

The Personality Dimension Neuroticism, Extraversion, and Openness to experience that appears in the character in *The Three Button Trick and Other Stories* by Nicola Barker

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ABSTRACT

*This study examines the relationship between the characters' personalities and the three personality dimensions—Neuroticism, Extroversion, and Openness to Experience—in Nicola Barker's novel *The Three Button Trick and Other Stories*. The research aims to identify the types of violations committed by the characters and to explore the personality dimension relationships depicted through their personalities. The theoretical framework for this research includes Paul Grice's theory of maxim violation, which is used to explain personality relations, and the Five Factor Theory introduced by McCrae and Costa, which helps describe the personalities of the characters. A qualitative research method is employed to analyse the data, focusing on the maxim relations produced by the characters that reflect their personalities during communication. The data is collected from the text, sorted, analysed, and described according to the research needs. Triangulation is used to combine various data and sources for analysis. The results reveal that there are violations of maxim relations, habits, and personality exchange functions, demonstrating that personalities are interconnected. Ultimately, in the process of conversation, there can be a mutual understanding of the interlocutor's personality.*

ARTICLE HISTORY

Published June 10th 2024



KEYWORDS

Behaviour; Characters; Motivation; Personality; Relation.

ARTICLE LICENCE

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1. Introduction

People display a variety of personality traits that include their thoughts, characteristics, emotions, and actions. In the educational environment, these traits can be seen in various forms, including shy, nervous, enthusiastic, careful, polite or impolite, and quiet. These variations emphasize the significant influence of personality on social interactions. Therefore, personality traits are manifested in a person's character, attitudes, and behavior, and as social creatures humans must live together and carry out social interactions in society, through this interaction humans can express emotions, feelings, desires, and ideas that support the life process, this interaction creates a communication process. Communication is a two-way process that involves transferring information or messages from one person or group to another (Weda et al., 2022; Rahman, 2016; Prihandoko et al., 2022; Youngsun et al., 2024). This process goes on and includes a minimum of one sender and receiver to pass on the messages. These messages can either be any ideas, imagination, emotions, or thoughts (Vedantu, 2024) For a good and successful communication process, participants must care about each other and must understand what is being communicated, for this reason, the communication process it is also necessary to cooperate (Grice, 1975; Junaid et al., 2024; Rahman et al., 2023) To make a successful conversation, the speaker must say something clearly to make hearer understands the speakers says. This means that arguing speakers intend to be cooperative when they speak, one way of being cooperative for a speaker is by providing as much information as expected.

In the communication process, differences of opinion often occur between the speaker and the listener, sometimes the listener's interpretation does not match. Because this kind of phenomenon requires a contextual situation to explain its meaning, it is interesting to study this phenomenon with a certain theory, namely pragmatics. Pragmatics has developed as an important field of research. This matter is described as "the study of the meaning of linguistic utterances for their users and interpreters" (Leech & Thomas, 1985; Sukmawaty et al., 2022). Pragmatics aims to explain how listeners find meaning in the speaker's meaning because sometimes the listener's interpretation is not appropriate to what the speaker wants to say. In addition, (Leech, 1983)) states that "background knowledge assumed to be

possessed by the speaker and listener and that contributes to the listener's interpretation of what the speaker means by utterance given. This generally helps the listener to guess what the speaker means while seeing the meaning only from the surface to avoid misunderstanding. This relates to the situation of when and how the words are spoken.

This research looks at the 3 (three) Personality Dimension relations of the characters in the novel *The Three Button Trick and Other Stories* by Nicola Barker and this research intends to limit the discussion to the object as the result in preventing ambiguity and unnecessary discussion. The scope of this research focuses on 3 (three) dimensions of personality according to the character which are related to showing the personality of the character as a result of the process in the communication that occurs. The author uses the Gricean theory of conversational maxims by Herbert Paul, but only focuses on relational maxims on Neuroticism, Extroversion, and Openness to character experience. This research tries to answer the types of violations and personality relationships with the 3 personality dimensions Neuroticism, Extraversion, and Openness in the novel *The Three Button Trick and Other Stories* by Nicola Barker.

This research provides some benefits of this study including theoretical and the theoretical benefits provided in this study as the result of this study is expected to provide contributions and benefits of the theoretical. The theoretical benefit of this research is to understand the language of sarcasm communication through violations that contain implicit meaning that occurs in written texts that focus on 3 personality dimensions, namely Neuroticism, Extraversion, and Openness to experience. This research could be a reference for future studies that discuss the same movie or theory. This research can also be used as a reference for comparison between this study and further research and the practical benefit of this research is that readers will be able to identify sarcasm during conversations seen from personality dimensions based on Grice's theory. Besides that, the readers are expected to respond to the sarcastic utterance in the way it requires and be able to do their research with this study as guidance.

