

Maxim Violations in the Dialogues of Pramoedya Ananta Toer's *This Earth of Mankind*: A Pragmatic Analysis

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Abstract

Literary works are commonly used to share ideas. In a novel, the characters' dialogues may be used as one way to deliver ideas or messages. This study examines the violation of conversational maxims in the dialogues of the Indonesian well-known novel This Earth of Mankind that written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer using Grice's Cooperative Principles. Grice's communication framework might not be fulfilled in conversation with particular reason, in other word, it is violated. The purpose of this research is to identify the types of maxim violations and its frequent that occur in the novel This Earth of Mankind among the characters' dialogue. This research employs a qualitative design with a library research approach, with the data gathered from the novel. 67 utterances found containing maxim violations, and the findings reveal that a total of 88 maxims were identified, since several utterances contain more than one maxim. The most frequent violation found in the maxim of relevance or relation, occurring 34 times (38.6%), followed by the maxim of quantity and manner, each occurring 22 times (25%), and the least frequent is the maxim of quality, occurring 10 times (11.4%). Maxim violations functioned as pragmatic strategies to develop the characters and used to showed the social hierarchy's influence to the style of speaking.

Keywords: Maxim, Violation, Maxim Violation, This Earth of Mankind

INTRODUCTION

Literary works are one of the media for communication. Through literary works, writers are able to share ideas, arguments, information, and knowledge with their readers. Many literary works have been written, spreading from countries around the world. Some literary works have already become remarkable works and have a good influence on people's lives. Some of them are able to change the world, and some of them should be burned down, seized, and abolished from this world. One of the common literary works used to share the ideas of the writers with their readers is a novel. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, a novel is a long printed story about imaginary characters and event. A novel is a long, complex, fictional narrative about human life experience with plot, characters, and settings. Conversation or dialogue among characters in a novel may occur as one way to deliver messages or information from the writer to the readers.

British Philosopher Paul Grice develops a framework theory about how to communicate properly in order to understand the message exchanged by the speaker and the listener or interlocutor. Grice's Cooperative Principles include: maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner. Speakers may speak unclear ambiguously, or the information they give potentially misunderstood by the listeners. Those are examples of the violation of Grice's principles, and they may also occur in the character's conversation in a novel.

Many studies have been conducted on literary works, exploring Grice's maxim theory. An examination of Grice's Maxim in the horror novel *Five Nights at Freddy's* by Scott Cawthon found that the most frequently used type of maxim is the maxim of quantity, followed by the maxim of quality (Cahyana & Ayomi, 2025). Similar results were also shown on the maxim violation analysis in the novel *It Starts With Us* (Cantikawati, Tawami, & Purwanisari, 2024), and a pragmatic equivalence of violating maxims in the novel translation of *Divergent* (Rahmawati, Haryanti, & Laila, 2022). While in *Violating Grice's maxims in Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief: A Discourse Analysis of Deception* revealed that characters frequently violate the maxim of manner (Puspita, Rahayuni, & Parthama, 2024).

In the Indonesian context, a well-known novel written by a very famous writer, Pramoedya Ananta Toer, also has already been examined and explored on various focus. In long time ago, written work is one of the media used for delivering propaganda by Indonesians in order to fight against colonialism. It is efficient for delivering messages in the form of a story. The writers are able to share their ideas, criticisms, and other thoughts freely on their works. The characters' conversation in a novel might consist of the writer's messages, even though it is not explicitly implied. As well as in the *Bumi Manusia*, since it is published during the 'unsafe' period during the colonialization, Pramoedya, while writing this novel, might violate some of Grice's cooperative principles, since the conversation of the characters might not be fully delivered explicitly. Some of the dialogues constructed to built the characters to deliver the writer's message. Some dialogues may consist untruthful, irrelevant, insufficient, or unclear information. In 2022, a study on the Exploration of the Cooperative Principle in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's Novel *Bumi Manusia* with Grice's Maxim Principle found that the maxim of manner was mostly flouted by the characters (Bintoro, Manugerren, & Pratiwy, 2022).

The previous study, the non-observance of maxim, which is flouting has already examined. Unlike fluoting, which is when a speaker intentionally breaks a maxim in order to generate implicature, this study offer other the non-obersvance maxim, the violation, which is when speaker fail to observe a maxim without trying to make an implicature. Fluoting of maxims happen when speakers fails to fulfill Grice's principles and their utterances create different meaning than what is being said, while violating maxims happened when the speaker fails to observe the maxims and their utterances intending to mislead the hearer or the interlocutors (Gunatika, Candra, & Utami, 2021). In flouting, the literal meaning of the utterance or statement is different from the intended meaning, while in the violation the interlocutors do not need to find any additional intended meaning, since the utterances used to mislead or conceal information. With many characters potrayed by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, with diverse social, cultural, and ideological backgrounds, the interaction among the characters may not always fully observe the Grice's maxim. Conversations that occur in the conversation among the characters, *Bumi Manusia* and *This Earth of Mankind* have the potential to be used as a source for studying pragmatics, including Grice's maxim. The examination of the maxim violations from the perspective of hierarchical communication is important because it would reveal how power relations and social hierarchy influence conversational behavior. It will show how literary dialogue represents patterns of communication that shaped by social hierarchy and historical context.

