

## An Investigation of Grice's Cooperative Principle in an Interview with Ishaq Dar: A Pragmatic Analysis

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### Abstract

*This paper investigated the various ways and structures by which legislators and politicians (during political discussions) disregard the Cooperative Principle (CP) in their communication. The interview of Ishaq Dar with the BBC, held in December 2020, was selected to analyse by applying Grice's (1975) four maxims to how politicians show uncooperativeness, as well as being untruthful in their discussion through non-observing the conversational maxims. The quantitative research methodology was used to explore the Grice maxims in Ishaq Dar's interview. The findings of the present study show the politicians flouted or violated the maxims of quantity, quality, relevance, and manner in the interview. The politicians, like Ishaq Dar usually flouted or violated the maxim of quantity to convey their political views to the public since the objective of the party is to convince individuals to decide in favour of them, regardless of whether what they were stating was not related to the posed inquiry in the interview. It would suggest that they had just arranged what to convince the audience regardless of the questions presented to them. Conclusively, political talks are mostly uncooperative, notwithstanding being untruthful to gain the favour of the masses.*

**Keywords:** Gricean Maxims, BBC Interview, Ishaq Dar, Pakistani Politician, Pragmatic Analysis

### 1. Introduction

A conversation is a process of exchanging information between a speaker and hearer; a way to convey thoughts, feelings, and emotions. Khsravizadeh

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and Sadehvandi (2011) referred to conversation as a “salient part of human communication” (p. 2). It is assumed that the interlocutors are aware of the communicative role and smooth interaction in their communication. This would therefore bind the speaker and hearer to cooperative beliefs to avoid any misunderstandings. The rules and norms that regulate how the conversation should be conducted to make a successful conversation. Such rules and norms are popularly known as “conversational maxims” in pragmatics; they were introduced by Grice (1975) in his book *Logic and Conversation* as “Cooperative Principles or conversational maxims”. These principles or maxims, define how communication can be effective. The cooperative principles are governed by maxims: maxims of quantity, quality, relations, and manner.

The maxims of quality, quantity, relevance, and manner play a vital role in conversation to convey information to others. While communicating people provide information that is appropriate and speaks the truth, give certain information and try to be relevant and clear. Grice (1975) suggests that for having a successful and smooth conversation, speakers should fulfill the maxims and not violate any cooperative principles. Here, Grice’s purpose is to say that observance of the maxims is to respect authenticity, the way information is provided, and the relevance of the information. According to the Gricean Cooperative Principle, both the speaker and the listener play a vital role in the success of any communication. Grice defines it as “Make your conversational such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or the direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged” (Grice, 1975).

However, it is observed that not all conversations fulfill the maxims. Speakers (like politicians) fail to observe the maxims in various contexts of daily life on several occasions (Khosravizadeh and Sadehvandi, 2011). In terms of observance and non-observance of the maxim, the hearer can imply the meaning of the conversation. In the case of non-observance, there is sufficient information in the context for the listener to notice whether the maxim is observed or violated/flouted. Violation of maxims can be unintentional whereas flouting of the maxim is a purposeful phenomenon being utilized by the speaker in the conversation. According to Grice (1975), violation of maxims occurs when speakers purposefully fail to apply particular maxims in their communication to produce misunderstanding

among their listeners or to achieve some other goal. the flouting of maxims is when speakers purposefully stop using maxims to persuade their listeners to infer the underlying meaning behind their utterances, hence they use conversational implicature (Levinson, 1983). The other reasons for the non-observance of maxims include: some people are unable to speak properly due to nervousness, stammering, anxiety, being not fluent, being unaware of the culture, and other reasons. So, it is a common practice in political discussions where politicians intentionally and unintentionally do not observe Grice's maxims. The reason may be to hide some information or to provide more information (maybe to clarify their stance). If the politicians want to divert the topic of the discussion, they respond irrelevantly; sometimes they say something ambiguously (Al-Hamadi & Muhammed, 2009; Asif et al., 2019; Ayasreh et al., 2019).

The current study involves an investigation of the violation and flouting of Grecian maxims by Mr. Ishaq Dar, the former finance minister of Pakistan, in an interview with journalist Stephen Sacker for the BBC. The study also aims to explore the most dominant violated or flouted maxims and the reasons behind their non-observance by the interviewee, Mr. Ishaq Dar.

