Pragmatic Amplification and Rhetorical Patterning in Arabic Political Interview Discourse

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Abstract

This study examines conversational implicatures and departures from Grice's maxims in political interviews on Al Jazeera Arabic's YouTube platform, focusing on their linguistic realization in contemporary formal spoken Arabic. Employing a qualitative pragmatic approach, the data consist of purposively selected interview excerpts that indicate maxim-related departures. The analysis began with structural-linguistic examination before categorizing instances under the maxims of quantity, quality, relevance, and manner and identifying the implicatures produced. The findings reveal the dominance of quantity and quality departures, linguistically manifested through informational expansion, categorical declaratives, evaluative intensification, and temporal projection. Rather than representing conversational breakdowns, these patterns function as rhetorically structured devices embedded in Arabic media discourse. The study contributes to Arabic pragmatic scholarship by demonstrating the need for language-sensitive application of Gricean theory and offers pedagogical implications for developing pragmatic literacy in advanced Arabic language instruction.

Keywords: *implicature, maxim violation, discursive strategy, political interview, arabic pragmatics*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji implikatur percakapan dan penyimpangan maksim Grice dalam wawancara politik pada kanal YouTube Al Jazeera Arabic, dengan fokus pada realisasi linguistiknya dalam bahasa Arab lisan formal kontemporer. Penelitian menggunakan pendekatan pragmatik kualitatif dengan data berupa kutipan wawancara yang dipilih secara purposif berdasarkan indikasi penyimpangan maksim. Analisis diawali dengan kajian struktural-linguistik sebelum pengkategorian berdasarkan maksim kuantitas, kualitas, relevansi, dan cara, serta identifikasi implikatur yang dihasilkan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan dominasi penyimpangan maksim kuantitas dan kualitas yang terealisasi melalui perluasan informasi, deklaratif kategoris, intensifikasi leksikal evaluatif, dan proyeksi temporal. Pola tersebut tidak menunjukkan kegagalan komunikasi, melainkan perangkat retoris yang terstruktur dalam wacana media Arab. Penelitian ini berkontribusi pada pengembangan pragmatik bahasa Arab dan memberikan implikasi pedagogis bagi penguatan literasi pragmatik dalam pembelajaran bahasa Arab tingkat lanjut.

Kata Kunci: *implikatur, pelanggaran maksim, strategi diskursif, wawancara politik, pragmatik Bahasa Arab*

Introduction

Language in public communication is not always conveyed directly; it frequently operates through implied meanings that invite interpretation.[1] Such indirectness enables speakers to construct images, maintain argumentative positions, or avoid explicit commitments. In the context of digital media, particularly YouTube, political interviews have become a significant site for observing these pragmatic dynamics.[2] As widely accessible public discourse, they demonstrate how speakers strategically manage information, adapt to interactional contexts, and construct implicit meanings to shape public opinion.[3] Within contemporary Arabic language studies, online media is recognized as a space of ideologically charged discourse production. Meaning in this context cannot be separated from its social and political

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[1] Jenny A Thomas, *Meaning in Interaction An Introduction to Pragmatics*, 1st Editio (London: Routledge, 2014), https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315842011.

[2] Eleonora Esposito and Majid Khosravinik, *Discourse in the Digital Age; Social Media, Power, and Society*, first (New York, London: Routledge, 2024), https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003300786.

[3] Muhammad Thohir, "The Development of Modern Arabic in Syntactic and Semantic Perspectives in Alarabiya Magazine," *Alibbaa': Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Arab* 4, no. 2 (2023), https://doi.org/10.19105/ajpba.v4i2.8740.

environment. Violations of conversational maxims, therefore, do not necessarily signal communicative failure; rather, they may function as pragmatic strategies to assert positions, reinforce legitimacy, and guide audience interpretation.[4] Examining implicatures and maxim violations in political interviews on Al Jazeera Arabic's YouTube platform thus provides a productive lens for understanding how implied meanings are strategically mobilized in contemporary Arabic political discourse.[5]

This phenomenon is particularly relevant for Arabic linguistic inquiry because it reflects speech practices characterized by indirectness, implicature management, and context-sensitive pragmatic maneuvering, features that are often underrepresented in pedagogical materials.[6] In political interviews, maxim violations reveal how Arabic speakers regulate informational scope, employ indirect formulations, and adjust pragmatic strategies in high-stakes public communication. The layered and evaluative nature of such discourse demonstrates that meaning extends beyond referential content, emerging through interactional context and communicative intention.[7] In digital media environments, these strategies may be repeated and reinforced, demanding heightened pragmatic competence from audiences and offering valuable insights for the development of advanced Arabic language education.[8]

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[4] Paul Grice, "Logic and Conversation," in *Syntax and Semantics 3: Speech Arts*, ed. J. L. Cole, P. & Morgan (New York, London: Academic Press, 1975), 41–58; Paul Grice, *Studies in the Way of Words*, first (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1989).

