APPLYING GRICE'S MAXIMS TO FIR (FIRST INFORMATION REPORT): A FORENSIC LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF MURDER CASES

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Abstract
The study revolves around the forensic linguistics analysis of First Information Report (FIR) of genre: murder. The study employs Maxims theory (1975) to deeply examine murder FIR's forensic implications through documenting the compliance or non-compliance to mainly four maxims: Maxims of Grice of Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner. These maxims further influence the intelligibility, readability, and understanding. The study captures certain areas in which legal language can pose an obstacle, public understanding. This study deploys the qualitative discourse analysis to determine linguistic decisions shaping legal perception and interpretation of the forensic language. Furthermore, the findings surround the significance of the clear, precise, and pertinent information use in enhancing legal transparency and citizen trust in the law system. This research offers practical suggestions that may be guided by the Grice framework.

1. Introduction

The key place in criminal justice systems of South Asian countries, including Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, is held by First Information Reports (FIRs). Being the document according to which the investigative process is initiated, the FIR defines the way in which a case is going to be framed, divided and followed by the law enforcement officers. The FIR is even more important in terms of an ultimate legal matters like murder as the factual record of the version of the complainant and is the linguistic foundation through which legal subjects, such as police officers, investigators, lawyers, and judges, construct their accounts of the facts. Though perceived as critically legal, FIRs have not been given much consideration by linguistic scholars, especially those in the area of forensic linguistics. This gap is aimed to be filled in the current research work by applying the concept of pragmatics namely, Cooperative Principle and other related maxims by Grice to the analysis of FIRs in murder cases. In this way, new information on the narrative form, linguistic techniques, and pragmatic infractions that often typify these legal documents will be offered.

Cases of murder are very intricate socio-culturally and inter-personally. In South Asian society, homicide is often tied to honour issues, land issues, political feuds, domestic violence and mob activities. Such contexts put pressure on complainants, witnesses and even the police officers and affect the information that is reported, as well as its linguistic expression. An example is that complainants can leave out names of powerful people out of intimidation or vice versa, he or she may be tempted to implicate an enemy. Corruption, bribes and political pressure may also lead to police officers altering or manipulating FIRs in other instances. FIRs are not only legal documents, but also socio-pragmatic artefacts, which are integrated into power relations. The presupposed meanings, assumptions and communicative failures that are part of society can be determined through pragmatic analysis, particularly Cooperative Principle developed by Grice.

The language of First Information Report (FIR) plays a significant role in the transparency, clarity and credibility of the legal processes. This language has a direct impact on the trust that the public has in the police system. Grice maxims designed to highlight four main principles: Quantity, Quality, Relation, and Manner. These maxims help to rule the efficient communication process by maintaining the balance of provided information and its veracity, relevance, and clarity of discourse. When applied to the context of FIR, legal judgment interpretability can be improved by compliance with these principles. The study explores the effects of such linguistic decisions on the forensic transparency and general understandability of the case, and how language is used to facilitate or obstruct investigation transparency. According to Grice (1975), the maxim of Quantity presupposes that there is no excess information, but at the same time, the maxim of Quality presupposes that there is enough information in the argument, and it is based on truth and evidence, which is very significant to preserve the integrity of the legal arguments. The research will play a role in the current discussion of investigation transparency and address the connection between the linguistic decision and the popularity of it among the people and the coherence of the forensic analysis. The FIRs are vital in the criminal justice systems, particularly in countries such as Pakistan where the legal process is triggered by the FIRs. Nevertheless, FIRs usually include uncertainties, missing information, inconsistencies, and pragmatic breaches that may influence research and judicial cases.

The Cooperative Principle of Grice and his Four Maxims (Quantity, Quality, Relation, Manner) provide a very useful perspective to examine the way language is been utilized- or abused in murder FIRs. FIRs can break these maxims both intentionally and unintentionally either because they are afraid, traumatized, manipulated or subject to social-legal pressures. Forensic linguistic analysis can be used to clarify the use of deceptive patterns, inconsistencies in narratives, vague language, and the breakdown of communication. The science of linguistics applied in the law, forensic linguistics, has gained more and more significance in the context of the necessity of making language of police more transparent and understandable. The clarity of FIR language is crucial in terms of legal practitioners and the general populace to know the consequences of rulings. With the increased scrutiny of legal proceedings, it is important to make sure that the information is availed without compromising on accuracy (Tiersma, 2000). Though the use of maxims of Grice in diverse communication methods has been researched upon, there are very few studies that specifically investigate how these maxims affect the forensic interpretation of FIRs. Since legal language is very complex and has created misunderstandings to the people, this research fills the gap through the analysis using maxims of Grice. The purpose of the work is to enter the current discussion of legal transparency and examine how the language used in the FIRs can influence the perception and understanding of citizens and how well the forensic image can be perceived. Since judgments in language frequently demand a great deal of particularity, it is important to determine how language is used in legal systems to encourage not only legal accuracy but also readability by the population (Solan & Tiersma, 2004).

