

Flouting the Cooperative Principle of the Biden-Trump (2020) First Presidential Debate: A Pragmatic Analysis

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Abstract

This study pragmatically analyzes the text of the first 2020 US presidential debate. The study aims to find out: Whether there is non-observance of the data in presidential debates which results in flouting Grice's maxims; and If there are specific pragmatic strategies used as tools in flouting these maxims. The paper hypothesizes that: The presidential debates contain a significant number of non-observances of the data which results in flouting the maxims of quantity, quality, manner, and relation. and There are specific strategies which are used frequently as tools in flouting these principles. To test the hypotheses, the paper analyzes the selected data through an eclectic model which comprises the combination of Grice's (1975) "Cooperative Principle" to account for any potential non-observance of these principles, as well as the pragmatic strategies of Metaphor, Irony, Hyperbole/Overstatement, Sarcasm/Mockery, Dysphemism, Simile, Presupposition, and Banter. The study concludes that the maxim of relation is the mostly flouted maxim and that metaphor, overstatement, and hyperbole are the strategies used, respectively, in every flouting of the Grice's maxims.

Key words: Flouting, Cooperative Principle, Trump-Biden, Presidential Debates

المستخلص

تتناول هذه الدراسة تحليل نص اول مناظرة رئاسية أمريكية في عام ٢٠٢٠ من منظور تداولي. وتهدف الدراسة الى : تحديد فيما لو وجد عدم التزام في عينة المناظرات الرئاسية والذي قد ينتج عنه خرق لقواعد غرايس، و تحديد فيما لو كانت هناك أي استراتيجيات تداولية تستعمل أدواتاً لخرق هذه القواعد. تفترض الدراسة ان تحتوي المناظرات الرئاسية ضمن العينة المختارة على عدد كبير من عدم الالتزام والذي ينتج عنه خرق قواعد الكم والنوع والاسلوب والصلة، و ان هناك استراتيجيات محددة تستعمل عادة ادواتاً لخرق هذه القواعد. وإثبات هاتين الفرضيتين، تولت الدراسة تحليل العينة المختارة من خلال إطار تحليل توليفي يضم كل من مبدأ التعاون لغرايس (١٩٧٥) لتشخيص أي عدم التزام محتمل لهذه القواعد والاستراتيجيات التداولية التي تشمل كل من الاستعارة والتهكم والمبالغة والسخرية وضد الكناية والممازحة. تستنتج الدراسة ان قاعدة الصلة هي القاعدة الأكثر خرقاً في العينة وان الاستعارة والمبالغة تستعمل استراتيجيات في كل خرق لقواعد غرايس.

1.1 Introduction

Grice's Cooperative Principle (1975) has set forth principles which govern how conversations are ought to be conducted in order to be understood within their right context. These maxims indicate that what is said in a conversation should be enough (not more or less than that), true, relevant, and the manner in which it is said should be appropriate. As a consequence, flouting these maxims leads to either (intentional or unintentional) implicatures (implied meanings). Such flouting may be minor and does not yield to complications when it happens within conversations in everyday lives; yet, when it is done by leaders, it inevitably leads to problems, or worst, war. Focusing on the intentional implicatures made by politicians, the current study sees a gap in investigating the flouting of Grice's maxims of conversations in the United States' elections debates; therefore, it set forth the ground to analyze the most recent data in this regard, i.e., the 2020 presidential elections debates between Donald Trump and Joe Biden. As such, the current study attempts to answer the following questions:

Thus, the study aims to answer the following main questions:

1. To which extent are Grice's maxims followed in the US political debates' speeches?
2. What are mostly flouted maxims in the US political debates' speeches?
3. To what extent are the pragmatic strategies used with each flouting of Grice's maxims?

2.2 Grice's (1975) Cooperative Principle

Grice (1975:44) proposes one of the most driving commitments to the philosophy of language which is the cooperative principle (CP, hence forth) and its conversational maxims. Grice(1975) centers around the social functions of questioners in a specific correspondence and on the rules that administrate such correspondence. So, there is an overall arrangement between the questioners and this understanding is managed by principles. Grice (1975:44) details CP as follows:

"Make your conversational contribution such as is required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which you are engaged"

The theory of Grice is the most advanced in a line of endeavors to clarify what has been called pragmatic involvement. The key knowledge of Grice is that discussion can just work in light of the fact that the two individuals are attempting to be helpful to make a fitting commitment to the current discussion. Regardless of whether one can accept that the members in

a severe contention are indeed absolutely uncooperative, in which neither needs the other to increase any ground. They are cooperative in conversation: they adhere to the subject, they express interpretable things and attempt to finish their musings without giving diverting or immaterial details(Bach and Harnish,1979:166).

The CP is comprised of four maxims, called the Gricean maxims, describing specific rational principles observed by people who follow the cooperative principle; these principles enable effective communication (Grice,1975:46). These maxims are:

I-Maxim of Quantity:

- Make your contribution as informative as required.
- Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.

II-Maxim of Quality: Try to make your contribution one that is true.

- Do not say what you believe to be false.
- Do not say that for which you lack adequate evidence.

III-Maxim of Relation: Make your contribution relevant.

