

# FLOUTING MAXIM PERFORMED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN THE EDGE OF SEVENTEEN MOVIE

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## ABSTRACT

*This research aims at identifying the kinds of flouting maxim performed by the main character in The Edge of Seventeen movie and finding out the effect of flouting maxim performed by the main character in the movie. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research are twenty dialogues of The Edge of Seventeen movie containing flouting maxim. In analyzing the data, the researcher found that Nadine as the main character of the movie flouted all types of maxim. The most flouting maxim used by Nadine is floating maxim of quantity and, the least flouting maxim performed by Nadine are flouting maxim of quality and flouting maxim of manner. For the effects, Nadine gave seven effects based on Austin's Perlocutionary effect theory to the other character of the movie. The seven effects based on Austin's theory are annoying, boring, convincing, causing, getting the hearer realize something, getting the hearer to do something, and insulting. Further, the effect that mostly performed by Nadine in the movie is getting the hearer realize something effect.*

**Keywords:** *Cooperative Principle, Flouting Maxim, Perlocutionary Effect, The Edge of Seventeen*

## 1. Introduction

The means of communication is to connect people with a clear understanding in which the participants give and receive information to and from one another. In daily life, humans have to engage in communication to interact with one another. In a conversation, there are two essential roles taking part, they are speakers and hearers interchanging their role. To avoid misunderstanding in communication, both of the speaker and the hearer should be cooperative. Grice (Wardough, 2006: 293) states that conversation is a cooperative activity. In other words, to make a good conversation like explained above, some rules should be followed by the participants in the conversation, which is called Cooperative

Principle. Cooperative principle is a theory introduced by H. Paul Grice in 1975. Grice (1975) in an article named Logic and Conversation said "Make your conversational contribution such as required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged". It can be stated that the speakers and the hearers of the conversation have mutual desire to convey and interpreting the meaning of the utterances. The cooperative principle itself consists of four maxims, the first, maxim of quality (tell the truth), second, maxim of quantity (answer as required), third, maxim off relation (make it relevant), and the last, maxim of manner (make it clear). With these four maxims, the conversation will run smoothly.

According to Cutting (2002:37) flouting maxim is a situation when the speaker did not follow the maxims but expects the hearer to appreciate the meaning implied. By flouting maxims, the speakers seem to be uncooperative, but actually, they did. They flout maxims because of some reasons. Behind the utterances, there are some hidden meanings and purposes tried to be conveyed by the speaker. There are four types of flouting maxim, they are flouting maxim of quantity, flouting maxim of quality, flouting maxim of relevance, and the last is flouting maxim of manner.

Austin (1962) defines speech act, as the action used by language to modify the state of the object on which the action is performed. According to Cutting (2002:2) We can use language, for example, to give an order, to make a request, to give an announcement, to give an advice, etc. Speech acts theory describes what utterances are intended to do, such as promise, apologise, and threaten.

Bordwell and Thompson (1997: 3) said that movies are equal to buildings, books, and symphonies. It is an artifact that is made by humans for humans' purposes. Movie is defined as an art that can be a reflection of human's life since it is made based on social phenomena and cultural values. It is also classified as a form of spoken discourse in which the phenomena that the researcher analyzes, that is maxim flouting, are reflected. Movies have some aspects which can reflect the phenomena clearer than other media. In movies, unlike in novels, the phenomena are depicted clearer through the context, setting, and facial expression. Hence, analyzing maxim flouting through movies can represent the analysis of flouting maxim in real life.

## 2. Literature Review

Flouting maxim is different from violating maxim in terms of the purposes. In flouting maxim, the speaker leads

implied meanings to the others. Basically, the speaker has no intention to disobey the maxim. On the other hand, violating maxim happens when the speaker has intention to mislead the hearer's understanding about something. Cutting (2002:37) state flouting maxims is when the speakers appear not to follow the maxims but expect hearers to appreciate the meaning implied. Conversation has its maxims in order to make the conversation goes smoothly, but sometimes it is violated by its user. Moreover, Seken (2015: 101) argues that flouting maxim is the situation when a speaker purposefully disobeys a maxim at the level of what is said with the deliberate intention of generating an implicature.

