# Analysis of Quantity Maxim Violation in Movie Richard Kletter & Michele Samit *Stolen by My Mother: Kamiyah Mobley Story* (2020)

**Lusi Adelia Herman [1], Leni Marlina[2]**
English Department
Faculty of Languages and Arts
Universitas Negeri Padang
email: *lusiadeliaaherman@gmail.com*

## Abstract

Inability to reach the effectiveness in using maxim makes it turns into misunderstanding of communication. It is called violation of maxim. This study is aimed to seek quantity maxim violation performed by characters in Richard Kletter and Michele Samit's movie *Stolen by My Mother: Kamiyah Mobley (2020)* This research was descriptive qualitative analysis. The data were collected from utterances of the characters and then were analyzed by using Grice's theory (1975). The result of this study shows that all characters violated the quantity maxim in 18 times, with different categories of violation. The most dominant category of quantity maxim violation is when *the speakers talk too much and give too short contribution in convers*ation (55%). The other categories quantity maxim violation in the movie are *Uninformative* (27%) and *Circumlocution* (16%). Meanwhile, another category is *Repeat Certain Word*, it does not exist in the movie.

**Key words**: Cooperative Principle, Quantity Maxim, Violation of Maxim

## A. INTRODUCTION

Language, as a tool for communication, plays an important role in conversations involving individuals or groups. People cannot avoid communication and will engage in it in almost every aspect of their lives. Shepherd, Striphas, and John et al., (2005) emphasize communication as a process because it is an activity, an exchange, or a set of behaviors in which you engage. Paul Grice is a lecturer at Harvard University in 1967 ( see Amrullah & Java, 2015) Grice argued that basic to all "talk exchanges" was a global imperative for speakers to "Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged" in (Fitch & Sanders, 2004). Grice postulated a general Cooperative Principle and four maxims specifying how to be cooperative. He said

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[1] English ELLSP of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang graduated on March 2022

[2] Lecturer of English Department of FBS Universitas Negeri Padang

that it is common knowledge that individuals typically follow these criteria for effective communication. The Cooperative Principle also implies that all conversation's participants are solely trying to achieve mutual aims.

However, when such an understanding does not occur, the communicative situation devolves into misunderstanding rather than comprehension. The most common communication issues are misunderstanding and misinterpretation because the speakers fail to follow the cooperative principle in a discourse, this phenomenon is also known as non-observance maxim. One of kind of non - observance maxim is violation. According to Grice ( as cited in Cutting, 2002,p.40) the speaker recognize that the listener will not know the reality and will just get the surface meaning of the word. They purposefully create a false implication. They simply fail to follow it-. At best, violating a maxim result in being a confusing or uncooperative conversational. At worst, violating a maxim involves lying or being intentionally misleading.

This research tried to reveal violation of quantity maxim performed by the characters in movie *Stolen by My Mother: Kamiyah Mobley (2020)*. The researcher used the movie and its script as research objects that showed quantity maxim violation. the researcher chose a movie as data analysis because movie is one of the most visible media for representing human society.

Moreover, the researcher also found several other researcher who had studied about quantity maxim violation. Khosravizadeh & Sadehvandi (2011), Ngenget (2019) found that the reasons of violating the maxim was mostly in order to share information. In movie, Khosravizadeh & Sadehvandi (2011).

Based on the previous above, the researcher doesn't intend to take on new research topic, but the researcher continues previous research with the same focus about quantity maxim violation with different object.

## B. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative method because the researcher studied deeply how quantity violation maxim performed in a movie especially in movie *Stolen by My Mother: Kamiyah Mobley (2020)*. The researcher used several steps to collect the data which is needed for the research. Firstly, after downloading the movie, the researcher watched the movie many times. Then, the researcher looked for the script of the movie and marked particular scene related to violation of quantity maxim. Lastly, the researcher did tabulation in order to make it easy to classifying the quantity maxim based on each category of violation.