[5] Joan Cutting and Kenneth Fordyce, *Pragmatics_ A Resource Book for Student*, Fourth edi (Abingdon: Routledge, 2021), www.routledge.com/9780367207250.

[6] Reni Lailina Hidayah, "Makna Referensial Pada Komik Bahasa Arab Nawâdhîr Jûhâ Li Al-Athfâl," *Alibbaa': Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Arab* 2, no. 1 (2021): 1–23, https://doi.org/10.19105/alb.v2i1.4130; Paul Chilton, *Analysing Political Discourse Theory and Practice*, Second edi (Abingdon: Routledge, 2025), https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003406990.

[7] Nurdiana Arifah and Uyun Thayyibah, "Jadaliyyah Dilâliyyah Haula Al-Ta'bîrât Al-Ishthilâhiyyah Wa Ta'addud Al-Ma'na Fî Insyâi Al-Thalabah Al-Mustawa Al-Madrasiy Wa Al-Mustawa Al-Jâmi'iy (Dirâsah Tahlîliyyah Naqîdiyyah Fî Al-Tadakhkhul Al-Dilâliy)," *Alibbaa': Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Arab* 5, no. 1 (2024), https://doi.org/10.19105/ajpba.v5i1.11249.

[8] Sarah Schwellenbach, "Revising and Extending Gricean Maxims: The Trics-Principles," *Journal of Linguistics*, 2025, 1–28, https://doi.org/10.1017/S0022226725100765.

The present study draws on Paul Grice's theory of implicature and the Cooperative Principle, which conceptualizes meaning as arising not only from what is explicitly stated but also from what is inferred within a given communicative context.[9] While conversations are ideally guided by the maxims of quantity, quality, relevance, and manner, speakers may deliberately depart from these norms to generate implicatures.[10] In Arabic public and political discourse, such departures, through informational expansion, evaluative intensification, or relevance shifts, are often socially recognized as rhetorical and pragmatic strategies rather than mere deviations. This framework is particularly suited to political interviews, where indirect, ambiguous, or circumlocutory expressions are frequently employed to articulate stance, construct legitimacy, and navigate interactional pressure.[11]

Political interviews on Al Jazeera Arabic's YouTube channel provide a rich corpus for examining these dynamics. As an influential Arabic-language media platform with broad regional and global reach, Al Jazeera Arabic hosts discussions on complex political issues that invite strategic language use. The interview format foregrounds language as the primary instrument through which speakers construct, negotiate, and sustain political positions. At the same time, these interviews offer authentic examples of formal spoken Arabic embedded in contemporary media contexts, making them relevant not only for political discourse analysis but also for the advancement of Arabic pragmatic studies and higher-level language instruction.

Despite the analytical potential of such data, research on maxim violations in similar media contexts has tended to approach the phenomenon from a predominantly descriptive perspective. Previous preliminary studies have shown that maxim violations have been extensively studied in various contexts, such as in digital media and political discourse. Previous research generally places maxim violations as objects of linguistic identification that produce certain implicatures, such as in studies of violations of the principle of

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[9] Haifa Mohammad Nassar and Moustafa Ali Al-hamzi, "Conversational Implicature , Grice ' s Theory of Conversation : A Pragmatic Analysis of Some Qur ' Anic Narratives," *ELS-JISH Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities* 8, no. 2 (2025): 491–501, https://doi.org/10.34050/elsjish.v8i2.7078.

[10] Grice, "Logic and Conversation"; Grice, *Studies in the Way of Words*.

[11] Stephen C Levinson, *Pragmatics*, first publ (Cambridge: cambridge university press, 1983), https://www.amazon.com/Pragmatics-Cambridge-Textbooks-Linguistics-Levinson/dp/0521294142#.

cooperation in social media content such as TikTok,[12] compliance with and violations of Grice's maxims in live broadcasts on TikTok,[13] implicatures arising from maxim violations in interviews with the President of Indonesia,[14] and maxim violations and implicatures in public communication related to power relations.[15] In addition, a number of other studies highlight the application and violation of Grice's cooperation principle in YouTube interviews through a pragmatic approach,[16] the analysis of conversational implicatures in political communication,[17] as well as a study of conversational implicatures from a diachronic cognitive pragmatic perspective that emphasizes changes in the meaning of implicatures over time.[18] However, these studies have not explicitly positioned maxim violations as structured and repetitive pragmatic-discursive strategies that are consciously used to shape ideological meaning at the discourse level. Furthermore, these studies have not linked maxim violations to the characteristics of Arabic pragmatic practices and their implications for Arabic language studies and learning.

So far, research on Paul Grice's maxim violations in various communication contexts, including political discourse, has generally

[12] Fadhila Afiya et al., "Pelanggaran Prinsip Kerja Sama Pada Konten Video Kery Astina Di TikTok Kajian Pragmatik," *METAHUMANIORA - Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Dan Budaya* 12, no. 2 (2022): 204–10, https://doi.org/10.24198/metahumaniora.v12i2.37670.

