

Flouting Maxim in Chris Watts's Interrogation: Pragmatics Study

Vannya Choirunnisa^{a,1,*}, Ervina CM Simatupang^{b,2}

^a English Department, Faculty of Humanities Widyatama University

¹ vannya.choirunnisa@widyatama.ac.id; ² ervina.simatupang@widyatama.ac.id

* Corresponding Author



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ABSTRACT

This research aims at analyzing the flouting of maxims and its reasons during Chris Watts's interrogation. Descriptive qualitative method was used as a research design, and video entitled "*FBI Interrogation of Chris Watts (BEST AUDIO)*" on "True Psych Ward" YouTube channel was used as a source of data of this research. The transcript text of the interrogator's and Chris Watts' utterances was used as the research instrument. Results revealed twenty-five (25) data containing all the types of flouting maxims due to Grice's Cooperative Principles. On one hand, the results showed that there are 8 utterances containing flouting maxim of quality (32%), 6 flouting maxim of quantity (24%), 8 flouting maxim of relevance (32%), and 3 maxim of manner (12%). The most dominant types were flouting maxim of relevance and quality, indicating Chris often provided irrelevant information from the topic, and was not in accordance with facts and data. On the other hand, some reasons appeared to be Chris Watts's reason to flout the maxims, which are 10 data of hiding the truth (40%), 6 data of saving face (24%), 4 data of building one's believe (16%), 3 data of satisfying the hearer (12%), and 2 data of convincing the hearer (8%).

KEYWORDS

Pragmatics
Cooperative Principles
Flouting Maxim
Interrogation

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1. Introduction

Language is an instrument of communication that is used to transfer information, express opinions, feelings, and emotions. Moreover, with language people also can share ideas, imagination, and thoughts. According to Dianita & Sofyan (2023), language can also be referred to as rules that result from all aspects of a situation, such as who the speaker and listener are, where the language is used or occurs, and the speaker's intentions and mood. Dealing with that, Marlisa & Hidayat (2020) also stated, "*language is an essential tool for both written and spoken communication*". Therefore, language cannot be separated from humans because of its function to communicate.

Communication can be successful and effective if the speaker expresses what the speaker wants to convey well, the hearer can interpret it correctly, and there is the same understanding between the speaker and the hearer. That way, Simatupang & Fathonah (2020) said that it means that the speaker has ability to convey his or her thought and the listener can understand what the message of the speaker's utterance. Due to this, people should know the context of what they are talking about. In linguistics, there is pragmatics. Pragmatics examines the relationship between language and its context. "*Pragmatics help participants of speech acts to avoid ambiguity because the meaning of utterances relies on how the utterances are spoken*" (Simatupang et al., 2021). Ibrahim et al., (2018) also state that "*Pragmatics as a concern with the research of meaning as communicated by a speaker or writer and interpreted by a listener or reader.*" There are limitations of pragmatics according to Yule; Pragmatics is the research of speaker intentions, contextual meaning, how to convey more than is said, and the expression of a distance relationship (January & Ellidia, 2021)

In connection with that, Hendar & Anshari (2021) said that “A communication may run very well when there is mutual understanding for both participants involved in the communication process.” To achieve good communication, there must be good cooperation between the speaker and the hearer. In Pragmatics, this is included in the principle of cooperation, also known as the Cooperative Principle (CP). Grice as cited by Nur (2022), states that the Cooperative Principle says, “make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of talk exchange in which you are engaged.” Thus, the cooperative principle requires speech partners to convey something that is informative and can be easily understood, and is in accordance with the topic being discussed along with existing evidence. In line with the Cooperative Principle, Grice completed his theory with the theory of Conversational Maxim to make communication more effective. Grice divides conversational maxims into four groups, including maxims of quantity, quality, relevance, and manner.

