

# Exploring Maxim of Cooperative Principle in The Wild Robot Movie: A Pragmatic Approach

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## Abstract

This study aims to assess the concept of cooperation by analyzing the dialogue among characters in the Wild Robot movie. Since words, phrases, and sentences would be utilized to explain the data, a descriptive qualitative method was employed for analysis. The quantitative approach yields descriptive data, specifically in the form of phrases or words that succinctly explain the findings of the conducted research. The data consists of conversational fragments that obey cooperative principle's maxim. The source of data is derived from the dialogue of the characters in the film About Time. The researcher employed non-participatory note-taking techniques and the observational approach to get the data. The outcomes of the analysis of the cooperative principle performed by the characters in the movie is described in this study using a qualitative methodology. To analyze the data, the pragmatic identity technique was utilized. The results demonstrated that the dialogue in the film About Time contained all four of the cooperation principle's maxim. The investigator discovered 19 maxims. According to the results, there were 2 (11%) data maxim of manner, 5 (26%) data maxims of quality, 7 (37%) data maxims of relation, and 5 (26%) data maxims of quantity. In conclusion, the maxim of the maxim of relation included the most data. The maxim of manner had the least amount of data.

**Keywords:** Cooperative Principle, Maxim, Movie, Pragmatics

## 1. Introduction

Language is the primary tool in communication because it involves the exchange of information, ideas, and feelings between individuals or groups. In everyday communication, people do not only convey information explicitly but also implicitly through nonverbal cues, context, and implications (Li, 2015). However, the meaning of words and sentences often depends on the context and manner of delivery, which leads us to the field of linguistics including pragmatics. Pragmatics, as stated by Yule (2006), is the study of the relationships between linguistic forms and the users of those forms. In other words, pragmatics is the study of how language is used in specific contexts to convey precise meaning. These aspects of language use include how speakers and listeners understand and interpret meaning based on social, cultural, and situational factors. What we actually mean in a conversation is not what we say. For a variety of reasons, speakers may choose to convey their ideas indirectly rather than directly (Gultom, 2022). In other words, those who use language that adheres to the cooperative principle will make sure that their statements advance the discussion's goal. To be understood in a certain way, speakers and listeners must cooperate and accept one another. The cooperative principle explains how to have productive conversations in everyday social settings.

Communication is one of the main forms of pragmatics, and it is closely related to it. In this context, communication can be defined as an oral interaction that takes place between two or more people. Therefore, this research aims to analyse the communication between the characters in film The Wild Robot. Paul Grice's Cooperative Principle is the framework for communication that will be used,



according to Grice (1975): "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." Cooperative Principle is a guideline for communication that suggests that speakers and listeners work together to make conversations clear, effective, and meaningful. People engaged in dialogues if they adhered to the four sub-principles or principles that make up the cooperative principles (Levinson, 1999). This principle includes four main rules called maxims. Four maxims comprise this conversation's contribution: the maxims of quantity, quality, relation, and manner. This science has a close relationship to everyday human phenomena (Sari & Afriana, 2020).

Based on the explanation above, this research focuses on the conversation among the characters in *The Wild Robot* movie that indicates as the obedience of maxims using cooperative principles theory. The dialogue in the movie serves as a good example of this cooperative principle. It serves as a representation of human existence as it is presented in the media. This study examined four cooperation principal maxims that were present in the movie. The benefit of this research is that it uses a variety of data sources to teach people new things about cooperative discourse. The researcher uses a variety of data sources from the film to demonstrate how the cooperative principle is present in different contexts in order to perform additional analysis on the concept. Hossain (2021) stated that distinct viewpoint on cooperative conversation in communication will result from using different data sources. People may observe how crucial it is to apply the cooperation concept in the dialogue by listening to the characters' words.