IV-Maxim of Manner: Be perspicuous, more precisely:

- Avoid obscurity of expression
- Avoid ambiguity
- Be brief
- Be orderly

2.3 Non-Observance of the Maxims

Grice (1975: 49) states that there are numerous conditions whereby the speaker neglects to notice the maxims. He places numerous manners by which members in a discourse discussion may neglect to satisfy the maxims. There are five methods of neglecting or failing to notice a maxim. Those maxims are:

1. Violating a maxim
2. Flouting a maxim,
3. Infringing a maxim,
4. Suspending a maxim and
5. Opting out of a maxim.

Strassler (1982:59) says that the speaker plans to complete a fruitful discussion and along these lines, breaking a maxim must be innovative in the event that it brings about extra information, the speaker isn't honest, questionable, and talks about more than one point.

2.3.1 Violating a Maxim

The speaker is purposefully try to mislead the listener, (Ibid). Grice (1975: 49) states that the idea of violation can be characterized as the unostentatious non-observance of a maxim. In the event that a speaker attempts to violate a maxim, he will be at risk to mislead. Grice implies that the speaker violates a maxim when he deliberately mislead the listener. Additionally, he clarifies that these maxims are regularly intentionally disregarded for accomplishing the point or the aim of the speaker. This is consistently done by saying something different than is really implied however with the aim that the listener perceives the principal suggestion in any case. At the point when a speaker disregards a maxim, the audience searches for the implicature since he embraces the conversational maxims to be in activity (Ibid).

- Clouseau: Does your dog bite?

- Receptionist: No.

- Clouseau: (Bends down to stroke it and gets bitten) Ow! You said your dog doesn't bite!

- Receptionist: That isn't my dog (Cutting, 2008:38).

In this example, unmistakably the assistant breaks the Maxim of Quantity since he doesn't give reasonable subtleties to Clouseau, which drove Clouseau to presume that the dog has a place with the secretary. Clouseau has found out if the little dog can bite, and the secretary doesn't give Clouseau enough subtleties when asked, purposefully misleading him. It drives him to confuse the secretary.

2.3.2 Opting out a Maxim

A speaker may opt out of observing a maxim by indicating unwillingness to cooperate in the way the maxim requires (Thomas,1995). A speaker opts out a maxim by demonstrating reluctance to collaborate in the way that a maxim requires. It usually happens when the speaker disturbed to respond to an inquiry. Opting out of observing a maxim can occur frequently in public life, when the speaker cannot reply in the way normally expected, For instance:

The first speaker is a caller to a radio chat show. The second speaker is the host, Nick Ross:

Caller: ... um I lived i n uh a country where people sometimes
need to flee that country.

Ross: Uh, where was that?

Caller: It's a country i n Asia and I don't want to say any
more.

(Thomas,1995)

Caller conveys maxim of opt out when he doesn't answer Ross's expression plainly. For this situation, Caller clarifies about a nation where individuals need to escape from that nation which demonstrates that it is an awful nation. Nonetheless, Caller just needs to share his experience without referencing the name of that nation to Ross. It can be presumed that Caller tries to answer the specific area of the nation since he would not like to say any all the more regarding that terrible nation.

2.3.3 Infringing a Maxim

Infringing a maxim commonly occurs when a speaker fails to observe a maxim (Thoms,1995). A speaker who, with no goal of producing an implicature and with no aim of misdirecting. It usually occurs when the speaker has an imperfect command of the language while his performance is impaired in some ways, such as a small kid or an unfamiliar student, since the speaker's presentation is, impaired in some way due to nervousness, drunkenness, or excitement, etc., in light of some intellectual disability, or essentially in light of the fact that the speaker is intrinsically unequipped for talking obviously, to the point.

2.3.4 Suspending a Maxim

Suspending a maxim is a case in which the speaker needs not opt out of observing the maxim because there is no expectation for the maxim to be observed (Thomas, 1995: 76)

2.3.5 Flouting a Maxim

(Thomas 1995: 65) Grice clarifies the flouting a maxim as a circumstance in which a speaker blatantly neglects to notice a maxim, not with any goal of misdirecting, but since the speaker wishes to incite the listener to search for a meaning which is different from the expressed one and leads the audience to discover the implicature of their expression. Flouting happens when a speaker explicitly neglects to notice a maxim at the element of what is expressed with the intentional objective of making an implicature. (Thomas,1995)

Brown and Yule (1983: 32) express that flouting a maxim is the outcome when the speaker conveys an expression in addition to the literal meaning which is the conversational implicature. For this situation, the audience, as the recipient, ought to comprehend the hidden meaning of the speaker's expression and derive further meaning of that expression. There are four kinds of flouting the maxim: flouting the maxim of quantity, flouting the maxim of quality, flouting the maxim of relation, and flouting the maxim of manner. Below is the explanation of those types of flouting maxims.

2.3.5.1 Flouting the Maxim of Quantity

Cutting (2002: 36) states that flouting the maxim of quantity happens when the speaker gives pretty much more or less excess of data than the situation required. For example:

Peter: Well, how do I look?

Mary: Your shoes are nice.

For this situation Mary has flouted the maxim of quantity by giving data not exactly needed. Peter gets some information about his entire appearance; however, Mary just refers to his shoes. She doesn't state straightforwardly that the shirt or his pants look decent, which implies that she isn't dazzled with the rest of what he is wearing. To try not to insult Peter, Mary chooses not to comply with the maxim of quantity. Hence Peter is obliged to gather the hidden meaning of Mary's expression.