This study offers both theoretical insights, particularly into pragmatics and translation studies, ensuring that information in the literary work is effectively communicated to global readers. Analysis of Grice's maxim violations on the English version of *Bumi Manusia*, *This Earth of Mankind*, can serve as practical teaching materials for study in pragmatics, translation, and discourse analysis, which may help students and teachers understand how language functions as a tool for effective communication through English. Grice's framework is used for analyzing the novel since the framework is framework can uncover the hidden meanings and reveal the personalities, motivations, and relationships of the characters, which can be used to unfold the writer's intention, or the messages that the writer wants to deliver to the readers.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Communication

An activity that employ people or group to sending and receiving of information is communication. Communication requires the speaker or someone who initiates communications to transfer their thoughts or encode a message through communication devices or face-to-face. According to Luhman (1992), communication arises from three different selections that can't be presented separately, which were selection of information, selection of the utterance of this information, and a selection of understanding or misunderstanding of this utterance and its information. The communication would be well developed if the difference of utterance and information can be understood. In social setting, communication and culture influence each other. The way how individuals communicate are influenced by the culture where they socialized, and how they communicate also might change the culture they share over time (Gudykunst, 1997). People from the individualistic country might have different communication style from people from the country that has collectivistic culture. A study comparing the communication behavior that associated with relationship terms that influenced of cultural variability of people from the United State and Japanese people give a result that Japanese people were have more personalized communication in the relationship terms than the U.S (Gudykunst, 1986). The way people communicate influenced by various factors, such: uncertainty avoidance, power distance, masculinity-femininity, values, personality orientations, also self-construals (Gudykunst, 1997).

The speaking style of people from one country might different. When people from different ethnic or class backgrounds talk to each other, both of them might not fully understood what exact meaning the speaker intended (Giri, 2006). Norton (1978) stated nine variables of communication style: dominant, dramatic, contentious, animated, impression-leaving, relaxed, attentive, open, and friendly. In colonial society of Dutch East Indies, social hierarchy, cultural norms, and educational background was strongly influence the way people interact to each other. Europeans occupied the highest status, followed by Foreign Orientals, and indigenous people or native people at the lowest level of legal and social order (Ricklefs, 2001). This stratified system influence the pattern of people's interaction. Cultural norms also shaping the communication styles. Clifford Geertz (1960), addressed that indirect speech and subtle expressions are commonly used by Javanese people in their interaction in order to maintain the social harmony, emphasize politeness and to avoid confrontation. Emotions that show when people interact to each other also influenced by their culture as stated by Porter and Samovar (1998),

..., but culture determines who may express emotions as well as both the circumstances under which they may be expressed and the degree to which they may be expressed.

Maxim

The word 'maxim' is defined as a short statement of a general truth, principle, or rule for behavior according to the Cambridge Dictionary. Philip E. Lewis opened his article on The Discourse of the Maxim, he defined maxim is something of a hybrid genre, which appears to lay claim to a cognitive function for literature, associating the literature with a search for truths, like an essay (Lewis, 1972).

But now, for those who study language, the term 'maxim' is associated with H. P. Grice's maxim of conversation, which is formed as "cooperative principle" that informs (rather than strictly governs) conversation (Neale, 1992). Even though the purpose of the development is to guide to formation of correct conversations, Robert E. Frederking (1996) argued that Grice's maxims are vague, and it is harmful, also believed as a misleading taxonomy, as stated,

While his cooperative principle may be useful at a high level of theoretical analysis, it too is vague, and should not be directly implemented in computational natural language systems

The maxim is believed to be too vague and too general and not useful as an actual implementation, even though it can guide the way researchers think (Frederking, 1996). While Stephen C. Levinson (1983) argued that the theory was important because it was the first time a systematic way to talk about something ‘unsaid’ was able to be developed. In line with Matthew A. Benton (2016), Grice’s cooperative principle is a general principle which is able to govern all rational behaviour (of which conversation is a subset), which will suffice for explaining any norms which is relevant to assertion. Grice’s maxims are not arbitrary conventions or ‘table manners’, it describe rational means for conducting co-operative exchange (universal application, culture-specific, constraints on interaction), the principles would be expected to govern the non-linguistic behaviour too (Levinson, 1983).

