

# FLOUTING MAXIM IN “*THE RON CLARK STORY*” MOVIE

**Amina Kumkelo<sup>1</sup>**

Department of English Education, Universitas PGRI Jombang

Pattimura III/20,61418, Indonesia

Email: [1nakumkelo@gmail.com](mailto:<sup>1</sup>nakumkelo@gmail.com)

## **Abstract**

This research is under pragmatics study. This study focuses on maxim flouting uttered by the characters in the ron clark story movie. This research aims (1) to find out the maxims are flouted in *The Ron Clark* movie, and (2) to reveal and explain the strategies used by the characters to flout maxims in the ron clark story. The researcher uses Grice’s theory (1975) and cutting’s theory (2002) in analyzing flouting maxim in this movie. This study applied qualitative research method. The data were collected from the utterances by the characters containing maxim flouting in *The Ron Clark Story* movie. The sources of the data were The ron clark story movie and its transcript. The researcher found 11 data. The results show that three maxims of Cooperative Principle are flouted. They are maxim of quantity is 4 times, manner is 4 times, and relation is 3 times. Besides, there are some strategies used by the characters to flout the maxims. Strategy giving more information, giving less information, being obscure, and being irrelevant. Thus, it can be concluded that the characters often floute the maxim of quantity and maxim of manner. This indicates that flouting maxims are often intentional and serve specific purposes, such as creating dramatic or humorous effects, although they may also lead to misunderstandings.

**Keyword:** *Cooperative Principle, Flouting Maxim, The Ron Clark Story*

## **Abstrak**

Penelitian ini adalah kajian pragmatis. Penelitian ini berfokus pada pelanggaran maksim yang diucapkan oleh para tokoh dalam film *"The ron clark story"*. Penelitian ini bertujuan (1) untuk mengetahui pelanggaran maksim dalam film The Ron Clark, dan (2) untuk mengungkap dan menjelaskan strategi yang digunakan para tokoh untuk melanggar maksim dalam cerita ron clark. Peneliti menggunakan teori Grice (1975) dan teori cutting (2002) dalam menganalisis pelanggaran maksim dan strategi dalam film ini. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Data dikumpulkan dari ucapan seluruh karakter yang mengandung pelanggaran maksim dalam film The Ron Clark Story. Sumber data selanjutnya adalah film cerita *The Ron Clark* dan transkripnya. Peneliti menemukan 11 data. Hasilnya menunjukkan bahwa tiga maksim Prinsip Kerjasama yang dilanggar. Yaitu maksim quantity 4 kali, maksim cara 4 kali, dan maksim hubungan 3 kali. Selain itu, ada beberapa strategi yang digunakan oleh karakter untuk melanggar maksim. Strategi memberikan lebih banyak informasi, memberikan lebih sedikit informasi, tidak jelas, dan tidak relevan. Dengan demikian dapat disimpulkan bahwa para karakter lebih sering melanggar maksim quantity dan maksim cara. Hal ini mengindikasikan bahwa pelanggaran maksim sering kali dilanggar karena memiliki tujuan tertentu, seperti menciptakan efek dramatis atau humor, meskipun hal tersebut juga dapat menyebabkan kesalahpahaman.

## **INTRODUCTION**

As social beings, humans cannot live in isolation as they depend on each other to support their lives. Humans need to establish relationships and interact with others to sustain their livelihoods. Communication is a part of man's life in this world so he needs interaction with others in his activities. Communication is the activity between speaker and listener in sending and receiving information and messages to convey feelings, ideas or whole minds. People use more of the language they use to achieve personal understanding.

