

A Pragmatic Analysis of Conversational Implicature in Anna and the French Kiss: Grice's Maxims and Adolescent Communication

Ghevira Meilsa Darmawan^{1*}, Afriana²

^{1,2} Universitas Putera Batam, Batam, Indonesia

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Abstract: This study investigates the use of conversational implicature in Stephanie Perkins's novel *Anna and the French Kiss* through the framework of Grice's (1975) theory of conversational maxims. The research aims to identify the types of flouted maxims and interpret the implied meanings embedded in the characters' utterances. Employing a qualitative descriptive method supported by frequency analysis, the data were drawn from 602 utterances in the novel that violated the Maxims of Quality, Quantity, Relation, and Manner. The findings reveal that the Maxim of Relation is the most frequently flouted, with 233 instances, followed by the Maxim of Manner with 220 instances, the Maxim of Quality with 103 instances, and the Maxim of Quantity with 46 instances. These violations function to express irony, maintain politeness, and manage emotional tension, reflecting the characters' preference for indirect and context-sensitive communication. The frequent flouting of Relation and Manner indicates adolescents' reliance on ambiguity and topic shifting to preserve social harmony and emotional balance. The study concludes that Grice's framework effectively accounts for the implied meanings in literary dialogue and demonstrates how pragmatic strategies construct authenticity, emotional depth, and relational nuance in young adult fiction.

Keywords: pragmatics; conversational implicature; Grice's maxims; young adult fiction

INTRODUCTION

Language serves as the primary medium for connection and communication, making it essential to human existence. According to Rodman & Hyams (2011), language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols utilized by humans for communication, thought, and expression. It enables members of a community to exchange ideas, emotions, and experiences while reflecting identity, social relationships, and cultural values. Beyond its literal function, language allows individuals to communicate both directly and indirectly, which makes it a central focus of pragmatic study.

*Corresponding author: pb221210041@upbatam.ac.id

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Communication depends on the idea that listeners and speakers work together for mutual comprehension, according to Grice's theory of conversational implicature. Grice's theory highlights that meaning in conversation depends on how speakers use cooperative principles to convey intended meanings implicitly, going beyond literal interpretation, as Musa & Mohammed (2022) explain. Put differently, conversational implicature happens when a speaker makes a statement that suggests more meaning than the listener can deduce from the context. This idea emphasizes how speakers frequently disregard conversational norms in order to convey nuanced intentions while still fostering cordial dialogue. As a result, Grice's theory offers a basis for comprehending how implicit meanings operate in regular interactions and why context is so important for interpreting speech.

Since people frequently employ implied meanings to express humor, emotion, or politeness in everyday interactions, Grice's theory still remains highly useful in today's communication situation. For example, speakers on social media may defy conversational conventions to convey sarcasm or irony without being too obvious. This demonstrates how Grice's theory of implicature effectively explains how people communicate cooperatively while expressing meaning beyond words.

Quality, quantity, relation, and manner are the four conversational maxims that make up the Cooperative Principle, which Grice (1975) defines effective communication. According to Hadi (2013), speakers must adhere to the quality principle by speaking truthfully and refraining from making claims that lack supporting data. Giving just enough information, neither too little nor too much, is emphasized by the quantity maxim. According to the relational principle, speakers should contribute in a way that is relevant to the subject. Last but not least, the maxim of style emphasizes clarity, calling on speakers to steer clear of ambiguity and present their thoughts in a systematic manner. When these rules are willfully broken, speakers produce conversational implicatures (implied meanings) that listeners must decipher from context.

When examining communication in young adult (YA) novels where teenage dialogues frequently follow real-life patterns of indirect and implicit meaning, Grice's theory of conversational implicature is especially helpful. According to Holmes (2013), Sociolinguistics is the study of the complex interaction between language and society, elucidating how people modify their speech based on the social situation. This viewpoint is consistent with Grice's (1975) assertion that the way and timing of speech matter just as much as the content. The characters' use of sarcasm, hesitancy, and indirect statements in *Anna and the French Kiss* reflects the communication style of teenagers who negotiate relationships, emotions, and identities through context-sensitive interaction.