2.3.5.2 Flouting the Maxim of Quality

Cutting (2002: 37) states that flouting a maxim of quality occurs in situations in which the speaker may essentially say something that clearly doesn't refer to what they think. For this situation the speaker talks sarcastically with the goal that the listener will get the hidden meaning of what the speaker says. This happens when the speaker says something which should be seen as blatantly false. (Cutting 2002: 38) proposes a few different ways individuals may flout the maxim of quality by using sarcasm, irony, banter, metaphor, and hyperbole.). An illustration of this from Thomas (1995:68) is a discussion hung on a train ride, where a for every child who simply needs to peruse a book is being upset by a garrulous stranger (Thomas 1995:68):

A: What do you do?

B: I'm an instructor.

A: Where do you instruct?

B: Outer Mongolia

A: Sorry I inquired!

For this situation, the reaction from speaker B was a conscious non observance of the maxim of quality when she said Outer Mongolia, where an implicature was created, which told the other individual to search for an extra significance. The non -observance of the maxim in this case was not intended to hoodwink; since the other individual comprehended the response to be intentionally false, this made the individual search for another meaning, for example the appropriate response External Mongolia made an implicature, which told the other individual that she needed to be left alone (Thomas 1995:68 69).

2.3.5.3 Flouting the maxim of Relation

Flouting the maxim of relation happens when the speaker conveys an expression which is clearly irrelevant to the subject of discussion. The speaker normally changes the subject of discussion to puzzle the conversationalists. This flouting normally happens when the speaker isn't keen on the subject of discussion. For instances:

a- "My girl can be such a specialist in some cases!"

b- "Stunning climate, right?"

It is clear that (b)'s assertion above spurns the flouting of relation since (b) doesn't give the important assertion towards (a)'s expression. It tends to be presumed that (b) isn't keen on (a)'s expression about her girl who can be a specialist by changing the subject of their discussion. (b) changes the line of discussion to a 'protected' theme.

2.3.5.4 Flouting the Maxim of Manner

Cutting (2002:38) states that flouting the maxim of manner happens when the speaker purposely neglects to notice the saying by not being brief, or using ambiguous words. For instance:

A: Where are you off to?

B: I was thinking of going out to get some of that funny white stuff for somebody

A: Ok, but don't be long – dinner's nearly ready (Ibid).

B talks in an obscure way, referencing " funny white stuff " and " somebody ", since he is attempting to abstain from saying "ice cream" and "Michelle", with the goal that his little girl doesn't get energized and requests the frozen yogurt before her feast.

3.Model, Data, and Analysis

This section presents the analysis of the selected data. To test the hypotheses, the first 2020 presidential debate between Trump and Biden were selected for the sake of the analysis of the data. The following model is adopted for analyzing the selected data.

3.1 Model of Analysis

The model used for analyzing the data is an eclectic model which is made through combining the pragmatic concepts of “the Cooperative Principle” by Grice (1975) and the pragmatic strategies of Metaphor, Irony, Hyperbole, Overstatement, Sarcasm, Mockery, Dysphemism, Simile, Presupposition, and Banter. The former is used for the purpose of finding out whether and there is flouting of the Grice’s maxims of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner, and the latter is used to figure out, under the potential flouting of these maxims, what kind of strategies are used for each flouting, and if there are specific strategies which are used under a certain kind of flouting. The following figure illustrates the model proposed for analyzing the data.

