



**A STUDY OF VIOLATED MAXIMS PRODUCED BY  
THE MAIN CHARACTER IN *LIAR LIAR* MOVIE  
SUBTITLE**

**THESIS**

Written by:  
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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES  
UNIVERSITAS JEMBER  
2021**



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This thesis presented to the English Department. The Faculty of Humanities,  
Universitas Jember as one of the requirements to achieve Sarjana Sastra degree in  
English Studies

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## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

1. My beloved parents, Suliman and Sundari. Thank you for every support, prayer and affection for my success.
2. My dearest sister, Devi Uswatun Khasanah who always supports me.
3. My beloved friends, Iis Fitriyaningsih, Ali Ridho and Turdi Mustofa who motivate, support, and give many advices.
4. My second family, (HMI Komisariat Sastra) for every encouraging experience.
5. My Alma Mater, Faculty of Humanities, Jember University.

**MOTTO**

“The worst of all mankind is the double-faced one, who comes to some people  
with one face and to others, with another face”<sup>1</sup>

-Sahih Al-Bukhari: 7179-



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<sup>1</sup> <https://sunnah.com/bukhari/93/42>

**DECLARATION**

I hereby state that this thesis entitled “**A STUDY OF VIOLATED MAXIMS PRODUCED BY THE MAIN CHARACTER IN LIAR LIAR MOVIE SUBTITLE**” is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the result in this study have never been submitted for any other degree or any publications. I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Writer,

Saiful Rijal

**THESIS**

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Jember, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Saiful Rijal

## SUMMARY

**A Study of Violated Maxims Produced by the Main Character in Liar Liar Movie Subtitle;** Saiful Rijal, 140110101068; 2021; 55 pages; English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Jember.

This research deals with cooperative principles theory proposed by Grice (1975) as the main tool to analyze the ways lies are constructed through utterances. In addition, the theory of categories of acceptability of lies by Linskold & Walters (1983) is used in this research to know the reasons of lying. The aims of this research are to find out the type of violated maxims produced by the main character in *Liar Liar* movie subtitles and the reasons why the main character told lies.

This was a qualitative research. The data of this research were the main character's utterances of *Liar Liar* movie subtitles which represent violating maxims and containing lies. The documentary method was used to collect the data. To collect the data, every main character utterance in the subtitle was identified to select the utterances which violating maxims when he told lies. The collected data were classified into two major group based on the number of maxims violation in an utterance. Then the selected utterances were identified to find out the types of violating maxims and the reasons of lying.

The result of this study showed that there were four maxims which were violated by the main character in this movie. The four maxims are maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner. There were five single violated maxim and fourteen multiple violated maxim. In this result, the dominant maxim violation is maxim of quality. It showed that all data which are categorized having maxim violation had maxim of quality violation. In addition, the result also revealed that there were some reasons that motivated the main character in telling a lie. Based on the theory, there are six categories of lying. However, this research only found five categories of lying. The dominant reason is telling a lie to save others from minor hurt, shame, or embarrassment.



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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

As human, we need a tool to interact with others. Therefore, we need language in this case. Sapir (1921:7) defines language as “a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols”. There are two subjects in communication process: a speaker and a listener. Both have to use language based on cooperative principle to make an understandable communication. Grice (1975:45) proposes the theory about cooperative principle which contains four maxims to support the successful communication. They are maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of manner, and maxim of relevance.

Generally we can still see the speakers sometimes do not obey the cooperative principle. Regardless they do it consciously or unconsciously, they must pay attention seriously in applying the cooperative principle in order to achieve the target of the communication. The disobedience in applying the cooperative principle can make misunderstanding in a communication process. It means the message of communication is not transferred effectively. When the speaker and a listener fail to fulfill the cooperative principle, they fail to observe the maxims. According to Grice (1975:49) there are five ways of failing to observe a maxim: flouting a maxim, violating a maxim, infringing a maxim, opting out a maxim and suspending a maxim. This study focuses on lying as the violation a maxim. Grice (1995:72) states that “if a speaker violates a maxim, he will be liable to mislead”. The violation of cooperative principle itself occurs because of some factors.

Lying is one of the factors triggering violated maxims. The speakers do lying because of some factors or reasons. According to Christofferson (2005) lying is a natural tool to survive and avoid the speakers from anything that may put them in inappropriate condition. Meanwhile, Williams (2002:96) states that “a

lie is an insincere assertion that is intended to deceive". If we pay attention carefully to those definitions, we can see that there is significant difference of definition itself. From Christofferson's definition, we can assume that lying as a natural tool is normal to apply in a communication. Meanwhile, William argues that lying is insincere assertion that applies in order to deceive. These different views of seeing lies, has made lying an important topic to be discussed across several disciplines.

Normally a movie has many interesting conversations to be analyzed in the scope of pragmatic study. Some of them are the phenomena of violating conversational maxims that appeared in the movie. The conversational maxim is a rule which must be obeyed by the speaker and a listener in doing communication textually or verbally. The early observation shows that there are several violations of cooperative principle in *Liar Liar* movie. This encourages the researcher tries to present the phenomenon of Grice's violated maxims which are used as a means of lying by the main character in *Liar Liar* movie. This is a 1997 American fantasy comedy film directed by Tom Shadyac, produced by Universal Pictures and written by Paul Guay and Stephen Mazur. The main character in this film is Fletcher Reede

This film tells about Fletcher Reede as a fast talking attorney, habitual liar and a divorced father. As a liar in this movie, he always tells lies to other characters. Lying is his habit in his daily life. Therefore it is very interesting to analyze his utterances that contain lying. When the interlocutor looks for the information about a message that comes from the context of utterance of the speaker, it means that he/she will draw an assumption from the speaker's intention and build the implied meaning. Whether the interlocutor knows that the information is a lie or not, it is not the focus of this writing. In this writing, the analysis will focus on the lies told by the main character and further observe these lies under two things: the construction and the reasons. Referring to Grice (1975) cooperative principle, the construction of the lies is going to be described. In addition, referring to Cristofferson (2005) which states lying is a natural tool to



survive and avoid the speaker from anything that may put them in inappropriate condition, it become interesting to explore the reasons which motivate the main character to lie. To help the researcher to meet this goal, the researcher uses theory of categories of acceptability of lies by Lindskold & Walters (1983)

## **1.2 Research Topic**

The topic of the research is focused on ways lies are produced by the main character that violates the conversational maxim and the reasons beyond the lies.

## **1.3 Research Problems**

From the elaboration of background of the research above, the researcher finds the research problems. In this film, Fletcher Reede as the main character often violated the cooperative principle in his communication by telling lies. This potentially creates the risk of ineffective communication. The lies that he told were motivated by some reasons. Therefore, it is important to see the ways lies are constructed using the theory of Grice's cooperative principle. Theory of Context by Brown & Yule (1983) is used to give the researcher more understandings about the context in each utterance containing maxims violation. After that theory of Categories of Acceptability of Lies by Lindskold & Walters (1983) is used to know the reasons why the main character tells lies.

## **1.4 Research Questions**

Based on the background and the problem of the study above, the researcher formulates several research questions to be answered, they are:

1. What maxims were violated by the main character of *Liar Liar* film when he told lies?
2. What reasons were motivated the main character to tell lies?

## **1.5 The Goals of the Study**

This research is conducted to achieve the following goals:

1. To find out the types of violated maxims produced by the main character of *Liar Liar* film when he tells lies
2. To find out the reasons why the main character tells lies

## **1.6 The Scope of the Study**

This research is conducted under Pragmatics area. In order to limit the discussion, this study is focused on violated maxims produced by the main character of *Liar Liar* film by telling lies and the reasons of why he tells lies.

## **1.7 The Significance of the Study**

The results of this study are expected to be useful as the additional knowledge in pragmatics study for the researcher, the readers, the students and the lecturers of English Department. On the other hand, the results of this study are also expected to give more explanation about how to analyze and understand the violated maxims in *Liar liar* movie. This study also could be a significance reference for the next researches who are interested in finding similar object to comprehend more about cooperative principle theory especially focused on lying.

## **1.8 The Organization of the Study**

This study is organized into five chapters. The first chapter discusses about the background of the study, the research topic, the research problems, the research questions, the goals of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study and the organization of the study. The next chapter concerns with the theoretical framework which contains two parts: the previous studies and the theoretical framework. The third chapter focuses on the research methods which consist of the type of the research, the data collection, the data processing, and the data analysis. The findings and discussions of the study will be presented in the fourth chapter. The last chapter is about the conclusion of the study.

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Previous Studies

This part talks about several previous studies that are discussed to see their contribution, similarities and differences to this study. There were two studies that have been conducted by other researchers about the violated maxims theory. The first study was conducted by Nugraha (2013) who investigated how Grice's maxims were violated by the characters in *Real Steel* movie and what the most frequent violated maxims were. This study was conducted qualitatively using the theory of Grice's cooperative principle (1975). The research showed that the characters often violated the maxims by generating a conversational implicature. The findings showed that there were four types of violated maxims found in this research; there were maxim of quantity, maxim of quality, maxim of relation and maxim of manner. In the end, the most frequent maxim violated by the characters was maxim of quality.

The second study was conducted by Tupan & Natalia (2008) who tried to describe the multiple violations of conversational maxims done by the characters in some episodes of *Desperate Housewives* film focused on lying and to describe the reasons of lying. This study was conducted qualitatively using Grice's cooperative principle (1975) theory to describe the multiple violations and Christofferson (2005) theory to find out the reason of lying. The findings show that there were three groups of speakers who violated the maxims for different reasons. Firstly there were two speakers who violated all maxims with the same reasons (to eliminate the interlocutor's chance to respond). Secondly there were eighteen speakers that violated three different maxims based on different reasons as well (to cover the truth). In the last group, there were sixteen speakers that violated two different kinds of maxims (to create another lies in the future).

Those previous researches give a significant contribution to this research. The first previous research gives a contribution in how to apply the Grice's

cooperative principle theory (1975). The second previous research gives a contribution in applying the method to analyze the multiple violations when the speaker lies and also the reasons of telling lies. The differences of this research with the previous researches are the object of the research and the focus of the analysis. This research uses the subtitles of *Liar Liar* film. In this research, the researcher only focuses on the utterances produced by the main character containing lies. Additionally this research analyzes the reasons why the main character tells lies using Lindskold and Walters's theory (1983). Hence this study is different from those previous studies.

