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## THE ANALYSIS OF FLOUTING MAXIM PERFORMED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER OF “STRAW” MOVIE

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**Abstract:** This research aims to identify the types of flouting maxim performed by the main character in the Straw movie and to determine the strategies employed by the main character in flouting maxim. The research was conducted using a descriptive qualitative design. The data of this research are twenty-three dialogues of Straw movie containing flouting of the maxim. The data were gathered through observation and dialogue scripting. In analysing the data, the researcher found that Janiyah, as the main character of the movie, flouted all types of maxim. The most flouting maxim used by Janiyah was the floating maxim of relation, and the least flouting maxim performed by Janiyah was the flouting maxim of quality. The strategies are categorized as providing limited information, giving excessive information, using hyperbole, being irrelevant, changing the topic, and being obscure. The amount of the strategy that was frequently used to flout maxims was obscure.

**Keywords:** pragmatics, flouting maxims, strategies of flouting maxims

**Absrak:** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis pelanggaran maksim yang dilakukan oleh karakter utama dalam film Straw dan untuk menentukan strategi yang digunakan oleh karakter utama dalam pelanggaran maksim. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan desain kualitatif deskriptif. Data penelitian ini adalah dua puluh tiga dialog film Straw yang mengandung pelanggaran maksim. Data dikumpulkan melalui observasi dan penulisan naskah dialog. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menemukan bahwa Janiyah, sebagai karakter utama film tersebut, melanggar semua jenis maksim. Pelanggaran maksim yang paling sering digunakan oleh Janiyah adalah maksim mengambang hubungan, dan pelanggaran maksim yang paling sedikit dilakukan oleh Janiyah adalah pelanggaran maksim kualitas. Strategi-strategi tersebut dikategorikan sebagai memberikan informasi terbatas, memberikan informasi berlebihan, menggunakan hiperbola, tidak relevan, mengubah topik, dan tidak jelas. Jumlah strategi yang sering digunakan untuk melanggar maksim adalah tidak jelas.

**Kata Kunci:** pragmatik, pelanggaran maksim, strategi pelanggaran maksim

### INTRODUCTION

In the language phenomenon, understanding the nature of communication and its essence is crucial. The cooperative principle refers to "Make your conversational contribution such as required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged" (Grice, 1989; Levinson, 1983). Moreover, Yule (1996) stated that conversations will run smoothly if people follow the conversation principles, which are known as the maxims. The four maxims of the

cooperative principle contribute to the communication process. This indicates that in communication, the speaker must convey suitable, accurate, pertinent, concise, and structured information to facilitate a smooth and effective conversation.

Flouting maxims is classified into four categories: flouting the maxim of quality, flouting the maxim of quantity, flouting the maxim of relation, and flouting the maxim of manner (Grice, 1989; Mey, 1993; Yule, 1996). When speakers violate the maxims, they employ various tactics to communicate the

underlying meaning of their statements. The rule of maxim quality that should be obeyed by the speakers to achieve effective communication is 'Do not say what you believe to be false' and 'Do not say that for which you Sperber and Wilson, lack adequate evidence.' According to Cutting's theory (2002), "the strategy of flouting maxims are tautology, giving too much information, giving too less information, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, banter, sarcasm, being irrelevant and being obscure".. Moreover, these violations of maxims can be observed in various contexts, including real life as well as in films or literature.

Previous research has also examined the flouting of maxims, particularly a study conducted by Marlisa and Hidayat (2020), which evaluated maxim flouting in the Good Morning America (GMA) chat program featuring Jackie Chan as the guest star. The findings of this research indicate that Jackie Chan, as the guest star, and the chat show hosts indeed violated four sorts of maxims. The most disregarded maxims on the talk show were the maxim of amount and the maxim of style. A study conducted by Wahyuni, Arifin, and Lubis (2019) examined the flouting of maxims and the implied meanings in the statements of the main characters in the film *La La Land*. The researchers discovered that the key characters had definitely violated maxims. The researcher also discerned the suggested significance of the main character's words based on the conversational setting. The inferred meanings of their statements encompassed insults, rebukes, requests, and praise.