The first is maxim of quantity. As stated by Cutting in Nuzulia (2020) the rule of maxim of quantity is ‘speakers should be as informative as it required, that they should give neither too little information nor too much.’ Thus, it is important to provide information that is factual, adequate, not exaggerated, and as informative as possible. The second maxim is that the speaker is not allowed to say anything that contradicts facts and data, which is maxim of quality. Two rules that support the maxim of quality are; don't say what you believe is wrong, and don't say things that lack evidence. In other words, maxim quality occurs when a speaker says something that is true based on evidence and would not say anything that he or she believes to be false (Sidabutar & Johan, 2022). Next is maxim of relevance, it requires the participants to say something that is relevant or related to the topic being discussed or what has been said before. According to Grice in Nuzulia (2020), “maxim of relevance is the rule of these types that to give relevant answers or information we should pay attention to the relation in the topic involved, this is ‘be relevant.’” Last is maxim of manner, it is a kind of maxim that does not allow the speaker to convey something in a long way, use words that have multiple meanings, or speak vaguely or irregularly. In relation with this, Grice describes the maxim of manner into four specific rules. Those are; avoid obscurity of expression, avoid ambiguity, be brief, be orderly (Clarisa & Susylowati, 2021).

Since conversational maxims exist, communication will run smoothly and there will be mutual understanding among the speaker and the listener. In order to achieve the purpose of communication, the speaker will try to abide by the principle of cooperation, but in some occasions, for a certain purpose, the speaker will say something against the principle of cooperation, which also produces special conversational meanings (Zhou, 2022). Furthermore, consciously or unconsciously, sometimes people break the maxims when communicating. Some cases are intentional for example, they do not tell the truth or lie to cover something or just to make other people happy, exaggerate words with a specific purpose or attract the attention of others (Holifatunnisa & Wuryandari, 2023). This can be seen from the irrelevance of information in communication, too much or too little information conveyed, something that is false or unclear, or there is ambiguity in communication. This case is called “Flouting Maxim”.

Flouting maxim happens when the speaker intentionally fails to follow the maxims, so the listener is forced to seek the meaning behind what is said. As stated by Cutting in Hamidah et al., (2022) flouting of maxim happens when speaker appears not to follow maxims but expect hearer to appreciate the implied meaning. There are four types of flouting maxim; flouting maxim of quality, flouting maxim of quantity, flouting maxim of relevance, and flouting maxim of manner.

Flouting maxim of quantity happens if the speaker intentionally gives more or less information than what is really needed (Grice, cited in Lestari & Firdaus, 2021). Thus, maxim of quantity is flouted if the speaker provides too little or too much information and contribution in a conversation. Next, flouting maxim of quality. It occurs when the speaker says something that is untrue or there is not sufficient evidence for what is said. In accordance with that, Holifatunnisa & Wuryandari (2023) stated that flouting maxim of quality is where the speaker doesn't say anything the truth, in other words lying or providing false information. There is also flouting maxim of relevance, which occurs because the speech participants do not convey something relevant or do not contribute something that is appropriate to what is being discussed. As stated by Hamidah et al., (2022), flouting maxim of relevance occurs when participants make unmatched response. The

last is flouting maxim of manner, it occurs when the speech participant does not speak directly, clearly, briefly, and coherently. A speaker flouts maxim of manner when their utterances become ambiguous or obscure (Ibrahim et al., 2018). So, if the speaker makes a vague statement, contains ambiguity, or is not clear and coherent, the topic being discussed will be hard to grasp because the speaker flouts the maxim of manner.

In formal or non-formal conversations, flouting maxim can occur in everyday life. Despite, flouting maxims also occur in interrogation. In interrogation, the informant usually tends to break the maxims to hide the truth. Otherwise, there are some background that makes flouting of maxim occurs, such as conditions and atmosphere when communicating. Flouting maxim happens when the speaker fails to observe maxim due to several reasons, such as the speakers say something that have hidden meaning, want to make the hearer understand, nervous, lying, and so on.

In addition to this, Nuringtyas (2018) explained that there are several things to be the reasons for flouting the maxims. She improved the theory of the reason for flouting maxims introduced by Chrisstoffersen into eight categories. There are hiding the truth, saving face, feeling jealous, satisfying the hearer, cheering the hearer, avoiding hurting the hearer, building one's believe, and convincing the hearer. From those statements above, it can be concluded that the speaker flouts the maxim because the speaker wants to convey the hidden meaning behind their speech, which cannot be conveyed directly. Besides that, flouting maxims also occur because of the condition of the speaker, whether it is nervous, hides something behind the utterance, or simply because they are lying.

