

# An Analysis of Flouting Maxims by Connor Watts as a Gambler in the Skiptrace Movie

## [Analisa Pelanggaran Maxim Oleh Connor Watts Sebagai Penjudi di Film Skiptrace]

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**Abstract.** *The purpose of this study is to identify the kinds of maxims that flouted by Connor Watts. This study is also to reveal his purpose for flouting the maxim itself. This study is classified included in the field of discourse and pragmatics. This study uses the theory of cooperative principles by H.P Grice to analyse the object. This study applied a descriptive qualitative approach, as in the research contained analysis using interpretation. The results of this research are as follows: First, Connor flouted all the maxims namely, maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation, and maxim of manner. There is some purpose he flouts the maxims based on the context in each maxim that are; for flouting maxim of quantity, by give more information purposed to trick the hearer, negotiate and even if the hearer did not ask him and does not need the information.*

**Keywords** - Cooperative principle; Flouting maxims, Connor Watts, Skiptrace Movie

**Abstrak.** *Penelitian ini fokus pada pelanggaran maxim yang dilakukan oleh Connor Watts pada film Skiptrace. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi macam-macam maxim yang dilanggar oleh Connor Watts. Penelitian ini juga mengungkapkan maksud dari pelanggaran maxim itu sendiri. Penelitian ini tergolong dalam lingkupan discourse dan pragmatic. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Cooperative principle dari H.P Grice untuk menganalisa objeknya. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif sebagaimana penelitian berisi analisa dengan menggunakan interpretation. Hasil dari penelitan ini adalah; Pertama, Connor melanggar semua maxim yaitu, maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation, maxim of manner. Ada beberapa alasan mengapa dia melanggar maxim berdasarkan konteks pada masing-masing maxim yaitu; untuk flouting maxim of quantity, dengan cara memberi informasi yang lebih bermaksud untuk menipu pendengarnya, bernegosiasi meskipun pendengarnya tidak menanyakannya dan tidak membutuhkan informasinya.*

**Kata Kunci** - Cooperative principle; Flouting maxims, Connor Watts, Skiptrace Movie

## I. INTRODUCTION

Humans are social creatures who need other humans and the environment to conduct social activities. Zoon political is a term given by Aristotle to mention that human beings have a social nature. The humans cannot live without interacting. It means that humans have social instincts. They always want to interact with others to improve their lives and complete their viability as well as fulfill their needs. For example, a student needs a teacher to get knowledge or some information. The student and the teacher are required to communicate with each other so the information that is transferred and received can be understood. However, communication cannot be separated from human activities as social creatures.

Communication is one of the important parts to discuss because communication is the bridge of human life. Someone will communicate to meet and create a new relationship. It is very highly correlated with human instincts that will always be present in society. Communication is the process of transferring information. It can be the thoughts or feelings of the speaker to the listener so that both parties can grasp the same meaning. Effendi states that, in his theory, communication will use the relevant media to convey information to one person or many people in order to achieve the desired effect Solehudin[1]. Communication is the process by which one person conveys ideas, opinions, or persuasion to another person using a two-way communication channel. Therefore, humans need some ways to

convey information. There are two kinds of communication based on how the way to deliver. They are verbal communication and nonverbal communication. Verbal communication is communication that uses oral or text while Non Verbal communication is communication that uses body language, and facial expressions. From that communication.

Noermanzah explains that language is a message that is typically conveyed in the form of expression as a means of communication in specific activities as cited in Mailani [2]. The language is used by everyone in the world, and every country has a different language that they use to communicate with one another. Language is a symbol system of meaningful and articulate sounds (generated by the vocal organs) that are arbitrary and conventional, which is used as a tool to communicate with a group of humans to produce feelings and thoughts.

