

VIOLATION OF COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE AS HABITUS IN ATTACK ON TITAN

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ABSTRACT

This research focuses on the violation on cooperative principle is systemically used which develop distinct communicative habitus within their militaristic society. Through qualitative content analysis of dialogue exchanges from the complete animated series (1-4) and manga chapters (1-139), added by pragmatic discourse analysis. The method that uses is qualitative research approach, the research investigates how violation of the research investigates how violation of cooperative principle becomes normalized as habitus. Both a survival strategy and a mechanism for maintaining social cohesion. The findings reveal that characters develop sophisticated communication strategies that balance pragmatic principles with social position and strategic needs. Military leaders and political figures demonstrate how systematic violations of conversational maxims can function as a form of social capital, while class-based communicative dispositions persist even in crisis situations. The study contributes to communication theory by demonstrating how the integration of Grice's maxims and Bourdieu's concept of habitus can illuminate complex communication patterns in high-stakes environments.

Keywords: Grice's Cooperative Principle, Habitus Concepts, Violation of Cooperative Principle, Maxims, Attack on Titan

INTRODUCTION

Communication is an important thing to do, whether it's through spoken or written word. Communication will run smoothly if the speakers cooperate and there is no misunderstanding with each other. In communication, people must convey clear information. That is mean it must be with relevant, factual, and brief information so that the communication will run smoothly. To build good communication and no violation of cooperation, Grice (1975) formed a principle called the Cooperative Principle. According to Grice, Cooperative Principle there are 4 maxims: Maxim of Quantity which means give an enough and appropriate information, Maxim of Quality which means be truthful, Maxim of Relation which means give a relevant information, and Maxim of Manner which means be clear and orderly. Even though these principles have been explained very clearly, unfortunately, there are still many violations of these principles when communicating.

Violation of Cooperative Principle means that when a person is communicating with its interlocutor, what will happen is that there is a misunderstanding and the information obtained is irrelevant. Also, when someone does not follow the rules of being cooperative in a conversation. This can happen when someone lies, providing insufficient or ambiguous information, and so on. The reasons why people violate maxims is to avoid discussion, to change topic and it can be to keep a secret. The types of maxim violations are: Maxim of Quantity which means giving too much information, Maxim of Quality which means not telling the truth, Maxim of Relation which means not providing support, and Maxim of Manner which means asking for an opinion.

Several significant studies have explored related aspects of this research. Khosravizadeh and Sadehvandi (2011) identified patterns of maxim violation in dramatic contexts that parallel those found in real-world political discourse.

In addition, the definition of Habitus proposed by Pierre Bourdieu (2004) is a concept that explains how individuals self-regulate their behavior to conform to social expectations. The characteristics of Habitus are habits that are usually inherent and carried out repeatedly, derived from external factors (social environment), and so on.

From all the explanations above, this research will discuss about Violation of Cooperative Principle as Habitus in manga and anime series "Attack on Titan" (進撃の巨人, Shingeki no Kyojin) Characters. This research presents a particularly compelling case study of how characters systematically violate of Grice's cooperative principle while maintaining effective goal-oriented communication. This apparent paradox where violation cooperative principle become the normative mode of interaction suggests a deeper relationship between Grice's Cooperative Principle and Bourdieu's concept of habitus. This phenomenon is particularly evident in their interactions with key figures such as Eren Yeager, Zeke Yeager, Reiner Braun and various military and political figures, who constantly use violation cooperative principle to navigate complex power dynamics and achieve their goals. By committing themselves to the basic principles of dialogue, such as quantity, quality, relation and manner, these characters are not only making choices but also embodying dispositions that govern their everyday lives.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This research found two main theoretical frameworks that guide the analysis of communication patterns in Attack on Titan: Grice's Cooperative Principle and Bourdieu's Concept of Habitus. These frameworks provide an appropriate lens to examine how characters navigate complex social dynamics through strategic communication.

1. Grice's Cooperative Principle

Grice's work on conversational implicature and the Cooperative Principle has been foundational in pragmatic linguistics. In his seminal papers "Logic and Conversation" (1975) and "Utterer's Meaning and Intentions" (1969), Grice proposed that effective communication is governed by an overarching cooperative principle, broken down into four maxims.

The Cooperative Principle submit that participants in conversation will "make [their] conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange" (Grice, 1975, p. 45). This principle is effect through four maxims:

- a) **Maxim of Quantity:** Providing appropriate information and sufficient.
- b) **Maxim of Quality:** Being truthful in communication.
- c) **Maxim of Relation:** Offering relevant information.
- d) **Maxim of Manner:** Being clear and orderly in expression.

The cooperative principle serves as a normative framework for communication, yet the highlight of the explanation above, violations of these maxims are common and often purposeful.

