

THE ANALYSIS OF MAXIM VIOLATION IN *ALL THE BRIGHT PLACES* THE MOVIE

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Abstract

This research analyzes maxim violation in the film All the Bright Places (2020). This movie talks about mental health, family, and relationships. The purpose of this research is to find what maxim violations are used in the movie All the Bright Places. The research method used is Descriptive Qualitative by using Grice Theory. The researchers analyze the data thoroughly, with observations to find data results with explanations that will be compiled in the form of conversational dialogue. This study identifies the maxim violations of quality, quantity, relevance, and manner in the dialog between the main characters, Theodore Finch and Violet Markey. In this study, 9 violations of maxim quality, 3 violations of maxim quantity, 13 violations of maxim relevance and 6 violations of maxim manner were found.

Keywords: *maxim violation, Grice's theory, conversational dialogue*

INTRODUCTION

People are inseparable from dialog. Dialogue is a two-way communication between speakers and listeners who have different views on a subject with the aim of understanding other subjects better (Maydelin, 2023). Dialogue, is communication between characters in a movie. It has an important role to support the narrative, know the character of the character, drive the storyline, create atmosphere and create audience emotions. To understand the content of the film well, it is necessary to analyze the film dialog. The general purpose of film dialog analysis is to reveal hidden meanings, explore characters, understand the flow of the film, know the social and cultural background or other values contained in a film. Meanwhile, the interpersonal communication is needed to know the utterance meaning.

Interpersonal communication, particularly dialogue, is fundamental to human social interaction and the exchange of diverse perspectives. This principle extends to cinematic discourse, where character dialogue serves as a critical narrative device, facilitating character development, plot progression, and emotional resonance with the audience. The analytical examination of film dialogue is instrumental in elucidating latent meanings, character motivations, narrative structures, and sociocultural contexts embedded within the cinematic text.

Grice's Cooperative Principle provides a theoretical framework for optimal communicative practices. This principle delineates four maxims—quantity, quality, relation,

and manner—which posit that interlocutors should contribute to discourse in a manner that is sufficiently informative, veracious, pertinent, and unambiguous. The synthesis of these concepts underscores the multifaceted nature of dialogue, both in quotidian interactions and artistic representations, and its significance in fostering mutual understanding and narrative coherence. It is stated that good communication is obtained when speakers and listeners adhere to certain principles. Grice states that speakers and speech partners in conversations usually follow the principle of cooperation, meaning that they contribute according to the needs of the conversation at that time.

Grice (1975) argued that there are four types of maxims, namely maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manners. Maxim of quantity is a maxim that contains information, where the information is not too little or not too much. Maxim of quality is a maxim that states the truth and is in accordance with reality. Maxim of relation is a maxim that between speakers and speech partners is relevant to the topic of conversation and does not divert the topic of conversation. Maxim of manners is the maxim that the speech partner answers the question correctly, clearly, and unambiguously.

The maxims are intended to make an effective communication by ensuring that contributions are informative, honest, relevant, and clear. In other side, Maxim violation is a pragmatic notion that refers to the violation of cooperation rules in a dialog. According to Grice (1975), violating the maxims make the listener unable to accept the utterance. What needs to be underlined from Grice's opinion is that when speakers refrain from applying these maxims, speakers are "responsible for misleading" their partners in conversation. This violation occurs when speakers intentionally refrain from complying with one or more conversational maxims.

When speakers communicate, they often encounter situations where they have to choose between different meanings to ensure their message is clear. In this case, listeners assume that speakers are being cooperative and want them to understand the intended meaning. However, speakers may have motives that lead them to violate one of Grice's four conversational maxims. The underlying reason for deliberately violating the maxims is because the speaker wants to achieve a certain goal, while the unintentional element arises due to the speaker's lack of understanding of the Cooperation Principle (Cummings, 1999).

In other words, the function of Maxim Violation in Film Narrative Dialogue is unavoidable in the making of film narratives (Azab, M., Kojima, N., Deng, J., & Mihalcea, R. 2019). The functions of maxim violation can be diverse as well, such as creating humor, showing character traits, building tension, or conveying implied meanings. Meanwhile, maxim violation can influence plot development and create story dynamics and become a trigger for conflict or turning points in the storyline. With this, humor or tension becomes effective, depending on the context and the way of delivery in the scene.

One that stands out is the violation of quantity and relevance by the character Finch. Finch often provides redundant and highly irrelevant information. For example, when first talking on the phone with Violet, Finch recounts random facts about Virginia Woolf. (00:16:46 - 00:17:09)

Violet : Why would you do that?

Finch : **I wanna talk about the bridge. “I feel we can't go through another of those terrible times.”**
Violet : “One morning barely qualifies as a terrible time.”
Finch : It’s a quote. Virginia
WoolfViolet : OK

Finch's maxim violation functions as the formation of Finch's eccentric and insightful character. It can also create a unique dynamic in Finch and Violet's relationship, where Finch slowly pulls Violet out of her isolation. It can also generate humors and tension in their dialogue, reflecting the complexity of their relationship. Maxim violation is also seen in the way Finch communicates, often using language that is ambiguous and difficult to understand. This illustrates that Finch's struggle against his mental illness makes it difficult for him to express his emotions directly. It is shown that maxim violation works effectively to develop complex characters thus creating interesting relationship dynamics in movie narratives. The use of such techniques helps the audience understand the characters' personalities and motivations more easily, and creates richer and more meaningful dialog.

