

Violation of Maxims of Quality and Quantity in Anime Spy X Family Episode 1-3: Pragmatic Study

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Abstract

The anime genre has gained significant popularity as a source of entertainment, and Spy X Family stands out as a prominent example of this phenomenon. The objective of this study is to examine the violations of the principles of quality and quantity in the Spy X Family. The study is characterized by its descriptive nature and utilizes a qualitative methodology. Observational data was collected by listening and taking notes, and subsequently examined utilizing translational matching methods. A total of four cases of violation of the maxim of quality and four instances of violation of the maxim of quantity were identified in the findings. These infractions are ascribed to the characters' origins as spies, which require them to furnish information that does not accurately represent the real situation.

Keywords: anime; pragmatic; spy x family

INTRODUCTION

Effective communication is a multifaceted social process that requires the participation of several individuals. Moreover, it requires the interlocutor to comprehend the intended message of the speaker by using language as the common means of human communication. Chaer (2014) defines language as a structured system of sound symbols utilized by individuals within a social group for the purpose of communication, cooperation, and self-identification. Speech events refer to the occurrence when individuals, as members of a social group, engage in communication utilizing language in the form of speech within a specific time, situation, and location.

In practice, misconceptions can still arise in communication, influenced by several variables. Failure is an undeniable outcome when a speaker fails to implement one or more maxims in their discourse, resulting in confusion. An approach to examining mistakes in the use of maxims is by examining instances of maxim violation (Malau et al., 2023). This mode of communication is prevalent both in the public sphere and the realm of entertainment.

The contemporary realm of entertainment is inseparable from the mundane aspects of daily existence. There exist several forms of entertainment that we might derive pleasure from, among which anime stands out. Anime is a quintessential Japanese animation distinguished by vibrant visuals and characters possessing certain attributes. The term "anime" is derived from the compound word "animation", which is pronounced as "anime-shon" in Japanese. The anime genre encompasses a wide range of subjects, including morality, the interplay between mankind and the natural world, and aspirations for the future. Furthermore, anime frequently exhibits a profound idealism inherent in the pursuit of objectives

or the confrontation of obstacles (Riyadie, 2022). Anime has evolved into a highly sought-after art form worldwide. Such popularity has heightened the desire to acquire knowledge of Japanese (Nugraha, 2017).

Recent years have seen swift growth in the anime business, characterized by the release of diverse works that have captivated the audience. One notable work that has garnered significant popularity is "Spy x Family," an adaptation of the manga of the same name by Tatsuya Endou. The story revolves around a spy named agent Twilight, who assumes the identity of Loid Forger. His objective is to fabricate a fictitious family in order to gather intelligence and avert imminent conflicts between nations. This animated series garners attention not only due to its captivating plot, but also because of the effective communication of themes and subtleties embedded in each episode, which contributes to its immense popularity. This is substantiated by the numerous accolades received by Spy X Family, including the 52nd Japan Cartoonists Association Award, as reported by Natasha Inc. in 2023.

Within each speech event, there exists a crucial background that facilitates comprehension of the topic being addressed by both the speaker and the speech partner. This is demonstrated by the introduction of inquiries on the circumstances in which the conversation takes place (Saifudin, 2019). Context refers to a sentence or description that serves to substantiate or elucidate the significance of a circumstance pertaining to an occurrence (Bahri, 2016). Within the field of linguistics, pragmatics is the primary scientific discipline employed to comprehend the contextual aspects of a discourse. Pragmatics, as defined by Yule (1996), is the examination of the intended meaning transferred by the speaker and subsequently understood

by the listener. Japanese linguistics experts (Hayashi, 1990: 171) refer to pragmatics as "goyouron," which denotes the following definition:

“言語とそれが使われる場面、状況との関連を理論的に扱うのが語用論と言える。”

“Gengo to sore ga tsukawareru bamen, joukyou to no kanren wo rironteki ni atsukauno ga goyouron to ieru.”

“Pragmatics is the scientific study of the theoretical connection between language and the corresponding scenes and situations in which the language is employed.”