In addition to language, communication also needs to consider its effectiveness to enable better interaction. In the conversation, the speaker must try to say something relevant to the situation, clearly and easily understood by the listener. From that phenomenon, it means that some principles have to be observed so that conversation can proceed smoothly. That principle is known as the cooperative principle in pragmatic study. According to Grice (1975), the speaker has to obey four maxims of cooperative principle [3]. They are the maxim of quantity, the maxim of quality, the maxim of relevance, and the maxim of manner. For example, A: Where is my book? B: Your book is in the car. From that short conversation, we can evaluate that the answer B uses all the rules of the maxim because it is honest and true (maxim of quality), appropriate to the question (maxim of relation), not excessive, and not deficient (maxim of quantity), and unambiguous (maxim of manner). But in fact, not all conversations obey the rules of maxim. Sometimes some conversations flout maxims for some reason.

Flouting a maxim is a particularly salient way of getting an addressee to draw an inference and hence recover an implicature. Grundy states flouting is when the speaker carries on a conversation without obeying the rules of maxims Ibrahim [4]. This flouting often occurs and has many categories. Sometimes the speaker intends to flout the maxims to create other meanings or so that the listener looks for other meanings from the words.

As an object of study, the researcher chooses a movie as a media to analyze. Effendy states the movie is the media that is audio-visual communication that conveys a message to a group of people Susanti [5]. The movie is titled *Skiptrace*. The *Skiptrace* is an action comedy Hongkong-China-America directed by Renny Harlin. Starred in and produced a movie based on the story by Jackie Chan. This movie also starred Chinese actress Fan Bingbing and American actor Johny Knoxville. This movie was scheduled to be released in China on December 24, 2015, but was delayed until July 22, 2016. *Skiptrace* Movie tells the story of Bennie Chan as a detective who is investigating criminal syndicate activities in Hongkong. Bennie then asked for help from a gambler (Connor Watts), who was being targeted by criminal syndicates because he had been an eyewitness to the murder they had committed. Bennie tries to bring Connor to Hong kong, while avoiding the pursuit of the mafia that killed them. They both faced a difficult adventure surrounding the China plains.

Many people have researched the topic of flouting conversational rules. First, the study conducted by Hadi entitled "An Analysis of Flouting Maxims Used by The Main Character In Homefront Movie" focuses on the conversational maxims used by the main character in the movie [6]. And the second is from Ningrum entitled "Analysis of Flouting Conversational Maxims by Chris Gardner in the Pursuit of Happiness Movie", which discusses the maxim of conversation by using Gricean maxim [7]. By using all of these, the researcher looks for the object of flouting maxims in the character, namely Connor Watts as a gambler in the *Skiptrace* movie, as the target of flouting maxims.

The contribution of this research is to give more sources of insight and ideas for teachers, and future researchers who want to develop knowledge, especially in pragmatics study utterances and using context analysis. Whereas the implication of the study is that, according to Grice [3], a flouting maxim occurs when someone intentionally flouted the maxim to create another meaning, or it is also called implicature. It is supported by the results of research that has been done which shows that Connor does a lot of flout maxims with several purposes, such as to deceive, persuade, and negotiate with the other person.

The researcher was interested to analyzing this movie because the researcher found many flouting maxims conducted by Connor Watts as gamblers in the *Skiptrace* movie. Therefore, the researcher is interested to do "An Analysis of Flouting Maxim by Connor Watts as a Gambler in the *Skiptrace* Movie".

### ***Theoretical Framework***

This chapter explains the concept and previous studies related to this research. Researcher refers to the specific concepts that are connected to the subject analysis, which is connected to the study and previous research studies that are directed to this study.

#### ***Pragmatics***

Pragmatics is one of the linguistics branches that studies language in context of its use. Pragmatic discussion the purpose of a speech. Leech states pragmatics is one of the branches of the study of the purpose of speech, asking what someone meant by a speech act, and associating meaning with who talked to whom, where, when, and how [8].

Pragmatics is a discipline that studies the use of language, which more specifically how the speaker uses the languages and how to interpret language.

