

**AN ANALYSIS OF MAXIM VIOLATION IN SITUATIONAL COMEDY
*THE BIG BANG THEORY SEASON 11***

PAPER

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
to Obtain Strata One (S1) Degree*



ANDREAS NOVEBRY

1305397/2013

Advisors:

Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S., M.Hum.

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS
STATE UNIVERSITY OF PADANG
2019**

PERSETUJUAN MAKALAH

Judul : An Analysis of Maxim Violation in Situational
Comedy *The Big Bang Theory Season 11*

Nama : Andreas Novebry

NIM : 1305397/2013

Program Studi : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

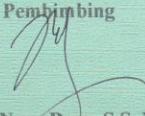
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, Maret 2019

Disetujui oleh,

Pembimbing



Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S. M.Hum
NIP. 19770818 200312 1 001

Mengetahui

Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris



Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd., M.Litt.
NIP. 19680301 199403 1 003

PENGESAHAN

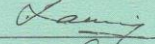

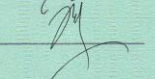
Dinyatakan lulus setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji Makalah
Program Studi Sastra Inggris Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Padang
dengan judul

**AN ANALYSIS OF MAXIM VIOLATION IN SITUATIONAL COMEDY
THE BIG BANG THEORY SEASON II**

Nama : Andreas Novebry
NIM : 1305397/2013
Program Studi : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, Maret 2019

Tim Penguji

	Nama	Tanda Tangan
1. Ketua	: Drs. Saunir, M.Pd.	: 
2. Sekretaris	: Dr. Havid Ardi, S.Pd., M.Hum.	: 
3. Anggota	: Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S. M.Hum.	: 



UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG
FAKULTAS BAHASA DAN SENI
JURUSAN BAHASA DAN SAstra INGGRIS
Jl. Belibis. Air Tawar Barat. Kampus Selatan FBS UNP. Padang. Telp/Fax: (0751) 447347

SURAT PERNYATAAN TIDAK PLAGIAT

Saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini

Nama : Andreas Novebry
NIM/TM : 1305397/2013
Program Studi : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Dengan ini menyatakan, bahwa Tugas Akhir saya dengan judul *An Analysis of Maxim Violation in Situational Comedy The Big Bang Theory Season 11* adalah benar merupakan hasil karya saya dan bukan merupakan plagiat dari karya orang lain. Apabila suatu saat terbukti saya melakukan plagiat maka saya bersedia diproses dan menerima sanksi akademis maupun hukum sesuai dengan hukum dan ketentuan yang berlaku, baik di institusi Universitas Negeri Padang maupun masyarakat dan negara.

Demikianlah pernyataan ini saya buat dengan penuh kesadaran dan rasa tanggung jawab sebagai anggota masyarakat ilmiah.

Diketahui oleh,

Ketua Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

Dr. Refnaldi, S.Pd., M.Litt.
NIP. 19680301 199403 1 003

Saya yang menyatakan,

6000
Andreas Novebry
1300893/2013

ABSTRAK

Novebry, Andreas. 2019. “Analisis Pelanggaran Maksim dalam Komedi Situasi “*The Big Bang Theory Musim 11*”. *Makalah*. Padang: Prodi Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Padang”

Dalam sebuah komunikasi yang efektif dan efisien, dibutuhkan adanya kerjasama antara pembicara dan pendengar untuk membentuk suatu percakapan yang baik dengan mempertimbangkan prinsip-prinsip yang digagas oleh Helbert Paul Grice pada tahun 1975. Dia mengelompokkan maksim dalam empat jenis, diantaranya maksim kuantitas, maksim kualitas, maksim relasi dan maksim pelaksanaan. Penelitian ini mencoba untuk menemukan jenis-jenis pelanggaran maksim dan fungsi dari tiap tokoh melakukan pelanggaran tersebut di dalam komedi situasi “*The Big Bang Theory Musim 11*”. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pelanggaran maksim kuantitas merupakan pelanggaran yang paling banyak ditemukan. Selain itu, dari beberapa indikator yang digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi fungsi pelanggaran maksim ditemukan bahwa fungsi pengucapan yang tidak dibutuhkan merupakan fungsi yang paling banyak digunakan oleh tiap tokoh didalam komedi situasi ini.