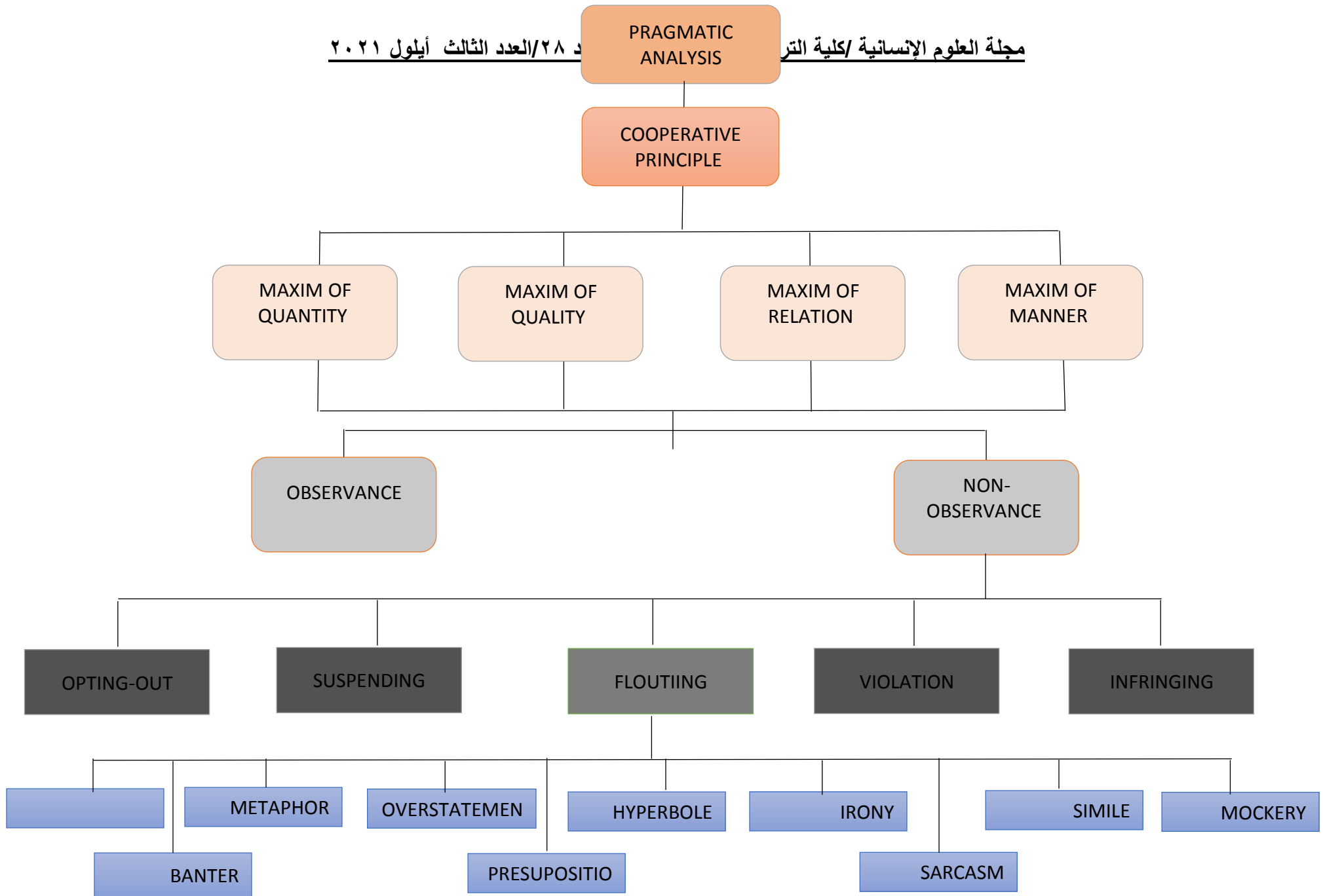


Fig (1): The Analytical model

As the figure above shows, the analysis starts with finding out the what and where the non-observance of the data occurs; after that, the analysis moves on to investigate what kind of strategy (or strategies) are exploited for the such non-observance where it is found.

3.2 The Data

The data selected for analysis is the United States' 2020 Presidential Elections Debate which took place between Donald Trump and Joe Biden on November 3rd, 2020. The reason for choosing this data to be analyzed pragmatically is that because it occurs on a tri-bases: a convener and two debaters which makes it significant raw material of investigation for pragmatic purposes, specifically under Grice's maxims. The 2020 debate is selected due to its concurrent status and for it being new and has not been investigated thoroughly, for the best of the researcher's knowledge.

3.3 The Analysis

This section presents the analysis of the selected data. First, the analysis initiates with analyzing the context of the selected data according to Dell Hymes "SPEAKING" Model (1975). As such, it presents the settings, the target audience, the time, method, etc. of the selected data.

For the sake of this analysis, the 2020 American presidential debates are selected, as follows.

Table (1): Hymes SPEAKING model (Hymes 1975).

S	Setting and Scene	socially recognizable time and place of the event
P	Participants	those present, or implied, and their respective roles
E	Ends	purpose, goals, outcome
A	Act Sequence	form and order of consecutive acts
K	Key	tone, manner, metacommunicative fram
I	Instrumentalities	code, channel, media, style
N	Norms	socio-cultural norms of composition and interpretation
G	Genre	kind of speech act or event, socio-culturally defined

In accordance with the above table, the context of analysis for the selected data becomes as follows.

Table (2) Context analysis of the first presidential debate.

No	SPEAKING	The Data Details
1.	S	Tuesday, September 29, 2020 9:00 p.m.–10:30 p.m. Ohio, USA.

2.	P	Donald Trump and Joe Biden
3.	E	The US Presidential Elections 2020 Debates
4.	A	A Debate: A convener, and two debaters
5.	K	Formal political tone
6.	I	Podiums, microphones, cameras, etc.
7.	N	A convener asks a question and the debaters are given two minutes each to answer the question.
8.	G	Political debate which occurs every four years for the purpose of winning the US elections for presidency.

Having established the context analysis for the selected data, the following table presents the analysis of the selected data in terms of the flouting of the data and the strategies underlying such flouting.

Table (3) Pragmatic analysis of the selected data.

