



An Animated and Narrated Glossary of Terms used in Linguistics presents

Maxim of Quantity







Definition

When engaged in conversation, the Maxim of Quantity requires you to

- 1.Make your contribution as informative as is required (for the purpose of the exchanges).
- 2.Do not make your contribution more informative than is required.



H.P. Grice (1975)

H.P. Grice

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Basic Idea

- The Maxim of Quantity relates to the amount of information provided in conversations.
- It is one of the four conversational maxims that make up the Cooperative Principle.
- Grice proposes this maxim as an explanation for a certain kind of regularity in conversational behavior with respect to the amount of information provided in each turn of a conversation.

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Example 1



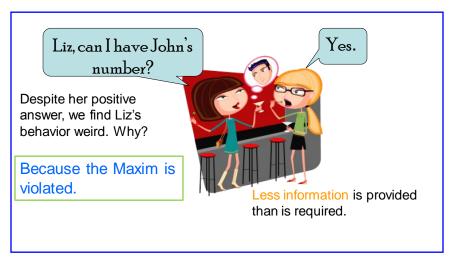
- Given the purpose of the conversation, the man contributes only as much information as is required.
 - not excessive like "it's 9:30 at night, Greenwich Mean Time, 20 May 2009, ..."
 - Not inadequate like, "it's night time".







Example 2

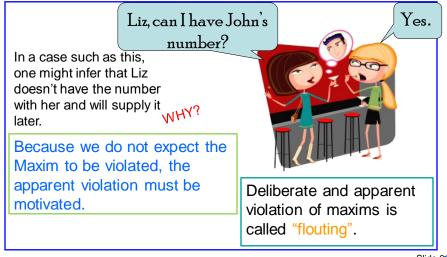


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Flouting a Maxim

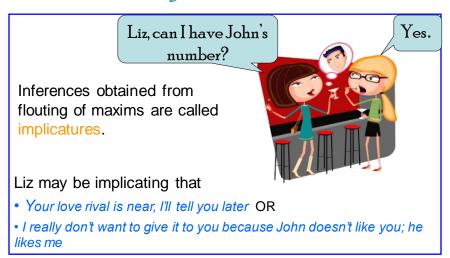


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Implicatures



Note: Implicatures do not have to be necessarily true, since the inferences are guessed at rather than derived by formal logic.







The End

Wee, Lian-Hee and Winnie H.Y. Cheung (2009)

An animated and narrated glossary of terms used in Linguistics.

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