FLOUTING AND HEDGING MAXIM PORTRAYED IN MICHELLE OBAMA'S INTERVIEW

THESIS

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ABSTRACT

Kanaza, F.U. (2021). *Flouting and Hedging Maxim Portrayed in Michelle Obama's Interview.* English Department, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Dr. A. Dzo'ul Milal, M.Pd.

Keywords: flouting maxim, hedging maxim, Michelle Obama's interview.

Obeying the cooperative principle is very important in defining the interpretation of meaning in communication, especially in real-life conversation. Yet, sometimes there will be many factors that push the speaker to disobey the maxim. Some of the ways for disobeying are flouting and hedging the maxims. Grice's theory is chosen to examine the flouting and hedging maxim. There are three problems to be solved in this study: (1) the types of flouting maxim done by Michelle Obama in her interview with Oprah Winfrey, (2) the types of hedging maxim done by Michelle Obama in her interview with Oprah Winfrey, and the last is (3) the reason why Michelle Obama flouted or hedged the maxim in her interview with Oprah Winfrey.

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method to analyze Michelle Obama's utterances as data of the study. As the main instrument, the researcher collected the data by searching, downloading, and identifying the transcript. After identifying the utterances, the researcher classified the types of flouting and hedging maxims done by Michelle Obama. Then, she counted the percentage of each type. The last step is identifying the reason why Michelle Obama flouted or hedged during her interview with Oprah Winfrey.

The result of this study shows that there are three types of flouting maxims found in 16 utterances. They are flouting the maxim of quantity (12), flouting the maxim of relation (2), flouting the maxim of manner (2). Flouting maxim of quality was not found in this data. Meanwhile, for the hedging maxim, all types of maxim were found in this study. There are hedging maxim of quality (7), hedging maxim of quantity (5), hedging maxim of relation (1), and hedging maxim of manner (1). Flouting maxim of quantity and hedging maxim of quality become the most dominant type found in the data. It represents that the speaker wants to avoid misinterpretation between the speaker and the hearer. This study also reveals the reasons for flouting and hedging maxim by Michelle Obama. There are giving a deeper explanation, giving an illustration, and showing something hard to explain. Giving a deeper explanation becomes the most frequently used reason by Michelle. It indicates that Michelle wants to be a very informative speaker in this interview.

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ABSTRAK

Kanaza, F.U. (2021). *Pelanggaran dan Penghindaran Maxim yang Digunakan dalam Wawancara Michelle Obama.* Program Studi Sastra Inggris, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Dr. A. Dzo'ul Milal, M.Pd.

Kata Kunci: pelanggaran maxim, penghindaran maxim, wawancara Michelle Obama.

Mematuhi prinsip kerjasama sangat penting dalam menentukan interpretasi arti dalam komunikasi, khususnya di percakapan dalam kehidupan nyata. Namun, terkadang akan ada banyak faktor yang mendorong pembicara untuk tidak mematuhi maxim. Beberapa cara untuk tidak mematuhinya adalah dengan melanggar dan menghindari maxim. Ada tiga rumusan masalah untuk diselesaikan dalam studi ini: (1) tipe-tipe pelanggaran maxim yang dilakukan oleh Michelle Obama dalam wawancaranya dengan Oprah Winfrey, (2) tipe-tipe penghindaran maxim yang dilakukan oleh Michelle Obama dalam wawancaranya dengan Oprah Winfrey, dan yang terakhir (3) alasan yang digunakan Michelle Obama untuk melanggar dan menghindari maxim dalam wawancaranya dengan Oprah Winfrey.

Studi ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis ucapan Michelle Obama sebagai data dari studi. Peneliti, sebagai instrument utama, mengumpulkan data dengan mencari, mengunduh, dan mengidentifikasi transkrip. Setelah mengidentifikasi ucapan-ucapan, peneliti mengklasifikasi tipe-tipe pelanggaran dan penghindaran maxim yang dilakukan oleh Michelle Obama. Kemudian, peneliti menghitung persentase dari masing-masing tipe. Langkah terakhir adalah mengidentifikasi alasan mengapa Michelle Obama melanggar atau menghindari maxim selama wawancaranya dengan Oprah Winfrey.

Hasil dari studi ini menunjukkan bahwa ada tiga tipe dari pelanggaran maxim yang ditemukan dalam 16 ucapan. Yaitu pelanggaran maxim *quantity* (12), pelanggaran maxim *relation* (2), dan pelanggaran maxim *manner* (2). Sedangkan untuk penghindaran maxim, semua tipe maxim ditemukan dalam studi ini. Yaitu penghindaran maxim *quality* (7), penghindaran maxim *quantity* (5), penghindaran maxim *relation* (1), serta penghindaran maxim *manner* (1). Pelanggaran maxim *quantity* dan penghindaran maxim *quality* menjadi tipe maxim yang paling dominan ditemukan dalam data. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa pembicara ingin menghindari kesalahan tafsir antara pembicara dan pendengar. Studi ini juga mengungkapkan alasan-alasan dari pelanggaran dan penghindaran maxim oleh Michelle Obama. Yaitu memberikan penjelasan yang lebih dalam, penggambaran ilustrasi, dan menunjukkan sesuatu yang sulit untuk dijelaskan. Alasan untuk memberikan penjelasan yang lebih dalam menjadi alasan yang paling banyak digunakan oleh Michelle. Hal ini mengindikasikan bahwa Michelle ingin menjadi pembicara yang sangat informatif dalam interview ini.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, problems of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

Language cannot be separated from society as the user of language itself. According to Wardhaugh (2006, p.1), "a society is any group of people who are drawn together for a certain purpose or purposes, while a language is what the members of a particular society speak." Pragmatics is the study of language and its context. Pragmatics sees linguistics from a different perspective by considering the additional meaning which might appear when someone is saying something. Therefore, we need to look at language more profoundly, either from the text and the speaker, to study pragmatics.

In pragmatics, the meaning of the language used in the conversation cannot be interpreted as literal meaning. Both the speaker and the hearer should consider the implicature which lay behind the utterances. Kroeger (2018) argues that "in Grice's terms, what is implicated is different from 'what is said.'"Considering the context and the situation based on our knowledge while conversing will influence the meaning that we got from that communication process.

Cooperative principles will help the speaker and the hearer get the message in a conversation. By observing the cooperative principles, the conversation will flow smoothly without any significant obstacles. The speaker

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will easily obey the maxim in conversation. It will affect the hearer to easily get the message implied behind the utterances which have been expressed.

But then, sometimes, we do not follow the maxims in some situations. Many factors may cause it. If this happens, it means that we do the non-observance maxims. There are four types of non-observance maxims. One of them is flouting the maxim. The flouting maxim occurs when the speaker blatantly failed to fulfill the maxim during the communication process. When someone is flouting the maxim, they will say something less or more informative, something untrue, something irrelevant, and ambiguous. It is based on the types of maxims flouted by the speaker.

Nevertheless, not all the speakers flout the maxim blatantly or overtly. Sometimes they want the hearer to be aware of their utterances that they are doing flouting maxim by saying some cautious hedges. Marlina (2019) opines that "The hedging maxims means that an addresser would like to signal his/her addressee how much he/she observes or obeys the maxims." Similar to Yule's statement in Liu (2020) that "hedges as conversational implication which can give the implicit meaning of utterances when people talk to each other." It is called a hedging maxim. In hedging maxim, some phrases are usually put in the beginning, middle, or even the end of the utterances to make them notice that the information given by the speaker is not fully obeying the maxim even though they already try to fulfill it. The use of hedges in hedging maxim increases the likelihood of a better acceptance (Al-Mudhafar, 2014).

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Flouting and hedging maxims can happen in many kinds of conversations. Different situations and contexts will also influence the occurrence of flouting and hedging maxims in communication. It does not matter if the conversation does not happen in real life, such as novels, movies, literary texts, or even real life, such as talk shows, interviews, debates, podcasts, and many others. All of them are possible to trigger the occurrence of flouting and hedging maxim. In addition, the different types of conversation will also influence the reason why the speaker flouted or hedged the maxims.

The researcher is interested in analyzing the flouting and hedging maxim by using Grice's theory from this phenomenon. According to Grice (1989, p.26), there are four types of maxims in conversational implicature. Those are maxim of quality, maxims of quantity, maxims of relation, and maxim of manner. The purpose of the maxim itself is to make our communication becomes easier. If the speaker and the hearer follow those maxims, the communication will be evident and meaningful. But, vice versa, if the speaker did not follow the maxim, then it might bring out a different message between the speaker and the hearer. The flouting and hedging maxim is divided into four. The types are as same as the maxim's types.

Before conducting the research, the researcher finds some previous studies related to the flouting maxim, hedging maxim, and Michelle Obama's interview as the data. Dewa (2017) conducted a study entitled *The Flouting and Hedging of Cooperative Principles by The Australian Witness in Jessica's Murder Trial (A Discourse Analysis Approach).* This thesis aims to identify the kinds of maxims

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flouted by the expert witness of this case. Then, this study also aims to elaborate on how the expert witness hedges the maxims.

As the data, Dewa (2017) used the utterances taken from Jessica's court trial. He applied the theory from Grice to analyze the flouting and hedging maxim. As a result, he found three types of flouting maxims. The flouting maxim of manner was not found in his analysis. Moreover, he found all kinds of hedging maxims. Overall, this study is good enough from the data, topics, and analyzing process. The data of this study was almost similar to the present research that is a kind of interview. But the context of the interview was different from this present research. The interview in the court trial tends to be more formal rather than in a talk show. Therefore, this present study wants to find whether there is any difference between these two circumstances. In addition, this present study also reveals the reason for the flouting and hedging maxim by the speaker, which is not found in Dewa's study.

Another research comes from Goretti (2014) under the title *The Gricean Cooperative Principle: Flouting and Hedging in the Conversations in Joseph Conrad's The Secret Agent*. This study aims to identify the kinds of conversational maxims flouted and/or hedged in the conversation in the novel. Then, the researcher also found the distribution of the flouting and hedging maxim. The last problem is to identify the speakers' possible reasons for flouting and hedging the maxims.