1.2 Problem Statement

The main issue of concern that is revealed by the current study is the possible lack of connection between the complex language applied in Police Stations and how the general population would comprehend and believe in the FIRs. In particular, it studies the influence of the compliance or non-compliance with Grice maxims on the forensic clarity of the FIRs comprehensibility of the legal language and the possible chance of misinterpretation involving the public perception.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The research has immense consequences to the law and forensic linguistics. Analyzing the impact of Grice maxims on clarity and transparency of FIR language, it provides useful information about the linguistic techniques that can bring the legal proceedings closer to the citizens. Moreover, it deals with the current anxieties regarding the confidence of people with the police system. In the case of the murder cases the given study also serves as a reminder of the fact that the linguistic preferences can either support or weaken the trust of the people in the police system. The given research also lays the groundwork to explore the interplay between linguistics and FIR language in the future, which will contribute to the creation of more effective and open FIRs communication patterns. The second reason is to why the analysis of FIRs using Grice maxims is significant is that FIRs are frequently used as essential evidences in courts. Even though law does not regard FIRs as substantive evidence, they are generally used to determine credibility by courts based on the fact that the FIR and subsequent testimony are consistent or inconsistent. The inconsistencies between the FIR story and those of witnesses in the trial often offer difficulties and the judges might be skeptical about the credibility of the witnesses when FIR information is deemed incomplete, conflicting, or confusing. Forensic linguistic analysis of maxims violations can thus assist the legal practitioners to learn the causes of such discrepancies, be it cognitive constraints, lingual deficiencies, or deliberate manipulation. This discussion can also give suggestions on the way to better the FIR drafting procedures to reduce ambiguity.

The role of FIRs in a legal process despite its significance is underdeveloped in scholarly studies of FIR discourse. The majority of literature on FIRs in South Asia attempts to examine the subject of FIRs through the legal or procedural context, as opposed to the linguistic framework. Some of the studies have looked at the problem of bias, narrative structure or police corruption but there has been very little done on the pragmatic perspective. Moreover, the field of forensic linguistics in Pakistan and other countries of South Asia are still in their fledgling stages and most legal practitioners are not aware of how linguistics theories can be applied to analyse legal texts. The current research paper helps to fill this gap by proving the importance of pragmatics to legal situations and providing an example of how one can analyse actual legal cases through the prism of linguistic resources. In addition to that, the interpretation of FIRs by the maxims of Grice points at the usage of language as a piece of evidence. Increasingly, modern forensic linguistics treats language (as opposed to the events being reported on) as a kind of evidence that can be used to determine the intention of speakers, their psychological condition, and the nature of their interpersonal relationships. Pragmatic analysis looks further into the interpretation of the words, rather than the words stated in the FIR. It is concerned with the information structure, what information is included or omitted, how the clarity is preserved or deconstructed, and what the linguistic strategies create or conceal the meaning.

1.4 Research Questions

Following are the research questions of the designated study:
1. What linguistic features in the FIR language follow or violate Grice Maxims for the forensic linguistics perspective?
2. How does the violation and implication of Grice Maxims affect forensic language?
3. How do linguistic features influence forensic understanding?

1.5 Research Objectives

Following are the research objectives of the designated study:
1. To assess linguistic features of Grice Maxims, emphasizing forensic applications.

2. To analyze how violation or following Grice Maxims effect forensic clarity in FIR's.
3. To explore how pragmatic violations influence legal outcomes.