## 2. Methods

The descriptive method was employed in this study. It entails gathering and analysing relevant data from multiple sources for the study. A qualitative method is used to study phenomena that are not precisely or numerically measurable. A qualitative research methodology is one that gathers data, adheres to a methodical procedure, and seeks to provide answers to particular issues. This study falls under the category of qualitative descriptive research, which aims to comprehend a phenomenon by providing a written or spoken description of it (Moleong, 2006). Particularly those that are directly related to data provision and data assessment, qualitative descriptive research methodologies are used. This approach seeks to provide a methodical and precise description of the information, traits, and connections of the phenomena being studied (Sudaryanto, 1993). Using Grice's cooperation principle, the researcher employed descriptive qualitative methodologies to examine the film *The Wild Robot*. Data collection, analysis, interpretation, and description are all part of the process (Auliya et al., 2020). In order to assess the application of the cooperation principle maxim in the film *The Wild Robot*, the qualitative methods will also be used to stimulate the analysis of the data and provide answers to research questions.

## 3. Results and Discussion

The following are the result and discussion based on the data obtained regarding the types of maxims in *The Wild Robot* movie. Based on analysis against the type of maxim that exist in *The Wild Robot* movie, there are 19 data that found in this movie. This research used Grice's theory in cooperative principle to analyse the conversation that were being spoken by the characters in *The Wild Robot* movie. The findings showed that the most frequently occurring data is maxim of relation which had 7 data. The least data is maxim of manner with 2 data. The finding can be seen in the following table.

**Table 1. Frequency of Maxims in The Wild Robot movie**

No	Types	Frequency	Percentage
1	Maxim of Quantity	5	26%
2	Maxim of Quality	5	26%
3	Maxim of Relation	7	37%
4	Maxim of Manner	2	11%
Total		19	100%

### 3.1. Maxim of Quantity

The maxim of quantity is one of the conversational maxims proposed by Grice in his theory of implicature, which is part of his work on how effective communication occurs. The maxim of quantity focuses on the amount of information provided in a conversation as described in the data below.

#### Data 1 (Duration 19:43-19:51)

Roz : “Do you have any information on how to take care of this unit?”

Pinktail : “They all need to eat, but yours needs to swim and fly”

Roz as a robot is curious how to take care of the gosling (Brightbill). Then, Roz asked to Pinktail “Do you have any information on how to take care of this unit?”, Pinktail responded based on her experience as a mother “They all need to eat, but yours needs to swim and fly”. Based on the response of Pinktail, it is categorized as maxim of quantity because Providing sufficient information about the basic needs of the gosling, but not excessively. Pinktail only provides the necessary information, namely that all goslings need to eat, but Roz's gosling requires extra attention, such as swimming and flying. Pinktail neither gives too much information nor too little, and therefore, Pinktail adheres to the Maxim of Quantity.

#### Data 2 (Duration 21:26-21:32)

Fink : “Do you believe everything you hear?”

Roz : “Yes”

Fink : (chuckles) “Noted”

Fink is curious about robot Roz. Then he asked “Do you believe everything you hear?”, Roz responded “yes”. This phenomenal indicates as maxim of quantity because the response in the conversation provides enough information to fulfill the purpose of communication. “Do you believe everything you hear?” is a direct question that can be answered with “yes” or “no.” In this context, Roz responds with “Yes,” which is a brief but sufficient answer to meet Fink's informational needs. The answer “Yes” demonstrates adherence to the maxim of quantity because Roz provides information that matches Fink's request without adding unnecessary details. She does not provide excessive or irrelevant information.

#### Data 3 (Duration 47:43-47:45)

Fink : “Are you gonna let him do that?”

Roz : “No”

The conversation happened when Brightbill no longer wants to need help from Roz. Then, fink was shocked and asked “Are you gonna let him do that?”. Roz responded “No”. This conversation is categorized as maxim of quantity because Fink's question only requires a response that is sufficient to answer whether Roz will allow the action or not, and Roz's answer is not excessive. Her response is enough to answer Fink's question without over-explaining. Roz does not add further information, which is not necessary to answer the already clear question. Therefore, this answer aligns with the Maxim of Quantity.