No.	Paragraph	Flouting Quantity	Flouting Quality	Flouting Manner	Flouting Relation	Strategy
1.	There aren't a hundred million people with pre-existing conditions. As far as a say is concerned, the people already had their say. Okay, Justice Ginsburg			X		Overstatement
2.	During that period of time, during that period of time, we have an opening. I'm not elected for three years. I'm elected for four years. Joe, the hundred million people is totally wrong. I don't know where you got that number.		X			Hyperbole
3.	That is absolutely a big thing. That was the worst part of Obamacare.				X	Hyperbole
4.	Will you shut up, man?				X	Sarcasm

5.	This is so un-Presidential.				X	Irony
6.	That was really a productive segment, wasn't it? Keep yapping, man.				X	Metaphor
7.	47 years, you've done nothing. They're understand.				X	Irony
8.	. When he was presented with that number, he said, "It is what it is	X				Metaphor
9.	Well, it is what it is because you are who you are.	X				Sarcasm
10.	He knew all the way back in February how serious this crisis was. He knew it was a deadly disease. <i>What did he do?</i>	X				Metaphor
11.	You should get out of your bunker and get out of the sand trap in your golf course and go in the Oval Office and bring together the Democrats and Republicans and fund what needs to be done now to save lives.			X		Metaphor
12.	If we would've listened to you, the country would have been left wide open, millions of people would have died, not 200,000. And one person is too much. It's China's fault. It should have never happened.				X	Hyperbole
13.	And now we're weeks away from a vaccine. We're doing therapeutics already. Fewer people are dying when they get sick. Far fewer people are dying. We've done a great job.		X			Overstatement
14.	Well, you didn't do very well in Swine Flu. H1-N1, you were a disaster. Your own Chief of Staff said you were a disaster.		X			Metaphor

15.	The reason it's shut down is because, look, you folks at home. How many of you got up this morning and had an empty chair at the kitchen table because someone died of COVID?	X				Metaphor
16.	Well, I've spoken to the companies and we can have it a lot sooner. It's a very political thing because people like this would rather make it political than save lives.				X	Overstatement
17.	... by Easter, this would be gone away. By the warm weather, it'd be gone. Miraculous, like a miracle. And by the way, maybe you could inject some bleach in your arm, and that would take care of it. This is the same man.				X	Irony
18.	Did you use the word smart? So you said you went to Delaware State, but you forgot the name of your college.				X	Mockery
19.	You didn't go to Delaware State. You graduated either the lowest or almost the lowest in your class. Don't ever use the word smart with me. Don't ever use that word.				X	Dysphemism
20.	Because you know what? There's nothing smart about you, Joe. 47 years you've done nothing.				X	Dysphemism
21.	Because he doesn't have a plan. If I were running it, I'd know what the plan is. You've got to provide these businesses the ability to have the money	X				Overstatement

	to be able to reopen with the PPE, as well as with the sanitation they need. You have to provide them classic-					
22.	Will he just shush for a minute?	X				Dysphemism
23.	Nancy Pelosi and Schumer, they have a plan. He won't even meet with them. The Republicans won't meet in the Senate. He sits in his golf course. Well, I mean, literally, think about it. Think about it.	X				Presupposition
24.	Wait a minute, Joe. Let me shut you down for a second, Joe, just for one second. He wants to shut down the country. We just went through it. We had to, because we didn't know anything about the disease.	X				Dysphemism
25.	No, I think masks are okay. You have to understand, if you look... I mean, I have a mask right here. I put a mask on when I think I need it. Tonight, as an example, everybody's had a test and you've had social distancing and all of the things that you have to, but I wear masks-	X				Overstatement
26.	I don't wear a mask like him. Every time you see him, he's got a mask. He could be speaking 200 feet away from him and he shows up with the biggest mask I've ever seen. I will say this-	X				Irony
27.	Well, masks make a big difference. His own head of the CDC said if we just wore masks between now, if everybody wore a mask and social distanced between now and January, we'd probably	X				Hyperbole

	save up to 100,000 lives. It matters. It matters.					
28.	I'm doing my job as a president, and I'll have 25, 35,000 people show up at airports. We use airports and hangers and we have a lot of people-			X		Hyperbole
29.	Well, so far we have had no problem whatsoever. It's outside. That's a big difference according to the experts. We do them outside, we have tremendous crowds, as you see, and literally on 24 hours notice.			X		Metaphor
30.	And Joe does the circles and has three people someplace			X		Irony
31.	So we built the greatest economy in history. We closed it down because of the China plague			X		Dysphemism
32.	That's a record the likes of which nobody's ever seen before. And he wants to close down the... He will shut it down again. He will destroy this country.			X		Hyperbole
33.	you take a look at what's happening at some of your Democrat-run states where they have these tough shutdowns. And I'm telling you it's because they don't want to open it. One of them came out last week, you saw that, "Oh, we're going to open up on November 9th." Why November 9th? Because it's after the election. They think they're hurting us by keeping them closed. They're hurting			X		Banter

	people					
34.	The difference is millionaires and billionaires like him in the middle of the COVID crisis have done very well. Billionaires have made another \$300 billion because of his profligate tax proposal, and he only focused on the market.			X		Hyperbole
35.	But you folks at home, you folks living in Scranton and Claymont and all the small towns and working class towns in America, how well are you doing? This guy paid a total of \$750 in taxes.			X		Irony
36.	I paid millions of dollars in taxes, millions of dollars of income tax. And let me just tell you, there was a story in one of the papers that paid-				X	Overstatement
37.	By the way, I'm going to eliminate a significant number of the taxes. I'm going to make the corporate tax 28%. It shouldn't be 21%. You have 91 companies federal, I mean, the fortune 500, who don't pay a single penny in tax making billions of dollars.			X		Overstatement
38.	It's about equity and equality. It's about decency. It's about the constitution. And we have never walked away from trying to require equity for everyone, equality for the whole of America. But we've never accomplished it, but we've never walked away from it like he has done. It is true, the reason I got in the race is when those people... Close your eyes, remember what those				X	Metaphor