This study found all kinds of flouting and hedging maxims. Most of the flouting and hedging maxims were using metaphor as the most dominant figures

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of speech. The possible reason to flout and hedge the maxim in this study is politeness and emphasis towards the utterances. Even though the problem of the study is similar to this present study, the result will be different because Goretti's analysis was also applied the politeness strategy proposed by Leech. This present study only focuses on the flouting and hedging maxim. Moreover, the data of this study is novel. Meanwhile, this present research is analyzing the real-life conversation

Sulistyorini (2014) analyzed flouting and hedging maxims in the movie under the title *Maxim Flouting and Hedging of Cooperative Principles Applied by the Characters in the Movie Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels*. The focus of this study is to describe the types of the maxim of Cooperative Principle that are flouted and/or hedged by the characters and examine the ways of maxim flouting and hedging applied by the characters in the movie Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels. As a result, she found flouting the maxim of quantity and hedging the maxim of quality as the most frequently used by the speaker. The most dominant way to flout the maxim is an overstatement, while the most dominant way for hedging the maxim is using the hedges *well.* Again, this study was not aimed to find the reason why the maxims are flouted and hedged. In addition, this study also used the movie as the data, while this present research uses the interview transcript.

The fourth study comes from Syarifah (2015) entitled *A Study on Flouting and Hedging Maxims Used by the Main Characters on "Johnny English Reborn" Movie.* Similar to the previous study, this study also investigates how the maxims

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flouted and hedged by the speaker. Since the focus of this study is the way to flout and hedge the maxims, the reasons for doing the flouting and hedging maxims were not found here. Even more, the data is not a real-life conversation but a movie transcript.

The last previous study is *Pragmatic Analysis of Hedging on English Teacher's Talk in MA Nurul Tengaran (In the Academic Year 2017/2018)* by Rosalita (2017). This study aims to examine the types of hedging maxims and why the speaker did the hedging maxims. The speaker's most dominant type of maxim hedged is the hedging maxim of quality because the subject of this research wanted to give true information, true answer, or material with the example directly. The speaker also hoped that the utterances would be easy to understand by hedging the maxim. This present study has a similar research problem to Rosalita's. But it will be more complex because it will be combined by the flouting maxims, which is not found in Rosalita's research.

Moreover, some researches related to the flouting maxim have been done in various data, such as novel (Fitri & Qodriani, 2016; Sholikhah, 2018), movie (Burhan, 2013; Hidayati, 2015; Rizkiyah, 2017; Ulfah & Afrilia, 2018; Hamani & Puluhulawa, 2019; Sunggu & Afriana, 2020), and talk show (Saragi, 2016; Gustary & Dikramdhani, 2018; Aisya & Fitrawati, 2019). While there are also several studies which analyzed the hedging maxim in some kind of data such as movie (Napis, 2008; Rokhmania, 2012; Pujiasih, 2018) and literary text (Miššíková, 2008), From those several studies, as far as the researcher knows,

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none of them are using the interview transcript as the data, although people commonly do the interview.

Hence, this present study aims to bridge the gaps in some researches related to the pragmatic analysis, specifically flouting and hedging maxim, and the reason behind them. Since many kinds of research focus on the flouting and hedging maxim, none has been done to analyze the flouting and hedging maxim at once in the interview transcript as a real-life conversation. Moreover, the researcher found only one research investigates flouting and hedging maxim in real-life conversation as far as the researcher knows. Furthermore, that study didn't use the same data form as this present study. The context and the situation which happened in the conversation are different. It may result in the different findings of the analysis. The data of this present study is also still rarely used because the researcher is difficult to find an analysis of flouting and hedging maxim that used an interview transcript as the data.

As the data, the researcher uses Michelle Obama's interview with Oprah Winfrey's transcript. This interview happened in Brooklyn, New York, on 8th February 2020 in "Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour". As stated on the official website of Weight Watchers (weightwatchers.com), Michelle Obama, the former first lady and the author of the best-selling book entitled "Becoming" joined in this interview. Oprah Winfrey, as the host of "Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour", was talking to Michelle Obama, discussing some interesting topics, such as life after the White House, aging with confidence, and how to "go high" when others go low (weightwatchers.com, 2020).

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Furthermore, the person who becomes the data source of this research is a popular and well-known person by people worldwide. Michelle Obama still becomes popular even though her husband wasn't the United States of America president anymore. As the former first lady in the USA, it cannot be denied if many people admire Michelle Obama. Mainly, it is because everything she did during her reign gained the people's attention successfully. It is not only the American people but also the world's attention. It also becomes the social context that might appear in this interview. Even though the topic of the interview is mostly about the personal life of Michelle Obama, this interview still got much enthusiasm from the audience. It is depicted in the interview video, which also becomes the secondary data of this research.

It is also difficult to find the research that used Michelle Obama's interview as the data. If it's any, the data is in different forms, such as Michelle Obama's speech. Whereas Michelle often delivers a speech rather than being interviewed, many problems are brought out from the interview transcript. The utterances that she has spoken, the message that she has delivered, even the way she gave the feedback to the interviewer all are interesting to be analyzed.

This present research focuses on finding out the types of flouting and hedging maxims done by Michelle Obama in this interview. Then, the researcher also wants to investigate the reasons why Michelle Obama was flouting or hedging the maxim.

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1.2 Problems of the Study

1. What are the types of flouting maxims done by Michelle Obama in Michelle Obama's interview with Oprah Winfrey?
2. What are the types of hedging maxims done by Michelle Obama in Michelle Obama's interview with Oprah Winfrey?
3. Why does Michelle Obama flout or hedge the maxim in her interview with Oprah Winfrey?

1.3 Significance of the Study

Based on the study's objectives, the researcher hopes this study could enrich the readers' knowledge about pragmatics, especially flouting and hedging maxim. The researcher expects that all types of flouting and hedging maxims will be found in this study. Then, the reason why the speaker flouted and hedged the maxims will also be examined. From those results, this study will give new knowledge in the pragmatic field. Moreover, since the data is Michelle Obama's interview, the researcher hopes that the reader will understand that sometimes women flouted and hedged the maxims in every form of their conversation. This research will also evidence that sometimes flouting maxim is applied in semi-formal conversations such as interview sessions.

Furthermore, the researcher wants to raise the language awareness of the readers primarily related to pragmatics. Besides, the researcher wants to contribute to the development of linguistics by filling the niche of pragmatic study, which the previous researchers have not done. Last, the researcher hopes

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that this research can be used as references for other researchers who want to conduct a relevant study.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The researcher realizes that there are many kinds of interesting problems that can be discussed from the perspectives of pragmatics. Since it will be impossible for the researcher to analyze all of them, this research will focus on the analysis of cooperative principle as one of pragmatic focus. Specifically, the researcher examines the flouting and hedging maxims used by Michelle Obama in Michelle Obama's interview with Oprah Winfrey's transcript. The researcher will only focus on Michelle Obama in all her utterances since she was the interviewee in this interview. This research will not cover the others' utterances except Michelle Obama. Grice's theory will be applied to analyze the flouting and hedging maxim used by Michelle Obama in this interview.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid any misunderstanding and misinterpretation about the basic concept of the study, here the researcher explains the definition of key terms below:

Flouting maxims occurred when the speaker fails to fulfill a maxim in communication blatantly.

Hedging maxims appeared when the speaker used the hedges to aware the hearer that they were trying to follow the maxim.

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Michelle Obama is Barrack Obama's wife, the 44th President of the United States (2009-2017). She is an American lawyer, university administrator, and also writer.

An interview is a conversation between at least two people to gather information.

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CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents the theories and literature related to this study. The researcher provides the explanation to support answering the problem of the study written in the previous chapter.

2.1 Pragmatics

Pragmatics is one of the linguistics branches which study language and its contextual meaning. When we study pragmatics, we will focus on the meaning of the language based on the context behind it. It is because speakers frequently mean much more than their words actually say (Thomas, 2013). As Cruse (2006) stated, the central topics of linguistic pragmatics are those aspects of meaning depending on context. Studying the language from the perspective of pragmatics requires us to find the meaning from its literal words and consider the external factors as the context when the conversation happened. Hence, the function of the context in pragmatics is to elaborate on literal meaning.

There will be many factors that affect the way both of the speaker and the hearer have a conversation in communication. “Pragmatics is related to the study of meaning based on some factors such as speaker meaning, contextual meaning, listeners’ inference and even the expression” (Erlinda, 2019). The interaction between both of them may lead to many possibilities in producing the meaning within the utterances. “The speaker’s meaning is dependent on assumptions of knowledge that are shared by both speaker and hearer” (Cutting, 2002). Moreover, Cutting also added that the role of the speaker in conversation based on a

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pragmatic perspective is to construct the message and implies the meaning inside the utterances. Meanwhile, the hearer's part in interpreting the messages and infers the meaning is also essential.

Discussing pragmatics will be close to the relation between utterances and implicit meaning. When a speaker says their statement, there will be many possibilities implicit meaning which lay behind. The interpretation of those implicit meanings will depend on the knowledge of the hearer. A different person can have different interpretations even they listen to the same utterances by the same speaker. In pragmatics, we try to make explicit the implicit knowledge that guides us in selecting interpretations (Birner, 2013). Therefore, through pragmatics, we will know about selecting interpretations towards language meaning in conversation.

Horn and Ward (2006) proposed six domains of pragmatics. There are implicature, presuppositions, speech acts, reference, deixis, and the last are definiteness and indefiniteness. One of the domains is implicature. It is related to the implicit meaning which being talk about in the previous paragraph. Implicature is a component of speaker meaning that constitutes an aspect of what is meant in a speaker's utterance without being part of what is said (Horn & Ward, 2006, p.3). Implicature shows that what is being intended by the speaker is far richer than what is being expressed.

Grice proposed two kinds of implicature in pragmatics. They are conventional implicature and conversational implicature. The difference between these two types is in the context. The implicature is conventional implicature is

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always conveyed, regardless of context. Meanwhile, in conversational implicature, the implicature is according to the context of the utterances (Thomas, 2013).

In conclusion, we can simply define pragmatics as the study of language and its contextual meaning. There will be many factors to be considered in analyzing the meaning in conversation based on pragmatics. It also can be affected by the knowledge of the speaker and the hearer while having a conversation.

2.2 Cooperative Principle

One famous philosopher, H. P. Grice, proposed the cooperative principle in his work entitled *Logic and Conversation*, published in 1975. Through this book, Grice introduces his theory as the thing which rises from conversational implicature in pragmatics. Grice argues that there must be some principles that should be followed by the speaker when they're having a conversation. "By participating in a conversation, a speaker implicitly signals that they agree to co-operate in the joint activity, to abide by the rules, as it were" (Cruse, 2000, p.355). Grice in Yule (1996, p.37) proposed a set of cooperative principles that functioned to make your conversational contribution such as required, at the stage at which it occurs, by the accepted purpose or direction of the talk exchange in which it appears you are engaged. Cruse (2000, p.355) explains that this principle is elaborated through a set of maxims, which spell out what it means to co-operate conversationally.