## **2. Literature Review**

The study of effective and successful communication was sorted out by Grice (1975), based on principles that he believes govern all verbal communication. The uncooperativeness of people in communication, which can be intentional and nonintentional, is the concern of Grice's pragmatic theory. Many studies have been conducted to explore the maxims of conversation or the violation of the maxims of conversation from a different perspective in different fields such as social, political, media, and linguistics at the national and international levels.

Zaidi et al. (2020) conducted a study to analyse the violation of maxims by beggars in Pakistan. The rationale for the study was that beggars are known for their language use to persuade or manipulate people. The findings highlight that they intentionally disobey maxims to achieve some purposes. The most frequent violation was the maxim of quantity to exaggerate or to provide less information. They often violate the maxim of quality to hide the actual information to portray their poverty.

One of the researchers also investigated how cooperative maxims are observed or violated in Pakistani advertisements. Ul Eman (2018) conducted a qualitative analysis to study conversational maxims and concluded that, according to the results obtained, cooperative maxims are flouted intentionally in advertisements to get the attention of the audience. Writers intentionally use exaggeration, sarcastic expression, ambiguous statements, and lies so that the audience pays attention to the advertisements to get the desired results. Humor is an important aspect of communication and non-observance of maxims by the interlocutor during interaction creates laughter, according to linguists like Amianna & Putranti (2017), who conducted a study to analyze humorous situations in a comic season 2 entitled "*How I Met Your Mother*". In their study, they found that humorous situations are created by the non-observance of cooperative principles. Another study on movies was conducted by Khosravizadeh & Sadehvandi (2011) and found that the comic characters of the movie violated quantity maxims by the two main characters, in a movie entitled "*Dinner for Schmucks*". The authors reported the reason for violating the quantity maxims was to create verbal humor in some scenes.

### **2.1 Political Talk shows**

While studying the language of the media and politics, Rahmi et al. (2018) studied maxim violations found in political talk shows. They analysed violations done by In the Rosi Talkshow on Kompas TV, the interviewee responds to the queries of the interviewer. The interviewee violated all four maxims of the cooperative principle, but the most common type of violation is the maxim of quantity, because when asked to answer questions, the interviewee provides as much information as possible to create clarity and a good image to elicit sympathy from the audience. A similar type of study was conducted by Ayasreh et al. (2019) to study the reasons for the flouting of Arab leaders like Gaddafi and Assad during the Arab Spring in TV interviews. The study revealed that the leaders flouted all four maxims by playing with words to make meanings in their favour to gain support from the masses.

In the Pakistani context, Qayyum (2016) studied the violation of the maxim of relevance by Pakistani politicians in Urdu TV talk shows. She identified that the frequency of violations of the maxim of relevance is high. The study concluded that politicians deliberately do this to manipulate the

conversation and hide something. Asif et al. (2019) investigated the Gricean Maxims on Geo TV's talk show "Capital Talk." He chose an episode in which Imran Khan appeared as a guest star. He recorded the Urdu discussion and subsequently translated it into English for data analysis. The study's findings imply that Imran Khan's language was more political and that all four maxims were broken. He disobeyed the maxims a total of 41 times. The most commonly flouted maxim was the quantity maxim, which was flouted 18 times, followed by the maxim of manner, which was flouted 11 times, relation maxim, which was flouted 10 times, and quality maxim, which was flouted once. The maxim of quantity is highly flouted because Imran Khan repeatedly provides unnecessary information. The study concludes that the reason behind the flouting of the maxim was that Imran Khan was trying to justify his political beliefs by criticizing others.

Al-Hamadi & Muhammed (2009) explored the use of Grice's four maxims of conversational implicatures in some political meetings haphazardly chosen to fill in as target material for their work. The examination is an endeavor to discover how much the maxims of manner, relevance; quantity, and quality are followed all through the reactions of the legislators. Instances of infringement are given significant worth in this paper, particularly the infringement of the maxim of quality, which is viewed as the centre of honesty in any conversation. The analysts have utilized insights and, somewhat, rates just to show how much the maxims are non-observed. The outcomes have demonstrated the rightness of the theory of this work, which states that when the maxim of quality is disregarded, any remaining maxims are hard to hold fast to.