	people look like coming out of the fields, carrying torches, their veins bulging, just spewing anti-Semitic bile and accompanied by the Ku Klux Klan.					
39.	A young woman got killed and they asked the president what he thought. He said, "There were very fine people on both sides." No president's ever said anything like that.				X	Banter
40.	second point I'd make to you, is that when Floyd was killed, when Mr. Floyd was killed, there was a peaceful protest in front of the White House. What did he do? He came out of his bunker, had the military use tear gas on them so he could walk across to a church and hold up a Bible. And then what happened after that? The Bishop of that very church said that it was a disgrace. The general who was with him said all he ever wants to do is divide people, not unite people at all.				X	Metaphor
41.	This is a president who has used everything as a dog whistle, to try to generate racists hatred, racist division.				X	Banter
42.	This is a man who, in fact, you talk about helping African-Americans, one in 1000 African Americans has been killed because of the coronavirus. [...]. You have to look at what he				X	Banter

	did. And what he did has been disastrous for the African-American community.					
43.	So you did that and they call you a super predator and I'm letting people out of jail now				X	Dysphemism
44.	that you have treated the African-American population community, you have treated the black community about as bad as anybody in this country.				X	Simile
45.	You did the 1990... And that's why, if you look at the polls, I'm doing better than any Republican has done in a long time, because they saw what you did. You call them super predators, and you've called them worse than that. Because you look back at your testimony over the years, you've called them a lot worse than that.				X	Banter
46.	I don't think you have any law enforcement. You can't even say the word law enforcement. Because if you say those words, you're going to lose all of your radical left supporters. And why aren't you saying those words, Joe? Why don't you say the words law enforcement?				X	Overstatement
47.	Look, what I support are the police having the opportunity to deal with the problems they face and I'm totally opposed to defunding the police offices. As a matter of fact police, local police, the only one defunding in his budget calls for a \$400 million cut in local law enforcement assistance.			X		Overstatement

	They need more assistance. They need when they show up for a 9-11 call to have someone with them as a psychologist or psychiatrist to keep them from having to use force and be able to talk people down. We have to have community policing like we had before where the officers get to know the people in the communities. That's when crime went down, it didn't go up. It went down. And so we have to be					
48.	Under this president, we become weaker, sicker, poor, more divided and more violent. When I was vice president, we inherited a recession. I was asked to fix it. I did. We left him a booming economy and he caused the recession. With regard to being weaker, the fact is that I've gone head to head with Putin and made it clear to him we're not going to take any of his stuff. He's Putin's puppy. He still refuses to even say anything to Putin about the bounty on the heads of American soldiers.				X	Dysphemism
49.	And with regard to more divided the nation, it can't stay divided. We can't be this way. And speaking of my son, the way you talk about the military, the way you talk about them being losers and being				X	Banter

	and just being suckers. My son was in Iraq. He spent a year there. He got the Brown Star. He got the Conspicuous Service Medal. He was not a loser. He was a Patriot and the people left behind there were heroes.					
50.	I want crystal clean water and air. I want beautiful clean air. We have now the lowest carbon... If you look at our numbers right now, we are doing phenomenally. But I haven't destroyed our businesses. Our businesses aren't put out of commission. If you look at the Paris Accord, it was a disaster from our standpoint.				X	Hyperbole
51.	I think a lot of things do, but I think to an extent, yes. I think to an extent, yes, but I also think we have to do better management of our forest. Every year I get the call. California's burning, California's burning			X		Metaphor
52.	Well, he hasn't drawn a line. He wants to make sure that methane's not a problem. You can now emit more methane without it being a problem. Methane. This is a guy who says that you don't have to have mileage standards for automobiles that exist now. This is the guy who says that, the fact that-			X		Dysphemism
53.	They started from the day I won, and even before I won. From the day I came down the escalator with our first lady, they were a disaster. They were a disgrace to our country, and we've caught them.			X		Metaphor

	We've caught them all. We've got it all on tape. We've caught them all. And by the way, you gave the idea for the Logan Act against General Flynn.					
54.	You better take a look at that, because we caught you in a sense, and President Obama was sitting in the office.			X		Banter
55.	If it doesn't get in until the seventh, eighth, ninth, it still should be counted. He's just afraid of counting the votes-				X	Dysphemism
56.	I'm urging my supporters to go in to the polls and watch very carefully, because that's what has to happen. I am urging them to do it. As you know, today there was a big problem			X		Presupposition
57.	They're not equipped... These people aren't equipped to handle it, number one. Number two, they cheat. They cheat. Hey, they found ballots in a wastepaper basket three days ago, and they all had the name military ballots. There were military. They all had the name Trump on them.				X	Dysphemism

As the table (3) above shows, the number of flouting which occurred in the first debate is (56). The following table presents the number of occurrences of each flouting, their percentage from the overall number of flouting, the frequency of the strategies used and their percentage.