Stephanie Perkins wrote the young adult novel *Anna and the French Kiss*, which was released in the year 2010. The main character of the narrative is Anna Oliphant, a teenage American who moves to Paris for school and meets Étienne St. Clair, a boy who ends up becoming both her romantic interest and close friend. The novel explores issues of identity, friendship, and adolescent emotional development. Its conversations are realistic and organic, mirroring the way kids use humor, hesitancy, and indirect communication to convey their emotions. As a result, the novel offers pertinent information for examining Grice's conversational maxims in the context of teenage communication.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that language is not only a tool for communication but also a reflection of human thought and social behavior. Through pragmatics, especially Grice's theory of conversational implicature, the indirectness and implied meanings in communication can be understood more deeply. The dialogues in *Anna and the French Kiss* reflect how adolescents use language to express emotions and maintain relationships in subtle ways. Therefore, analyzing this novel through Grice's conversational maxims provides valuable insights into how pragmatic principles operate in adolescent communication within literary contexts.

Additionally, previous studies on conversational implicature have mostly focused on films, everyday conversations, or adult interactions, leaving only a few studies investigating implicature in adolescent novels. For example, studies by Op.Sunggu & Afriana (2020), Cristina & Afriana (2021), and Melania & Afriana (2023) examine maxim flouting in movies and television series, while Martini (2018) analyzes conversational implicature in students' daily interactions. These studies highlight that violations of Grice's maxims function to express politeness, humor, and emotional management, but they primarily focus on adult or non-literary contexts. This gap is significant because adolescent communication often involves heightened emotional sensitivity, indirectness, and context-dependent expressions, which differ from the pragmatic behavior of adults. By examining how Grice's conversational maxims are disregarded in *Anna and the French Kiss* and the resulting provided meanings, this study aims to fill this gap. While this study agrees with previous findings that maxim flouting is a strategic communicative practice, it extends prior research by focusing specifically on adolescent characters in a young adult novel. The study's specific objectives are to: (1) identify the different kinds of maxim violations in the novel, and (2) understand their pragmatic functions in influencing teenage conversation. This study advances our knowledge of how indirect language is used in adolescent literature.

Theoretical Framework

Pragmatics

Pragmatics is a core branch of linguistics concerned with how meaning is constructed and interpreted in social interaction. Crystal (2008) defines pragmatics as the study of language in context, how speakers express meanings that extend beyond literal word interpretation. Pragmatic analysis explores how communicators rely on shared knowledge, intention, and situational context to convey meaning indirectly. It focuses on how listeners infer what is meant rather than what is explicitly said. Consequently, conversational implicature and the flouting of Grice's maxims have become central to pragmatic studies, as they illuminate the mechanisms of indirect and context-based communication. This view is supported by Grice (1975), who emphasizes cooperative meaning-making through implicature and Leech (2016), who highlights the role of indirectness in maintaining politeness, and Brown & Levinson (1987), who explain how pragmatic strategies function to protect face in social interaction.

Pragmatic Function

In relation to pragmatic functions, conversational implicature is not only used to convey implied meanings but also to serve specific communicative purposes in interaction.

According to Thomas (1995), pragmatic functions of implicature include expressing attitudes, maintaining politeness, avoiding conflict, and managing interpersonal relationships. Similarly, Leech (2016) explains that indirectness in communication often functions to reduce social tension and protect the speaker's and hearer's face. These pragmatic functions are particularly relevant in adolescent communication, where speakers tend to prioritize emotional sensitivity and relational harmony. Therefore, the theories of pragmatic function proposed by Grice (1975), Thomas (1995), and Leech (2016) provide a strong theoretical foundation for analyzing how maxim flouting in *Anna and the French Kiss* functions to influence teenage conversation, in line with the objectives of this study.