There are five factors The five-factor model of personality describes the personality structure in terms of personality traits arranged along five dimensions, namely: neuroticism (N), extraversion (E), openness to experience (O), agreeableness (A), and conscientiousness (C) (Göncz et al., 2014) and in this case the author will link 3 personality factors to get information through the characters in the novel which will later be able to get clear conclusions about character and daily life.

This research is also supported by several previous research studies as theories to strengthen this research process, including the research from (Al-Saedi, 2013), Misan University 2013 entitled *A Pragmatic Study of The Cooperative Principle and Grice's Maxim in Lois Lowry's The Giver*, His research focus was analyzing non-observance the cooperative principle by which (floating and violating maxim) and implicature meaning that produced a hidden meaning, hiding truth, persuading, convincing the message that the main character wanted to convey. other research from (Carolina, 2015)), Sanata Dharma University, 2015 The similarity between Caesilia's research with this research was the theory used in the research. Both were using Paul Grice theory of the cooperative principle only in analyzing how violating the maxim occurred. The differences between Caesilia's research and this research held on the supporting theory. Caesilia's theory used theory of humor by Attardo to analyze how to produce a humorous conversation by using the non-observance maxim. This research used the five-factor theory by Robert McCrae and Paul Costa to identify a character's personality through maxim violation. The third previous study entitled *Analysis of Main Character in Bruce Almighty Movie Viewed from Personality Traits Theory by Costa and McCrae* conducted by (Faisal, 2010)), focuses on analyzing character and characterization in the movie *Bruce Almighty*. Faisal focused on the main character's bad characteristics rather than the good traits.

To further strengthen the theory about The Personality dimensions of neuroticism, Extraversion, and Openness to experience, researchers are also looking for several additional studies that are closely related to the problem to be discussed, including (Taufik et al., 2019) the study investigates the relationship between the Big Five personality traits (openness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness, and neuroticism) and the hedonistic lifestyle, It also examines gender differences in these variables. Another theory found in (Rothmann & Coetzer, 2003) Personality dimensions based on the five-factor model are valid predictors of job performance, and their application can enhance personnel decisions by providing a fair assessment of candidates' potential across different job roles.

2. Methodology

This research used a qualitative descriptive method and the aim of this research method is to present a complete picture of an event or is intended to expose and clarify a phenomenon that occurs and Qualitative research in the field of language is imperial, meaning that What is studied is a lingual phenomenon which is an object of research, and a phenomenon This is truly lived in the use of language. So, source from facts lingualise that is actually used by its

speakers (Mahsun, 2007). In this research, researchers collect text by citing it as the main data source to be analysed and then explained towards the required results.

For research to be successful, a data source is required, there are 2 (two) data sources used namely the primary data and secondary data. Data that is not published yet and is the first-hand information which is not changed by any individual is known as primary data and Secondary data is the data gathered from published sources meaning that the data is already gathered by someone else for another reason and can be used for other purposes in a research as well. (Taherdoost, 2021). In this research the source primary data take from dialogue between the characters in whole story in the novel and secondary data get from all the narration that indicate the maxim relation violation can portray personality and journal related to research objectives.

The data collecting procedures the researcher require some steps: a) Decides the object of the research, b) Close reading to decide the problem of the research. c) Formulated the problems into research questions to find out the type 3 (three) psychology dimension and how can portray personality of characters. d) Decide the type of research, and e) Collects the data of primary and secondary sources.

After the data collection process is complete, the researcher carries out data processing and analysis by collecting maxim violations in all types arranged in the list, then classified based on the type of maxim violation and focusing on 3 (three) psychology dimension.

The data are analyzed using the Grice's Cooperative principle; firstly, the data is interpreted to find the certain purposes by which the characters violate the maxims. Afterword, the researcher tries to interpret the real meaning and effect of 3 (three) psychology dimension beyond the utterance and the effect maxim violation towards the other participants. Afterwards, the researcher analyzes the process of how maxim violation can portray characters' personality through their dialogue and behavior. The researcher interprets the data of what the true intention and meaning as well as the effect toward the characters.

3. Results and Discussion

After carrying out the process of searching for data, sorting data and processing the necessary data, the researcher found several conclusions related to the research subject, including:

3.1. The Kinds of Maxim Violation

According to Grice (1975), the cooperative principle is a concept used in conversation to describe the process of providing information that is essential for both the speaker and the listener to effectively communicate. The cooperative principle consists of four maxims: the maxim of quality, the maxim of quantity, the maxim of manner, and the maxim of relation.