Grice’s Maxim

One of the key rules of communication is the understandable utterances from the speaker to the hearer or the interlocutor. Conversation or communication may occur when at least two people are delivering their ideas to each other. One of the key rules of communication is the understandable utterances from the speaker to the hearer or the interlocutor. Conversation or communication may occur when at least two people are delivering their ideas to each other. Both people who act as speakers and hearers should understand each other’s utterances to reach the purpose of communication, ensuring their intended information is conveyed. In linguistics, pragmatics explains how meaning can be understood in communication settings (Birner & Betty J, 2013). While pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics, which is the scientific study of language, communication should have strict rules. Herbert Paul Grice, created a theory about implicature and the cooperative principle, which is part of pragmatics in the linguistic field. Grice contributed to controlling the construction of appropriate communication by developing a framework, the Cooperative Principle. The principles are trying to answer how the speakers know how to generate implicit meanings and how they can assume that their addressees (hearers) will reliably understand their intended (Sidabutar, Manurung, & Simarmata, 2016). Conversations are governed by a series of maxims in order to guarantee that the language is efficiently and effectively used with a view to interaction (Poggi, 2016).

Grice’s framework consists of four principles, which are the maxim of quantity, the maxim of quality, the maxim of relevance, and the maxim of manner, that should be followed in order to ensure that the messages from the conversation are conveyed and comprehended at the highest level possible by the speaker and the hearer (Canli, 2021). Grice’s principles highlight several aspects in communication, such as relevance, clarity, precision, truthfulness, and appropriateness in communication (Cantikawati et al., 2024). Cooperative principles provide guidance for people to communicate effectively during their conversations in social settings (Puspita et al., 2024).

Grice’s maxim of quantity is when the speakers try to be informative and give as much information as needed, and no more.

Quantity

1. Make your contributions as informative as is required (for the current purpose of the exchange);
2. Do not make your contribution more informative than is required (Grice, 1975).

Grice’s standard on the appropriate form of communication is when the speaker gives adequate information, because being over-informative is a waste of time, and it also might be confusing, which can raise a side issue, which leads to misleading, as a result of thinking that there is some particular point in the provision of the excess of information (Grice, 1975).

While the maxim of quality is when speakers try to be truthful and do not give false information to the hearers or unsupported information with irrelevant evidence. The maxim of quality is independent, and the cooperative principle depends on quality for its operation on quality, rather than the other way around (Benton, 2016). Grice’s concept of the maxim of quality is as follows:

Quality

1. Do not say what you believe to be false.
2. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence (Grice, 1975).

Another principle developed by Grice, when the speakers try to be relevant and say everything that is pertinent to the discussion, is where the maxim of relation occurs. The third maxim is the maxim of relation, or it is also known as the maxim of relevance.

Under the category of relation I place a single maxim, namely, "Be relevant."
(Grice, 1975)

Sperber and Wilson (1995) stated that the relevant is considered when the background of information can be connected to the results in meaningful conclusion, such as resolving doubts, enhancing understanding of a matter, providing answers, or correcting misconceptions.

Whereas the maxim of manner is when the speakers try to be clear, brief, and avoid obscurity and ambiguity in their utterances that they deliver to the hearers. According to Grice, the concept of the maxim of manner should be:

Manner

1. Avoid obscurity of expression.
2. Avoid ambiguity.
3. Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity).
4. Be orderly (Grice, 1975)

The maxim of quality requires accurate and reliable information, the maxim of quantity suggests avoiding overly informative speech, the maxim of relation emphasizes staying on the topic, while the maxim of manner requires clear and unambiguous responses (Mirayanti, Beratha, & Sukarini, 2024). Grice gives brief analogies for each maxim,

1. Quantity. If you are assisting me to mend a car, I expect your contribution to be neither more nor less than is required; if, for example, at a particular stage I need four screws, I expect you to hand me four, rather than two or six.
2. Quality. I expect your contributions to be genuine and not spurious. If I need sugar as an ingredient in the cake you are assisting me to make, I do not expect you to hand me salt; if I need a spoon, I do not expect a trick spoon made of rubber.
3. Relation. I expect a partner's contribution to be appropriate to immediate needs at each stage of the transaction; if I am mixing ingredients for a cake, I do not expect to be handed a good book, or even an oven cloth (though this might be an appropriate contribution at a later stage).
4. Manner. I expect a partner to make it clear what contribution he is making, and execute his performance with reasonable dispatch (Grice, 1975)

Grice developed his maxims to be used as maximally effective for information exchange or communication, and the scheme has already been generalized to allow for such general purposes.

Maxim Violation

Speakers in communication or conversation may fail to fulfill the four Gricean maxims. The failures may occur in various ways, and the speakers' failure to fulfill the principles commonly known as 'violation', Grice's maxim violation. People's interactions sometimes are not based on the maxim, violating and ignoring the principles of achieving something objective (Mirayanti et al., 2024). The speakers who violate maxims 'will be liable to mislead' (Grice, 1975). Violations of the maxim are relied on the context, which is meant that it can not be taken literally, and influenced by social and cultural factors, which is a great example of pragmatic phenomenon (Puspita et al., 2024). Violation of the maxim is part of the non-observance of the maxim that people commonly fail to fulfil, which is quite opposite to flouting the maxim, because violating the maxim prevents the hearer from seeking the implicature from the speaker's utterances, and encourages them to take the utterances at face value (Joyce, 2021).