Conversational Implicature

Grice (1975) introduced the concept of conversational implicature to explain how speakers imply additional meanings that listeners can infer from contextual clues. This phenomenon occurs when the literal meaning of an utterance diverges from its intended meaning, yet the conversation remains cooperative (Musa & Mohammed, 2022). For example, the statement “You’re standing in front of the TV” can imply a request for the listener to move rather than merely describing a fact. Conversational implicatures thus depend heavily on shared understanding, tone, and situational context. In both daily communication and literary dialogue, implicatures enable speakers to express feelings, humor, or politeness implicitly. Therefore, analyzing conversational implicature is essential for understanding how language functions beyond explicit content and how speakers negotiate interpersonal meaning through indirect expression, as proposed in Grice’s (1975) theory of conversational implicature and further elaborated by Thomas (1995).

Grice’s Conversational Maxims

To describe how cooperation operates in communication, Grice (1975) formulated the Cooperative Principle, consisting of four conversational maxims—Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner. These maxims serve as guidelines for effective interaction, shaping how information is conveyed and interpreted. Yule (1996) notes that the maxims act as practical conventions for clarity and relevance, while Thomas (1995), emphasizes that communication becomes pragmatically rich when these maxims are deliberately flouted. Understanding how these maxims are maintained or violated helps explain the creation of implied meanings and the management of politeness in human discourse.

a. Maxim of Quantity

The Maxim of Quantity concerns the amount of information conveyed. Speakers are expected to provide sufficient but not excessive detail. Too little information leaves listeners uncertain; too much may cause confusion. When intentionally violated, the maxim produces implicatures that signal emotional reservation or avoidance. For instance, brief responses such as “It was fine” may imply hesitation or concealment of deeper feelings.

b. Maxim of Quality

The Maxim of Quality centers on truthfulness and evidence. Speakers are expected to avoid falsehoods and unsupported claims. However, in practice, individuals often flout this maxim for humor, irony, or politeness. For example, the remark “That’s just what I needed!”

after an accident conveys frustration rather than genuine satisfaction. Such irony creates implicatures that reveal emotion or attitude beyond literal meaning.

c. Maxim of Relation

Also known as the Maxim of Relevance, this principle requires speakers to make contributions pertinent to the topic. Relevance maintains coherence in conversation. Yet, speakers sometimes intentionally shift topics or respond irrelevantly to express irony, avoid discomfort, or suggest hidden meaning. For example, replying “Well, the microphone worked perfectly” to “How was your presentation?” implies dissatisfaction indirectly. This type of flouting highlights how relevance manipulation conveys subtle emotional or social cues.

d. Maxim of Manner

The Maxim of Manner focuses on clarity and order. Speakers are expected to avoid ambiguity and obscurity. However, vagueness or hesitation is often used strategically to soften criticism or maintain politeness. Statements such as “She has an interesting personality” employ ambiguity to imply negative judgment politely. Such flouting illustrates how speakers use indirectness to balance sincerity with social harmony.

METHOD

This study employed a qualitative descriptive design to analyze conversational implicature in Stephanie Perkins’s novel *Anna and the French Kiss*, focusing specifically on the flouting of Grice’s conversational maxims. The qualitative approach was chosen because it enables the researcher to explore and interpret linguistic and social phenomena in their natural context without manipulating the data. According to Creswell (2012), qualitative research emphasizes understanding how individuals or groups construct meaning from social experiences. Practically, this study adopts a qualitative descriptive design to systematically describe and categorize instances of maxim flouting found in the novel. Theoretically, the analysis is grounded in a pragmatic framework, particularly pragmalinguistic analysis, which focuses on how linguistic forms are used to generate implied meanings in context through Grice’s conversational maxims. Therefore, the qualitative descriptive design functions as the methodological approach, while pragmatics serves as the theoretical lens guiding data interpretation.

Data Source and Data Collection

The primary data of this research were drawn from the dialogues of the novel *Anna and the French Kiss* (Perkins, 2010). Only utterances that demonstrated violations of Grice’s four conversational maxims, Quality, Quantity, Relation, and Manner, were selected as data. A total of 602 utterances were identified as containing conversational implicature. The data were collected through close reading and documentation techniques, which involved repeatedly examining the text, highlighting relevant utterances, and categorising them according to the type of maxim flouted. The data source of this study is a written literary text, namely a young adult novel, while the data consist of character utterances that generate implied meanings through maxim flouting. The data collection technique is qualitative

textual analysis through close reading, which is consistent with pragmatic research design, as pragmatics examines meaning in context based on actual language use (Grice, 1975; Thomas, 1995). Therefore, the selection and classification of utterances were guided by pragmatic theory, particularly conversational implicature and the Cooperative Principle.