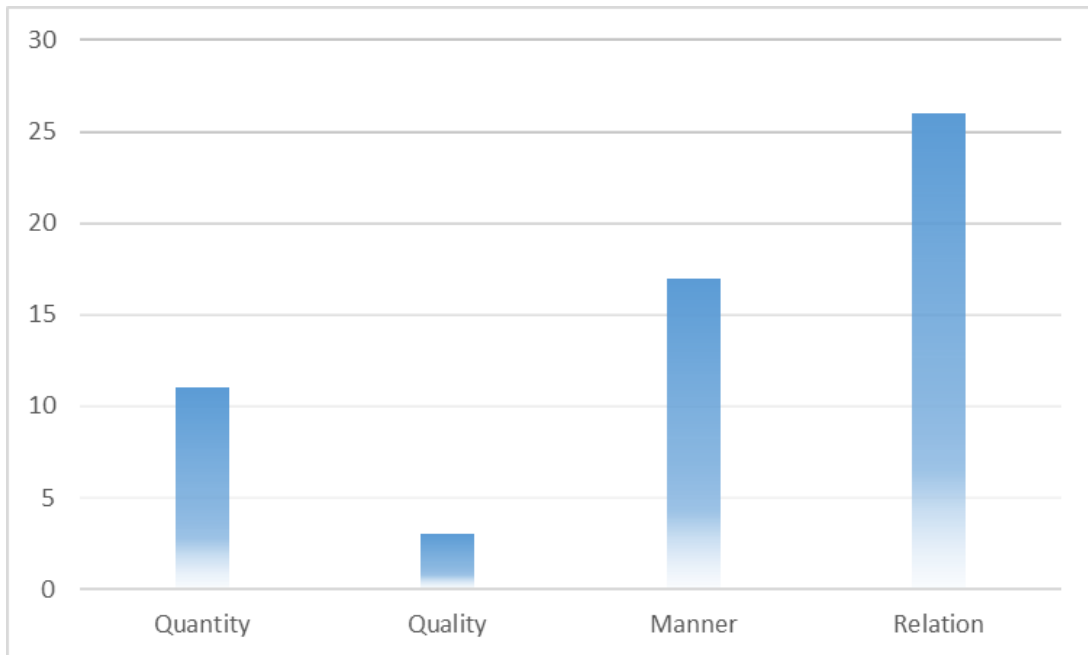
Table (4) Frequency and percentage of flouted maxims, and the strategies used.

No.	Flouted Maxims	No. of Occurrence	Percent	Strategies Used	No. of Occurrence	Percent
1.	Quantity	11	19.29%	Metaphor	3	5.26%

				Irony	1	1.57%
				Hyperbole	1	1.57%
				Overstatement	2	3.50%
				Sarcasm	1	1.57%
				Mockery	0	0.00%
				Dysphemism	2	3.50%
				Simile	0	0.00%
				Presupposition	0	0.00%
				Banter	0	0.00%
2.	Quality	3	5.26%	Metaphor	1	1.57%
				Irony	0	0.00%
				Hyperbole	1	1.57%
				Overstatement	1	1.57%
				Sarcasm	0	0.00%
				Mockery	0	0.00%
				Dysphemism	0	0.00%
				Simile	0	0.00%
				Presupposition	0	0.00%
				Banter	0	0.00%
3.	Manner	17	29.82%	Metaphor	4	7.01%
				Irony	2	3.50%
				Hyperbole	3	5.26%
				Overstatement	3	5.26%
				Sarcasm	0	0.00%
				Mockery	0	0.00%
				Dysphemism	2	3.50%
				Simile	0	0.00%
				Presupposition	1	1.57%
				Banter	2	3.50%
4.	Relation	26	45.61%	Metaphor	3	5.26%
				Irony	3	5.26%
				Hyperbole	3	5.26%
				Overstatement	3	5.26%
				Sarcasm	1	1.57%
				Mockery	1	1.57%
				Dysphemism	6	10.52%
				Simile	1	1.57%
				Presupposition	0	0.00%
				Banter	5	8.77%

As the table above shows, the mostly occurred flouting is Relation (26 times) contributing to (45.61%) of the overall flouting frequency; Second, flouting of Manner (17 times) making (29.82%) of the flouting which in this debate; third, flouting of Quantity (11 times) which makes up (19.29%) of the total number of flouting; and finally, flouting of Quality (3 times) is used (5.26%) of the overall flouting. The following diagram presents the result visually.

Fig (2): Number of Occurrence of Grice's Maxims' Flouting.



In each flouting, a number of strategies is used, differing from one flouting to another. In Quantity, the mostly used strategy is metaphor (3 times) occupying 5.26%, followed by Dysphemism (2 times) making 3.50%, and finally Irony and Hyperbole each occurred once taking a percentage of 1.57% each. In Quality, the strategies of Metaphor, Hyperbole, and Overstatement each occurred once, making up 1.57% each. In Manner, the strategy of Metaphor is used most (4 times) using 7.01%, followed by the strategies of Hyperbole and Overstatement (3 times) each, making up 5.26% each; Irony, Dysphemism, and Banter each occurred twice, contributing to 3.50%; and finally, Presupposition was used only once, taking up only 1.57%. In the flouting of Relation, the mostly used strategy is Dysphemism (6 times) using up 10.52% of the times of occurrence of flouting in this strategy; Banter is used (5 times) contributing to (8.77%); Metaphor, Irony and Overstatement each occurred (3 times) using 5.26% of the total percentage each. The following diagram illustrates these results visually.