## C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
### 1. Research Finding

The data was obtained from the utterances spoken by the characters in movie *Mother: Kamiyah Mobley (2020)*. The data were analyzed using Grice's theory of Cooperative Principle and H. Tupan & Natalia (2008,p.68) guidelines of

the criteria of violation of maxims.  To make clearer explanation, the researcher describes findings as follow:

### 1.1 Circumlocution and not to the point contribution

The first categories of violating maxim happen when the speaker is doing circumlocution and not to the point in conversational contributions. It can be seen in the data below:

Data 11

| Alexis | Ma… what's going on?" |
| --- | --- |
| Gloria | **I did something. I did something bad. You might think it's unforgivable"** |

Data 25

| Diana Johnson | Mrs. Williams, describe your relationship with Charles Manigo" |
| --- | --- |
| Gloria | **I, um… I was always taught that if you love somebody, they'll love you back. That wasn't the case with Charles. He took me to a dark place… and my soul and spirit broke… I don't have the bruises anymore, and thankfully, God has healed my heart, so"** |

Data 28

| Diana Johnson | so even then, you had no intention of taking a baby? |
| --- | --- |
| Gloria | **we were just talking, and um… she was… so young, and she didn't know what she was going to do. and I um… just wanted to the abuse and the pain to stop with Charles, but it never did** |

From the data shown above, it can be seen that Gloria as a main character violated quantity maxim. In data 11, the conversational contribution was kind of prolix answer so it doesn't go to the point of the conversation. In data 25, Gloria's answer was going too far and not to the point so it didn't clearly answer the question "describe your relationship with Charles Manigo". Moreover, "I was always taught that if you love somebody, they'll love you back. That wasn't the case with Charles. He took me to a dark place.. and my soul and spirit broke" is enough to answer the question. While in data 28, Gloria violated the quantity maxim because the conversational contribution didn't directly go to the point. Diana Johnson asked whether Gloria had intention to kidnap the baby Kamiyah, the answer might be yes or no. However, Gloria gave prolix answer that is not required information though.

### 1.2 Uninformative

The second categories which reflected violation of quantity maxim is when the speaker is noy uninformative in conversational contribution. It can be seen in the data below:

Data 1

| Gloria:" | you're gonna hurt the baby, Charles" |
| Charles | okay, when's my baby gonna come, huh? |
| Gloria | **soon Charles** |

Data 6

| Arika | Arika: "is that your mama?" |
| Alexis | **is that your daddy?"** |

Data 27

| Diana Johnson | where were you going? |
| Gloria | **my life was out of control. I had, um, lost custody of my boys, I lost the baby I was carrying, and me and Charles… I just… I felt like I didn't… I didn't have anything, and I couldn't tell anybody in my family, because they looked at me as this, you know, upbeat kind of a person… I just, I kept putting one foot in front of the other, and nobody knew the nightmare that I was living** |

Data 29

| Alexis | Ma, how are you |
| Gloria | **hey, baby. I miss you. What's going on up there? tell me everything** |

Data 34

| Swerve | so, what you gonna miss most about this place? |
| Alexis | **what you talking' about? I'm not going anywhere** |

From the table above, it showed the character violated maxim of quantity. As it showed in data 1, Gloria tends to be uninformative to answer Charles' question. Charles asked when gloria's baby would be born. Required information can be as the day, date, or estimated hour of birth. However, Gloria replied "soon Charles". Gloria violated quantity maxim because the answer was not as informative as was required. In data 6, From the data shown above, it can be seen that Alexis' performance was not informative. Alexis did not answer Arika's question with "yes" or "no" but instead asked back rather than replied the question properly. "Is that your daddy? is not informative as is required. Moreover, in data 27, the contributions made by Gloria were so convoluted so it didn't go to the point of question. In data 29, the contributions made by Gloria are not informative. Alexis was obviously asking Gloria about her in prison. Gloria didn't answer whether she was okay or not. Furthermore, in data 34, From the data shown above. it can be seen that Alexis tend to fail observing the quantity maxim. Swerve asked what things Alexis would miss if he were to move to a new place

leaving his bitterness in Florida. Swerve hopes Alexis will tell her fun things to remember. however, Alexis violated the quantity maxim by answering what you talking' about? I'm not going anywhere". the quote illustrates that it didn't answer the question yet.

