

**The Degree of Violation of Grice's Cooperative Maxims
(A Study of the Dialogues in Naguib Mahfouz's Novel *The Thief and the Dogs* as a Case Example)**

Hossein Shamsabadi (Corresponding Author)

Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature, Hakim Sabzevari
University, Sabzevar, Iran
h.shamsabadi@hsu.ac.ir

Azam Khan Lari

Graduate of Arabic Translation, Hakim Sabzevari University, Sabzevar, Iran

Sahar Dehghani

PhD Student in Arabic Language and Literature, Hakim Sabzevari
University, Sabzevar, Iran

Abstract

The contemporary philosopher Paul Grice proposes that four key maxims—quantity, quality, relation, and manner—govern conversational interaction. Adhering to these maxims facilitates mutual understanding and enhances communication. According to Grice, the principle of cooperation is realized through conversation and can be applied in analyzing dialogues within literary texts. For this purpose, the novel *The Thief and the Dogs* by Naguib Mahfouz, a prominent figure in Arabic fiction, has been selected. Mahfouz consistently employs a distinctive spoken style for his characters, allowing them to conceal their true intentions behind their words. This article analyzes the various types of dialogue among the characters in the novel and investigates the extent to which the protagonist violates Grice's four maxims. The study aims to identify which maxims are most frequently flouted by the main character and in what order.

Keywords: Grice, Naguib Mahfouz, Cooperative Maxims, Degree of Violation, *The Thief and the Dogs*.