**Data 4 (Duration 52:21-52:28)**

Longneck : *"Keep him in the air all day. First light to dusk, his feet cannot touch the ground. Understand?"*

Roz : *"I understand"*

In this conversation, Longneck gives instructions to Roz by saying, "Keep him in the air all day. First light to dusk, his feet cannot touch the ground. Understand?" These instructions contain sufficient and non-excessive information. Longneck explains in detail what Roz needs to do, which is to keep "him" in the air all day, with a clear time limit from dawn to dusk, and adds the specific condition that his feet must not touch the ground. Roz responds with "I understand," indicating that the information provided by Longneck is sufficient to explain the task. There is no need to ask for further clarification, which suggests that Longneck's contribution to the conversation adheres to the maxim of quantity.

**Data 5 (Duration 54:34-54:36)**

Fink : *"Things still weird with you two?"*

Roz : *"Still weird"*

Based on data above it is categorized as maxim of quantity because Fink asked, "Things still weird with you two?" which means he wants to know whether the relationship between Roz and Brightbill is still in a strange or uncomfortable state. This question expects an answer that is sufficient to provide an overview of the situation. Roz responds briefly with, "Still weird," which means that the state of their relationship remains the same as before, that is, strange or uncomfortable. Roz's answer provides enough information to address Fink's question without giving excessive details. Therefore, Roz adheres to the maxim of quantity, as she provides just the right amount of information, neither more nor less than what is needed.

### 3.2. Maxim of Quality

The maxim of quality is another conversational maxim from Grice's theory of implicature, which outlines principles that make communication effective and cooperative. It focuses on the truthfulness of a speaker's contribution during a conversation. This maxim is depicted in the data below.

**Data 6 (Duration 17:49-17:54)**

Pinktail: *"Who are all of you? Go away!"*

Rowan : *"We're your children, except for him"*

Brightbill : *(chirps)*

This conversation happened in the middle of the forest when Pinktail and her children, especially Rowan, were taking a walk. While they were walking, Roz placed Brightbill among Pinktail's children. The children screamed. and Pinktail as their mom asked them "Who are all of you? Go away" and the one of her children (Rowan) responded "We're your children, except for him,". It is a factual information. Rowan does not provide any false or misleading information. He honestly explains that they are Pinktail's children, except for Brightbill. Brightbill responds non-verbally with chirping, which further supports the fact that he is not part of Pinktail's group of children.

**Data 7 (Duration 18:49-18:58)**

Pinktail : *"Uh, this gosling is yours?"*

Roz : *"Negative, that gosling stalks me, emits noise, and make simple tasks more complicated or impossible"*

This conversation also happened in the middle of forest when Pinktail were looking for Brightbill's mother. Then, she found robot (Roz) and asked "uh, this gosling is yours". Roz responded "Negative, that gosling stalks me, emits noise, and make simple tasks more complicated or impossible". Roz's response provides an explanation that is considered true based on her experience with the gosling.

She describes the gosling's behavior of "stalking" her, "emitting noise," and making simple tasks more difficult or even impossible. This response contains facts based on Roz's real experience, and there is no information provided with the intent to deceive or mislead. Therefore, Roz's response adheres to the Maxim of Quality, as she is speaking based on reality.

**Data 8 (Duration 21:32-21:37)**

Roz : *"Why did you steal my gosling?"*

Fink : *"I am a fox. I do foxy things. It's in my nature."*

Roz is actually curious about the Fink's nature. Then, Roz asked "Why did you steal my gosling?". This question expects an honest and logical answer from Fink regarding the reason for his behavior. Fink responded "I am a fox. I do foxy things. It's in my nature". Fink provides an answer that refers to the natural nature of a fox, which, biologically or stereotypically, is a predator that steals birds or small animals. This answer refers to the fundamental truth about fox behavior in real life and- does not contain any elements of dishonesty. So it is categorized as a maxim of quality.