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Grice's cooperative principle is built from four maxims which become the guide in the process of communication. The first is the maxim of quality. The rule of this maxim is to tell the truth. "Do not make unsupported statements" (Cruse, 2000, p.355). The speaker should be honest when they're saying their utterances to the hearer. They should have the reason that the hearer can trust their information. Logically, this maxim is a good guide in communication because when we communicate with someone, it will be unsatisfactory if one of us is saying a lie. But, we cannot deny that in some cases, lying is better than telling the truth.

The second is the maxim of quantity. This "deals with the amount of information presented" (Cruse, 2006, p.101). In this maxim, "do not say too much, do not say too little" (Meyer, 2009, p.56). Here, this maxim guides us to be as fit as the speaker expected. It means that we just need to talk sufficiently. If we know everything about the topic or comprehend all of the knowledge, it has nothing to do with the question we have to answer or the statement we have to answer. Just assume that the question or the statement spoke to us is the limitation of how far we can answer or respond to it. All we need is just "make our contribution as informative as is required" (Grice, 1975, p.45).

Next is the maxim of relation. This maxim is quite apparent that we have to be relevant when we create a conversation. "The truth of a statement is no guarantee than it is an appropriate contribution to a conversation: it must also connect suitably with the rest of the conversation" (Cruse, 2006, p,102). From this statement, we can conclude that the relevance of our answer as a response to

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someone's question or statement is essential. The conversation is aimed to gather information or clarify an issue. If we don't be relevant, then the goal of the communication cannot be reached.

The last one is the maxim of manner. Grice proposed some rules related to this maxim which are "avoid obscurity, ambiguity, unnecessary prolixity, and be orderly" (Grice, 1975, p.46). We have to "be perspicuous" (Mey, 2001, p.72). In conversation, sometimes, we have to think well before we talk. We have to choose the right words which can be the correct representation of our intended meaning. In maxim of manner, our utterances should be clear and brief. Even though we say a sentence only, but if it is quite clear, then it is better than say a paragraph of a sentence with a lot of ambiguity inside.

In summary, the cooperative principle is created by H. P. Grice to make the conversation in human communication can successfully reach the goal. He proposed four types of manner that guide us in uttering our discussion. Maxim of quality is related to the truth of the information. Maxim of quantity is related to the quality of the information. Maxim of relation is related to the relevancy of the information. Meanwhile, the maxim of manner is related to the clarity of the information.

2.3 Flouting Maxim

In conversation, it is impossible if we never make a mistake when communicating with others. Birner (2013, p.42) mentioned some ways the speaker could behave concerning the cooperative principle. Those ways are to observe the maxims, violate a maxim, flout a maxim, and opt-out of the maxims.

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One of them is flouting a maxim. “To flout a maxim is also to violate it, but in this case, the violation is so intentionally blatant that the hearer is expected to be aware of the violation” (Birner, 2013, p.43).

The other way in which implicatures arise is through deliberate flouting of the maxims in the circumstances in which (a) it is obvious to the hearer that the maxims are being flouted, (b) it is obvious to the hearer if the speaker intends the hearer to be aware that the maxims are being flouted, and (c) there are no signs that the speaker is opting out of the co-operative principle. (Cruse, 2000, p.360)

“A flout occurs when a speaker blatantly fails to observe a maxim at the level of what is said, with the deliberate intention of generating an implicature” (Thomas, 2013, p.65). According to Thomas (2013, p.65), someone may be flouting a maxim because they want the hearer to find a meaning that is different from the uttered meaning. In this case, the speaker seems to try to trigger the hearer to find the intended meaning of the speaker’s utterances. Based on the types of the maxim, the flouting maxim is also divided into four types. The explanations are as follows:

2.3.1 Flouting Maxim of Quality

“Flouts which exploit the maxim of Quality occur when the speaker says something which is blatantly untrue or for which he or she lacks adequate evidence” (Thomas, 2013, p.67). When a speaker is flouting the maxim of quality, they will clearly say that they do not have strong evidence that the utterances they said to the hearer are the truth. In this case, the speaker wants the hearer to find

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out the truth from another source. Sometimes, the speaker also uses some terms of figurative language, as explained by Cruse (2006). For examples:

a. There should be some reasons why he did it.

b. I have no evidence to prove that she is the cheater.

c. My new barbie doll wants her bag.

2.3.2 Flouting Maxim of Quantity

" A flout of the maxim of quantity occurs when a speaker blatantly gives more or less information than the situation requires" (Thomas, 2013, p.69). In flouting the maxim of quantity, the speaker shows less or more information to the hearer. They do not explain it in detail, but they did it consciously. The examples are:

Rose: "Where is mom? Where did she go?"

Marie: "She goes somewhere."

From this example, Marie answered Rose's question but with less information about the place that mom goes to. Marie has flouted a maxim of quantity in this conversation by giving Rose an answer with less information.

2.3.3 Flouting Maxim of Relation

"The maxim of relation ('be relevant') is exploited by making a response or observation which is very obviously irrelevant to the topic in hand" (Thomas, 2013, p.70). Sometimes, we feel uncomfortable with the topic of the conversation. We may show it by changing the topic discussion into another thing. Another case

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is when we talk about something, but we feel uncomfortable with the circumstances. For instance:

You are in the dining room enjoy your dinner time with your family. They are talking about their plan to go to a music concert this weekend. You feel ignored and uncomfortable with the situation because you cannot join them. You have to attend your school's study tour this weekend. Your mom asks you, "Do you want us to record the whole concert, honey? So, you can see it after we go home." Then you say, "Who wants the last piece of this pizza? I wish I could make my pizza. Who wants to teach me how to make it?"

From the example above, the speaker blatantly shows that she wants to change the topic of the discussion. The implicature may be, "Please, stop it. Your offering tends to quip me instead of giving me the solution to see the concert."

2.3.4 Flouting Maxim of Manner

Maxim of manner is related to ambiguity and obscurity. When someone's flouting the maxim of manner, there is a possibility that the hearer must, therefore, look for another explanation from the speaker because they blatantly speak ambiguously. "The important thing to note in each of the foregoing cases is that it is the very blatancy of the non-observance which triggers the search for an implicature" (Thomas, 2013, p.72). For example:

A mom is cooking with her 5-years-old daughter. They want to make a black forest cake. Then, the mom said to her daughter, "Please give me a cup of baking powder."

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From this case, the mom is flouting the maxim of manner because she said something ambiguous to her daughter. A 5-years-old child is almost impossible to know what backing powder is. But her mom is asking her to give that kind of thing to her. These utterances may trigger a question from the child. It can be "Which one is the backing powder, mom?".

2.4 Hedging Maxim

Hedges can be the cautious notes which show that a speaker was flouting the maxims. Hedges expresses a speaker in their utterance to show that they are aware of maxims of Cooperative Principles but not fully observing it (Sulistyorini, 2014, p.28). It is called a hedging maxim. Similar to the flouting maxim, the type of hedging maxim also divided into four types; the hedging maxim of quality, hedging maxim of quantity, hedging maxim of relation, and hedging maxim of manner. More than that, as Grundy stated in Rozaqoh (2016, p.19) that hedges are markers tied to the expectation of the maxim of quantity, quality, manner, and relevance. Moreover, she also added that hedges could be included in the maxim itself when the information of someone's utterances is not entirely accurate. However, it is still informative, relevant, and also well found.

2.4.1 Hedging Maxim of Quality

Hedging the maxim of quality appeared when someone tried to fulfill the maxim of quality, but they were not really sure about the hearer's utterances. The importance of the maxim of quality interaction in English may be best measures by the number of expressions we use to indicate that what we're saying may not

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be totally accurate (Yule, 1996, p.38). For example, "*Well, she is his wife, but I'm not sure."* The word *well* and *I'm not sure* indicate that the speaker doesn't seem sure about their statement. These hedges become the symbol of those kinds of uncertainties. Moreover, Yule (1996) mentioned some other phrases related to hedging maxim of quality, such as *as far as I know, I may be mistaken, I guess, I probably*, and so on.

2.4.2 Hedging Maxim of Quantity

Through this hedging maxim of quantity, the speaker tried to show the hearer that they cannot give the required answer as needed. It may be caused by the limited knowledge or unpleasant situation that does not support the speaker to answer. Dewa (2017) stated that the assertion of personal opinion also could be the indicator as to the hedges that the information given by the speaker is limited. Some of those hedges as personal opinions are, *to some extent, more or less, basically*, etc.

For instance, *"So, in short*, I decided to buy this expensive car." The italic phrase indicates that the speaker cut some information that actually should be explained to the hearer. It shows that they were flouting the maxim of quantity that they should speak as informative as required. If the speakers delete some information, it means that they are not informative as they should be.

2.4.3 Hedging Maxim of Relation

In hedging the maxim of relation, the speaker is trying to stop the previous topic and move to the next topic in conversation, but they still want the hearer to

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be aware of it. The speaker tied the previous into the next topic by using some phrases of hedges. For example, *"Oh, by the way*, do you want a scoop of ice cream?" The phrase *oh, by the way*, shows that the speaker is changing the topic of the conversation. They talk about something which is not related to the previous topic from the interlocutor. It means that the speaker hedged the maxim of relation.

Other phrases of hedges used to hedge the maxim of relation are *well, anyway, not to change the subject, I don't know if this is important,* etc. By applying these hedges, the speaker will not be considered as saying something irrelevant Sulistyorini (2014). Usually, these hedges were applied in the middle of the conversation. It is because the speaker tries to switch the topic by using the hedges as the initial phrases.

2.4.4 Hedging Maxim of Manner

In hedging the maxim of manner, the speaker is conscious that their utterances will be obscure or ambiguous. It may lead the hearer into confusion. Therefore, the speaker puts the hedges as the marker to aware the hearer. So that the hearer will realize that the speaker is trying to observe the maxim even though their utterances are failed to fulfill it.