Many researchers studied conversational maxims in Pakistan to study the violation of maxims in the Urdu language in many contexts. Many scholars studied the political talk shows, which were in Urdu and translated into English for the investigation of Grice's maxims. But there is a need to explore the observance and non-observance of Maxim by Pakistani politicians interviewed in English to know how it works when speakers are using the second language during TV talk shows. Moreover, the present study explores both the flouting and violation of all the four maxims of cooperative principles by Pakistani politician Ishaq Dar in a talk show called "Hard Talk" aired on BBC. So, the study aims to investigate how political

personalities defend themselves by flouting and violating Grice's maxims during political talk.

The current study answers the questions that are:

Q.1. Which of Grice's maxims are violated or flouted by the interviewee, Ishaq Dar, in the interview?

Q.2. What are the most widely violated or flouted maxims in the interview of Ishaq Dar?

Q.3. What are the reasons behind the violation and flouting of the maxims by the interviewee, Ishaq Dar?

### 3. Methodology

#### 3.1. Theoretical Framework

The present study adopts the theory of the cooperative principle introduced by Grice (1975) in his book 'Logic and Conversation'. The cooperative principles, also known as conversational maxims, are governed by four maxims: quantity, quality, relation, and manner.

**Maxim of Quantity:** Your contribution does not be more or less than required or make your contribution as informative as required

**Maxim of Quality:** Do not say for which you lack evidence, and do not say what you believe to be false. The key of the maxims is truth

**Maxim of Relation:** Be relevant

**Maxim of manner:** Be brief, orderly, and avoid ambiguity

In short, while communicating, people provide appropriate information, speak the truth, give certain information, and try to be relevant and clear. In terms of observance and non-observance of the maxim, the hearer can imply the meaning of the conversation. In the case of non-observance, there is enough information in the context for the hearer to notice whether the maxim is observed or flouted.

#### Non-Observance of Maxims

Grice (1975) attempts to distinguish the primary four maxims of conversation hidden in the compelling co-employable utilization of language to empower individuals to partake in an effective discussion. He assembles the four maxims as the "Cooperative Principle", as he has expressed; "*Make your conversational commitment, for example, is needed, at the stage at which it happens, by the acknowledged reason or course of the discussion trade in which you are locked in*". (Grice, 1975, p. 45).

In everyday discussion, individuals do not satisfy or notice the maxims in numerous settings of regular day-to-day existence and numerous events (Alvaro, 2011). For some reasons, as might be, a few groups are unequipped for talking plainly in light of apprehension, alarm, faltering, uneasiness, and so forth, or because they will in general lie deliberately. Grice (1975) delineated three different ways of non-recognition of the maxims: disregarding a maxim, quitting a maxim, and mocking a maxim. Subsequently, he put one of all the newer classes of non-recognition of the maxims: Non-observance.

### **Conversational Implicature**

Grice (1975) utilizes the definition "implicature" to allude to that sort of correspondence that is reachable. It will manage the speaker's goals to suggest, propose, or mean, but not the same as what the speaker expects (Yule, 1983). Discoveries acquired from the spurning of maxims are called implicatures. Conversational implicature can apply to political settings, but we ought to have at the top of the priority list that those who are spurning the four standards of maxims are flouting to conceal the truth and letting the audience make guesses on their own.

### **3.2. Research Method**

The present study used a qualitative research method. The research type of the study is qualitative descriptive methods for the analysis of data. According to Hancock et al. (2007), qualitative research explains social phenomena under study. Qualitative research is a type of study that uses logical reasoning and focuses on social phenomena. Whereas, descriptive research is a research type that observes a condition, problem, or situation. In analyzing the data, the descriptive analysis method is used to analyze the observance and non-observance of the maxims in the interview. These methods are selected because they are grounded in the theory of conversational maxims or cooperative principles.

### **3.3. Data**

The researchers selected an interview of Ishaq Dar, a Pakistani politician, and former Finance Minister of Pakistan, held in *Hard Talk*, hosted by Mr. Stephen Sackur, and aired at BBC studios on December 2nd, 2020. The interview lasted for twenty-four minutes of *Hard Talk* and consisted of a

total of 101 dialogues; of which 51 were voiced by the host and 50 by the interviewee. The purpose of selecting this political interview was that it went viral and was even aired by Pakistani media for political debates and discussions. The researchers watched and listened to the interview repeatedly on YouTube to transcribe the utterances of the speakers. After transcribing the data, researchers read the transcriptions carefully to note down the observance and non-observance of the Gricean Maxims. So, the data for the research is a video recording and transcription of an interview with Ishaq Dar. Here is the link to an interview