According to Grice (1975) when someone flouts maxim rules or doesn't provide direct information, they are implying that there is a hidden meaning they want to convey. Cutting (2002:37) states flouting the maxims takes place when the speaker does not follow the maxims but the speaker assumes that the hearer can infer the implicit meaning. Flouting the maxim happens when the speaker provides too much or too little information when the speaker says what does not represent what they think, when the speaker provides irrelevant answers and when the speaker gives ambiguous answers. Everyone can produce utterances whenever they are, for instance in the office, school, home, movie, etc. The phenomenon of maxim flouting can be seen not only in real life but also in movies. One of the motives why the movie is selected as the object to be analyzed in this research, is because in the movie many dialogues and conversations can be analyzed based on the situation and conditions and due to the fact maximum of folks like looking at movies, now not only people whose stay in massive cities, however people who stay in small town. In this research, the researcher analyzed the characters' dialogues in this movie which contain four maxims.

By analyzing the flouting maxims in the movie the ron clark story, researchers can identify and analyze the flouting maxims performed by the main character. based on this, the objectives of this study are: 1) To find out the flouting of the maxim used by the characters in the "The Ron Clark Story" movie and 2) To reveal and explain the strategies used in the flouting of maxims by the characters of the "The Ron Clark Story" movie.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study analyzes the maxim of flout in the utterances of the characters in the movie "The Ron Clark Story". Qualitative research was chosen by the researcher. According to Creswell (2009:176), qualitative research is a type of interpretive investigation where researchers provide interpretations of their observations, auditory experiences, and comprehension. The purpose of qualitative study is to comprehend

the significance, concepts, definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and descriptions associated with an event or action. It aims to explore the “what, how, when, and where” aspects to establish a deeper understanding.

According to Ary et al (2018:29) there are several types of qualitative research, namely basic interpretative studies, case studies, document or content analysis, ethnography, grounded theory, historical studies, narrative inquiry, and phenomenological studies. This research uses content analysis design. According Ary et al (2018:457), content analysis is a research method applied to written or visual materials for the purpose of identifying specified characteristics of the material. The materials analyzed can be textbooks, newspapers, web pages, speeches, television programs, movie, advertisements, musical compositions, or any of a host of other types of documents. The researcher tries to describe in detail and in depth about the types and strategies flouting of maxims in the ron clark story movie. The data sources used are transcripts and movies with the title *The Ron Clark Story* directed by Randa Haines. The data of this study was taken from the dialogs of the characters in this movie that contain flouting of maxim.

According to qualitative research, humans are the best instrument for conducting research. Ary et al. (2018:424) said, in qualitative research, humans are believed to be the most flexible instrument which is the main instrument for collecting and analyzing data. The main instrument in this research is documents and the researcher himself. Besides, the supporting instruments use table of content to help in data collecting procedure. There are some steps in analyzing the data. According to Miles and Huberman (2014:8), there are three steps in analyzing data: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. Data condensation involves selecting, focusing, and simplifying the raw data from real transcriptions. Data display is the organized representation of information, including the conclusion. Conclusion drawing involves stating the research findings. According to Creswell (2018:274) there are some techniques to check the accuracy of the data such as peer review or debriefing, triangulation, member checking, external auditor, and many more. In arrange the

trustworthiness test of the data, the researcher apply triangulation. Triangulation is characterized as really looking at the data from different things. Denzin on Moleong (2014:330) clarified that triangulation it is isolated into a few types, namely data triangulation, method triangulation and investigator triangulation. From the four types of triangulation over, the researcher just utilizes data triangulation. To check whether the data is substantia or not, the approval would be check by the expert to the study identify with this research. In this study, the researcher used a doctoral lecturer in linguistics in this field of research. In this case, the researcher checked the results of the research with one lecturer, namely a linguistics lecturer at the UPJB English Education Department.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **RESULT**

The researcher found 11 utterances by the characters that flout maxim. The data are categorized based on the theory of flouting maxim by Grice and cutting. There are three kinds of maxims which are flouted by the characters; there are flouting maxim of quantity, flouting maxim of relevance, and flouting maxim of manner. In addition, the strategies of flouting maxim found were only 4 strategies out of 8 existing strategies. including the strategies of giving to much information, giving to little information, being irrelevant, and being obscure.