[13] Della Febiana, "Analisis Pematuhan Dan Pelanggaran Maksim Grice Dalam Tuturan Live TikTok" 8, no. 3 (2025): 686–700, https://doi.org/10.29408/sbs.v8i3. 31420.

[14] Tiara Adena and Hendra Mulia, "Implicatures Generated from Non-Observances Maxim in The Interview of the Indonesian President," *Kajian Linguistik Dan Sastra (Kalistra)* 3, no. 2 (2024), https://doi.org/10.22437/kalistra.v3i2.29829.

[15] Dairi Sapta Rindu Simanjuntak and Eka Putri Saptari Wulan Gustianing, "Implikatur Percakapan Dalam Tayangan ' Tiga Bacapres Bicara Gagasan,'" *EScience Humanity Journal* 4, no. 2 (2024): 12–20, https://doi.org/10.37296/esci.v4i2.88.

[16] Meidi Andra, "An Analysis of Grice's Cooperative Principle in Rose's YouTube Interview : A Pragmatic," *Journal BASIS* 12, no. 2 (2025): 153–66, https://doi.org/10.33884/basisupb.v12i2.10008.

[17] Shaikah H Ghawaidi and Nuha A Alsmari, "The Art of the Unsaid : Analyzing the Use of Conversational Implicature in Political Communication," *World Journal of English Language* 15, no. 4 (2025): 49–59, https://doi.org/10.5430/wjel.v15n4p49.

[18] Ruili Su and Yanfei Zhang, "Conversational Implicature: A Diachronic Cognitive Pragmatic Approach," *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications* 12, no. 1 (2025): 1–14, https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-025-05248-2.

focused only on identifying types of maxim violations and interpreting the implicit meanings that arise in utterances. This research tends to treat maxim violations as purely linguistic phenomena, rather than as systematic and repetitive patterns of discursive strategy in Arabic speech practices to produce certain implicatures. As a result, this focus shows that the relationship between maxim violations, implicatures as pragmatic consequences, and the formation of ideological meaning in contemporary Arabic discourse has not been studied in depth. In fact, in the political sphere, violations of the principle of cooperation do not only function as a linguistic phenomenon, but are also closely related to the speaker's strategy in conveying interests and influencing the listener's understanding.

Departing from the limitations of previous studies, this study positions itself not merely as an identification of maxim violations, but as an analysis of the strategic function of maxim violations as a pragmatic-discursive practice. This study examines how maxim violations in Arabic political interviews on Al Jazeera Arabic are used systematically and repeatedly to produce implicatures as pragmatic consequences that play a role in the formation and legitimization of ideological meaning. Thus, this study also complements previous studies by placing Grice's maxim violations in the context of contemporary Arabic political discourse practices, which have their own rhetorical and pragmatic characteristics, thereby broadening the analytical perspective of Grice's pragmatic theory in the field of Arabic linguistics, particularly in the analysis of Arabic-language political media discourse, and contributing to an understanding of Arabic pragmatics that has the potential to be utilized in teaching skills for understanding implicit meaning.

Based on the focus and objectives of the study, this research was formulated to answer the following research questions: (1) what forms of Paul Grice's conversational maxim violations appear in Arabic-language political interviews on Al Jazeera Arabic YouTube, (2) how these maxim violations are used strategically as pragmatic-discursive practices in Arabic speech, and (3) how the implicatures generated through maxim violations play a role in the formation and legitimization of ideological meaning in the context of Arab political interviews.

Method

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach based on pragmatic studies, particularly Paul Grice's theory of implicature and the cooperative principle. A qualitative approach was chosen because this study aims to understand the meaning of utterances and the implicit intentions of speakers in the context of political discourse. Paul Grice's cooperative principle and four maxims, namely quantity, quality, relevance, and manner, are used as the main framework for identifying violations of maxims and implicatures that arise in utterances.[19] The data source for this study is Arabic-language political interviews broadcast on the Al Jazeera Arabic YouTube platform with Dr. Muhammad Salim Al-Awa as the interviewee. The research data for consists of verbal utterances in interactions between the presenter and the interviewee that contain implicatures and indications of maxim violations.

Data selection was conducted purposively using specific criteria. The utterances selected as data were those that (1) appeared in the main question and answer segment of the interview, (2) were directly related to the political issues discussed, (3) showed inconsistency with one of Paul Grice's maxims of cooperation, and (4) had the potential to give rise to implicit meaning or implicature. With these criteria, not all utterances in the interview video were used as research data. From all the utterances in the interview video, 11 utterances were found to meet the criteria as data, and all selected utterances were analyzed in depth. Other utterances that did not contain indications of maxim violations were not included in the analysis.