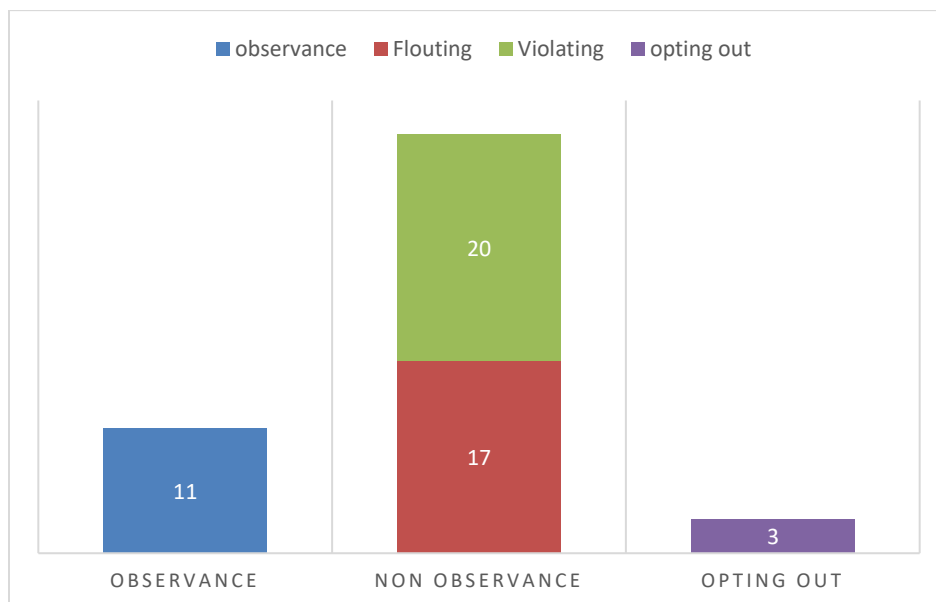
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pLpaUoMfick&feature=youtu.be>

#### **4. Analysis**

The current study involves an investigation of the violation and flouting of Gricean maxims by Mr. Ishaq Dar, the former finance minister of Pakistan, in an interview with journalist Stephen Sacker for the BBC. The study also aims to explore the most dominant violated or flouted maxims and the reasons behind their non-observance by the interviewee, Ishaq Dar. By applying Grice's (1975) four maxims, the present study analyses how politicians show uncooperativeness, as well as being untruthful in their discussion through non-observing the conversational maxims.

The data is analysed and presented through tables and charts. In the analysis, the researchers carefully watched and listed video recordings and transcriptions. The researchers carefully noted the number of dialogues and utterances of the speakers and found out the observances and non-observances of Gricean Maims. The results of the analysis are provided in statistical form below.