Firstly, the maxim of quality requires that the information provided by the speaker be truthful. This means that speakers should not say anything that they believe to be false or for which they lack adequate evidence. The emphasis on truthfulness helps to build trust and credibility in communication, ensuring that the information exchanged is reliable. Secondly, the maxim of quantity requires that the speaker provide the right amount of information—neither too much nor too little. This maxim emphasizes the importance of providing sufficient detail to convey the intended message without overwhelming the listener with unnecessary information. Striking the right balance in the amount of information helps to keep the conversation focused and efficient.

Thirdly, the maxim of manner requires clarity in what we say. This includes being brief, unambiguous, and orderly in the presentation of information. Clear and concise communication helps to prevent misunderstandings and ensures that the listener can easily follow and comprehend the speaker's message. This maxim highlights the importance of effective communication techniques, such as avoiding jargon and using simple language where appropriate. Lastly, the maxim of relation requires that the information provided be relevant to the ongoing conversation. This means that speakers should contribute information that is pertinent to the topic at hand, thereby maintaining the coherence and relevance of the discourse. By adhering to this maxim, speakers ensure that their contributions are meaningful and enhance the overall flow of the conversation.

This study is closely related to everyday human interactions, as conversations are a fundamental part of daily life and can be observed in various contexts, including social interactions, media, and professional settings. Conversations occur in society at large and are featured in various media forms such as interviews, investigations, movie dialogues, talk shows, social media interactions, and more. By examining the cooperative principle and its maxims, this study sheds

light on the underlying mechanisms that govern effective communication and highlights the importance of these principles in facilitating clear, relevant, and truthful exchanges of information in diverse conversational contexts (Grice, 1975). Overall, understanding and applying Grice's cooperative principle can enhance our communicative competence, improve interpersonal relationships, and contribute to more meaningful and productive dialogues in both personal and professional settings.

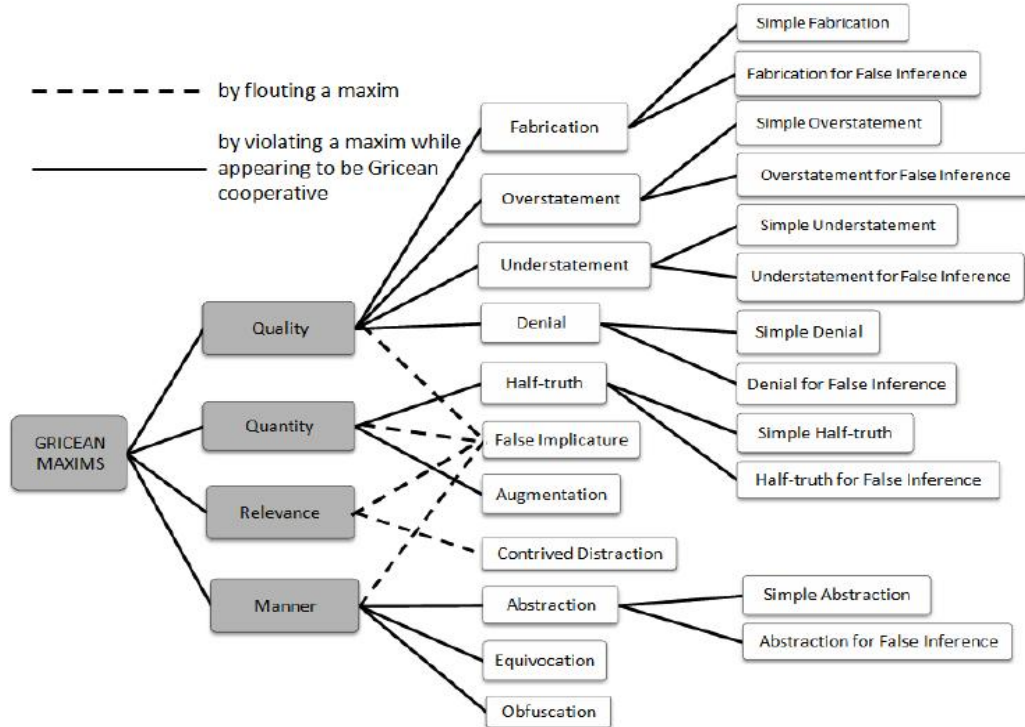


Figure 1. Cooperative principle of maxims (Grice, 1975)