Data Analysis Procedure

The data were analyzed using a qualitative descriptive approach supported by frequency count to identify dominant patterns. Each dialogue containing maxim flouting was coded and classified based on the type of maxim violated and its corresponding pragmatic function (e.g., irony, ambiguity, topic shifting, or under-informativeness). The analytical procedure followed the interactive model proposed by Miles et al. (2014), which consists of three concurrent stages:

1. Data Condensation – selecting, simplifying, and organising the data to focus on relevant utterances;
2. Data Display – presenting the categorised data in tables and figures to visualise patterns of maxim flouting; and
3. Conclusion Drawing and Verification – interpreting the findings to derive thematic insights and verify them through iterative comparison.

Validation of Findings

To ensure the trustworthiness of the analysis, the study applied triangulation through theory and expert validation. Cooperative Principle (Grice, 1975) served as the primary theoretical framework, supported by relevant pragmatic studies (Hadi, 2013; Thomas, 1995; Yule, 1996). The findings were also cross-checked with frequency patterns to enhance credibility and confirm the consistency of interpretation.

In summary, this qualitative descriptive method, complemented by frequency support, allowed for both depth and accuracy in interpreting how conversational implicature operates within the novel. It effectively combines textual analysis and pragmatic interpretation to reveal how adolescent characters employ indirectness and implied meanings in their interactions.

RESULTS

Types of Maxim Violations Found in *Anna and the French Kiss*

The analysis identified 602 utterances in *Anna and the French Kiss* that flouted Grice's conversational maxims. The findings revealed that the Maxim of Relation was the most frequently violated (233 instances), followed by the Maxim of Manner (220), Maxim of Quality (103), and Maxim of Quantity (46). These patterns show that adolescent characters tend to use indirect and context-dependent language to navigate emotional and interpersonal situations. The following sections discuss representative data for each type of maxim flouting and its pragmatic function within the novel. These findings address the first research objective by identifying the types and frequency of maxim violations in the novel.

Table 1: Distribution of Flouted Conversational Maxims and Their Pragmatic Functions in Anna and the French Kiss

No	Maxim Type	Frequency (n=602)	Dominant Pragmatic Function	Communicative Purpose
1	Relation	233	Topic Shift / Non-Answer	Managing discomfort and preserving harmony
2	Manner	220	Ambiguity / Politeness	Softening judgment, maintaining sensitivity
3	Quality	103	Irony / Sarcasm	Expressing emotion indirectly, sustaining rapport
4	Quantity	46	Under-Informativeness / Avoidance	Withholding information for self-protection
Total		602		

Pragmatic Functions of Maxim Flouting in Teenage Conversation

This section addresses the second research objective by explaining the pragmatic functions of maxim flouting in teenage conversation. The analysis focuses on how adolescent characters use indirect language to express emotions, manage interpersonal relationships, and maintain social harmony.

Data 1 – Flouting the Maxim of Quality

“Sure, because failing algebra sounds like fun.”

(Perkins, 2010, p. 45)

Anna’s utterance violates the Maxim of Quality, which requires speakers to convey truthful information supported by evidence (Grice, 1975). Her remark is deliberately ironic; she does not genuinely believe that failing algebra is enjoyable. Instead, the statement conveys frustration through sarcasm, functioning as an emotional release while maintaining a humorous tone. According to Grice’s Cooperative Principle, communication is built on the assumption that interlocutors contribute meaningfully to the conversation; when this expectation is intentionally broken, listeners search for the implied meaning.

Here, irony serves a socially strategic purpose, allowing Anna to express dissatisfaction without sounding overtly rude. This pattern aligns with the finding that the Maxim of Quality (103 instances) often functions as a tool for emotional expression, where humour and irony mitigate negativity while preserving rapport, a key feature of adolescent discourse.