Research data was collected and documented manually through several stages. Researchers observed the research subjects repeatedly to gain a comprehensive understanding of the context of the situation and the topics of conversation. Next, the interview transcripts were transcribed verbatim from Arabic into written text, then translated into Indonesian. This process is not treated as a purely technical step, but rather as part of methodological considerations in pragmatic analysis. Analysis of maxim violations and implicatures is still carried out on the original Arabic utterances, while translations are used as a tool to maintain pragmatic equivalence and anticipate potential shifts in meaning that could affect implicatures. The transcribed and translated data were then identified by marking utterances that violated the

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[19] Grice, "Logic and Conversation"; Grice, *Studies in the Way of Words*.

maxims of quantity, quality, relevance, and manner based on Paul Grice's cooperative principle. Recording and coding techniques were used to facilitate the grouping of data according to analysis categories.

Data analysis was conducted in stages by repeatedly reading and examining the data and comparing the original utterances, translations, and discourse contexts. The data were then classified based on the type of maxim violation and analyzed to reveal the implicatures arising from each utterance. The analysis process followed an interactive analysis model that included data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing, which were carried out cyclically and repeatedly.[20] Data validation was carried out through theory triangulation, namely by matching the analysis results between empirical data and the theoretical framework of implicature and Paul Grice's cooperative principle. This method allows researchers to understand the implied meaning, communication strategies, and how violations of the cooperative principle are used in interactions between presenters and sources, so that the research results are expected to provide a clear picture of communication patterns, the formation of implicatures, and the efforts of sources in constructing arguments and influencing listeners.

Results and Discussion

In pragmatic studies, the meaning of speech is understood not only from what is said explicitly, but also from the implied meaning behind it. The Cooperative Principle proposed by Paul Grice explains that conversational implicatures arise when speakers adhere to or violate certain maxims of communication. Based on this framework, this study analyzes political interviews on Al Jazeera by tracing the forms of maxim violations and the resulting implicatures.

The violations of maxims in these political interviews did not occur by chance. On the contrary, these violations, especially those against the maxims of quantity and quality, were used strategically by the speakers to convey their attitudes, reinforce their ideological positions, and implicitly build political legitimacy. In line with Paul Grice's view that implicit meaning is highly dependent on the context and communicative intent of the speaker, these findings show that

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[20] Matthew B Miles, A Michael Huberman, and Johnny Saldana, *Qualitative Data Analysis A Methods Sourcebook*, 3rd ed. (USA: SAGE Publications, 2014).

utterances that appear excessive, broad, or predictive actually function as a means of persuasion in political discourse.[21]

Based on this analysis, the researcher presents a communicative perspective reflected through implicatures and maxim violations in political interviews on Al Jazeera Arabic's YouTube platform. Using Paul Grice's pragmatic theory, the researcher identifies various forms of implicatures and maxim violations that describe the communication strategies of sources in a political context. Furthermore, these forms of implicature and maxim violation will be explained in detail as concrete manifestations of the intended communication principles. In the interviews analyzed, several types of implicature and maxim violation emerged as a way for sources to convey messages and demonstrate their ideological attitudes. These forms, as a reflection of political communication practices in digital media, can be summarized as follows:

Maxim of Quantity

Table 1. Informational Expansion (Maxim of Quantity)

Data	Interactional Focus	Presenter's Question (Excerpt)	Interviewee's Response (Excerpt)	Structural Characteristics
1	Personal evaluation of war developments	كيف تابعت هذه المشاهد؟ *(How did you follow these developments?)*	كسر العجرفة...إسرائيل هي سيدة الشرق الأوسط...إسرائيل هي اليد العليا...	Declarative ideological assertions; repetition of hegemonic claims; absence of first-person experiential markers
2	Verification of public support claim	هل هذا الطرح صحيح؟ *(Is this claim correct?)*	ليست هذه غالبية أهل غزة...ولا هي غالبية الفلسطينيين...الأكثرية العظمى...	Repetitive negation structure; escalation of collective categories; majority-claim construction
3	Determination of war outcome	من الذي انتصر في هذه الحرب؟ *(Who won this war?)*	إثبات وجود غير مسبوك...منذ أول يوم إلى اليوم...لم	Narrative sequencing; temporal

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[21] Grice, "Logic and Conversation"; Grice, *Studies in the Way of Words*.

				يستطعوا أن يسعيدوا رهينة واحدة...	repetition; delayed categorical answer; cumulative descriptive clauses
4	Practical strategy realism	/	هل هذا هو ما يجب أن يكون على أرض الواقع؟ *(Is this the realistic approach?)*	عاش اليهود... قرونا متطاولة...تحت رعايتنا ومودتنا...نار على اليهود...	Historical expansion; evaluative diction; metaphorical intensification; extended narrative framing

Table 1 reveals a consistent pattern of informational expansion in the interviewee's responses when compared to the projected scope of the presenter's questions. In each interaction, the question establishes a relatively bounded communicative expectation, whether requesting personal evaluation, factual clarification, strategic assessment, or categorical judgment. However, the responses systematically extend beyond these boundaries. The interactional alignment between interrogative structure and propositional answer becomes asymmetrical, as the interviewee replaces concise response patterns with elaborated declarative sequences. This recurrent asymmetry suggests that the expansion of informational load is not incidental but structurally patterned across different thematic contexts.