Based on cooperative principle theory, there are four types of flouting maxim. The first type is flouting maxim of quantity, this flouting happens when the speaker fail to fulfill the maxim of quantity in the conversation where the speaker are not informative as it is required or more informative than it is required. Cutting (2002:37) stated that the speaker who flouts the maxim quantity give too little or too much information. The second type is flouting maxim of quality, Flouting maxim of quality happens when the speakers fail to fulfill the maxim of quality in the conversation. Seken (2015:96) stated that flouting maxim of quality happens when the speaker's answer is untrue or nonfactual, and lack evidence. The third type is flouting maxim of relation, this flouting happens when the speaker fail to fulfill the maxim of relation in the conversation. The speaker fail to be relevant in conversation. The speakers are not willingly being not relevant, sometimes because the speakers want to hide something. Cutting (2002:39) stated if speakers flout the maxim of relation, they expect that the hearers will be able to imagine the utterance that the speaker did not say, and make connection between their utterance and the preceding ones. The

last type is flouting maxim of manner, Flouting maxim of manner happens when the speakers fail to fulfill maxim of manner in the conversation. In this case, the speakers give ambiguous answer or information. Seken (2015:99) stated when the speakers do not speak clearly and misleadingly use too many words, or when they say things obscurely and ambiguously, logically hearers will find it difficult to get the information being delivered.

Austin (1962) state speech act, as the action performed by language to modify the state of the object on which the action is performed. Austin (1962:101) states that the speaker produces consequential effects upon the actions, feelings and thoughts, or of the hearer and it should be done with the intention of producing them. The consequential effects are called perlocutionary effects. They are annoying, boring, convincing, causing, getting the hearer to realize something, getting the hearer to do something, insulting, and surprising.

There are some previous research which is also analyzed flouting maxim, the first is a research written by Marlisa and Hidayat (2020), they analyzed flouting maxim in Good Morning America (GMA) talk show where Jackie Chan was invited as the guest star. The results of this research are Jackie Chan as the guest star and the hosts of the talkshow indeed flouted four types of maxim. The most flouted maxims in the talkshow were maxim of quantity and maxim of manner.

Another research which analyzed flouting maxim is written by Wahyuni, Arifin, and Lubis (2019), in this research they analyzed flouting maxim and implied meaning behind the main characters utterances in La La Land movie. Here, the researchers found that the main characters indeed done flouting maxims. The resercher also found the implied meaning behind the main characters utterances based on the context of conversation. Most of the implied meaning behind their

utterances contained of insulting, rebuking, requesting, and praising

### **3. Research Method**

The method used in this research is the descriptive qualitative method. The researcher used this method to to analyze the movie. Fraenkel and Wallen (1993:23) stated descriptive method is a method used to explain, analyze and classify something through various techniques, survey, interview, observation, and text. The researcher used this method to support the explanation and the description of flouting maxim. Bogdan and Biklen (1982) stated for qualitative method, the data is collected in the form of words or pictures rather than numbers. Meanwhile, Cresswell (1992:40) stated, "We conduct qualitative research because we want to understand the contexts or setting in which participants in a study address a problem or issue." In the qualitative method, the researcher analyze the utterances uttered by Nadine as the main character in the movie, and also collects the data which is the utterances that contains flouting maxim in the movie. Besides, the researcher tries to understand the the situations of the conversation to know the effect of flouting maxim performed by Nadine as the main character in The Edge of Seventeen movie. For the data of this research, the researcher used twenty dialogues from the movie which contains flouting maxim. For the data source, the data are taken from script, dialogue, and utterances of the main character with the other characters of The Edge of Seventeen movie such as Krista, Darian, Erwin, Mom, Dad, Mr. Bruner, and Jeannie.

Moreover, to analyze the data the researcher used interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana (2014) refers to the selecting data, focusing, simplifying, and transforming the data into a qualitative description.

### **4. Results and Discussion**

In this section, the researcher analyses the utterances of main character of the movie which contain flouting maxim and the effect of flouting maxim.

#### 4.1 Types of Flouting Maxim

##### 4.1.1 Flouting Maxim of Quantity

**Data 1:** From minutes 00:02:08.720-00:02:55.320

Nadine : **Look, I don't want to take up tons of your time, but I'm going to kill myself. I just thought that someone should know. I don't really know how this works. I'm probably gonna jump off an overpass in front of a semi, Or a Haul maybe, not a bus. I'm not gonna be a dick and make people watch. But it has to be big. It's got to be so big that it just...done. Kill me. Lights out. Cause if it just maims me, and I'm like.. well, then how's that good for anyone? Then I got to find a nurse to smother me. How am I gonna get across smothering if I'm.. we don't need to get caught up in the minutes. I just thought that a person, eum , you, should know.**

Mr. Bruner : Wow. This is, uh, a lot to take in, Nadine. I... I wish I know what to say.