In this study, the writer uses Chris Watt's interrogation video taken from a YouTube channel named "True Psych Ward" entitled "*FBI Interrogation of Chris Watts (BEST AUDIO)*". The utterances made by Chris Watts during the interrogation are interesting to study because, as analyzed by the Pragmatics study, Chris disobeyed the determination of the success of a conversation, which is the cooperative principle. Many utterances contain implied meanings. Chris Watts answered questions that were long-winded, ambiguous, irrelevant, and did not provide the information needed. Besides hiding the truth, Chris Watts flouted maxims when he spoke because he was nervous, scared, and convinced the interrogator. One of the examples of the flouting maxim that appears: The conversation below took place in the interrogation room, where there were just Chris and one interrogator. At the moment, the interrogator was listening to Chris's statements, until Chris told him about Nickole (Chris wife's close friend) who came to Chris's house to look for Shanann (Chris's wife) because she said there had been no update from Shanann for the past couple days. Chris was unconcerned that the statements he had given led the interrogator to believe that Nickole was more worried when she discovered Shanann was missing compared with Chris because Chris seemed to be relaxed and calm during the interrogation. After realizing this, the interrogator asked Chris why it could be like that, because if a husband lost his wife and children, he would surely panic and be sad, but in this case, it was Nickole who appeared panicked when she discovered Shanann and her children were missing.

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Interrogator | : Now so it sounds like nickole is pretty worried, more worried than you |
| Chris Watts | : Oh so once she couldn't get anything out of her and nothing was going out of the house i was like i gotta go home |
| Interrogator | : But it sounds like nickole was more worried |
| Chris Watts | : Yeah because like she mostly, like if she doesn't text me, like i understand that, like sometimes that happens, but for her not to get back to her direct sales group that was very unorthodox. |

(TPW/45:27)

From the context above, it can be seen that Chris Watts flouted the maxim of relevance, as he answered the question with irrelevant information and answer. In the first line, the interrogator gave a sentence that made Chris doubt his statements, and since then, Chris has been panicking and trying to convince and defend himself to the interrogator using sentences that have nothing to do with what the interrogator has said. Sentences like what Chris has uttered above just make the interrogator suspect him rather than believe him. Instead, Chris should have answered the

interrogator's utterance by saying, "I am actually worried right now, more than Nickole was back then, but I am trying to be calm and cooperative so this interrogation can run smoothly." By doing so, the interrogator won't corner Chris Watts over his previous statement.

The reason why Chris flouted the maxim of relevance in the example above is because he was hiding the truth from the hearer, which is the interrogator. He lied about his condition when he claimed to be as panicked as Nickole, because Nickole was more panicked when she discovered that her best friend, Shanann (Chris's wife), and the children were missing. Nickole was panicked and concerned because Shanann did not say anything the day before she went missing, whereas Shanann and Nickole usually chat every day to just say hi or talk about everything. Meanwhile, Chris panicked because he had to think about creating a fake scenario to tell the interrogator, despite the fact that he knew where his wife and children had gone.

The aforementioned example proved how flouting maxims can appear not just in daily life but also in interrogation. Resulting from that, this research dealt with two problems: to find out what types of maxims were flouted by Chris Watts' during the interrogation and the reasons for flouting the maxims committed by Chris Watts based on his utterances.

2. Method

With the purpose of analyzing how flouting maxims occur during Chris Watts' interrogation, this research used a descriptive qualitative method as its method of research. The researcher used a qualitative descriptive method because the researcher analyzed the data in the form of verbal language in the form of utterances. In connection with that, Creswell cited in Lestari & Firdaus (2021) explained that "*In qualitative method, the data obtained can be in the form of interviews, observations, documents and audio-visual data, then in qualitative methods, the statistical analysis can be in the form of text and image analysis, and also statistical interpretation can be in the form of themes and patterns interpretation*".

The data in this research is in the form of conversations (speech or dialogue) between Chris Watts and the interrogator during the interrogation, containing flouting maxims. To collect the data, firstly the researcher chose flouting maxim as an object of research, then selected a YouTube video entitled "*FBI Interrogation of Chris Watts (BEST AUDIO)*" that was published by "True Psych Ward" YouTube channel on April 7th 2021 as a source of data. Next, watched the video and marked which part of Chris's part contained flouting maxim in every minute, then selected the utterances consisting of four types of flouting maxims to be analyzed. Initially, classified and analyzed the types of flouting maxims contained in the speech of Chris Watts. Then, analyzed the reasons for flouting the maxims by Chris Watts. Finally, drew the conclusions and results of data analysis.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Results

The results of this research demonstrates that there were twenty-five (25) conversations flouted by Chris Watts during his interrogation. Those flouts contained all four types of maxims: maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner. On the one hand, based on the interrogation, the flouting maxim of quality and manner became the most frequently flouted type of maxims, as per each, it showed eight (8), which contains 32% of conversations with those maxims being flouted. On the other hand, the flouting maxim of manner became the lowest quantity as it showed three (3) or 12% conversations that contained the flouting maxim of manner committed by Chris Watts during the interrogation.