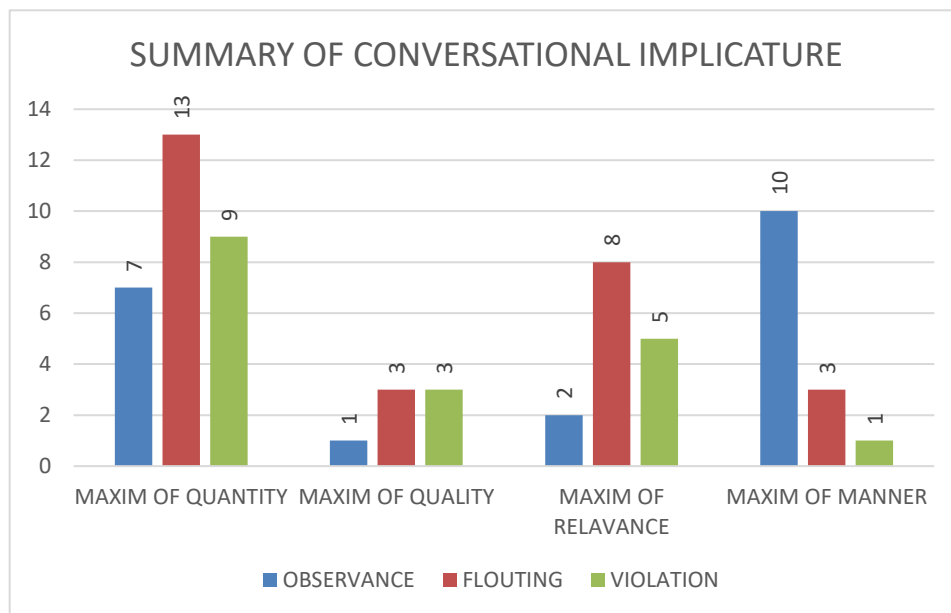




**Fig. 4.1: Observance and non-observance of Maxims**

Figure 4.1 represents a summary of the total number of utterances by the guest. The blue portion indicated the number of times the maxims were observed. Orange and grey display non-observance (flouting and violation) of all four maxims. The yellow bar represents the number of times the guest decided to opt out of all the maxims.

Figure 4.2 states the most commonly observed maxim is the maxim of manner (10), quantity (7), relevance (2), and quality (1). The most flouted maxims are quantity maxim (13), relevance (8), manner and quality (3) each. Again, quantity maxim is the most violated maxim, which is violated 9 times, followed by maxim of relevance, which is violated 5 times, manner maxim, which is violated 5 times, and quality maxim, which is violated 3 times only.



**Fig. 4.2: Observance, flouting and violation of maxims**

## 4.2 Observance, Flouting and Violation of Grecian Maxims in the Interview of Mr. Dar

The above charts represent the evaluation of the dialogues between the host and the guest. Of 101 dialogues, the host and guest evenly divided their share of the saying, which helped in analysing. Guest's responses to the questions, claims, and hypotheses that were asserted on him were analysed and the four maxims (quality, quantity, relevance, and manner) were evaluated. Each of the maxims is discussed with examples. In the analysis below, it is described how the maxims are observed, and how they are violated and flouted by the speakers during the interview.

### 4.2.1 Maxim of Quantity

According to Grice (1975), the quantity maxim is usually fundamental in a conversation; since a conversation strives to offer required information data that must be adequate for the conversation's aims. The planned message couldn't be sent successfully to the audience if the required information is not conversed. So, in conversation according to Grice, firstly the

contribution of the speaker should be as informative as required at the time of conversation, secondly, the contribution should not be more or less informative (Grice, 2002, pp. 26-27). The examples below from the interview of Mr. Ishaq Dar (Guest) provide how the maxim of quantity is observed, flouted, and violated.

**Example of observance:**

*Host: you've been here for what best part of three years on this medical issue almost*

*Guest: yes*

In the above example, the maxim of quantity is observed by the guest (Mr. Ishaq Dar) by answering as is required. We can see that a question asked by the host requires a short answer.

**Example of flouting of maxim of Quantity:**

*Host: sorry you're saying being investigated by the NAB the National Accountability Bureau you have been killed*

*Guest: in the custody many people have died yes uh I mean it's open secret you do you google can you you would have all the detail I can I can leave detail with you if you want to you see this this this institution has been politically used against opponents as I said that I never missed a return the premise of the entire thing and whatever they said my net worth is already if it is documented in my tax return and my tax return is not missing so it is totally accounted for*

Here, in the above example, it can be observed that the guest (Mr. Ishaq Dar) is flouting the maxim of quantity when the host asks a simple question about the guest's claims regarding NAB. Flouting of the maxim of quantity by the guest has a purpose that is to justify his claims about NAB and how people are being killed while in the custody of NAB.

**Example of violation of maxim of Quantity:**

*Host: so, what is the issue?*

*Guest: the issue is issue is something different because Mr sharif was fighting for the civil supremacy and I have always been fighting for the for the financial and fiscal discipline transparency.*

In the example above, the guest (Mr. Ishaq Dar) is trying to violate the maxim of quantity. Instead of giving a simple answer to the question, he tries to explain the list of the issues.

In the analysis of the interview, it is observed that many times he tries to give more information than required, which shows the violation/flouting of the maxims. Mr. Dar (guest) tries to evade the obvious reply and, playing on the words, talks at length about a matter which is least relevant to the question. Helmi, M. (2010) similarly observed in his study of "Daddy Day Camp," and he stated that the maxim of quantity is demonstrated because when statements are repeated, they provide more data than is necessary, or when the speaker fabricates expressions as misrepresentation

#### **4.2.2 Maxim of Quality**

Grice (1975) alludes to a super maxim that essentially communicates reality. According to Grice, this maxim has two sub-maxims: the first implies that you should not lie, and the second implies that you should not make statements for which you have no proof. The examples below from the interview of Mr. Ishaq Dar (Guest) provide how the maxim of quality is observed, flouted, and violated.