One of the examples is, "*This may be a bit confusing*, but I saw him at the airport an hour before I met him in the park." The initial phase of this sentence expresses that the speaker is saying something ambiguous to the hearer. They know that this sentence might be confusing the hearer because the information is unclear, so they use this phrase. Another example of hedges for this hedging

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maxim are *if you know what I mean, I don't know if this is clear at all, I'm not sure if this makes sense.* All of these examples of hedges are good indications that the speakers are not only aware of the maxims but that they want to show that they are trying to observe them (Yule, 1996, p.39)

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CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter contains the research method. It consists of research design, data collection, and data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

A descriptive qualitative research design was applied in this present research. Qualitative research is concerned with structures and patterns, and how something is (Litosseliti, 2010, p.52). Qualitative usually analyzes a phenomenon without measuring it based on numbers or scale. It's in line with Wray & Bloomer, who stated that by definition, qualitative approaches entail description and analysis rather than, for instance, counting elements (2006, p.97). The premises of qualitative research are based on inductive rather than logical reasoning. The researcher tries to explain the phenomenon by using observable aspects that generate questions (Williams, 2007). While as Borg & Gall (1989) cited in AECT (2001) stated that descriptive studies are aimed at finding out "what is," so observational and survey methods are frequently used to collect descriptive data. From the quotation above, this present research particularly applied a descriptive qualitative research design since the data was analyzed, interpreted, and explained descriptively.

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3.2 Data Collection

Data collection steps, including research data, data source and subject of the study, research instrument, and data collection techniques, are explained in this sub-chapter.

3.2.1 Research Data

The researcher used the transcript of Michelle Obama's interview with Oprah Winfrey as primary data. The data is in Michelle Obama's utterances, including words, phrases, clauses, and sentences that contain flouting and hedging maxims. The researcher only focused on Michelle Obama's utterances only as of the data of this research.

3.2.2 Data Source and Subjects of the Study

The data transcript as the primary data was taken from the official website of Weight Watchers. Here is the link to the website:

https://www.weightwatchers.com/us/ambassadors/oprah/tour/michelle-obama

As the researcher already stated before, the researcher only focused on Michelle Obama's utterances only as of the subject of this research. Here, Oprah Winfrey has interviewed Michelle in Brooklyn, New York. This interview originally aired on 8th February 2020, as stated on Weight Watchers' official website (weightwatchers.com, 2020, para. 1). Here, Oprah Winfrey, as the host of "Oprah's 2020 Vision Tour," talked about life after the White House, how to "go high" when others go low, and how to "age with confidence."

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Michelle La Vaughn Robinson is the wife of Barack Obama, the 44th president of the USA. She is the first African-American First Lady of the USA, as same as her husband. She has two children, Malia and Sasha. She was graduated from Princeton University and Harvard Law School in 1988 (biography.com, 2020, para. 7). During her position as the USA's first lady, Michelle has created some social communities such as *Let's Move!*, *Joining Forces*, *Reach Higher*, and *Let Girls Learn.* She also wrote some books, and the newest is her memoir entitled *Becoming* (whitehouse.gov). This book also becomes the topic of this interview. Here, Michelle Obama is the interviewee, and Oprah Winfrey is the interviewer. Michelle's answers to Oprah's questions as a first lady, a wife, a mom, and a public figure were very interesting to be analyzed because, as a famous person, she has to be careful in delivering some statements to the public. Therefore, she did some flouting and hedging maxim during this interview. Hence, the researcher decides to focus on Michelle Obama's utterances as the research data.

3.2.3 Research Instrument

The main instrument of this present research was the researcher herself. She collected and analyzed the data, which is the transcript of Michelle Obama's interview with Oprah Winfrey by herself. As the key instrument, she searched, downloaded, read, identified, classified, counted, analyzed, interpreted and concluded the research findings by herself.

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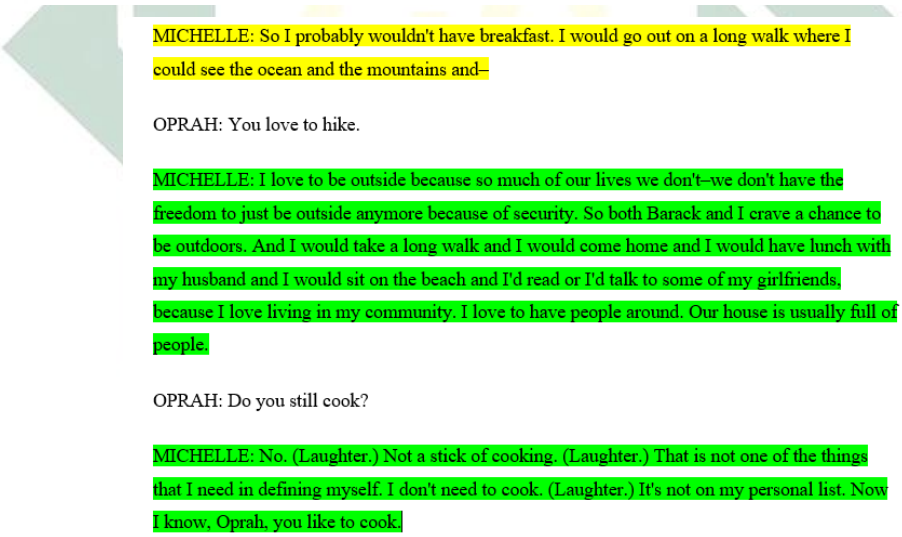
3.2.4 Data Collection Techniques

The researcher did some steps to collect the data. The steps are as follows:

1. Searching and downloading the transcript of Michelle Obama's interview with Oprah Winfrey that has been chosen before from the Weight Watchers official website (weightwatchers.com).
2. Reading the interview transcript.
3. Identifying by highlighting the utterances of Michelle Obama, which included flouting and hedging the maxims. The flouting maxim was highlighted in green, while the hedging maxim is highlighted in yellow.



MICHELLE: So I probably wouldn't have breakfast. I would go out on a long walk where I could see the ocean and the mountains and–

OPRAH: You love to hike.

MICHELLE: I love to be outside because so much of our lives we don't–we don't have the freedom to just be outside anymore because of security. So both Barack and I crave a chance to be outdoors. And I would take a long walk and I would come home and I would have lunch with my husband and I would sit on the beach and I'd read or I'd talk to some of my girlfriends, because I love living in my community. I love to have people around. Our house is usually full of people.

OPRAH: Do you still cook?

MICHELLE: No. (Laughter.) Not a stick of cooking. (Laughter.) That is not one of the things that I need in defining myself. I don't need to cook. (Laughter.) It's not on my personal list. Now I know, Oprah, you like to cook.

Figure 3.1 The Example of Selected Data

3.3 Data Analysis

The researcher used several steps for analyzing the data. The techniques of data analysis are as follows:

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1. Identifying data

The researcher identified the utterances of Michelle Obama in the transcript based on Lakoff's theory related to women's language features and Grice's theory about flouting maxim. This step focused on Michelle Obama's utterances which contain all women's language features and flouting maxims. The researcher marked the word or phrase which is included in women's language features and flouting maxims. Besides, the researcher used some codes to make the identifying process more effective and efficient. The codes are as follows:

Table 3.1 Types of Flouting Maxim

No	Types of flouting the maxim	Definition	Codes
1.	Flouting maxim of quality	Blatantly say something untruth.	FQl
2.	Flouting maxim of quantity	Blatantly say more or less informative than it should be.	FQn
3.	Flouting maxim of relation	Blatantly say something irrelevant	FRe
4.	Flouting maxim of manner	Blatantly say something ambiguous.	FMa

Table 3.2 Types of Hedging Maxim

No	Types of flouting the maxim	Definition	Codes
1.	Flouting maxim of quality	Consciously say something unsure using the hedges.	HQl
2.	Flouting maxim of quantity	Consciously say something limited than is required using the hedges.	HQn
3.	Flouting maxim of relation	Consciously say something irrelevant using the hedges	HRe
4.	Flouting maxim of manner	Consciously say something ambiguous using the hedges.	HMa

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2. Classifying data

The researcher classified the data based on each type of flouting and hedging maxims. The researcher used a table to make the classifying process to be more organized. The table was used to identify the utterances consist of flouting and hedging maxims done by Michelle Obama. The table consists of numbers, Michelle Obama's utterances, the types of flouting or hedging maxims. The table is as follows:

Table 3.3 The Classification of Flouting and Hedging Maxims

No	Michelle Obama's utterances	Types of Flouting Maxims				Types of Hedging Maxims			
		FQl	FQn	FRe	FMa	HQl	HQn	HRe	Hma

3. Counting

After getting each number of the women's language features found in the flouting maxim, the researcher counted each type's percentage to know the comparison among each feature.

4. Analyzing

After all those steps, the researcher analyzed how the way Michelle Obama flouted and hedged the maxims. The researcher paid attention to the utterances included in the flouting and hedging maxims. Then she analyzed the role of the existence of women's language features in those utterances.

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5. Interpreting

The next step is interpreting. After finding the utterances that concluded the women's language features and flouting maxim, the researcher analyzed why Michelle Obama flouted and hedged the maxim.

6. Concluding

The final step is concluding the result of this research based on the analyzing process above to answer the statement of the problem in this research.

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CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

This chapter contains the findings and discussion of this research. This chapter aims to answer the problems of study about flouting and hedging maxim portrayed by Michelle Obama in her interview with Oprah Winfrey.

4.1 Findings

This study presents the results of the data analysis. The researcher found 15 utterances that show the flouting maxim uttered by Michelle Obama in her interview with Oprah Winfrey. The kinds of flouting maxims based on Grice's theory that is found in this data are flouting the maxim of quantity (12), flouting the maxim of relation (2), and flouting the maxim of manner (2). Meanwhile, the kinds of hedging maxims which appeared in this data are hedging maxim of quality (8), hedging maxim of quantity (4), hedging maxim of relation (1), and hedging maxim of manner (1). Furthermore, the researcher found the second finding is about how Michelle Obama flouted and hedged the maxims. The third finding is about the reason why Michelle Obama flouted and hedged the maxims in this conversation. The data analysis is as follows:

4.1.1 Flouting Maxim

The occurrence of flouting maxim and its percentage is presented in this table below:

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Table 4.1 Flouting Maxim

No	Types of flouting the maxim	Occurrence	Percentage
1.	Flouting maxim of quality	-	0%
2.	Flouting maxim of quantity	12	75%
3.	Flouting maxim of relation	2	12,5%
4.	Flouting maxim of manner	2	12,5%
Total		16	100%

The analysis of the occurrence of flouting maxim done by Michelle Obama is explained as follows:

4.1.1.1 Flouting Maxim of Quantity

Hedges and flouting the maxim of quantity is found 12 times during the interview. The explanation is as follows:

Datum 1

Oprah: "Whoo, sister, does this feel like deja vu all over again for you? Because you were here wearing those fab *Balenciaga* gold boots."
Michelle: "Yeah, *Barack is, like, where are those boots? He's, like, what did you do with those boots? I was, like, they're put away, honey, just settle down."*

These utterances show that Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity. Michelle answered Oprah's question about her gold Balenciaga boots and added the required answer with her story. Oprah talked about Michelle's experience, who ever came to Oprah's event by wearing Michelle's *Balenciaga* gold boots. Then, Oprah was asking did Michelle feel *de javu* that she ever came here with those boots. Otherwise, she answered Oprah and added some explanation about Barrack Obama's question related to those boots. The answer "Yeah" initially was

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enough for this question because Oprah did not talk about Barrack's response towards those boots.

