to determine the maxim violation by identifying the type of maxim violation using Grice’s theory.

The data used in these previous studies came from podcasts, novels, and movies. But after additional research, it also turned up their numerous studies on the use of the cooperation principle through case studies in EFL classes. The application of Grice’s theory to the analysis of the many cooperative principle kinds is a commonality with previous studies. Compared to other research, this study would concentrate on the different ways that cooperative principles and maxims are violated.

Movie *The Son* by Florian Zeller, was selected for this study. On November 25, 2022, the movie *The Son* had a one-week restricted theater release in New York City and Los Angeles. The main actor, Hugh Jackman, is one of the great actors in the movie, and this is the reason the researcher chose it: it explores a wide range of utterances. Actor extraordinaire, he has portrayed roles ranging from Wolverine’s heroic role in “X-Men” to a role in a musical drama such as “Les Misérables” Hugh Jackman also made his acting debut in a family drama a little while ago. Scholars might find it intriguing to observe and study this. The research explores the cooperative principle in *The Son’s* dialogue, focusing on the interactions between the main characters. It examines the principles application in narrative context, examining utterances that observance and non-observance maxim, and how it reflects the principle in mass media.

**Review of Literature**

**Cooperative Principles**

Cooperative principle is the main branch of Grice’s Conversational Implicature theory (Karim, 2017). The theory by H.P. Grice, a philosopher, proposed cooperative principles as the foundational ideas of language theory and communication in 1975. It describes the fundamental presumption of successful interpersonal communication. According to this idea, people strike up discussions in the hopes that other people will cooperate to have a fruitful exchange of knowledge. Communication is essentially a collaborative process where individuals cooperate to arrive at a shared understanding. Grice also emphasized in Huang’s book (Huang, 2014:29), Grice suggested that there is an underlying principle that determines the way in which language is used with maximum efficiency and effectively to achieve rational interaction in communication.

**Maxim of Quality**

Grice (1975) states try to make the contribution one is true, do not say what is believed to be false, do not say that for which lack evidence. These remarks highlight the significance of communicating with accuracy and correctness, in which case it is expected of the speaker to refrain from making unsupported assertions.

**Maxim of Quantity**

Make the contribution as informative as required, do not make the contribution more informative than is required (Grice, 1975:45). These statements suggest that the speaker in a conversation should supply the necessary details.

**Maxim of Relation**

Grice says, “Be Relevant” in his third maxim (1977:46). "Be relevant" is Grice's third maxim, which states that our words should be related to the subject at hand when we converse. Put another way, rather of bringing up irrelevant subjects, we ought to respond with information that is directly relevant to the questions or discussions the other person is having. This maintains the clarity and focus of the conversation.

**Maxim of Manner**

Avoid unclearness of expression, avoid ambiguity, be brief be orderly (Grice, 1975:46). Unnecessary details, ambiguity, obscurity, and any other type of speech that could impede comprehension or cause misunderstanding should be avoided. Speakers who follow this maxim enable effective and effortless communication.

**Violation of Maxim**

Underlined from Grice (1975), when the speakers refrain from applying his maxims, the speakers were “liable to mislead” their counterparts in conversation. This statement suggest that a conversation participant might not follow one of these maxims, which could result in misunderstandings or poor communication. According to Thomas in Erlinda’s book say that a speaker can be said to “violate” a maxim when they know that the hearers will not know the truth and will only understand the surface meaning of the words (Erlinda, 2019:61). They purposefully create a false impression. In contrast to the preceding rule, when the speaker deliberately ignores the maxim, it is considered a violation. A number of things can influence a conversation, including not understanding the subject at hand, the situation's inappropriateness, lying, or the desire to achieve certain goals. The four categories of maxims that can be violated, are as follows:

**Violation of maxim of Quality**

When a speaker violates the maxim of quality, they are not providing accurate and proper information throughout communication. According to this rule, speakers should only assert claims that they can defend. If it is broken, the speaker can create information, lie, or make claims without supporting evidence.

**Violation of maxim of Quantity**

If speakers violate the maxim of quantity, they do not give the hearer enough information to know what is being talked about, because do not want the hearers to know the full picture. The speakers not implying anything; they are being economical with the truth (Erlinda, 2019:61). This indicates that they don't provide enough details so the listener can fully understand the entire context or the discourse in its entirety. Speakers can utilize this strategy to limit the listener's knowledge, frequently in order to avoid giving away all the details or to guide the discourse in a particular direction.

**Violation of maxim of Relation**

If speakers violate the maxim of relation, they do not give relevant answer to distract the hearer and change the topic (Erlinda, 2019:62). Speakers who give answers or comments unrelated to the subject or question at hand are in violation of the Maxim of Relation. It is possible to accomplish this on purpose or accidentally. Intentionally breaking this rule is frequently done to divert attention, alter the topic, or avoid talking about a delicate or awkward subject.