Kata Kunci: *Pelanggaran Maksim, Komedi Situasi, The Big Bang Theory*

ABSTRACT

Novebry, Andreas. 2019. “An Analysis of Maxim Violation in Situational Comedy “*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*”. *Paper*. Padang: English Language and Literature Program, English Department, Language and Art Faculty Universitas Negeri Padang”

In an effective and efficient communication, speakers and listeners are required to work together to build a good conversation by considering the principles proposed by Helbert Paul Grice in 1975. He categorizes the maxim into four types, namely maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. This paper tries to find out the types of maxim violations and the function characters' to violate it in situational comedy “*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*”. Qualitative method was used for this research. The result shows that violation of maxim quantity is the most violated maxims. Also, the researcher use some indicators to identify the function in maxim violation based on the guidelines from Tupan and Natalia (2008) and Christoffersen (2005). And the function of uninformative utterances is commonly used by the characters in this situational comedy.

Key words: *Maxim Violation, Situational comedy, The Big Bang Theory*

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

بِسْمِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

First and foremost, the writer would like to say *Alhamdulillah*. All praises be to *Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala*. Under His uncountable blessings, the writer can manage to finish this paper entitled “An Analysis of Maxim Violation in Situational Comedy *The Big Bang Theory*”.

Special appreciations and thanks are also addressed to:

1. Dr. Rusdi Noor Rosa, S.S., M.Hum. as the advisor for his supervision, constructive comments and suggestion throughout the writing process.
2. Drs. Saunir, M.Pd and Dr. Havid Ardi, S.Pd., M.Hum. as the paper examiners as well as reviewers who have given useful suggestions and advices.

Padang, March 2019

The writer

This paper is dedicated to....

My beloved parents, Mr. Edwar Noven and Mrs. Masnah

My grandmother, Darwanis and Saldewi Korasni

My auntie, Novia Ningsih

My academic adviser, Dr. Kurnia Ningsih, M.A.

My beloved siblings, Edwanda and Mifta Warahma

My partner in conducting this paper, Ai Monica

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PERSETUJUAN MAKALAH	
HALAMAN PENGESAHAN	
SURAT PERNYATAAN TIDAK PLAGIAT	
ABSTRAK	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	vi
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURE	vii
LIST OF APPENDICES	vii
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	1
A. Background of the Research.....	1
B. Limitation of the Problem.....	5
C. Formulation of the Problem.....	6
D. Purposes of the Research	6
E. Significance of the Study	6
F. Research Methodology.....	7
G. Technique of Data Collection.....	7
H. Technique of Data Analysis	8
I. Instruments	8
J. Definition of Key Terms.....	8
CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	9
A. Cooperative Principles.....	9
B. Conversational Maxims	11
C. Non-observance Maxims	14
D. Types of Maxim Violation	17
E. Function of Maxim Violation	20
E. Previous Related Studies	21

CHAPTER III: FINDING AND DISCUSSION.....	25
A. Data Description	25
B. Data Analysis	26
C. Findings	51
D. Discussion.....	54
CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	56
A. Conclusion	56
B. Suggestion.....	56
BIBLIOGRAPHY	57

APPENDICES

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Criteria of maxims violations	20
Table 2. Data of maxim violation.....	25
Table 3. Percentage of maxim violation.....	51
Table 4. Data of function in maxim violation	53

LIST OF FIGURE

Figure 1. Percentage of maxim violation	52
---	----

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 1.Data of violation of maxim quantity
- Appendix 2.Data of violation of maxim quality
- Appendix 3.Data of violation of maxim relation
- Appendix 4.Data of violation of maxim manner
- Appendix 5.Data of multiple violation of maxim

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

Language is an important communication device for people because it plays such an important role in social interaction. Sirbu (2015: 405) argues that language is essentially a means of communication among the members of a society. People use language as a tool of communication to say their wants, messages, information, and ideas to other people (Indra, 2018: 98).