## **2.2 Theoretical Review**

There are several theories used in conducting this research. They are Grice's Cooperative Principle theory (1975), Theory of Context by Brown & Yule (1983), and theory of Categories of Acceptability of Lies by Lindskold & Walters (1983). To start the discussion about the theories used in this study, the areas of the study, pragmatics, is elaborated as below:

### **2.2.1 Pragmatics**

Pragmatics is a linguistics branch that deals with producing and understanding a language within a context. The origin of pragmatics is proposed by Morris (cited in Levinson, 1983: 1) regarding the ways of studying a sign: syntax (the formal relation of sign), semantics (how signs are related to the object), and pragmatics (the relation of signs to interpreters). It means that pragmatics discusses how a sign or language can describe a meaning depending on the context, which has been said by Levinson (1983:9),

“Pragmatics is the study of those relation between language and context that are grammaticalized, or encoded in the structure of a language. In another way, it can be said that pragmatics is the study of those aspects or the relationship between language and context that are relevant to the writing of grammar”.

It can be assumed that pragmatics and context have a specific relation in which the meaning of the language can be expressed based on the context. The speaker should understand the utterance that is being spoken and the listener should be able to interpret the meaning of utterance based on the context.

## 2.2.2 Grice's Cooperative Principle

One of the studies in pragmatics analyses the success of conversational communication. The way speaker and listener makes cooperation in conversation and try to make it work is called as the cooperative principle. Grice in Yule (1996:37) proposes the Cooperative Principle in the following proposition "make your conversational contribution such as required, as the stage which it occurs, by accepted purpose or the direction of the talk exchange which you are engaged". Thus, the speaker should contribute well and try to make the utterance relevant to the context, understandable, informative, clear and orderly. The Grice's cooperative principle is explained by four maxims, namely:

### a. Maxim of Quantity

Maxim of quantity is concerned with the contribution of the information that should be equal with the requirement in the conversation. Grice (1975:45) states that maxim of quality governs the speakers to make the contribution as informative as required for the current purpose of the conversation. It means that the information cannot be added or reduced

### b. Maxim of Quality

Maxim of quality is a maxim which considered that the speaker should be truthful. Grice (1975:46) formulates two sub-maxims: "Do not say what you believe to be false," and "Do not make your contribution more informative than is required". The speaker has to know the sufficient and specific supporting details of the information. The speaker has to give the right information and be honest.

c. Maxim of Relevance

Maxim of relevance deals with the relevance of information uttered by the speaker. Grice (1975:46) states that the utterance has to be relevant. In a conversation, the speaker has to relate the topic being discussed and express it with clear utterance.

d. Maxim of Manner

Maxim of manner is concerned with the speaker's contribution for avoiding obscurity, avoiding ambiguity, being brief, and being orderly (Grice,1975:46). This maxim requires the speaker to speak clearly, orderly, and avoid obscurity of expression, and not make utterance with many interpretations because the purpose is to avoid the misunderstanding.

Grice (1975:58) states that when someone communicates, a person is likely to try to conversationally being cooperative because speaker wants listener to understand what he/she means. Speaker and listener will cooperate each other to achieve a mutual understanding. Thus, the four principles above are important to use and carry out in conversational activities.

### **2.2.2.1 Violation of Grice's Cooperative Principle**

In the real conversation, people actually do not always follow the cooperative principle with all maxims that have been mentioned before. They sometimes give information which is not acceptable to themselves or to listeners. In the some situations, speaker or listener do not cooperate well in conversation and they break the maxims. The speaker does not say clearly and he/she hides his/her feeling or not telling the truth, makes the conversation not relevant and raises a misunderstanding. All of these problems lead to the violation of Grice's cooperative principle. There are four types of violated maxims proposed:

a. Violating maxim of quantity

Violation of the quantity maxim happens when the speaker does not give enough information to the listener. The speaker is less informative which makes the listener misunderstand the utterance. Here is the example.

Dialogue A

Context: A (a guest) wants to be nice and friendly; he smiles to B (a receptionist) and says hello politely. A dog comes and stands beside him. Then A asks B.

*A: Does your dog bite?*

*B: No.*

*A: (bend down to stroke it and gets bitten) Ouch! You said your dog does not bite!*

*B: That is not my dog.*

(Cutting, 2000:40)

B's answer to the A's question in the conversation above shows the violation of the maxim of quantity. B actually knows that A is talking about the dog which is beside B and it is not B's dog at home. For a particular reason, B intentionally does not give A enough information by saying utterance " No ". Therefore A thinks that the dog belongs to B and he gets bitten when he tries to stroke it.

b. Violating maxim of quality

Violation of the quality maxim occurs when the speaker are not sincere and gives the wrong information to the listener. Besides, the speaker often tells lies or fails to back up the statements with enough evidence as seen in the following dialogue.

Dialogue B

Context: A wife bought a new dress which cost 50 pounds. When her husband asked about the price, she told a lie and gave wrong information. She lied because she did not want her husband to be angry.

*Husband: How much did that new dress cost, darling?*  
*Wife: Uh... (See the tag-50 pounds) Thirty-five pounds.*

(Cutting, 2000: 40)

In the dialogue above, the wife says to her husband about something she knows is false. She knows that the price of new dress is fifty pounds, but she tells a lie to her husband to hide the truth and to avoid the anger of her husband because she has spent a lot of money.

c. Violating maxim of relevance

Violation of the relevance maxim happens when the speaker gives irrelevant information related to the utterance before. In addition, the speaker can cause a misunderstanding to the listener. The example below illustrates the violated maxim of relevance.

Dialogue C

Context: A and B are doing the exam paper in the school. A is curious whether B has already finished the exam paper or not, so A asks B about the exam paper.

*A: Have you finished the exam paper yet?*  
*B: It's been raining a lot lately, hasn't it?*

(O'Grady, 2005:233)

As shown in the example, A wants to know whether B has already finished the exam paper or not, but B responds in an irrelevant way by asking A about the weather. B tries to change the topic because he does not want A to know about his exam paper. Thus, it is clear that B violates the maxim of relevance.

d. Violating maxim of manner

Violation of the manner maxim occurs when the speaker tends to give ambiguous and obscurity information. The speaker usually does not speak clearly and makes the listener difficult to understand the



actual meaning of the speaker's utterance. The speaker violates this maxim by providing utterances with multiple ways of interpretations, as illustrated in the conversation below.

#### Dialogue D

Context: The husband and wife have their own job. They both earn money, but the economy condition of the family is bad. However, he sees his wife wears an unusual dress. The husband asks his wife.

*Husband: How much did that new dress cost, darling?*

*Wife: A tiny fraction of my salary, though probably a bigger fraction of the salary of the woman that sold it to me.*

(Cutting, 2000:40)

The wife's response in the above conversation violates the maxim of manner. The answer is quite hard for the husband to understand because her wife gives unclear information. However, it is implied that the wife wants to hide the right information of the price of the dress. She makes it ambiguous to keep it secret from the husband. Besides, she wants to avoid the discussion about the dress by making long unnecessary statement.

### 2.2.3 Context

Context is an essential concept in the pragmatic discussion as fact of the conversation. People can interpret what the speaker means in conversation by knowing the context. Brown and Yule (1983:35) explain two different kinds of context, namely co-text and physical context. The co-text is the set of other words used in the same phrase or sentence, while physical context refers to the physical environment of a conversation which includes the place, time, and other physical condition in certain situation (Brown and Yule, 1983:35-54). The different physical environment such as time, place, and ambiance will produce different interpretation. Another role of context of situation is as a thought in finding what the speakers actually feels or hides, because the speaker may not express his/her feeling directly to the listeners.

Moreover, Brown and Yule (1983) also state that context is a way to describe how the listeners get the message from speaker's utterances. The features of context of situation will be described in following examples.

- a. *Speaker*: A young mother, *listener*: her mother in-law, *place*: park, by a duck pond, *time*: a sunny afternoon in September 1962. They are watching the young mother's two-years-old son chasing duck and the mother in-law has just remarked that her son, the child's father, was rather backward at this age. The young mother says:  
I don't think *Adam* is quick.
- b. *Speaker*: a student, *listener*: a set of student, *place*: sitting round a coffee table in the refectory *time*: evening in March 1980. John, one of the groups, has just told a joke. Everyone laughs except Adam. Then Adam laughs. One of the students says:  
I don't think *Adam* is quick.

(Brown and Yule, 1983:36)

From the first example (a) it is assumed that Adam is being compared by his father. By considering the physical context, the word "quick" here can be interpreted as "quick in development". While in the second example (b), Adam is being compared with other students who laugh together, and the word "quick" must be interpreted as "quick to understand the joke". In fact, the word "quick" has different meaning depending on the context. Thus, the utterance "I don't think Adam is quick" may have different interpretation when it is stated in different context.

According to the example above, people can assume that an utterance can possibly have a different meaning depending on the situation and circumstances. Therefore, this study needs the theory of context to support the explanation of violated maxims especially in lying behavior.

## 2.2.4 Lindskold and Walters' Categories of Lying

Identifying and having knowledge of motivations behind telling lies have a great importance for this study to determine why people lie. Lindskold and Walters (1983:130-132) identified six different categories in their study:

- a) Telling a lie to save others from minor hurt, shame, or embarrassment.
- b) Telling a lie to protect yourself or another from punishment or disapproval for a minor failing or blunder which hurts no one.
- c) Telling a lie that will influence others in an official position in such a way that you will gain by their response to you, but they will not be harmed.
- d) Telling a lie to make yourself appear better than you really are or to protect some gain, acquired some time ago, to which you were not really entitled.
- e) Telling a lie that, if successful, could cause others to do something that benefits you while, at the same time, harming themselves or causing themselves a loss.
- f) Telling a lie that hurts someone else so that you can gain.