**Data 9 (Duration 21:40-21:48)**

Fink : *"Why'd you help me?"*

Roz : *"I am a robot. I do roboty things. I seek tasks and ensure all essential needs have been met or exceeded."*

Fink is wondering why Roz as robot helped him. So, he asked "Why'd you help me?". Roz responded "I am a robot. I do roboty things. I seek tasks and ensure all essential needs have been met or exceeded". This conversation is clearly maxim of quality. Because Roz provides an honest and fact-based answer about her role as a robot. She gives a logical explanation based on the facts about her role as a robot. As a robot, her task is to seek out tasks and ensure that all essential needs have been met or exceeded. There are no elements of deceit or confusion in her response. Roz does not attempt to deceive Fink, and her explanation aligns with her purpose and nature as a robot.

**Data 10 (Duration 01:28:47-01:29:10)**

Brightbill : *"No. they will take your memories. They will take you."*

Roz : *"Remember when you talked to me on the ship? they cut my power, but I still heard you. because I was listening with a different part of myself. wherever that is, that's where I keep me. and i promise they will never ever find it."*

In the midst of a tense and sorrowful situation, Brightbill felt anxious and said, "No. They will take your memories. Th-they will take you." This statement indicated that Brightbill was worried about what would happen to Roz and her memories. Roz calmly replied, "Remember when you talked to me on the ship? They cut my power, but I still heard you. Because I was listening with a different part of myself. Wherever that is, that's where I keep me. And I promise they will never ever find it." This response provided truthful information and reassured Brightbill, explaining that even though her power was cut, Roz could still hear because she was listening with another part of herself. Roz also assured Brightbill that the part of her that holds her memories would never be found by anyone. In this context, Roz adhered to the maxim of quality because she provided an honest and accurate answer, which also helped to calm Brightbill's worries. Roz's response helped Brightbill understand that Roz's memories and essence would remain safe, despite any external threats.

### 3.3. Maxim of Relation

The maxim of relation helps conversations flow smoothly and ensures that contributions make sense within the current context as described in the example of the conversation below.



**Data 11 (Duration 25:42-25:43)**

Roz : "Who is that?"

Fink : "Paddler, local laughingstock. Spends every day trying to cut down the biggest tree on the island. He is obsessed. Kind of like you and your task hang-up."

When Fink, Roz and Brightbill walk together, suddenly they noticed there is a beaver that tries cut the tree. Then Roz asked to Fink "Who is that?", Fink responded "Paddler, local laughingstock. Spends every day trying to cut down the biggest tree on the island. He is obsessed. Kind of like you and your task hang-up". Based on the conversation it is categorized as maxim of relation. Because, Fink's answer is relevant to Roz's question. Roz asked for information about the identity of someone referred to as Paddler. Fink responded by providing relevant information about Paddler, namely: Paddler's identity (a local laughingstock). His daily activity (attempting to cut down the biggest tree on the island). His obsession, which is compared to Roz. Fink not only answered who Paddler is (basic information) but also connected it to something relevant to Roz, which is her obsessive nature toward a task. The comment, "Kind of like you and your task hang-up," shows a deeper connection between Paddler and Roz, which is the core of the relevance in this conversation. In conclusion, the Maxim of Relation is fulfilled because Fink's response does not stray from the topic.

**Data 12 (Duration 28:49-29:11)**

Fink : "His name can't have numbers. It's like someone didn't even like him"

Roz : "My name has numbers"

Fink : "It's got to be personal"

Brightbill : "Personal"

Roz : "Processing personal. Bright. Bill. Brightbill. Is that satisfactory?"

Brightbill : "Brightbill? Processing. Beep, beep, boop, boop. Satisfactory."