2. Bourdieu's Concept of Habitus

Pierre Bourdieu's concept of habitus provides a complementary sociological framework for understanding how communication patterns become embodied and normalized within specific social contexts. In "The Logic of Practice" (1990) and "Language and Symbolic Power" (1991), Bourdieu developed habitus as a theoretical tool for explaining how social structures become internalized as dispositions that generate and organize practices.

Complementing Grice's cooperative principle, Bourdieu's (1990, 1991, 2004) Concept of Habitus provides a sociological framework for understanding how communication patterns become embodied and normalized within specific social contexts. As defined in this research, Habitus explains "how individuals self-regulate their behavior to conform to social expectations." Key characteristics of habitus include:

- a) Habitual behaviors that become inherent through repetition.
- b) External derivation from social environment and context.
- c) Unconscious embodiment of social norms and expectations.

Waqquant (2016, 2018) expanded on Bourdieu's concept, noting that institutional habitus creates "practical taxonomies" for organizing knowledge and social interactions. This framework helps explain how characters in Attack on Titan develop distinctive communication strategies that reflect their social positions and institutional contexts.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative research approach for content analysis, supplemented by practical analysis, such as systematically violating of cooperative principle in Attack on Titan Characters and simultaneously determining communication Habitus. The research design includes several layers of analytical to ensure comprehensive coverage of both linguistic and literature aspects.

The data was collected from the complete animated series about Attack on Titan (seasons 1-4) and the corresponding manga chapters (1-139). Both the original Japanese dialogue and the official English translation were analyzed to ensure accuracy. The sample process focuses on: Strategic discussions between large-scale characters (e.g. Eren Yeager, Zeke Yeager, Reiner Braun, and members of Military Police), Political negotiations and military planning conference and Informal dialogues that demonstrate habitus communication patterns.

The analysis continued in two analysis phases include: Pragmatic Analysis; Identification and classification of maxim violations of Grice's Cooperative Principle (quantity, quality, relation, and manner) and Habitus Analysis; Application of Bourdieu's Concept to identify patterns of embodied nature in communication and Examination of how social positions influence communication strategies.

DISCUSSION

The analysis of communication patterns in Attack on Titan reveals several significant findings regarding the interface between pragmatic linguistics and habitus formation within a militaristic society. By examining character dialogues through both Grice's Cooperative Principle and Bourdieu's Concept of Habitus, we can observe how systematic violations of conversational maxims become normalized as both survival mechanisms and indicators of social positioning within the dystopian world.

1. Pragmatic Analysis: Strategic Violations of Cooperative Principle

As outlined in the methodology, the first phase of analysis involved identifying and classifying violations of Grice's Cooperative Principle across the four maxims. This systematic pragmatic analysis revealed distinct patterns of maxim violations that correspond with character positions and institutional contexts.

a) Maxim of Quantity Violations

Characters in positions of military authority consistently demonstrated strategic quantity violations, particularly in contexts of planning and crisis management. This pattern emerged from the qualitative content analysis of strategic discussions between major characters.

Case Study: In a military planning conference (Season 3, Episode 9), Commander Erwin Smith demonstrates this pattern:

Hange: "Commander, should we inform the new recruits about the potential for civilian casualties?"

Erwin: "They know what's at stake. We have our orders."
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The pragmatic analysis of this exchange reveals how quantity violations serve strategic purposes, as Erwin deliberately provides insufficient information. This aligns with Thomas's (1995, p. 64) observation that "speakers may deliberately refuse to obey the maxims in order to exploit them for communicative purposes." In military contexts, such violations often serve what Mey (2001, p. 76) terms "institutional goals" that replace individual communicative clarity.

b) Maxim of Quality Violations

The analysis of dialogue from characters with dual allegiances, as specified in the sample selection process of the methodology, revealed systematic quality violations that functions as survival mechanisms.

Case Study: The conversation between Eren and Reiner (Season 2, Episode 6) exemplifies these patterns:

Eren: "What are you talking about, Reiner?"
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Reiner: "I'm the Armored Titan, and he's the Colossal Titan."
--

Bertholdt: "Reiner! We're not doing this now!"

Reiner: "I'm exhausted of playing soldier... I don't know what's right anymore..."

This exchange, examined through pragmatic discourse analysis as specified in the methodology, demonstrates how quality violations become normalized within the narrative. Meibauer's (2014, p. 123) distinction violations is particularly relevant here, as Reiner's utterances represent what Davies (2007, p. 2311) characterizes as "strategic deception" that serves complex social purposes beyond meager deception.

c) Maxim of Relation Violations

Political negotiations, identified in the methodology as a key context for data collection, revealed consistent relation violations that reflect power dynamics and social positioning.

Case Study: This exchange between Historia and Rod Reiss (Season 3, Episode 8) was analyzed:

Historia: "Why did you come for me now, after abandoning me all these years?"
Rod Reiss: "The Reiss family has a sacred duty passed down through generations. Our blood is special."