#### **1. Types of Maxim Flouting in *The Ron Clark Story* Movie**

##### **a. Flouting Maxim of Quantity**

##### **Data 1 (Code. FQn.5:45)**

Receptionist: Why you want school listings for?

**Mr. Clark: I'm a teacher.**

Receptionist: And you want to teach? Up in Harlem?

Mr. Clark: Yes.

Mr. Clark flouts the maxim of quantity when Mr. Clark responds with “I’m a teacher”. The receptionist asks why Mr. Clark needs a list of school names in the city of Harlem. The receptionist's question shows that she wants to know the reason why Mr. Clark needs the list of schools. However, Mr. Clark’s answer does not provide enough information about the purpose or reason why he wants to know the school information.

Data 3. (Code. FQn.8:07)

Clark: No, I mean, who is that?

**Jason: Marissa. And she’s even more beautiful out of costume. I’m Jason. Otherwise known as Mark Antony.**

Mr. Clark: Sorry.

Jason: It happens all the time, bro. Don’t sweat it.

In the data presented above, Mr. Clark inquires about the woman to Jason. However, Jason provides more information than necessary by introducing himself. This flout the maxim of quantity.

#### **b. Flouting Maxim of Relevance**

**Data 6 (Code FRI.14:33)**

Clark: Shameika Wallace? I'm Mr. Clark, your new teacher. I called earlier.

**Shameika: It’s Saturday, fool**

Mrs. Wallace: Shameika, who is it?

Shameika: Nobody.

In the above conversation Shameika flouts the maxim of relevance, when she responds “It’s Saturday” does not respond directly to his introduction or question. Shameika responds with a different topic. here Mr. Clark is expected

to accept the message conveyed. because he says it's Saturday so he can't pick up the phone on Saturday.

**c. Flouting Maxim of Manner**

**Data 2 (Code FMn.8.00)**

Mr. Clark: Hey, who's that?

Jason: **That's the queen of Egypt. In love with Mark Antony.**

Clark: No, I mean, who is that?

In the above conversation, Jason flouts the maxim of manner because his response is ambiguous. because he says that "That's the queen of Egypt. In love with Mark Antony", even though the woman is not the queen of Egypt. This makes communication ineffective and confuses Mr. Clark so he asks Jason the same question again.

**Data 11 (FMn. 1:00:48)**

Mr. Clark: Julio, did you do this?

**Julio: You like it, Mr. Clark?**

**Mr. Clark:** It's really good. You got quite a talent for this.

In the conversation above, there is flouting maxim of Manner. Maxims manner emphasize clarity and order in communication. in the conversation above, the flouting maxim of manner occurs when Julio does not give a direct or clear "yes" or "no" answer to the question asked by Mr. Clark. Instead, Julio diverts the conversation with another question that is not directly related to the original question. This is not in accordance with the principle of cooperation in communication, because Julio does not give a direct or appropriate response to the question asked, which should maintain the clarity and organization of the conversation.

## **2. Strategies of Maxim Flouting in *The Ron Clark Story* Movie**

### **a. Strategy to Give Little Information**

In the first data (Code. FQn.5:45), Mr. Clark is not interested in answering questions. Mr. Clark was in a hurry to apply for a job, so when asked by the receptionist, he gave a short answer, saying, "I'm a teacher." This short response gave little information because he seemed uninterested in the conversation. According to Cutting (2002), those who flout the quantity maxim often tend to provide insufficient information because they are not interested in the conversation.

### **b. Strategy to Give Less Information**

The third of data (Code: FQn.8:07), Jason provides Mr. Clark with more information than necessary. He mentions, "Marissa. And she's even more beautiful out of costume. I'm Jason. Otherwise known as Mark Antony." This indirectly implies that Jason is jealous of the woman Mr. Clark is discussing, as she happens to be his girlfriend. He does not want Mr. Clark to find out about her.

### **c. Strategy to Being Irrelevant**

In the data (Code FRI.14:33), Shameika responded "It's Saturday." However, her answer was unclear and she did not address all of Mr. Clark's questions. Shameika's response contained implied meaning, making it irrelevant to Clark's question.