Meanwhile, there are four types of reasons for flouting maxims that commonly appear during the interrogation, which are hiding the truth, saving face, building one's believe, and satisfying the hearer. The most dominant reason that often appears is hiding the truth, which contains ten (40%) data. However, convincing the hearer was the least reason that showed during the interrogation, as it showed two (8%) utterances that used that reason.

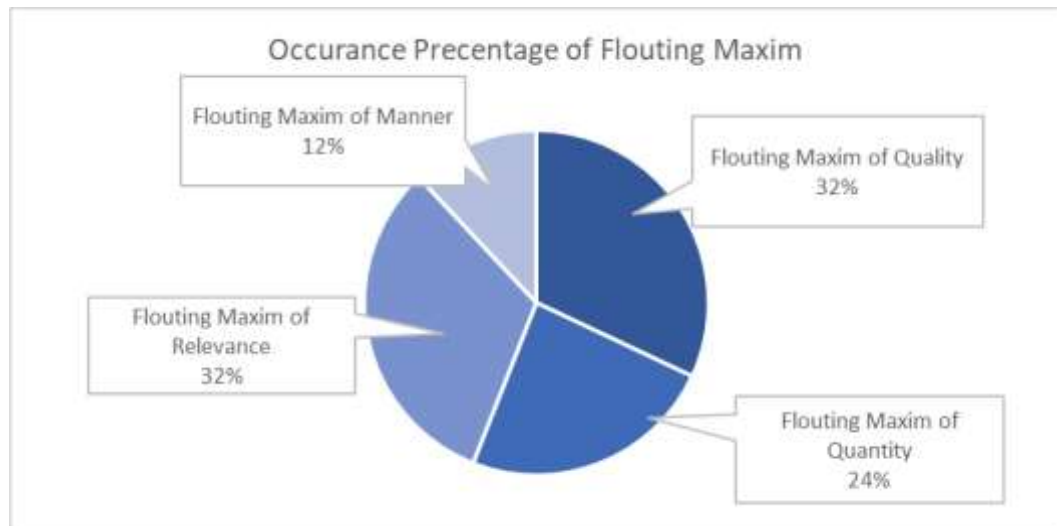


Fig. 1. *The percentage of Flouting Maxim*

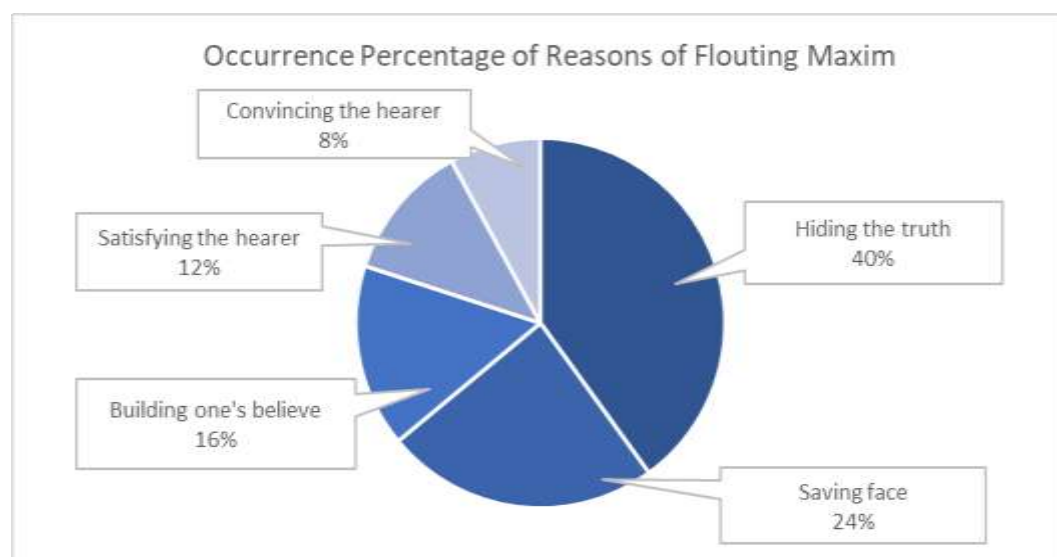


Fig. 2. *The percentage of reasons of flouting maxim*

3.2 Discussion

The following data clarifies that Chris Watts has flouted all of the maxim types by always responding to interrogator questions with untrue, too-long, vague, irrelevant, or unbriefed statements. There are also reasons why Chris flouted the maxims according to his utterances. Started by flouting maxim of quantity in data 1 and data 2:

Flouting Maxim of Quantity

Data 1

The following conversation took place in the interrogation room where Chris was trying to explain to the interrogator about a conversation between him and Shanann (Chris's wife) that took time at 4:15 in the morning regarding their decision to separate. Chris told the interrogator that Chris and his wife were angry at each other and cried afterwards. However, what makes interrogator confused is why Chris and Shanann's missing child happened after Chris and Shanann talked about it. The interrogator put his suspicions on Chris for choosing that time to chat with his wife.

Interrogator : Why do you talk at 4.15 in the morning?

Chris Watts : I felt like I needed to talk to her face to face, 'cause like I wanted to say something much like when she was in Arizona like I didn't want to do in a text, I didn't want to do a call, I was like I got back in bed I was like I needed to.. I needed to talk to her about this because she told me, she told me like when she was.. When she was gonna fly back that she wanted to get up with me so she could take a shower because she wanted to get the airport off of me.

(TPW/29:36)

Chris's utterance in the data 1 showed that he flouted the maxim of quantity since he gave too much information than was asked for by the interrogator. He could have been saying the required information, which is to stop in the line "*I feel like I need to talk to her face to face*", or he could answer the question by saying "I talk at 4.15 in the morning with my wife because I don't want to do it on text while she is in Arizona, I want to talk to her face to face so it can be clearer". However, Chris answered it with long sentences, including unnecessary information until it became unclear. He adds unimportant information by expressing the need to communicate something important to her wife and describing the hesitation to convey the message through text or a call. Nevertheless, he said too many things that should not have been said, so instead of answering the interrogator's question and convincing the interrogator, Chris made the interrogator suspicious and confused by his answers.