Previous research has discussed maxim violation, including: An Analysis of The Violation of Maxims in The LockerRoom Short Movie (Ajisoko, et al., 2020); The Violation Of Grice's Maxim In "Bad Genius" Movie (Putri, et al., 2020);The Tyoes Of Maxim Violation Found In Luca Movie (Ni Wayan Balik Ayu Widiyasi, et al., 2022) and Maxim Violations On "The Lion In Winter" Movie (Anastasia Juwita Ningsih, et al., 2022). The researchers analyze what are the maxim violations using Grice's theory, especially on maxim violations contained in the dialogue of “All the Bright Places” movie. The topic of the dialog is about mental health, family, and relationships. The maxim violation that occurs can be seen from the inability of the character Theodore Finch. Then the author determines the maxim violation strategy that occurs in the character's speech. To find answers to these problems, the author chose the title “Pragmatic Analysing: Maxim Violation in Movie All the Bright Places”, by utilizing Grice's principle of cooperation and maxim violation strategies

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Researchers conduct research with Qualitative Descriptive research methods, because researchers analyzed data thoroughly, with observations to find data results with explanations that will be compiled in the form of conversational dialogue. The researchers use an analytical approach and observes the dialog in the film “All the Bright Places” part of the main players and interlocutors. The data is in the form of written text, so it is suitable for this research as Polkinghorne said that, according to Cressweell (2013) qualitative research is defined as an investigative process to understand a social or human problem, based on building a complex, holistic picture formed with words, reporting informants' views in detail and conducted in a natural setting. To find data using this Qualitative Descriptive method, the researchers look for every dialogue of the main character's conversation and the interlocutor in the film “All the Bright Places”, collect every part of utterance that uses maximal violations and analyze it.

The researchers collect all dialog data in the form of a table, in the composition of each character and how many offending sentences are contained in the dialog. In this movie, there are several dialogues from each scene that are analyzed with their offending sentences in bold mark. This film is analyzed according to the storyline, which is a back-and-forth plot,

which in the first scene is the part where the story goes backwards. The last step is that the researchers analyze the dialogue using the theory of Cooperative Principle by Grice which is displayed and analyzed in Finding and Discussion.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this paper, the writers used the theory proposed by Grice's maxims of cooperation principle to describe two characters in the movie, Theodore Finch and Violet, in the dialog of the movie "All the Bright Places." Violations of the maxims appear frequently. The writers collected all conversational data tabulation, including the composition of each character and the number of offending sentences during the conversation.

In the violations in this film, the dialog begins with a confession that gives reasons which do not match the facts that occur and is a violation of the maxim of Quality and gives an explanation that does not match what is asked is a violation of the maxim of Quantity. And the character deliberately provides irrelevant information according to the violation of the maxim of relationship and answers that are confusing and do not match the facts and violations of the maxim of Violation found in the table below.

Maxim Violation	Number
Quality	9
Quantity	3
Relevance	13
Manner	6
Total	31

As mentioned earlier, the researcher analyzed the film All the Bright Places to observe the dialogues whether they are violated or not. The aim is to answer the research problem, namely what Grice's maxims are violated and what is the purpose of the violations found in the movie by looking at the conversations between the characters. The following is the violation occurred in the dialogues which has been chosen by the data representation based on the purposive sampling.

Maxim of Quality Violation

Violation of the maxim of quality occurs when the speaker lies or does not state facts that can be proven. On the film All the Bright Places, this violation appears at minute (00:17:52 - 00:17:55)

Finch : I read some of your stuff. It's really good.

Violet : **I don't write anymore.**

In the context of conversational principles proposed by Grice, a violation of the maxim of quality occurs when a speaker conveys information that is not true or not supported by sufficient evidence. The maxim of quality asks speakers not to say something that is considered false or does not have enough evidence. In the dialog between Finch and Violet, a

violation of the maxim of quality occurs when Violet is actually still writing, but she states that she is not writing anymore. Violet actually is still writing, but she says that she is not writing anymore, then Violet has conveyed information that is not true. This is a direct form of maxim of quality violation, as her statement contradicts reality.

Finch starts the conversation by complimenting Violet's writing. If Finch has just read Violet's recent writings or writings that may not have been written recently then Violet's statement that she "I don't write anymore." becomes even more suspicious. Finch thinks the writing is good, which suggests that it's still relevant or that it hasn't been written in a while. There are several reasons why Violet might choose to lie and Violet might want to keep her privacy and not talk about her writing activities or Violet might be feeling sad or disappointed with the results of her writing or with other people's responses, so she says that she stopped writing, or Violet might want to avoid further conversation on the topic with Finch. When Violet says that she is not writing anymore, Finch may feel confused or doubtful, especially if he has information or beliefs that Violet is actually still writing. This can disrupt the flow of the conversation and create distrust between the two parties.

