

COMM 562, Section 1
Fieldnote #2 Grice's Cooperative Principle
DUE: September 26, 2011

Grice's Cooperative Principle asserts that people speaking and listening coordinate meaning together. Grice assumes that everyone cooperates with everyone else at all times. In other words, cooperation is taken-for-granted. In this assignment, we will play with this assumption by using and applying Grice's Cooperative Principle by manipulating one of its associated maxims in two interactions.

Assignment

Write 1.5 double-spaced pages. 12-pt Times New Roman

At the top left hand corner, please write your name, class section, and observation # at the top of the page:



First, in your own words, explain Grice's Cooperative Principle (GCP) (5-8 sentences). What does the GCP mean? What does it imply? You may want to look at the entry for "Cooperative Principle" on Wikipedia.

Second, select one of the four maxims. Give a short (1-2 sentence) explanation of this maxim that explains how it contributes to the GCP overall. You may want to look at the entry for "Gricean Maxims" on Wikipedia.

Third, give an original example of the maxim and explain it (2-3 sentences). Then, give another original example of how the maxim you chose may be flouted ("bent") or violated ("ignored").

Fourth, armed with a new understanding of one maxim, as you go throughout your everyday life, find a way to deliberately flout or violate the maxim you chose. Explain the discourse context (who/what/when/where) (4-6 sentences) and describe two interactions and how you either flouted or violated something (5-8 sentences each). Be as specific and detailed in your descriptions as you can.

Following are some questions to help guide your description: What happened when you flouted/violated the maxim? What was the other person's reaction? What effect did your relationship with the other person have on your flouting/violating? How did your relationship with the other person have on the flouting/violating? What impact did the activity have on the on the flouting/violating? What impact did location have on the on the flouting/violating?

Finally, after your experiences, write a short paragraph (4-6 sentences) reflecting about the GCP. What happened when you were uncooperative?