## 2.3 Synopsis

In Los Angeles, California, Fletcher Reede (Jim Carrey) was a career-focused lawyer and divorced father. He loved spending time with his young son Max (Justin Cooper); they often played a game where Fletcher made his hand into "the Claw" and pretended to chase Max with it. However Fletcher had a habit of giving his number one priority to his job, breaking promises to Max and his ex-wife Audrey (Maura Tierney), and then lying about the reasons. Fletcher's compulsive lying had also built him a reputation as one of the best defense lawyers in the state of California as he was climbing the ladder in the firm for which he worked. Ultimately, Fletcher missed his son's 5th birthday party because he had sex with his boss Miranda (Amanda Donohoe). On that day Max made a birthday wish that: "I wish that for just one day... Dad can't tell a lie". Immediately, the wish actually and magically came true.

## CHAPTER 3

### RESEARCH METHOD

#### 3.1 Type of Research

The type of this research is qualitative research since the data are qualitative data. Qualitative data are data in the form of words, sentences or utterances. The focus in this study is the utterances in subtitle of *Liar Liar* movie. It is considered as qualitative because it tries to analyze and describe the utterances of the main character in that film. Blaxter (1997:60) states that a research is called as a qualitative research because it is not ordinarily expressed in quantitative form or numerical form.

#### 3.2 Data Collection

In this study the subtitle of *Liar Liar* movie is used as the data. The method of collecting data is documentary method. According to Denscombe (2007:230) “Documents can be obtained from the internet such as website pages, home pages, or e-mail and they can be treated like online document”. Because the data used in this research is the English subtitles which are taken from website page, this research is include documentary research.

To collect the valid data, there were several steps. The first step was conducted by carefully matching and observing the downloaded subtitles with its film in order to determine one valid subtitle. The subtitle was downloaded from <https://subdl.com/s/subtitle/sd213872/liar-liar>. After finding the suitable subtitle, the next step was selecting and writing the utterances which violate the cooperative principle produced by the main character when he told lies. In this case the researcher used the context in each utterance to determine whether the utterance contains lies or not. With all of steps that have been explained above, there are 19 utterances to analyze.

#### 3.3 Data Processing

After processing the data, there were several steps to process it. The first step was classifying the types of violated maxims from the utterances, which represent violating maxims on lying, into two major classifications: single violated maxim and multiple violated maxims. This classification was based on the number of violated maxims in a utterance. The second step was describing the construction of lies when the main character violated maxims. Finally, the last step was identifying the reasons why the main character violated the maxims by telling lying. All the results and findings were presented in qualitative description.

### 3.4 Data Analysis

The data that have been processed will be analyzed by some steps. There are two steps in analyzing the data, they are:

1. Analyzing the types of violated maxims of the dialogues uttered by the main character of *Liar Liar* film using Grice's Cooperative Principle Theory.
2. Explaining the possible reasons why the main character violated the maxims focused on lying based on Lindskold and Walters' theory (1983).

## CHAPTER IV

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter deals with the result and discussion from the data analysis. This chapter is intended to answer the research questions that have been mentioned in the previous chapter. The data are analyzed using the Cooperative Principle theory by Grice (1975), then elaborate with Categories of Lying theory proposed by Lindsfold and Walters (1983) to find the possible reason why the main character violates the maxims and tells lie.

#### 4.1 The Type of Violated Maxims and the Categories of Lying by the Main Character in *Liar Liar* Movie

There are 19 utterances which have been selected as the data in this research. Those utterances were classified into two major classifications: single violated maxim and multiple violated maxims. Single violated maxim consisted of five utterances. Meanwhile, there were 14 utterances in multiple violated maxims. The description and analysis of each violated maxim were presented below.

##### 4.1.1 Single Violated Maxim

As mentioned in previous chapter, single violated maxim is only one violated maxim in an utterance. Hence, this discussion starts with the data containing single maxim.

###### Datum 1.

Context

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Beggar

Place : in front of Fletcher's office

Time : in the afternoon

Situation : Fletcher and Max had planned to see a wrestling match at that day. Before going to the match, Fletcher invited Max to stop by his office for one minute. In front of his office they met with a beggar.

Dialogue

**Beggar** : Excuse me, sir. Any spare change?

**Fletcher** : Oh, I'm sorry. **I'm all out.**

(00:05:48,882 - 00:05: 52,942)

In the dialogue above, Fletcher's utterance is categorized as violated maxim of quality. He lies to the beggar by saying "*I'm all out*". The fact is that he has money but he does not want to spare to the beggar. According to Grice's cooperative principle, he violated the maxim of quality because he lied or said something that was believed to be false. To fulfill this maxim, Fletcher is required to be honest or to say something that he believes to be true. He can say "*I would not share my money to you*"

According to Lindsfold and Walters' theory (1983), the reason of telling a lie is because Fletcher wants to save the beggar from embarrassment. The fact is Fletcher has money in his wallet but he does not want to spare it to the beggar because he assumes that the money will be used to buy alcohol and get drunk.

## Datum 2

Context of Description

Speaker : Fletcher Reed

Hearer : Greta

Place : In Fletcher's Office

Time : In the afternoon

Situation : Fletcher and Max arrived at Fletcher's office. After that they met Greta in the room. After greeting Greta, Fletcher ordered Max to go to the other room. Fletcher then inquired about incoming calls to his secretary.

Dialogue

**Greta** : And your mother called.

**Fletcher** : **I'm on vacation.**  
**Greta** : It's your fifth week.  
**Fletcher** : **Snowed in. Phones are down.**

(00:08:16,396 - 00:08:17,997)

Analysis:

In this dialogue, Fletcher's utterances are categorized as violated maxim of quality because he lies to Greta and his mother. By saying "*I'm on vacation*" when he responds Greta's statement, he gives the wrong information. The fact is he is not on vacation, he is in his office. He violates maxim of quality because he lies or says something that he believe to be false. Then Fletcher does the other lie by saying "*snowed in. Phones are down*" to strengthen the previous lie. To fulfill this maxim he should give the true information. He can say "*I am busy so I cannot call you, mom*". That utterance will avoid him to violate the maxims.

Fletcher tells lies to his mother that he is on vacation. According to Lindsfold and Walters' theory (1983), he tells lie because he wants to save his mother from minor hurt. He thinks that the mother will be sad and disappointed to him if she knows that his beloved son does not contact her for long time. Therefore he lies to his mother.

### **Datum 3**

Context of Description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Max

Place : In Fletcher's room

Time : In the morning

Situation : Fletcher had to spend his night at his office with Max because he got a new case. He was sitting in front of his computer preparing documents for his new case. Suddenly Max appeared in his room



## Dialogue

**Fletcher** : You see, **I bought you a present, but last night I accidentally swallowed it.**

**Max** : Dad, it's in your belly!

(00:11:08,535 - 00:11:11,368)

## Analysis:

In the dialogue above, Fletcher violates maxim of quality. He lies to Max by saying *"I bought you a present, but last night I accidentally swallowed it"*. The fact is he does not really buy Max a present. The fact is the present is bought by Greta, his secretary. Then he put the present behind the cloth in order to hide it. Therefore he is categorized as violates maxims of quality because he lies to max or says something that he believes to be false. To avoid the violation maxim of quality, Fletcher must not lie to Max and he has to be honest. He can say *"it is present for you my son"*.

In this case, Fletcher lies to his son because he does not want to hurt his son's feeling. Max as his son will be disappointed surely to his father when he knows that his beloved father does not prepare any present of his birthday. According to Lindsfold and Walters' theory (1983), the reason why Fletcher tells lie to Max is because he want to save Max from minor hurt.

## Datum 4

### Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Audrey

Place : In front of Fletcher's office

Time : In the morning

Situation : Audrey and Jerry went to Fletcher's office to pick Max up. When they arrived, Max told happily to Audrey and Jerry about baseball stuff, the gift from Fletcher. Then Jerry invited Max to play in another place. When Jerry and Max

got in the car, Audrey talked to Fletcher about Jerry's proposal and his invitation to live with him in Boston.

Dialogue

**Audrey** : And actually it's kind of important, so maybe we could talk tonight?

**Fletcher** : Tonight?

**Audrey** : Yes. Max's birthday party.

**Fletcher** : Oh! Yeah. **Sure. Of course. We'll talk then.**

(00:13:09,555 - 00:13:12,824)

Analysis:

In the conversation above, Fletcher violates the maxim of quality by telling lies to Audrey. According to Grice's cooperative principle, he violates maxim of quality because he says something that he believes to be false to Audrey. He lies to Audrey by saying "*Sure. Of course. We'll talk then.*". He tries to convince Audrey by saying like that. The fact is he has had other appointment with his partner at the same time. Therefore he does not come to Max's birthday. To fulfill this maxim, he has to be honest to Audrey. He can say "*Oh sorry. I have another appointment tonight*".

According to Lindsfold and Walters' theory (1983), Fletcher tells a lie to protect herself from punishment given by Audrey. Fletcher as Max's father is undoubtedly expected to attend Max's birthday party, so Audrey can converse with him at the same time. Fletcher believes that if he tells Audrey the truth that he cannot attend to party because of his business in his office, Audrey will be angry to him and give him several punishments such as: cancelling his appointment with his partner or staying in Audrey's house to prepare the party. Therefore the reason why Fletcher tells a lie to Audrey is to protect himself from punishment.

## Datum 5

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Audrey  
Place : On a phone  
Time : In the evening  
Situation : Audrey celebrated Max's birthday in her house. All the guests had attended to the party. But Max did not want to start the party because he waited his father, Fletcher. On the other side Fletcher was having sex with his partner in his office. At the same time Fletcher phoned Audrey to tell that he could not attend the party.

Dialogue

**Fletcher** : Heyyyy

**Audrey** : What happened?

**Fletcher** : **Nothing! I stubbed my toe on the desk!**

(00:18:15,428 - 00:18:17,062)

Analysis:

Fletcher's utterance, in this dialogue, is categorized as violated maxim of quality. He clearly lies to Audrey by saying "*Nothing! I stubbed my toe on the desk*". According to Grice's theory, he violates the maxim of quality by tells lie to Audrey. The fact is Fletcher is not really stubbing his toe on the desk but he is having sex with his partner and at the time his partner bites his chest so he is shocked and screaming. To fulfill this maxim, he must be honest Audrey. He can says "*Nothing ! I just feel pain in my chest*".