Based on the role of language as a communicating device, it is used to discussing a topic in order to achieve various objectives that involve at least one speaker and one listener (called a conversation) in which the speaker wants to be understood and the addressee wants to understand (Rosa, 2013: 151). Conversations will be considered successful if the listener catches the message conveyed by the speaker. It means that the participants should not share confusing, deceiving, or giving irrelevant information (Yule, 1996: 35). Therefore, speakers and listener should pay attention to the principles that occur in communication to make a successful conversation. This kind of regulation can be defined as cooperative principles.

In the phenomena of language, speakers sometimes disobey the cooperative principles. For example, the listener cannot understand the information in detail if the speaker gives incomplete information. In contrast, the listener can understand the information but it is considered ineffective and useless if the speaker gives too much information. One of the forms can be seen in the dialogue below:

1.a Penny : *What is your name?*
Howard : *Howard Wolowitz.*

1.b Penny : *What is your name?*
Howard : *Howard Wolowitz, department of engineering, Caltech department of applied physics. Co-designer of the International Space Station's Liquid Waste Disposal System. You may be familiar with some of my work. It's currently orbiting Jupiter's largest moon taking high resolution digital photographs.*

In dialogue (1.a), Howard follows the cooperative principle by giving appropriate information. While in dialogue (1.b), he disobeys the cooperative principle by providing unnecessary information such as the information about his department, position and occupation. So, the use of cooperative principle theory proposed by Grice (1975) is important in order to reach successful communication. Grice (1975: 45) also claims cooperative principles consisting of four maxims: maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner.

According to Thomas (1995: 64), Grice proposes that disobedience of the maxims can be classified into five types: flouting maxim, violating maxim, infringing a maxim, opting out a maxim, and suspending a maxim. These disobediences have various functions in communication. One of them can be seen as follows:

2.a Kripke : *Hi, Leonard.*
Leonard : *Hi, Kripke*
Kripke : *I Read about your latest proton decay experiment, 20 thousand data runs and no statistically significant results. **Very impressive!***

2.b Kripke : *Hi, Leonard.*
Leonard : *Hi, Kripke*

Kripke : *I Read about your latest proton decay experiment, 20 thousand data runs and no statistically significant results. Very bad!*

In the conversation above, there is a maxim violation in the utterance (2.a) expressed by Kripke by giving contribution which is not necessary and it functions as insulting. Kripke should respond it as in utterance (2.b) where he tries to be truthful, and does not give information that is false or that is not supported by the evidence.

The researchers who want to analyze maxim violation can use various kinds of data sources. One of the data sources can be found in situational comedy which often contains many conversations and utterances. In this case, the researcher finds some violations of Grice maxim's cooperative principle and the functions of violating it by the characters in situational comedy *The Big Bang Theory Season 11* (2018) which is directed by Chuck Lorre and Bill Prady. Since there are many maxim violations occur, the researcher wants to observe, to analyze, and to find out the characters' reasons in violating the maxims, specifically in "*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*" as the latest season.

There are several studies related to this topic. *First*, the study was conducted by Hu (2012) entitled "An Analysis of Humor in the *Big Bang Theory* from Pragmatic Perspective". This study analyzes the verbal humor in the *Big Bang Theory* within the framework of the cooperative principles and the relevance theory. The findings showed that the verbal humor occurs when the listener cannot draw inference or may not fully understand the utterance from the speaker that cause conflict during communication.

Second, Izaias (2011) conducted a study entitled “The analysis of irony through relevance theory in *The Big Bang Theory* sitcom”. This study reviewed the relevance theory proposed by Sperber and Wilson. In addition, this study described the figure of speech irony to demonstrate how utterances are understood between characters and audience and how irony is largely used as humorous framework. The findings showed that irony and relevance theory can work together and the verbal irony was the most predominant in the *The Big Bang Theory*.