(Koizumi, 1993) asserts that pragmatic language extends beyond the examination or investigation of words or speech. Language may be positioned according to the context or the spoken language. When sentences are transformed into speech, they can convey the intended meaning when initially utilized. This animated series features a type of disguise where a family of espionage and assassins assume the roles of husband and wife, unaware of one other's true identities. Espionage is commonly linked to circumstances that necessitate the use of disguise, manipulation of information, or deceit to accomplish investigative objectives. This pertains directly to the breach of maxims, where the information communicated may not be completely accurate or concealed to get more information or safeguard the secrecy and approach of the inquiry. The idea of cooperation is a fundamental concept in pragmatics. The principle of cooperation is a framework employed to elucidate the correlation between meaning and power. It encompasses four maxims: quantity, quality, relevance, and method. Politeness, an essential complement, can fortify the concept of cooperation against significant challenges (Leech, 2016). Language serves as a medium of communicative expression for humans in their daily existence. Linguistic

communication enables individuals to express ideas, thoughts, suggestions, and other forms of information to their conversational counterparts. Successful reception of the message depends on the discussion partner comprehending the speaker's intended meaning. Hence, every person endeavours to communicate discourse that is easily comprehensible, unambiguous, and devoid of verbosity. This endeavour is referred to as the paradigm of collaboration in discourse, first proposed by Grice (1975). In his work published in 1993, Koizumi categorizes breaches of the principle of collaboration (公理違反) into four norms:

1. Maxim of Quality (質の公理違反): When the speaker makes a statement that is either false or cannot be shown to be true.

The Maxim of Quantity (量の公理違反) refers to a situation when the speaker fails to offer the necessary information or if the information provided surpasses the required amount.

3. Maxim of Manner (様態の公理違反): When the speaker provides an ambiguous, perplexing, protracted, and nonsensical statement.

The Maxim of Relationship (関係の公理違反) refers to the intentional choice of a topic by the speaker in order to disregard the viewpoint of the interlocutor.

When engaging in espionage or spying, it is necessary to employ indirect methods to entice the target into divulging information, therefore increasing the likelihood of breaching the principle.

An in-depth analysis of the occurrence of violations of the principles of quality and quantity in the anime "Spy x Family" can provide valuable understanding of how the messages conveyed in this work may be interpreted or lead to discomfort among viewers. This is because the anime includes dialogues that deviate from the norms of conversation, so hindering

the effective transmission of the messages. This transgression hinders the audience's comprehension of the conversation's progression, particularly in the initial episodes due to the significant number of untold stories, therefore rendering the intended message useless. A hurdle encountered by Japanese language learners is the difficulty in comprehending speech, as they tend to acquire knowledge mainly in formal sentence structure and lack pragmatic grasp of the conversational context. Hence, it is crucial to grasp the many cooperation concepts to comprehend the speech in anime, particularly when examined within the conversational context.

Building upon the provided background, the objective of this article is to examine the transgressions of the principles of quality and quantity in the *Spy X Family* anime. The forthcoming examination will elucidate the impact of these infractions on the transmission of messages, the perception of the audience, and the role of pragmatic elements in the development of the tale and characters.

METHOD

The present study is a descriptive research employing a qualitative methodology. Djajasudarma (2010) describes the descriptive technique as a systematic, realistic, and precise way to generating a picture and description of data, features, and linkages of research phenomena. The primary objective of the qualitative approach is to comprehend social phenomena or symptoms by prioritizing the holistic understanding of the subject under investigation rather than further dissecting it into interconnected factors (Sumardi & Nugrahani, 2021). The study's data source was derived from the anime *spy x* television series, which are available on streaming services like crunchyroll and Netflix. Methodology employed for data collection was the listening

approach. According to Sudaryanto (2015:203), the listening approach in language research is employed to observe the functional use of language by the subject under investigation. Following the listening technique, the researcher employed the note-taking technique to identify the utterances that violated the principles of quality and quantity in the data source.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Following an examination of data sources grounded on the theory (Koizumi, 1993), the author identified multiple infringements of the maxims of quality and quantity, as detailed in the subsequent analysis.

Violation of the Maxim of Quality

(1) Context: Anya, who has recently been taken in by the Twilight agent, now identified by his pseudonym, Loid Forger, will visit her flat and encounter her recently acquired neighbor.

近所 : あら、可愛いお嬢さんね。こんにちは

Kinjo : *Ara kawaii ojousan ne. Konnichiwa*

Tetangga : Ow, cute girl, Good afternoon.

ロイド : 今日ひっこうしてきた。フオージャです。

Loid : *Kyou hikkoushitekita fooja desu.*

Loid : Let me introduce myself, I am Forger who moved today

アニヤ : ずっと前から父の子供のアニヤです。

Anya : ***Zutto mae kara chichi no kodomo no anya desu.***

Anya : I'm Anya who has been my father's child for a long time.