Chris answered the question that was asked by the interrogator long-windedly. Based on his utterance, the reason why Chris flouted the maxim of quantity in the dialogue above is because he was hiding the truth. Chris felt he needed to provide all of the information he had with the purpose that the interrogator could understand what actually happened. He expected that when he said everything in his brain, the interrogator would believe him, without realizing that the more incoherent statements he made, the more unsure the interrogator would be of Chris.

Data 2

The conversation of data 2 below showed the phenomenon of flouting maxim which took the situation where Chris told the interrogator that he felt that all of Shanann's friends and relatives were very concerned about the loss of Shanann and his daughters. Whether it's Shanann's friends at her daughter's school, her workmates, or even her Facebook friends. Chris was sure about this because he felt that the way they were concerned about it could not be faked. Then, the interrogator asked Chris about who he felt should worry about the loss of Shanann and the daughters.

Interrogator : So then who are you worried about?
Chris Watts : Honestly like I can't really say like if I'm worried about anybody right now as far as like any of her friends I know.

(TPW/1:00:44)

From the conversation in Data 2, it is clear that there was a flouting maxim of quantity that occurred since Chris, the informant of the conversation, gave an extensive amount of information that went beyond the interrogator's specific inquiry. When the interrogator asked the question, Chris answered by saying that he wasn't worried about anyone. However, Chris also explained that the reason he wasn't worried about anyone was because he felt that he knew all of Shanann's friends. This excessive addition of information is called a flouting maxim of quantity.

This flouting maxim of quantity occurs in Data 2 because, judging from Chris's utterance, he was saving his face. Admitting mistakes is challenging for Chris in this case because it could send him to jail. In order to avoid that, Chris Watts saved his face to shield his feelings of inadequacy or vulnerability. In this case, the words "as far as" came out of Chris's mouth as the shield. He also flouted the maxim of quantity by using an implicature in his answer. He answered the interrogator's question by adding the reason why he wasn't worried about anybody because he felt that all of Shanann's friends wouldn't do something bad to her and her daughters.

