



A Pragmatic Analysis of Flouting Maxim Performed by The Main Characters of Radium Girls Movie

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ABSTRACT

A movie becomes a big source for both entertainment or education. Radium Girls is a play written by D. W. Gregory, to be filmed and released in 2018. It is an interesting movie because the story is based on a historical true story that happened in the 1920s. Radium Girls is analyzed by exploring the flouting maxim which appears in the dialogues between the characters of the play and to find out the implicit meaning of the flouting maxim. To find out the flouting maxim uttered by main characters (the girls) in this Radium Girls movie based on the stages found in a narrative circle in this study, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative method. There are 71 utterances employed by the main characters of the Radium Girls movie. They were distributed in flouting maxim of quality; three data, flouting maxim of quantity; thirty-five data, flouting maxim of relation; twenty-one data, and flouting maxim of manner; twelve data. The speech act is used to describe what utterances are intended to do. Declaratory can be used to flout maxim of quantity and maxim of manner. Expressive speech act can be used to flout maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. Assertive can be used to flout all type of maxim while commissive can be used to flout maxim of quantity and maxim of relation. The last, directory can be used to flout maxim of quantity and maxim of relation.

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INTRODUCTION

Pragmatics is the branch of linguistics that deals with the use of language, social context and how people create and understand the meaning of information. Communication between two people or more usually happens in conversations. To make the communication more efficient, conversations must follow the rules of Cooperative Principles; the way a person engages with others. In actuality, this clarifies the underlying ideas or tenets of how people connect with one another (Aziz et al., 2019).

In a conversation, the speaker makes an assumption that the listener can cooperate with them in interacting to achieve the conversation's intended goal. Because of this, the speaker makes the assumption that the audience is familiar with the same fundamental concepts. However, there are situations when interacting or communicating incorrectly happens for a variety of reasons. These elements could result from cultural and language variances between the speaker and the audience. And that results in incorrect assumptions. We require the fundamentals of engaging or talking for this reason. These fundamentals are broken down into four conversational maxims, according to Grice (1975), including: number, quality, relation, and manner. Every time someone converse with someone else, the individual must violate the previously mentioned maxims. Several things could lead to this (Natasya & Sari, 2019).

Grice (1975) defined flouting as the act where the speaker clearly fails to make a point to the listener. Usually, the speaker was purposefully flouting the rules when it happened. Contrary to the adage, the speaker genuinely wants the audience to consider other interpretations of his remarks. The four flouting maxims are: the quantity flouting maxim, the quality flouting maxim, the relevance flouting maxim, and the method flouting maxim. When a speaker overtly provides more or less information than necessary, they are shamelessly flouting the maxim of quantity. They may purposefully say too much or too little with the intention of continuing the conversation. Speaking untruthfully or telling a lie constitutes flouting the quality maxim. The flouting of maxim not only can be seen in real life but also in the films (Ulfah & Afrilia, 2018). Therefore, the play was the data source used to analyze the flouting of maxim in this study because it represents the reality in which people flout the maxim almost every day.

A movie becomes a big source for both entertainment or education. According to Hornby (2006:950) film refers to a series of moving images captured with sound telling a story, shown in a movie theater/movie. As the moving images series with sound, the movie is a work of drama consisting of dialogues between the characters and intended to be performed. Radium Girls is a play written by D. W. Gregory, to be filmed and released in 2018. It is an interesting movie because the story is based on a historical true story that happened in the 1920s. Radium Girls is analyzed by exploring the flouting maxim which appears in the dialogues between the characters of the play and to find out the implicit meaning of the flouting maxim.

This is the story of women who work in radium dial factories in the United States. The radium they use to paint the numbers on the dials covers women from head to toe – many women even ingest the chemical. Radium makes these women shine. Gradually, the women began to fall ill with mysterious symptoms such as non-healing wounds and degenerated bones. No one seems to be on their side when they sue companies for their illness. Ultimately, women will set the standard for workers' rights in the United States

in the 20th century. The main characters of the Radium Girls movie are Bessie, Josephine, Etta, Doris, Agnes and Paula. They stand to seek justice against the American Radium in the court. During the process, the main characters may flout the maxim.

