Flouting of the Gricean Cooperative Maxims in New Amsterdam Series

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Abstract

Aim: The primary objective of this study is to investigate how all the characters in the TV series New Amsterdam violate the Gricean maxims in season one episodes 1,7,19, and 20.

Methodology: The observation method was adopted and as data analysis tools, quantitative and qualitative methods were employed.

Outcomes: According to the findings, there were 35 instances of flouting of maxims, with each 28.5 % (10 instances) being the flouting of the maxim of quantity and Relation and 22.86% (8 instances) being the flouting of the maxim of Quality, 20% (7 instances) being the flouting of the maxim of manner. The maxim

of quantity is the most flouted maxim and the maxim of manner is the least flouted maxim.

Conclusion and Suggestion: New Amsterdam's characters frequently flout the maxims by being irrelevant, changing the topic, employing irony or sarcasm, employing bantering or being ambiguous or obscure, and giving less or more information. Analyzing the utterances helps the learners of the language to understand the implicatures of the utterances. So, future studies can be made on significant speeches of contemporary public figures.

Keywords: Flouting, Gricean, Maxims, New Amsterdam Series

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The process of having successful conversations is primarily determined by two factors: first, how well the speaker and hearer understand each other, and second, how well they collaborate to have appropriate conversations. The cooperative principle refers to the process of interlocutors cooperating to appropriately construct and apprehend utterances. Paul Grice identifies four natural languages pragmatics-derived conversational maxims. The Gricean Maxims explain the relationship between utterances and what can be inferred from them. The Maxims are focused on his cooperative principle, which states, '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,' and is titled

after the fact that hearers and speakers must speak cooperatively and reciprocally accept one another in order to be understood in a particular way. The cooperative principle is comprised of four maxims: the Quantity maxim, the Quality maxim, the Relation maxim, and the Manner maxim. The Quantity category is concerned with the amount of information required, and it includes the following maxims:

"Make your contribution as informative as is required "

"Do not make your contribution more informative than is required."

Maxims fall in the category of Quality:

"Try to make your contribution one that is true."

"Do not say what you believe to be false."

"Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence."

Maxim of Relation:

"Be relevant"

Finally, under the category of Manner, which Grice interprets as relating not to what is said and yet to how what is said is to be said, is included the supermaxim – 'Be perspicuous' – and multiple maxims including such as 1."Avoid obscurity". 2."Avoid ambiguity." 3."Be brief (avoid unnecessary prolixity)." 4."Be orderly."

Speakers, on the other hand, may choose not to follow or observe these maxims. The maxims could be flouted; this occurs when individuals intentionally cease to apply the maxims to convince their hearers to indicate the hidden meaning behind the utterances; such that, the speakers use implicature (Levinson,1983 in Khosravizadeh and Sadehvandi, 2011). In the particular instance of flouting cooperative maxims, the speaker wishes for the greatest comprehension in his/her receiver because it is assumed that the speaker will be able to discover the hidden meaning behind the utterances.

Grice's cooperation principle is flouted when one of the speakers fails to provide accurate information or fails to function properly. Flouting Grice's cooperation principle involves flouting the maxims of quality, quantity, relation, and manner. To avoid communication errors, everyone in a conversation or discussion should pay much attention to the four maxims. The four rules outlined above, however, are rarely breached by the speakers. This is known as the non-observance of the maxims, and the flouting maxim is a common example of the non-observance of the maxims. Flouting is a very common offense that falls into several classifications. When a speaker blatantly fails to deliver something to the speaker, this is referred to as flouting.

However, it is possible to intentionally or unintentionally flout a maxim and thus transmit various meanings than what is spoken. In conversation, this flouting is frequently manipulated by a speaker to give a negative pragmatic influence, such as sarcasm or irony.

This study is about the flouting In New Amsterdam series, an American medical drama series that was created by David Schulner based on the book *TWELVE PATIENTS: LIFE AND DEATH AT BELLEVUE HOSPITAL* by Eric Manheimer. This is about A new medical director who defies the rules to heal the system at America's oldest public hospital.

