

FLOATING MAXIMS IN AN INTERVIEW OF DONALD TRUMP WITH TIME MAGAZINE

Arni Sukmiarni¹, Ulfiana Dewi²

Universitas Nasional PASIM

ceuarini11@gmail.com; ulfriad99@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This paper entitled Flouting Maxims in an interview of Donald Trump with the Time Magazine, aimed to identify the two highest number of floated Maxims in the responses said by Donald Trump in an interview with TIME Magazine. The study employed a descriptive qualitative method and the data were taken from a Donald Trump's transcript of an interview with TIME Magazine in the Oval Office in the year 2020. The responses of the interviewee were analyzed by applying the four conversational Maxims of Grice's Cooperative Principle, then categorized into types of floating Maxims. The result shows there are twenty-nine utterances of four conversational Maxims—quantity, quality, relevance, and manner. A maxim of quantity is the first highest number of floated Maxim—thirteen utterances, whereas a maxim of relevance is the second highest number of floated Maxim—ten utterances. It can be inferred that Donald Trump's utterances have an intended meaning to convey more information to share and a certain strategy to communicate his opinion when his irrelevant utterances are spoken.

Keywords: Flouting maxims of quantity, quality, relevance, manner.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a very essential component in life to use in communicating, delivering messages among people in forms of verbal and non-verbal communication. The former form of communication is through spoken and written language. Communication through Spoken language such as conversations, dialogues, presentations, speeches etc, involves a speaker and an interlocuter or more. These can be successfully understood by speakers and interlocuters when messages are well-conveyed and the feedbacks are well-received and understood by the speakers.

When a dialogue is taking place between a speaker and an interlocuter, the former is trying to find certain information by questioning, confirming to the latter. The interlocuter is expected to give answers to what the speaker asks. Commonly, ways of the interlocuter answer to all questions do not directly answer exactly to what is asked but many of the interlocuters give more information, or even insufficient, irrelevant answers. Even though responses from the interlocuters are not relevant, not sufficient, not directly answering the questions, the interlocuters are trying to be as cooperative as they can by giving responses to the questions asked. However, these kinds of responses potentially cause misinterpreting or misunderstanding between a speaker and an interlocuter. To avoid these come to happen, there is a set of principle ruling a conversation, four conversational Maxims of Grice's Cooperative Principle.

When a conversation fails to observe Grice's Cooperative Principle, this can float Maxims of the Grice's Cooperative Principle. Studies in the field of Pragmatics investigating floating Maxims have been conducted by applying the Grice's Cooperative Principle and

identifying which conversational Maxims are floated. One of them is a study conducted by Yuliani (2021), *Flouted Maxims in verbally Expressed Humour Forms in Avengers: Age of Ultron Movie* discusses the applying of Four conversational Maxims of Grice's Cooperative Principle and observes flouted Maxims which result in contributing effect to construct a humor. This study has similiarity with the present study in employing floating Maxims and the difference is the result of the previous study gives effects to construct a humour.

Another study of floating Maxims is *The analysis of flouting maxim in Good Morning America (GMA) talkshow* (Marlisa and Hidayat, 2020). This previous study analyzes the floating Maxim performed by the two hosts and the guest. Then, the results shows that the four maxim types are performed by the two hosts and the guest. The maxims of quantity and manner are cosidered as the dominant floating maxims and the floating maxims construct a fun communication between the two hosts and the guest. The difference from the present study is that this previous study involves the part of the hosts and the guest whereas the present study focuses on the part of an interviewee.

As it is highlighted in the previous paragraph, the present study attempts to explore the part of an interview's utterances that indicates floating Maxims and analyzes certain floating Maxims—the two highest Maxims floated in an interview of Donald Trump with TIME Magazine in the Oval Office in the year 2020.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Pragmatics is *'the sudy of language used in contextualized communication and the usage principles associated with it* (Grundy, 2008)". It is the study of recognizing the invisible meaning which is is not explicitly written or spoken. Furthermore, to reveal the intended meaning from what it is implicitly stated, speakers or writers must have insight of a lot of shared assumption and expectation (Yule, 2010: 128). Another definition is that *"Pragmatics studies the use of of language in human communication as determined by the condition of society* "(Mey, 2001:6). In other words, Pragmatics studies how to recognize intended meaning that is invisible and make sense of meaning in communicating among people.