In Data 1, the presenter's question seeks a personal account of how the interviewee followed recent developments. The interrogative form presupposes an experiential or subjective response. Instead, the answer shifts immediately into assertive ideological propositions, marked by repeated declarative constructions such as إسرائيل هي سيدة الشرق الأوسط and إسرائيل هي اليد العليا. The absence of first-person experiential markers and the reliance on generalized ideological claims indicate a displacement of personal narration by broader evaluative framing. Linguistically, the response is structured through repetition, parallel declarative clauses, and evaluative lexical intensification, thereby enlarging the informational scope beyond the procedural demand of the question.

A similar pattern appears in Data 2 and Data 3. In Data 2, a question requesting verification of a claim is answered through escalating collective references and repetitive negation structures, such as ليست هذه غالبية أهل غزة ولا هي غالبية الفلسطينيين, followed by broader demographic magnification through الأكترية العظمى. Rather than engaging directly with the epistemic validity of the claim, the response expands toward the construction of numerical and moral consensus. In Data 3, a direct and categorical question; "Who won this war?" is addressed through narrative sequencing, temporal repetition (منذ أول يوم إلى اليوم), and cumulative descriptive clauses. The answer unfolds through layered propositions instead of a single declarative conclusion, thereby delaying categorical closure and extending the informational frame before any evaluative inference can be drawn.

In Data 4, a policy-oriented and pragmatic question regarding realism is redirected into a historical narrative framed through extended temporal references and evaluative lexical choices such as تحت رعايتنا ومودتنا وأخواتنا and the metaphor نار على اليهود. The informational expansion moves backward in time, introducing historical and moral contextualization rather than engaging with present strategic options. Across all four instances, the responses exhibit recurring structural features: narrative layering, repetition, lexical intensification, and expansion of collective or temporal reference. These features collectively demonstrate that the responses consistently exceed the projected informational boundaries established by the questions, generating a patterned enlargement of discourse space within the interaction.

Maxim of Quality

Table 2. Evaluative and Epistemic Claims (Maxim of Quality)

Data	Interactional Focus	Presenter's Question (Excerpt)	Interviewee's Response (Excerpt)	Linguistic Characteristics
1	Personal account of war developments	كيف تابعت هذه المشاهد؟ *(How did you follow these developments?)*	هذه مخرج المسرحية وصانعها الرئيس الأمريكي...	Metaphorical framing; evaluative predication; attribution of intentional global control
2	Evaluation of strategic path	هل هذا الطريق هو الطريق الأفضل؟	هذا هو الطريق الأوحد لحل القضية الفلسطينية	Absolute lexical choice; categorical

				declarative structure; epistemic certainty
3	Strategic assessment of October 7	هل هذا الطريق هو الطريق الأفضل؟	الخطوة الأولى نحو التحرير واتحاد القوة الفلسطينية	Teleological framing; future-oriented projection; declarative finality
4	Validation of public support claim	هل هذا الطرح صحيح؟	والأيام ستثبت صحة ما نقول...	Temporal prediction; epistemic authority claim; dismissal of counter-positions

Table 2 demonstrates a recurring pattern in which evaluative and epistemic claims are presented in declarative and categorical forms, regardless of the evidential demands projected by the presenter's questions. In Data 1, the presenter requests a personal account of how the interviewee followed recent developments. Instead of providing experiential or observational information, the response introduces metaphorical framing through the expression "مخرج هذه المسرحية وصانعها الرئيس الأمريكي," constructing the war as a staged drama orchestrated by powerful actors. The metaphor operates as an evaluative predication that attributes intentional manipulation without presenting empirical substantiation. Linguistically, the claim is structured as a direct assertion rather than a qualified interpretation, thereby foregrounding ideological framing over verifiable reporting.

In Data 2 and Data 3, a similar structural pattern emerges in the form of categorical declarative sentences that frame political positions as definitive outcomes. The phrase "الطريق الأوحد" in Data 2 employs absolute lexical choice, eliminating alternative possibilities through exclusivity. In Data 3, the expression "الخطوة الأولى نحو التحرير" introduces a teleological projection, framing the event as the beginning of an inevitable trajectory toward liberation. Both responses are syntactically concise yet epistemically expansive, presenting evaluative judgments as settled conclusions. The grammatical construction lacks hedging devices or evidential markers, reinforcing certainty and authority in the speaker's stance.

In Data 4, the epistemic stance is reinforced through temporal prediction: "والأيام ستثبت صحة ما نقول." This future-oriented construction frames the claim as inevitably verifiable, despite the absence of immediate empirical evidence. The subsequent clause, " هذا اختلاف في وجهة النظر," repositions disagreement as merely subjective difference rather than a contestable factual dispute. The combined effect of predictive temporality and evaluative dismissal produces a strong authoritative posture within the interaction. Across the four instances, the responses consistently exhibit metaphorical framing, categorical declaratives, teleological projections, and temporal prediction as mechanisms for asserting epistemic certainty beyond the evidential boundaries established by the questions.