Thus, Violet is actually still writing but states that she does not write anymore. She has violated the maxim of quality by giving untrue information. This can be seen as a form of lying-in conversation, which undermines trust and honesty in communication.

Maxim of Quantity Violation

A violation of the Maxim of Quantity occurs when a speaker provides either too much or too little information in a conversation than what is necessary for the situation. This can lead to misunderstandings or inefficiencies in communication. In the movie "All the Bright Places", the writer finds a case example of a violation of the maxim of quantity that occurs when Finch went swimming together with Violet in the river at the minute of (01:04:02 - 01:04:18).

Violet : Tell me something real about you or I'm leaving.

Finch : OK. Sometimes I have to go to places that make me feel like myself. I need to do things that remind me that I'm in control.

In this scene from "All the Bright Places," Violet requests that Finch share something genuine about himself, stating, "Tell me something real about you or I'm leaving." This implies she desires a meaningful or personal insight rather than superficial information, setting a clear expectation for the level of informativeness she wants. Finch responds by revealing that he sometimes needs to visit places and engage in activities that help him feel like himself and remind him that he is in control of his life.

This response provides a significant insight into Finch's personality, offering a glimpse into his personal struggles and coping mechanisms. By sharing this, Finch meets Violet's request by providing the right amount of information to convey a deeper aspect of his character. He neither overwhelms her with excessive detail nor leaves her with too little information to understand his point. Thus, Finch adheres to the Maxim of Quantity, as his response is appropriately informative and aligns with Violet's desire for a real connection

Maxim of Relevance Violation

Violation of maxim relevance is the irrelevance to the topic of conversation and diverts the topic of conversation between speakers and speech partners. This can lead to confusion in the conversation. This violation appears at minute (00:02:10 - 00:02:15)

Violet : Please go!

Finch : **Well, I don't think that's very...**

The above conversation took place when Finch was jogging. Unintentionally, Finch met Violet. Violet was on the bridge, and Finch approached her. When Finch greeted Violet, Violet was surprised. Then Violet told Finch to leave.

In the conversation above, Violet tells Finch to leave by saying "Please go!". But Finch did not leave. Instead, Finch answers Violet's words with "Well, I don't think that's very..." word. From Violet and Finch's conversation, it can be concluded that the conversation contains a violation of maxim relevance. When Violet told him to leave, Finch should have said yes and left Violet. However, Finch stays where he is and responds to Violet's words. Violet and Finch's conversation has no relevance at all. Thus, the violation of the maxim of relevance occurs because Finch does not provide a response that is relevant and appropriate to Violet's request. Overall, the violation of the maxim of relevance in this conversation shows that Finch did not respond in a relevant way to Violet's request, which resulted in vagueness and ambiguity in their conversation.

Maxim of Manner Violation

Violation of maxim of manner occurs when the speaker or listener gives a response that is ambiguous, unclear or vague. In the movie All the Bright Places, there is a violation of maxim of manner in the minute conversation (00:36:54 - 00:37:00).

Violet : What is this?

Finch : **That's a reminder that sooner or later, you're gonna have to get back into the world all by yourself.**

A violation of maxim manner occurs when the speaker provides ambiguous or unclear information, which makes the listener have to make further interpretations to understand the real intention. In this conversation, Finch's answer to Violet's question can be considered a violation of maxim manner because Finch gives an ambiguous and non-specific answer.

When Violet asks "What is this?" she asks for a specific explanation of an object or situation they are dealing with. However, Finch's answer, "That's a reminder that sooner or later, you're gonna have to get back into the world all by yourself," does not directly answer the question clearly. Finch gives a more philosophical or reflective statement, which may not provide a concrete explanation of what Violet is actually asking.

Finch's answer requires Violet and the audience to interpret for themselves what the "reminder" means and how it relates to their concrete situation. This ambiguity creates vagueness and can leave the listener feeling confused or needing additional context to understand the true meaning of

the conversation. Therefore, Finch's answer is considered to violate the maxim of manner because it does not provide clear and direct information according to the question asked by Violet.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this study is that the movie *All the Bright Places* (2020) contains various maxim violations that reflect the dynamics of communication between characters. Violations of quality maxims occur when characters provide information that is not entirely true or honest to protect the feelings of others, avoid conflict, or create a more comfortable atmosphere. Quantity maxim violations are seen when characters provide too much or too little information than necessary, which can create mystery, suspense, or illustrate a character's inability to communicate clearly. Violations of the maxim of relevance occur when a character changes the subject or gives a response that is out of context, often used to portray confusion, anxiety, or an attempt to avoid a sensitive topic. Violations of the maxim of manner involve the use of unclear, ambiguous, or difficult-to-understand language, which shows the complexity of a character's emotions or mental state and adds depth to the dialog. Overall, this analysis shows how maxims violations can be effectively used in movies to convey deeper messages and emotional nuances, as well as influence the audience in more subtle yet significant ways.

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