Data 2 – Flouting the Maxim of Quantity

“It was... fine.”

(Perkins, 2010, p. 87)

Étienne’s response violates the Maxim of Quantity, which requires speakers to provide sufficient but not excessive information (Grice, 1975). His hesitation and short reply indicate under-informativeness, suggesting that he conceals a personal emotion. The implicature here

is that his weekend was not actually “fine,” yet he withholds details to protect his feelings. As Khosravizadeh & Sadehvandi (2011) note, limiting information often signals emotional hesitation or avoidance. This strategy allows speakers to express discomfort indirectly, maintaining face and preventing conflict. Among the 46 identified instances, flouting the Maxim of Quantity typically reflects self-protective minimalism, a linguistic trait common in adolescent interaction when vulnerability is at stake.

Data 3 – Flouting the Maxim of Relation

Anna: “Did you talk to Ellie today?”

Étienne: “I saw Josh and Rashmi in the library.”

(Perkins, 2010, p. 132)

Étienne’s reply violates the Maxim of Relation, which requires relevance to the topic (Thomas, 1995). By shifting the focus from Ellie to other people, he avoids confronting an uncomfortable subject. The implicature is that he did meet Ellie but prefers not to discuss it, revealing emotional deflection through topic shifting. The analysis shows that the Maxim of Relation (233 instances) is the most frequently flouted, serving as a mechanism of emotional regulation and relational maintenance. Such avoidance helps characters navigate jealousy or embarrassment without direct confrontation. This finding aligns with Holmes (2013), who notes that indirectness functions as a politeness strategy to protect interpersonal relationships, a hallmark of adolescent communication patterns.

Data 4 – Flouting the Maxim of Manner

“Well... she’s interesting.”

(Perkins, 2010, p. 164)

Anna’s statement violates the Maxim of Manner, which emphasizes clarity and the avoidance of ambiguity (Yule, 1996). Her pause (“Well...”) and vague word choice (“interesting”) create deliberate ambiguity, prompting the listener to infer a hidden meaning. According to Thomas (1995), speakers flout the Maxim of Manner to avoid direct criticism or to soften negative evaluations. The frequent use of hesitation and vagueness (220 instances) suggests that adolescent speakers in the novel employ ambiguity as a politeness device, enabling them to express opinions cautiously. This reflects the social sensitivity of teenage interaction, where maintaining harmony and avoiding confrontation are prioritized. Manner flouting thus demonstrates linguistic maturity through empathetic communication rather than communicative incompetence.

The detailed analyses of the four representative data show that each type of maxim flouting serves a distinct communicative and emotional function within the novel. However, beyond individual examples, the overall distribution pattern provides a broader view of how Grice’s maxims operate collectively in shaping adolescent interaction. To complement the qualitative discussion, the frequency of each maxim flouted was quantified to identify dominant tendencies and pragmatic purposes. This combination of qualitative interpretation and frequency analysis allows for a deeper understanding of the pragmatic behavior displayed by the characters, revealing not only how, but also why certain maxims are flouted more often than others. To visualize the overall distribution of pragmatic functions across



Grice's four maxims, the quantitative findings were represented through a heatmap (Figure 4.1). This visualization provides a clearer picture of how specific pragmatic functions correspond to particular types of maxim flouting.