In this study, the object of the research is *Straw* movie. The *Straw* movie, with its unique narrative and psychologically intricate main character, provides fertile ground for examining how flouting maxims can serve deeper narrative and character-driven purposes. As the preliminary data, the conversation was scripted by the researcher as an example of flouting the maxim uttered by the main character, "Janiyah" in the *Straw*

movie. Janiyah is coded as 'J' while the interlocutors are coded as 'In'. The data as follows:

In: "*Janiyah, why weren't you in class yesterday*

*during your group's presentation?"*

J: "*Oh, I just thought the birds needed*

*more of my attention than my future."*

(FM/QN/R/STRAW/00:15:40)

Based on the data above, 'Janiyah' as the main character clearly flouted the Maxim of Relation and the Maxim of Quantity. Janiyah fails to respond to the question directly or provide sufficient pertinent information. Instead, she employs sarcasm that suggests her priorities are misaligned or that she is indifferent, leading the teacher to deduce her true attitude or motivation. Her indirectness compels the listener to discern the underlying significance of her overly elaborate and irrelevant response. The existing research is deficient in its examination of the flouting of maxims in psychologically complex, independent films, where implicature frequently enhances ambiguity, suspense, or internal conflict. Furthermore, previous research has predominantly focused on the comic or explicitly dramatic impact of flouting, rather than its significance in psychological characterization and narrative subtext

This study has two objectives based on the explanations above. Initially, to examine the categories of maxim flouting articulated by the main character in the *Straw* movie. Secondly, to clarify the strategies of flouting maxim employed by the main character in the *Straw* movie. The character employed the concealed significance in her statements. The researcher would study the strategies to analyse the implied meanings that the characters intended to communicate in her utterances. This analysis aims to enhance the knowledge of pragmatic methods in film discourse and their significance in character development.

## METHOD

This study was conducted in descriptive qualitative research in order to describe the flouting maxim uttered by the main character in Straw movie. Fraenkel and Wallen (1993:23) stated descriptive method is a method used to explain, analyze and classify something through various techniques, survey, interview, observation, and text. Cresswell (1992:40) stated, "We conduct qualitative research because we want to understand the contexts or setting in which participants in a study address a problem or issue."

In the qualitative method, the researcher analysed the utterances uttered by Janiyah Wiltkinson as the main character in the movie, and also collected the data, which were the utterances that contained flouting of maxims in the movie. For the data of this research, the researcher used twenty-three dialogues from the movie that contained flouting of the maxim. For the data source, the data were taken from the dialogue, and the utterances of the main character with the other characters of Straw movie, such as Janiyah's mother, Richard, Det. Kay Raymond, Tessa, Nicole, Officer Oliver, and Det. Grimes. Moreover, to analyze the data, the researcher used an interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014), which refers to selecting data, focusing, simplifying, and transforming the data into a qualitative description.

In this study, data condensation included the process of selecting utterances of the main character of Straw movie that contain the maxim and focusing on the flouting maxim in order to make sure that it was really suitable as the data, and classifying the data into types of flouting maxim. Simplify the data by categorizing the utterances into types of flouting maxim and the processes involved, making it easier to understand. Abstracting is the process of making a written summary of the types of flouting maxim. In data display, the results of the

analysis are displayed in the form of a diagram, a table, and the final step is drawing a conclusion by interpreting the data display.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section examines the main character's utterances in the movie that involve the flouting of maxims. The primary purpose of this study is to identify the types of flouting the maxim and the strategies of flouting the maxim. This movie exhibits four types of flouting the maxim uttered by the main character, as outlined in Cutting's theory (2002). The findings are presented in the table below, followed by a discussion that includes one example for each type.

### Types of Flouting Maxim Performed by the Characters in UP movie

**Table 1** Types of flouting the maxim in the main character's utterances STRAW movie

No	Types of Flouting Maxim	Frequency	Percentage
1	Flouting Maxim of	5	21%
2	Quantity Flouting Maxim of	3	13%
3	Quality Flouting Maxim of	9	40%
4	Relation Flouting Maxim of Manner	6	26%
	Total	23	100%

Four types of flouting maxim are found in this study: flouting maxim of quantity, flouting maxim of quality, flouting maxim of relation, and flouting maxim of manner.