Fink : "Oh yeah that's perfect"

Fink said, "His name can't have numbers it's like someone didn't even like him."

Fink commented that a person's name shouldn't contain numbers because it gives the impression that the person wasn't liked. This statement is relevant to the context of discussing names and how they reflect someone's identity or character. Roz then replied, "My name has numbers." Roz's response directly addressed Fink's statement and stayed on-topic, which was about names. Roz corrected Fink by pointing out that her own name does include numbers, showing that Fink's claim isn't entirely accurate in Roz's case. Fink continued, "It's got to be personal." Fink argued that a name must be personal. This is relevant to the previous conversation, which centered on the nature of names and how they should reflect something more intimate or personal. Brightbill interjected by saying, "Personal." Brightbill reiterated that something should be personal, aligning with the ongoing discussion about the personal meaning behind a name. Roz explained, "Processing personal, Bright. Bill. Brightbill. Is that satisfactory? Brightbill? Processing beep, beep, boop, boop. Satisfactory." Roz elaborated further on the process of a name being personal, tying back to the discussion about names and identity. Roz's response is highly relevant to the conversation and continues the same topic without deviating.

**Data 13 (Duration 52:12-52:15)**

Roz : "When do you leave?"

Longneck : "A week"

Roz is curious about the time of geese's migration. So Roz asked to one of geese, his name is Longneck. "When do you leave?" and he responded "A week". Based on the conversation it is categorized as maxim of relation because Longneck provides a response that is relevant to the question asked. Roz requests specific information about the time of departure, and Longneck directly provides an appropriate answer without straying from the topic or adding unnecessary details. This shows that

Longneck understands Roz's need for information and offers a response that is direct and relevant, thus maintaining smooth communication between them.

**Data 14 (Duration 01:06:32-01:06:39)**

Roz : "Wait. Why are you awake?"

Fink : "It is bad out there. Worst storm I've ever seen"

On a stormy night, Roz and Fink were awake in their house. Roz, puzzled to see Fink still awake, asked, "Wait, why are you awake?" This question indicated that Roz wanted to know the reason why Fink was still awake in the middle of the night. Fink, disturbed by the bad weather outside, replied, "It is bad out there. Worst storm I've ever seen." This answer provided relevant information to Roz's question, explaining why Fink was still awake. Fink clarified that the storm outside was very severe, even the worst he had ever seen. In this context, Fink adhered to the maxim of relation because he gave an answer that directly addressed Roz's question and was pertinent to the situation at hand.

**Data 15 (Duration 01:07:04-01:07:10)**

Roz : "Why are you interested in eliminating everyone else from this island?"

Fink : "No one likes me"

This conversation takes place during a storm, as they try to save other animals from the severe weather. However, Fink has no intention of helping the other animals. Roz, curious about Fink's intentions, asks, "Why are you interested in eliminating everyone else from this island?" This question shows that Roz wants to understand the reason behind Fink's extreme desire. Fink, with a voice full of despair, replies, "No one likes me." This answer provides relevant information to Roz's question, explaining why Fink feels the need to eliminate others. Fink explains that feeling disliked by others makes him feel isolated and he might think that eliminating others is the only way to cope with his feelings. In this context, Fink adheres to the maxim of relation because he gives an answer that directly addresses Roz's question and is pertinent to the situation at hand.

**Data 16 (Duration 01:10:09-01:10:14)**

Roz : "Fink, what is happening? "

Fink : "You put a bunch of predators and their food supply in one room."

In the midst of a chaotic situation, Roz felt confused and asked Fink, "Fink, what is happening?" This question indicated that Roz wanted to know what was going on and why the situation had become chaotic. Fink replied, "You put a bunch of predators and their food supply in one room." This answer provided relevant information to Roz's question, explaining why the situation had become chaotic. Fink explained that the problem was because predators and their food supply were placed in the same room, which caused the chaos. In this context, Fink adhered to the maxim of relation because he gave an answer that directly addressed Roz's question and was pertinent to the situation at hand.