The utterance indicates that Fletcher told lie, because he wanted Audrey not to know that he was having sex with someone else. Meanwhile, he had a promise to attend Max birthday party at the same time. This reveals that Fletcher broke the promise he had made. In normal situation, people who broke a promise would get a sanction, for example, in this situation Audrey would be disappointed with Fletcher. To avoid this sanction, Fletcher makes a reason to protect him from a punishment. Hence, this reason is included to one of Lindskold and Walter's theories as telling a lie to protect yourself or

another from punishment or disapproval for a minor failing or blunder which hurts no one.

#### 4.1.2 Multiple Violated Maxims

This further analysis goes on the multiple violated maxim which is contained the data. To simplify the analysis, it is also completed with the context of the utterance consists of speaker, hearer, time, place, and situation.

##### A. Violating Maxim of Quality and Quantity

###### Datum 6

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Max

Place : In front of Fletcher office

Time : In the morning

Situation : Max was waiting Fletcher in his house with his mother (Audrey) because Max and Fletcher planned to see a wrestling match. Few minutes later, Fletcher arrived and they talked normally like a family. Before going to see wrestling match, Fletcher stopped at his office. Max was surprised and asked to his father.

Dialogue

**Max** : Dad, are we really going to wrestling?

**Fletcher** : **Absolutely, Max Factor.**  
**We just have to stop by the office for one minute.**

(00:05:42,609 - 00:05:46,512)

Analysis:

In the dialogue above, Fletcher's utterance is categorized as violated double maxims. They are maxim of quality and quantity. He violates maxim of quality because he lies to Max about going to wrestling match by saying "*Absolutely, Max Factor*". The fact is they do not really go to wrestling match because Fletcher gets a new case from his partner and he prioritizes job than

his son. Besides, he gives the information more than is required by saying “*We just have to stop by the office for one minute*”. Therefore he also violates the maxim of quantity by giving too much information. To fulfill this maxim he should be sufficient and give true response that they are not really going to wrestling. He can say” *I am sorry Max; we are not going to wrestling match today*”.

This dialogue reveals that Fletcher certainly lies to Max. In the reality, Fletcher and Max have planned to see wrestling match. However, Fletcher changes the direction to his office by having a false reason. In fact, he lies, because he was having a new case to execute. This lying condition is done to protect Max’s feeling. Thus, according to Lindsfold & Walters (1983) the reason is telling lie to protect other from minor hurt.

#### **Datum 7**

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher  
Hearer : Greta  
Place : In Fletcher’s Office  
Time : In the Morning  
Situation : After arriving in his office, Fletcher talked to his secretary (Greta) normally. In the middle of conversation, Fletcher asked to Greta about incoming calls around his job in that day.

Dialogue

**Greta** : Mr. McKinley phoned to confirm your meeting tomorrow.

**Fletcher** : **Strep throat. Some kind of virus. What's going around?**

**Greta** : Asian flu?

**Fletcher** : Good one.

(00:08:07,887 - 00:08:11,153)

In the conversation above, Fletcher's utterance is categorized as violated double maxims: maxim of quality and quantity. He violates maxim of quality by saying "*Strep throat. Some kind of virus.*" He lies to Greta especially to Mr. McKinley that he was in good condition. The fact is he is really fine. Therefore he violates the maxim of quality because he lies or says something that he believes to be false to someone. Moreover he also violates the maxim of quantity by saying "*What's going around?*" He talks to much as required. It means that he violates the maxim of quantity because he gives to much information as required. To fulfill those maxims, he should be informative and says something that he believes to be true. He can say "*oh, I think we should reschedule our meeting*"

From the context, it indicates that Fletcher does not have a good time to conduct a meeting with Mr. McKinley, which means that he wanted to have another time to meet him. However, he does not show the real feeling he felt at the time. If he said the real reason, it will influence to his position as a lawyer. In other words, this lying condition implies to save Fletcher's image as a lawyer. Thus, this is related to the Lindsfold & Walters (1983) theory as telling a lie that will influence others in an official position in such a way that you will gain by their response to you, but they will not be harmed.

## **Datum 8**

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Officer

Place : At workplace in Fletcher's Office

Time : In the Morning

Situation : After arriving in his office, Fletcher and his son (Max) directly went to his workroom. On the way Fletcher greeted his colleagues. Suddenly one of his colleagues appeared in front of them.

Dialogue

**Officer** : Taking lunch orders. Anything?

**Fletcher** : **No, thanks. I had so much for breakfast, I'm ready to pop. I mean, I'm full.**

**Officer** : Okay. Great.

(00:07:07,661 - 00:07:10,296)

From the dialogue above, Fletcher does not tell the truth and does not answer the question simply. In this case, Fletcher is using additional information which is not important to utter. It means without saying this additional information, another speaker will understand what he means. In addition, Fletcher does not tell the condition based on the fact, which means he lies to the other speaker. Hence, by this fact, the suitable maxim category to describe this violating maxim is maxim quality and quantity. Actually, in this dialogue Fletcher seems to say that he does not own much time to spend his time for lunch, because he is in hurry of executing the case. Besides, Fletcher does not need to add some information that do not required. To fulfill these maxims he can say “No, thanks”.

From the above analysis, the point is that Fletcher lies to the other speaker. It means that Fletcher actually wanted to say something else. However, he preferred to dismiss the truth by telling lie. The truth is that he was receiving sudden a case to handle pushing him to immediately watch over the case. Hence, he does not much time to waste, because he assumed that the case is the important one. By this fact, it can be summed up that Fletcher does not hurt the other speakers by his refusal. Thus, he used words that avoid someone from hurt feeling. This indicates this reason is categorized as Lindsfold & Walters (1983) theory as telling lie to protect someone from minor hurt.

## **Datum 9**

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Greta

Place : In Fletcher's Office

Time : In the Morning  
Situation : Fletcher was in his office with Greta. They were talking about incoming calls. Suddenly Miranda came behind Fletcher position. Then Greta that knew Miranda was standing behind Fletcher gave code to Fletcher.

Dialogue

**Greta** : Except Miranda's looking for you.

**Fletcher** : How much ass do I have to kiss to make partner?

**Tell her I broke my leg and I had to be shot.**

(00:08:24,270 - 00:08:27,103)

Analysis:

This dialogue is mentioned as violating maxim of quality and quantity because of some reasons. First, Fletcher does not tell what he felt and he wanted. In this case, Fletcher had had a plan and felt so busy and he did not want to meet Miranda at the same time. Therefore he lies to Greta or says something that he believes to be false. Consequently it make him violates maxim of quality. Second, Fletcher talks too much. He gives the information more than required. It make him violates maxim of quantity. To fulfill this violation, he can say *“tell her that I am busy right now”*

From those two reasons, Fletcher in fact is very busy with his plan and he wants everyone do not disturb him in a while. In addition, he was not interested with the topic, because he assumes that meeting Miranda right now is not a good choice. Thus, he lied to Greta. This lying according to Lindsfold & Walters (1983) is categorized as telling a lie that will influence others in an official position in such a way that you will gain by their response to you, but they will not be harmed. The reason is he still needed Miranda's response by not hurting her.

## **Datum 10**

Context of description



Speaker : Fletcher  
Hearer : Miranda  
Place : In Fletcher's Office  
Time : In the Morning  
Situation : Fletcher and Greta were talking about business. Then Miranda as Fletcher's partner came suddenly from the back without Fletcher's knowing.

Dialogue

**Fletcher** : **Miranda! Hey, I didn't see you. You look beautiful today. Here! I bought you a gift.**

**Miranda** : Oh, thanks. I heard about your victory. Congratulations. Congratulations.

(00:08:42,622 - 00:08:46,291)

Analysis

From dialogue above, it can be assumed that Fletcher pretends to give a gift to Miranda. Previously, this gift is intended to give to Greta. Miranda's coming was shocking Fletcher and was pushing him to say something which is kept away from the truth. Fletcher lies to Miranda about the gift by saying "*Here! I bought you a gift*". This utterance is considered as violating maxim of quality. He violates maxim of quality because he says something that he believes to be false. In addition, Fletcher also adds some small talk like "*Miranda! Hey, I didn't see you. You look beautiful today*" which is not necessary. In fact, he had known Miranda's coming. Hence, this dialogue also included as violating maxim of quantity because he talks too much or gives the information more than required.

According to Lindsfold and Walters' theory (1983), Fletcher tells a lie because he wants to appear better in front of Miranda. Miranda as his partner has higher position in his office. He believes that he will get several advantages if he can make close relationship with Miranda. Therefore he tells lie and tries to praise Miranda that causes him violating quantity maxim.

### Datum 11

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Max

Place : In Fletcher's Office

Time : In the Morning

Situation : Fletcher got a new case that must be finished immediately from his partners, Miranda. So he and Max had to take a nap in his office. In the next day it was Max's birthday. In the early morning Max came to Fletcher room. Fletcher greeted max and says happy birthday to max while gave him a gift.

Dialogue

**Max** : Cool! What is it?

**Fletcher** : Cool! **It's... It's a surprise. All right, it's a pony.**  
Just open it! I'm gonna help,'cause I can't stand it!

**Max** : Baseball stuff!

(00:11:22,815 - 00:11:25,478)

Analysis:

In the dialogue, Fletcher violates two maxims. They are maxim of quality and maxim of quantity. He violates maxims of quality because he lies or says something that he believes to be false to Max by saying “! *It's... It's a surprise. All right, it's a pony*”. The fact is he really does not know about the gift inside the box because the gift is prepared by Greta. Therefore he lies to max and tells him that it is a pony. To cover his lie he gives the information too much more than required. The utterance “*Just opens it! I'm gonna help,'cause I can't stand it!*” is categorized as violates maxims of quantity. Hence in this dialogue he also violated maxim of quantity.

The reason why he tells lie to Max according to Lindsfold and Walters's theory is to make him appear better as a father. Max will be surely disappointed if he knows that the gift which gets right now was prepared by

another. It will be assumed that Fletcher is failed as a father. Moreover a son will love his father more when he knows that his father remembers the date of his birthday and prepare a gift for it. Therefore he lied to max in this case.