Flouting Maxim of Quality

Data 3 and data 4 below show how Chris has disobeyed maxim of quality by saying something uncertain to the interrogator, as follows:

Data 3

In the interrogation room, the interrogator asked Chris Watts to explain the chronology of the moment before his wife and his children died. Chris told the interrogator that before that moment, Shanann (Chris's wife) wanted to take Bella and Celeste (their children) to a friend's house, but Chris did not explain why Shanann wanted to go to his friend's house with the children. Chris said he did not even know why.

- Interrogator : So, she said, "*I'm going to take the kids through a friend's house but I'll be back later.*" why?
- Chris Watts : That's the thing, like, I'm not sure why she wanted to go somewhere but that's what she wanted.

(TPW/36:51)

The conversation in data 2 is an utterance that contains the flouting maxim of quality. This can be seen from Chris' assertion when he answered the interrogator's question about Shanann's utterance, stated "*that's the thing, like, I'm not sure why she wanted to go somewhere but that's what she wanted.*" Whereas, someone flouted the maxim of quality when they said something that was not certain, had no evidence, and was also full of doubts. In data 2, Chris did all those things. His utterance indicated that he had doubts about his statements and that he said things that did not have enough evidence. This is clearly seen in the sentence "*I'm not sure*". It makes the utterance that was uttered by Chris seem not really true, while on the contrary, Chris is supposed to answer the question with a statement that is true in order to fulfil the cooperative principle and to make the interrogator believe him.

Chris Watts flouted the maxim of quality in the conversation because, according to his utterance, he hides the truth. He was not sure about his statement because the truth is Shannan did not leave the house but it was Chris who took his two children away. However, Chris did not want to reveal it because he was afraid that the truth would be revealed, and he would go to jail if he did.

Data 4

At this time, the interrogator was asking about the day when Shanann and Chris's children went missing. The interrogator asked Chris to tell him what happened and what he did that day. Chris started to explain it from the morning he woke up, saying that he had an argument with his wife on that day, and then he said that after that argument, he went to work in the oil field. The interrogator also asked him to explain what he did in the oil field and the significant time that it took.

- Interrogator : How long were you at 1129? (name of the oil tank)
- Chris Watts : Probably about 20 minutes or so.

(TPW/1:56:02)

In this case, Chris Watts flouted the maxim of quality as he showed how he was not sure about his statement. It can be seen from three words that were uttered by Chris Watts in Data 4, which are proof that Chris was doubtful about his own word. Those three words are "*probably,*" "*about,*" and "*so on.*" Those words make the utterance seem not really true, as they do not guarantee certainty. Whereas Chris is supposed to answer the question with a statement that is not lacking in truth, such as "I stayed there for 20 minutes," or he can mention the specific time to provide the real information, for instance, "I was in tank 1129 from 7 a.m. until 7.30 a.m." By saying those sentences, Chris fulfills the Cooperative Principle of Grice instead of flouting it.

Chris Watts flouted the maxim of quality on Data 4 because he was hiding the truth. It can be seen from the answer that he gave to the interrogator that it becomes clear that he was not conveying factual information but rather expressing thoughts that had spontaneously come to his mind. This is particularly obvious in his uncertainty about how long he spent time at the oil field, indicating an attempt to hide the true incidents. The statement in Data 4 is compelling evidence that Chris intentionally hid the truth, as it contradicts the verifiable fact that he spent no time in Tank 1129. Rather, he was in a different location during that time, specifically where the tragic incident happened, which was when Chris Watts killed his children at that time.

Flouting Maxim of Relevance

People flouted the maxim of relevance when they said something unrelated to the topic being discussed. In this case, Chris said something irrelevant to cover up or indirectly convey information, as shown in data 5 and data 6 below.

Data 5

The conversation below took place in a situation where Chris seemed so sad and confused while explaining to the interrogator that in the early hours before Shanann and her children went missing, he and Shanann had discussed his decision to move house because the house was no longer possible to live in, considering Shanann was pregnant with her third child. Chris said that the house was too expensive, they could move into the place which is cheaper. However, after Chris and Shanann chatted, Shanann made the decision to go over to her friend's house and take their children with her. The interrogator asked Chris about this.