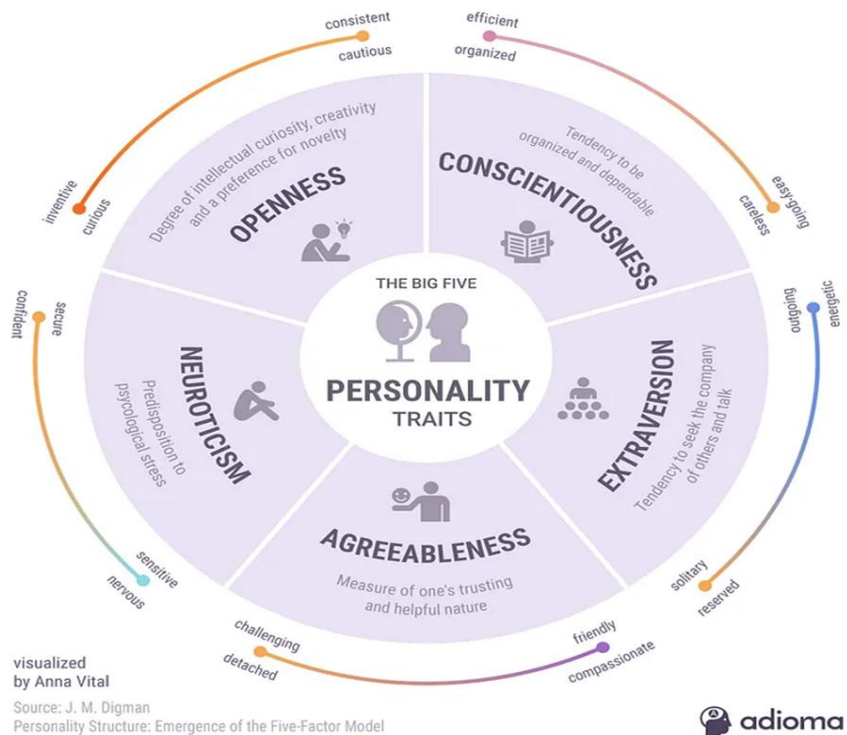


Figure 2. Five personality dimensions (OCEAN): Openness to experience; conscientiousness; extraversion; agreeableness; and neuroticism (McCrae & T. Costa, 1997)

Based on the above theory, researchers focused their research on the maxim of relation, which they discussed in the context of three specific personality traits: Neuroticism, Agreeableness, and Openness. In this study, the researchers analyzed the characters' personality traits by examining violations of the maxim of quantity. By focusing on how these violations occur during communication, they aimed to identify the personality traits that are depicted through these interactions.

To obtain complete and detailed information, the researchers divided their analysis according to the three personality factors: Neuroticism, Openness, and Agreeableness. Neuroticism, characterized by emotional instability and negative emotions, was examined to see how it influences the way individuals provide information in conversations, especially in terms of the amount and detail of the information shared. Openness, associated with creativity, curiosity, and a willingness to engage in novel experiences, was analyzed to understand how these traits impact the way individuals communicate and whether they tend to provide more or less information than necessary. Lastly, Agreeableness, which involves traits such as trust, altruism, kindness, and affection, was studied to observe how these qualities affect the adherence to or violation of the maxim of quantity in communication.

By concentrating on these three personality traits, the researchers were able to delve deeply into the nuanced ways in which personality influences conversational behavior. They looked specifically at instances where characters either provided too much information or too little, thus violating the maxim of quantity, to infer their underlying personality traits. For instance, an individual high in Neuroticism might over-share details due to anxiety, while someone high in Openness might provide elaborate and extensive information due to their intrinsic curiosity and creativity. On the other hand, a highly agreeable person might adjust the amount of information shared to ensure harmony and avoid conflict, potentially either over-communicating to be helpful or under-communicating to avoid confrontation.

The decision to focus on these three specific personality dimensions was strategic. By narrowing their scope, the researchers provided a detailed and in-depth analysis of how these particular traits manifest in communication patterns. This approach not only allowed for a more manageable and focused study but also left room for future researchers to explore the remaining personality dimensions. The researchers intentionally did not address all personality dimension factors, such as Extraversion and Conscientiousness, in the hope of providing other researchers with the opportunity to conduct further studies. This selective focus encourages a broader scholarly conversation and invites subsequent studies to build on their findings, potentially examining how other personality traits might interact with conversational maxims in different contexts.