When violating the maxim of quantity, the speaker does not provide the hearer with sufficient information. As for the maxim of quality, the speaker is not honest and provides wrong information. When violating the maxim of manner, he/she may say everything except what the hearer desires to cognize. Concerning the last maxim of relation, here, one can observe that the speaker endeavors to change the discussion subjects or to deflect the hearer (Hoosain, 2021).

People are usually not concerned with the maxims in their speech, and the meaning of their utterances might be different from what they said, which clearly violates the maxims in everyday life (Thomas, 1995). The violation of the maxims occurs indeed happened because the speakers do not observe the maxim not in purpose. The violation might not only take place in real conversation, but also may happen in drama, films, interviews, debates, and even in literary works, such as novels, which consist of the talk exchange between at least two people (characters).

In colonial society which has strict social hierarchy, the violation of maxims might happen. Native people might provide limited information to Dutch authorities in order to avoid potential risks, and also is an effort to protect themselves or their social position. Shifting topic also used as one way to maintain social harmony or avoid conflict

This Earth of Mankind

Bumi Manusia is a novel written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer during his imprisonment in Buru Island (Pulau Buru) from 1969-1979 (Toer, 1996). The novel is part of the tetralogy Pulau Buru, which consists of four novels series, and *Bumi Manusia* is the first novel. *Bumi Manusia* has become one of the greatest contributions to Indonesian literature. It was first published in 1980 by Hasta Mitra (Jakarta), and it has already been translated into 40 languages, including English, under the title *This Earth of Mankind*. The English version of *Bumi Manusia* was translated and afterworded by Max Lane, which was the second secretary in the Australian Embassy in Jakarta. The novel was firstly published by Penguin Books in 1982. It is a 367-page-long novel in the English version, and this novel was declared “banned” by the Indonesian Government since it was deemed to contain Marxist and Communist ideas, yet it teaches nationalism to the Indonesian people. *This Earth of Mankind* is actually the result of Pramoedya’s reflection on the wisdom of history (Krisnadi, Salindri, & Samita, 2024). This novel is classified as a historical novel since the writer or the author built the narrative story using historical figures and fictional characters and gave his own meaning that made sense in a meaningful way to historical facts with his own highlight.

This Earth of Mankind shows how the traditional values and the modern values were criticised. The ambiguity from each character in the novel makes this novel succeed in depicting the cultural revolution in the colonised country, and also the expression of rejection of the absolute glorification of cultural and social values. *This Earth of Mankind* tell how a young man named Minke, who is a local regent’s son that has a different mindset from other young men in his surroundings. He has a good critical mindset that can drive him to leave his strict Javanese culture to become a free man, such a young European man (Gari, Ichsan, Putri, & Pradina, 2019). Minke was lucky since his ability on joining to Dutch school, which has an equal place with Europeans. Minke was the only Native in the Dutch High School (H. B. S.) (Toer, 1996).

Pramoedya portrays Minke, who is a native character, as expected to raise the dignity of the Indonesian people with his European science and knowledge and the liberal *Totok* mindset to fight against the Dutch colonial power, to bring his people to become equal to Europeans, even though he had lost his original identity as a Javanese *Priyayi* (Krisnadi et al., 2024). Minke is an indigenous youth who admires the Dutch nation, while the natives are often ridiculed by the company because of the color of their skin. While the other characters,

The characters of this novel are set amid the tensions and contradictions created by colliding of the liberating aspects of the expansion of capitalist industry and its

technology on the one hand with the power of the colonial state on the other (Toer, 1996).

Previous Study

Various studies have been conducted exploring maxim violation in different fields and different forms of social interactions, including songs, movies, video logs, conferences, everyday conversations, also literary works such as novels, dramas, and short stories. All the explorations are mostly intended to examine how well the communication process follows Grice's maxim principles. In everyday conversation, a violation of Grice's maxim can be found in Dedy Corbuzier's podcast with Widi Viera and Cinta Laura, which shows that the speakers do not give enough information to the listener, which is indicated as a violation in the maxim of quantity (Sidabutar et al., 2016). Another examination found in a court testimony showed that the defendant tried to get a lesser sentence in the court, which is resulting in many violations of the maxim of quality (Prasetyo, Muslim, & Imperiani, 2018). A study also conducted on a Javanese song entitled *Slénco* found that all types of the maxim were violated, which portrays the reality of dyslexia sufferers who are problematic in conversation (Nahak & Bram, 2021).