In this research, the writer observes a medical drama, which can provide us with a good example of how the characters flout the maxims while communicating with one another. The writer's research is based on the television series 'New Amsterdam.' This series contains numerous examples of how people flout maxims.

Research Questions

- 1. Which maxims are flouted the most?
- **2.** Which maxims are flouted the least?
- **3.** What are the reasons for flouting conversational maxims?

It may be easier for the researchers to fully comprehend the maxims by this research and it can be used as a reference for future studies.

As flouting of conversational maxims is so crucial in a discussion, many studies have been conducted to look into them from various perspectives.

Shet. J.P, (2021)'s studies on O. Henry's short story, "The Gift of the Magi" and Tagore's short story," Profit and Loss" look into newer perspectives of flouting the conversational maxims in day-to-day life to express one's love, anger, etc.

Arso, Ardi (2016) explains how maxims utilized in the UP-movie script can be used to teach speaking. Dini Nurfarwati, Siti NurAnisa, and Rasi Yugafiati's (2018) research used a mixed method to shed light on the phenomena of the flouting maxim in the film Moana. The data comes from the dialogues of two prominent characters in the Moana movie, Moana and Maui. Besides movie scripts, there were Innumerable studies on the flouting of maxims in TV series like Nurmalia A. Kharismawanti & Amin Basuki's study on Mom (2020), Sherly Febriani's (2015) on The Simpsons, Zhafira Ayu Dhamastri's (2015) research on New Girl and Johan Lööf's (2017) study on The Office. There are 99 cases of flouting in the TV series Mom and the most maxim was flouted is the maxim of quality which was flouted 59 times out of 99 times. The number of flouted utterances that the researcher found is 59 in New Girl situational comedy, and the maxim of Relation was the most flouted. In The Office, the most violated maxim by Dwight is the relation maxim. As data analysis tools, quantitative and qualitative methodologies were applied by Nurmalia A. Kharismawanti & Amin Basuki.

This research is also a mixed approach and like Leyli Gorfi's (2015) research which focused on examples of Grice's maxims being either violated or flouted in the American television series "Friends." is also an outcome of being influenced by the comedy genre because the comedies, among other genres, have the ability to violate or flout the Gricean maxims for both the laughter and fun

creation and the characters flout the maxims since they want to show they're idiots or pretend to be stupid, or when they want to use irony or sarcasm in their speech.

The researcher uses a medical drama television show, called New Amsterdam, to apply flouting of Gricean maxims. The data's source is taken from the dialogues from New Amsterdam series, which can be found on Netflix, a legal movie streaming site. David Schulner created New Amsterdam based on Eric Manheimer's book *TWELVE PATIENTS: LIFE AND DEATH AT BELLEVUE HOSPITAL*. The series first aired in 2018, with a total of three seasons completed. However, this study only looked at the first season of the series, which aired from 2018 to 2019, and consisted of four episodes (1, 7, 19 & 20) out of a total of twenty, with a running time ranging from 40 to 43 minutes per episode.

For analyzing the data, the researcher uses mixed-method which is a combination of Quantitative and Qualitative methods. The qualitative methodology describes why and how Gricean maxims are not observed in certain situations, whereas the quantitative methodology counts the most flouted maxim. The study's analysis is carried out by examining various conversations that occur in various situations throughout different episodes of the chosen tv series. To begin, the study investigates how and why the characters flout Gricean maxims when communicating with one another. Following that, the study determines which of the maxims is most frequently flouted and which of the maxims is least flouted and what are the reasons based on the examination findings. After that, the tables in MS Word, Pie Chart in Microsoft Office Excel program are used for counting which maxims are flouted the most, and which maxims are flouted the least.