Grice's Cooperative Principle (CP)

When people are involved in conversing, they are trying to make meaning during the conversation. To gain successfull communication both a speaker and an interlocuter need to be cooperative by employing these following principles.; principles of clarity, conciseness and directness. These cooperative principle are Grice's Cooperative Principle which has sub pragmatic-principle or four conversational Maxims (Grice,1975). The Maxims are quantity, quality, relevance and manner.

The four Conversational Maxims are as follows;

1. Maxim of Quantity : (1) Make your contributin as informative as it is required, (2) Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.
2. Maxim of Quality : (1) Do not say what you believe to be false, (2) Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

3. Maxim of Relevance : Be relevant
4. Maxim of Manner : Be perpeicious : (1) avoid obscurity of expression, (2) avoid ambiguity, (3) Be brief, (4) Be orderly.

Floating Maxims

Floating Maxims occur when people fail to observe the Maxims (Grice, 1975) and eventhough a speaker do not fully apply the rules of maxims, the speaker expects that the listener can make the meaning of the implied meaning (Cutting, 2002). Floating Maxims are (1) Floating Maxim of Quality,(2) Floating Maxim of Quantity, (3) Floating Maxim of Relevance, (4) Floating Maxim of Manner.

The first is floating Maxim of quantity occurs when a speaker conveys a little or more information than it is required. Next, floating Maxim of Quality is represented saying something that is blatantly untrue (Thomas,1995) or something that is not reperedented in the spaeker's thought (Cutting, 2008: 36). Using 'hyperbole','methaphor' and 'irony' in utterances can contribute to float maxims of quality. The third is floating Maxim of Relevance occurs when a spaeker's utterances is irrelevant. When a speaker departs the topic of conversation being discussed, but the hearer is aware of this (Noertjahjo, Arifin, Ariani, 2017). The last, floating Maxim of Manner takes place when a speaker say something ambigüe amd unclearly. When the speaker or writer does not talk clearly or not be obvious, but appears to be inarticulate and towards ambiguity (Cutting, 2002).

METHODOLOGY

A descriptive qualitative method is employed in this study. A qualitative research describes meaning, concepts and definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and things (Berg, 2001). The collected data was taken from the transcript of an interview of Donald Trump with TIME Magazine in the Oval Office in the year 2020. Next, Donald Trump as an interviewee is initialized as TR, and TIME Magazineas an interviewer is initialized as TM. The collected data were taken from the interview transcript from the online website. The data were identified by classifying them into the four conversational Maxims of Grice's Cooperative Principle as a grand theory. The four conversational Maxims are quantity, quality, relevance, and manner. The classified data was then analysed to determine the flouting maxim. There are 29 (twenty nine) data. Then, after the data was categorized into four conversational Maxims, then the first and second highest numbers of floated Maxim were analyzed.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Data From the Interview of TR with TM in the Oval Office in the 2020

This data separated into 4 sub data, they are: flouting maxim of quantity, flouting maxim of quality, flouting maxim of relevance, and flouting maxim of manner:

Flouting Maxim of Quantity

The flouting maxim found in the transcript was 13 out of 29 data and this quantity is observed as the most dominant category than the others type of Maxims. floating Maxim of quantity occurs when a speaker conveys a little or more information than it is required. Here are a sample of floating Maxim of Quality.

(21th line) TM : *Do you think there's a credibility problem in trying to get them on board, both because of Iraq intelligence, but also because of your own criticisms of the U.S. intelligence community over the years?*