This dialogue happened between Nadine and Mr. Bruner. In this dialogue, Nadine failed to fulfill maxim of quantity because she gave too much information to

Mr. Bruner. She was flouting maxim of quantity by saying everything in her mind and made Mr. Bruner confused. Therefore, Nadine considered was flouting maxim of quantity.

##### 4.1.2 Flouting maxim of Quality

**Data 2:** From minutes 00:37:07.800-00:37:27.080

Krista : Hi.

Nadine : Hi.

Krista : I...I know you're mad at me because you think that I ditched you to play beer pong, and...

Nadine : **I never said I was mad.**

Krista : Okay, well, I know that you are, and... Nadine.

This dialogue happened between Nadine and Krista in school's lobby. In this dialogue, Nadine was flouting maxim of quality because, she did not tell the truth about her feelings. Nadine was lying, and Nadine was considered doing flouting maxim of quality.

##### 4.1.3 Flouting Maxim of Relation

**Data 3:** From minutes 00:54:29.360-00:54:35.040

Erwin : Hey, I heard you were looking for me at lunch.

Nadine : **I can't talk right now.**

Erwin : Oh, okay. I just got... Okay. (Hang up the phone)

This dialogue happened when Erwin called Nadine. In this dialogue, Nadine failed to fulfill maxim of relation. She was flouting maxim of relation by giving the answer which had no connection with the question asked by Erwin. Nadine should answer Erwin's question with 'yes' or 'no' rather than said 'I can't talk right now'. Therefore, Nadine was considered doing flouting maxim of relation.

#### 4.1.4 Flouting Maxim of Manner

**Data 4:** From minutes 01:00:08.120-01:00:26.720

Nadine : You've had this whole place to yourself for three months?

Erwin : Yeah

Nadine : **No, I get it. It's... It's a big house. You're bored. You know what you need? You need someone to rob you, so you can reenact Home Alone.**

Erwin : That is...That is exactly what I need. Thank you.

This conversation happened between Erwin and Nadine in Erwin's house. In this dialogue, Nadine was flouting maxim of manner. Perhaps, Nadine just wanted try to make the situation comfort with her jokes, but Erwin thought that Nadine was such a weird person because of her joke telling his house should be robbed by someone. Therefore, Nadine was considered doing flouting maxim of manner.

### 4.2 Effects of Flouting Maxim

#### 4.2.1 Convincing

**Data 1:** From minutes 00:30:11.240-00:30:35.920

Mom : How was it?

Nadine : Uh, it was probably one of the worst nights of my life. God. You wouldn't believe the night I had. God, I feel like such a loser.

Mom : You're not a loser.

Nadine : I feel like one.

Mom : **(Grab Nadine's hand) You're not a loser, Nadine**

Nadine asked her Mom to come and pick her up from the party held by Darian's friend. Then, her Mom asked her about the party. She told to her Mom that it was probably one of the worst night in her life. So, with the statement that Nadine uttered, gave convincing effect on Mom that the party was really worst even became one of the worst night Nadine had ever have. Her Mom grabbed her hand and tried to comfort Nadine by saying She is not a loser. Therefore, the effect of Nadine's flouting maxim quantity on Mom is **convincing**.

#### 4.2.2 Boring

**Data 2:** From minutes 00:12:53.480-00:13:20.120

Erwin : Hey, I like your sweatshirt today. It's nice.

Nadine : Thank you.

Erwin : W here'd you get it? The sweater. Sweatshirt.

Nadine : I...I don't know. I don't remember.

Erwin : **Kewlio.**

Nadine : Yup.

Erwin : **(looked away and spinned his peen) Yeah. Don't know where that came from.**

The effect of flouting maxim on Erwin is boring. It can be seen from how Nadine responded Erwin's question which made Erwin felt awkward. It made him looked away and spinned his pen, pretend nothing happened between them. Therefore, the effect of Nadine's flouting maxim of quality on Erwin is **boring**.

#### 4.2.3 Annoying

**Data 3:** From minutes 01:17:39.320-01:18:13.080

Nadine : Get off!

Nick : **What the hell?**

Nadine : I, uh... I really liked that song earlier. What was the name of it again?

Nick : **(pull up his body from Nadine with annoyed expression) Uh, I don't remember.**

This conversation happened in Nick's car, Nick tried to approach Nadine with intention to having sex with Nadine just like what Nadine have messaged him. However, Nadine seemed so nervous and asked Nick to get off, and tried to start new topic by asking about the song played in the car. It made Nick feel annoyed so, he pulled up his self and sat back to his sit. Therefore, the effect of Nadine's flouting maxim relation on Nick is **annoying**.