Michelle Obama's additional information here is about her story related to her Boots and her husband, Barrack Obama. Here Michelle, as the interviewee, wanted to share her story with the hearer, including Oprah and the audience. Michelle gave the illustration to the audience through this information. She explained this answer wider because she wanted to illustrate her story to the hearer. Therefore, Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity here to give an illustration to the hearer.

Datum 2

Oprah: "And it's not always easy. What I wanted to ask you about that, in this climate where low has taken new lows, how do you maintain a high and not appear to be passive and not lose your equilibrium? Because low has gone lower."
Michelle: "*Yeah. Well, because going low is easy. Which is why people go to it. It's easy to go low. It's easy to lead by fear. It's easy to be divisive. It's easy to make people feel afraid. That's the easy thing. And it's also the short-term thing. And for me, you know, what I learned from my husband, what I learned in eight years at the White House, is that this life, this world, our responsibility in it, is so much bigger than us.*"

In this part, Oprah was asking about how Michelle Obama maintained a high and did not appear to be passive and not lose her equilibrium in this climate. So, Oprah focused on the way how Michelle did it. But, Michelle did not answer Oprah's question about maintaining a high and not appearing to be passive and not lose her equilibrium. She tends to answer about what is going low itself. She explained first about going low itself first before giving the answer that is required. She focused on explaining what is going low itself and why many people are easy to be experienced. In short, Michelle flouted the maxim of

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quantity in this part of the conversation because she gives a broader answer related to the question.

Because of that explanation, Michelle was flouting the maxim of quantity. It is aimed to give a deeper explanation related to what is going low itself. Therefore, by explaining first within her answer, Michelle tried to provide a more precise answer so the message she implied would be well-received by the hearer. Not only Oprah but also the audience. Thus, Michelle flouted the maxim here is for giving a deeper explanation to the reader.

Datum 3

Oprah: "You don't follow them on social media?"
Michelle: "*Oh, no, no, no. We have a lot of people who do, you know. (Laughter.) No, I'm serious. We have my Communications Director. Every not–all the young people in our lives that I mentored, they all follow the girls. You know, they're brothers and sisters who are grown. It's like they're watching. And they're the ones because it's better for them to be checked by somebody other than me. I also had to learn how to parent with a balance of kids who have Secret Service. Right? What am I saying? You don't know what I'm talking about. Right? (Laughter.)*"

Michelle gave much additional information to answer this question. Oprah was only asking about whether Michelle follows her daughters on social media or not. But she did not only answer Oprah's question but also explained it more. She added the explanation about her communication director, secret service, and many more. Michelle is just actually needed to answer it with yes or no. That is enough. But she did not do that. Actually, we can conclude that her answer is no. But more than that, she explained why she did not follow her daughters on social media without any question from Oprah about it. Hence, Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity here.

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Here Michelle elaborated the information given to the hearer. She provided the answer more than the question needed. Her explanation about the communication director and the secret service could be some not common terms for the hearer. Therefore, she did not only mention the terms but also gave a brief explanation about them. So, Michelle did the flouting maxim here to give deeper information to the hearer.

Datum 4

Oprah: "Is it more so now, 28 years, as opposed to earlier years? So does it just keep getting better? It's more seasoned? It's–"
Michelle: "*It's all of that. You know, and this is what I try to tell young people. Marriage is hard. And raising a family together is a hard thing. It takes its toll. But if you're with the person, if you know why you were with them, you know? You understand that there was a friendship and a foundation there, this may–it may feel like it goes away during some of those hard times, but it's–it's something that you can–that we always come back to. And we're coming back to that point where we see each other again. You know? Because some of the hardest times in our lives we just–we just escaped it. We survived it. Now, we went through a tough time. We did some hard things together. And now we're out on the other end. And I can look at him and I still recognize my husband. He's still the man that I fell in love with. Who I value–"*

Again, Michelle answered the question from Oprah with much more additional information rather than is required. Oprah's question actually already provided the answer for Michelle. Michelle was just needed to choose one of them. But she did not. Michelle did not only explain her marriage life after 28 years but also gave some tips for young people to choose a life partner. It is, of course, much more than the beginning question about her marriage life. Therefore, Michelle was flouting the maxim of quantity here.

Michelle gave the complete answer through these utterances. She did not only answer Oprah's question but also explain it in a deeper way. She describes

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what she felt during her marriage life to the hearer. She also wanted to give some messages for young people about marriage life based on what she had experienced during these 28 years with Barrack Obama. Therefore, through this flouting maxim, Michelle provided the audience with information by giving a deeper explanation.

Datum 5

Oprah: "I love that. You have been around women–we all have–and men, too, like I'm not gonna say the number. And oh, my gosh, I'm turning 40. Oh, my gosh, I'm turning 50. You never had any of that?"
Michelle: "*We are so ridiculous as women. You know? We are working with–we were struggling with so much. You know, just the notion, too–the other thing we don't want to talk about our age and then we want to act like we should look like we did when we're 20. You know? When I'm sorry, men, y'all can look any kind of way. You know? And it seems to be okay. It's–I told my daughters, because they're getting older, they start to judge themselves. And, you know, it's interesting when they talk about, well, I couldn't fit in my jeans that I had last year. And I said, but you're a whole other year older. You're now becoming a woman. You don't have a child's body. That's like saying at 20 I'm really upset that I couldn't wear my favorite overalls anymore when I was 10, you know? That is ridiculous at 56 to think that I should look like I did when I was 36. Or for anyone to judge me like that. Or to judge a woman like that. We–we're aging. And our bodies are–*

Oprah was asking about some people who feel uncomfortable when they said their age to other people. But here, Michelle did not directly answer it with yes or no. Otherwise, she told Oprah about her experience when her daughters also feel that. That's too much for answering Oprah's question about herself, not about her daughter. Hence, Michelle was flouting the maxim of quantity because she gave the answer more than required.

Michelle implied that she wanted to give the answer as clear as she can from these long and complete answer. So that she explained it not only about her daughter who ever felt the feeling asked by Oprah, but also tried to speak up her

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thought about this kind of thing. It is because she thought that this kind of feeling is not good for women. It makes them felt insecure and not confident. Therefore, she tried to express her thoughts to the audience by giving a deeper explanation about this topic.

Datum 6

Oprah: "Do you still cook?"
Michelle: "No. (Laughter.) *Not a stick of cooking. (Laughter.) That is not one of the things that I need in defining myself. I don't need to cook. (Laughter.) It's not on my personal list. Now I know, Oprah, you like to cook."*

In this question, Oprah asked Michelle to make sure whether she still cooked or not. It would be enough if Michelle answered it with yes or no only. After that, maybe Oprah will ask her further questions. But, Michelle gave a complete answer here. She also explained why she did not cook anymore. Moreover, she also stated her opinion that she thought Oprah likes to cook even though this is not required to answer the question from Oprah. In short, Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity here.

This part also shows that Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity for giving her audience a deeper explanation. Michelle represented that she really does not like cooking in these utterances. She explained much more than needed to convince the hearer about her statement.

Datum 7

Oprah: "Watch TV. But what is your favorite TV show?"
Michelle: "*Oh, I have a lot of favorite TV shows. I love Black-ish and Grown-ish and all the ishes. I love comedy. You know, I started watching Schitt's Creek on Netflix. Hilarious. It's kind of a takeoff–a modern-day takeoff of Green Acres. For young people, that was a show that was on a long time ago."*

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Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity in these utterances. This answer is suitable with Oprah's question, but Michelle gave it more information than required. Michelle answered about her favorite TV shows such as "Black-ish and Grownish and all the ishes" and "Schitt's Creek." But Michelle also added some additional information about a simple description of those TV shows. She was like explaining the reason why she likes those kinds of TV shows. Oprah was not asking for that. So, Michelle did the flouting maxim of quantity here.

In this situation, Michelle is the interviewee. So, she wanted to answer the question from the interviewer as detail as she can. Michelle felt excited to explain it about her favorite TV show because she said that she had a lot of favorite TV show. That is why she added some additional information about a simple or brief description of her favorite TV show. So, the audience and Oprah would know what kind of TV show she likes and imagine what that favorite TV show looks like. Therefore, Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity here to illustrate her story related to her favorite TV shows.

Datum 8

Oprah: "Okay. Who's the most fun to sit next to at a State dinner?"
Michelle: "*Stephen Colbert was a fun dinner date because he's so cute and charming and he's smart, so he actually knows what's going on, so–and he'll say things in your ear, you know, that are, like, stop it. We're not supposed to be laughing. So he was a lovely dinner date. And I don't think he knew that he was gonna be sitting next to me. I don't even think he understood why he was invited. (Laughter.) So–he tells the story. He's, like, then he looked up. He looked at his wife and he said I'm sitting next to Michelle Obama. And he said all she said was, don't embarrass me. So I like her.*"

In this answer, Michelle did not only mention the most fun person to sit next to at the State dinner. She also explained more about the reason why she

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answered that. She also gave a brief illustration about the State dinner at that time, which she talks about. She told Oprah event by event when the State dinner was going on. Since Michelle was answering the question from Oprah but also adding more information to it, she was flouting the maxim of quantity.

Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity in these utterances similar to the previous one, which gives illustration towards the hearer. She told a story while she was at a State dinner, and Stephen Colbert was the one who sits next to her. She was impressed with him, so that she shared that story with the hearer. Michelle wanted the hearer could imagine what she tried to explain. So that the story will be well-delivered to the hearer.

Datum 9

Oprah: "Do you like it?"
Michelle: "I do. I do. *Because this is something I need because I'm getting old. So I've got to be flexible. I have to be able to touch my toes."*

Before asking this question, Michelle and Oprah talked about Michelle's new habit of doing yoga. She gave that statement so that Oprah felt curious whether Michelle likes her new activity or not. As the answer, Michelle answers whether she likes it or not, but she also gave the reason why she likes to do yoga. She expressed her thought related to the importance of yoga itself for her. So that the answer was more informative than it is required, it means she flouted the maxim of quantity.