(22nd line) TR : *No, I don't think we have any problems. I have a good group of people now. I have people that I want. And we have some terrific people, and no, that's not a problem. But what is a problem is that the United States takes care of the world, and the world doesn't take care of the world. The world doesn't want to take care of itself. There are some countries, as an example that benefit greatly, and they're rich countries. These are very rich countries in some cases, and they don't make contributions, and they haven't for many, many years. And at some point — you know, look, I've done a lot about that. If you look at NATO, if you call up Secretary General Stoltenberg, you'll see that, he said over \$100 billion has been contributed over the last very short period of time by other countries who were not living up to their 2% commitment and the 2% should be more than 2%, by the way. And over \$100 billion has been paid, and if you look at a chart of NATO, it's gone, go back 15 years, it's gone literally, the contribution, down here, and then it went up like this when I became — And I told them, I said, 'Look, the United States cannot continue to be—' I mean, they're not paying. They're literally not paying. We're protecting nations, and they're not paying, and it was very unfair. But Secretary General Stoltenberg was terrific. He tells it like it is. Big difference.*

Analysis : Based on the datum above, TR seems to convey information as comprehensive as he can. When TM asked about a credibility problem, TR responded by saying "No, I don't think we have any problems". However TR elaborated more details of information which is more than it is required, including the information of United States' concern for other countries. Therefore, this datum floats a maxim of quantity.

Flouting Maxim of Quality

There are 3 data indicating as flouting maxim of quality occurs in the interview of TR, Here are the samples of floating Maxim of Quality. Floating Maxim of Quality is represented saying something that is blatantly untrue (Thomas, 1995) or something that is not represented in the speaker's thought (Cutting, 2008). Here is a sample of floating Maxim of Quality.

(11th line) TM : *It does look as if you're getting drawn in rather than pulled out, especially with regard to the tankers. Are you concerned about Iran's attacks as--*

(12th line) TR : *Well, one of the things that seems to be rather ridiculous — also, Shea, do me a favor. Will you get the information I had yesterday — the people that benefit from the Straits. The companies, countries that benefit from the Straits. Just — I want to show you something. China gets 60% of their oil there. Japan 25% of their oil. So many of the other places get such vast amounts of oil there. We get very little. You know, we have made tremendous progress in the last 2-1/2 years in energy, and when the pipelines get built, we're now an exporter of energy. So we're not in the position that we were in, that we used to be in in the Middle East where we needed — you know we were there — some people would say we were there for the oil.*

Analysis : Based on the datum above, TR's response to TM's question appears to flout the maxim of quality. TR's explanation seems to be untrue.

Flouting Maxim of Relevance

There are 10 data containing flouting maxim of relation in the transcript of interview. Floating Maxim of Relevance occurs when a speaker's utterances is irrelevant. Here are the samples of floating Maxim of Relevance;

(30th line) TM: *Have you gotten any messages from Iran?*

(31th line) TR : [President asks to go off-the-record]

(32th line) TR : *Look — when I first — One of the first meetings I had was with the Pentagon, and we were talking about the Middle East, which I was always against going in. You know people always like to say, “Oh, maybe he was too —” I wasn't. I was always, I was against going into Iraq. It was a terrible... going into the Middle East was a terrible decision. We're into the Middle East for \$7 trillion. Many lives, and if you look at both sides, you know, unbelievable numbers of lives — because I look at both sides, I don't just look at the one side. I look at both sides. It was a terrible decision to go in. It's quicksand. Always has been, always will be. And we're doing just fine. We did ISIS. We're doing fine in terms of Afghanistan. We're down to half — we'll soon be down to about 8,000 soldiers.*

Analysis : Based on the dialogue above, floating Maxim of relevance occurred. When TM asked "Have you gotten any messages from Iran?", TR can answer "yes or no", but TR gave more explanation which was irrelevant with the topic in the questions.

(33th line) TM: *Are you going into direct talks with Iran and what would you ask for? What do you want?*

(34th line) TR : *Well, you know, I'm open whenever they're ready. Let's see, we have a long way to go before we get there, but I'm open when they're ready. But if you remember, sometimes it's hard to place yourself back in time, but if you go back 2-1/2 years, we had an absolute disaster going on. It was — Iran was causing problems like nobody' —*

Analysis : Based on the datum above, floating Maxim of Relevance happened. When TM asked "Are you going into direct talks with Iran and what would you ask for? What do you want?", TR just gave irrelevant responses which is not relevant to the question.

Flouting Maxim of Manner

There are 3 data indicating as flouting maxim of manner occurs in the interview of TR. Floating Maxim of Manner takes place when a speaker say something ambigüe amd unclearly, obscure. Here are the samples of floating Maxim of Manner.