Table 1: Conversations from episode

	The flouted		Reasons of
Conversations from episode 1	maxims	Context and explanation	the flouting
Dr. Bloom: Do you hear that?	Quality maxim	Dr. Bloom heard a sound came from the patient who	Giving false information
Nurse: Hear what? Doctor Bloom, she's dead. No pulse, no		supposed to be dead and when she asked the nurse if	
BP, cyanotic, rigor mortis.		he have heard that sound, he	
Dr. Bloom: I need a defib		answered her with a false	
ventilator, ALS, and resuscitation		answer about her situation	
team, now!		thinking that she is dead	
Dr. Max: Going somewhere?Dr.	Quality	while she was not. Dr. Helen and Dr. Max meet	Sarcasm
Helen: I have to tape segments	maxim	each other for the first time.	Barcasiii
with "The Morning Show" and		He asked her if she is going	
Megyn Kelly, then give the		somewhere and when Helen	
keynote address at the oncology		replied him, he was surprised	
conference in Vail.		that she will do all of that in her lunch break because it is	
Dr. Max: I'll take that for you. Dr. Helen: Thank you.		a short time, then she laughed	
Dr. Max: Wow, you're gonna do		sarcastically and said that he	
Il that on your lunch break.		is funny while she meant the	
Dr. Helen: [laughs] You're		opposite.	
funny.			
Dr. Max: Unlike the previous	Quality	Dr. Max was telling Dr.	Sarcasm
medical director, I actually expect	maxim	Helen to do her job because	
you to practice medicine at this		she is a doctor, and because	
hospital because I don't know,		Helen didn't like what he	
it's your job.		said again sarcastically	
Dr. Helen:You're funny.		answered him that he is funny while she meant the	
		opposite	
Dr. Kapoor: Doctor, um	Relation	Dr. Kapoor was talking to Dr.	Giving
	maxim	Max telling him that surely,	irrelevant
Dr. Max: Goodwin, but call me		he doesn't have time to take	answer.
Max. I was just taking an interest.		an interest for every case because he is the Medical	
Dr. Kapoor: Surely you don't		Director but Dr. Max's reply	
have the time to take an interest		was irrelevant because he	
in every single case.		talked about his running	
		shoes but implying that	
Dr. Max: Well, that's why I wear		because of his running shoes	
my running shoes.		he could take interest in	

	Maxim of Quality	every case. To create humour	
Dr. Max: Yale. Fancy. What secret society were you? Skull and Bones? Scroll and Key? Dr. Reynolds: The one that took a poor black kid.	Quantity and manner maxim	Dr. Max asked Reynolds about in what secret society he was. Dr. Reynolds's reply was less informative than what is Dr. Max expecting. Also, his answer wasn't clear to Max's question because he didn't clarify which one was that.	Giving less and ambiguous information.
Dr. Max: So, Floyd, why did you become a cardiovascular surgeon? Dr. Reynolds: You know, all due respect, I don't need a pat on the back on the way out.	Relation maxim	Dr. Max asked about Reynolds' reason for becoming a cardiovascular surgeon, yet Reynolds' answer was irrelevant because he didn't want him to pat on him.	Giving irrelevant answer.
Dr. Bloom: Anybody know who this is? Nurse: I found a boarding pass in his pocket.	Quantity maxim Maxim of Relation Quantity of Manner	Dr. Bloom asked about the patient identity but the nurse gave her less information about what she found with him and did not tell his name.	Giving less information
Dr. Bloom: What does that even mean? "Because I'm not black." Dr. Reynolds: Patient is stable, in case you were wondering.	Relation maxim	Bloom was asking Reynolds about why did he say to her that because she is not black, but Reynolds changed the subject and talked about the patient situation because he didn't want to answer her question.	Changing the topic.

Table 2: Conversations from Episode 7

Conversations from episode 7	The flouted maxims	Context and explanation	Reasons of the flouting
Dr. Helen: Max's back molars will	Quantity	Dr. Helen explained to Gorgia	Giving too
fall into the field of radiation and	maxim.	that Max's back morals need	much
they'll need to be extracted.		to be extracted, then Georgia	information
Georgia: Um, so why haven't we		asked Max why he haven't	
done that yet?		done the back morals surgery	
Dr. Max: Because I have been		yet and Max's answer was too	
kicking this thing down the road,		informative because he	