2. Literature Review

The interdisciplinary field of forensic linguistics, which is a point of intersection between the law and linguistics, has become prominent in the recent years. Through the examination of the linguistic aspects of legal writings and oral communications, forensic linguists are able to clarify the effects that language has on courts of law. According to Tiersma and Solan (2014), the comprehension of the connection between law and language is the key to the greater effectiveness of legal practice. The field is characterized by various fields of use, such as the study of courtroom speech, the evaluation of the language used in the police investigation, in general, helping to achieve the overall agenda of justice. Conley and O'Barr (2015) also note that this language is meant to be accurate and at the same time be able to convey complex legal concepts. Police official materials are usually written in specialized language, which makes them incomprehensible to common people thereby creating misunderstandings. Consequently, legal professionals and the people need to understand the jargon of the judicial system in depth to be able to interact with the legal system. Precision in court language is critical in the process of making sure that every group of people both the judges, the lawyers, and the laypersons comprehend the legal decisions. The uncertainty may lead to misinterpretation and compromise the legal process. According to McMenamin (2017), effective communication in courts leads to citizen trust in the judicial system. This confidence is important, because it enhances the legitimacy of judicial determinations and encourages trust in social institutions of the law. In his popular work on conversational implicature, Grice has formulated the Maxims of communication, which provide four basic principles that determine effective communication: Quantity, Quality, Relation and Manner. According to Cutting (2015), these maxims can be treated as a form of evaluation of the language used by the judicial system, which will allow determining the success of its interpretation of the law. These principles can be used to make judicial language more effective in clarity, less ambiguous, and more effective in general communication. The convergence of Grice and judicial language has of late been the topic of growing academic attention. Johnson (2016) offers an interesting article that substantiates his viewpoint by showing that such compliance with these maxims can greatly enhance the readability of such opinions of the court. The study points out that non-observance of the maxims normally creates ambiguity in the legal texts that may cause confusion and problems in court. Therefore, Grice framework can be used as a helpful method of improving legal communication. Although clarity is critical, the language of judiciary is often difficult to understand because of its complexities. According to Roberts (2020), complex and long sentences, can create obscurity to understand meaning. Complexity of such sentences can make difficulty to understand language. As Hutton (2018) emphasizes, selection of language creates meanings in legal settings. The culture is also a major aspect in legal language formation. As James (2024) explores the influence of culture on the legal language so it is important to understand the cultural and contextual frameworks. Samuels (2019) emphasizes, clear and understandable legal language creates more trust and participation by the public.

Discourse analysis has become an effective tool used to understand legal language. According to Chen and Zhang (2022), compliance with Maxims formulated by Grice contributes to the increased transparency of judicial communication. As their study shows, the language used in judicial rulings should be clear and concise to enable people to understand and question them better. Muhammad and Khan (2024) research about the implication of digital platforms in

judicial discourse and found out the implication of the online court setting and its impact on the effectiveness and clarity of legal discourse. They find that, even though technology can be used to make most judicial rulings more accessible, it is also difficult to ensure that the rules of Grice are followed. This shows how scientific studies should continue to align linguistic studies to modern law. The Maxims provided by Grice have important implications on law practitioners. According to Simpson (2023), by learning these maxims, lawyers will be able to become more effective communicators to make their legal arguments in a more comprehensible and approachable way. This skill is efficient to convey the complex statements into simple way. Therefore, the education about effective communication based on the framework developed by Grice must be included in the legal training. Ahmed and Farooq (2024) discuss the challenges related to the translation of law, and police language. In their study, the authors emphasize that linguistic and cultural peculiarities should be focused so that the spirit of legal decisions and workings would be retained. This challenge will require continuous discussion and effort between legal linguists, translators and legal practitioners in order to ensure that there is clarity in multilingual contexts. The outlook of forensic linguistics is the further investigation of the implication of the Maxims of Grice concerning legal language.

To get the full concept of the linguistic patterns in the legal communication, it is possible to extend the field of the analysis to include a massive range of case studies. This kind of research may provide information on the best practices to enhance the comprehensibility and accessibility of the legal texts and eventually lead to the legal system becoming more equitable (Muhammad and Khan, 2024). The results of the research that is done about written FIR language and the Maxims of Grice have important implications to the legal policy and practice. The legal institutions are to focus on the training programs that may be based on the clear principles of communication to improve the effectiveness of the legal proceedings. According to Roberts (2020) it is also necessary that the policymakers would consider making one revision in the documentation of law so that it is clear and accessible hence achieve a more inclusive legal environment. The interdisciplinary approach to the research of forensic linguistics may be the legal experts, practitioners and linguists working together. Such collaborations can be helpful in the development of new ideas towards the comprehension and betterment of the language of the law by bringing together different points of view. These alliances can result in insights about the practical aspect of how Grice Maxims can be applied in the context of different legal settings, which will result in ultimately the quality of the legal communication. Finally, the implementation of the Grice Maxims into the FIR language in forensic linguistics, is a crucial field of investigation that has extensively wide implications to the legal clarity and credibility of the law.