(3th line) TM : *Are you considering more military action?*

(4th line) TR : *I wouldn't say that. I can't say that at all. It would be inappropriate. But they would be making a big mistake if they enriched.*

Analysis : Based on the datum above, TR does not provide a clear answer to the question. TR shows ambiguity whether he gave approval or disapproval with the questions aksed by saying "I wouldn't say that. I can't say that at all". Therefore, this floats amaxim of Manner.

(5th line) TM : *Are they calling your bluff on this or how do you see it?*

(6th line) TR : *Time will tell. Only time will tell.*

Analysis : Based on the datum above, floating Maxim of Manner happens. When TR's response by saying "Time will tell. Only time will tell", this responses becomes ambigüe to the topic of the question. It does not provide a clear answer to the question.

The list of flouting Maxims

Types of Flouting Maxim	Frequency	Percentage
Flouting Maxim of Quantity	13	44.84%
Flouting Maxim of Quality	3	10.34%
Flouting Maxim of Relevance	10	34.48%
Flouting Maxim of Manner	3	10.34%
Amount	29	100%

The table above indicates that floating Maxim of Quantity receives the first highest level--44.84% , and floating Maxim of Relevance is on the second highest level—34,48%. These indicate that TR often conveys more information than it is required, and seems to employ a strategy by giving irrelevant utterance towards the topic discussed. The strategy can be implicitly communicated that he has a power as a politician and a decision maker and well-knowledgeable of what he is concern with. Meanwhile floating Maxim of Quality and Manner reaches the balance level—10, 34% respectively. It can be inferred that he was trying to be as a cooperative as he can in involving in the interview.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result about the data of flouting maxim From the interview of TR with TM in the Oval Office in the year of 2020, it can be concluded as follows: (1). There are four types of flouting maxim identified namely: maxim of quantity, quality, relevance, and manner, occuring during interview. (2) The two highest floated Maxims are Maxim of

quantity and relevance. Maxim of quantity is found as the highest number of floated Maxim whereas Maxim of manner is as the lowest number of floated Maxim. This implicitly indicates that TR often provides comprehensive information than required. It can be inferred that Donald Trump's utterances have an intended meaning to convey more information to share and a certain strategy to communicate his opinion when his irrelevant utterances are spoken.

REFERENCES

- Berg, Bruce L.(2001). *Qualitative Research Method for the Social Sciences*. Amerika Serikat: Allyn and Bacon Pearson Education Company.
- Cutting, J. (2002). *Pragmatic and Discourse: A Resource Book for Students*. New York: Longman.
- Cutting, J.(2008). *Pragmatics and Discourse. A Research Book for Students*. USA and Canada: Routledge.
- Grice, H.P. (1975). *Logic and Conversation*. In Petter and Jerry L. Morgan (Eds). *Syntax and Semantics*. Vol 3(41-58). New York.Academic Press, Inc.
- Grundy, P. (2008). *Doing Pragmatics* (3rd Ed).Oxford : Oxford University Press.
- Marlisa, R and Hidayat, D.N.(2020). The analysis of flouting maxim in Good Morning America (GMA) talkshow. *Englisia: Journal of Language, Education, and Humanities*. 7(2): 132-142.
- Mey, Jacob, L. (2001). *Pragmatics. An Introduction (2nd Ed)*. Oxford and New York: Routledge.
- Noertjahjo, E., Arifin, M. B., & Ariani, S. (2017). Analysis of Flouting and Violating Towards of Maxim Quality in My Sister's Keeper Novel. *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya*, 1(03), 193- 2016. <http://dx.doi.org/10.30872/ilmubudaya.v1i3.671>
- Thomas, J. 1995. *Meaning in Interaction: An Introduction to Pragmatics*. Essex, England: Longman.
- Yule, G.(2010).*The Study of Language* (4th Ed).Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Yuliani, D and Ambarwati, R.,(2021). Flouted Maxims in verbally Expressed Humour Forms in Avengers: Age of Ultraman Movie *Jurnal Ilmiah Pustaka Ilmu*. 1(2):1-11.