When a speaker is employing flouting maxim, the hearer will still think that he/she is following the maxims of Cooperative Principles. Thus, the hearer has to look for the connotative meaning of the utterance said by the speaker. The hearer will also know that there is a hidden reason for the speaker to employ maxim flouting (Husna & Adam, 2022). The four types of flouting maxim are described below:

1. Flouting maxim of quantity. The speaker who flouts the maxim of quantity appears to inform more or less details than the hearer actually needs to know. The example below will give an explanation about how the speaker flouts the maxim of quantity.
2. Flouting maxim of quality. When a speaker scoffs at the quality of a speech, he doesn't say what he really wants to say. The speaker wants something behind the words that must be delivered by the listener.
3. Flouting maxim of relation. In this floating maxim, basically giving a statement in which the statement he made has no close relationship with the previous statement he said. In this case, the violation of the maxim is related to the meaning of the implied meaning in this sentence which later relates to the expression that was conveyed before.
4. Flouting maxim of manner. The speaker who flouts the maxim of manner says something that is not clear enough for the hearer or utters an expression which has some possible meanings. Thus, when using maxim flouting of manner, the speaker is often confusing the hearer about the meaning carried by the speaker's utterances. This kind of maxim flouting is often used by the speaker to avoid other people to know about what kind of topic being talking about.

There have been several studies conducted on analyzing flouting maxim. Adiari et al., (2021) with the title "The Functions of Floating Maxim That Uttered by Characters of The Hunger Games Movie". This study aims to explore the functions of floating maxims that occur in conversations between characters. The function of flouting maxim in the context is more accurate to understand when the speech act theory is applied. Speech act gives the basic clue for the meaning of the utterances. There are 5 types of speech act due to Searle (1979) namely functioning as representative, directive, commissive, expressive and declarative. Meanwhile, Albiansyah et al., (2021) in "An Analysis of Maxims Violation Acted by the Main Characters in the 'Tilik' Short Film" analyzed the flouting maxim in one of the main characters of that movie the findings indicated that the main characters carried out all four types of flouting maxim.

Based on the previous study there are flouting maxims in every movie that appeared between the dialogues among the characters, especially the main characters.

The flouting maxim has implicit meaning and purpose that is interesting to be analyzed. The different speech acts give different messages to the listener. All the types of speech act have the possibility to be truth or liar. For this study, there is some novelty such as using the method and analysis techniques by Spradley (1980). The analysis divided into narrative stages started from orientation, complication, and resolution. The previous study has not spotted those stages. They focused on flouting maxim itself without doing holistic analysis in each stage of the plots. Therefore, this study aims to identify the flouting maxim uttered by main characters (the girls) in this Radium Girls movie based on the stages found in a narrative circle. The girls in this movie had been chosen as the object of study because they are the center of the story that depicted the real story of miserable radium poisoning in the 1920's that sought for justice that was probably doing flouting maxim.

RESEARCH METHOD

To find out the flouting maxim uttered by main characters (the girls) in this Radium Girls movie based on the stages found in a narrative circle in this study, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative method. The object of investigation focused on the utterances made by the characters in the Radium Girl movie that contains the flouting maxims. Based on Fraenkel (2012), qualitative data is collected in the form of words or images and not numbers.

Documentary techniques are the best approach for this study. Documenting is the process of reading, researching, and analyzing a study to gather the necessary data. The following procedures were used for data collection: Downloading the selected movie, Radium Girls from the <https://movies.waploaded.com/>. In order to understand the utterances better, the subtitle was downloaded from www.sublikescript.com on June 5th, 2023. Then, watching the movie, reading the complete sentences of the script, identifying the statements of the script, separating the utterances from the script, managing the data or inventory them in a table, and the last step is to re-encoding the data now available based on the theoretical concept proposed by Grice (1975).