## B. Violating Maxim of Quality and Relevance

### Datum 12

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Audrey

Place : In Fletcher's Office

Time : In the Morning

Situation : It was Max's birthday party at the time. All the guests had come to the party. Max did not want to cut the cake before his father came to the party. Therefore Audrey initiated to phone Fletcher. Meanwhile Fletcher was in his office.

Dialogue

**Fletcher** : Hello. Audrey?

**Audrey** : Fletcher! Where are you? We're waiting. Max won't cut the cake until you get here.

**Fletcher** : **Oh, man! Actually, something has come up. I've...  
I've got this problem on a new case**

(00:18:00,947 - 00:18:02,647)

Analysis:

From the dialogue above, Fletcher's utterance is categorized as violating double maxims. In this case, there are maxim of quality and maxim of relevance. The dialogue implied that violating maxim is "*Oh, man! Actually, something has come up. I've... I've got this problem on a new case*". This respond shows that (1) Fletcher was answering with no relevance topic and (2) Fletcher was telling untruth respond.

First, Fletcher's response was not on the topic. Basically, Audrey was wondering where Fletcher was, because Fletcher had promised to come to Max's birthday party before. It is assumed that Fletcher's duty was attending the party instead of breaking the promise. Thus, Audrey was asking where exactly Fletcher was. However, Fletcher was reporting the new case that he just got which it is identified that this answer is totally not what Audrey means. Fletcher in this case should answer by giving the location and telling that he could not come to the party to simplify and clear the dialogue. By this reality, Fletcher's response is categorized as violating maxim of relevance, because it was not related between Audrey's question and Fletcher's response.

Second, Fletcher was lying to Audrey related to the reason why he could not accompany Max celebrating the birthday. Fletcher was telling that he was on a new case that prevented him to dismiss other business and he also added an expression that this case is unpredictable to come while Max is celebrating the party. However, in the reality, Fletcher was not on the case he said. He was preparing to have sex with the partner at the time. This represents that Fletcher's response was not the truth so that it is identified to violate the maxim of quality because he says something that he believes really to be false. To fulfill this violation he can say "*oh I am sorry Audrey, I'm in office right now accompanying my partner*"

From the interpretation above, the violation of maxim of quality indicates that Fletcher was lying to Audrey, because he was not telling the fact. However, Fletcher has some special implication why he was lying. The dialogue context shows that it was Max's party and Fletcher had made a promise to come. However, Fletcher was breaking the promise. Unfortunately, Fletcher was not telling the real reason why he must not come. It is implied that (1) Fletcher does not want to break Max's heart and (2) he avoids getting a bad judgment from Audrey.

As the father, Fletcher normally will give everything to the child and he does not expect to hurt Max's feelings. Hence, when Max wanted to ask him to come to the birthday party, Fletcher made a promise to come. As the

consequent when he could not keep his word, he must make a more logical reason to avoid Max feeling hurt. By this reality, Fletcher is assumed to keep Max's feeling. Besides, Audrey would not forgive him if he did not come because of he was preparing to have sex. If Fletcher was telling the truth, it would be assumed that Fletcher is not responsible father. Therefore, those two implications (Keeping Max's feeling and Avoiding Audrey's judgment) are the reasons why he must lie.

Related to the lying approach, those implications are in line with Linskold & Walters (1983) that telling a lie to save others from minor hurt and telling a lie to protect their selves or another from punishment.

### Datum 13

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Max

Place : In front of Audrey's house

Time : In the Morning

Situation : Max was sleeping in Fletcher's office at the night. While in the morning Audrey and Jerry (Audrey's boyfriend) picked Max up to get home. Max told to Audrey and Jerry about Fletcher present last night. Then Jerry invited Max and Audrey to play in other play. When they were in car, Fletcher shouted.

Dialogue

**Fletcher** : Maximus! I'm outta here.

**Max** : Bye, Dad.

**Fletcher** : **Jerry, enjoy my wife.**

(00:13:23,269 - 00:13:24,836)

Analysis:

The dialogue shows that Fletcher seems to be jealous to Jerry. However, he just satirized Jerry with an utterance containing Maxims violation that is

“Jerry, enjoy my wife”. At the time, Fletcher was violating maxim of quantity and maxim of quality. How Fletcher was violating maxim of quantity is represented by a word containing in the utterance above “my wife”. In this case, the wife is referred to Audrey. It is truly that Audrey had not been Fletcher’s wife anymore, because Audrey was Fletcher ex-wife as they had divorced. This part shows how Fletcher basically told untruth reality. Hence, it is considered that Fletcher did not tell something based on the truth. By this prove, the utterance above is subjected to be the maxim violation.

Meanwhile, the clause “Jerry, enjoy my wife” is assumed to violate the maxim of quality shows in the context of dialogue. The whole dialogue express firstly how Fletcher and Max uttering a farewell. It shows that Fletcher said “Maximus! I am outta here” and Max responded “good bye dad”. However, after this farewell, Fletcher expressed something out of the context or topic that he told with Max. He said “Jerry, enjoy my wife. This utterance indicates that this is not a farewell that he spoke with Max, but it could be a satirized utterance showing a bad relation between Fletcher and Jerry. By this explanation, Fletcher did not have a correlative and related expression in the speech. Hence, it is considered that Fletcher was violating maxim of relevance.

Even Fletcher expressed out of the fact and out of the context, there must be a certain reason implied in the dialogue. By saying “Jerry, enjoy my wife”, Fletcher wanted to strengthen his power that Jerry must enjoy a girl that he had enjoyed firstly. This implication refers to how Fletcher is duly feeling a jealous of Jerry and Audrey relation. Hence, he wanted to show that he is feeling comfortable of Jerry and Audrey relation. By this consideration, this lying utterance is in line with Lindsfold & Walters (1983) theory saying telling a lie to make yourself appear better than you really are or to protect some gain, acquired some time ago, to which you were not really entitled.

## **C. Violating Maxim of Quality, Quantity and Relevance**

### **Datum 14**

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher  
Hearer : Miranda  
Place : In Fletcher's Office  
Time : In the Morning  
Situation : Fletcher is in the office talking with Greta. Suddenly, Miranda comes to talk with Fletcher will giving a congratulation of his work's performance. However, Fletcher seems in hurry to leave the conversation, because Max is his office.

Dialogue

**Miranda** : You're making quite an impression on the partnership committee.

**Fletcher** : **That's right! You folks are meeting soon. I've been so busy, I haven't even thought about it. Anyway. I have a client in my office. Better not. keep him waiting.**

**Miranda** : Actually, something rather important's just come up.

(00:18:00,947 - 00:18:02,647)

Analysis:

This dialogue reveals that there are two assumptions that can be made, namely, Fletcher utterance was violating maxim of quality, maxim of quantity and maxim of relevance. This assumption is based on the context that we considered it is not relevant to what Fletcher stated. Fletcher was saying that he was waited by the client in the office which shown by the utterance "*That's right! You folks are meeting soon. I've been so busy, I haven't even thought about it. Anyway. I have a client in my office*". This is totally not in line with the truth. The truth said that Fletcher did not have any client in the office, but he had Max in the office, whereas Max is not his client anymore. This fact sums up that Fletcher was lying to Miranda. Hence, by considering the

utterance above not based on the truth, it considers that Fletcher was violating maxim of quality.

In addition, Fletcher's utterance contains much small talk which is not relevant to the topic. It is proven that when he said "your folks are meeting soon, I've been so busy, I haven't even thought about it". Moreover, the context is that Miranda gave him an impression or congratulation of Fletcher's good performance in the committee by stating "*You're making quite an impression on the partnership committee*". Fletcher however was talking about the meeting and his busy condition. By this reality, this is totally not relevant to the topic talking in the dialogue and there were much unimportant statement which shows by saying Fletcher was busy and did not have time to think of the meeting. Hence, it is categorized as violating maxim of quality and relevance.

Meanwhile, from the analysis above, it can be concluded that Fletcher lied to Miranda because he did not waste his time to talk with Miranda. Secondly, he must in hurry because Max is waiting him to see a wrestling match. This reason is in line with Lindsfold and Walters (1983) theory who say that telling a lie to make himself appear better than they really are or to protect some gain, acquired some time ago, to which they were not really entitled.

## **Datum 15**

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Max

Place : In Fletcher's Office

Time : In the Morning

Situation : It was the situation when Max and Fletcher open the gift of Max's birthday. This gift was given by Fletcher even it as not prepared by him.

Dialogue

**Max** : Cool! Can we play? I'll be Nomo. You can be Jose Canseco. Can we play?



**Fletcher** : **Absolutely.**

**Max** : Yeah!

**Fletcher** : **Right after your party tonight, we'll do it. You and me.  
I just have to really concentrate on this right now.**

(00:11:41,201 --> 00:11:43,702)

Analysis:

From the dialogue, it shows that Fletcher is violating maxim of quality, maxim of quantity and maxim of relevance and. The utterance showing these violations are that when Fletcher states as *“Right after your party tonight, we'll do it. You and me. I just have to really concentrate on this right now”*.

First, the utterance contains a violation of quality maxim.. This assumption is revealed the dialogue between Max and Fletcher. Fletcher was firstly agreeing to play the basketball at the time by saying *“absolutely”* when Max asked his agreement to play the baseball. However, this agreement by saying *“absolutely”* was only a lie. Fletcher postponed their time to play. Moreover the fact is they never play basketball at all. Hence, this assumption is considered as violating maxim of quality as Fletcher lied to Max. .

Second, the utterance contains a violation of maxim of quantity. Fletcher as a speaker talks too much to Max. It can be seen when he says *“Right after your party tonight, we'll do it. You and me”*. Those information are not necessary in that conversation. Therefore he also violates maxim of quantity because he says something more than required. Moreover the reality shows that Fletcher tries to change the topic by saying *“I just have to really concentrate on this right now”*. It indicates that he violates maxim of relevance because he tries to change the topic abruptly.

Meanwhile, there must be a reason why Fletcher was telling lie. Based on the context, Fletcher was on his duty and must finish the job quickly because he was in hurry, while, Max wanted to invite him to play. By this context, it can be assumed that Fletcher did not want to hurt Max's feeling by refusing

directly Max's invitation to play a baseball. If Fletcher was directly telling that he cannot play, it must be hurting. Related to this, it must be true premise if it is connected to Lindskold and Walter's theory (1983) which stated that telling a lie to save others from minor hurt.

