

**FLOUTING OF MAXIMS IN STAFF MEETINGS**

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ORIGINAL LITERARY WORK DECLARATION

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## **Abstract**

This study explores the ways in which the staff of three local academic institutions flout Grice's maxims in conversation during staff meetings. The study was conducted in two phases. The first phase was recording the staff meetings in participating institutions in two manners: overtly (the staff knew that they were being recorded) and covertly (the staff did not know they were being recorded). The second phase was to interview the staff present in the meetings to determine the reasons for them to flout the maxims during the meetings. This was done by playing the recordings to the interviewees after every meeting. Findings revealed that the staff of all the three institutions involved in this research did flout the maxims during the meetings due to several reasons. Politeness, power and social distance are few of the many reasons identified. The staff did not want to say anything that would offend the authority and thus flouted the maxims. Lack of information to answer the questions asked was also another reason to flout the maxims. It was also found that there were major differences in the ways the staff flouted the maxims when they were aware of the recording and when they were not aware of the recording. For instance, the Maxim of Manner was flouted frequently during overt recordings to avoid the researcher from recording any sensitive issue raised in the meetings.

## **Abstrak**

Kajian ini meneliti cara-cara staf akademik di tiga institut akademi tempatan melanggar hukum Maxim semasa mesyuarat. Kajian ini dikendalikan dalam dua fasa. Fasa pertama adalah untuk merekod mesyuarat-mesyuarat staf akademik dalam dua cara: satu adalah merekod mesyuarat tanpa pengetahuan ahli staf yang hadir dan cara kedua ialah untuk merekod mesyuarat-mesyuarat selepas memberitahu ahli staf yang terlibat dalam mesyuarat. Fasa kedua adalah menemuramah ahli staf akademik yang menghadiri mesyuarat-mesyuarat yang direkod (dengan cara satu dan dua) untuk mengenalpasti sebab-sebab ahli staf tersebut melanggar hukum Maxim. Temuramah dikendalikan selepas setiap mesyuarat. Analisis data menunjukkan bahawa staf ketiga-tiga institut melanggar hukum Maxim untuk beberapa sebab. Rasa hormat, kuasa dan hubungan antara staf adalah antara sebab-sebab yang telah dikenalpasti. Mereka tidak mahu menyebut apa-apa perkara yang boleh ditafsirkan sebagai tidak rasa hormat oleh pihak atasan. Ahli staf juga melanggar hukum Maxim kerana mereka tiada informasi yang mencukupi untuk menjawab soalan-soalan yang diajukan kepada mereka. Selain daripada itu, analisis juga menunjukkan yang ahli staf melanggar hukum Maxim dengan cara yang berlainan dalam mesyuarat yang direkod tanpa pengetahuan mereka dan dalam mesyuarat yang direkod dengan pengetahuan mereka. Contohnya, dalam mesyuarat yang direkod dengan pengetahuan staf, didapati bahawa mereka melanggar hukum Maxim of Manner dengan kerap untuk mengelakkan penyelidik dari merekod isu-isu yang sensitive yang dibincang dalam mesyuarat.

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