After data collection, the data were analyzed using the ethnographic analysis model of Spradley (1980) as in Nafalia & Hartati (2022). Ethnography is a methodology based on observation. There are four stages of ethnographic data: domain analysis, taxonomy analysis, component analysis and cultural thematic analysis (Nafalia & Hartati, 2022).

First, domain analysis is performed to find general information from the underlying study object. It is applied to categorize the utterances based on the datum in speech. The main variables studied were the flouting maxim and the reason for flouting maxim. The second step is taxonomic analysis by classifying the data and applying the data coding based on the classification. Third, a composition analysis is performed to

recap the result after knowing the types of flouting maxim and the speech act how to flout the maxim. Finally, an analysis of cultural themes was conducted to find relationships between the domains and the characters of the Radium Girls movie.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This part discusses the findings from this research which consist of a research question, namely (1) What are the flouting maxim uttered by main characters (the girls) in this Radium Girls movie based on the stages found in a narrative circle? The girls in this Radium Girls movie are named Bessie, Josephine, Etta, Doris, Agnes and Paula who are the center of the story. The researchers then categorized utterances based on the types of flouting maxim. Those are flouting maxim of quality, flouting maxim of quantity, flouting maxim of manner, and flouting maxim of relation.

Table 1.

The Overall Frequency and Distribution of Maxim Flouting in The Movies

Flouting Maxim	Number	%
Quality	3	4,22
Quantity	35	49,30
Relation	21	29,58
Manner	12	16,90
Total	71	100,00

Table 1. showed that there are 71 utterances employed by the main characters of the Radium Girls movie. They were distributed in flouting maxim of quality; three data, flouting maxim of quantity; thirty-five data, flouting maxim of relation; twenty-one data, and flouting maxim of manner; twelve data. From those data, it could be seen that the flouting maxim of quantity was the highest frequency among the others. It indicated that the speaker gave much more information than the listener needed. The speaker did it because they want to give detailed information to answer the listener. The second rank was filled by flouting the maxim of relation. It meant that the speaker hid the truth by responding to the utterances out of the topic. It happened when the factory girls denied that the radium was toxic to protect their income. The third rank came to flouting the maxim of manners. It means that the speaker says something that is not clear enough for the hearer or utters an expression which has some possible meanings. The lowest was flouting the maxim of quality. It indicated that in this movie the factory girls are almost telling the truth. The maxim of quality happens in the utterances because the victims want to hide their condition to their families.

Speech act is a theory which studies the meaning of utterance based on actions which are proven in the form of actual communication. Yule (1996:133) explains that speech acts is the action performed by the speaker with an utterance while Austin

(1962) defines the speech acts as the action used by the language to modify the state of the object in which the action takes place completely. Follow Cutting (2002:2) Speech acts describe what utterances are intended to do. For example, to order, execute a request, to notify, to give advice, promise, apologize and threaten. Then, the conversation in the movie is the action in delivering messages to the audience by speech act. The characters in this movie use many words to stress something, to explain more and want the hearer to follow what she/he says. In some conditions, the main characters of the Radium Girls movie fail to fulfill the maxim of conversation because of some reasons but the conversation still runs well. This condition is called the flouting maxim. In the next section, the speech act will be discussed in each maxim to know the speech act in each flouting maxim (Lubis et al., 2021).

Flouting Maxim of Quality

The results of the data collection and analysis show that the main characters of the Radium Girl movie indeed flout maxim of quality with two speech act as shown in the Table 2.