### Flouting the maxim of quantity

Flouting the maxim of quantity occurs when the speaker provides too much information or too little information (Cutting, 2002). Here is an example of flouting the maxim of quantity by giving too little information.

Mother: Janiyah, the FBI is at my house. Why are you robbing the bank?

Janiyah: I'm not robbing the bank, Mama! I was trying to come and cash my check so I could give Aria money for school. For lunch, so the kids won't tease her. That's all I was trying to do, and it just got out of hand! Nicole is here. She'll tell you. She's the branch manager. Tell Mama I didn't mean to do this.

(FM/QN/Straw/1:36:40)

This conversation took place when an FBI agent came to Janiyah's mother's house, then Janiyah's mother called her and asked why Janiyah had robbed a bank. Then, Janiyah explained in great detail what happened to her and her daughter. Therefore, Janiyah is considered flouting the maxim of quantity.

#### **Flouting the maxim of quality**

Another flouting maxim is the flouting maxim of quality. Flouting maxims of quality occurs when the speaker makes an untruthful statement or something considered false (Cutting, 2002, p. 37). The excerpt below shows that the speaker flouts the maxim of quality.

Aria: Oh, so you can give him money but you can't pay me my rent?

I'm getting real tired of your reason. I done already filed the eviction.

Janiyah: I get paid today, and I get a break at 10:00.

This conversation took place in front of Janiyah's rental house, when the landlord asked Janiyah for the rent because Janiyah had not paid the rent for quite some time. Then, Janiyah said she would receive her salary that day, even though there was no salary payment that

day, and she did not take a break at 10 AM. It is considered that Janiyah lied and violated the maxim of quality.

#### **Flouting the maxim of relation**

The third type of flouting maxim is the flouting maxim of relation. It occurs when the speaker's response to the conversation is mismatched with the topic of discussion and provides an irrelevant answer (Cutting, 2002, p. 39). The example of dialogue below illustrates the flouting of the maxim of relation.

Richard: Do you want this job or not?

Janiyah: It's my daughter school (while talking on the phone)

In the first conversation, Richard, the owner of the company where Janiyah works, asked whether Janiyah still wanted to work or not because he was confused by her lack of focus on her job. Therefore, Janiyah's response was not relevant to Richard's question. This may be due to Janiyah's emotional state being disturbed shortly after her daughter's passing.

#### **Flouting the maxim of manner**

Violating the maxims of manner happens when the speaker makes an unclear statement (Cutting, 2002). The example below demonstrates such a flouting of the maxim of manner.

Tessa: Listen, it's policy of the bank. I can't cash the check without the ID.

Janiyah: Tessa, You helped me before.

This conversation takes place when Janiyah wants to cash a check she received from Richard, but Tessa, who was on duty as a bank teller, refused because Janiyah did not have a bank account. Then Janiyah said, "You helped me before," to emphasize that this was not Janiyah's first time at the bank, meaning Tessa could have helped her since she already knew Janiyah, but Tessa continued to refuse to help Janiyah. So, this is considered a violation of the maxim of manner.

**Strategies of Flouting Maxim Performed by the main character in the Straw movie**

**Table 2 Strategies of flouting the maxim in the main character’s utterances in the STRAW movie**

No	Types of Flouting Maxim	Strategies of Flouting Maxim	Frequency
1	Quantity	Providing limited information	3
			2
2	Quality	Giving excessive information	3
3	Relation		5
			4
4	Manner	Hyperbole	6
		Changing the topic	
		Giving an irrelevant statement	
		Being obscure (not brief)	
		Total	23

**Providing limited information**

Providing limited information is one of the strategies to flout the maxim of quantity by giving little information (Cutting, 2002, p. 37). The excerpt below shows that the speaker is providing limited information to violate the maxim of quantity.

Det. Raymond : We got a call the bank was being robbed. but I need to ask  
 Is everyone in there okay?

Janiyah : No no! (36.31)

In the conversation, it was clear that Janiyah only answered Detective Raymond's few questions by saying "No, no." She said "No" because at that moment, she was panicking, even though everyone in the bank was okay.