(Spy X Family, Episode 1, 07:19)

In dataset (1), Anya, an unidentified youngster, has recently been taken in as a foster child and will be officially enrolled at Eden Academy by the Twilight agent, who is operating covertly as Loid Forger. Upon entering the recently acquired apartment, Anya and Loid coincidentally encounter a neighbor. Loid is greeted by the neighbor, who then commends Anya as a delightful child. In response, Loid introduces himself, while Anya introduces herself and clarifies that she has been Loid's child for a considerable period of time, which contradicts the principle of quality as it does not align with realism. Anya was adopted on the same day as their relocation into the flat. Anya responded in such a manner because Loid had instructed her to disclose that she was his biological kid in case anyone inquired. Furthermore, Anya possesses keen psychic abilities, enabling her to anticipate Loid's expectations when she goes undercover. Furthermore, Anya harbors a fear of being repatriated to the orphanage at failure to fulfill Loid's demands.

(2) Context: Agent Twilight or Loid Forger is an espionage operative tasked with averting a sectarian division between the nations of Westalis and Ostania. Here, Loid assumes a covert identity and rescues Anya, who is being kept captive by a mafia group with the intention of enticing Agent Twilight/Loid Forger to reveal his authentic identity.

ロイド :あんなアニヤちゃん、実はおじさんたちプロの鬼ごっこ集
なんでね。才能がありそうな人を見つけてはいきなり勝負を
挑んでるんだ。

Loid : *Anona Anya-Chan, Ojisan tachi jitsu wa puro no*
onigokkoshuu nandene. Sainou ga arisou na hito mitsukete
wa ikinari shoubu wo idonderunda.

Loid : Listen Anya, actually uncle and friends are a great group of hide and seek players. When we meet someone who has talent, we will immediately challenge him.

(Spy X Family, Episode 1, 17:31)

In the second set of data, Anya, who was rescued by Loid Forger (who assumed a different identity) from a mafia group, is informed that they were indeed engaged in a game of hide and seek, as indicated in the aforementioned data. This instance constitutes a breach of the principle of quality as it does not accurately depict the actual events, namely that Anya was abducted with the intention of being held captive.

(3) Context: Anya, who had recently been captured as a hostage, informed Loid Forger that she had been engaging in a game of hide and seek, as indicated in the earlier data. However, Anya had been taken captive in order to facilitate Agent Twilight's arrival to the mafia headquarters.

アニャおじさんたちと鬼ごっこをしてた

Anya ojisan tachi to onigokko wo shiteta.

Earlier Anya played hide and seek with her uncles.

(Spy X Family, Episode 1, 19:59)

At data point (3), Anya is anticipating the arrival of Loid Forger, who has been rescued from a mafia cell. Loid inquired as to why Anya was not maintaining security at the house and instead loitered outside. In response, Anya explained that she had been engaged in a game of hide and seek with a bunch of uncles. Here Anya breached the principle of quality as her statements were false, as she had been abducted by the mafia and was not engaging in the game of hide and seek as she said.

(4) Context: Yor is anticipating the arrival of Loid, who is assuming the role of a falsified boyfriend, at the party. Following an extended period of waiting for Loid, who fails to arrive, Yor is despondent and appears likely to return home. Shortly thereafter, Loid arrives and presents himself as a spouse to all those in attendance at the celebration.

ロイド : 遅くなり申し訳ない。ヨルの夫の、ロイド・フォージャー
です。

Loid : *Osokunari moushiwakenai. **Yoruno otto no roido fojaaa desu.***

Loid : Sorry for my delay. I am the husband of Yor, Loid Forger

(Spy X Family, Episode 2, 18:20)

In data (4), Yor is solitary while others party. Yor appears increasingly distressed as Loid Forger, who will assume the role of her fictitious lover, has not yet arrived. Just as Yor is about to bid farewell, Loid unexpectedly arrives, presenting himself as Yor Briar's wife. This occurrence can be attributed to Loid's excessive preoccupation with his mission to establish a fictitious family, where he must find a wife, despite their initial agreement to proceed as lovers rather than a married couple. Here, Loid breaches the principle of quality by dishonestly stating that Yor and Loid are neither lovers nor a married couple.

Violation of the Maxim of Quantity

(5) Within this context, Loid and Anya are assisting Yor in relocating his belongings to his room. Once he completed his work, Loid began to survey his surroundings and became drawn to the photograph of Yor and his sister.

ロイド : こちらが例の弟さんですか。

Loid : *Kochira ga rei no otouto san desuka*

Loid : This is the little brother we were talking about, right?

ヨル : はい

Yor : *Hai*

Yor : Right

ロイド : ヨルさんと同じ公務員なんでしたっけ？

Loid : *Yoru-san to onaji koumuin nan deshitakke*

Loid : He is the same as Yor, a civil servant, right?.