##### **Example of maxim of Quality**

*Host: you're going back now?*

*Guest: I'm not*

In the above examples, the maxim of quality is observed by the guest (Mr. Ishaq Dar) by giving the right answer instead of lying or violating a maxim.

##### **Example of flouting of maxim of Quality**

*Host: no?*

*Guest: no no because they understand the government Dubai my sons have just one villa which is owned by them, they're in business for the last 17 years*

##### **Example of violation of maxim of Quality**

*Host: how many properties do you and your family own*

*Guest: one one*

The examples of non-observance of this maxim allude that the interviewee (Mr. Ishaq Dar) was trying to give false and untrue replies to a simple question of how many properties the family owned. This highlights how politicians try to hide the truth from the general masses.

### 4.2.3 Maxim of Relevance

Grice (1975) explains one sub-maxim associated with connection, which effectively refers to information sharing that meets the discussion's goals. For example, "If John needs a screwdriver, Ahmad is expected to turn in a screwdriver but not a mallet, tape, keys, or anything else." Grice suggests this maxim as an explanation for a certain type of routine in conversational behaviour, then considers the information relevance provided at each level in a conversation. The examples below from the interview of Mr. Ishaq Dar (Guest) provide how the maxim of relevance is observed, flouted, and violated.

#### Example of Observance of Maxim of Relation

*Host: well, I'm actually interested in in what's known in Pakistan as National Accountability Bureau*

*Guest: yes, it's the main agency of anti-corruption*

In the above example, the maxim of relevance is observed by the guest (Mr. Ishaq Dar) by giving the relevant answer. Here, Guest observes the maxim of relevance.

#### Example of violation of Maxim of Relation

*Host: there is the fastest government in Pakistan as of now you're trying to mobilize tens of thousands of people on the streets in different Pakistani cities even when there's a COVID-19 pandemic your message is that we must bring Imran khan's government down by the middle of the year and have new elections you haven't succeeded so far what's your next move well*

*Guest: Mr secretary I think you haven't seen Mr Imran khan during the same you see the PDM uh gatherings started from 16th of October you haven't seen democratic movement yeah yeah but you haven't seen in the same period in the last six weeks you haven't seen the the gatherings the large gathering of Mr Imran khan himself the COVID-19 would not spread...*

The non-observance of the maxim of relevance professes that the speaker is trying to support his reply with irrelevant information. The same has been done by Mr. Ishaq Dar on the question regarding his prospects. Instead of telling the future strategies about the next move of their party and alliance, Mr. Dar provides an irrelevant response. Perhaps he may be trying to hide his party's future strategies against the Imran Khan government and want to change the discussion. Similarly, Napis (2008)

investigated the maxim of relevance and discovered that the characters usually in the movie (*John Tucker Must Die*) also didn't offer relevant data because they wanted to change the subject of the discussion to the speaker's advantage, either intentionally or inadvertently.

#### **Example of flouting of Maxim of Relevance**

*Host: I'm not saying there was a specific mention of your family but the national accountability bureau decided after the publication of the panama papers to look very closely at yours and your family's interests assets and accounts and they found that there were grave problems with your account...*

*Guest: no not at all not at all because you see i'm sure that you would be privy that it was the supreme court direction which set up a joint investigation team which is judicial uh activity which supreme court decided and there were two military intelligence members who were virtually governing out of the six members of the JIT...*

The flouting of the maxim of relevance is clear in the above example where the host is intently inquiring about the mention of Mr. Ishaq Dar's family's name in the Panama papers. In response to his inquisition, Mr. Ishaq Dar takes the assistance of flouting the manner of relevance to imply a subtle message about the composition of the JIT. His flouting of the answer is directing the reader to understand that there may be a personal and political rift or conflict between the members of JIT and Mr. Ishaq's family. He wants the audience to believe that the JIT was biased and worked prejudicially

#### **4.2.4 Maxim of Manner**

The principle of manner is to be crystal clear: avoid haziness in articulation; avoid vagueness; be compact (avoid unnecessary information), and be well-organized. Grice (1975) suggests that the manner maxim differs from the others in that, whereas other maxims are concerned with "what is said," the manner maxim is concerned with "how is it stated what is intended to be said." The above scenario exemplifies how widely this guideline was disregarded. The Maxim of Manner expects you to be a person who has clear, gotten articulations when engaged in a conversation, which includes,

but is not limited to, other more modest maxims like avoiding haziness of articulation, avoiding equivocality, being brief (avoiding unnecessary prolixity), and being deliberate. The examples below from the interview of Mr. Ishaq Dar (Guest) provide how the maxim of manner is observed, flouted, and violated.