Maxim of Relevance

Table 3. Topical Shift and Interactional Realignment (Maxim of Relevance)

Data	Interactional Focus	Presenter's Question (Excerpt)	Interviewee's Response (Excerpt)	Linguistic Characteristics
1	Evaluation of armed resistance as strategic option	هل هذا الطريق هو الطريق الأفضل... أم يجب أن نبحث عن طرق بديلة؟	والموقف المخزي الذي اتخذه بعض من يسمون بالقادة...	Topic shift toward moral judgment; evaluative predication; delegitimizing lexical choices; absence of direct strategic evaluation
2	Assessment of best path for Palestinian struggle	هل هذا الطريق هو الطريق الأفضل...؟	كلهم يتحدثون منذ أول يوم إلى اليوم... ولم يستطعوا أن يسعيدوا رهينة واحدة...	Narrative redirection; non-specific reference (كلهم); evaluative diction; displacement from strategic evaluation to opponent failure narrative

Table 3 demonstrates a recurrent pattern of topical redirection in which the interviewee's responses diverge from the immediate strategic focus established by the presenter's questions. In both instances, the presenter formulates a normative inquiry regarding whether armed resistance represents the most appropriate path or whether alternative strategies should be considered. The projected communicative task is

evaluative and comparative. However, the responses do not engage directly with this evaluative framework. Instead, they reorient the interaction toward moral and political judgments concerning actors associated with the broader conflict.

In Data 1, rather than addressing the comparative merits of strategic alternatives, the response introduces an evaluative characterization of certain Palestinian Authority leaders as having adopted a "shameful attitude." The lexical choices—particularly the use of morally charged expressions such as الموقف المخزي and the delegitimizing phrase بعض من يسمون بالقادة—shift the discourse from strategic evaluation to moral condemnation. The interrogative structure of the question, which invites deliberation, is replaced by assertive declarative clauses that construct a moral hierarchy. As a result, the original topic of strategic choice is displaced by a critique of political elites, altering the trajectory of the interaction.

A similar structural pattern appears in Data 2. The presenter again requests an evaluation of whether the current path of struggle is optimal. The response, however, redirects attention to a narrative concerning hostages and the perceived failure of opponents. The non-specific collective reference كلهم and the evaluative diction الرهائن الأحياء and القتلة introduce a new narrative frame that is not directly aligned with the question's evaluative focus. Instead of comparing strategic options, the discourse reconstructs the interaction as a demonstration of the opponent's inadequacy. The topical center thus shifts from "which strategy is preferable" to "who has failed," effectively reconfiguring the purpose of the exchange.

Across both instances, the responses demonstrate a patterned reorientation of discourse away from the immediate evaluative question toward broader moral or adversarial narratives. Linguistically, this reorientation is achieved through evaluative lexical choices, delegitimizing references, and narrative substitution. Interactionally, the shift reduces space for comparative deliberation and redirects attention toward the reinforcement of a particular ideological stance.

Maxim of Manner

Table 4. Ambiguity and Strategic Indirection (Maxim of Manner)

Data	Interactional Focus	Presenter's Question (Excerpt)	Interviewee's Response (Excerpt)	Linguistic Characteristics
1	Determination of war outcome	من الذي انتصر في هذه الحرب؟ *(Who won this war?)*	المقاومة لم تنهزم. أنا لا أقول إسرائيل هزمت. ولكن أقول المقاومة لم تنهزم	Repetition of negation; indirect formulation; avoidance of categorical declarative victory; contrastive structure

Table 4 illustrates a distinct interactional pattern characterized by indirect formulation and strategic ambiguity. The presenter poses a categorical and outcome-oriented question; "Who won this war?" which structurally invites a clear and declarative response. Instead of providing a direct assertion identifying a victor, the interviewee constructs his response through repetition and negation: "المقاومة لم تنهزم" followed by "ولكن أقول" and reiterated again with "أنا لا أقول إسرائيل هزمت" "المقاومة لم تنهزم." The answer relies on a contrastive structure that emphasizes what is not being claimed rather than what is definitively affirmed.

Linguistically, the repetition of the negative predicate and the use of denial as a framing device create an indirect evaluative position. The response avoids an explicit victory statement while implicitly suggesting resilience or moral endurance. The syntactic construction does not resolve the binary nature of the question but instead reframes it through a negation-based formulation. This pattern generates a degree of interpretive openness, as the conclusion must be inferred rather than directly stated.