- Interrogator : So, let's focus on "*I'm gonna take the kids to my friend's house*",
What does that mean?
- Chris Watts : Hopefully it's someone she trusts, hopefully it's someone she knows
pretty well, and hopefully maybe they have a kid that Bella and
Celeste can play with.

(TPW/37:16)

Here, Chris flouted the maxim of relevance since he gave an irrelevant answer to what was asked by the interrogator. The interrogator asked about the reason why Shanann took her children to a friend's house, not about Chris's feelings when Chris knew that his children would be with his wife at a friend's house. Otherwise, instead of answering it with a relevant answer, such as the reason why Shanann said those words, Chris answered the question by expressing his feelings about the person who will be with Shanann and her children later by saying, "*Hopefully it's someone she trusts, hopefully it's someone she knows pretty well, and hopefully maybe they have a kid that Bella and Celeste can play with.*" For that, Chris gave an unmatched response to the interrogator.

From Chris's utterance above, it appears that Chris flouted the maxim of relevance because he was building one's belief. Chris had no idea what he was going to say; thus, he just said what came to his mind. In that case, he showed his sadness about what he was going through because Shanann took his children with her without telling Chris where, when, or who the friend Shanann meant was. He expressed his feelings and said these words to make the interrogator believe that he was sad to see his wife take his child and go to his friend's house, with the aim that the interrogator would think that Chris really didn't know where his child and wife had gone when they were the same as him and he killed them.

Data 6

This conversation below took place when the interrogator asked Chris Watts questions regarding marriage life. The interrogator asked about it because there was a possibility that the reason for the disappearance of Shanann and her children was because of it. Previously, the interrogator had asked Chris to explain about his current married life with Shanann and Chris said

that he is a loyal person and there is no way he have an affair. Then, the interrogator asked whether Shanann the one who had the possibility to having an affair or not.

Interrogator : So, is there anyone that you think that maybe your wife gets close with?

Chris Watts : If she did, it was very, like... secret then if she was the case because I had no inkling.

(TPW/1:39:53)

Chris Watts flouted the maxim of relevance when he said anything unrelated to the interrogator's question, which asked about Shanann's potential relationship with another man. Instead of answering the question with a relevant topic, Chris answered the question with something that was not supposed to be the answer to that kind of question, that sounds "*If she did, it was very, like... secret then if she was the case because I had no inkling..*" However, Chris adds the information by explaining in detail why he thinks Shanann doesn't close with someone else by saying "*I had no inking*". Chris should not have said what was contained in Data 6 above because it would have confused the interrogator. Because Data 6 above shows that the interrogator wants to know whether Shanann has the potential to be close to or have a relationship with another man or not, Chris should answer with an answer that is relevant to the question, such as "No, there is no potential for Shanann to have an affair with another man" or "Yes, she has the potential to have a relationship with another man." After that, he could provide the statement with the reasons why Shanann has the potential to be close to another man.

In this case, the reason why Chris flouted the maxim of relevance in order to save his face. He was trying to tell the interrogator that it is almost impossible that Shanann will cheat on Chris. In doing so, Chris strategically aimed to maintain a positive image of his relationship while minimizing any potential doubts about his private life. As a result, Chris assumed that the interrogator would not bring up his household with Shanann, particularly about cheating. Due to what really happened was that Chris was having an affair with another woman. In fact, Chris killed his family, specifically his wife and children, in order to start a new life with his mistress.

Flouting Maxim of Manner

Chris Watts flouted the maxim of manner as not being orderly or using ambiguity during the interrogation, it can be seen in data 7 and data 8 below.

Data 7

Chris was explaining to the interrogator the chronology of the story when the morning Chris was about to go to work before his wife and his children disappeared. Before leaving, Chris was sure that Shanann and the children were still in the house because he still saw Shanann's car in the garage, and Shanann's shoes by the entrance door. However, after Chris came home from work, the car and shoes were still in the same position, but it turned out that no one was in the house. The interrogator asked Chris about his feelings, how he felt about the loss of Shanann and his children, and whether Shanann's shoes were always kept by the door even when Shanann was away.

Interrogator : Does that mean anything to you? Does Shanann, her shoes are always by the door?