#### **Example of observance of Maxim of Manner.**

*Host: your next move*

*Guest: ultimate aim and our ultimate goal is supremacy of uh you know democracy in Pakistan the free and fair election which would be transparent and should be acceptable to the world observer and presumably the rule of law*

In the above examples, the maxim of relevance is observed by the guest (Mr. Ishaq Dar) by giving a clear answer without creating any ambiguity. Here, the guest observes the maxim of manner.

#### **Example of violation of Maxim of Manner**

*Host: what kind of hypocrisy is that now*

*Guest: I I I I just I just believe uh you know this analysis frankly speaking i disagree with you*

The above example is a legitimate specimen of a violation of maxims in political discourse. It can be observed that in most cases where the degree of formality is due to the outreach of the audience, such as a political speech or an interview, the maxim of manner is the most observed one, especially if it is to be broadcast on international media.

#### **Example of flouting the Maxim of Manner**

*Host: why do you not go to Pakistan and make this case in a court of law well the court of law?*

*Guest: you know we you know my lawyers were there i I'm here for medical treatment a cervical issue we've been here for what best part of three years on this medical almost yes.*

*Host : are you still really suffering?*

*Guest: yes i am I'm and you couldn't possibly get back to Pakistan well let's see what's what's happening in Pakistan what where are*

*the human rights what's happening in nap custody what people have have dozens of people have have been killed virtually we're sorry you you're saying being investigated by the nab the national accountability bureau have been killed in the custody many people have died yes uh i mean it's open secret you do you Google can **you you** would have all the detail i can i can leave detail with you if you want to you see **this this this** institution has been politically used against opponents as I said that i never missed a return my the premise of the entire thing and whatever they said my net worth is already if it is documented in my tax return and my tax return is not missing so it is totally accounted for so what is **the issue the issue is issue** is something different because Mr Sharif was fighting for the civil supremacy and i have always been fighting **for the for the** financial and fiscal discipline transparency.*

When a speaker (Mr. Ishaq Dar) deliberately fails to observe the maxim of the manner by not being concise, using ambiguous language, being disorganized, or using indistinctness, it is believed that the maxim is flouted. This creates an implicature, prompting participants to seek additional meanings (Thomas 2014).

According to Cutting (2002), violating the maxim of manner occurs when someone gives obscure and vague references to avoid a brief and orderly response in a conversation. According to these examples, it is safe to say that flouting and violation of the maxim of manner can be done in the same way. The example shows how a simple question asked by the host is confidently flouted by the guest. In response to why he (Mr. Ishaq) does not go back to Pakistan and resolve the allegation against him in the court of law and if he is getting medical services in the UK, he (guest) goes on to add a series of disarrayed segments of responses. He also wants to imply that it would be extremely dangerous for him to return to Pakistan as he feels there may be a threat to his life. In his state of confusion, the guest also repeats his words which is an indication that he may be looking for adequate information to satisfy the audience.

#### **4.2.5 A clash in maxims**

In some places, Mr. Dar (guest) has also tried to cause a clash in maxims, trying to observe quality and violating relevance and quantity.



**Example 1**

*Host: and I ask you what credibility do you think you have with the Pakistan*

*Guest: I think what credibility is the world has witnessed that it was a stolen election it was a rigged election it's not we we are saying we have experienced all uh pre-poll 2018 surveys indicate the pml and will win but the observers the human rights commission of Pakistan the dirtiest election everybody know the election has been stolen from us so I think we have (violating the maxim of relevance to prove quality)*

In example 1, the maxim of quantity and relevance has also been non-observed. It can be seen that every time the guest wanted to evade a direct answer, he would deliberately divert the topic in a completely irrelevant and uncalled-for direction.