Most violations of Grice's maxim or cooperative principles found in moving pictures include movies and series. The most frequent violation was maxim of quality in the American Television Series *The Good Place*, which has 52.6 percent of the total occurrences (Ningtias & Sembodo, 2022). In an animated movie, *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* (2022), the maxim of quality was mostly violated by the characters, followed by the maxim of quantity, with various reasons, namely as expression to communicate personal interests, avoiding discussion, pleasing interlocutors, saving face, misleading listeners, and also extending (Arbain, Geroda, & Mulyono, 2023). The characters in the action thriller movie *Jack Reacher: Never Go Back* also violate the maxim of quality, followed by the maxim of quantity, relation, and the least violation is on the maxim of manner (Mirayanti et al., 2024). Violation of the maxim of quantity is found to be the most frequently violated in the *Bad Genius* movie (Putri & Apsari, 2020). An examination of the movie *Taken* found that characters mostly violate the maxim of manners because they give information with intended meaning and give obscure responses (Pramelia & Mulatsih, 2021).

In the literary works, which involve many characters with their speech exchange, it could not bear that violation of Grice's principles could be found. A children's novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett entitled *The Secret Garden* also violates Grice's maxims, with the violation of the maxim of quantity (32%), which is used by the writer to create humour to serve something funny for the readers (Cahyani & Budiati, 2022). Violation of the maxim of quality is also found in an old novel, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1993) by Mark Twain (Taufiq & Marlina, 2022). Sarcasm and defiance in *Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief* analysis indicated a violation of the maxim of manner, which is used by the author, Rick Riordan, to enhance the narrative experience (Puspita et al., 2024). Another novel with a similar genre, *Harry Potter And The Cursed Child*, results in 28 instances of flouting the maxim of relation, violating the maxim of manner as the most maxim violated by characters (Zahra & Suyudi, 2023). Maxim of quantity was mostly violated among the characters in the novel *It Starts With Us*, written by Colleen Hoover (Cantikawati et al., 2024). Another violation on maxim of quantity came from the exploration on a horror novel *Five Nights at Freddy's* by Scott Cawthon, with 22 occurrences indicate the violation, which is marked as sign that the characters in the novel often provide adequate and honest information to maintain credibility, yet leaving several aspects that is vague or ambiguous to preserve the horror atmosphere at the same (Cahyana & Ayomi, 2025). A study on a *Divergent* novel, examining the violation of Grice's maxim and pragmatic equivalence on its translation, found that the majority of violations occurred were the violation of the maxim of quality (Rahmawati et al., 2022).

Many literary works with different genre already examined on the Grice's principle violations, and they are comes from different part of the world, with different writers that has

their own background. There is still no examination on the historical fiction literary work that employing the Grice's maxim violation. This research attempt to examine the Grice's maxim violation on the novel which is classified into historical fiction, which is related to Indonesian history, that is written by Pramoedya Ananta Toer, entitled *This Earth of Mankind*.

METHODS

This research employs a qualitative design since the researcher as the key instrument, and the data is collected by themselves through examining the documents, observing behaviour, or interviewing participants (Creswell, 2009). The research adopts a library research approach to answer the questions of research. Library research uses library sources to collect and analyze the data (Zed, 2004). This research does not collect data from the field; instead, it uses all literary works related to the research, such as books, documents, journals, newspapers, magazines, etc. The library research used specific tools, rules, and techniques to conduct a form of structured investigation (George, 2008). According to Zed, the data collection methods in library research include reading, recording, and analyzing the research materials (Zed, 2004). This research tries to examine the Grice's maxim violation in Pramoedya Ananta Toer's novel *This Earth of Mankind*. The focus of the research is on the analysis of each violation on Grice's maxim framework on the novel *This Earth of Mankind*. This study uses books, which is *This Earth of Mankind* novel as primary data, and other sources from the internet and other sources as secondary data. The data gathered from the novel were in the form of conversation or dialogue of the characters that required to violate the Grice's maxim, that might be occurred in each chapter. The researcher will analyze the utterances from the characters' conversation to determine the types of maxim violations based on Grice's framework, which also considers some aspects relating to the context of the conversation, including the situation, the speaker's intentions, and the listener's expectations. For the accurate data after the findings, Lincoln and Guba proposed four criteria for trustworthiness, including credibility, dependability, confirmability, and transferability (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). Credibility is established through the use of well-recognized pragmatic theory, which is Grice's theory, and contextual analysis of the dialogue excerpts. Dependability is ensured by applying a consistent analytical framework to all data. Confirmability is achieved by grounding interpretations in textual evidence. Peer debriefing also conducted with lecturers who is knowledgeable in pragmatic studies, to maintain the research process, audit trail employed, including data selection, coding procedures, categorizing the maxim violations, and the interpretation of the dialogues. Transferability is addressed by providing detailed description of the data and analytical procedures.