**Data 17 (Duration 01:14:56-01:15:00)**

Brightbill : "Roz? Wait, she is here?"

Fink : "She stayed. For you."

Brightbill successfully migrated and returned to his environment, and the situation turned happy. Fink welcomed Brightbill and said that Roz would be proud because Brightbill managed to migrate and return to his environment. Then, Brightbill, feeling surprised, asked Fink, "Wait, Roz? She is here?" This question indicated that Brightbill wanted to know if Roz was really there and why. Fink calmly replied, "She stays for you." This answer provided relevant information to Brightbill's question, explaining why Roz was there. Fink explained that Roz stayed there for Brightbill. In this context, Fink adhered to the maxim of relation because he gave an answer that directly addressed Brightbill's question and was pertinent to the situation at hand.

### 3.4. Maxim of Manner

Maxim of manner focuses on clarity and how information should be presented during communication. By adhering to the maxim of manner, speakers ensure their contributions are comprehensible, precise, and appropriately structured as depicted in the data below.

#### Data 18 (Duration 23:28-23:30)

Fink : *"What's that?"*

Roz : *"My power core, it is damaged. Without it, I rely on my solar surface and batteries"*

Fink looks at Roz, suddenly Roz opened its body. Inside its body there is something that makes Fink wondered. He asked, "What's that?". Roz responded "My power core, it is damaged. Without it, I rely on my solar surface and batteries". Based on the conversation it is categorized as maxim of manner. Because, Roz's answer is clear and well-structured. Roz explains logically and understandably the issue she is facing (the damaged power core) and how she survives without it (relying on her solar surface and batteries). This sentence is easy to understand and delivered in an organized manner.

#### Data 19 (Duration 33:52-34:04)

Brightbill : *"How do you do that?"*

Roz : *"I overheat my fallium transducer coils then leak a little hydraulic fluid on them."*

Brightbill : *"Does overheating the transducers have any draining effect on the secondary cooling modules?"*

Roz : *"Not if I precool the load sensors."*

Before Brightbill asked, Fink was teasing Roz by repeatedly mentioning "skunk," even in a playful tone, like "Skuuuuuunnnk, skunky, skunky, skunky, boo!" This shows that Fink was trying to poke fun or provoke a reaction from Roz. Eventually, Roz performs the "skunk," releasing a foul-smelling smoke from her body, though she does so reluctantly. Then, Brightbill, surprised, asks, "How do you do that?" His question is simple, direct, and unambiguous. This aligns with the Maxim of Manner, as he wants to understand the technical process Roz is using. Roz responds, "I overheat my fallium transducer coils then leak a little hydraulic fluid on them." Roz's answer is fully structured and logical. She explains the process step-by-step without leaving out important details. Her technical explanation is clear and free of ambiguity, which perfectly follows the Maxim of Manner. When Brightbill asks again, "Does overheating the transducers have any draining effect on the secondary cooling modules?" his question shows a clear logical structure. Brightbill specifically asks about the effect of the process, avoiding ambiguity. Roz answers, "Not if I precool the load sensors." This response is short, concise, yet still clear and unambiguous.

## 4. Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the types of maxims in The Wild Robot movie, 19 data point were found that encompass the four maxims of Paul Grice's cooperative principle. From the analysis results, the most frequently found maxim is the maxim of relation with 7 data (37%). This indicates that in many conversations, the characters in this film provide answers that are relevant to the questions or situations being discussed. Conversely, the least frequently found maxim is the maxim of manner with only 2 data (11%). This indicates that in some conversations, the characters may not always provide clear, concise, and unambiguous answers. Overall, this analysis shows that the film "The Wild Robot" tends to adhere to the principle of relevance in conversations, ensuring that the information provided is always relevant to the topic being discussed. However, there are some instances where clarity and order in the conversation may be less emphasized.



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