Yule mentions for pragmatics definition, that (1) the field that reviews the meaning of the speaker. (2) a field that reviews the meaning according to its context, (3) a field that reviews the meaning communicated by the speaker, and (4) a field that reviews the form of expression by limiting social distance between participants involved in a particular conversation Megawati[9].

Pragmatics is the study of the meaning and language use that depend on the speaker, receiver, and other features of the speech context. Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that studies the contextual meaning behind utterances or other meanings that are created when utterances are uttered.

#### *Implicature*

A Conversational Implicature is when there is a violation of the principle of conversation that results from pragmatic implications in the conversation. Yule states along with the limits on the implications of pragmatics, conversational implicature is a proposition or implicative statement, namely what might be interpreted, implied, or intended by the speaker, which is different from what was said by the speaker in a conversation Amrullah [10]. In other words, implicatures are intent, desire, or hidden expression.

In theory, Grice distinguishes two kinds of implicature, namely conventional implicature and conversational implicature [3]. Lyons describes the difference between conventional implicature and conversational implicature as that the form of both depends on the condition of the truth in the meaning used, certain forms, and expressions. The second is from a more general set of principles that organize appropriate conversation.

#### *Conventional Implicature*

Conventional implicature gets by the meaning of the word. It is related to its general use and meaning. It means that conventional implicature involves general implication or meaning. People already know and understand the meaning or implication of some words. Understanding that implication allows the listener to have the experience and general knowledge.

#### *Conversational Implicature*

Conversational implicature is also called a non-conventional implicature. Non-conventional implicature is implicature derived from pragmatic function in conversation. According to Grice, conversational implicature aims to help the listener understand what the speaker is saying by using the speaker's utterances to interpret, suggest, or explain something [3]. Therefore, it is temporary. It occurs when the conversation goes on. And it does not have context with the spoken utterances. This implicature is produced because there is a demand for the context in the conversation. In this conversation, the speaker often does not express the point directly. Something that wants to be said is precisely hidden, uttered indirectly, or what is uttered is different.

#### *Cooperative Principle*

Every day, people will meet other people and interact with them to carry out their activities. In their interactions, people use language as a media to communicate. In normal communication, the speaker and the listener, as the parties involved, will always try to deliver their speech effectively and efficiently. That is suitable with Wijana's opinion that the speaker will try to make their speech always relevant to the context, clear and easy to understand, solid, brief and always on the point, so it will not spend the time of the listener [11]. The speaker has to consider carefully all various factors of pragmatics that may be involved in the process of communication. So, the speech that is expressed can be accepted by the listener.

The cooperative principle is the set of general rules that consider how the speaker and listener cooperate in the conversation to achieve efficient and effective interaction. To implement that cooperation, the speaker has to obey four conversational maxims. They are the maxim of quality, the maxim of quantity, the maxim of relation, the maxim of manner, Grice [3].

#### *Conversational Maxim*

According to Grice, in the conversation, we should apply the principle of cooperation to create good feedback. To reveal that cooperative principle, the speaker has to obey the rules of the four maxims presented by Grice. They are the maxim of quality, the maxim of quantity, the maxim of relation, the maxim of manner.

*Maxim of Quantity*

Besides providing correct information, this maxim also demands that the speakers be informative to the listener. According to Rahardi [12] on the maxim of quantity, the speaker should expect to provide sufficient information, and be as informative as possible. It means that the speaker has to give clear information as much as needed, not more or less. If the information provided is too long, it will make the listener bored. While the information provided is too short, it will allow the listener to not get enough clear information. That statement is supported by Cutting's opinion that the speaker knows how much information the listeners require or can be bothered [13]. According to Grice [3], this maxim is attentive to:

1. Make our contribution as informative as is needed
2. Do not make our contribution more informative than is needed.

*Maxim of Quality*

In this maxim, the speaker is expected to deliver something that is true as a fact in the conversation. It demanded the speaker to give information that is really happening. The speaker will not say something that they believe is wrong or something that does not have adequate evidence. According to Grice, this maxim is attentive to:

1. Do not say anything that you believe to be false.
2. Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

*Maxim of Relation*

In this maxim, the speaker and the listener should each provide a relevant contribution to the matters discussed. The speaker should say something that is relevant to what has been said to create good cooperation between the speaker and the listener.