1.3 Too short/too much contribution

The next categories reflected violation of quantity is when the speaker talks too short/too much in giving contribution in conversation. It shows in the data below:

Data 2

| Gloria | She's beautiful. **Her name is Kamiyah"** |
|---|---|
| Shanara | yes ma'am, sure she is. **Her name is Kamiyah** |

Data 7

| Alexis | He been gone for a while now. You got a mom? |
|---|---|
| Arika | his ex-wife… **so you know what that means. If I know my dad, you and I might have to like each other. You okay with that?"** |

Data 8

| Oskie | Honey, I've been meaning to ask. how did that interview go at work today? |
|---|---|
| Gloria | he said I needed a college degree for the job. **I work hard all these years just to hear that I'm not educated enough for a promotion** |

Data 10

| Alexis | mom, look at this free sample. Think this is gonna cause a riot |
|---|---|
| Gloria | **I think if that lipsticks is on your lips, and you in my house, it's gonna definitely be a riot. Put it back** |

Data 14

| Alexis | she is not my mom |
|---|---|
| Arika | what, are you adopted or something? cause that ain't no… |
| Alexis | because she took me. Stole me from a hospital from my birth mom**. Oskie knows. We're so scared that somebody's gonna find out** |

Data 18

| Shannon | can you help |
|---|---|
| Justin Bamberg | I'd be honored to**. If Alexis will have me, and if she promises to do exactly what I tell her** |

Data 21

| Shanara | I just found you, not I got to watch you on tv talking about a woman who stole you from me? you belong to me, Kamiyah. Why do I have to compete with a kidnapper for your love? that ain't fair for me. |
|---|---|
| Alexis | I am sorry. I didn't mean to hurt your feelings**. You know** |

| | **I'm still coming down next month to get to know y'all better. Maybe we can work on your relationship then, not as of now, I'm just not ready to do what you want. I got to go. Bye.** |
|---|---|

Data 23

| Shanara | you know all my kids make the best macaroni and cheese. You learn how to cook yet |
|---|---|
| Alexis | oh no**. I can order take out like a champ, though** |

Data 24

| Alison | MS. Mobley, has time healed these wounds? |
|---|---|
| Shanara | it doesn't heal now**. I have kids know but… I'm still hurting. That is my baby. I'm your mother Kamiyah! I'm your mother, and your name is Kamiyah Mobley!** |

Data 26

| Diana Johnson | when you were in that relationship with Mr. Manigo, did you become pregnant? |
|---|---|
| Gloria | yes**,** I did **I already had two kids, but… Charles wanted a baby. He thought that it would, um… it would make him stable. I believed him. I wanted to believed him, but after the stress, the abuse…things, um… they didn't turn out like we planned** |