### Datum 16

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Audrey

Place : In Fletcher's Office

Time : In the Morning

Situation : In this situation, Fletcher was introduced by Miranda to the client, Mrs. Cole. Mrs. Cole was arguing about the problem she faced related to the husband that invited her to divorce, while Fletcher strengthened that Mrs. Cole is the victim of the problem he faced. Even, it is not really the truth, because the truth is that Mrs. Cole was subjected to get divorce, because he was cheating with another boy.

Dialogue

**Fletcher** : Seven single acts of indiscretion. Seven acts of indiscretion, only one of which he has any evidence of and all of which he himself is responsible for.

**Mrs. Cole** : He is?

**Fletcher** : **Mrs. Cole. You're the victim here. The wife of a cold, distant workaholic. Starved for affection, driven into the arms of another man!**

(00:14:19,292 --> 00:14:22,591)

Analysis:

This dialogue presents that Fletcher was trying to strengthen Mrs. Cole. In this case, Mrs. Cole is the client that has problems with the husband. She was cheating with another boy and the husband invited him to get divorce. As the

consequence, she will not receive any inheritance from the husband, because they had a promise to delete all the inheritance if she was known legally cheating with another guy. Based on this situation, the dialogue shows that Fletcher was violating maxim of quality, maxim of quantity and maxim of relevance.

First, Fletcher was violating maxim of quality. It is shown by his statement that "*Mrs. Cole. You're the victim here*". Based on the context, this statement is not the reality faced by Mrs. Cole. The fact is Mr. Cole is actually victim because Mrs. Cole cheats with another man beyond Mr. Cole. She does it consciously. Hence Fletcher's statement, "*Mrs. Cole. You're the victim here*", considers as violating maxim of quality, because he was talking not based on the reality or says something that he believes to be false.

Second, Fletcher is violating maxim of quantity. It is showed by the statement that saying "*The wife of a cold, distant workaholic*". This statement is not really important to say. Moreover, it is not related with the above statement. The above statement was talking about the Mrs. Cole's husband. However, Fletcher directly talks a lot about Mrs. Cole. Therefore he also violates maxims of quantity because he gives too much information more than required. Then he does wrong causality in this case. It is revealed when he says "*Starved for affection, driven into the arms of another man!*". He wants to build paradigm that Mrs. Cole's affair is an effect of her husband busy life at work. The reality from the context shows that the Mrs. Cole's affair is caused by her unfaithfulness to Mr. Cole. Therefore Fletcher also violates maxim of relevance because he does wrong causality.

The reason why Fletcher lied to Mrs. Cole is that Fletcher wanted to strengthen Mrs. Cole will be the winner in the case, because if they were the winner, Fletcher's firm would get higher salary. This fact is related to Lindskold and Walters' theory saying telling a lie that, if successful, could cause others to do something that benefits you while, at the same time, harming themselves or causing themselves a loss. This is because Fletcher wants to get trust from Mrs. Cole as the client to handle the case.

**Datum 17**

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher  
Hearer : Audrey  
Place : In Fletcher's Office  
Time : In the Morning  
Situation : A year later after all the accident in the airport, Fletcher, Audrey and Max were backing home together normally. Meanwhile, it was celebrating Max's birthday. As it was to be a joke, Fletcher always acted like the arm was the claw.

Dialogue

**Audrey** : Do you want to cut the cake, Dad?  
**Fletcher** : I'd love to. **But I have this horrible pain in my arm.**  
**Oh, no, it's the claw!**  
**No one can stop the claw!**  
**No one can stop it!**

(01:20:03,198 - 01:20:06,134)

Analysis:

There are three maxim violations in the dialogue. Those three maxims are maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, and maxim of manner. The quality maxim violation is shown in the utterances of "*But I have this horrible pain in my arm. Oh, no, it's the claw! No one can stop the claw! No one can stop it!*"

As in the reality, Fletcher's arm is normal and it is clearly a joke which was not the fact. Hence, this considers Fletcher is violating maxim of quality. The violation of maxim of quantity is also shown in the utterance of "*But I have this horrible pain in my arm. Oh, no, it's the claw! No one can stop the claw! No one can stop it!*" This is considered a quantity maxim violation, because this is only wasting a sentence that is not important to talk. Moreover, the utterance contains wasted information that is really violating maxim of

quantity. Meanwhile, It is also considered violating maxim of relevance. In the utterance above mentioned, it also contains unrelated information because before those utterances, Audrey was asking Fletcher to cut the cake. However, Fletcher was directly acting like he was having a horrible arm.

From the above analysis, it involves maxim of quality violation which means that Max telling something not based on the truth or lying. The assumption is that Fletcher was lying, because he wanted to make the situation alive by giving a joke. Because the utterance of *“But I have this horrible pain in my arm. Oh, no, it's the claw! No one can stop the claw! No one can stop it!”* it was only a joke was not a real accident. This is also related to the lying theory of Lindskold and Walters’ theory that is telling a lie to make yourself appear better than you really are or to protect some gain.

#### **D. Violating All Maxims (Quality, Quantity, Relevance and Manner)**

##### **Datum 18**

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Audrey

Place : In Fletcher’s Office

Time : In the Morning

Situation : Max and Audrey were waiting Fletcher’s coming. However, Fletcher was coming so late making Max to be disappointed. Instead of coming to keep the promise, Fletcher was attending the conference of his work performance.

Dialogue

**Audrey** : So, did you have any trouble finding the place?

**Fletcher** : **Okay, I'm late. I'm sorry.I ran out of gas. The gauge is broken. Rough neighborhood too. Good thing I was wearing neutral gang colors. I might have had to pull**

**out my nine and bust a cap. With my mind on my money and my money on my mind**

(00:03:20,300 - 00:03:23,235)

Analysis:

It is violating maxim of quantity, quality, manner, and relevance. The quantity maxim violation is shown in the utterance of *“With my mind on my money and my money on my mind”*. This utterance is assumed to have maxim of quantity violation, because it contains unnecessary information that is not important to say. Meanwhile, the quality maxim violation is shown in the utterance of *“I ran out of gas. The gauge is broken. Rough neighborhood too. Good thing I was wearing neutral gang colors. I might have had to pull out my nine and bust a cap. “With my mind on my money and my money on my mind”*. This is a reason purposed by Fletcher because he was late to come. However, this reason is totally not the fact or it is untruth. In fact, Fletcher was attending the conference after his good work performance.

The manner maxim violation is revealed by the utterance of *“Good thing I was wearing neutral gang colors. I might have had to pull out my nine and bust a cap. With my mind on my money and my money on my mind”*. This utterance is totally ambiguous, because Fletcher told something that is in the case of the topic. Finally, the relevance maxim violation is presented when Audrey asked Fletcher by saying *“So, did you have any trouble finding the place?”* and Fletcher directly answered *“Okay, I’m late”*. In those two utterances, it can be summed up that Fletcher was not answering the question based on that had been asked by Audrey. Hence, it must be not related topic to discuss by Fletcher.

As it contains quality maxim violation, it shows lying that told by Fletcher when giving a reason why he is coming so late. Fletcher was afraid to tell Audrey why he was late because of attending the conference. Because if he told the real reason, Audrey will not give him any forgive. Hence, he arranged an untruth story. By this reality, Fletcher was lying because he is

afraid of Audrey sanction and judgment. This is in line with Lindskold and Walters' theory (1983) which stated that telling a lie to protect yourself or another from punishment or disapproval for a minor failing or blunder which hurts no one.

### Datum 19

Context of description

Speaker : Fletcher

Hearer : Max

Place : In Fletcher's Office

Time : In the Morning

Situation : Max and Fletcher was visiting Fletcher's office, while Max met with Greta and told that tomorrow was the birthday

Dialogue

**Max** : Hi, Greta.

**Greta** : Hey, what's new?

**Max** : It's my birthday tomorrow, and we're having a party.

**Greta** : Wow! I am sure your daddy has got you something wonderful.

**Max** : Yeah?

**Fletcher** : **Yeah, you bet! Listen, kiddo. Why don't you play in my office for a minute. Sue somebody for everything they've got. Maybe you can send a fax to one of your girlfriends. Hey, sorry.**

(00:07:26,146 --> 00:07:27,713)

Analysis:

Form the dialogue it reveals that there are four maxim violations. There are maxim of quality, quantity, relevance and manner. The relevance maxim

violation is shown by Fletcher's utterance saying "*Listen, kiddo. Why don't you play in my office for a minute. Sue somebody for everything they've got*". It is not considered relevant and Fletcher tries to change the topic because previously Max and Greta was talking about Max's birthday, Fletcher suddenly stopped the conversation to order Max enter the office. Meanwhile, the manner maxim violation is revealed by an utterance of "*Maybe you can send a fax to one of your girlfriends.*" This is ambiguous, because Max was only five years old. Max did not how to send fax to the girlfriend. Moreover, he really did not really understand what is girlfriend, because he was a child. The quantity maxim violation is revealed by an utterance of "*Sue somebody for everything they've got.*" It is considered not to contain informative information because it is not important to say. Finally, the lying action is shown by Fletcher's utterance to say "*yeah, you bet!*" It is assumed to contain maxim of quality violation, because firstly Max and Greta talked about the special gift for Max from Fletcher and Fletcher directly telling "*yeah, you bet!*" which means there must be a special gift from him. However, Fletcher basically did not prepare anymore. Even he forgets that tomorrow is Max's birthday.

From the last maxim violation, it presents that Fletcher was lying to Max by accepting Greta's opinion that Fletcher had prepared the special gift as if he has the special gift. Unfortunately, Fletcher actually did not have something so special. Because Fletcher did not expect Max's disappointment, he was lying to Max to have the special gift. Related to the lying theory, this reason is in line with Linskold and Walters' theory telling that a lie to save others from minor hurt, shame, or embarrassment. In this case, Fletcher was lying to Max, because he did not want to break Max's heart.