Interactionally, the response restructures the expectation of clarity established by the interrogative form. The categorical demand for identification of a winner is replaced by a carefully calibrated formulation that neither fully affirms nor fully denies victory in conventional terms. The avoidance of a straightforward declarative claim maintains discursive flexibility while allowing the speaker to imply a particular evaluative stance. Within the broader dataset, this instance contrasts with the more expansive strategies observed under

quantity and quality, yet it similarly demonstrates patterned deviation from projected communicative expectations.

Discussion

The findings demonstrate that the departures from Gricean maxims observed in the data are not merely instances of political maneuvering but are structurally embedded in the linguistic realization of contemporary formal spoken Arabic. Across the four maxims, the interview responses exhibit patterned features such as syntactic parallelism, evaluative lexical intensification, temporal projection, layered predication, and contrastive negation. These features indicate that the restructuring of interactional alignment between question and answer is linguistically realized through recurrent Arabic rhetorical configurations rather than accidental conversational deviation.[22]

With respect to the maxim of quantity, the informational expansion observed in the responses is linguistically constructed through repetition of declarative clauses, parallel syntactic sequencing (e.g., إسرائيل هي... إسرائيل هي...), and accumulative argumentation. Such expansion reflects a discourse pattern in which elaboration functions as pragmatic amplification. Rather than adhering to minimal informational sufficiency, the speaker mobilizes repetition and lexical intensification to reinforce evaluative stance.[23] This pattern aligns with broader characteristics of Arabic rhetorical tradition, in which repetition (takrir) and structural parallelism serve to foreground emphasis and persuasion.[24] In this context, over-informativeness operates as a linguistically structured device embedded in formal Arabic speech practices, rather than as a failure of cooperative economy.[25]

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[22] Salem, Rami Jamil. "Rhetoric Ambiguity: A Pragmatic Study on Selected Poetic Excerpts." *Dirasat: Human and Social Sciences* 50, no. 4 (July 2023): 185–202. https://doi.org/10.35516/hum.v50i4.5644.

[23] Najjar, Manal. "Teaching Arabic Syntax for Non-Speakers: A Pragmatic Approach." *International Journal of Learning and Teaching*, 2020, 252–56. https://doi.org/10.18178/ijlt.6.4.252-256.

[24] Shareef Klaib Alshraideh, Safa, and Haya A. Alhourani. "The Shift toward Fusha (Classical Arabic Language) Reconstruction of the Concept." *Dirasat: Human and Social Sciences* 49, no. 5 (December 2022): 556–67. https://doi.org/10.35516/hum.v49i5.3507.

[25] Benmisra, Sellami. "The Presence of Indexicals and Conversational Implicature in the Discourse of the Qur'an: A Pragmatic Approach in Surah 'Al-Kahf.'" *Science, Education and Innovations in the Context of Modern Problems* 8, no. 1 (April 2025): 1132–47. https://doi.org/10.56334/sei/8.1.73.

In relation to the maxim of quality, categorical declarations and teleological projections are realized through absolute lexical choices (e.g., الطريق الأوحد), declarative definiteness, and future-oriented temporal constructions (والأيام ستثبت...). The absence of hedging devices and the preference for assertive syntactic forms reflect a stance-marking strategy deeply tied to authority construction in formal Arabic discourse. From a linguistic perspective, the projection of epistemic certainty is not merely ideological but grammatically encoded through declarative structures that minimize modal uncertainty. This suggests that the interaction between grammar and pragmatics in Arabic political speech plays a crucial role in shaping perceived epistemic legitimacy.[26]

Regarding the maxim of relevance, the observed topical redirection is linguistically realized through evaluative re-framing and referential reorientation. Instead of responding within the propositional boundaries of the question, the speaker introduces morally charged lexical items and collective identity markers (e.g., الشعب الفلسطيني، الأحرار). This shift is not structurally random; it is achieved through strategic lexical selection and thematic foregrounding.[27] Linguistically, the redirection manifests as a reconfiguration of thematic progression, in which the topical focus moves from procedural evaluation to identity-based positioning. Such patterns highlight how Arabic discourse structure allows pragmatic reframing through controlled thematic manipulation.[28]

In the case of the maxim of manner, the use of contrastive negation (المقاومة لم تنهزم... لا أقول إسرائيل هزمت) exemplifies strategic ambiguity encoded through syntactic structure. The reliance on negation rather than direct affirmation creates interpretive openness while preserving evaluative implication. From a linguistic standpoint, this construction illustrates how Arabic declarative syntax can accommodate indirect positioning without explicit categorical commitment. The ambiguity is therefore structurally produced rather

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[26] Elewa, Abdelhamid. "Linguistic, Aesthetic And Cultural Aspects Of Translating Literary Texts (Arabic-English): A Model For Translation Pedagogy." *Ijaz Arabi Journal of Arabic Learning* 7, no. 3 (October 2024). https://doi.org/10.18860/ijazarabi.v7i3.27637.

[27] Khamis-Dakwar, Reem. *Clinical Linguistic Research in the Study of Arabic Diglossia*. 2020. https://doi.org/10.1075/sal.9.07kha.