#### 4.2.4 Causing

**Data 11:** From minutes 01:01:36.120-01:02:02.960

Mom : Don't you have something to do? Schoolwork or something? Hmm?

Nadine : Can I have this hole punch?

Mom : **(Take the hole punch from Nadine's hand) Give that to me. I want you to just sit there for the next eight hours and don't touch anything and don't make any noise.**

This conversation happened in the office of Nadine's mother. Nadine stucked in the office with her Mom because when her Mom drove her to school, she did not want to come out, so her Mom took Nadine to her office. While Nadine was sitting in front of her Mom, her Mom asking whether she had homework or something, but Nadine ignored her and kept playing with the hole punch. Nadine asked her Mom if she could keep the hole punch. It caused her Mom mad and took

the hole punch from Nadine. Therefore, the effect of Nadine's flouting maxim of relation on Mom is **causing**.

#### 4.2.5 Insulting

**Data 5:** From minutes 01:02:46.760-01:02:55.600

Mom : But we're not talking about him right now. 'Cause it's just too upsetting "It's just too hard and too sad "and it gives me a cluster headache."

Nadine : I know.

Mom : **Oh, my God. You have no compassion.**

Nadine : Actually, I'm just bored because I know everything you're gonna do before you do it.

Mom : **(look at Nadine with the 'I do not care with you'glare) Sure you do.**

Nadine : Oh, you don't believe me.

Mom : No, I don't.

In this dilogue, Nadine had a little conflict with her Mom. Her mom said that her father would be dissapointed if he saw Nadine now, Nadine mad and told everything in her mind. Her mom got sad and said tha Nadine had no compassion, then Nadine insulted her Mom by saying that she knew everything that her Mom gonna do. Therefore, the effect of Nadine's flouting maxim of quantity on Mom is **insulting**.

#### 4.2.6 Getting The Hearer To Do Something

**Data 6:** From minutes 00:33:36.320-00:33:37.520

Erwin : How are you? Are you good? You all right?

Nadine : Hey, so Tim's Theme Park is open late tonight.  
 Erwin : **(Grab his car key) Do you want to meet there?**

Nadine had a bad night, the party ran smoothly to another but not her. She called Erwin hope that he could fix her mood. She expected that Erwin would pick her up after she gave information that the park was opened late and He did. Therefore, the effect of Nadine's flouting maxim of relation on Erwin is **getting the hearer to do something**.

#### 4.2.7 Getting The Hearer To Realize Something

**Data 7:** From minutes 00:20:06.440-00:20:26.960

Krista : Are you okay?  
 Nadine : I'm just... Just thinking. Okay, I'll see you later. (walked away and left Krista)  
 Krista : **(scream with desperate hope Nadine hear what she and turn back) Nadine, you can't just leave without saying anything! Nadine!**

Krista was asking whether Nadine is okay or not after knowing the fact that Krista was slept with her brother last night. The respond that Nadine had said and acted was a clue that Nadine was mad to Krista, and did not want to talk with Krista. She needed time to process what just happened and hope Krista understand it. Thus, with the utterance Nadine's uttered, Krista felt desperated about what should she do to make Nadine would speak to her. Therefore, the effect of Nadine's flouting maxim of manner on Krista is **getting the hearer to realize something**.

## 5. Conclusion

From the analysis, the researcher concluded that Nadine as the main character flouted all the types of maxim. The researcher identified there were four types of maxim that Nadine flouted based on Grice's cooperative principle theory. They were maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. The mostly maxim that flouted by Nadine was flouting maxim of quantity. It is happend because Nadine usually give too much information or give less information to the hearer. Nadine as an introvert was often nervous when met with someone or in public that caused she talked too much or less than being required. Meanwhile, the rarely maxim flouted by Nadine was maxim of quality and maxim of manner. Besides the types of flouting maxim used by Nadine, the researcher also found that the flouting maxim did not make the conversation into miscommunication. Based on the analysis, the conversation can still run well without miscommunication if both participants understand what is the context of the conversation.

Moreover, the researcher also concluded Nadine gave seven effects to the othe charcacters based on Austin's perlocutionary effects theory. They were getting the hearer to realize something, convincing, insulting, boring, annoying, causing, and getting the hearer to do something. The effect which is mostly given by Nadine was getting the hearer realize something. Nadines's utterances often inflict this effect because when she gave information to the other characters of this movie, she rarely said what her intention directly.

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