The data collected were analyzed through some procedure, which is adopted from the previous research on the examination of the maxim violations in literary work conducted by Pertiwi (Pertiwi, 2013), which used coding strategies. The procedure include: 1) selecting the novel, 2) reading and re-reading the novel, 3) deciding, taking note, and gathering the relevant data, 4) identify the maxim violation. After the data was obtained, it will be presented on the coding form. Coding includes a) stating the number of found data to be discussed, b) stating the related research problem, c) stating the condition of violating maxims, d) stating the page number and the line of the page taken. Table 1 exemplifies the data coding strategy.

Table 1 Example of coding strategy

No.	Data	Code	Meaning of the Code
1.	"I can believe you, Rob. Come on, tell me, where are we going?" He replied in his insolent, mysterious way: "A place to which every youth dreams of receiving an invitation, because of the angel that lives	MQn & MMn/NR & O/ 21: 12-18	Violation of the maxim of quantity and maxim of manner/ information is not as required & Obscure information or statement/ page 21, lines 12-18

there, Minke. Listen, I've had the good luck to be invited by her older brother. Nobody has ever got an invitation, except this one."

Table 2 Code of Maxim Violation

Violation	Conditions
Maxim of Quantity (MQn)	Information or statement is not as is required (NR)
Maxim of Quality (MQl)	Information or statement is much more than is required (MR)
Maxim of Relevance (MRv)	Fallacious statement or information (FS)
Maxim of Manner (MMn)	Information or statement with lack of evidence (LE)
	Irrelevant information or statement (IF)
	Obscure information or statement (O)
	Ambiguous information or statement (A)
	Lengthy information or statement (L)
	Disorderly information or statement (D)

To make it easier to be understood the data would be presented in the percentage form:

$$\text{Percentage} = \frac{\text{Number of Violations}}{\text{Total Number of Violations}} \times 100$$

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Grice's maxim theory presented a framework to "control" the way how should speakers and interlocutors interact to each other using language. In the novel *This Earth of Mankind*, many of the dialogues that occur among the characters violate Grice's rule. The characters' utterances were judged as the violation of Grice's maxim principles since it was not follow or obey Grice's four frameworks.

a. Maxim of Quality

The maxim of quality requires the speaker not to say what they believe to be false and not say that for which they lack adequate evidence. This research found some characters' utterances that did not fulfill the maxim of quality.

Data 27 (MQl/FS/178:17-27)

Annelies looked at her brother with unfocused eyes. Darsam stood silently. Seeing that no one else was beginning to speak, the fighter from Madura cleared his throat. And as if he'd received an order, Robert looked up at Darsam, then shifted his look to his mother.

"The police don't know where Minke was taken. They don't recognize that name at all."

Nyai stood up, enraged. Her face was scarlet. She pointed her finger at her son and hissed:

"Liar!"

"I've been everywhere seeking an explanation."

Data 27 with the code MQl/FS/178:17-27, which is Maxim of Quality/Fallacious information or statement/Page 178/Lines 17-27 indicated as a violation on maxim of quality since Robert Mellema gave a fallacious statement to his mother, Nyai Ontosoroh, when she asked him to look for Minke. Robert said that the police didn't know about Minke, and he said that he had been everywhere seeking an explanation, while the truth is, he never went anywhere; instead, he went to Babah Ah Tjong's pleasure house and slept with a Japanese girl in there. His statement to his mother was totally made up, he lied to his mother, and it violates the maxim of quality, which insist the speakers to not say what they belief to be false or lacks adequate evidence. The responses given by Robert

to his mother show how the different social category influences the way the characters interact. Robert, as an Indo-European child already influenced by the colonial elite. Even her mother has a higher position in family hierarchy, he acts normal to lied to his mother, and has such kind of attitude, because he feels that he is more Europe than Native, which is he feels better than his mother.

b. Maxim of Quantity

The requirement to fulfill the maxim of quantity is speaker should give their contributions as informative as is required and not make the contribution more informative than is required. If the speaker is not able to fulfill it, they might be violating the maxim of quantity, such:

Data 5 (MQn/NR/33:37-40)

"Where is your father?" I asked.

Annelies frowned.

"You don't need to know. What for? Even I have no desire to know. Even Mama doesn't want to know."

Data 5 with the code MQn/ LR/33:37-40, which is Maxim of Quantity/Information not as is required/Page 33/Lines 37-40, is when the maxim of quantity was violated by the character. When Minke asked Annelies about his father, Annelies did not want to give the information that Minke needed. She was being uninformative to Minke. Instead, she answered the question by saying "You don't need to know," to Minke, and followed her opinion about his father. Different cultural norms of privacy emerged on Annelies response. Minke as native normally just want to ask the question, he doesn't have any intention, since he never met Annelies' father. But Annelies who is Indo-European girl that also has a complicated family position in social hierarchy, tend to avoid to discuss private matters related to her family to outsiders. Her answer is part of the boundaries that she created to avoid the topic.

c. Maxim of Relevance

Maxim of relevance or maxim of relation requires the speakers to always be relevant to the topic they are discussing. When the speaker does not stay on their path, the violation of the maxim of relevance might occur.