[28] Almahameed, Yazan Shaker, and Tariq Mohammad Farghal. "To Hedge or Not to Hedge: A Pragmatic Study of Hedging in Jordanian Arabic." *International Journal of Arabic-English Studies* 25, no. 1 (January 2025): 17–36. https://doi.org/10.33806/ijaes.v25i1.648.

than semantically accidental, demonstrating how grammatical form interacts with pragmatic inference.[29]

Taken together, these findings indicate that the application of Gricean maxims to contemporary Arabic media discourse reveals a systematic interaction between pragmatic inference and language-specific rhetorical structuring. The observed departures from cooperative expectations are not random irregularities but linguistically patterned configurations shaped by repetition, parallelism, evaluative intensification, and contrastive negation, features deeply rooted in formal spoken Arabic and its rhetorical heritage.[30] This suggests that maxim-related departures in Arabic media discourse should be interpreted not as communicative breakdowns, but as structurally embedded discourse strategies that reflect culturally normalized modes of emphasis, stance construction, and audience alignment.[31]

Theoretically, this study implies that the Gricean framework, when applied to Arabic discourse, requires sensitivity to language-specific rhetorical conventions. Rather than treating maxims as universally neutral benchmarks of conversational economy, the analysis demonstrates that pragmatic inference operates within culturally situated discourse traditions. Consequently, future pragmatic research on Arabic should integrate rhetorical theory (balaghah), thematic structuring, and formal speech conventions to avoid reductive interpretations of "violation" as mere non-cooperation. Pedagogically, the results offer implications for advanced Arabic language instruction. Exposure to authentic media discourse can train learners to recognize how repetition, thematic redirection, and evaluative layering function as pragmatic devices in formal Arabic communication. Developing such awareness is crucial for cultivating higher-level pragmatic competence, particularly in interpreting implicit meaning in media and political contexts.

[29] Baldi, Benedetta. "Linguistic and Pragmatic Procedures in the Political Discourse." In *Linguistic Variation: Structure and Interpretation*, 29–46. De Gruyter, 2019. https://doi.org/10.1515/9781501505201-004.

[30] Alshehri, Awad, and Abdulrahman AlShabeb. "Exploring Attitudes, Identity, and Linguistic Variation among Arabic Speakers: Insights from Acoustic Landscapes." *International Journal of Arabic-English Studies*, ahead of print, November 5, 2023. https://doi.org/10.33806/ijaes.v24i2.587.

[31] Alsalim, Khalid. "Cross-Linguistic Perspectives on the Definite Article: Cognitive, Semantic, and Pragmatic Functions in English, French, and Arabic." *Forum for Linguistic Studies* 7, no. 10 (September 2025). https://doi.org/10.30564/fls.v7i10.10562.

However, the study is not without limitations. The dataset is limited to selected interviews from a single media platform and primarily reflects one speaker's discourse style, which may not fully represent the broader spectrum of Arabic media practices. Additionally, the analysis remains qualitative and interpretive, without corpus-based frequency validation. Future research could expand the dataset across multiple speakers, media institutions, and regional varieties of Arabic, as well as incorporate quantitative or corpus-driven approaches to examine the distribution of rhetorical-pragmatic patterns. Integrating complementary theoretical perspectives, such as relevance theory or stance theory, may also enrich the explanatory depth of maxim-related phenomena in Arabic discourse.

Conclusion

This study demonstrates that maxim-related departures and conversational implicatures in political interviews on Al Jazeera Arabic's YouTube platform are not merely instances of strategic political maneuvering, but linguistically structured phenomena embedded in contemporary formal spoken Arabic. The findings reveal systematic patterns across the four maxims, manifested through syntactic parallelism, evaluative lexical intensification, temporal projection, layered predication, and contrastive negation. These features show that pragmatic expansion and indirectness are structurally realized within Arabic rhetorical configurations, rather than representing accidental deviations from cooperative norms.

The dominance of quantity and quality departures reflects the recurrent use of informational expansion, categorical declaratives, and predictive constructions as mechanisms of stance construction and authority projection, while relevance and manner departures demonstrate how thematic reorientation and controlled ambiguity are linguistically deployed to manage interactional alignment. Theoretically, this study contributes to Arabic pragmatic scholarship by moving beyond mechanical labeling of maxim violations toward a structural-pragmatic account that integrates Gricean theory with Arabic rhetorical conventions. It also provides pedagogical relevance for advanced Arabic language instruction by emphasizing the need to develop learners' sensitivity to pragmatic amplification and evaluative structuring in authentic media discourse.

Nevertheless, the study is limited by its restricted dataset, focusing on selected interviews from a single media platform and primarily one speaker's discourse style. The findings therefore cannot be generalized to the broader spectrum of Arabic media practices or regional varieties. Future research should expand the corpus, incorporate multiple speakers and media contexts, and combine qualitative pragmatic analysis with corpus-based or quantitative approaches to further validate and refine the structural-pragmatic patterns identified in this study.

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