In summary, this study highlights the intricate relationship between personality traits and conversational behavior through the lens of Grice's maxim of quantity. By analyzing violations of this maxim, the researchers provided insights into how Neuroticism, Openness, and Agreeableness are reflected in the way individuals communicate. This focused approach not only enriches our understanding of the intersection between personality psychology and pragmatics but also sets the stage for future research to continue exploring the multifaceted nature of human communication.

3.2. Openness to Experience

The personality is described as the complexity of life and experience individual mental (P. John & Srivastava, 1999) or commonly known as intellect or imagination. Based on the analysis of violations of this maxim, the researcher observed character's personality through the speech they produce conscious or unconscious about it. That leading researcher the speaker explained the psychological potential, namely high openness indicated by the Feeling aspect (O3). This aspect is what manifests into behavior where the character expresses his emotions intensely without realizing it that it will harm the listener on the other hand. At first, researchers It is felt that the speaker was surprised by the remark listener was generated previously because of his disorder. In fact, the speaker gives supportive remarks that illustrate the true intention is to make fun listeners about their condition. So, through this maximum violation The researcher feels that the speaker carefully violates the maxim of relationship with produce information that is not relatively related to the topic of discussion and hence describes the behavioral facet of Openness to Experience personality traits.

a. Neuroticism

This personality is a factor self-confidence and comfort. This includes emotional stability and a person's general temperament. (Nimpuno & Hasbi, 2022). Based on the analysis of violations of this maxim, the researcher observed that the speaker describes psychological potential through his speech. That This character describes the personality trait of high neuroticism shown by 87 anxiety aspect (N1). This aspect manifests itself in the behavior carried out. The character

feels anxious and worried that the listener will ask more questions about his problem. Therefore he took the sudden step of telling his listeners that the gym will start soon to cut the conversation. The researchers found personality that can lead a character or person to behave in that way was supposed to save his condition and deceive his audience. Because of that, Through this maxim, the researcher emphasizes that the speaker carefully violates it maxim of relationship by producing speech that is not relative and depicts anxiety behavior of the personality trait of neuroticism to achieve goals or intentions.

b. Extraversion

This personality is a construction that relies on interaction an individual with another person or how the individual gets along with other individuals (Nimpuno & Hasbi, 2022). Extroversion is associated with a person's energy and their social engagement, including social skills, friendships, enterprising interests, team sports participation, and club memberships. This dimension includes six facets: Warmth (E1), Gregariousness (E2), Assertiveness (E3), Activity (E4), Excitement Seeking (E5), and Positive Emotions (E6) The speaker provided irrelevant information ('I'm used to being on my own') in response to a question about love, leading the hearer to ask more questions. The speaker added obscurity ('Not me') to avoid providing clear information. The speaker aimed to shut down the conversation and avoid discussing an unpleasant topic. The response portrayed a psychological potential and a rigid behavior characteristic of the Warmth facet (E1) of extroversion. The speaker's denial and avoidance reflected a desire to end the conversation, revealing discomfort with the topic. The multiple maxim violations in the conversation demonstrate the speaker's extroversion personality trait, specifically the Warmth facet, through intentional provision of irrelevant and obscure information. This behavior reflects the speaker's rigid response and intent to avoid further discussion on the uncomfortable topic.

4. Conclusion

The conclusions that can be obtained from all of this research process are: Openness to Experience: Characters displaying high openness often express intense emotions unconsciously, sometimes causing harm to listeners. This is observed through violations of the maxim of relevance, where characters provide unrelated information to the topic at hand, Neuroticism: High neuroticism is indicated by behaviors driven by anxiety and discomfort. Characters often violate the maxim of relevance to avoid further questioning or uncomfortable topics, revealing their anxious tendencies, Agreeableness: Characters with low agreeableness show uncooperative behavior and often change the topic to avoid being the center of attention. Violations of the maxim of relevance in these cases highlight aspects of politeness and nonconformity and the study concludes that the characters' psychology dimension in "The Three Button Trick and Other Stories" reflect their underlying personality traits. The findings provide insights into the relationship between conversational behavior and personality dimensions, offering a framework for future research in literary character analysis.

Theoretical Framework The research is grounded in pragmatics and the Five Factor Model of personality. Pragmatics, the study of meaning in context, helps in understanding how characters' speech reflects their psychological traits. The Five Factor Model categorizes personality traits into five dimensions: neuroticism, extroversion, openness to experience, agreeableness, and conscientiousness. This study focuses on the first three dimensions to analyze character behavior in Barker's work and practical implications the study aims to enhance the understanding of sarcasm and implicit meaning in literary texts, providing a reference for future research on similar topics. Readers can use these insights to identify and respond to sarcastic language effectively.

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