Saying that she likes yoga is not enough for Michelle. She thought that the hearer also deserved to know the reason why she likes this activity. This aim

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makes her explain deeper why she did yoga. She elaborated her answer to be restricted as a yes-no question and provided the reason for that answer.

Datum 10

Oprah: "I was gonna ask you, my next question was, what is the last thing you did that made you feel genuinely older?"
Michelle: "Oh, any conversation with a young person, you know? (Laughter.) *Here's one just personal sentiment. I have a godson who, you know, is–just got his permit. And his mother sent me a video of him behind the wheel. And that just tripped me out. Because I was, like, no one should let that little boy drive. (Laughter.) He's on the road. I mean, he was the kind of kid like the girls would go over to his house when they were little and they'd come back with scratches on their face because he was a wild little boy when he was little. And I would come home and it's, like, oh, you must have been at–we call him Booch. You must have been at Booch's house because your face is all scratched up. He's driving. That makes me feel old. Seeing the young people in my life–"*

In this part of the conversation, Oprah talked about the last thing that made Michelle feel genuinely older. Michelle answers it by stating that having a conversation with a young person made her feel genuinely older. More than that, Michelle also told a story about her godson. Even though the story was still related to Oprah's question, that is for the example of what made her feel older, but it makes the answer becomes more than it is required. If Michelle did not tell the story about her godson, Oprah and the hearer would still get the answer about what made her feel older. So, Michelle was being more informative here. Therefore, she flouted the maxim of quantity.

The illustration about her godson was aimed to support her first statement that she felt genuinely older while having a conversation with the young person. So here, she gave a deeper explanation about this statement through the story said to the hearer. Michelle implied that this story would strengthen her utterances so the hearer can trust her.

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Datum 11

Oprah: "Did you get happier?"
Michelle: "Oh, yes."
Oprah: "Since the White House."
Michelle: "Yeah. *Look, it was an honor to serve. I mean, it was–it was the biggest privilege of my life to serve as this nation's First Lady. And I will–(applause)–and I will continue to work to try to be a person–a person of service. To try to make sure that my life means something to somebody else. But those eight years were hard. I mean, it's a hard job. And it takes a toll. So anything after that, it's like they look really happy. And it's, like, yeah. Because it's not that. (Laughter.)"*

This part is also the same as the previous data, Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity here. She added why she got happier since the White House even though Oprah, as the interviewer, was not asking about that.

Michelle flouted this type of maxim to provide a deeper explanation to the hearer. So that the hearer can understand her statement well that she is getting happier after the White House. Through this deeper explanation, we can conclude that she enjoyed her journey as the first lady of the USA and considered it an honor to serve the USA people.

Datum 12

Oprah: "You've talked about being 56 and the shape that you're in. You work at this, though, every day. Do you have a wellness goal or wellness quotient for yourself?"
Michelle: *"It is–it is balance. And understanding my walk. I've got to under–I'm trying to make sure I understand what healthy means for me. Not compared to the person walking next to me. Not the person in the magazine. I'm trying to understand what my blood pressure level should be and what my flexibility should be and what cardio means for me. And when do I feel good?*
Because we can also overdo it. Right? We can work out so hard and diet so much that we might be thin and look a certain way, but our bodies are broken inside because we're not walking our path, we're walking somebody else's path.
So I am trying to figure that out every day."

Again, Michelle has flouted the maxim of quantity in this answer. Oprah was asking her whether she had a wellness goal or quotient or not. Michelle did

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not agree or disagree with that question, but more than that, she explained it by also providing her thought about her wellness program. From this answer, we can conclude that she has a wellness goal and quotient, as Oprah asked before, but we can also know the reason for her wellness goal, how she described it, and even her desire related to wellness.

Therefore, it can be concluded that Michelle flouted the maxim of quantity here to give a more complete explanation to the hearer about her thoughts related to wellness. As the interviewee, she tried to answer the question clearly to make the explanation easy to understand by the hearer. But sometimes, she did it by flouted the maxims in conversation.

4.1.1.2 Flouting Maxim of Relation

Flouting maxim of relation appeared twice in this data. The explanation is as follows:

Datum 13

Oprah: "How was the dropoff?"
Michelle: "*It was–it's always good for any parent who's dropped off kids, there's the busy part of dropoff which is, okay, all right. I'm that person. While Barack is trying to put together a lamp. I'm, like, girl, you cannot keep all these clothes. You brought a hundred shoes, and you live in a dorm. So you can pick 10. I mean, this is what I'm doing. Pick 10 shoes. You cannot bring all those shoes. And she was supposed to do that before we got there which was whiddle her clothes down. But see she didn't understand what dorm life was. I was, like, girl, you've got 3 inches of a closet. You've got to figure this out. So there's that business of trying to move in and pack and unpack and fold clothes and clean out stuff.*"

In this conversation, Michelle didn't give the relevant answer related to the question about how the drop off of her children was as Oprah asked her before. Meanwhile, the question is quite simple. Otherwise, she told Oprah about the

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preparation before the drop-off. If we look at Michelle's answer, it is evident that she was flouting the maxim of relation. It is because she did not answer the question with a suitable answer. She talked about how she controls her daughters' stuff before going to the dorm and the preparation process. On the other hand, Oprah Winfrey was asking about the drop-off process itself. In short, Michelle changed the topic of discussion with Oprah blatantly.

Through this flouting maxim, Michelle shared her experience while preparing her daughter before she went to the dorm. She told every detail of the story, even the stuff which was being prepared at that time. Through this explanation, it would help the hearer to imagine the situation at that time. So that the message which Michelle delivers through this story will be easier to be reached by the hearer.

Datum 14

Oprah: "How much TV do you watch?"
Michelle: "*I watch TV. But I watch, like–I like HGTV. I want–and I get in this habit because I never wanted to, like, get caught watching something where I would be mentioned or my husband. So that cancels out, like, most of the news. Right?"*

This answer did not answer Oprah's question. It seems that this answer is not suitable for the question. Oprah was asking about how much TV did Michelle watch. On the contrary, Michelle answered it by explaining why she did not like to watch the news. She said that she did not like to watch TV channels where she would be mentioned or her husband, that is, most news channels. In other words, Michelle led Opah to change the topic of discussion by giving an irrelevant answer to Oprah's question.

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The additional information given by Michelle as the speaker here was aimed to provide a deeper explanation to the hearer. It might affect the hearer became easier to get the answer. Michelle did the flouting maxim in these utterances to give more explicit information to the hearer.

4.1.1.3 Flouting Maxim of Manner

Similar to the previous type, flouting the maxim of manner was also found twice in Michelle Obama's utterances. Below is the analysis:

Datum 15

Oprah: "How did you all do that in the White House where you have access to everything and everybody in the world? I think it's difficult for people, no matter where you are in your trajectory, you want to do–have a better life than your parents. You want your children to live comfortably. Everybody does. But how do you not spoil children when they have access to everything?"
Michelle: "*It–it was easy for us, you know, because we don't think they deserve it. You know? (Laughter.) It wasn't a difficult thing to do. You know?"*
Oprah: "No."

Michelle blatantly answers Oprah's question ambiguously. She didn't give a clear answer. She did not state how she explained it to her daughter, but she just said that it is an easy thing to do for her. It means that Michelle was flouting the maxim of manner that is giving an ambiguous answer. It might bring Oprah to find out if that is any implicature inside Michelle's answer.

Moreover, Michelle was repeating the short question to Oprah that is "you know?" which is a kind of obscurity which occurs in her utterances. Michelle did not give a clear answer because she thought that the hearer has already got the point of her answer. She thought that by providing a short and straightforward answer by saying that "it was easy for us, " the interviewer will directly

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understand what Michelle is talking about. But unfortunately, it is not. It is proven by Oprah's response that is she said "no" after Michelle gave her the answer.

The way Michelle Obama answered is not clear. The answer was not straight to the point of the question. She seemed like she could not describe what she wanted to say at that time. So that she flouted the maxim of manner here to represent or show something hard to explain.

Datum 16

Oprah: "You love to hike."
Michelle: "*I love to be outside because so much of our lives we don't–we don't have the freedom to just be outside anymore because of security. So both Barack and I crave a chance to be outdoors. And I would take a long walk and I would come home and I would have lunch with my husband and I would sit on the beach and I'd read or I'd talk to some of my girlfriends, because I love living in my community. I love to have people around. Our house is usually full of people."*

When Oprah asked whether Michelle loves to hike, Michelle answered it by telling her that she loves to be outside. It is ambiguous because being outside could mean she loves to hike or other outside activities. She told Oprah what will she do when she can go out. That does not answer Oprah's question. Michelle might imply a message which she loves to hike but not directly stated. So, she flouted the maxim of manner here.

Flouting maxim of manner here was aimed to give a deeper explanation to the hearer. These utterances explained how Michelle and Barrack love to be outside. They loved to do the activity outdoor rather than indoor. From this answer, the audience could know that Michelle loves to hike and the other outdoor activities.

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4.1.2 Hedging Maxim

The occurrence of hedging maxim and its percentage are presented in this table below:

Table 4.2 Hedging Maxim

No	Types of flouting the maxim	Occurrence	Percentage
1.	Hedging maxim of quality	8	57,2%
2.	Hedging maxim of quantity	4	28,6%
3.	Hedging maxim of relation	1	7,1%
4.	Hedging maxim of manner	1	7,1%
Total		14	100%

The analysis of the occurrence of flouting maxim done by Michelle Obama is explained as follows:

4.1.2.1 Hedging Maxim of Quality

This type of hedging maxim appeared 7 times in this data. The detailed explanation is as follows:

Datum 17

Oprah: "We were a little nervous. We prayed backstage. And that was the first one. And I remember you were anxious. And I read somewhere that you weren't even sure that people would show up."
Michelle: "*Yes, exactly. I lived in a cocoon of the White House for eight years. I knew* ***sort of kind of*** *that people* ***maybe sort of*** *liked me. You know? Might be interested in the book.* ***I don't know****. You know? But people–(applause)–you guys I wasn't really–I wasn't fishing for a compliment. Not everybody likes me, you know. Some people think I'm the devil incarnate."*

In part of the conversation, Michelle and Oprah were throwing back into the past in Michelle's book tour. Oprah said that she remembered that Michelle

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was anxious at that time. So it is related to Michelle's self-doubt. Then Michelle explained the reason why she was anxious at that time.