Table 2.
The Frequency and Distribution of Speech Act in Flouting Maxim of Quality

Speech Act	Number	%
Declaratory	0	0,00
Expressive	2	66,67
Assertive	1	33,33
Commissive	0	0,00
Directory	0	0,00
Total	3	100,00

Table 2. showed that there are three utterances in flouting maxim of quality employed by the main characters of Radium Girls movie. They were distributed based on speech act by Austin (1962) and Searle (1969): declaratory; zero data, expressive; two data, assertive; one data, commissive; zero data, and directory zero data. According to data, it could be seen that the highest frequency of speech act was expressive. It meant that the characters gave expressive utterances such as thanking and apologizing. But, related to flouting the maxim of quality, the expressive utterance in here meant that the speaker was saying thanks and apologizing insincerely. It indicated they hid their true feeling which is not really thanking and apologizing. The next was an assertive speech act in the second rank. It meant that the information given by the girls was not true. The number of flouting maxims of quality in assertive speech act only one utterance showed that the girls giving real fact and their witness could be trusted. In this utterance, Jo said to Bessy that she was studying because Jo wanted to be alone. The following example is taken from our data:

Walt : Well, don't apply to the fireworks factory.

Bessi : Huh?

Walt : Or the hattery, or the shoe factory, or the canning plant. White phosphorus, mercury, benzene. Chronic toxins. White phosphorus, mercury, benzene. Chronic toxins.

Bessi : Okay, okay. Thanks for the pep talk, Walt.

The conversation occurred between Bessie and Walt, as shown in the dialogue above. He prohibits Bessie to apply a job on the factory. Then, Bessie says thank you for warning her, but she is still thinking of looking for a job in the factory because her family needs big money and she has no job. The utterance from Bessie is expressive because she said thank you. The expressive point when the speaker expresses their attitudes about objects and facts of the world (Kubo & Vanderveken, 2001). It is flouting maxim the quality because the utterance not sincerely thanks.

Flouting Maxim of Quantity

The results of the data collection and analysis show that the main characters of the Radium Girl movie indeed flout maxim of quantity with five speech acts as shown in the Table 3.

Table 3.

The Frequency and Distribution of Speech Act in Flouting Maxim of Quantity

Speech Act	Number	%
Declaratory	3	8,57
Expressive	5	14,29
Assertive	25	71,43
Commissive	1	2,86
Directory	1	2.86
Total	35	100,00

Table 3. showed that there are thirty-five utterances in flouting the maxim of quantity done by the main characters of Radium Girl movie. They were distributed based on speech acts in: declaratory; three data, expressive; five data, assertive; twenty-five data, commissive; one data, and directory; one data. The first rank came to be assertive. It means that the character commits to the truth in giving the fact of what is asserted. They ensure to give detailed information in answering the question from the listener. The second rank was expressive. It concluded that the speaker expressed their expression exaggeratedly. The third rank was declaratory. It meant that the girls confirmed, disapproved and disclaimed the listener's utterances. Commissive and directory were in the lowest rank. Commissive meant that the speaker refusing the

listener's demand. Then, directory meant the speaker requesting and begging to the listener. The following example is taken from our data:

Bessie : It's Mary.

Walt : Is she famous?

Bessie : No, no, she's my sister. She used to work here. She passed away three years ago. She practically raised me and Jo. Our parents died when we were young.

The conversation between Bessie with Walt located in Mr. Leech office. They look at the photograph in Mr. Leech office. Bessie answered Walt's question with detail information about Mary to make Walt knew about Mary. It is included to assertive speech act. Assertive is a type of illocutionary point stated what one's belief to be the case or not. Speaker achieves the assertive point when they represent how things are in the world (Kubo & Vanderveken, 2001). It is flouting maxim of quantity because the speaker gives much information to the listener.

Flouting Maxim of Relation

The results of the data collection and analysis show that the main characters of the Radium Girl movie indeed flout maxim of relation with four speech acts as shown in the Table 4.