**Giving excessive information**

Providing excessive information is one strategy to circumvent the maxim of quantity, in addition to providing too little information (Cutting, 2002, p. 37). The excerpt below shows that the speaker is giving excessive information to flout the maxim of quantity.

Det. Raymond: Okay, well, you never came into the bank with a backpack and a gun. Can you see how this can all be confusing?

Janiyah: This gun is not even mine! All I need is my money!

Because I have to get the \$40 to the school, because she gotta eat.

And if she doesn't eat, they're gonna tease her!

I, I, I just came to get the money for my baby! (37.44)

In the conversation, it is clear that Janiyah provides too much information in response to Detective Raymond's questions.

**Hyperbole**

One of the strategies in flouting the maxim of quality is hyperbole. Hyperbole refers to the practice of speakers exaggerating a fact (Cutting, 2002). The example below shows that speaker flouts the maxim of quality by exaggerating the fact.

The teacher: The teacher and the principal said she (J's daughter) comes to school very hungry.

Janiyah: I work two jobs, okay? (11.46)

During the discussion, Janiyah stated, "I have two jobs," indicating that she has many responsibilities, which give her less time for other concerns.

### **Changing the topic**

Changing the topic and giving irrelevant answers are two tactics for flouting the maxim of relation. The first involves shifting the subject, while the second involves providing an unrelated answer. The excerpt below is an example of shifting the topic.

Agent Bryce: This is Agent Bryce with the FBI. Is this Janiyah?

Janiyah: Uh... where is Det. Raymond? (1:17:18)

From the conversation above, Janiyah did not answer Agent Bryce's question but instead diverted it by asking, "Where is Detective Raymond?" From Janiyah's statement, it can be inferred that she did not want to speak with Agent Bruce.

### **Giving an irrelevant statement**

In the discussion, being relevant is not usually expressed by giving a response. Nevertheless, there are usually implicit meanings in an irrelevant response. This phenomenon flouts the maxim of relation (Cutting, 2002). The following excerpt is an example of giving an irrelevant answer.

Richard : what part of mail don't you understand?

Janiyah : I'm not gonna have no way to live for me and my daughter. (19.20)

From the conversation, it is clear that Janiyah does not give a relevant answer to the question asked by Richard, so this is categorized as a violation of the maxim of relation.

### **Being obscure (not brief)**

Being obscure and being ambiguous are two strategies of flouting the maxim of manner. By being obscure, the speaker should be perspicuous about what is said and the ambiguity in his utterance (Cutting, 2002). Below is an example of flouting the maxim of manner by being obscure.

Det. Raymond ; It's good to know that you're not robbing the bank.

How about you put the gun down, just step outside with the backpack and let's figure this out?

Janiyah: She gave me the money, and I told her I didn't want all of that money! (36.55)

From the conversation, it is clear that Janiyah does not answer Detective Raymond's question, it violates the maxim of manner.

## **CONCLUSION**

From the analysis, the researcher concluded that Janiyah, as the main character, flouted all the types of maxim. The researcher identified from 23 data of the conversations were scripted, there were four types of maxims that Janiyah flouted based on Grice's cooperative principle theory. They were maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. The most common maxim that Janiyah flouted was the maxim of relation. It happened because Janiyah answered questions from her interlocutor irrelevantly several times, possibly due to her psychological condition being disturbed by the death of her daughter and her being accused of robbing a bank. As a result, at that moment, Janiyah felt panicked and struggled to focus on answering the questions from her interlocutor. Meanwhile, the rare maxim flouted by Janiyah was the maxim of quality and the maxim of Quality.

Regarding the strategies used by the characters, six strategies of flouting maxims were identified in this movie. These include giving excessive information, providing limited information, using hyperbole, being irrelevant, and not being brief. The strategy most frequently used to flout maxims was being obscure, which occurs 6 out of 23 times. This makes giving excessive information the most common

strategy of flouting maxims in this research.

In this conclusion, the researcher recommends further research to investigate the influence of psychology on a person's speech, particularly in the context of violating maxims.

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