Data 25 (MRv/ IF/164:20-24)

"So where do you go when it's closed up?"

"Where do I go?" he laughed happily. **"What will you drink, Nyo? What's your usual? Whiskey, brandy, cognac? Chinese wine perhaps? White, yellow, warm, cold? Or Málaga wine? Or dry?"**

"Ah, Babah, as early as this."

Data 25 with the code Maxim of relevance/Irrelevant information or statement/Page 164/Lines 20-24, violates the maxim of relevance since Babah Ah Tjong didn't answer Robert Mellema's question about his habitual activity when his house was closed. Instead, he changed the topic, asked Robert about his usual. It is actually one of the ways to elude the previous topic by changing into another topic. Another factor, the relationship between them is merchant and customer, Babah Ah Tjong avoid to answer Robert's question since the question touch his private life or habit. Chinese people tend to avoid give information about their life in that time, since the influence of their homeland condition and their position in Dutch Indies.

d. Maxim of Manner

The maxim of manner requires the speaker to be clear, brief, and to avoid obscurity and ambiguity in their utterances. If it is not fulfilled by the speakers, it means the maxim of manner was violated.

Data 8 (MMn/O/50:11-21)

"Sinyo, Minke," Nyai confided, **"Annelies has no friends. She is happy that Sinyo came here. You, of course, don't have a lot of time. I know that. Even so, try to**

come here often. You don't need worry about Mr. Mellema. I will look after him, If Sinyo would like, we would be very happy for you to live here. You could be taken to school each day by buggy. That's if Sinyo would like."

Such a strange and frightening house and family! It's no wonder they have such a sinister reputation. And I answered:

"Let me think about it first, Mama. Thank you for such a generous invitation."

Data 8 with the code MMn/O/50:11-21, which is Maxim of manner/Obscure information or statement/Page 50/Lines 11-21, was violating the maxim of manner since Minke gave obscure information to Nyai Ontosoroh. He didn't say what he decided, whether he accepted or rejected the invitation, he avoided answering the question directly by saying "Let me think about it first, Mama." Minke's responses to not straightly accept Nyai Ontosoroh's wish is how he show respect to Nyai. Even both of them are native, Minke is very impressed to Nyai that has knowledge equal or more than European woman, even she has never been to school.

Discussion

Utterances stated by characters were analyzed using Grice's maxim framework. A total of 67 utterances were analyzed, and 88 maxim violations were identified, since some of the utterances violate more than one type of violation, resulting in multiple violations within a single data item.

Table 3 Frequency of maxim violations

Maxims	Maxim of Quantity		Maxim of Quality		Maxim of Relevance	Maxim of Manner			
Conditions	NR	MR	FS	LE	IF	O	A	L	D
Frequent	18	4	9	1	34	11	12	0	0
Total	22		10		34	22			

Table 4 Percentage of maxim violations

Maxims	Frequency	Percentage
Maxim of Relevance	34	38.6%
Maxim of Quantity	22	25%
Maxim of Manner	22	25%
Maxim of Quality	10	11.4%
Total	88	100%

After analyzing the data gathered from the document, it can be seen that the violations mostly occurred in the maxim of relevance, with 34 (38.6%) of the data. Violation of the maxim of relevance in most cases was caused by the irrelevant information or statement given by the interlocutors when they answered the speaker's question. Characters in the novel frequently avoid directly answering questions or shift topics during conversations. The second was followed by the maxim of quantity and the maxim of manner, which is 22 (25%) on each. The violation of the maxim of quantity occurs when the speaker provides either less information than required or more information than necessary. Different motives occur driving the character's utterances considered a violation of the maxim of quantity. Interlocutors might not give information or statements as required; 18 data points are considered to take this motive. Some of the statements given by the interlocutors already give the required information, but sometimes it is still less than is required, and some of them are more than is required, which is 4 data indicated as more than what is required. The current result shows that the reason why the characters violate the maxim of quantity is when they tend to avoid discussing painful or sensitive issues, such as family background, social status, or legal matters. Giving insufficient information is a strategy to escape uncomfortable conversations.

Unlike quantity violations, which concern the amount of information, violations of manner involve the clarity of expression. In several instances, vague terms, indirect expressions, or ambiguous statements that obscure the intended meaning are able to lead to the violation of the maxim of manner. The current results show that interlocutors tend to give obscure information and ambiguous information. 11 conversations were classified as the violation by the reason that the interlocutors provided obscure information or statements, and 12 conversations were classified as violations of the maxim of manner since the interlocutors answered the speaker's question in an ambiguous manner. The least frequent violation occurred is in the maxim of quality, which is 10 (11.4%) data. The motives of the interlocutors when violating the maxim of quality is when they tend not to be truthful. The interlocutor gives a fallacious statement or information to the speaker, so it violates the maxim of quality, which 9 data found was caused by these motives, while 1 data found that the interlocutor was giving a statement or information with a lack of evidence. This suggests that the direct falsehood or unsupported statements are less common compared to topic avoidance and indirect responses.