*Maxim of Manner*

In this maxim, the speaker has to say something that will be delivered clearly to avoid ambiguity and obscurity in the contribution of interaction. Here means brief and orderly. According to Grice [3], it is provided:

1. Avoid obscurity of expression
2. Avoid ambiguity
3. Be brief
4. Be orderly

*Flouting Maxim*

Flouting maxim is when the speaker does not obey the rule of the maxims in communication. The speaker did not consider a set of the maxim to create a certain purpose and deliberately create an implicature. Flout occurs when the speaker blatantly fails to observe a maxim at the level of what is said, with the deliberate intention of generating an implicature Grice [3].

## II. METHOD

In this research, the researcher uses one of the qualitative methods named the Narrative method. The narrative method is a detailed written report which describes the sequence of events or experiences of a person that has been collected in the form of data. In this study, the first researcher took data from utterances spoken by Connor Watts as a gambler in the *Skiptrace* movie. That utterance flouted the conversational maxim. The purpose of this study is to get more information and understanding about the flouting maxim and implicature produced from the conversation in this *Skiptrace* movie. Some procedures to analysed the data are: 1) The researcher chose kinds of the maxim that flouted and implicature that were used by Connor Watts in the *Skiptrace* movie. 2) The researcher classified the conversation contained based on the theory of the cooperative principle by Grice. 3) The researcher tried to find out other meanings from the data in the maxim that flouted and find out the reason why. 4) The researcher found the conclusion based on the result from the data and related to the theory of flouting maxim and pragmatics.

**Tabel 1.** Types of Flouting Maxim

Types of flouting maxim	Percentage	Quantity
Flouting maxim of quantity	37%	6
Flouting maxim of quality	31%	5
Flouting maxim of relation	25%	4
Flouting maxim of manner	12%	2

The writer found 16 data of utterances that Connors flouted. Then, the writer classified it according to the kind of flouting maxim. Then the data analyzed its implicature meaning and the purpose found in flouting maxim according to Grice's theory. 6 data of utterances (37%) represent the flouting maxim of quantity, 5 data of utterances (31%) represent the flouting maxim of quality, 4 data of utterances (25%) represent the flouting maxim of relation, and 2 data of utterances (12%) represent the flouting maxim of manner.

#### A. Types of flouting maxim used by Connor Watts as a gambler in the *Skiptrace* movie

##### a) *Flouting maxim of quantity*

###### ❖ Data 1

Connor : **...even now with the houses, and the Porsche, and the ... other Porsche I was just always holding out for a love like that...** I'm sorry... to Answer your first questions I'll have the chicken.

The utterances stated by Connor Watts when he was in the plane. Usually, the flight attendant will offer the menu to the passengers. But before Connor Watts answers what menu he wanted, he tells a story to them, "**...Even now with the houses, and the porsche, and the ... other porsche I was just always holding out for a love like that...** I'm sorry... to Answer your first questions I'll have the chicken." The other passengers also listened to it and some even cried. They enjoy Connor Watts's story. And in the last of the sentences, Connor Watts realizes that the story was too long by saying "I'm sorry... to answer your first questions I'll have the chicken" and starting to make an order.

From the dialogue, it can be assumed that Connor Watts flouted the maxim of quantity because he gives over information by telling the story to the flight attendant and the other passengers. Actually, the speaker is enough to say what he wants to eat on that plane.

###### ❖ Data 2

Ticket clerk : Purposes of your visit!

Connor : **Here to see the sites, but then again, what's there to see when the loveliest sight is right here.**

The utterances stated by Connor Watts when he talks to the ticket clerk. The ticket clerk says, "Purposes of your visit!". Then Connor answers, "**Here to see the sites, but then again, what's there to see when the loveliest sight is right here**".