**Violation of maxim of Manner**

If speakers violate the maxim of manner, they do not give brief answers using general or non-fixed references (Erlinda, 2019:62). Speakers who don't follow the Maxim of Manner tend to give answers that are ambiguous, complicated, or unclear. They could employ ambiguous or non-specific language in place of brief, straightforward responses, which makes it challenging for the listener to understand what they mean.

**Method**

This research uses descriptive qualitative research to examine the cooperation concept. In article by (Izar et al., 2021:25), Surakhmad claims that descriptive qualitative research aims to elaborate data based on data preparation, data collecting, and data interpretation analysis. The data was gathered by the researcher in two stages. The first is viewing the movie in order to understand the plot. The second is to write down Peter's lines, which are composed of maxims on observance and non-observance. This research uses Miles and Huberman, (1994) method providing a framework that assists in the organization, classification, and analysis of the data collected. This approach consists of three steps: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing.

**Results and Discussion**

**Observance of maxim**

1. **Maxim of Quality**

**Data 1 (01.32.01-01.32.09)**

Doctor: Great. Now... I guess Nicholas has told you he wants to leave the hospital.

Peter: **Yes.**

This conversation occurred in the hospital when Peter, Kate and the doctor held a meeting to discuss Nicholas’ condition at that time. As previously shown, Nicholas expressed his concerns about the treatment there and required him to be treated for a while, which made him frustrated so he asked his parents to take him home. And then, the doctor guessed that Nicholas had complained about this condition to their parents. After that, Peter response with the simply answer “yes” which symbolizes that the doctor’s statement is correct. Peter stated the truth without denying anything. Peter answered according to the fact that Nicholas really couldn’t stand the conditions in the hospital. So, Peter’s utterance belong to **maxim of quality** because he did not say anything that was false or deceptive.

1. **Maxim of Quantity**

**Data 1 (01.22.25-01.22.37)**

Jessica: Should I move the meeting to Monday morning? Depends what time you’re expecting to leave for DC.

Peter: **Next Monday? No, I cannot. I’m going to have to... I mean, I’m going to have to stay in New York.**

Peter and Jessica were having this talk in his office. Jessica wants to know more about Peter’s future plans regarding the meetings he needs to hold given his travel plans to Washington, DC, which is why she is asking him if she should move a meeting to Monday morning. Peter’s answer include **maxim of quantity** because it seemed like he gave an answer that suited the portion that Jessica needed. Peter responds by saying he cannot move the meeting because he has to stay in New York. Peter’s response “Next Monday? No, I cannot. I’m going to have to... I mean, I’m going to have to stay in New York” provides enough information to answer Jessica’s question. He clearly indicates that he cannot attend a meeting on Monday morning because he needs to stay in New York. Peter’s answer, while slightly hesitant, does not include unnecessary details. He gives just enough information to explain why he cannot reschedule the meeting to Monday morning, which is the detail Jessica needs.

1. **Maxim of Relation**

**Data 1 (01.02.42-01.02.43)**

Beth: Should I call Jenny?

Peter: **I already did. She’s not free.**

After Peter and Beth found out that Theo’s sitter had a fever, Beth immediately asked Jenny’s availability. In this context, Peter fulfills this maxim well. Beth asked about whether she should contact Jenny, indicating that she was curious about Jenny’s availability for contact. By saying that he had contacted Jenny and that she was not available, Peter gave a direct answer regarding the topic at hand. This shows that Peter understands and responds directly to Beth’s questions, providing relevant information about the situation relating to Jenny’s availability. In doing so, Peter in line with **maxim of relation** by providing answers that directly related to Beth’s questions, explaining the situation clearly and ensuring that their communication remained effective and focused on the topic.

1. **Maxim of Manner**

**Data 1 (36.27-36.38)**

Peter: You know, I’m well aware. I mean, I’m really grateful for how you’ve handled all this.

Beth: Yes, that’s what I said. It’s your way of saying sorry.

Peter: **What I mean is I’m lucky you’re here**.

This conversation took place between Beth and Peter. Peter is thanking Beth for her handling of a challenging circumstance. In his initial statement, Peter made a complicated claim, acknowledging his awareness and expressing his sincere gratitude for Beth’s response and handling of the situation. In response, Beth says it was Peter’s way of saying sorry. Peter reiterates that he feels fortunate to have Beth on his side. Peter provided clarification with the sentence “What I mean is I’m lucky you’re here” In his response, Peter tried to emphasize the essence of his statement. Therefore, Peter’s response contains **maxim of manner** because he tries to emphasize sentences that are clearer than before by denying Beth’s response. Peter tries to clarify his initial statement, emphasizing that his main point is not an apology but rather an expression of gratitude for Beth’s presence and support.