Michelle explained that she was anxious because not all the people like her, even though she was the first lady. She felt that some people did not like her as the others did. The bold phrases here (sort of, kind of, and I don't know) show that Michelle actually was not really sure that this is the reason why she was anxious at that time. Again, it was just her feeling that could trigger her anxiety because she thought it was normal in politics if there were pro and contra. The use of these hedges also can be caused to keep the audiences' feeling so that Michelle Obama did not straight say that some people hate her. She used the phrases *sort of* and *kind of* to soften the utterances related to politeness.

Hence, Michelle was hedging this maxim to give a deeper explanation to the hearer. She wanted to explain why she was anxious about her book tour at that time.

Datum 18

Oprah: "And isn't that, for you, the cornerstone of your own wellness program is defining your own happiness and working towards that?"
Michelle: "Well, one of the things I said–I said this earlier, what tried to tell my girls is walk your walk. You know, that's been my mantra. One thing I do every year, I started doing right after the White House, is taking a–a retreat. And ***I think*** *some of the people–some of my girlfriends who have gone on a retreat, we go to this place where you're essentially walking for four hours. It is–it's hard. And my friends who don't know what it is are usually mad at me by the middle of it."*

Talking about Michelle's wellness program related to her happiness, she stated that she made an annual habit after the White House taking a retreat. She also explained that not all people, especially her girlfriends, will enjoy the retreat as Michelle did.

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The phrase *I think* shows that Michelle Obama was not sure that some of the people would feel it. Therefore, she repaired her utterances by changing *some of the people* into *some of my girlfriend*. She wanted to make her answer more specific so that it would be easier to be understood by the hearer.

Moreover, her explanation here was aimed to give a deeper understanding for the hearer. It would make the hearer more understand about Michelle and her friends' retreat activity every year.

Datum 19

Oprah: "Girl, my last photo shoot–yeah. I'm saying it requires so many people."
Michelle: "To make you look like this. Right?"
Oprah: "Yeah."
Michelle: "People–some people put some bracelets on me and then they moved one over there. I was, like, why did you move that one? Why that one? Who's got time to figure it out? They just push you out on stage. Just get out there. (Laughter.) I*t's* ***sort of*** *my walk but it's somebody else's walk, too."*

Oprah and Michelle were talking about a photoshoot in this part of the conversation. Michelle was showing her curiosity when people did some activity in the photoshoot. Moreover, Michelle uses the phrase *sort of* to describe her thoughts towards those photoshoots. It implies her unsure inside it, but she wanted the hearer to know that she was hedging the maxim in these utterances.

Michelle hedged this maxim to give the hearer an illustration while she was on the photoshoot. She described the activity doing in the photoshoot even though she was also still curious about that.

Datum 20

Oprah: "Do you do breakfast?"
Michelle: "I generally don't. I'm not a big breakfast person."
Oprah: "Yeah."

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Michelle: "*So **I probably** wouldn't have breakfast. I would go out on a long walk where I could see the ocean and the mountains and–"*

Before Oprah asked this to Michelle, she was asking Michelle about how Michelle describe her perfect day. Michelle then answered it by telling her the situation in her dream about the definition of a perfect day for her. Then they come to this question about breakfast. Michelle said that she's not the kind of person who is always having her breakfast. Therefore, In her description, after she wakes up, she directly has a workout without having breakfast.

Here, Michelle used the phrase *I probably* as the hedges. These words imply that Michelle was unsure whether she would have her breakfast or not when she is on her perfect day. Her utterances show that she lacks confidence when stating this statement. She doesn't have any proof that she would do it or not. It is because she was still unsure to do that activity or not. From this analysis, we also conclude that she was hedging the maxim of quality.

Michelle was hedging the maxim to give the illustration to the hearer that she would not have her breakfast on her perfect day. It is because she was not a person who always had her breakfast every morning.

Datum 21

Oprah: "Right. So you don't watch the news? How do you all monitor news in your house?"
Michelle: "We get clips and I watch–I get news on my feed and I **kind of** tune–I have a whole communications team."

Michelle explained about how the way she monitor news in White House. She used the phrase *kind of* to describe the way she monitor the news. Michelle was unsure by the use of the term *tune*. So that she expressed it to make the hearer aware that she was not totally sure with her statement.

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Because she explained the way she monitors the news in the White House through this answer, Michelle made the hearer depict how she did that. Therefore, she did the hedging maxim of quality here to illustrate the way she did that activity.

Datum 22

Oprah: "A long, long time ago, yeah."
Michelle: "I love comedies. I love *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*. I like that, too. I love TV. I love watching TV. ***I probably*** *watch a little too much TV, now that I'm listening to myself."*

This answer appeared when Michelle and Oprah talked about how much TV Michelle watched during the White House. Michelle used the phrase *I probably* to represent that she was unsure how often she watched the TV. Therefore she gave the hearer a marker that the information she was given to them is not entirely sure.

Datum 23

Oprah: "I was asking earlier Julianne was out and she was talking about her superpower is dance. What is yours?"
Michelle: "*I don't–**you know**, I have a hard time thinking about it as a superpower. But, **you know**, I–I hope it's making people feel seen.*"

Michelle did not feel sure to describe what her kind of superpower is. So that she used the hedges *you know* to make the reader notice her incertitude towards her statement. Michelle also strengthens her uncertainty with her statement *I have a hard time thinking about it as a superpower* to show that she actually has no idea to answer this question.

Because of her hesitation, Michelle was hedging the maxim of quality here to show something hard to explain. She could not find a suitable answer to this question.

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4.1.2.2 Hedging Maxim of Quantity

This type of hedging Maxim was used 5 times by Michelle Obama. The following is the analysis of this type of hedging maxim:

Datum 24

Oprah: "–not just rock star. Rock star. Role model. World's most admired woman. When you are that, when you carry all of those titles, does that affect how you then make decisions? And is that now a part of what you think about before you make a decision or have an intention?"
Michelle: "***I don't know*** *that it's any different today."*

Michelle could not give the exact answer to this question. She said *I don't know* to know Oprah and the audience that she only could have limited information to answer this question. She could not feel the difference in making the decisions when she was the first lady or not. She felt that everything was still the same.

Therefore, Michelle hedged the maxim of quantity here to show something hard to explain. She did not have the answer for this question and tried to aware the hearer by using the hedging maxim here.

Datum 25

Oprah: "It's hard with 20 cars."
Michelle: *"**Well**, we had 'em do less cars."*

Michelle did not mention the number of cars for the motorcade when she dropped off her daughter. She just said that she had them do less than 20 cars, as Oprah stated in the previous utterances. But Michelle has already warned the hearer by using the hedges *well* to show that she tried to fulfill the maxim of quantity, but she can't because of her limited information.

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Michelle hedged the maxim of quantity to clarify Oprah's statement about the number of cars as the motorcade. She gave a deeper explanation to the hearer to repair the statement given by Oprah previously.

Datum 26

Oprah: "If you could have a conversation with a loved one who has passed away, what would you ask him or her? I'm asking that of you."
Michelle: "*You know, **I wish I knew**.*"

Michelle could not give the answer that is required in this question. Michelle could not mention who the person she wants to talk to if she could meet that person again. She said that she wishes she knew who that person that she could mention to answer is.

Because Michelle could not mention the person, she showed that the answer is hard to explain. Hence, Michelle hedged the maxim of quantity to show something hard to explain by her.

Datum 27

Oprah: "What is the last new thing you mastered?"
Michelle: "*The last new thing I mastered. **I don't know.***"

Michelle could not answer the question about the last new thing she mastered. It might be because she did not have any new something she has mastered or could not mention. By using *I don't know*, Michelle tried to aware the hearer that she could not provide the information required as the answer to this question.

Hence, the aim of hedging the maxim of quantity here is for showing something hard to explain. It is because Michelle showed that the answer to this question is hard to explain to the hearer.

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Datum 28

Oprah: "Okay."
Michelle: "*That's hard. The last new thing I mastered. I don't–**I'm drawing a blank here**. Maybe I need to master something.*"

This is still related to the previous conversation. Here Michelle still could not mention what kind of the last thing she mastered. Again, she used the phrase *I'm drawing a blank here* to show that this is hard to explain by her.

4.1.2.3 Hedging Maxim of Relation

The hedging maxim of relation appeared only once in this data. Here is the analysis:

Datum 29

Oprah: "Don't we wish. Yes."
Michelle: "Just vote, y'all. That's all I'm saying. Just vote. (Applause.) But **anyway**, *we digress. But, you know, I–I put a lot of time and energy to parenting these girls in the White House because I was–we were trying to make their lives normal.*"

The phrase *anyway* in these utterances was used to aware the hearer that Michelle tried to get the topic back to the previous topic because she thought that the conversation is already switched. She tried to aware the hearer that she would change the topic after saying that phrase.

Moreover, by hedging this maxim, Michelle explained the answer deeper to the hearer. She was conscious that the topic was switched, but then she turned the topic back and continue to explain the answer deeper to the hearer.

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4.1.2.4 Hedging Maxim of Manner

In line with the previous one, this type of hedging maxim was also found only once during the data analysis process. Below is the analysis of this hedging maxim:

Datum 30

Oprah: "I think empathy is your superpower. And I'm also wondering, like, every time we see you, I've seen you out since 2016, you look like, and so does Barack Obama, like you really discovered what living your best life means. It seems like you all took living your best life to a new level. Have you?"
Michelle: "***You know***, *we're–yeah. We're happy people. But I–**you know**–"*

Michelle tried to aware the hearer that her answer will be confusing by hedging this maxim. She used the hedges *you know* twice in these utterances. Michelle could not give a clear answer to Oprah's question. So that she used the hedges as the marker for the hearer. It also represented that this topic is hard to explain by Michelle as the interviewee.