The purpose of Connor is to trick the ticket clerk by using sweet words to praise her. "**Here to see the sites, but then again, what's there to see when the loveliest sight is right here**". He tries to tease the ticket clerk so she does not focus on Connor Watts's boarding pass because he is using someone else's boarding pass. The speaker should just show the boarding pass when the ticket clerk asks him. So the utterances can be assumed that the participant flouted the maxim of quantity because the contribution is more informative and more than needed.

##### b) *Flouting maxim of quality*

###### ❖ Data 1

Bennie : What are you doing?

Connor : (tries to run away by opening the door using his mouth, while Bennie against the enemy)

Connor : **I was just trying to give us a head start.**

Bennie : Uh, thank you for opening the door.

The utterances are presented by Connor Watts and Bennie. Bennie is against the enemy that is trying to catch Connor Watts. Connor tries to open the door using his mouth, but his hands are in handcuffs. But surprisingly, Bennie is already behind him and asks, “what are you doing?” Connor was surprised and answered “**Bennie, I was just trying to give us a head start**”.

Connor Watts secretive and wanting to escape both the enemy and Bennie too, but when Bennie catches him, Connor is surprised and says, “**Bennie, I was just trying to give us a head start**” From those utterances, it can be assumed that Connor flouted the maxim of quality because he says things that are untrue and lead to lying.

❖ Data 2

Bennie : (open the car’s door to invite out and go to the airport but Connor pretend to do not hear him)

Connor : Hey, do you want some pizza? I’m ordering from U.S embassy.

Bennie : Open up!

Connor : **I’m sorry I can’t hear you from this glass (He didn’t try to open the door, but locked the car)**

Bennie : (breaking car windows) Can you hear me now?

That utterances are present by Connor and Bennie when they are at the airport. Bennie tries to immediately take Connor back to Macau. Bennie hurried to chase time and told Connor to quickly open the car, “Open up!”, but Connor kept making excuses by saying, “**I’m sorry I can’t hear you from this glass**” And Bennie impatiently breaks it down “Can you hear me now?”

That utterance can be assumed that flouted the maxim of quality. Connor always makes excuses to spin out time, so he will not go to Macau. It flouted the maxim of quality because that utterance leads to lying. If he can’t hear Bennie’s voice, he can open the car door and not even lock the car from the inside.

c) *Flouting maxim of relation*

Data 1

Bennie : How you get my lighter?

Connor : **Better question is how did I get your passport?**

The utterances stated by Connor and Bennie. Bennie tries to bring Connor back to Macau. But Connor does not want to go there. So, he tries to burn out Bennie’s passport. Bennie panicked ask Connor “How you get my lighter?” and Connor answered “**Better question is how did I get your passport**”. From the utterances, Connor flouted the maxim of relation because when Bennie asks him how the way he gets Bennie’s lighter, Connor does not tell him how the way and asks him back questions.

Data 2

Bennie : (open the car’s door to invite out and go to the airport but Connor pretend to do not hear him)

Connor : **Hey, do you want some pizza? I’m ordering from U.S embassy.**

Bennie : Open up!

Connor : I’m sorry I can’t hear you from this glass

Bennie : (breaking car windows) Can you hear me now?

The utterances are presented by Connor and Bennie when they just arrive at the airport. Bennie wants to immediately take Connor back to Macau. But when Bennie opens the car’s door, Connor locks it from the inside and even makes a phone call and says, “**Hey, do you want some pizza? I’m ordering from U.S embassy**” Bennie panicked and ordered Connor to open the car, “Open up!” and keep trying to open the car. And Connor keeps making excuses by saying, “I’m sorry I can’t hear you from this glass.” And Bennie impatiently broke the car window and said, “Can you hear me now”.

