

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

This research has examined the violations of Grice's maxims in the movie script "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" (2018) by Sofia Alvarez. The analysis has demonstrated that conversational maxim violations are function as narrative strategies to portray characters' personalities, emotions, and relationships. The findings in Chapter 4 revealed that all four maxims quantity, quality, relation, and manner are violated throughout the dialogues. Among them, the maxim of relation is the most dominant, followed by violations of quantity, quality, and manner. These violations serve as significant communicative tools that shape the storyline and highlight the complexity of adolescent communication.

The violation of the maxim of relation is found to be the most frequent and meaningful. Characters, particularly Lara Jean, often give irrelevant responses or shift the topic of conversation rather than answering questions directly. This tendency reflects her internal struggles, as she often avoids vulnerability, confrontation, or embarrassment by diverting attention away from sensitive matters. For instance, in moments of emotional tension, Lara Jean chooses to talk about trivial or unrelated topics as a way of protecting herself. This indicates that the irrelevance in her responses is not caused by a lack of comprehension, but by a deliberate strategy to maintain emotional safety. Such violations highlight the realistic nature of adolescent communication, where individuals often struggle with self-expression and prefer avoidance when dealing with uncomfortable truths.

The violation of the maxim of quantity also plays an important role in the movie script. This maxim is broken when characters provide either too much or too little information. The analysis in Chapter 4 revealed that Lara Jean often over-explains herself when she feels anxious or misunderstood. This tendency reflects her fear of being judged and her effort to make her intentions clear. However, she also withholds information or gives incomplete answers when she feels emotionally exposed. By giving insufficient information, she tries to control the flow of conversation and avoid disclosing personal feelings. Josh also

demonstrates this pattern, as he sometimes provides lengthy and unnecessary details when trying to express his emotions. These findings suggest that the violation of quantity is closely tied to characters' levels of emotional comfort and their strategies for navigating delicate conversations.

The violation of the maxim of quality occurs when characters provide information that is false, exaggerated, or lacking in evidence. Lara Jean herself frequently exaggerates or lies, not out of malice, but to protect her self-image or to avoid further questions about her personal life. For example, she sometimes claims to have “tons of people” in her life, even though her social circle is quite limited. This indicates her attempt to hide insecurities and appear more confident than she truly feels. In contrast, other characters such as Gen employ violations of the maxim of quality in a more manipulative manner. By spreading false statements, Gen attempts to stir jealousy and tension, particularly in relation to Peter and Lara Jean. This contrast between protective lies and manipulative lies shows how violations of quality can serve multiple purposes depending on the speaker's intentions.

Meanwhile, the violation of the maxim of manner occurs less frequently but still carries meaningful implications. This maxim is broken when characters deliberately speak in ambiguous or unclear ways. Such instances typically happen when the characters are uncertain, hesitant, or unwilling to commit to direct statements. For example, vague responses or disorganized explanations occur during conflicts or emotionally tense moments, where clarity might lead to confrontation or the exposure of vulnerable feelings. Thus, violating the maxim of manner allows characters to express uncertainty indirectly or to maintain distance from difficult topics.

In conclusion, Chapter 4 demonstrated that violating conversational maxims is a deliberate choice in this movie script. These violations help to express complex emotions, protect personal boundaries, and navigate delicate relationships. They are essential tools for showing how characters struggle with communication, particularly during adolescence, when emotions are intense and relationships are evolving. The study ultimately shows that breaking

conversational rules does not always lead to misunderstanding in fact; it often deepens the emotional reality of the story.

Future researchers could expand this study by applying Grice's Cooperative Principle to other genres of movie scripts, such as comedy, thriller, or fantasy, to explore how conversational maxim violations function differently across contexts. Comparing movie scripts from different cultures could also show how people from various backgrounds use or understand these violations in conversations. Lastly, analyzing non-verbal cues described in the movie script, such as body language or tone annotations, could provide a deeper understanding of how characters communicate beyond just their conversations.