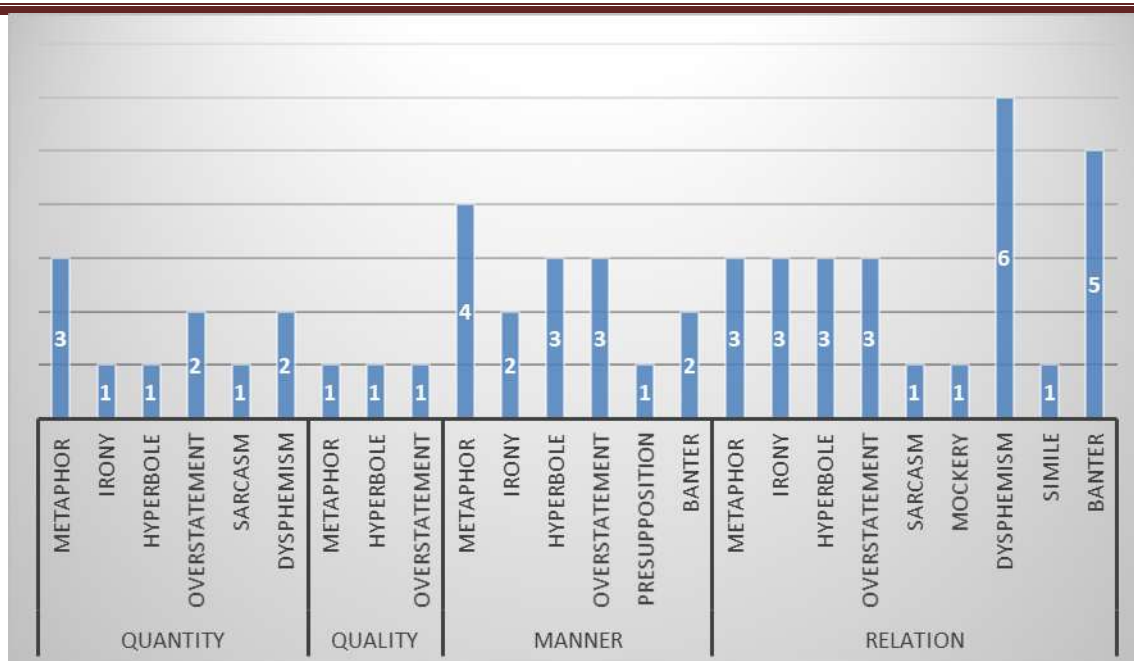


Fig (3): Occurrence of each strategy within its designated flouting.

Conclusion

It could be concluded that the maxims of Grice's (1975) "Cooperative Principle" are not observed in the first presidential debate of the 2020 US presidential elections. Also, based on the result, these principles are flouted via a number of strategies, changing from one flouting to another, as the following table shows.

Table (5) Use of strategies in each flouting.

No	Strategy	Quantity	Quality	Manner	Relation	Total
1.	Metaphor	3	1	4	3	11
2.	Irony	1	0	2	3	6
3.	Hyperbole	1	1	3	3	8
4.	Overstatement	2	1	3	3	9
5.	Sarcasm	1	0	0	1	2
6.	Mockery	0	0	0	1	1
7.	Dysphemism	2	0	2	6	10
8.	Simile	0	0	0	1	1
9.	Presupposition	1	0	1	0	2
10.	Banter	0	0	2	5	7
	TOTAL	11	3	17	26	57

As the table above shows, it could be concluded that the strategies used in all the flouting of maxims are Metaphor (11 times), Overstatement (9 times), and Hyperbole (8 times).

In flouting *Quantity*, the strategy of metaphor is the used the most which means that often when this maxim is flouted, the answer given has metaphoric expression(s) in order to add more or less than what is needed.

In flouting *Quality*, the strategies of Metaphor, Hyperbole, and Overstatement are used equally, which reflects the idea that when this maxim is flouted, the statement given is either metaphorical, exaggerated or overly-stated to hide or avoid answering a question truthfully.

In flouting *Relation*, Banter occurs as the mostly used strategy which gives the result that, mostly, when this maxim is flouted, the answer given contains playful and/or teasing statements in order to change the track of the topic being discussed.

Finally, in flouting the maxim of *Manner*, the strategy of metaphor is used mostly which implies the use of metaphoric expressions (or questions) so as to provide obscure or ambiguous answers.

Furthermore, the strategy of Irony is not found used in flouting *Quality*; the strategy of Sarcasm is not found in *Quality* and *Manner*; the strategy of Mockery is not found in *Quantity*, *Quality*, and *Manner*; Dysphemism is not found in flouting *Quality*; Simile is not found in *Quantity*, *Quality*, and *Manner*; Presupposition is not found in *Quality*; and, Banter is not found in *Quality*, and *Manner*.

The strategy of Metaphor (4 times) is used mostly in the flouting of the maxim of *Manner* which reflects the fact that most of the time when a question is answered via flouting this maxim a metaphor is used as a strategy to cover up for the flouting.

The strategies of Hyperbole and Overstatement are used equally in both the flouting of *Manner* and *relation*, indicating that when this maxim is flouted, the answer given in this regard are either exaggerated or over-stated and repeated in order to avoid the question or focus on a specific idea which benefits the speaker.

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