Third, Rohmawati and Yuliasri (2017) did a research entitled “Violation of Politeness Maxims in the Television Series *The Big Bang Theory*”. This study was about analyzing the types of politeness maxims were violated by the speakers, the purposes of the violation, and to evaluate the effects of politeness maxims in the conversation. This research found 12 kinds of purposes of violation made by the characters: warning, advising, admonishing, requesting, suggesting, urging, offering, insisting, alleging, boasting, refusing, and condoling. The use of utterances manner in the conversation is very important to reach the major purpose of the politeness and the goal of the communication can be adhered.

The next studied conducted by Ning, Caixia, and Yuan (2018) entitled “An Analysis of Humor in *The Big Bang Theory* Based on the Cooperative Principles”. This study was about investigating and analyzing the humorous effect caused by the violation of the cooperative principles in people’s daily communication. The finding showed that humorous effect cause by violating one certain or more maxim of cooperative principles to a certain degree. Nevertheless, the violation of

cooperative principles does not necessarily mean that the communication cannot be continued.

Last, Mahdalikova (2014) observed a study entitled “A Discourse Analysis of the American Sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*: The Instruction of a Geek Identity”. This study was aimed to analyze the construction of the identity of characters of the American sitcom *The Big Bang Theory* known as geek. The analysis was based on the corpus material that consists of the transcripts of season 1 and 6 of the sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*. The analysis reveals that the geeks tend to talk about the topics that are less common in everyday speech, such as the science of the technology, and thus also use less colloquial language.

Some similarities between the previous studies and this present study are the topic related to the conversational implicature and object of the study source about situational comedy “*The Big Bang Theory*”. However, the difference is the focus of the study and data source. For the focus of the study, the previous research discussed about flouting, observance maxims, discourse analysis, and violation of maxims in daily communication while this research focused on violation of maxims in situational comedy. In line with the explanation above, the researcher proposes to conduct a study entitled *An Analysis of Maxim Violation in Situational Comedy “The Big Bang Theory Season 11”*.

B. Limitation of the Problem

The problem of this study was limited into the maxim violations found in the situational comedy *The Big Bang Theory Season 11*. Furthermore, this research was concerned to analyze only from the types and function used by the characters’

related to the four maxims based on Grice's theory in Cooperative Principles (maxim of quality, quantity, relation, and manner) and additional maxim violation called multiple violations.

C. Formulation of the Problem

Related to the limitation of the problem, the formulations were:

1. What types of maxims are violated in the "*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*"?
2. What are the functions of maxim violation in "*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*"?

D. Purposes of the Research

In relation to the problems, the objectives of the study were:

1. Identifying the types of maxim violation used in the "*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*".
2. Finding out the functions of maxim violation in "*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*".

E. Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this research would give contribution as the reference to other researcher, specifically, in cooperative principle by Grice in 1975. Practically, this study hopefully helps the readers to understand the types and function of maxim violation from character's utterances in situational comedy "*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*".

F. Research Methodology

The research study was designed to be qualitative. According to Polkinghorne (1983: 269), qualitative method depends on linguistics rather than numerical data (scores), and using meaning-based rather than statistical forms of data analysis.

In this study, the qualitative approach was chosen because the analysis was about finding and analyzing utterances of the characters in “*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*”. Besides, the researcher tried to understand and to know the reasons why the characters violate the maxims. This study provides the description of selected utterances by the characters of “*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*”.

G. Technique of Data Collection

The data of this research were taken from situational comedy “*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*” script. The technique of collecting data involves some processes as follows:

1. The script of “*The Big Bang Theory Season 11*” was downloaded from (https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/episode_scripts.php?tv-show=big-bang-theory&season=11).
2. After downloading the script, there were 24 episodes found.
3. While reading the script, the utterances that violate the maxims were all marked.
4. The marked utterances were analyzed to identify the four maxims violation (maxim of quantity, quality, relation, and manner) and multiple maxims.
5. The utterances that were included as maxim violation were put on the table.