4.1.3 The Reason for Flouting and Hedging Maxims

After analyzing the reason for each flouting and hedging maxim, the researcher classified it into the table below:

Table 4.3 The Reason for Flouting and Hedging Maxim

No	The Reason	Occurrence	
		Flouting Maxim	Hedging Maxim
1.	Giving deeper explanation	11	5
2.	Giving Illustration	4	3
3.	Showing something hard to explain	1	6
Total		16	14

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From this table, the analysis shows that Michelle flouted and hedged the maxim based on these three reasons. The first is for giving a deeper explanation, the second is giving the illustration towards the hearer, and the last is to show something hard to explain. The frequency indicates that the most frequently used reason is for providing a deeper explanation to the hearer. It is because Michelle Obama tried to give the information through her answer as clear as she can to make the hearer understand her answer well. It is represented in the conversation below:

Oprah: "Is it more so now, 28 years, as opposed to earlier years? So does it just keep getting better? It's more seasoned? It's–"
Michelle: "*It's all of that. You know, and this is what I try to tell young people. Marriage is hard. And raising a family together is a hard thing. It takes its toll. But if you're with the person, if you know why you were with them, you know? You understand that there was a friendship and a foundation there, this may–it may feel like it goes away during some of those hard times, but it's–it's something that you can–that we always come back to. And we're coming back to that point where we see each other again. You know? Because some of the hardest times in our lives we just–we just escaped it. We survived it. Now, we went through a tough time. We did some hard things together. And now we're out on the other end. And I can look at him and I still recognize my husband. He's still the man that I fell in love with. Who I value–"*

The main point of the question from Oprah is Michelle and Barrack's marriage life after 28 years. The first sentence already stated Michelle's answer to this question, but she continued to explain her lesson about marriage to young people. It would not be flouting the maxim of quantity if Oprah also asked her what lesson she could give to the young people about marriage. But the fact shows that Oprah was not asking about that.

This flouting maxim depicted that Michelle wanted to be a very informative person to the hearer. She knew that her married life is not as easy as it

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was seen, but more than that, she wanted to know the young people how to prepare before entering marriage life. Michelle elaborated her answer by giving a deeper explanation to the hearer to make them understand better. Besides that, this deeper explanation would also make her answer complete because she answered that her married life is very seasoned and tells them why it could be.

In comparison, the other reasons have the same number, that is seven. Michelle Obama used the reason for giving illustration to describe or tell her experience or story when answering the question. She wanted the hearer to imagine and feel what she tried to explain to them. Below is one of the examples:

Oprah: "Watch TV. But what is your favorite TV show?"
Michelle: "*Oh, I have a lot of favorite TV shows. I love Black-ish and Grown-ish and all the ishes. I love comedy. You know, I started watching Schitt's Creek on Netflix. Hilarious. It's kind of a takeoff–a modern-day takeoff of Green Acres. For young people, that was a show that was on a long time ago.*"

A brief description also added Michelle's explanation about her favorite TV shows about what those TV shows look like. She gave an illustration to the hearer to imagine what kind of TV shows that she likes. Hence, Michelle gave a wider answer than is required here to illustrate her answer to the hearer so that it will be easier for them to know the name of the TV shows and a little description about it.

The last reason is showing something hard to explain. Michelle could not answer them clearly for some questions because of many factors, such as she could not find the proper term, describe the topic, etc. This reason can be found in the part of the conversation below:

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Oprah: "Okay."
Michelle: "*That's hard. The last new thing I mastered. I don't–**I'm drawing a blank here**. Maybe I need to master something."*

This answer appeared when Oprah asked Michelle about the last new thing Michelle mastered. Michelle shows that she was confused about answering this question because she felt it is hard to explain. She has no idea how to explain this, so she said, *that's hard* and *I'm drawing a blank here.* These phrases represented her difficulty in defining the answer. She expressed that this topic was not easy to answer.

4.2 Discussions

This section contains a deeper explanation about the finding which has been found by the researcher above. This study is aimed to analyze the types of flouting maxims done by Michelle Obama in her interview with Oprah Winfrey. After finding the flouting maxim, the researcher finds the types of hedging maxims used by Michelle Obama. Furthermore, the researcher also identifies why Michelle Obama flouted and hedged the maxim in this interview.

The researcher found three kinds of flouting maxims in this interview. The most found flouting maxim here was the flouting maxim of quantity. Some previous studies also found the same result in their analysis related to this finding, such as Sulistyorini (2014), Damayanti (2015), Hutapea (2017), Dayanthi (2017), Dewa (2017), and Aisya & Fitrawati (2019). It may be caused because the topic discussed in this interview was Michelle's personal things such as experience and personality. It affects her to give a detailed answer to the hearer to avoid misunderstanding between them. She also wanted the hearer to feel what she feel

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and get the point of what's actually on her mind. Moreover, Michelle's background as an admired woman who became the interviewee in this situation also pushed her to answer the question completely to respect Oprah as the interviewer and satisfy the audience. That's why Michelle tends to be more informative than it is required.

Flouting maxim of quality was not found in this study. It is because Michelle Obama did not like to give the answer, which she was not really sure about it. When she realized that the information she has is limited and not as informative as required, Michelle tends to be aware of the hearer using the hedging maxims. So that she avoided the misunderstanding between the speaker and the hearer. It also affects the maxim of quality, becoming the most frequently used hedging maxim in this data.

For the hedging maxim, the researcher also found all the types of hedging maxims used by Michelle Obama in this data. Based on the finding, the most frequently used hedging maxim is the hedging maxim of quality. This result is in line with the studies from Sulistyorini (2014), Damayanti (2015), Syarifah (2015), Dewa (2017), Rosalita (2017), and Pujiasih (2018), which also found that hedging maxim of quality was the most dominant type found in their data. It shows that sometimes Michelle as the interviewee, did not have a suitable answer for the question. Michelle was aware that she would give the information is not as much as it is required. So that she wanted the hearer to know that hedging the maxim makes them conscious of Michelle's limited information. In this way, she would not disappoint both the audience and the interviewer.

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Maxim of manner and relation were the maxims that have the lowest frequency to be flouted and hedged by Michelle in this interview. It means that the speaker rarely gave ambiguous and irrelevant utterances while answering the question. It might be because Michelle does not like to confuse the audience by giving them an obscure answer. Michelle also kept trying to follow Oprah as the interviewer here by avoiding giving irrelevant answers to change the conversation topic. She tried to respect Oprah as the interviewer and the audience by providing the answer to satisfy them in this interview session. Jia (2010) supported it, who stated that "Hedges are used to respect the face needs of all participants when they negotiate sensitive topics." In line with that, Kholisoh & Setiawan (2018) also argue that "Hedges function to lessen the impact of an utterance due to restriction between speaker and interlocutor." So, the use of hedges here is to keep the flow of conversation becomes smooth and keep the interlocutor's face.

Damayanti found the same reason (2015), Dewa (2017), and Rosalita (2017) which also find that the subject of the study tried to provide a complete answer by flouted the maxim of quantity because the situation requires them to provide more information than the questioner needs (Dewa, 2017). Moreover, the speakers also hedged the maxim of quality more often than the other type because they have to give the true information, explanation, and reality they know so far (Rosalita, 2017). The researcher also found that the background of the subject of study from those studies and this present research has a similarity. The subjects as the politician, expert witness, English teachers, and the former first lady make

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them become important people who will be the center of attention in that situation. It makes them should be pay attention while stating the answer.

As the reasons to flout or hedge the maxim, the researcher classified it into three: giving the deeper explanation, giving an illustration, and showing something hard to explain. Michelle Obama used these three reasons to flout or hedge all types of maxims. Mostly, Michelle did the flouting and hedging maxims to give a deeper explanation to the hearer. It is similar to the reasons for flouting maxim found by Puspitaningrum (2013), Adawiyah (2016), Laraswati (2018), Manurung (2019), and Marlisa (2020). Those studies also reveal that the flouting maxim occurrence gives more information to the hearer about the topic of discussion. The speakers are more informative to avoid misunderstanding to the hearer to explain it as clearly as possible.

The second reason found by the researcher is showing something hard to explain. Sometimes the speaker feels confused when answering the question because of many factors. It can be caused by having no idea to answer the question, they are difficult to describe what they are going to say, or they cannot find the correct diction or terms as the answer to the question. Adawiyah (2016) also found a similar finding in her analysis that sometimes the speaker flouted the maxim to show their confusion to answer the question given to them.

This study also reveals another reason to flout or hedge the maxim is for giving an illustration. In this conversation, Michelle answered some parts of the question by sharing her story or experience. Most of the topics of this conversation are about Michelle Obama's personal things, such as her life after

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the White House, marriage life, parenting life, and so on. It makes her feel excited to make the hearer could imagine what happened at that time.

In conclusion, this study found the flouting maxim of quantity and hedging maxim of quality as the most used by Michelle Obama in this interview. Both of these are used to provide clearer information and avoid misunderstandings that possibly appeared between the speaker and the hearer in a conversation. It is also shown by the most dominant reason why Michelle Obama flouted and hedged the maxim is for giving a deeper explanation to the hearer. So that the message which Michelle has delivered was well-received by the hearer.

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CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter consists of the conclusion of the findings and discussions. In addition, the suggestion for future research is also included in this chapter.

5.1 Conclusions

This study analyzes the flouting and hedging maxim in Michelle Obama's interview with Oprah Winfrey. The researcher focuses on Michelle's utterances only. As a result, this study found three kinds of flouting maxims done by Michelle Obama. They are flouting the maxim of quantity, flouting the maxim of relation, and also flouting the maxim of manner. As the detail, the flouting maxim of quantity appeared 12 times or 75% of the total data. Flouting maxim of relation and flouting the maxim of manner was found in the same frequency; 2 with the percentage is 12,5%.

For the types of hedging maxims, the researcher found Michelle Obama did all types of hedging maxims in this interview. The first type, which also becomes the most dominant type of hedging maxim, is quality. It occurred 8 times (57,2%) in this interview. The second type is hedging maxim of quantity which appeared 4 times (28,6%). Next is the hedging maxim of relation, which has a similar frequency to the hedging maxim of manner that is 1 (7,1%).

This study also analyzes why Michelle flouted and hedged the maxims in this interview. The analysis shows that Michelle did the flouting and hedging maxims because of three reasons. They are giving a deeper explanation, giving an

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illustration, and showing something hard to explain. Giving a deeper explanation is the most dominant reason for Michelle Obama to flout and hedge the maxims.

5.2 Suggestions

Since this research still does not cover all the types of flouting maxims, the researcher hopes the future research can complete it. This study hopes that this study can raise the suggestion or critics from the reader to develop a similar analysis in a complete version. The researcher suggests for those who want to research a similar topic with this study to find another relationship that might be existed between flouting and hedging maxim. Moreover, the next researcher also can try to analyze the other form of data such as debate, podcast, or another new form of an interview which is more interesting to be investigated as the following research.

Even though this study is still far from the complete one, the researcher hopes that the reader will know the flouting and hedging maxim through this study. The researcher also hopes that the reader gets new knowledge about these two topics, which come from the field of pragmatic. The last, the researcher hopes that this research can contribute in the pragmatic area generally, flouting and hedging maxim specifically, and inspire the next researcher to conduct a study to complete this research.

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