**Non-Observance of Maxim**

1. **Violation of Maxim of Quality**

**Data 1 (15.43-15.51)**

Nicholas: How about Beth? Did she really agree to my moving in?

Peter: **Obviously, Nicholas. We’re very pleased you’re here, both of us. It’s your home as well, you know.**

When Peter and Nicholas were talking, Nicholas was in his newly furnished room at Peter's house. Peter expressed his want to spend time with Nicholas and that he was extremely delighted that Nicholas had arrived. Peter visited Nicholas to make sure all of his requirements were handled. Nicholas questioned Beth about her opinion on the move in the middle of the discussion, wanting to know if she truly agreed or disagreed. Peter then answered that Beth had obviously agreed, and he himself acknowledged that Beth was delighted. Peter response with “Obviously, Nicholas. We’re very pleased you’re here, both of us. It’s your home as well, you know”Peter’s statement in this dialogue is in direct contrast to the reality shown in the previous scene that Beth is still doubtful about Nicholas’ arrival because of several considerations such as what will happen to Nicholas’ school if he moves to Peter’s house. Therefore, Peter’s statement belong to **violate maxim of quality**, because he did not give the truth information about how Beth responded.

1. **Violation of Maxim of Quantity**

**Data (0l.49.44-01.49.49)**

Nicholas: Yes, I’m looking forward to introducing her to you.

Peter: **And I’m looking forward to meeting her. I mean, after everything you’ve been telling me about her.**

The conversation that occurred between Peter and Nicholas took place in Peter’s home. Nicholas arrived after a considerable amount of time and spoke about his better new life following all of the negative events. Nicholas mentions in the middle of the talk that he can't wait to tell Peter about his girlfriend. In response, Peter says he’s been looking forward to meeting her and mentions what Nicholas has been telling him about her. Peter’s response “And I’m looking forward to meeting her” was more than enough to express his enthusiasm to meet Nicholas’ girlfriend. But, by adding “I mean, after everything you’ve been telling me about her” adds more information than is necessary. Peter could have simply expressed his anticipation without referencing what Nicholas has told him. Therefore, this utterance **violated maxim of quantity.**

1. **Violation of Maxim of Relation**

**Data (01.26.48-01.27.19)**

Beth: Stop it, Peter! You’re a really good father.

Peter: **What makes me sad is to have to play a part I hate with everything in me. These last few weeks, I just keep catching myself saying things... Exactly the same things my father used to say to me when I was young... Things which made me genuinely hate him. And now it’s my turn. Makes me think I’ve wound up being just like him.**

This conversation between Peter and his wife Beth happened at his home. Theo was with Beth when she was packing to go somewhere. During the talk, Beth tells Peter he is a good father, which means that her words are a direct reaction to Peter’s earlier admission of self-doubt and are intended to reassure him of his parenting abilities. Peter answer “What makes me sad is to have to play a part I hate with everything in me. These last few weeks, I just keep catching myself saying things. Exactly the same things my father used to say to me when I was young. Things which made me genuinely hate him. And now it’s my turn. Makes me think I’ve wound up being just like him”

Although, Peter is providing context for his sadness and explaining the root of his self-doubt, which is related to the reassurance Beth is offering but, Peter response is **violate maxim of relation** because His direct statement which begins with the words “What makes me sad is” is not in sync with Beth’s statement. Peter should have given a specific statement first regarding Beth’s statement, such as saying “I’m not a good father, as you mean” ant then mention about his internal conflict and emotional pain about his behavior and its resemblance to his father’s behavior.

1. **Violation of Maxim of Manner**

**Data 1 (20.22-20.31)**

Man: How’s your dad? I heard he had a little health problem?

Peter: **Eumm? Oh yeah, well, not really, I mean everything’s fine. Thanks.**

A man who appeared to have not seen each other in a while was having a talk with Peter. After exchanging greetings the man inquired about Peter's father's health in a straightforward and understandable manner, drawing on prior knowledge he had received. This shows a desire for clear and precise information, and then Peter’s response begins with an expression indicating confusion or uncertainty “Eumm” which does not provide initial clarity about his response to the question. Peter then states “Oh yeah, well, not really, I mean everything’s fine” reflecting further confusion. This statement can be considered contradictory because it contains “not really” which indicates there is a problem, but also “everything’s fine” which indicates there is no problem. As a result, in this conversation, Peter **violated maxim of manner**.

**Discussion**

This research presents findings related to cooperative principles and violation of maxim uttered by Peter in movie *The Son*. Based on the finding, researcher found a various total data in each different type. Researcher found seventy seven data that showed Peter’s use of cooperative principles. The details are four data for maxim of quality, thirty four data for maxim of quantity, thirty data for maxim of relation, and nine data for maxim of manner. On the other hand, Peter was also recorded to violate the maxim on several occasions. There are twenty three data of maxim violations consisting of six data for violation of maxim of quality, six data for violation of maxim of quantity, nine data for violation of maxim of relation, and two data for violation of maxim of manner. These findings show quite a variety in the way Peter communicates in the movie.