It is a skill that requires effective advocacy and the legal experts are able to explain difficult ideas without losing their simplicity. Thus, the training pertaining to the topic of effective communication by following the framework as developed by Grice should be conducted as part of the legal training. Roberts (2020) indicates also that it is required that policymakers should think of making a correction of legal documentation so that it is simple and easily understandable and thus obtain a more impartial legal language setting. The interdisciplinary method of the study of forensic linguistics can include legal specialists, professionals, and linguists collaborating. These partnerships can be useful to generate new ideas in the direction of understanding and improving the legal language by harmonizing various points of view. These partnerships can generate information about the practical side of how Grice Maxims may be implemented in the environment of various legal contexts, which will eventually result in

the quality of legal communication. Lastly, the transfer of the Grice Maxims into the legal language in forensic linguistics is an important area of research which has vast far-reaching effects on the legal clarity and reliability of the law and police.

3. Methodological Design

The paper will use a qualitative discourse analysis to examine the use of language in FIRs of murder cases. The method is especially well-adapted to explore complicated legal FIRs texts, in which linguistic options largely influence accessibility and readability. The discourse analysis offers the means to analyze the language use critically, and Grice Cooperative Principle (1975) which emphasizes the rules of Quantity, Quality, Relation and Manner is a guiding theory. The analysis examines the extent to which the language of FIR is congruent with the objective of transparent investigation process by emphasizing these maxims.

3.1 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework of this study is the theory of conversational maxims of Grice (1975) which is a systematic framework of assessing the effectiveness of communication. All maxim have their purpose: Quantity is the question of an adequate level of detail in the information provided; Quality is the question of accuracy and truthfulness of information; Relation is the question of the relevance of the material to essential issues of the case; and Manner is the question of clarity, the level of conciseness, and the ambiguity of information. This model is especially relevant to the legal setting, when precise and succinct communication is needed.

3.2 Data Collection

The information on this paper will involve 15 FIRs filed on murder cases retrieved by the Police Khidmat Markaz (PKM) upon a criminal advocacy of High Court. These FIRs of various murder cases are selected to study because it is a text they should be clear in communicating in the legal context, and hence it is a perfect topic to consider communicative efficacy as per the maxims of Grice.

3.3 Data Analysis Procedures

Analytical data analysis has a number of steps. The first one will be a thorough reading of various FIRs to know the text, structure, and tone of writing. The next step involves coding the observation in terms of each of the maxims, that is, Quantity (balance of information), Quality (factual accuracy), Relation (relevance), and Manner (clarity and conciseness). All maxims-based codicology examines those situations when the writing adheres to rules and principles set forth by Grice, as well as when it is a breaker of these rules.

4. Data Analysis and Interpretations

4.1 Maxim of Quantity: Sufficient Information and clarity

The Cooperative Principle referred to as the Maxim of Quantity suggests that one should give all the necessary details to make a point and at the same time avoid redundancy. To reach this balance is critical in the legal context, excessive details can take the focus off the main points, whereas insufficient can create ambiguity. Such a maxim is particularly relevant with the legal cases such as murder cases. Where accuracy and clarity have a direct influence on interpretability. Compliance with the Maxim of Quantity would hold that the written FIR contains sufficient information to give support to its legal rationale without bombarding the reader with too much technical explanation. The language must be easily understood by the lawyers and general people. This study can be used to assess the application of Maxim of Quantity in the context of the case by analyzing what FIRs have written. For instance:

Table 4.1
Maxim of Quantity

Aspects of Maxim of Quantity	Examples from FIRs
Sufficiency	1.Motorcycle Honda 125 color black ANN-22/2306 2. Car Silver Toyota Corolla LEC-16/7412 3. In an empty plot, there is a dead man about 30–35 years old, wearing a purple shalwar kameez. Both of his toes are tied with white string.
Chronological order	1.Incident happened on 27-05-2024 at 1:00pm 2.23-3-2024, early morning 5;20am 3. They had an altercation with her husband, and they had threatened that they would murder my husband along with his wife and children.
Insufficiency	1.The quarrel has begun (when and why) 2. Tried to kill (his) son (why). 3. The accused's brother, Adnan, was resentful about this (reason).
Exaggerated quantity	1. Subjected him to severe beating.