H. Technique of Data Analysis

The researcher analyzed the data through the steps as follow:

1. The researcher collected the utterances as the data which violate the maxims based on Grice theory.
2. The researcher sorted the functions and types of maxim violation occurred.
3. The researcher analyzed the data.
4. The researcher drew conclusion based on the analysis.

I. Instruments

In the process of collecting data, the researcher used table of maxims violation (see Appendix 1) from *The Big Bang Theory Season 11* script and writing equipment such as pen and notebook to take notes.

J. Definition of the Key Terms

Analysis	:	To study or examine something in detail.
Violation	:	The acts or states of violating.
Maxims	:	Norms involved in the cooperative principles (quality, quantity, relation, and manner).
Situational Comedy (SitCom)	:	A comedy drama, especially a television series made of different episodes about the same group of characters and their reactions to unusual situations, such as misunderstanding or embarrassing coincidences.
The Big Bang Theory	:	A situational comedy created by Chuck Lorre and Bill Prady on American television network CBS.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The last chapter embodies two sections: conclusion and suggestion. The conclusion summarizes the result of the research, while suggestion consists of the researcher's recommendation related to the result of the study.

A. Conclusion

The Big Bang Theory Season 11 created by Chuck Lorre and Bill Prady has 336 scenes in 24 episodes. From the 336 scenes, the researcher found 140 data that violated the four maxims. Violation of maxim quantity is the most violated maxim that occurs in the conversation in the sitcom *The Big Bang Theory*. Also from the 140 data, the researcher found that the function of uninformative is most frequently used by the characters in the situational comedy *The Big Bang Theory Season 11*.

B. Suggestions

Hopefully, this finding would improve the understanding the maxim violation based on Grice cooperative principle and enable people to see what is behind one's utterances in *The Big Bang Theory Season 11*. Then, the researcher hopes that the results of the study will give more contribution in Linguistics as the references to other researcher in cooperative principle involving the violation maxims by H.P Grice 1975.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abdulla, L.A. (2018). Non-observance of Conversational Maxims in the Exchanges of Department Press Briefings. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 23 (5), 67-68. Retrieved from <http://www.iosrjournals.org/iosrjhss/papers/Vol.%2023%20Issue6/Version5/I2306056786.pdf>.
- Adriani, K. G. D. (2013). Comparison of the Maxim Violation Found in Action and Drama Movies. *Journal of English Language and Literature*, 1 (2), 69-78. Retrieved from <http://ejournal.unp.ac.id/index.php/ell/article/view/900/754>.
- Agusmita, C.M. (2018). An Analysis of Conversational Maxim Violation Found in “The Monster House” Movie Script. *Journal of English Language and Literature*, 7 (1), 10-17. Retrieved from <http://ejournal.unp.ac.id/index.php/ell/article/view/8889/7242>.
- Agustina, M. & Ariyanti, L. (2016). Flouting Maxim to Create Humor in Move This Means War. *Language Horizon*, 4 (2), 38-45. Retrieved from <https://jurnalmahasiswa.unesa.ac.id/index.php/languagehorizon/article/view/File/14950/13525>.
- Brown, G., & Yule, G. (1983). *Discourse Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Chaipreukkul, L. (2013). A Study of Non-Observance of Grice’s Cooperative Principle Found in Humor Discourse: A Case Analysis of the Situation Comedy *The Big Bang Theory*. *Humanities Journal*, 20 (2), 223-249. Retrieved from <https://www.tcithaijo.org/index.php/abc/article/download/53947/44781/>.
- Cutting, J. (2002). *Pragmatics and Discourse: A Resource Book for Students*. New York: Routledge.
- Dornerus, E. (2005). *Breaking Maxims in Conversation: A Comparative Study of How Scriptwriters Break Maxims in Desperate Housewives and That 70’s Show* (Published Dissertation). Karlstad: Karlstad University Department of English. Retrieved from <http://kau.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A5829&dswid=4015>.
- Gilly, M.Y.B. (2015). *An Analysis of Non-observance Maxims in the Amazing World of Gumball Cartoon* (Published Thesis). Yogyakarta: Sanata Dharma