The pragmatic analysis of this dialogue reveals how relation violations serve to reinforce hierarchical structures, as Rod Reiss diverts from addressing Historia's direct question to assert familial authority instead. This supports Brown and Levinson's (1987, p. 211) claim that "power asymmetries frequently manifest in pragmatic features of discourse." Additionally, as Fairclough (1989, p. 46) notes, "evasion serves not merely to avoid topics but to establish the speaker's authority to control discourse."

d) Maxim of Manner Violations

The qualitative content analysis of strategic discussions, revealed sophisticated patterns of manner violations, particularly among characters navigating complex political terrains.

Case Study: Zeke Yeager's communication style, identified through the methodological focus on key strategic characters:

Eren: "What is your real plan?"
Zeke: "Euthanasia is salvation. It's the only kindness we can offer this cruel world."

The pragmatic analysis of this exchange reveals how manner violations become a characteristic communication strategy for characters with concealed agendas, supporting the methodological approach of focusing on strategic discussions between major characters.

2. Habitus Analysis: Communication as Embodied Disposition

Following the second analytical phase described in the methodology, the study applied Bourdieu's concept to identify patterns of embodied dispositions in communication. This revealed how social positions influence communication strategies within the militaristic society of Attack on Titan.

a) Military Institutional Habitus

The analysis of informal dialogues, identified in the methodology as important habitus communication patterns, revealed distinct institutional habitus formations within military structures.

Case Study: Armin's evolving communication style throughout the series demonstrates this institutional habitus formation:

Season 1 Armin: "We need to work together! If we coordinate our attacks, we have a chance!"

Season 4 Armin: "Sometimes, the person who refuses to sacrifice anything can't change anything."

This longitudinal analysis of character dialogue, consistent with the methodological approach of examining the complete series, reveals how communication habitus evolved in response to institutional pressures and experiences. As Bourdieu (1991, p. 37) notes, "the habitus acquired in the field structures the perception of the field itself," a process Wacquant (2018, p. 6) terms "secondary socialization" in what way institutional values become embodied in communication practices.

3. Class-Based Communicative Dispositions

The habitus analysis, examined how social positions influence communication strategies, revealing persistent class-based patterns even in crisis situations.

Case Study: The contrast between characters from different social backgrounds was analyzed according to the habitus analysis framework:

Levi: "Tch. This plan is garbage. But I'll follow your lead."

Pixis: "Perhaps we might consider an alternative approach that balances our various obligations to both military protocol and humanitarian concerns."

This comparison, drawn from the comprehensive analysis of dialogue across the series as specified in the methodology, demonstrates how class-based communicative dispositions persist even as characters occupy similar institutional positions. This supports Bourdieu's (1984, p. 170) assertion that "class habitus tends to transpose across fields."

4. Communication Capital as Social Resource

The integration of pragmatic and habitus analysis, revealed how the ability to effectively violate conversational maxims while maintaining social effectiveness functions as a form of capital within the narrative world.

Case Study: The strategic dialogue analysis specified revealed distinct patterns in how characters leverage communication as capital:

Jean: "We can't just abandon our comrades from Marley. They're victims too."

Floch: "Anyone who's not from Paradis is our enemy. It's that simple."

This comparison, identified through the systematic analysis of dialogue exchanges from the complete series, demonstrates how nuanced violations of cooperative principles can function as a form of social capital, while more direct communication may lack strategic effectiveness despite technical adherence to Grice's maxims. This exemplifies what Bourdieu (1991, p. 66) terms "linguistic capital," where "the capacity to command a listener" functions as a social resource. Thompson (1991, p. 18) elaborates that such capital depends on "the recognition of legitimate language," which in complex social environments may prioritize strategic effectiveness over normative correctness.

The findings demonstrate how the integration of Grice's pragmatic principles with Bourdieu's sociological framework, applied through systematic content and discourse analysis as described in the methodology, can illuminate complex communication dynamics in fictional narratives that reflect real-world power structures and institutional pressures.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This research demonstrates how characters in *Attack on Titan* systematically develop sophisticated communication strategies that balance pragmatic principles with social positions and strategic needs in their militaristic society. Through the integration of Grice's maxims and Bourdieu's concept of habitus, we can better understand how indirect communication becomes normalized as both a survival strategy and a mechanism for maintaining social cohesion in high-stakes environments. This research shows several important findings. First, strategic violations of Grice's maxims function as a form of social capital, especially among military leaders and political figures. Second, the rapid formation of communicative habitus under crisis conditions extends Bourdieu's theory by highlighting how extreme environments catalyze the development of sophisticated communication patterns. Third, the characters demonstrate how "Communication Capital" (the ability to effectively violate maxims while maintaining social effectiveness) functions as a form of hierarchical power. Finally, the persistence of class-based communicative dispositions confirms Bourdieu's claim of a durable habitus while showing how these patterns adapt under extreme situations. For future research, we recommend applying this analytical framework to other high-stakes narrative contexts, exploring digital communication environments where similar patterns may emerge, and developing pedagogical applications for communication training in professional environments that require strategic communication.

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