It is a method to give due context and detail to comprehend procedural matters, without getting jostled by complicated terminology that may make the message unclear. The language used by the speaker can be said to be balanced in his use of the Maxim of Quantity. Non experts, however, may sometimes find some of the subtleties to be difficult, and it may be implied that legal language frequently balances on the border between giving sufficient information and being accessible.

4.2 Maxim of Quality: Truth and Evidence-Based Statements

The Maxim of Quality requires the speaker to utter statements which are true and evidence based. When applied to the language of the law, this maxim highlights the importance of legal arguments to be based on verifiable facts and reliable sources. Any deviation of fact or reference to unfounded assertions can demean the validity of the investigation.

Table 4.2
Maxim of Quality

Aspects of Maxim of Quality	Examples from FIRs
Truthfulness	1. I personally observed the entire incident. 2. We reached Mehnaz's house in Iqbal Town and, upon entering the room, saw (the scene). 3. I saw inside the room with neighbours.
Untruthful	1. The accused is giving false statements.

As it is mentioned in the table 2 that required informations are true depiction from the speakers and they are true and evidence based. This evidence based methodology is more convincing as it adds credibility to his observations which makes the argument more acceptable. Nonetheless,

in case any of the mentioned precedents or procedural facts were vague or distorted it might undermine the clarity of the judgment.

4.3 **Maxim of Relation: Relevance to Past Incidents**

The Maxim of Relation also emphasizes the relevancy of communication, which is that each statement made should be relevant to the subject matter. This is essential in a language of law, where any form of diversion may blur the strength and impact of the legal points.

Table 4.3

Maxim of Relation

Aspects of Maxim of Relevance	Examples from FIRs
Relevance with previous incidents/cases	1. In Jaranwala, the accused is a proclaimed offender, my brother used to follow up on the case. 2. On several occasions, the accused had issued threats of murder to stop the follow-up of the case. 3. The quarrel arose over the children, with the contention that the first husband's children should be left in the care of their parents. 4. The accused was threatened with death to deter them from following up on the (previous) case. 5. Threats had been made (previously).

Table 3: Maxim of Relevance

The language used by complainants follows the Maxim of Relation in that everything he is saying is relevant to the case.

4.4 Maxim of Manner: Intelligibility and Divisibility

The Maxim of Manner also stresses the fact that it is better to present information in a clear, concise, and structured way in order to allow the audience to easily follow and comprehend the points being made. This maxim is critical in FIRs language in order to prevent confusion or misinterpretation.

Table 4.4

Maxim of Manner

Aspects of Maxim of Manner	Examples from FIRs
Clarity Ambiguity	1. The chips man saw the incident. 1. Someone informed me. (who) 2.Unidentified persons

As it is shown in table 4.4, provided information is clear but along with it some information is ambiguous in the FIR e.g. unidentified persons and who gave the information.

4.4 Combination of Maxims

The combination of all four maxims helps a reader understand the facts but also help in the legal proceedings. The fact that he follows the Maxim of Quantity ensures that adequate information is given without bombarding the reader. The Maxim of Quality bases his arguments on evidence giving credibility and authority to what he says. The Maxim of Relation

keeps the argument on point and relevant and no distractions. Lastly, Maxim of Manner guarantees clarity of presentation by being organized. This whole approach gives more confidence to public in the legal proceedings.

Conclusion

The utilization of Grice maxims in the use of legal language is crucial in the development of the public trust and the enhancement of the forensic transparency of the FIRs. Forensic linguistics of the murder FIRs is an example of the application of Grice maxims to language. The investigation follows these maxims in general by providing adequate detail. The article emphasizes to create a balance between legal clarity and precision. By utilizing the maxims of Grice into a clearer use, the subsequent rulings can involve more the legal practitioners and the general populace, strengthening the honesty of legal communication. This would assist in improving transparency and avoiding possible misinterpretations so that investigations are real, legal and understandable by the population.

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