Chris Watts : Yeah

(TPW/44:00)

The data 4 showed that Chris flouted the maxim of manner since he just said "*yeah*" to the interrogator. It showed that he made some ambiguous meaning because during the conversation, the interrogator asked two different things. In the first, the interrogator asked about Chris' feelings when he found out that his wife and children were missing, and in the second, the interrogator asked if Shanann's shoes were always near the door even though Shanann was not at home. Chris only answered with one word, and it was not certain whether the answer answered the first, second, or both questions. If that's the case, Chris should have answered the interrogator's questions one by

one; by first answering how he felt about the disappearance of his family, then answering the second question about where Shanann's shoes were.

Judging from Chris's utterance when answering the interrogator's questions, it can be ascertained that the reason Chris flouted the maxim of manner was to hide something. Chris just answered the question with the word "yeah" because he was trying to cover up the truth. The truth is, at that time, his wife and his children were not gone or missing, but in fact, they had been killed by Chris. In addition, that morning Chris didn't even go to work, but buried Shanann's body in a shallow grave at the oil site, and threw the children's bodies into the oil tank, which was located not far from where Shanann was buried instead.

Data 8

In this part of the conversation below, Chris explained to the interrogator the condition of his house when he found out that his children and wife were gone. Chris said that all of Shanann and her children's belongings were still at home, there was no sign that Shanann had taken her children away from home. After hearing about that explanation, the interrogator asked Chris about the possibility of his wife and children leaving, with the intention to make the officers to find Shanann and the children easier.

- Interrogator : I question about where she could have gone or where she could be with, how'd that go?
- Chris Watts : I mean, we're trying to go through from what we could gather, like where she could have gone, as far as like.. because what we saw in the house it didn't really make sense, so that's where.. that's when we're just like call it, start look through the phone and just kind of call around. Once we found the phone and Nickole knew the passcode was just kind of load it up and see what transpired and obviously it was like 50 something text messages that came like pop through.

(TPW/47:03)

Chris flouted the maxim of manner in the Data 8, it was shown by Chris utterance since he gave indirect information with an unbriefed utterance. The interrogator was just asked about where or with whom Shanann and the children could be with, but instead of answering that question with any locations or names, Chris talked about the condition of the house by saying, "*because what we saw in the house it didn't really make sense, so that's where.. that's when we're just like call it, start look through the phone and just kind of call around*" and continued to explain by adding information about the condition of Shanann's phone, which after finding it and turning it on, only notifications appeared that didn't stop. Chris should have answered the question about the possibility of the whereabouts of Shanann and her children at that time coherently and briefly, not explaining the condition of the house when he realized that his wife and children were missing. If Chris is in doubt about the whereabouts of his family because the house is empty, he should answer the question with the sentence, "As I saw the condition of the house, it can be said that she was not at the house, nor were the children, because I just found Shanann's phone." It would be more possible to find Shanann, Bella, and Caleste at the other location."

Chris Watts, based on the utterance that he made in Data 8, appears to flouted the maxim of relevance with the reason to hide the truth. In this situation of uncertainty, Chris kept trying to act like ignorance and deny any involvement in the case in order to maintain the impression that suggested he was not to blame for the situation that occurred. This intentional hiding of information and preventing direct communication contribute to the flouting of maxim of manner in this particular conversation. Chris tried to confess everything he discovered about the house's condition in order to persuade the interrogator into believing he had no knowledge of his wife and children's disappearance. In fact, Chris lost his family as a result of his cruel acts, as he took his wife and children to the oil fields and killed them by putting them in different oil tanks in the oil fields near from his work place.

4. Conclusion

According to the research, all types of flouting maxim was occur during the Chris Watts's interrogation. Flouting maxim of quality and flouting maxim of manner became the most types of flouting maxim that appeared on the interrogation. It is because most of the time during the interrogation, Chris Watts answered the question being asked by the interrogator with either something that was not true, lack of evidence, or with irrelevant information. Additionally, the main reason that frequently appears is hiding the truth, which contains ten (40%) data. It was driven by Chris's trying to say something that is not true and lacks evidence. Followed by saving face as the reason Chris flouted the maxims, which contain six (24%) data. It is caused by most of the time, Chris Watts tried to say anything that was on his mind just to avoid the chance of threats. By this research, the researcher hopes that it can be used as a reference to conduct another research about the flouting of maxim and the reasons of flouting maxim but using different transcript text, or using the same video script but in different aspects such as discussing maxim violation or else.

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