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a little bit. To try to buy myself a little more time, you know, as as medical director. Which, now that I say out loud, in front of my wife, does not sound like the excuse it sounded like in my head		wanted to give her excuses.	
Reynolds' girlfriend: Domino Day. Reynolds: Yeah. Reynolds' girlfriend: You excited? Reynolds: Um, eh. Transplant surgeons get to have all the fun. I don't even get to sing back-up.	Quantity maxim.	Reynolds's girlfriend asked him if he is excited for the domino day but he gave her more information than what is required by talking about the transplant surgeons that will have all the fun but not him.	Giving too much information
Bloom: Pull another double? Casey: Bronx General. Bloom: "Knife and Gun Club?" Casey: A guy's gotta eat. Man, their ED never stops	Quantity maxim	Bloom asked Casey if he was in the knife and gun club and he answered her implying that he was there because he needed to earn money, giving her more information to explain his cause.	Giving too much information
Dr. Bloom: They need docs? -Since when are you hard up for cash? Dr. Bloom: I'm not. It sounds like fun.	Relation maxim	Bloom asked Casey if that hospital need doctors but Casey asked her irrelatively about since when she needed money because he was curious why she wanted to work there.	Giving irrelevant answer.
Patient: You're looking good. How are the kids? The patient's sister: You know, they each have their own bedroom now. So, they kinda love that.	.Quantity maxim	The patient asked his sister about how her kids are doing, and she answered him with a long answer telling him that they have their own bedrooms and they love it.	Giving too much information
Dr. Bloom: You don't have insurance? Gianna's father: Undocumented	Quantity maxim	Gianna's father answered Bloom with a short answer implying that they are undocumented which means that they don't have the insurance.	Giving less information
Dr. Helen: Georgia, with cancer, the odds are difficult to quantify. But I believe that this is our very best option. Georgia: So why haven't we	Quality and	Georgia asked Dr. Helen about why they haven't started the treatment plan but Dr. Helen escaped from the answer because she did not	Giving less information and being obscure

started already?	Manner	know why, and repeated her	
- Dr. Helen: Yes, Max, why	Maxim	question to Max to answer	
haven't we started already?		instead of her.	

Table 3: Conversation from Episode 19

Conversations from episode 19	The flouted maxim	Context and discussion	Reasons of flouting
Dr. Max: So, I've got this friend and, uh, great guy, a little stubborn, but, as life would have it, he's got cancer. Dr. Helen: Is that so? Dr. Max: Don't worry. He's keeping his head up, staying positive And, uh, here's the thingDr. Helen: Oh, there's a thing. I assumed cancer was the big twist.Dr. Max: No, see, my friend recently got this new doctor who, uh, as it turns out, is making it really hard for my friend to stay positive.Dr: Helen: Hang on, this sounds like somebody I know. Dr. Max: Really? Weird. Not only did she put my friend on an impossible to maintain schedule, but now she's insisting that my friend get a feeding tube. So he was really hoping that he could get a second opinion.	Quantity maxim	Max came to Helen and talked to her about his friend who had a cancer and his doctor is insisting on him to get a feeding tube and he needs some help from Dr. Helen to prevent that from happening and give him another opinion. Max's utterances here were lies because he was talking about himself not to his friend, and he gave too much information because he wanted to imply to Dr. Helen that he needs her help in indirect way because she was his doctor and might help him not to get the feeding tube which will prevent him from doing his work in the hospital.	Giving too much information
Dr. Froom: How you doing, Jemma? Jemma: I'm fine. Dr. Froom: Well, uh, I hope you're ready to be awesome because I brought doubles and kurma from Leelee's Roti Shop. Boom. Jemma: I'm good	Quantity maxim	Dr. Froom visited Jemma to see her improvement with her new family and brought with him her favorite food, and when he told Jemma about the food, she answered him with less information than is required telling him that she is good which was implying that she did not want to eat and talk to him	Giving less information
Dr. Candelario: All right, what do you got?	Quality maxim	In the ED, a patient hit by a car entered, so Dr. Candelario	Giving false information