From that Connor’s utterances, it can be assumed that it is flouted the maxim of relation. He wants to spin out time, so he will not go to Macau with Bennie by offering pizza from the U.S.

d) *Flouting maxim of manner*

Data 1

Connor : **Maybe, for the best Bennie. Life in prison's better than getting killed by psychopaths. And jail might not be so bad. We can both get jacket, get some tattoe, maybe meet Morgan Freeman.**

Bennie : The phone, we have to get it back.

Connor : Do you see the situation we're in Bennie?

The utterances presented by Connor and Bennie in the police car will take him to prison. Connor, who from the start didn't want to have an affair, says, "**Maybe, for the best Bennie. Life in prison's better than getting killed by psychopaths. And jail might not be so bad. We can both get jacket, get some tattoe, maybe meet Morgan Freeman.**" Bennie answers, "The phone, we have to get it back".

Connor states the utterances because he does not want to have an affair with Victor Wong from the start. So, when they are going to jail, Connor tries to cheer up Bennie by saying, "**Maybe, for the best Bennie. Life in prison's better than getting killed by psychopaths. And jail might not be so bad. We can both get jacket, get some tattoe, maybe meet Morgan Freeman**". It shows that Connor flouted the maxim of manners because no one likes to live in prison. So, it contains ambiguity. Does he really like prison? or avoid dealing with Victor Wong. And also, the utterances are not brief.

Data 2

Samantha : I'm going to choose to remember him as he was before. My father died nine years ago.

Bennie : He was a good man. Best partner I ever had.

Connor : **Eghm...**

Bennie : Best Chinese partner

That conversation happened when Bennie and Connor just succeeded in saving Samantha from her dad, who used to be Bennie's best partner. When Samantha is disappointed with her dad, she says, "I'm going to choose to remember him as he was before. My father died nine years ago." Bennie tries to console Samantha by saying, "He was a good man. Best partner I ever had." And Connor, among them, heard Bennie's statement just clear his throat with "**Eghm**".

Connor states that utterances because he feels jealous when Bennie says, "He was a good man. Best partner I ever had" to explain Samantha's dad to her. Then Connor utters, "**Eghm**". That can assume Connor flouted the maxim of manner because there is an ambiguity when Connor says that utterance, which makes Bennie instantly clarify the utterance to "Best Chinese partner" Then Connor smiles to hear the last of Bennie's utterance.

### III. FINDING AND CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the writer found 16 data of utterances that Connors flouted. Then, the writer classified it according to the kind of flouting maxim. Then the data was analysed for its implicature meaning and the purpose found in flouting maxim according to Grice's theory. Based on the data analysis in 16 data in chapter IV, there are some differences from the previous study. Some of the differences are as follows: 1. Four kinds of maxims were flouted by Connor in the *Skiptrace* movie according to the Grice theory, and there are 6 data of utterances that are mostly flouted by Connor that is the maxim of quantity, 5 data-flouted maxim of quality, 5 data-flouted maxim of relation, and 2 data-flouted maxim of manner. Each maxim flouted by Connor creates another purpose and implicit meaning. 2. In the *Skiptrace* movie, Connor has flouted all maxims that Grice purposed. Of all maxims that he flouted, the most often repeated is the maxim of quantity. There is some way he flouted every maxim. The maxim of quantity is mostly flouted by Connor in the *Skiptrace* movie by giving more information to trick the hearer,

negotiate, and even though the hearer did not ask him and does not need the information. 3. Maxim of manner is rarely flouted by Connor in the *Skiptrace* movie. Connor flouted the maxim of manner by giving ambiguous sentences that had other meanings to influence and remind his partner, so the partner changed his opinion. 4. In the maxim of quality, the writer found there are 5 data of flouting maxim of quality flouted by Connor in this study which means untrue, lying, and pretending to avoid the anger of interlocutors. 5. There are 5 data of flouting maxim of relation that flouted by Connor in the *Skiptrace* movie. Connor uses a flouting maxim of relation by giving an answer that is not relevant to the questions, and asking back the question to divert the conversation with his interlocutors.

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**Conflict of Interest Statement:**

*The author declares that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.*