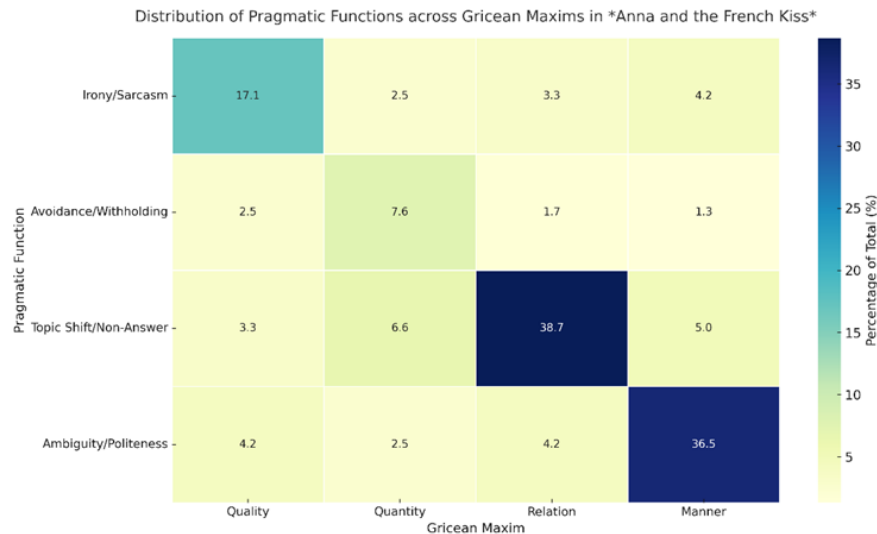


Figure 4.1. Distribution of Pragmatic Functions across Gricean Maxims in Anna and the French Kiss

The visual distribution presented in Figure 4.1 confirms the numerical findings shown in Table 4.1. The Maxim of Relation (38.7%) and the Maxim of Manner (36.5%) appear as the dominant categories, demonstrating that adolescent speakers in *Anna and the French Kiss* rely heavily on topic shifting and ambiguity as their primary pragmatic strategies. These forms of indirectness enable the characters to manage delicate emotional situations, conceal personal feelings, and maintain interpersonal harmony. The relatively lower occurrence of the Maxim of Quality (17.1%) and Maxim of Quantity (7.6%) further indicates that the characters prefer to express disapproval or hesitation subtly through irony, minimal responses, or vague comments rather than through explicit confrontation. This pattern illustrates that implicature functions as a cooperative tool rather than a communicative failure. In line with (Grice, 1975) *Cooperative Principle* and (Brown & Levinson, 1987) *Politeness Theory*, the frequent flouting of Relation and Manner suggests that adolescent communication is guided by both cognitive reasoning and social sensitivity. The heatmap visualization strengthens the argument that the novel's dialogue reflects authentic patterns of youth interaction: emotionally charged, contextually nuanced, and pragmatically sophisticated. Hence, the pragmatic behavior of the characters mirrors how real adolescents use language to negotiate identity, emotion, and relationship boundaries within a social framework.

These findings confirm Grice's (1975) view that conversational violations are not communicative failures but strategic acts of cooperation, where implied meaning strengthens social understanding. They also align with Brown & Levinson's (1987) *Politeness Theory* which shows that indirectness serves as a tool for emotional self-control and relational

maintenance. In sum, the pragmatic patterns in *Anna* and *the French Kiss* illustrate how adolescent discourse in literature mirrors authentic human communication, subtle, relational, and emotionally intelligent.

DISCUSSION

Discussion of the Types of Maxim Violations

With regard to the first research objective, which aims to identify the types of maxim violations in the novel, the results of this study show that the teenage characters in *Anna* and *the French Kiss* exhibit distinct patterns of pragmatic behaviour. The characters' frequent violations of the Maxim of Relation and the Maxim of Manner show how heavily they rely on indirectness to deal with situations in society. This finding emphasises how, in order to protect their feelings and maintain social harmony, teenagers frequently steer clear of outright conflict in preference for more subdued tactics like subject shifting, ambiguity, and delay. Grice's Cooperative Principle, which suggests that speakers purposefully manage implicature by finding a balance between honesty, sensitivity, and politeness, is consistent with these inclinations.

The dominance of Relation and Manner flouting aligns with findings from previous pragmatic studies, which report that adolescents frequently rely on indirectness to manage social relationships and emotional vulnerability. For instance, Martini (2018) and Melania & Afriana (2023) also discovered that ambiguity, topic shifting, and vague expressions are commonly used to soften criticism or avoid uncomfortable topics. Compared to these studies, the present research provides a more detailed account of how these strategies operate in a literary context, especially within young adult fiction, where characters experience heightened emotional transitions. This consistency reinforces the argument that maxim flouting is not accidental but reflects intentional communicative practices shaped by age, social closeness, and interpersonal dynamics. Thus, the pragmatic patterns found in the novel support broader theories on indirect communication in youth discourse.