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		asked about the patient's	
Policeman: - Marie McNeil. 40-		situation. The policeman	
year-old female police officer -		answered her but Angelo	
on foot when struck		interrupted and gave her	
		wrong information about the	
Angelo: By a drunk driver. Hit		person who hit her by saying	
and run.		that he was drunk and after the	
		accident he ran, but this was	
		untrue information.	
Dr. Froom: Oh, there he is! Just	Quality	Dr. Froom came to Dr. Max to	Banter
the boss I was looking for! Can I	maxim	get his photograph to do	Danci
get an autograph on this?	maxim	something and Max quickly	
Dr. Max: You bet.		signed it without even looking	
Dr. Froom: Thank you. Not		to what he signed for. So, Dr.	
everyone would sign their		Froom sarcastically lied to	
kidneys away like that but I really		him by saying:" Not everyone	
need the money, so thank you.		would sign their kidneys away	
need the money, so thank you.		like that but I really need the	
		money". He was implying that	
		he should be aware of what he	
D. M. W 10	D :1:4':	signed for.	Cl
Dr. Max: Yo, can I get a consult?	Relation	Dr. Max came to Dr. Reynolds	Changing
Dr. Reynolds: Oh, thank God.	maxim	to ask him about who in his	the topic
How can I help? Dr. Max: You		team is available for consult	
can tell me who on your team is		and when Reynolds answered	
available for a consult.Dr.		him that he could, Dora	
Reynolds: Me. <u>Dora: Lab</u>		irrelevantly interrupted him	
supplies and consumables.		and spoke about the budget	
<u>\$14,400.87.</u>		because she didn't want him	
		to escape from that and run	
		away.	
Dr. Max: What do you got for	Relation	Dr. Max asked Reynolds	Giving
me?	maxim	about what he got for him	irrelevant
D D 11 771: : 1.6:		meaning that he is waiting his	answer.
Dr. Reynolds: This isn't fair.		answer about who could be	
Look, if I had known it was going		available for a consult in his	
to be this much paperwork, I would've never signed up to be		team but Reynolds irrelatively complained about his work	
Chair.		and did not answer Max	
Chair.		question.	
Dr. Helen: The stroke that you	Relation	Dr. Helen was explaining to	Giving
had was caused by a malignant	maxim	Leon that the stroke that he	irrelevant
tumor in your bladder. I know		had was caused by a	answer.
that this is distressing news. We		malignant tumor but Leon did	
need to remove your tumor		not care about his health and	
immediately and start you on a		was thinking about the woman	
regimen .		that he hit by his car because	

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Leon: All I want to know is if	he felt guilty so he irrelatively
that woman is going to live.	said that he just wants to know
_	if that woman is going to live.

Table 4: Conversations from Episode 20

Conversations from episode 20	The flouted maxim	Context and discussion	Reasons of the flouting
Ms. Dobbs: Iggy. Dr. Froom: Yes. Ms. Dobbs: You have a visitor. Dr. Froom: Ah. It's my new Jet Ski.	Quality maxim	Dr. Froom was having a joyful class with his patients talking about their future dreams but suddenly Ms. Dobbs knocked the door and told him that he has a visitor. Then he lied and said to his patients that the visitor is his new jet ski because he was sarcastically implying that the visitor means that there is more work waiting for him and it will kill their joy.	Banter
Dr. From: That was your vision board, bud. What's going on? Avi: I'm not going nowhere!	Manner maxim	Avi burned his board because he was angry and when Dr. From asked him what happened wondering why did he do that, Avi shouted that he will not go to anywhere and didn't clarify why he burned it.	Giving ambiguous information
Dr. Max: We gotta go the extra mile, you know? Our patients do come first. I mean, this is what I've been saying. You know, these people depend on us for care. They put their very lives in our hands. Ms. Nan: My boyfriend just hates my snoring	.Relation maxim	Dr. Max was talking about that they should take care of their patients because they put their lives in the doctor's hands. Ms. Nan answered him irrelatively by saying that her boyfriend hates her snoring because she felt that Dr. Max was exaggerating things.	Giving irrelevant answer
Dr. Helen: Did Max seem like himself to you? Dr. Kapoor: He seemed erratic. Annoyed, then excited, then distracted, all in quick succession. And if it was anyone but Max, I would have got	Quantity maxim	Dr. Helen asked Dr. Kapoor about Max because she felt that he is not normal. Dr. Kapoor answered her with a long answer explaining how he was when he saw him which means that he was not normal just as usual so he	Giving too much information