ヨル : そうです、最近忙しくて電話でしか話してないんですが。

Yor : *Sou desu, **saikin isogashii rashikute denwa de shika hanashitenain desuga***

Yor : Yes, he seems busy lately, so we only talk on the phone

(Spy X Family, Episode 3, 07:11)

When Loid, who was assisting Yor with moving items, spotted a photograph of Yor and his younger brother, Yuri, he inquired about Yuri. Upon Loid's inquiry concerning Yuri's occupation as a civil servant, Yor provided an abundance of details about their communication methods, therefore contravening the principle of proportionality, which dictates that the information provided should be neither excessive nor insufficient.

(6) Context: Yor answered the phone once more and mistakenly believed it was her brother making the call.

店長 : おや、珍しく兄弟喧嘩ですか？

Tenchou : Oya, mezurashiku kyoudai kenka desuka?

Manajer : Wow, it's rare for there to be fights between siblings, huh??

ヨル : 店長？すみません間違いました。

Yor : *Te-tenchou, sumimasen machigaimashita.*

Yor: : Manager? Sorry I got the wrong person.

(Spy X Family, Episode 2, 06:16)

Following Yor's termination of the phone conversation with his younger sibling, he promptly answered the phone once more, under the assumption that it was his younger sibling who had phoned back. However, the caller was actually his manager. The manager, upon hearing Yor's words, fell into a state of fear and inquired about the presence of a conflict between the younger and elder siblings. Nevertheless, Yor failed to respond to the query and promptly expressed remorse for misidentifying the individual. This action violates the principle of quantity since the speaker failed to furnish the necessary information to the Interlocutor.

(7) Context: Loid and Anya are engaged in crafting garments when they encounter Yor Briar, who plans to extend an invitation to Loid to assume the role of her romantic partner. Nevertheless, upon witnessing Anya addressing Loid as "Dad", Yor promptly infers that Loid is already married. Then Yor verifies with Loid over his wife.

ヨル : 奥様はご一緒では？

Yor : *Oku-Sama wa go issho dewa?*

Yor: : You are not with your wife?

ロイド : ああ、いや.. 妻とは2年前死別しまして、今は男手だけでこいつを育ててます。

Loid : *Aa, iya... tsuma towa ninen mae shibetsu shimashite, **ima wa otokote dakede, koitsu wo sodatemasu.***

Loid : No, my wife passed away 2 years ago, now I am raising this child alone

(Spy X Family, Episode 2, 12:04)

In the seventh data point, as Loid and Anya were engaged in the act of making garments for Anya at the sewing business, they encountered Yor Briar, who was scheduled to mend her ripped garments. Here Yor appeared perplexed over the choice of a partner to bring to the party, as she intended to request Loid to assume the role of a fictitious paramour. Anya addressed Loid as "father". This prompted Yor to question the marital status of Loid. Therefore, Yor verified this information with Loid by inquiring about the whereabouts of Anya's mother. In response to the question, Loid breached the principle of quantity by offering an excessive amount of information, as evidenced by the data "ima wa otokote dakede, koitsu wo sodatemasu" which translates to "now I am raising this child alone." However, the interlocutor's desired information is restricted to details about Anya's mother/Loid Forger's wife.

(8) Context: Loid and Yor are at rest after relocating their belongings to Yor's quarters. Loid provides select food and beverages.

ヨル : すごい、クッキー手作りなんですね。

Yoru : *Sugoi, kukkii tezukurinandesune.*

Yor : Cool, homemade biscuit?

ロイド : 実は初めてでしてクッキー作り、レシピ本通りなのでそれなりの本来です。お口に合えばいいのですが。

Roido : ***jitsuwa hajimete deshite kukkii tezukuri, reshipihon doori nanode sorenari no honrai desu. Okuchi ni aebainodesuga.***

Loid : **Actually this is my first time making biscuits, I followed the recipe so it should be pretty good. I hope you like it.**

(Spy X Family, Episode 3, 08:01)

Among the snacks offered by Loid Forger, one of the options is biscuits. Yor Forger inquires whether these biscuits were personally prepared, to which Loid provides an abundance of details, notably that this is his inaugural attempt at biscuit manufacturing and that he carefully adhered to a recipe book. This action contravenes the principle of quantity as the speaker's information exceeds the requirements of the conversation partner.

CONCLUSION

Based on the debate, the author deduces that the concept of cooperation in pragmatics necessitates that individuals involved in a speech event provide valuable contributions. The Spy X Family anime is a fictional family of a spy, assassin, and a little kid endowed with the power of mind reading. The operative is obligated to extract a substantial amount of information from the target, ensuring that the statements he makes violate several aspects of the principle of collaboration, particularly the maxims of quality and quantity. The author recommends that future academics examine this anime from the implicature perspective, specifically focusing on violations of the maxims of method and relevance. Given the spy motif embedded in this anime, there are likely numerous other implicit meanings that may be explored.

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