## 4.2 Discussion

This part explores in depth discussion related the result of the research. Hence, to simplify the discussion, it provides a table that displays the data. This table 1 contains some detail information related to the result of analysis. In



addition, this would answer the research questions that had been purposed at previous part.

Table 1. Violated maxims and reasons to violate maxim

DIALOGUE	MAXIMS VIOLATION				Categories of Lying by Lindskold and Walters
	QL	QN	RL	MN	
<p>1.</p> <p><b>Beggar</b> : Excuse me, sir. Any spare change?</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b>: Oh, I'm sorry. <b>I'm all out.</b></p>	✓				Telling a lie to save others from embarrassment
<p>2.</p> <p><b>Greta</b> : And your mother called.</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b>: <b>I'm on vacation.</b></p> <p><b>Greta</b> : It's your fifth week.</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b>: <b>Snowed in.</b> <b>Phones are down.</b></p>	✓				Telling a lie to save others from minor hurt
<p>3.</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b>: <b>You see, I bought you a present, but last night I accidentally swallowed it.</b></p> <p><b>Max</b> : Dad, it's in your belly!</p>	✓				Telling a lie to save others from minor hurt
<p>4.</p> <p><b>Audrey</b> : And actually it's kind of important, so maybe we</p>	✓				Telling a lie to protect yourself from punishment

<p>could talk tonight?</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : Tonight?</p> <p><b>Audrey</b> : Yes. Max's birthday party.</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : Oh! Yeah.</p> <p><b>Sure. Of course. We'll talk then.</b></p>					
<p>5.</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : heyyyy</p> <p><b>Audrey</b> : What happened?</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : <b>Nothing! I stubbed my toe on the desk!</b></p>	✓				Telling a lie to protect yourself from punishment
<p>6.</p> <p><b>Max</b> : Dad, are we really going to wrestling?</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : <b>Absolutely, Max Factor. We just have to stop by the office for one minute.</b></p>	✓	✓			Telling a lie to save others from minor hurt
<p>7.</p> <p><b>Greta</b> : Mr. McKinley phoned to confirm your meeting tomorrow.</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : <b>Strep throat. Some kind of</b></p>	✓	✓			Telling a lie that will influence others in an official position in such a way that you will gain by their response to you, but they will not be harmed

<p><b>virus. What's going around?</b></p> <p><b>Greta</b> : Asian flu?</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : Good one.</p>				
<p><b>8.</b></p> <p><b>Officer</b> : Taking lunch orders. Anything?</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : <b>No, thanks. I had so much for breakfast, I'm ready to pop. I mean, I'm full.</b></p> <p><b>Officer</b> : Okay. Great.</p>	✓	✓		telling lie to protect someone from minor hurt
<p><b>9.</b></p> <p><b>Greta</b> : Except Miranda's looking for you.</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : How much ass do I have to kiss to make partner? <b>Tell her I broke my leg and I had to be shot.</b></p>	✓	✓		Telling a lie that will influence others in an official position in such a way that you will gain by their response to you, but they will not be harmed
<p><b>10.</b></p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : <b>Miranda! Hey, I didn't see you. You look beautiful today. Here! I bought you a gift.</b></p> <p><b>Miranda</b> : Oh, thanks. I heard about your victory.</p>	✓	✓		Telling a li to to make yourself appear better than you really are

<p>Congratulations. Congratulations.</p>				
<p>11. <b>Max</b> : Cool! What is it? <b>Fletcher</b> : Cool! <b>It's... It's a surprise. All right, it's a pony.</b> Just open it! I'm gonna help,'cause I can't stand it! <b>Max</b> : Baseball stuff!</p>	✓	✓		<p>Telling a lie to to make yourself appear better than you really are</p>
<p>12. <b>Fletcher</b> : Hello. Audrey? <b>Audrey</b> : Fletcher! Where are you? We're waiting. Max won't cut the cake until you get here. <b>Fletcher</b> : <b>Oh, man! Actually, something has come up. I've.... I've got this problem on a new case</b></p>	✓	✓		<p>Telling a lie to save others from minor hurt telling a lie to protect their selves or another from punishment.</p>
<p>13. <b>Fletcher</b> : Maximus! I'm outta here. <b>Max</b> : Bye, Dad.</p>	✓	✓		<p>Telling a lie to make yourself appear better than you really are or to protect some gain,</p>

<p><b>Fletcher : Jerry, enjoy my wife.</b></p>				<p>acquired some time ago, to which you were not really entitled.</p>
<p>14.  <b>Miranda : You're making quite an impression on the partnership committee.</b>  <b>Fletcher : That's right! You folks are meeting soon. I've been so busy, I haven't even thought about it. Anyway. I have a client in my office. Better not. keep him waiting.</b>  <b>Miranda :</b>                  Actually, something rather important's just come up.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Telling a lie to make himself appear better than they really are or to protect some gain, acquired some time ago, to which they were not really entitled.</p>
<p>15.  <b>Max : Cool! Can we play? I'll be Nomo. You can be Jose Canseco. Can we play?</b>  <b>Fletcher :</b>  <b>Absolutely.</b>  <b>Max : Yeah!</b>  <b>Fletcher : Right after your party tonight, we'll do it. You and me. I</b></p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Telling a lie to save others from minor hurt.</p>

<p><b>just have to really concentrate on this right now.</b></p>					
<p>16.  <b>Fletcher</b> : Seven single acts of indiscretion. Seven acts of indiscretion, only one of which he has any evidence of and all of which he himself is responsible for.  <b>Mrs. Cole</b> : He is?  <b>Fletcher</b> : <b>Mrs. Cole. You're the victim here. The wife of a cold, distant workaholic. Starved for affection, driven into the arms of another man!</b></p>	✓	✓	✓		<p>Telling a lie that, if successful, could cause others to do something that benefits you while, at the same time, harming themselves or causing themselves a loss</p>
<p>17.  <b>Audrey</b> : Do you want to cut the cake, Dad?  <b>Fletcher</b> : I'd love to.  <b>But I have this horrible pain in my arm.</b>  <b>Oh, no, it's the claw!</b>  <b>No one can stop the claw!</b>  <b>No one can stop it!</b></p>	✓	✓	✓		<p>Telling a lie to make yourself appear better than you really are or to protect some gain</p>
<p>18.</p>	✓	✓	✓	✓	<p>Telling a lie to protect</p>

<p><b>Audrey</b> : So, did you have any trouble finding the place?</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : Okay, I'm late. I'm sorry. I ran out of gas. The gauge is broken. Rough neighborhood too. Good thing I was wearing neutral gang colors. I might have had to pull out my nine and bust a cap. With my mind on my money and my money on my mind</p>					<p>yourself or another from punishment or disapproval for a minor failing or blunder which hurts no one.</p>
<p>19.</p> <p><b>Max</b> : Hi, Greta.</p> <p><b>Greta</b> : Hey, what's new?</p> <p><b>Max</b> : It's my birthday tomorrow, and we're having a party.</p> <p><b>Greta</b> : Wow! I am sure your daddy has got you something wonderful.</p> <p><b>Max</b> : Yeah?</p> <p><b>Fletcher</b> : Yeah, you bet! Listen, kiddo. Why don't you play in my office for a minute. Sue somebody for everything</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>Telling that a lie to save others from minor hurt, shame, or embarrassment</p>

<p><b>they've got. Maybe you can send a fax to one of your girlfriends. Hey, sorry.</b></p>					
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This table shows that there are four violated maxims in Fletcher's utterance in the movie of *Liar Liar*. Those four maxims are maxim of quality (QL), maxim of quantity (QN), maxim of relevance (RL), and maxim of manner (MN). The dominant violated maxim in this data result is maxim of quality. The fact reveals that all maxim violation in the dialogue has inserted maxim quality violation. It can be seen in the Table 1 above. Meanwhile, the explanation in the previous chapter stated that maxim of quality instruct the speaker to tell the truth and avoid false information. Thus, this result highlights that Fletcher, as the main character, frequently told lie in the dialogue. In addition, this result basically also represents the movie title that is being examined in this research, namely *Liar Liar*. This title has a meaning that the movie will tell the people characters who always lies to others. Hence, this result proves that how the title is in line with the story in the movie.

Meanwhile, maxim of manner violation has the minor occurrence in the dialogue. This captures that Fletcher had minim ambiguity utterance in the dialogue. As it is mentioned that maxim of manner is a conversation principle that upholds a clear and it had no obscurity and ambiguity. In addition, the result shows that quantity maxim violation has the second dominant level in the dialogue. This pictures that the main character or Fletcher has too much small talks in the dialogue, which indicates that Fletcher avoids informing informatively to do lies. Besides, the result shows that there are 6 out of 19 dialogues containing maxim relevance violation. This result implicates that to successfully do the lies, Fletcher opts to go irrelevant.