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worried. Should I be worried?	Maxim of Manner	didn't get worried about that because that's what Max is. Dr. Kapoor could have replied directly. instead, he shot back a question to Helen.	Reverting a Question
Dr. Helen: I want to get your professional opinion . Dr. Froom: About ? Dr. Helen: About Max . Dr. Froom: You know, speculating on the boss's mental health is not my favorite thing.	Quantity maxim Maxim of Manner	Dr. Helen wanted a professional opinion about Max's mental health from Dr. Froom because he was a psychologist but Dr. Froom gave her a long answer by saying that speculating Max's mental health is not his favorite implying that he refused to give her his opinion because Max was a very erratic person and they would never understand him	Giving too long information
Dr. Helen: Do you want to tell me what this is really about? Dr. Max: You're not my doctor, remember?	Manner Maxim	There was a skirmish between Dr. Max and Reynolds, so, Dr. Helen wanted to know what was this skirmish about and for what reasons, but Dr. Max's answer was carrying ambiguity when he said "you are not my doctor, remember?" implying that because she chose not to be his doctor anymore, she had no right to ask about him or about what was happening	Giving ambiguous information
Dr. Kapoor: We must examine you right awayMs. Nan: I'm trying to sleep, here .	Relation maxim Maxim of Manner	Dr. Kapoor came to the patient Ms. Nan to tell her that they had to examine her right then but Ms. Nan irrelatively said that she was trying to sleep implying that she did not want to take any examination. She didn't deny on his face. So this utterance flouts maxim of Manner too.	Giving irrelevant answer. Denying not straightly.

The analysis of selected conversations from four episodes in the first season of the TV series "New Amsterdam" reveals that actors frequently flout all the Gricean maxims in various contexts for multiple reasons. Based on the data

collected, there are 35 instances flouted the Gricean maxims from the conversations of episodes 1,7,19 and 20: 10 instances flouted the maxim of quantity and relation, 8 instances flouted the maxim of quality and 7 instances flouted the manner maxim. According to the first question of the researcher, the most flouted maxims in the New Amsterdam TV series are the maxim of quantity and Maxim of Relevance each accounting for 28.5 %. This is followed by the Quality maxim (22.86% or 8 instances), and the maxim of manner which account for (20% or 7 instances). According to the second question of the researcher, the least flouted maxim is the manner maxim.

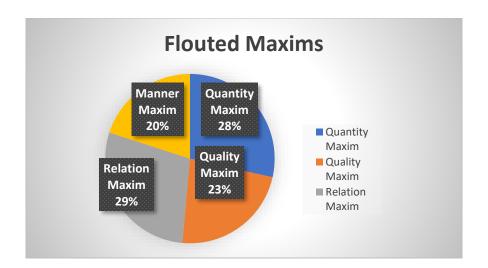


Figure 1. The most and the least flouted maxims

According to the third question the researcher, the characters flout the maxims for a variety of reasons, such as flouting the maxims to produce sarcastic, ironic or banter utterances, to escape from answering the question by changing the topic, to give an irrelevant answer, to give ambiguous and obscure information, to give false information, because of the lack of the evidence, and to give more or less information. These were evident in many of the conversations discussed in the analysis section.

The study's key focus was to demonstrate that interlocutors frequently flout these maxims in conversations for a variety of purposes. The researcher tested the applicability of Grice's theory on the American series New Amsterdam by flouting the maxims. The main character of the series flouted the four maxims in various contexts and for various reasons, resulting in multiple implicatures, which is the goal of this study.

Finally, the actors in the New Amsterdam series flouted all categories of conversational maxims, with the quantity maxim as the most flouted one when compared to the others. The results of this study shall contribute to a better understanding of the flouting of conversational maxims and the concept of pragmatics and implicatures. Analyzing the utterances helps the learners of the language to understand the implicatures of the utterances. So, future studies can be made on significant speeches of contemporary public figures.

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