The research reveals that Peter in *The Son* consistently demonstrates maxim of quantity, providing sufficient information without overwhelming his characters. This approach aligns with cultural norms and helps him maintain distance from his ex-wife. Peter’s maxim of relation is less cooperative, but he consistently provides relevant responses to all characters. He uses maxim of quality to tell the truth when discussing family problems, and maxim of manner to provide clear and straightforward responses, especially when discussing Nicholas’ past or problems. These maxims help Peter maintain a balance in his communication style throughout the movie.

Peter’s communication style is characterized by several violations, including the maxim of relation, which he intentionally changes sensitive topics to avoid conflict or disagreement. He also violates the maxim of quality and quantity, which he avoids by providing too much information or giving long answers. The least frequently violated maxim is manner, where he often uses ambiguous answers, ensuring clarity and simplicity in his messages. These violations highlight Peter’s commitment to maintaining a clear and straightforward communication style in the movie.

Analyzing distinctions between maxim observance and non-observance can offer profound understanding of social interaction communication and comprehension strategies. Analyzing how the use of maxims or their disregard affects communication effectiveness and sheds light on the transmission and reception of communications. This is crucial in a number of situations, including interpersonal connections, education, and negotiating. Real-world interactions and communication are impacted by persons adhering to or disregarding maxims. As an example, violating maxims might be a calculated tactic to withhold information or diffuse tension in commercial talks. On the contrary, maxim meanings can improve comprehension by elucidating communications. In both personal and professional relationships, this comparative research contributes to our understanding of how to accomplish successful communication, prevent misconceptions, and modify communication tactics according to certain contexts.

The researcher compared their findings to earlier studies that were covered in the Introduction. The first (Machfudi et al., 2022) this research examined Grice’s cooperative principles and their frequency using novel data collection. The most common type was maxim of quantity, while the least common was maxim of relation. The second, Yusro et al., (2020). The most dominant types is maxim of quantity with thirty seven data the least types is maxim of quantity with two data. The third Izar et al (2021), the dominant type found seven data of maxim of relation and the least one is maxim of quality only one data. The fourth Napitupulu and Ambalegin (2022). In this research found the most frequency of maxim of quantity with seventeen data and the least is maxim of manner with seven data. The last, Ningsih and Ambalegin, (2022). The most dominant type is maxim of quantity with seven data and three data for maxim of quality as the least type found in this research.

The thin line between the previous studies and this current research lies in the exploration of Grice’s Cooperative Principles and the analysis of maxim observance and non-observance across different contexts. This research, like all the others before it, focuses on classifying and identifying the kinds of maxims that are seen and the ones that are broken by speakers in different media, including movies, podcasts, books, and classroom interactions. Whether in terms of observance or disobedience, the quantity maxim usually shows up as the most prevalent kind, according to a consistent conclusion throughout these investigations. This implies that, regardless of the context or media, giving the appropriate quantity of information is an essential component of communication. Furthermore, despite the fact that each study looked at a distinct collection of sources from books and academic environments to movies and podcasts they all placed a similar emphasis on how participants or characters deal with the rules of effective communication. This study, which centers on the movie *The Son*, finds that the maxim of quantity is most frequently violated by the main character, Peter, and also reveals a wide range of other maxim violations. This is linked to other research that demonstrates how different maxims are observed or violated depending on the particular situation. As a result, my research adds to a deeper knowledge of how Grice's Cooperative Principles appear in diverse media and forms of communication, in addition to confirming the trends seen in previous studies.

**Conclusion and Suggestions**

Peter displays a significant predisposition to observe the cooperative principles, especially the maxim of quantity, more often than he breaches them, according to the findings and discussion. This demonstrates his attempt to have clear and effective communication with other characters throughout the movie, as well as a thoughtful and balanced approach to such exchanges. Following the principle of quantity guarantees that we give just enough information, avoiding us from giving our listeners too much information or not enough context. Following the rule of etiquette facilitates straightforward communication and prevents misunderstandings. We may improve our interpersonal relationships, establish trust, and promote better problem solving and decision making by striking this balance in our communication.

Additional study into the differences between maxim and flouting, or between violations and flouting where speakers purposefully violate maxims to convey implicit meanings would be beneficial for future research. This would allow for a deeper understanding of the complexities of conversational implicature and how it affects communication dynamics. These kinds of comparisons may improve our comprehension of the ways in which distinct kinds of maxim breaches and flouting affect the clarity and quality of interactions in a range of settings, both in fictional and real-world contexts. Future research could provide more thorough insights into efficient communication techniques and their real-world applications by expanding the area of research.

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