

VIOLATIONS OF COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE'S MAXIMS IN INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS' AND POLITICAL FIGURES' STATEMENTS ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC: A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF SELECTED RESPONSES

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INTRODUCTION

Based on Paul Grice's theory (1989), there is a principle called **the cooperative principle** which suggests that there are four **maxims** that are needed to **create effective and cooperative communication**.

This research aims to identify and analyze the types of maxim violations and their frequency in responses regarding the COVID-19 pandemic made by Indonesian government to show its communicative impact on the public.

- **Why Violations of Cooperative Principle's Maxims?**

Violation of the maxims can lead to a **breakdown in communication** and cause **misunderstanding** between the speaker and the listener.

- **Why Indonesian Government Officials' Statements on COVID-19 Pandemic?**

This examines how the Indonesian government communicates with its people during a **global crisis** and whether its communication strategies adhere to **effective communication and cooperation principles**.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous Studies:

- How Comparative Principle operates in different languages and cultures and how it affects communication in various contexts (Levinson, 1983; Sperber and Wilson, 1986))
- How politicians use language to persuade their audience and shape public opinion (Charaudeau and Maingueneau, 2002; van Dijk, 1997); Maillat and Oswald, 2009)
- How Indonesian politicians use language to construct and maintain their public image and achieve their political goals (Prayitno et al., 2019; Wijayanti et al., 2022)

METHOD

1. Online search of news article about early Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesia was conducted.
2. Descriptive-qualitative analysis was conducted to identify the statements that violated the Cooperative Principle's maxims.
3. Each statement was directly classified based on which maxim was violated and was explained by using Grice's theory on Comparative Principle.



FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Maxim of Quantity

4 out of 6 statements

insufficiency

excess

Maxim of Quality

3 out of 6 statements

false information

understatement

overstatement

unsubstantiated claim

Maxim of Relevance

4 out of 6 statements

under-informativeness

over-informativeness

Maxim of Manner

3 out of 6 statements

wordiness

obscurity

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Example of each maxim violation:

Violations of Maxim of Quantity

Original Statement (Indonesian)	English Translation	Violation Type	Explanation	Source
"Yang ingin saya katakan bahwa sampai saat ini Indonesia itu adalah satu-satunya negara besar di Asia yang tidak punya kasus corona. Virus corona itu tuh ndak ada di Indonesia."	"What I want to say is that until now Indonesia is the only big country in Asia that does not have Corona cases. Corona virus is not in Indonesia."	Excess	The speaker provides too much information by making a sweeping and exaggerated claim about Indonesia being the only big country in Asia without any Corona cases, without providing any supporting evidence.	CNN Indonesia

Violations of Maxim of Quality

Original Statement (Indonesian)	English Translation	Violation Type	Explanation	Source
"Dari 1,4 milyar penduduk sana ya paling 2 ribuan (yang terkena virus corona). (Sebanyak) 2 ribu dari 1,4 milyar itu kan kayak apa. Karena itu pencegahannya jangan panik, jangan resah. Enjoy saja, makan yang cukup."	"Out of 1.4 billion people there, at most 2,000 people (have contracted the coronavirus). Two thousand out of 1.4 billion, what's that like? That's why prevention should not panic, don't worry. Just enjoy and eat enough."	False information, understatement	The statement presents inaccurate information that underestimates the severity of the situation and may cause people to be complacent in taking precautions against the virus.	Warta Ekonomi

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Violations of Maxim of Relevance

Original Statement (Indonesian)	English Translation	Violation Type	Explanation	Source
"Virus ini tidak berkembang dengan kuat atau tidak berkembang dengan sangat kuat di negara-negara tropis."	"This virus does not develop strongly or does not develop very strongly in tropical countries."	Under-informativeness	The speaker's statement lacks sufficient information about the relationship between the virus and tropical countries. It does not explain why the virus does not develop strongly in these areas, nor does it provide any evidence to support the claim as the World Health Organization has already reported confirmed cases of COVID-19 in tropical countries, and the virus can spread regardless of climate.	Tribun News

Violations of Maxim of Manner

Original Statement (Indonesian)	English Translation	Violation Type	Explanation	Source
"Banyak kyai dan ulama yang selalu membaca doa qunut. Saya juga begitu baca doa qunut untuk menjauhkan bala, bahaya, wabah-wabah dan penyakit. Makanya Corona minggir di Indonesia."	"Many religious leaders always recite the Qunut prayer. I also recite the Qunut prayer to ward off calamities, dangers, plagues, and diseases. That's why Corona stays away from Indonesia."	Wordiness	The speaker repeats information by using synonyms like "calamities" and "dangers" and "plagues" and "diseases," which could cause confusion or distract from the main point being made.	Tempo

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THANK YOU!