Discussion of the Pragmatic Functions of Maxim Flouting

In relation to the second research objective, which focuses on understanding the pragmatic functions of maxim flouting in teenage conversation, the flouting of the Maxim of Quality through sarcasm and irony suggests that adolescent speakers employ humor as a tool for emotional expression and social bonding. These sarcastic remarks allow characters to express dissatisfaction or frustration while maintaining rapport. This finding corresponds with Thomas (1995), who states that irony often functions as a socially acceptable strategy for expressing negative emotions indirectly. Meanwhile, the lower frequency of the Maxim of Quantity flouting indicates that adolescents prefer to withhold information selectively rather than over-elaborate, signaling emotional caution and self-protection.

Overall, the results reinforce the idea that conversational implicature is not merely a stylistic feature in literature but reflects authentic communication patterns among teenagers. Through indirectness, adolescents navigate friendship, attraction, insecurity, and social pressure. The novel successfully captures such real-life pragmatic behaviors, demonstrating that Grice's theory remains relevant and applicable to contemporary young adult communication.



The findings of this study offer several important implications. Theoretically, this research strengthens the application of Grice's Cooperative Principle in understanding adolescent communication, particularly in literary dialogue, by demonstrating that maxim flouting functions as a purposeful and cooperative pragmatic strategy rather than a communicative failure. Practically, these findings may contribute to pragmatics instruction by providing authentic examples of conversational implicature from young adult literature, which can help learners recognize how implied meanings are negotiated in everyday communication.

Despite these contributions, this study has certain limitations. The analysis is limited to conversational implicature interpreted through Grice's Cooperative Principle and does not explore other pragmatic perspectives, such as politeness strategies beyond maxim flouting, speech act theory, or relevance theory. Moreover, the data are confined to a single young adult novel, which may not fully represent the broader range of adolescent communicative practices across different cultural or social contexts.

Future research is therefore encouraged to examine conversational implicature using a wider range of pragmatic frameworks, including politeness theory, facework, or relevance-based approaches, in order to provide a more comprehensive understanding of conversational principles. Further studies may also analyse multiple literary texts or compare fictional dialogue with naturally occurring teenage conversations to explore how implicature operates across diverse communicative settings.

CONCLUSION

The analysis of conversational implicatures in *Anna and the French Kiss* demonstrates that Grice's (1975) Conversational maxims - Quality, Quantity, Relation, and Manner are deliberately flouted by adolescent characters to construct indirect, emotionally nuanced communication. A total of 602 utterances were identified as containing flouted maxims, with the Maxim of Relation (233 instances) and Maxim of Manner (220 instances) occurring most frequently, followed by the Maxim of Quality (103) and Maxim of Quantity (46). These findings indicate that teenage characters rely primarily on topic shifting and ambiguity to maintain social harmony and manage emotional vulnerability. Irony and sarcasm under the Maxim of Quality serve as tools for emotional expression and humour, while under-informativeness in the Maxim of Quantity functions as a mechanism of self-protection and politeness. Collectively, these patterns reveal that flouting conversational norms is not communicative failure but a strategic act of cooperation that enriches interpersonal meaning. The results support Grice's Cooperative Principle, showing that implicature enables speakers to balance honesty, empathy, and social sensitivity, an aspect highly reflective of real adolescent interaction.

Based on these findings, it is suggested that teenagers develop greater awareness of appropriate conversational discourse patterns when engaging in everyday interaction. While conversational implicature allows speakers to convey meaning indirectly, adolescents should remain mindful of maintaining clarity, relevance, and mutual understanding to avoid miscommunication. Indirect strategies such as humour, ambiguity, or topic shifting should be used purposefully and cooperatively, rather than excessively or evasively, so that the

intended meaning can still be inferred by interlocutors. By balancing implicature with adherence to conversational principles, teenagers can communicate more effectively while preserving empathy, respect, and social harmony.

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