**Example 2**

*Host: see if all of this is so clear-cut you only own one property in the entire world your tax records have been kept and given to the authorities over the last 20 years if everything is so crystal clear why do you not go to Pakistan and make this case in a court of law well the court of law*

*Guest: you know we you know my lawyers were there I'm here for medical treatment a cervical issue*

In the example 2, Guest is violating the maxim, to observe quality which clashes with relevance

**Example 3**

*Host: just give me the answer because*

*Guest: I don't know how many properties, I have I have my main residence uh in Pakistan which has been taken over by you know by this regime uh you saw I have I haven't got too many properties but*

In the example 3, Guest is violating the quality maxim which clashes with felicity conditions.

### 4.3 Discussion

Politicians usually try to break all of the four maxims as they strive all the time to create a positive image, and to that end, they either try to give more explanation instead of required, hide something, or give very few relevant responses, or sometimes give unclear statements. In this way, they flout the conversational maxim. They try to justify their political beliefs and ideology (Asif et al., 2019). The studies by Ayasreh and Razali (2018) and Ayasreh et al. (2019) highlight that the four maxims are not respected by the speaker by playing on words, rambling on and on, talking too short, changing the subject, and lying. according to an assessment of the maxims of the Arab leaders' discourse. The principal reason for disregarding the maxims is to pass on connotations in his favor, and it also demonstrates how Arab leaders shade their choices to provide certain shades of meaning that are not readily apparent to all readers. Interestingly, we can experience the same in the interview under study where every time Mr. Ishaq Dar is subjected to the accountability of assets, of going back to Pakistan, or Mr. Nawaz Sharif's stance on the current government; he has either violated or flouted all of the maxims during the interview. But the maxim of quantity is violated and flouted mostly because when asked to answer questions, Mr. Dar provides as much information as possible to create clarity and a good image to elicit sympathy from the audience (Rahmi et al., 2018). Sharing the same ideology, Sikandar et al. (2012) state that politicians frequently try to gain the politeness of their party members or crowds, or to gain social power, by employing a different style of toying with language and mocking acceptable norms. His investigation also revealed how lawmakers chose to color their words to convey a certain shade of importance that is not always accessible to all individuals. Mr. Ishaq Dar employs the same strategy when he repeatedly goes on about the stolen and rigged elections to stir up anguish among his party supporters and Imran Khan disclaimers.

By breaking the flow of conversation, which creates conversational implicature, this research uncovers that the legislators are being uncooperative. Nonetheless, the conspicuous manner by which the government official's reactions create implicature is by spurning the maxims, particularly those of quantity, quality, and pertinence, while the maxim of manner is seldom found. This is the reason the honesty, adequacy, or inadequacy of any snippet of information can't be promptly perceived

because legislative issues, regularly, require certain contemplations in conveying any extract of information.

### **5. Conclusion**

Although Grice's (1975) helpful standard depicts one of the accepted procedures in correspondence to encourage the cycle of discussion to be covered for questioners, in certain circumstances, individuals often and purposely violate these maxims to accomplish certain reasons. At the point when individuals break the maxim, they appear to have their very own explanation behind doing such in breaking down infringement in the interview of Mr. Ishaq Dar with Hard Talk BBC, by using the Gricean Theory of Cooperative Principle. The findings of the study revealed that the most commonly observed maxim was the maxim of manner. Quantity came second, and relevance and quality were third and fourth, respectively. The most flouted or violated maxim was quantity, then relevance, followed by manner, and quality were the least flouted or violated maxims in the interview. By flouting/violating the maxims that produce conversational implicature, this study uncovers that the conspicuous manner by which the politician's reactions produce implicature is by flouting/violating the maxim, particularly that of quantity and relevance.

The politicians usually flouted or violated the maxim of quantity to convey their political views to the public since the objective of the party is to convince individuals to decide in favour of them, regardless of whether what they were stating was not related to the posed inquiry in the interview. This exposes how they disregard the quantity, quality, relevance, and manner all through their reactions. It would suggest that they had just arranged what to tell the audience regardless of the questions presented to them.

Ideally, the findings would add to the overall agreement that political talk these days is uncooperative, notwithstanding being untruthful. This overall idea that individuals have about the political talk is authenticated by the findings in the present study.

The research encourages different researchers to seek after investigating the subject of the Cooperative Principle and choose areas such as political discussions and discourse; they convey heaps of inferred implications and

clues since politicians are a long way from being immediate and open to staying away from analysis or allegation.

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