The pattern of the data shows how the characters were invented by the author to draw the conditions of the novel settings, which is the colonial era. The violation of the maxim might be driven by cultural factors. Cutting and cline state that the different communicative styles and patterns are influenced by the cultural value systems (Cutting, 2002). Violation of the maxim is supposed to exist in daily conversation. An analysis of Grice's maxims violations in daily conversation in 2016 found that most of the violation was found in the maxim of quantity (Fahmi, 2016). The different results of the findings might be influenced by the different cultural circumstances, which are the previous study conducted in 21s while the novel was written in 20s. Violations occur as a reflection of the emotional tension, power imbalance, and social hierarchy in a particular interaction, such as the conversation involving Nyai Ontosoroh and colonial authorities during the court process. Nyai Ontosoroh was an "self-educated" native woman, her position in social hierarchy is ambiguous, Nyai Ontosoroh, as a nyai (concubine of a European man) is economically powerful but socially marginalized in the colonial system since she is a native. Nyai Ontosoroh should face the Dutch court that has higher position than the native, as has already known that starting from Dutch East Indian Company, they adapted themselves and placed themselves into the highest level of the political hierarchy in the existing political structure (Kartodirdjo, 1974). In that situation influencing how the speaking style of Nyai Ontosoroh, which is sometimes violates the maxim of relevance/relation to avoid direct answer. She has the courage to face the Dutch, as part of her resistance, even her status in social hierarchy doesn't support her. Nyai Ontosoroh has a desire to be not pressured, questioned, or controlled by the Dutch. Brown and Levinson (1987) on their politeness theory classified the person's desire to have freedom of action and not be imposed by into negative face (members' public self image). The characters invented in the novel *This Earth of Mankind* come from diverse ethnicity or social groups, including Europeans, foreign Asian, and indigenous populations, which has different cultural background, attitudes, and also knowledge and education background. The conditions might shaped the conversational behavior that might violate the maxims.

In the literary work, the analysis of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child* book showed the result that the most violated maxim is the maxim of relation or relevance, which is similar to the current research (Zahra & Suyudi, 2023). The violation on the maxim of relevance is one of the way in which the interlocutors try to eschew the topic of conversation, by substituting the topic. A similar novel, but in a different language medium, which is *Bumi Manusia*, the original version of *This Earth of Mankind*, was examined in the aspect of maxim flouting. It revealed that the most flouted maxim was the maxim of manner, since the characters in the novel often give obscure information in their conversation (Bintoro et al., 2022). Even though flouting and violations were part of the non-observance, they present different results. Flouting creates implicature while violation tends to mislead the hearer or interlocutor, often for deception.

CONCLUSION

This study aimed to analyze the violation on Grice's maxim framework that existed in the novel *This Earth of Mankind*. The research focused on identifying the conversations or dialogues among the characters. The types of maxim violations and the most dominant type of violation were determined. The findings show that 67 utterances were analyzed, and 88 maxim violations were found, as several utterances violate more than one type of maxim. The violations include the maxim of relevance or relation, the maxim of quantity, the maxim of manner, and the maxim of quality. The most dominant violation occurred in the maxim of relevance or relation, which occurred 34 times (38.6%). Followed by the maxim of quantity and the maxim of manner, which occurred 22 times (25%) on each. While violations of the maxim of quality were the least frequent, occurring 10 times (11.4%).

The dominance of relevance violations indicates that the characters frequently avoid direct answers, shift topics, or refuse to address certain issues. The violations reflect emotional tension, social hierarchy, and power imbalance. While quantity and manner violations demonstrate strategic withholding of information and indirect communication, particularly in sensitive situations. The failure to fulfill the maxims in a conversation, especially in novel, is actually for the pragmatic strategies to develop the characters and highlight the social and colonial dynamics, which is intended to be portrayed in a story.

Theoretically, this study supports the applicability of Grice's framework, the Cooperative Principle in analyzing dialogues or conversations in literary work. Conversation maxims relevantly to explain how the meaning of such conversation constructed and manipulated within fictional discourse. Pragmatic analysis can reveal the character development, emotional states, and social structures in literary works. It is also shows how pragmatic theory can be effectively integrated into literature and linguistic studies.

This study only focused on the violation of Grice's maxim in the novel *This Earth of Mankind*. Based on the limitations of this study future research may examine other non-observance of the maxim, such infringing, opting, or suspending of the maxim in the same novel. Another suggestion, further studies may examine and compare maxim violations across different novels or genres to explore whether similar patterns occur in the other literary contexts.

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