

Comparative Study of Case Files in the Context of H. P. Grice's Pragmatic Theory

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Abstract : For a communicative act to be carried out successfully, the speaker and the listener must consider certain principles in line with the intention-centered "Cooperative Principle" expressed by H. P. Grice. Violation of a communication principle causes the listener to make new inferences called "implicatures". In this study, focusing on the linguistic use of H. P. Grice's principles, we aim to find out which principles of conversation are generally followed in case files from different fields and which principles are frequently violated. Three case files were examined, and the violating and the abiding cases of the maxims were classified in terms of four categories (Quality, Quantity, Relevance and Manner). The results of this investigation is reported below (V: Violating, A: Abiding): Quality Quantity Relevance Manner V A V A V A V A Case 1 10 8 5 9 3 15 16 6 Case 2 4 5 11 6 2 11 7 14 Case 3 21 13 7 12 9 14 15 9 Total 35 26 23 27 14 40 38 29 The excerpts were selected from files covering three different areas: the Assize Court, the Family Court and the Commercial Court of First Instance. In this way, the relations between the types of violations and the types of courts are examined. Our main finding is that in the 1st and the 3rd file, as the cases of violation in "Quality" and "Manner" increase, the cases of violation in "Quantity" and "Relevance" decrease. In the second file, on the other hand, as the cases of violation in "Quantity" increase, the cases of violation in "Quality", "Relevance" and "Manner" decrease. In the talk, we shall compare these results with the results obtained in the study of Tajabadi, Dowlatabadi, and Mehric (2014), which examined various case files in Iran. Our main finding is that in the study conducted in Iran, violations were found only on the principles of "Quantity" and "Relevance", while violations were found on the principles of "Quality", "Quantity" and "Manner" in this study. In this case, it shows us that there is a connection between at least two maxims. In both cases, it has been noticed that the "Quantity" maxim is a common denominator. Studies in this field can be enlightening for many areas such as discourse analysis, legal studies, etc. Accordingly, comments will be made about the nature of the violations mentioned in H. P. Grice's "Cooperation Principle". We shall also discuss various conversational practices that cannot be analysed with these maxims.

Keywords : comparative analysis, cooperation principle, forensic linguistics, pragmatic.

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