### **d. Strategy to Being Obscure**

In the data with code FMn.8.00, Jason's response was ambiguous. He intentionally gave an unclear answer, confusing Mr. Clark. In other data with code FMn.1:00:48, Julio's response is employing the strategy of flouting maxim by being obscure. This is happening because he is asking about something that is not directly related to the topic being discussed, which confuses and diverts the direction of the conversation. Although Julio can directly answer "yes" or "no" to the question asked, he avoids giving a direct answer and instead diverts the



direction of the conversation. This makes the message conveyed unclear or ambiguous.

## **DISCUSSION**

The first problem of the research, dealing with what maxims are flouted by the main characters on the Ron Clark Story movie, the researcher finds that three kinds of maxims, namely maxim of quantity is 4 times, maxim of relevance is 3 times, and maxim of manner is 4 times are flouted by the characters of the movie. It shows that flouting maxims appears in the movie because movie as one of literary works also represents the real daily conversation between the characters. In the movie “The Ron Clark Story”, the characters often flout the maxim of quantity in their communication. This means that they either give too little or too much information, which makes their statements uninformative. In line with Fitri (2020) and Gustary (2018), say that speaker flout the maxim of quantity by giving much more more information and giving less informative contribution. because they want to explain more about the topic and to stress something so that the hearer has clear understanding. Sinaga (2020) says that speakers flout the maxim of quantity because gives the long information. Flouting maxim of manner also used by the character in The Ron Clark Story movie. That’s because the characters say something is unclear and ambiguous to the listener or expresses an expression that has several possible meanings. In this case, the characters commonly flout the maxim of manner often speak unclearly, making listeners confused about what is being said. Flouting maxim of relevance is the least dominant used by the character in the Ron Clark Story movie. in this case, because the character is deliberately avoiding the topic because they are not interested in the topic being discussed. In line with Fitri (2020) the characters chose to flout the maxim of relevance by giving irrelevant contribution because they want to change the topic of the conversation and they want to avoid taking about something. The second problem of the research, the researcher wants to reveal and explain the strategies of flouting maxim used on the characters of The Ron Clark Story movie. the researcher finds that four

kinds of strategy of flouting maxims, namely giving too little information, giving too much information, being irrelevant, and being obscure.

Strategy of Being Irrelevant. The frequency of being irrelevant is also 3 out of 11. Fitri (2020) found that speakers flout the maxim of quantity are caused by nervousness so that speakers giving too much information. On the other hand, speakers flout the maxim of quantity by giving less informative contributions because they do not want to offend other people. In this study, researchers found that the character flouted the maxim of quantity because giving less information was thought to be because they were in a hurry and were not interested. Not only that, the flouting maxim of quantity can occur when the characters give more information out of jealousy so that the speaker tries to explain something by to explain about something by giving too much information and expecting that the hearer will understand more about the topic.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the first objective of this research that is to find out the maxims flouted in The Ron Clark Story movie, the researcher found only three maxims are flouted. They are maxim of quantity, relation and manner. Based on the findings, there are 11 data, represent maxim flouting in the utterances in movie in this study. Flouting of quantity maxim occurs 4 times, flouting of relation maxim occurs 3 times, and flouting of manner maxim occurs 4 times. Based on the data the flouting maxim of quantity and flouting maxim of manner is the most dominant maxim flouting uttered by the characters in this movie. The second objective which is reveal and explain the strategies of maxim flouting performed by the characters in The Ron Clark Story movie, it can be concluded that only some of the strategies to flout the maxim are done by the characters in the movie. They are giving too little information, giving too much information, being irrelevant and being obscure. Giving too little and too much information is used to flout the maxim of quantity, being irrelevant is used to flout the maxim of relation. Meanwhile, being obscure is used to flout the maxim of manner.

The most used strategy is being obscure. It is because the characters often speak in a disorganized manner or give unclear or ambiguous responses.

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