From those tables above, it could be seen that the character tended to violate the quantity maxim because the contribution is going to the point. As it shown in data 2, Shanara did violation of quantity maxim. she tended to share more information about her child, in fact Gloria just commended on her child that she was beautiful. "Yes ma'am, sure she is" had been enough to respond the praise. In data 7, it can be seen that Arika violates quantity maxim. "His ex-wife" is enough to answer the Alexis's question "…You got a mom?". However, Arika's answer is too long and gave more information than what it is required. In data 8, Gloria gave more information than what is needed. "He said I needed a college degree for the job" was enough to answer Oskie's question. In data 10, Gloria's contribution is not to the point. Alexis asked how she like was at that moment, but Gloria gave prolix answer. In data 14, it can be seen that Alexis tend to violate quantity maxim. Alexis talks too much. in fact, Arika just want to know whether Gloria is Alexis' biological mom or not. "Because she took me. Stole me from a hospital from my birth mom" this quotation is required information of the question. it means enough and have answered the question. In data 18, Justin had answered enough by saying "I'd be honored to." it is enough to answer "can you help"', Arika's question. However, the prolix answer in bold type seemed prolix one. In data 21, Alexis, went too far so it was out of the point. The prolix answer made it too rambling in conversational contribution. In data 23, Alexis added some information which was out of the topic. In data 24, Shanara violated quantity maxim. Alison's question was just "Ms. Mobley, has time healed these wounds?" "it doesn't heal now. I have kids know, but... I'm still hurting is a very appropriate answer. However, the rest of Shanara's contribution was a convoluted

answer. From the data shown above, it can be seen that Gloria tend to violate quantity maxim. she gave more information than what is needed. Diana Johnson only asked about her and Charles especially during her pregnancy during her relationship with Charles. "Yes, I did" has answered Diana Johnson's question, so the rest of Gloria's answer is more than what is needed information.

The last categories reflected violation of quantity is when the speaker repeats certain word in giving conversational contribution in. However, it is very unfortunate that this research found no data that supported the last categories.

**Table 1 The Occurrences of the Symptoms of Quantity Maxim Violation Used by The Characters in *Stolen by My Mother: Kamiyah Mobley (2020)***

| No | Quantity Violation | F | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Circumlocution/not to the point | 3 | 16% |
| 2 | Uninformative | 5 | 27% |
| 3 | Talks too short/too much | 10 | 55% |
| 4 | Repeats certain words | 0 | 0% |
| ∑ | | 18 | 100% |

Table 4.1.2.6 above showed the occurrences of symptoms of quantity maxim violation used by the characters in movie *Stolen by My Mother: Kamiyah Mobley (2020)*. From the table above, it can be seen that the characters tend to violate maxim of quantity. It can be seen that the frequent occurrences of these symptom from the character were the third symptom: talk too short and too much were 55%. Moreover, the characters often violated the maxim of quantity by being uninformative which was on 27%, and rarely violate the maxim by being not to the point which was on16%. However, the characters never repeated certain word, it can be seen the symptom was on 0%.

## 2. Discussion

Communication occurs between two or more participants to obtain mutual aims. Grice (1975) has devised a theory for conversational contribution is effective.it is called Cooperative Principle by developing four sets how to be cooperative, namely, Quantity, Quality, Relevance, and Manner. However, there are circumstances and conditions that make the speaker unable to be cooperative. This is called the violation of Cooperative Principle. Then, researchers describe how the quantity maxim violation carried out by the character in movie *Stolen by My Mother: Kamiyah Mobley (2020)*. Based on the movie, the character in the movie tended to violate maxim of quantity with different categories. The symptom that can be seen is when the speaker is not to the point/circumlocution. The character often gave more information so the conversational contribution could not to the point. The next symptom is when the speaker was not informative. There were several cases when the character didn't give the required contribution to the other speaker. Then, another symptom happened when the speaker talked too short or much. The character usually gave more explanation so the contribution was too much, but there were some cases when the character gave less contribution so it was not uninformative enough as a conversational

contribution. The last symptom happened when the speaker repeats certain word, but the researcher didn't find out this symptom. Based on the findings of this research, we can conclude that quantity maxim is one of the most violated maxims found in a movie. Additional information makes the conversation be too long as an informative required contribution.

## D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Dealing with quantity maxim violation, the character in movie *Stolen by My Mother: Kamiyah Mobley (2020).* In this case, the character was to be not to the point, uninformative, giving less and more contribution.

Based on the result of the research, the researcher suggests that the student who want to study more about cooperative principle especially violation of maxim to get deeper explanation. Through this research, the researcher also hopes there will be more amazing object of research related to cooperative principle to study more deeply.

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