Table 4.
The Frequency and Distribution of Speech Act in Flouting Maxim of Relation

Speech Act	Number	%
Declaratory	0	0,00
Expressive	5	23,81
Assertive	5	23,81
Commissive	1	4,76
Directory	10	47,62
Total	21	100,00

Table 4. showed that there are twenty-one utterances in flouting the maxim of relation that uttered by the girls. It is divided into: declaratory; zero, expressive; five, assertive; five, commissive; one, and directory; ten. The highest frequency of speech was directory. It meant that the speaker requested and gave command to the listener to refuse answering the listener's question. The second was expressive and assertive. It meant that the speaker gave thanks or sorry for misleading the conversation. Assertive means that the speaker gives different answers to answer the question. The last one was commissive. It meant that the speaker flouted the maxim of relation by swearing. The following example is taken from our data:

Jo : Um...Please leave.

Bessie : Jo, I think that you need a doctor.

The dialogue above happened between Josephine and Bessie. The setting of place was in the bathroom. Bessie sought Jo in their room but there is no Jo at there. Suddenly, Bessie opened the bathroom door and saw Josephine was bleeding. Jo asked Bessie to leave. Bessie answered Jo with her suggestion. It means that this utterance is directory. The directive point is achieved when the speaker makes an attempt to the hearer to do something (Kubo & Vanderveken, 2001). This flouted maxim of relation because Bessie's utterance has no close relationship with the previous statement Jo said.

Flouting Maxim of Manner

The results of the data collection and analysis show that the main characters of the Radium Girl movie indeed flout maxim of manner with three speech acts as shown in the Table 5.

Table 5.
The Frequency and Distribution of Speech Act in Flouting Maxim of Manner

Speech Act	Number	%
Declaratory	4	33,33
Expressive	1	8,33
Assertive	7	58,33
Commissive	0	0,00
Directory	0	0,00
Total	12	100,00

Table 5. showed that there are twelve utterances in flouting the maxim of manners that are uttered by the main characters. It is divided into: declaratory; four data, expressive; one data, assertive; seven data. The highest one was assertive. It meant that the characters in the movie gave information based on the reality. Declaratory was in the second rank followed by assertive in the lowest. Declaratory means blessings, firings, baptisms, arrests, marrying, juridial speech acts such as sentencings, declaring a mistrial, declaring s.o.out of order, etc. The following example is taken from our data:

Bessie : I promise I'll do better this week.

Jo : I'm docking your allowance.

The dialogues above happened between Josephine and Bessie. Bessie get the trouble with her work. Her painting was awful and did not reach the target. She promised to do better. Then, Jo docking her pocket money or her allowance to go out with Walt as the punishment. The declaratory point when do things in the world at the moment of the utterance solely by virtue of saying that they do (Kubo & Vanderveken, 2001). Flouted maxim of manner happened because something that is not clear enough for the hearer or utters an expression which has some possible meanings.

Based on the result and discussion above, it found that declaratory can be used to flout maxim of quantity and maxim of manner. Expressive speech act can be used to

flout maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. Assertive can be used to flout all type of maxim while commissive can be used to flout maxim of quantity and maxim of relation. The last, directory can be used to flout maxim of quantity and maxim of relation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the conducted research analysis, it can be concluded that: movies have certain aspects that can reflect phenomenon more clearly depicted through setting, setting, and facial expressions, and the utterances. The main characters of Radium Girls flouted maxim of quality, quantity, relation, and manner with the various speech act to stress something. The result is 71 utterances employed by the main characters of the Radium Girls movie. They were distributed in flouting maxim of quality; three data, flouting maxim of quantity; thirty-five data, flouting maxim of relation; twenty-one data, and flouting maxim of manner; twelve data. Declaratory can be used to flout maxim of quantity and maxim of manner. Expressive speech act can be used to flout maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. Assertive can be used to flout all type of maxim while commissive can be used to flout maxim of quantity and maxim of relation. The last, directory can be used to flout maxim of quantity and maxim of relation.

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