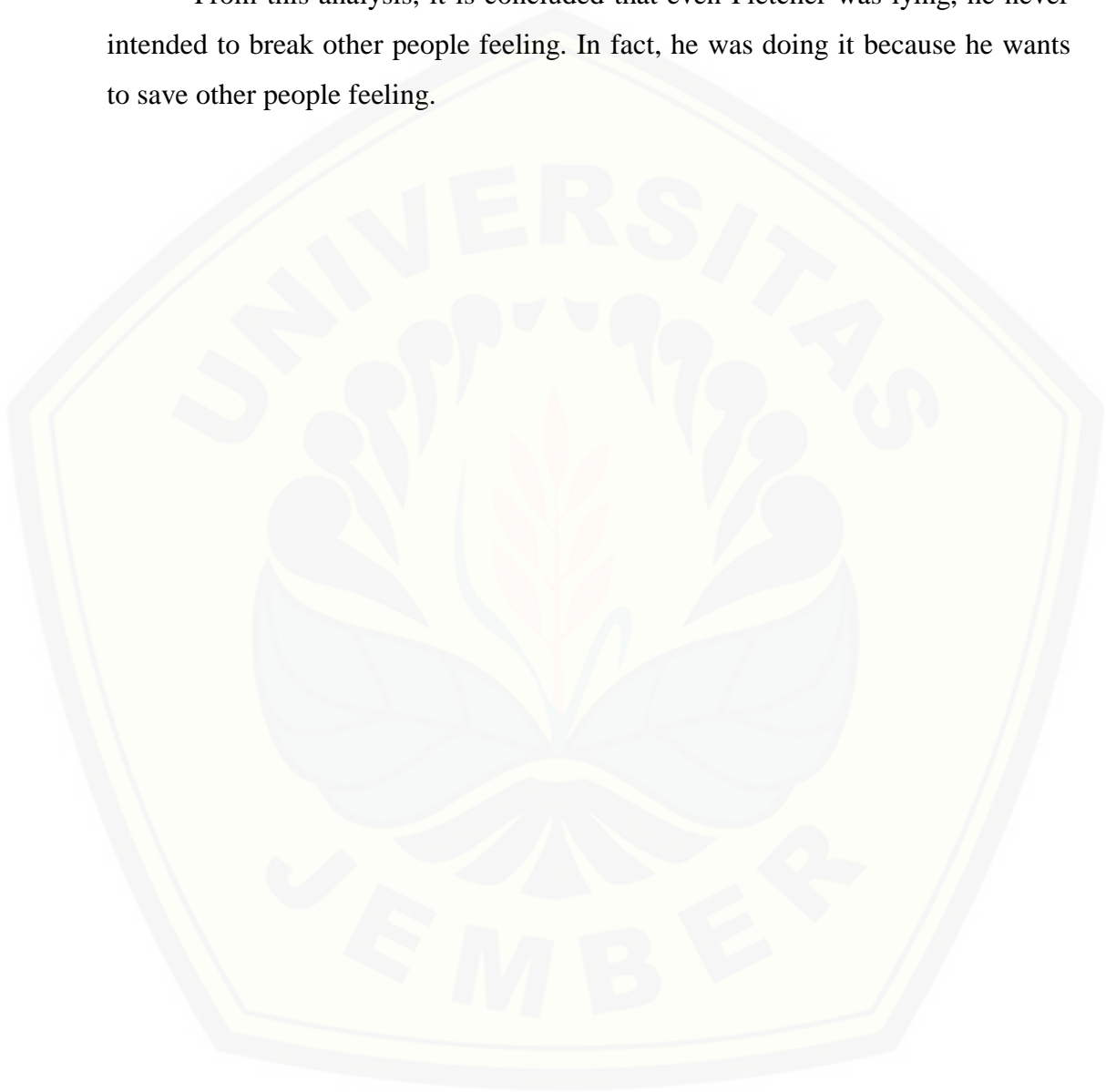
According to Lindsfold and Walters (1983), there are six categories why people had to tell lie to others. There are telling a lie to save others from minor hurt, shame, or embarrassment, telling a lie to protect yourself or another from punishment or disapproval for a minor failing or blunder which hurts no one, telling a lie that will influence others in an official position in such a way that you will gain by their response to you, but they will not be harmed, telling a lie to make yourself appear better than you really are or to protect some gain, acquired some time ago, to which you were not really entitled, telling a lie that, if successful, could cause others to do something that benefits you while, at the same time, harming themselves or causing themselves a loss and telling a lie that hurts someone else so that you can gain. Based on the result, only five categories of lying are found and no indication of telling a lie to hurt someone else so that you can gain something.

The result found that telling a lie to save others from minor hurt, shame, or embarrassment is the dominant category appearing in the dialogue. This category appears 8 times. Thus, it is assumed that the reason why Fletcher telling a lie has a good implication; that is because he does not want to break others' feelings. Moreover it is only found that one category that telling a lie that, if successful, could cause others to do something that benefits you while, at the same time, harming themselves or causing themselves a loss. This finding could strongly highlight that Fletcher's lies to others is dominantly intended to save other people's feeling.

In addition, the second dominant category is telling a lie to make yourself appear better than you really are or to protect some gain, acquired some time ago, to which you were not really entitled. This result really highlights that Fletcher wants to look better even he was lying. In this data, there are five dialogues showing this category. Meanwhile, the third dominant category is telling a lie to protect yourself or another from punishment or disapproval for a minor failing or blunder which hurts no one. This category wants to tell that Fletcher was lying because he was afraid of facing a bad judgment. The result

also shows that only two dialogues which show a category of telling a lie that will influence others in an official position in such a way that you will gain by their response to you, but they will not be harmed.

From this analysis, it is concluded that even Fletcher was lying, he never intended to break other people feeling. In fact, he was doing it because he wants to save other people feeling.



## BAB V

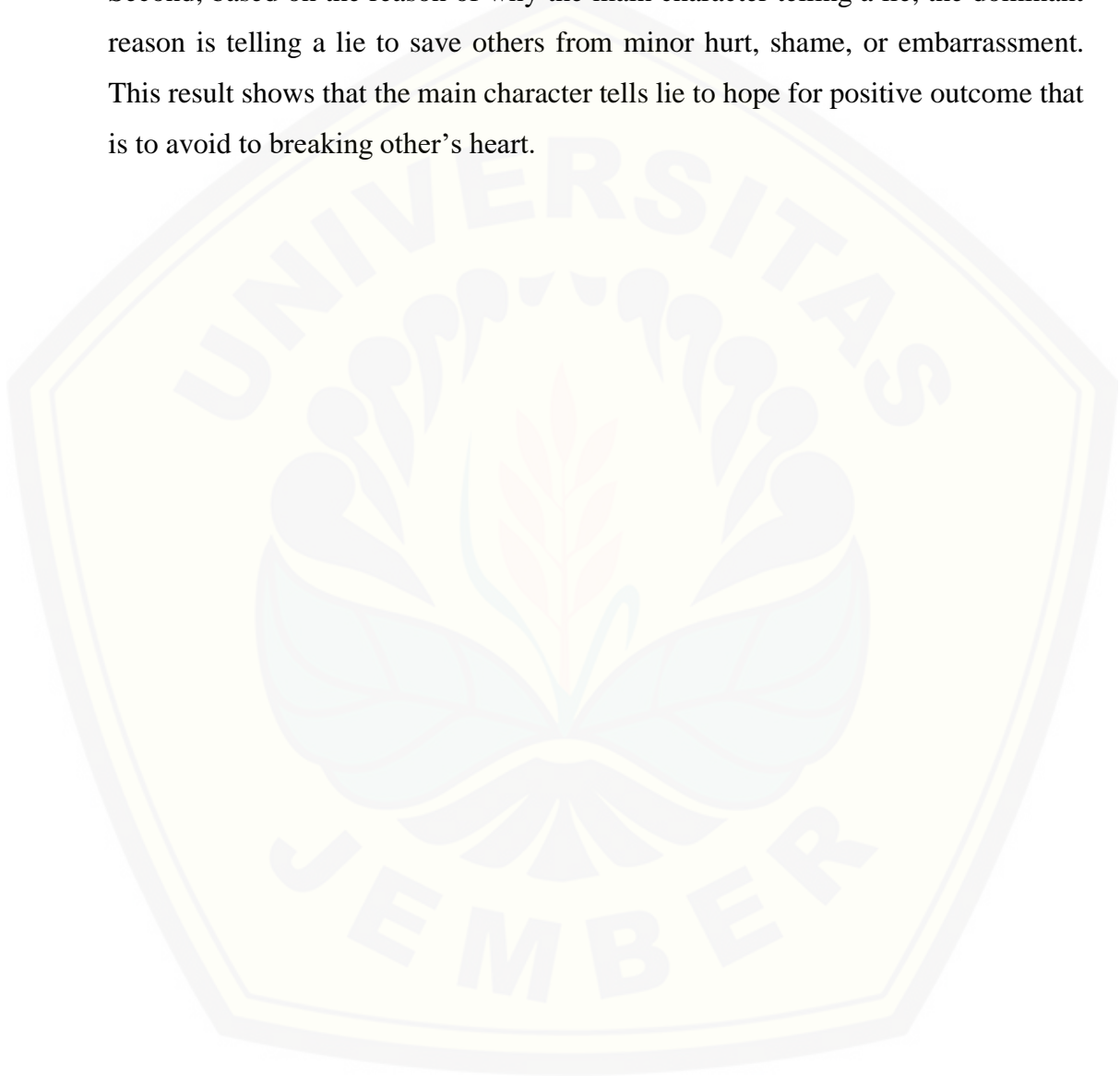
### CONCLUSION

This research aimed to analyze the maxim violations and the reason why the main character telling lies in *Liar Liar* movie. This research was qualitative research as the data was qualitative data. The data was some utterances in *Liar Liar* movie that contained maxims violations. Furthermore, the data was analyzed by using maxim and lying approach. The analysis wanted to answer some research questions namely: 1. what maxims were violated by the main character of *Liar Liar* film when he told lies? 2. What reasons were motivated the main character to tell lies?

The result showed that there were four maxims which were violated in this movie. The four maxims are maxim of quality, maxim of quantity, maxim of relevance, and maxim of manner. In this result, the dominant maxim violation is maxim of quality. It showed that all data which are categorized having maxim violation had maxim of quality violation. The interesting result also shows that there were single and multiple maxim violation which indicates that there are possibly more than one reasons of telling a lie in an utterance.

In addition, the result also revealed that there were some reasons that motivated the main character in telling a lie. To identify the reason, it used the category of lying theory based on Lindsfold and Walters (1983). Based on this theory, there are six categories of lying. However, this research only found five categories of lying in this research. The five categories are telling a lie to save others from minor hurt, shame, or embarrassment, telling a lie to protect yourself or another from punishment or disapproval for a minor failing or blunder which hurts no one, telling a lie that will influence others in an official position in such a way that you will gain by their response to you, but they will not be harmed, telling a lie to make yourself appear better than you really are or to protect some gain, acquired some time ago, to which you were not really entitled, and telling a lie that, if successful, could cause others to do something that benefits you while, at the same time, harming themselves or causing themselves a loss.

Based on the result, several findings were highlighted. First, as the dominant maxim violated was maxim of quality, this indicates that the main character often tells something based on untrue condition. Hence, it is assumed that the main character had symbolized the movie's title, namely Liar Liar Movie. Second, based on the reason of why the main character telling a lie, the dominant reason is telling a lie to save others from minor hurt, shame, or embarrassment. This result shows that the main character tells lie to hope for positive outcome that is to avoid to breaking other's heart.



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